

Explore Arfak

Outdoors break

5 days/4 nights

Please enquire for an up-to-date quote

On this West Papuan outdoors break we basically follow in the footsteps of the great Italian naturalists D'Albertis and Beccari, who once collected in the Hattam cultural area only a few kilometers away from our base in the Arfak Mountains on the mid-slopes of majestic Mount Indon, towering 2,425 m above the Prafi Valley. Nearly a century and a half elapsed since the intrepid D'Albertis was the first westerner to penetrate any distance into the mountains of New Guinea exactly here in 1872, but exploring these magnificent woods, swathed in clouds during parts of most days, remains an irresistible adventure. A privileged opportunity also, to be taken in tow by the Hattam, across their ancestral lands, and marvel at endemic wildlife that few outsiders have ventured to come and see before.

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 hike the relatively steep slopes here.

Tour summary

Day 1 > Manokwari and Arfak montane forests.

Day 2-3 > Arfak montane forests.

Day 4 > Arfak montane forests and Manokwari.

Day 5 > Manokwari.

Tour description

Day 1 > Manokwari and Arfak montane forests Morning arrival at Manokwari's Rendani Airport on overnight domestic flight from Jakarta or alternative gateway. We shall soon set out on the two hours' drive by chartered 4WD-vehicle to a community-owned guest house located at c. 1,600 m elevation in the Mount Indon area of the Arfak Mountains. After a packed lunch at the guest house, there will be ample time to get up close and personal with the highly entertaining Vogelkop Bowerbird from one of the palm-frond hides set-up in front of its iconic so-called roofed maypole bowers in the area. After dinner back at the guest house, a nocturnal foray in the vicinity could bring us up close with a weird-looking Feline Owlet-nightjar or cuddly marsupials like D'Albertis and Arfak Ringtail. Overnight in community guest house.

Day 2 > Arfak montane forests Following breakfast we shall hike all day along a loop ascending to a high point at c. 2,000 m elevation where there is a largish natural clearing on a broad ridgetop with a peculiar 'subalpine' flora featuring rhododendrons, terrestrial orchids and pitcher plants. Most of the trail follows gently-sloping ridgetop forest but we shall also be traversing some challenging and steep terrain. As we gradually reach higher ground, the forest changes into a distinctive, stunted Kruppelholz-formation with gnarled trunks and branches heavily draped in epiphytic moss and ferns; an eerie environment often shrouded in clouds, where occasionally past-fluttering elves wouldn't look unbecoming at all. This is the realm of the Black Sicklebill, the adult male of which sports a pair of incredibly long ornamental central tail feathers. In former days, the coastal Biak peoples treasured these plumes above those of all other birds-of-paradise for use in their ceremonies and rituals, and hence black sicklebill skins were a valuable trade item of highland-oriented Hattam, Meyah and Sougb tribal groups who effectively controlled the species' montane forest habitat in the area. Probably as a result of the high historical hunting pressure, the sicklebills remain wary of humans today, but with some perseverance and a little luck, we should still be able to track down this stunning species. We shall have lunch in the ridgetop clearing where magnificent views of the summit of Mount Indon are to be enjoyed in good weather. On our way down again, we shall be passing several artsy-craftsy bowers of the Vogelkop Bowerbird, and we shall certainly also go and marvel at an incubation mound of the Wattled Brushturkey, the only member of the megapode family that is truly adapted to montane habitats. Dinner and overnight in community guest house.

Day 3 > Arfak montane forests After a hearty pre-dawn breakfast, we shall hike to an area of secondary forest where numerous display courts of the Magnificent Bird-of-paradise are to be found. Here we stand an excellent chance of witnessing the full array of display postures of this beautiful species at close range from well-appointed palm-frond hides. After lunch back at the guest house, we shall monitor nearby display courts of the area's only other terrestrially displaying bird-of-paradise, the Western Parotia, again from palm-frond hides. The wacko ballet performance of the court-tending male of this species simply has to be witnessed to be believed and invariably ranks as the highlight of a trip to the Arfaks. Dinner and overnight in community guest house.

Day 4 > Arfak montane forests and Manokwari Following breakfast and a final morning excursion, we shall take lunch at the guest house and drive back to Manokwari in the afternoon. Dinner and overnight in Manokwari hotel.

Day 5 > Manokwari We shall enjoy breakfast in our Manokwari hotel and transfer to Manokwari's Rendani 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>