



Expedition Papua: Tribes, Jungle and Volcanoes

Highlights:

Visit the world's youngest mummies in a remote village at the foot of the Highlands.

See the active Volcano Tavurvur in Rabaul.

Celebrate with the locals at a SingSing, a famous Tribes gathering.

Snorkel the colorful underwater world of one of the world's best reefs structures.

Explore a hidden lime stone cave and observe the rainforest animals and birds.

Learn in scientific lectures and explanations from your guides.

Photo lectures to learn how to improve your photographs.



Thank you very much for your interest in our exciting expedition! We are excited to share one of our favorite places on earth with its amazing people, weird rituals, breathtaking jungles, sheer mountain cliffs and explosive volcanoes with you!

« Expect the unexpected » is the slogan of Papua New Guinea. Be prepared for real adventure! The tribal traditions and rituals are still deeply anchored in the mind of the people, but the Westernized world is approaching quickly. PNG is a rich, overpriced and corrupt country, where you can buy everything for money. But we want to show you the original Papua New Guinea and abstain deliberately from expensive hotels. We stay in simple, but comfortable guesthouses and in simple houses in the village to immerse into the tribal life and customs and be closer to the people.

Since Ulla's first visit to Papua New Guinea in 2001, she is intrigued by the country and its people. She always keeps coming back, since 2011 together with Basti. They have spent several years in the country. You will benefit from their unique insight, contacts and their experiences, gained in almost 30 voyages to PNG.



Duration:

14 Days on location (Day 1: Arrival in Port Moresby)

Difficulty:

Short hikes with daypack, max. 1-2 hours. As an option, we offer also longer hikes.

Accommodation mostly in simple hotels, guesthouses, in private village houses or shared camps (Optional: Bring your own tent).

Where the level of comfort is low, the level of adventure is high. ☺

Participants:

Max 10 participants

Price:

3950€ Euro, discounts apply for returning customers.

Included:

All Accommodation, all meals, purified water, all domestic flights, two German/ English/ French/Pidgin speaking guides, all entry fees except for professional photographers'/ film makers, scientific lectures/ explanations and photo workshop.

Not included:

International flights, Soft drinks and Alcohol. International flights are around 1600 Euro. If you can't find cheap flights, please do contact us, we are happy to help.

Program changes might occur due to conditions on location. If needed, an English speaking guide may replace one of the guides specified.

Our journey is divided in a stay at the coast and at in the highlands.

In the first week, we experience a "SingSing", the annual meeting of Tribes, where thousands of people gather for a colorful dance competition. SingSings happen all over the country, with the one in Mount Hagen being the most touristy. We have been there and decided to search for one where the tourists don't outnumber the dancers: In Rabaul, near to the active volcano! The "Warwagira" is still kept as an insider and it's only here where we can marvel at the colorful masks. Another highlight will be the active volcano Tavurvur and the snorkeling on the reef of our own deserted island.

In the second week, we will journey to the end of the road and a little bit further. Already the journey is an adventure in its own. Here is where the tourist stays behind, only the adventurer continues- and we will be rewarded with something unique....

After a relaxing break at a wonderful lodge, we will continue to "Snake Valley": We will live with our local friends and explore the surroundings of their village: A wonderful stalactite cave, mysterious rock paintings and the mummified remains of their ancestors. We will journey into the dense jungle with its weird flora and fauna to spot wildlife. To conclude our journey, we will celebrate all together with a SingSing, only for us.



Day 1:

The program starts at 1 pm with our first meeting at Port Moresby domestic airport.

At 3 pm, we will fly together to Tokua/ Rabaul.

We will take it easy, and you can snorkel or relax at the beach in front of our guest house in Kokopo and enjoy the sunset with view of the volcano.

O/N Guesthouse on the beach with hot water, air con and electricity

Day 2:

The day starts early at the beach to witness the opening of the “Mask Festival” with the arrival of the Dukduk and Tumbuan spirit figures. In the early morning light, they are arriving in their Canoes, dancing and singing in front of a spectacular background- the active volcano Tavurvur. After breakfast, we will go to the show grounds, where we spend the entire day in midst colorful dressed people. Great opportunity for photographs and for Photoworkshop-Tips: How to take the best images in high contrasted light, how to show movement, and how to use fill-in flash. In the evening, we talk about East New Britain province, formerly a German colony, with its Tolai and Baining tribes.

O/N Guesthouse on the beach with hot water, air con and electricity

Day 3:

Scenic drive to Rabaul. We follow the road to Rabaul to our first stop, the “Blue Lagoon”- Lookout to take pictures of the volcano “Vulcan”, which destroyed the city of Rabaul in 1994 in a twin eruption with Tavurvur volcano. We continue to visit the “Barge Tunnels” where we can see the remains of Japanese Barges, hidden in deep tunnels build buy prisoners of war during World War II. On top of “Tunnel Hill” we will enjoy the magnificent view over Rabaul town and Blanche Bay. We might be able to visit the volcanic observatory, where we learn about the current volcanic activity of Rabaul and the volcanos of PNG.

We drive through the ruins of destroyed Rabaul and continue to the Hot Springs next to the Tavurvur. Here we can take pictures of the volcano and the mineral deposits of the Hot Springs. We continue to Matupit, a peninsula opposite the volcano where we will spend the night. Please not that it can be very hot during the day!

O/N Local house in the village, optional tent; no running water, bush toilet



Day 4: (schedule depends on volcano condition)

Early in the morning we offer an optional hike to the volcano. It's a two hours hike to the summit, please note that it can get very hot and the hike up is physically demanding. After we reach the top, we can see and photograph the inside of the crater and the colorful sulphur deposits. If you don't want to hike, you are invited to spend more time in the village and might be able to visit the local school.

If the volcano is too active and we can't climb the summit, we'll explore its base with an uplifted coral reef and a Japanese tunnel from WW2. We'll visit people digging for eggs: Megapode birds lay their eggs in the volcanic sand and the heat incubates them.

Afterwards, we will drive back to Kokopo and board our own banana boats. For 30min, we fly over the ocean, enjoying a cold breeze and the fresh air. We land at a deserted island and establish camp. At night, we have the opportunity to take pictures of the sunset over Blanche Bay.

O/N Tent or shared camp on the island

Day 5:

Feel like Robinson Crusoe for a day! The only inhabitants of the island are hundreds of fregatte birds and thousands of colorful fish. The island is surrounded by an untouched reef which is home to countless fish, turtles and small reef-sharks. The perfect place for a soccer match on the beach or a photo-workshop. Here, we have plenty of time to answer all your photo-related questions, to take pictures of the sunset and the stars. We are preparing dinner on the open fire and try to catch some fresh fish.

O/N Tent or shared camp on the island

Day 6:

Around noon, we have to say good-bye to our island paradise and return to Kokopo. Opportunity to visit the colorful local market and to download photographs from the first week.

O/N Guesthouse on the beach with hot water, air con and electricity

Day 7:

Very early the morning, we will catch the flight to Lae, where our second week of adventure awaits us.

We travel by 4x4 car to a former gold-mining town (3 hrs.). On arrival, we can enjoy the beautiful gardens of the hotel, full of orchids. A wonderful opportunity to take Macro-photographs and to photograph herons at the nearby small lake. In the evening, we will talk about the mummification traditions of the Anga.

O/N Beautiful hotel with hot water shower, air con and electricity



Day 8:

Sleep in and relax! After a drive around the city, we leave the town around noon and drive approximately 1,5 hrs. on adventurous jungle roads towards « Cold mountain ». Opportunity for an optional hike through the jungle with spectacular vegetation (tree ferns, pandanus palms, orchids). We frequently observe birds of paradise, eagles, cassowaries and snakes. We continue our journey across “Cold Mountain” and spend the night in a small village. For the first time, we get in touch with the Anga-culture. Our host shows us the skulls of his ancestors and we learn more about the rituals related to death of the area. Opportunity to take pictures of a hopefully clear milky way.

O/N Local house in the village, no beds, no running water, bush toilet

Day 9:

We continue our journey through the jungle until we reach our goal; the mummies. It is a 20 min hike uphill on a small jungle path.

Finally arrived, we have the opportunity to meet the spirits of the deceased, soak in the atmosphere and of course, we'll also have plenty of time to photograph.

On the way back, we will have another opportunity to hike at “Cold Mountain”. We travel back to our lodge in the small gold mining city (approx. 4,5 hours).

O/N beautiful hotel with hot water shower, air con and power

Day 10:

Sleep in. Opportunity to archive the images and recharge batteries.

Then, our adventure continues! We drive through an idyllic river valley, where photo opportunities wait at each corner. After 2 hours (Driving time, without photo stops), we reach an isolated village, where we'll be warmly greeted by our hosts for the next three nights. We celebrate and party on the first night with a local string band.

O/N House with some beds, bush toilet and outside shower, optional tent



Day 11:

Today, we will explore a hidden lime stone cave. You will have your individual guide for the day who will help you and answer all your questions. We will show you how to make fantastic images of the impressive stalagmites formations in the cave.

The next highlight is already waiting: A burial ledge! Exposed on a rock ledge, skulls and bones from a bygone area found their last resting place. The tribe has also mummified in the past, and we have the chance to photograph the remains up close. Above the sacred site are mysterious rock paintings- nobody knows who made them and how old they are. The hike takes about 2 hours (excluding stops). Again, we are entertained by a band at night.

O/N House with some beds, bush toilet and outside shower

Day 12:

We will go wildlife spotting in the jungle, where we'll have the chance to see tree kangaroos, birds of paradise, spotted cuscus and others. The hike (4 hours) is optional, as an alternative, you'll have to opportunity to accompany your hosts to work in the fields, to see their vanilla plantation and to help with the preparations for the SingSing.

Today, there is a surprise waiting: We'll have SingSing just for us!

O/N House with some beds, bush toilet and outside shower

Day 13:

We have to say good bye to our friends. A three-hour drive to Lae awaits us. Depending on our time of arrival, we might visit the zoological garden of the Lae University.

O/N in Lae, Guest house with hot water shower and power.

Day 14:

Transfer to airport, and 45min flight back to Port Moresby. The Expedition ends at 9 am with our arrival in Port Moresby.

We are looking forward to share this incredible journey with you!



Ulla Lohmann

Film- and Photojournalist, Natural Resource Manager BSc, works amongst others for National Geographic, GEO, BBC, Discovery. Workshops for NatGeo.



Basti Hofmann

Camera drone operator, logistics manager and studied geologist. Alpinist with over 20 years of experience. Macro-photographer. Clients NatGeo, GEO, SWR, HKMP