

Waitanta endemics

Birding break

6 days/5 nights

Please enquire for an up-to-date quote

We begin our West Papuan birding adventure with two relaxed introductory excursions outside the town of Sorong, situated on the westernmost tip of New Guinea's Bird's Head or Vogelkop Peninsula. Next morning, we set off on a four days' pilgrimage to the avian delights of Waigeo Island in the fabled Raja Ampat archipelago off Sorong. Just arriving on an island the stature of Waigeo, entering the breathtakingly beautiful Mayalibit Bay, surrounded by scenic, precipitous limestone karst country, is an overthrowing experience, let alone the journey inland to seek its two near-mythical birds-of-paradise that few people have laid their eyes on before. But best of all perhaps, just by joining this birding adventure of a lifetime, you actively help protecting an entire river catchment as part of an ambitious and innovative conservation agreement that Papua Expeditions concluded with customary landholding groups on Waigeo. On the return journey to Sorong, we shall spend ample time on a tiny atoll in Dampier Strait in pursuit of regional small island specialists.

When?

Possible year-round, but most certainly best from June to November.

Scheduled departures

Please enquire for details on our upcoming departures.

Physical effort

Reasonable physical fitness and good agility are required to bird the at times challenging terrain here.

Tour summary

Day 1 > Sorong and Sorong lowlands.

Day 2 > Sorong and Waigeo Island.

Day 3-4 > Waigeo Island.

Day 5 > Waigeo Island, Dampier Strait atoll and Sorong.

Day 6 > Sorong.

Tour description

Day 1 > Sorong and Sorong lowlands Morning arrival at Sorong's DEO Airport on overnight domestic flight from Jakarta or alternative gateway. We shall soon drive out by chartered vehicle for 30 minutes along a road winding into the surrounding foothills. Here we shall bird the rest of the morning through selectively logged rainforest along the road, making incursions into the forest as necessary in search of our main targets: the restricted-range Red-billed Brushturkey, Red-breasted Paradise Kingfisher and Black Lory. Other noteworthy species present here include Pacific Baza, Long-tailed Honey Buzzard, Pygmy Eagle, Variable and Grey-headed Goshawk, Pink-spotted, Claret-breasted, Orange-bellied and Dwarf Fruit Dove, Pinon's and Zoe's Imperial Pigeon, Greater and Lesser Black Coucal, Dwarf Koel, Little Bronze Cuckoo, White-crowned and Brush Cuckoo, Papuan Spine-tailed Swift, Hook-billed Kingfisher, Common Paradise Kingfisher, Rufous-bellied Kookaburra, Yellow-billed Kingfisher, Blyth's Hornbill, Palm and Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Pesquet's Parrot, Orange-fronted Hanging Parrot, Yellow-capped Pygmy Parrot, Dusky Lory, Coconut Lorikeet, Black-capped Lory, Red-flanked Lorikeet, Red-cheeked and Eclectus Parrot, Moluccan King Parrot, Double-eyed and Large Fig Parrot, Papuan and Hooded Pitta, Wallace's and Emperor Fairywren, Green-backed, Plain, Streak-headed and Tawny-breasted Honeyeater, New Guinea Friarbird, Long-billed, Mimic, Yellow-gaped and Puff-backed Honeyeater, Rusty Mouse-warbler, Yellow-bellied, Green-backed and Fairy Gerygone, Papuan Babbler, Yellow-bellied Longbill, Lowland Peltops, Black and Hooded Butcherbird, Boyer's Cuckooshrike, Grey-headed and Black Cicadabird, Golden Cuckooshrike, Black-browed Triller, Grey Whistler, Little Shrikethrush, Southern Variable Pitohui, Brown Oriole, Spangled Drongo, Northern Fantail, Spot-winged, Golden and Frilled Monarch, Shining Flycatcher, Grey Crow, Glossy-mantled and Trumpet Manucode, Magnificent Riflebird, Magnificent, King and Lesser Bird-of-paradise, Metallic Starling, Yellow-faced and Golden Myna, Olive-crowned Flowerpecker, and Streak-headed Munia. Following lunch in town, we have an entire afternoon to look for some of the more

elusive species already mentioned above. Dusk shall see us gathered at an open vantage point to witness evening flights of hornbills and especially parrots, which usually include the Black Lory. Finally, an optional nocturnal foray here could produce Papuan Boobook, Marbled and Papuan Frogmouth, and Papuan and Large-tailed Nightjar. Dinner and overnight in Sorong hotel.

Day 2 > Sorong and Waigeo Island After a dawn breakfast in our Sorong hotel, we shall set out on the three hours' chartered speedboat ride across Dampier Strait to Waigeo. En route we may be rewarded with sightings of Lesser Frigatebird, Brown Booby, Greater and Lesser Crested Tern, Bridled, Black-naped and Common Tern as well as Matsudaira's Storm Petrel, Streaked and Wedge-tailed Shearwater, Bulwer's Petrel, Red-necked Phalarope, Brown and Black Noddy, and Pomarine Skua in season. We shall enjoy a packed lunch at the mouth of the Orobiai River on Waigeo where water birds as Raja Shelduck, Australian White Ibis, Striated and Great-billed Heron, Pacific Reef Heron, and Little Pied Cormorant occur year-round alongside a selection of migrant Palearctic waders, usually including a few Grey-tailed Tattler. Other birds we may encounter here include Beach, Sacred and Little Kingfisher, Large-billed Gerygone, Willie Wagtail, Shining Flycatcher, and Torresian Crow. We shall then slowly bird along the river toward our camp in riparian lowland forest at c. 50 m elevation. Blyth's Hornbills and colorful parrots, including Palm and Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Coconut Lorikeet, Black-capped Lory and Eclectus Parrot, may fly overhead as we acquaint ourselves with the vocally or behaviorally conspicuous subset of the forest avifauna: Sultan's and Great Cuckoo-Dove, Stephan's Emerald Dove, Wompoo, Superb and Beautiful Fruit Dove, Purple-tailed and Pinon's Imperial Pigeon, Brush Cuckoo, Rufous-bellied Kookaburra, Yellow-billed Kingfisher, Tawny-breasted Honeyeater, New Guinea Friarbird, Mimic Honeyeater, Hooded Butcherbird, Rusty Pitohui, Brown Oriole, Spangled Drongo, Northern Fantail, and Yellow-faced Myna. The final hours of light we shall devote to a popular display tree of the fabled Red Bird-of-paradise, taking ample time to observe the up to eight plumed males that normally gather here, interacting with soliciting females. After dinner back at camp, a nocturnal foray in the vicinity could produce Rufous Owl, Papuan Boobook, Marbled Frogmouth, and Large-tailed Nightjar. Overnight at camp.

Day 3 > Waigeo Island Following a pre-dawn breakfast, we shall proceed to an area where several display courts of the Wilson's Bird-of-paradise are located, in the hope of witnessing the full array of amazing display postures of this nearly mythical bird at close range from the comfort of a well-appointed palm-frond hide. Other species often visiting the courts here include Cinnamon Ground Dove, Pheasant Pigeon, Papuan Pitta, Rusty Mouse-warbler, and Pale-billed Scrubwren. And with all the luck in the world, we may even be treated to a wandering endemic Bruijn's Brushturkey casually walking across. After lunch back at camp, we shall bird all afternoon in the wider vicinity, primarily in search of the Western Crowned Pigeon, and it should not take long before we feast our eyes on a couple of these most majestic of pigeons as they flush up with clapping wing beats from the forest floor to alight in nearby tall forest trees. Other goodies we may come to grips with here include Dusky Megapode, Long-tailed Honey Buzzard, Pygmy and Gurney's Eagle, Variable and Grey-headed Goshawk, Collared Sparrowhawk, Red-necked Crake, New Guinea Bronzewing, Pink-spotted, Claret-breasted, Orange-bellied and Dwarf Fruit Dove, White-eared and Little Bronze Cuckoo, Moustached Treeswift, Hook-billed Kingfisher, Common Paradise Kingfisher, Papuan Dwarf Kingfisher, Azure Kingfisher, Yellow-capped Pygmy Parrot, Great-billed Parrot, Moluccan King Parrot, White-eared Catbird, Ruby-throated Myzomela, Green-backed, Spotted, Long-billed, Brown-backed and Puff-backed Honeyeater, Yellow-bellied, Green-backed and Fairy Gerygone, Black Berrypecker, Dwarf, Pygmy and Yellow-bellied Longbill, Yellow-breasted Boatbill, Lowland Peltops, Black Butcherbird, Barred Cuckooshrike, Common and Black Cicadabird, Grey Whistler, Little Shrikethrush, Raja Ampat Pitohui, Sooty Thicket Fantail, Spot-winged, Golden and Frilled Monarch, Brown-headed Crow, Glossy-mantled Manucode, Red Bird-of-paradise, Black-sided Robin, Olive Flyrobin, and Olive-crowned Flowerpecker. Dinner and overnight at camp.

Day 4 > Waigeo Island Today there shall be further opportunities to spend potentially rewarding time with the Wilson's and Red Bird-of-paradise, or we could simply bird in the wider vicinity in search of some of the more elusive species already mentioned above. Breakfast, lunch, dinner and overnight at camp.

Day 5 > Waigeo Island, Dampier Strait atoll and Sorong After breakfast there shall be a final opportunity for an observation session at either the Wilson's or Red Bird-of-paradise. Or we could slowly bird our way back earlier along the river toward its mouth and transfer to a tiny atoll in Dampier Strait. After lunch here, we shall have a relaxed afternoon's birding in search of regional small island specialists like the Moluccan Fruit Dove, Olive Honeyeater, Island Whistler, Arafura Fantail, and Lemon-bellied White-eye. Other noteworthy resident species here include Dusky Megapode, Spice Imperial Pigeon, Beach Kingfisher, Varied Honeyeater, and Metallic Starling. In addition, Great-billed Heron, Beach Stone-curlew, Pied Imperial Pigeon, Violet-necked Lory, Great-billed Parrot, Island Monarch, and Moluccan Starling have been recorded on occasion. We shall proceed to Sorong in the early evening. Dinner and overnight in Sorong hotel.

Day 6 > Sorong We shall enjoy breakfast in our Sorong hotel and transfer to Sorong's DEO Airport for the first morning flight to Jakarta or alternative destination.

Related links

Browse our terms and conditions from the PE web site through the following link
<http://www.PapuaExpeditions.com/conditions.html>