

Explore Arfak and northern lowlands

Outdoors expedition

9 days/8 nights

Please enquire for an up-to-date quote

We begin our West Papuan outdoors adventure in the town of Manokwari, situated on the northeastern tip of New Guinea's Bird's Head or Vogelkop Peninsula. We will travel straight through to the nearby Arfak Mountains where we shall be based for four nights in search of an exquisite selection of New Guinea montane wildlife here. The second leg of our expedition takes us to the northern lowlands near Jayapura. Here we begin our exploration with two relaxed excursions highlighting the historic importance of Lake Sentani. Early next morning, we set out to our secluded Muaib jungle camp in pristine alluvial lowland forest for a three days' exploration of its rich and colorful biota, showcasing a forest wallaby, two large-bodied marsupial cuscuses, a man-sized flightless cassowary, two megapodes, a delightful crowned pigeon, and a whopping six species of bird-of-paradise.

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 for this tour which plies some challenging terrain.

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, Sentani and Lake Sentani.

Day 6 > Sentani and northern lowlands.

Day 7 > Northern lowlands.

Day 8 > Northern lowlands and Sentani.

Day 9 > Sentani.

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, Sentani and Lake Sentani We shall enjoy breakfast in our Manokwari hotel and transfer to Manokwari's Rendani Airport for the first morning flight to Sentani, where the airport of Jayapura is located. We shall soon set out to visit the little-known rock paintings of nearby Lake Sentani and immerse ourselves in the rich history of this scenic area, which may well have been linked by trade to mainland Southeast Asia as early as 5,000 years ago. The Sentani area gained archeological fame due to the large number of prehistoric bronze artifacts that have been recovered there, all of which date from the first few centuries since the beginning of date count and therefore are being associated with the height of an Asian plume trade. Most bronzes are now in museums of course, but some are still held as heirlooms in traditional ownership. After lunch in town, we shall visit one of Sentani's tribal chiefs, called Ondoapi in this cultural area, for a firsthand dekko at his bronze collection. We shall end the day with a relaxed excursion through grasslands and patchy secondary forests around the lake, enjoying magnificent views of the precipitous Cyclops Mountains to the north. Dinner and overnight in Sentani hotel.

Day 6 > Sentani and northern lowlands We shall enjoy a nocturnal breakfast in our Sentani hotel and set out on the two-hour's drive to our drop-off point west of the Cyclops Mountains. After arrival here around dawn, we shall hike all day toward our secluded Muaib jungle camp at c. 10 m elevation in pristine alluvial primary forest, enjoying a packed lunch en route. Along the walk, wacko hornbills, majestic cockatoos and noisy lorries may fly overhead as we familiarize ourselves with some of the more conspicuous forest birds. After dinner at camp, a nocturnal foray in the vicinity could bring us up close with a weird-looking frogmouth, a pleasantly confiding forest wallaby, the White-striped Dorcopsis, or cuddly arboreal marsupials like the Common Spotted Cuscus and Black-spotted Cuscus. Overnight at camp.

Day 7 > Northern lowlands Wake up to a true day in paradise as we shall be spending most of this morning at known display sites of consecutively the Twelve-wired, Lesser and King Bird-of-paradise, soliciting sightings of the more mobile Pale-billed Sicklebill in between. Moreover, while sitting quietly in the forest, admiring the full array of display postures of these most magnificent of feathered life forms, we also stand an excellent chance of seeing other hot stuff like Northern Cassowary or one of the megapodes casually walking by. After lunch back at camp, we shall hike all afternoon through riverine forest where it should not take long before we feast our eyes on a party of delightful Victoria Crowned Pigeons as they lift off with clapping wing beats from the forest floor to alight in nearby emergent trees. Breakfast, lunch, dinner and overnight at camp.

Day 8 > Northern lowlands and Sentani Following breakfast and a final morning excursion, we shall have an earlier than usual lunch at camp and hike back to our pick-up point where vehicles stand by to transport us to Sentani. Dinner and overnight in Sentani hotel.

Day 9 > Sentani We shall enjoy breakfast in our Sentani hotel and transfer to Sentani 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>