



Expedition Papua: Tribes, Jungle and Volcanoes

Highlights:

Visit the world's youngest mummies in a remote village at the foot of the Highlands and marvel at the active Volcano Tavurvur in Rabaul. Celebrate with the locals at an exclusive SingSing, a famous Tribes gathering.

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

Explore a hidden limestone cave and observe the rainforest animals. Learn how to immortalize unforgettable moments with your photographs and learn in scientific lectures and explanations from about your fascinating surroundings.



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. We want to show you the original Papua New Guinea and abstain deliberately from expensive hotels. We stay in simple, but clean houses in the villages to immerge 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 more than 30 voyages to PNG.



Duration:

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

Requirements:

Interest in foreign cultures and their way of living. Respect for nature. Short hikes with daypack, max. 1 hour. As an option, we offer also longer hikes. Accommodation also in the village in simple private houses or in tents (provided).

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

Participants:

Minimum 4 participants, maximum 10 participants. If below a certain number of participants, only one guide (either Basti Hofmann or Ulla Lohmann) will lead the trip.

Included:

All Accommodations, all meals as specified in the program, purified water, all domestic flights, all entry fees (except for professional photographers and film makers), scientific explanations and photo advice. German/ English/ French/ Pidgin speaking guide (or two guides, if above a certain number of participants). We look forward looking after you and provide you with everything you need for a perfect holiday!

Not included:

International flights, all meals that are not specified in the program Soft drinks and Alcohol. International flights are around 1500 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.

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

In the first week, we experience a spectacular "Firedance", which is held only for us and offers unique photo opportunities. We will overnight in a village in the Baining, where we will witness other dances. Another highlight will be the climb on top of 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.... A tribe which mummifies their ancestors to give them eternal life. 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, 200 m away from the International Airport (signposted). At 3 pm, we will fly together to Tokua/Rabaul.

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

O/N with breakfast In the village in double rooms with fan and mosquito net, shared toilet facilities, cold water showers and electricity. 2minutes away from beach.

Day 2:

We will take a drive to explore our surroundings. We follow the scenic 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. Another highlight is the stopover at the colorful market. Also, we will provide advice how to photograph in high contrast- light and let you know many interesting facts about the country, its people and its history.

O/N with breakfast In the village in double rooms with fan and mosquito net, shared toilet facilities, cold water showers and electricity. 2minutes away from beach.

Day 3:

How do people live in Papua New Guinea? A traditional Tolai village amidst the jungle welcomes us- apart from us, they never receive oversea visitors! A unique opportunity to learn the culture: How to make money (shell money is still a recognized currency here), how to make corpa (dried coconut from which coconut oil is made), how to make houses and how to weave mats. We will explore the rainforest with its giant strangler figs, more then 100 years old. Several of them have a diameter of over 20 meters! We will be able to assist a traditional “Mumu”, a feast, where our food, wrapped in banana leaves, is cooked on hot



volcanic rocks in the ground. After, we will learn during the “garden to plate” tour, where all the delicious food was coming from. To say goodbye, the Tolei will perform a dance show.
O/N with breakfast In the village in double rooms with fan and mosquito net, shared toilet facilities, cold water showers and electricity. 2minutes away from beach.

Day 4:

Today, we will change our accommodation and move to the other side of the gazelle peninsula. During the 2-hour drive, partially along the coast, we enjoy magnificent views and can stop wherever we want for a photo stop. For Lunch, we will stop at “Klinwara”, a beautifully clear river with a turquoise bathing pool. Upon arrival at the Beach, we will explore the Mangroves and learn about their importance for the eco system. You also have to opportunity to swim, snorkel right in front of your tent or try out to paddle an outrigger canoe. After dinner we will be privileged to a see a fire dance show, exclusive for us. Spirit figures wearing impressive masks dance through the fire, and let the flames flare high towards the sky. The photo opportunities are plentiful and truly unique.

O/N with B,L,D: Tent on the beach, bush toilet

Day 5:

Feel like Robinson Crusoe for a day! We take the boat to drive to our deserted island, most likely, accompanied by dolphins. The only inhabitants of the island are birds, hermit crabs and thousands of colorful fish. The island is surrounded by an untouched reef which is home to countless fish, turtles and small non-dangerous reef-sharks. The Papuan Reefs are amongst the nicest in the world, and here, far away from the mainland in clean water, they are even more breathtaking. We have time to snorkel, relax, walk at low tide to a neighboring island and answer all your Photo questions. We will photograph the sunset and take long time exposures of the stars. We will catch fresh fish and prepare it on the open fire.

O/N with B,L,D: On sleeping mats in a community structure on the island, bush toilet

Day 6:

We have to say good-bye to our island paradise, but there is another highlight waiting: The visit of the active volcano Tavorvur! Depending on the conditions of the volcano, we will be able to hike up. It's a two hours hike to the summit, please not that it can get very hot and the hike up is physically demanding. The hike is optional, we are providing an alternative program. Upon arrival at the summit, we will be able to see the fumaroles and the colorful Sulphur deposits inside the crater. 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. Also, we will visit the “Egg Diggers”; people digging for eggs of the Megapode. This chicken-like bird lays their eggs up to two meters in the hot volcanic sand and the heat incubates them. During the “Blue Hour” at dawn, we have the opportunity to take pictures of the volcano.

O/N with B In the village in double rooms with fan and mosquito net, shared toilet facilities, cold water showers and electricity. 2minutes away from beach.

Day 7:

We catch the early morning flight to Lae, where the second week of adventure awaits. 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. You will be able to get your washing done in the hotel.

O/N with B: 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 on adventurous jungle roads towards « Cold mountain ». We will cross the mountain range with its high-altitude rain forest with spectacular vegetation (tree ferns, pandanus palms, orchids). There is the opportunity for an optional hike. Frequently, we observe birds of paradise, eagles and other birds of prey.

The night is spent in a photogenic village at 1000 meters of altitude. For the first time, we get in touch with the Anga-culture and there is the opportunity to take pictures of a hopefully clear milky way.

O/N with B,L,D: On sleeping matrasses in the community hall in the village

Day 9:

We continue our journey through the jungle for another 1,5 hours (The time depends on the conditions of the road and on the stops for photographs) 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. We travel back to our lodge in the small gold mining city (about 4-5 hours).

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

Day 10:

Sleep in and opportunity to recharge the batteries. Then, our adventure continues! We drive through an idyllic river valley, where photo opportunities wait at each corner. After 3 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. There might have a surprise for us...

O/N with B,L,D: House with beds, clean toilet and cold outside shower

Day 11:

Today, we will explore a hidden limestone cave. You will have your individual guide for the day who will help you and answer all your questions (in English). 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. We will be entertained by local string bands at night.

O/N with B,L,D: House with beds, clean toilet and cold 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 (5 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 big event waiting: We'll have SingSing just for us! Several tribes from the surroundings gather to show their traditional dances and rituals. Countless photo opportunities are waiting colorful painted faces, Kundu-drums, extensive head dresses, whirling dancers, kids in traditional grass skirts- and we are the only visitors! An amazing chance of scenery with the known SingSings in Goroka or Mount Hagen, where the tourists outnumber the dancers. We will dance until late at night.

O/N with B,L,D: House with beds, clean toilet and cold outside shower

Day 13:

We have to say goodbye to our friends. It's a three-hour drive to Lae, where we visit the zoological garden of the Lae University.

O/N with B: Outside of Lae in a nice, calm and clean hotel with hot water shower and electricity.

Day 14:

Transfer to airport, and 45min flight back to Port Moresby. The Expedition ends at 8:30 am with our arrival in Port Moresby.

We are looking forward to sharing 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

Film producer and camera drone operator, studied geologist. Alpinist with over 30 years of experience. Macro-photographer. Clients NatGeo, GEO, SWR, BBC