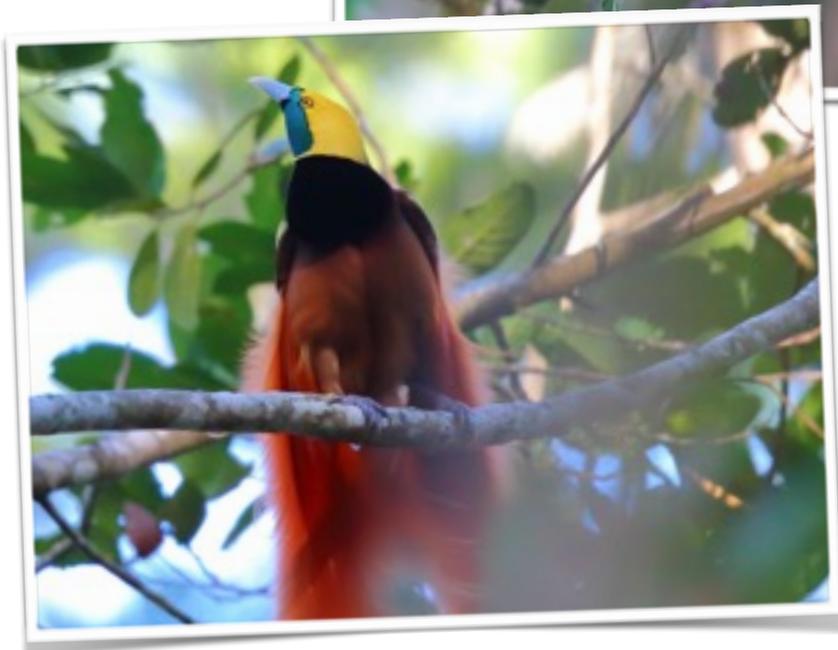


Birding in Paradise

Best of Papua New Guinea

+ SOLOMON Extension



Best of Papua New Guinea + Solomon

Birds of Paradises and More

BIRDING TOUR

July 3 - July 14 (12 Days) 2018

Varirata National Park | PAU | Mt Hagen | Brown River | Kinuga | Elevala River

Botanical Garden / Mt Austen / Wet land



Amongst all birding destinations in the World , Papua New Guinea surely ranks as the topmost , extraordinary , rewarding and exotic. It is one of the least explored parts of the World , where rules of evolutions have gone wild . Papua New Guinea , Popularly knows as “PNG” is home for celestial Birds of Paradises , “poisonous “ Pitohuis , amazing Fruit Doves , unbelievable Kingfishers , Satin birds and many more . We are expected to see displaying Raggiana Bird of Paradise and Growling Riffle Bird in Varirata

national Park and Lesser, Blue , Superb, King of Saxony , Sicklebills , Ribbon-tailed Astrapia BOPs in Mt Hagen area. We will be searching for small but adorable King Bird of Paradise in Brown River zone, but undoubtedly better known for its array of Parrots and Parakeets. We will also go to the endemic rich , seldom birded Kinuga and do a river cruise to see 12 wired bird of paradise , flame bower bird , Southern Crown Pigeon Blue Jewel Babbler etc

Our 9 nights -10 days long PNG tour with an optional , (3 days) tour to the Solomon Island , will surely push the birder in you to the next level. We will be staying 3 nights at the famous Kumul Lodge, located in the mountainous Enga province - probably the only place on earth, where one can photograph Bird of paradises on a feeding table while sipping your coffee at the comfort of your lodge.

New Guinea's forest bird communities vary with elevations. Our tour will be covering both lowland and hill / montane forest areas . We have selected best birding locations in eastern ranges and SE Peninsula to make sure that we spend maximum time in the field watching and photographing birds rather than Criss-crossing the country.

Day 1 (July 3)

Arrive in POM (Port Moresby International Airport) from an International gateway , preferably Singapore or Manila, well in advance to board PX180 to Mt Hagen airport. You will be received by the tour operator and transferred to the Kumul Lodge. Lunch at the Kumul Lodge.

At the Kumul Lodge you will be welcomed by Tiger parrots, Brown Sicklebill, Ribbon tailed Astrapia, Friendly Fantail, Common Smokey Honeyeater, Crested Berrypecker, Blue-capped Ifrit , Red collared Myzomela etc. You will photograph all these avian beauties in close range before you retire for a good night sleep.

Night : Kumul Lodge



Day 2 (July 4)

We will spend fully day in Kama / Lai / Mambis area for searching for Lesser Bird of Paradise and other montane species such as Papuan Mountain Pigeon, Forest Rail, Ornate Fruit Dove , Mountain Fruit Dove, Torrent Flycatcher etc .

We will spend the afternoon exploring the bird rich forest zones and gardens near the Kumul lodge searching for species such as Crested Satinbird, Wattled Plough-bill, Regent Whistler etc.

Night : Kumul Lodge



Day 3 (July 5)

Today we will take a half day birding excursion to the Rondon Ridge area (2-3 KM of Hiking involved) , searching for the Blue Bird of Paradise , Lesser Melempitta , Black Sicklebill etc

Post Lunch , We will continue birding at Murrumbidgee area for species such as King of Saxony bird of Paradise .

Night : Kumul Lodge .



Day 4 (July 6)

After an early morning breakfast, we will say good bye to the Kumul lodge and drive down to the airport to take first flight to Kiunga.

On arrival , we will be transferred to the guest house for lunch and without losing much precious birding time we will head for the near by birding trails for west PNG specialities

Night at the Guest House.

Day 5 -6 (July 7 -8)

We will have an early breakfast before boarding our boat to explore the famous Ewaleva river and near by forests to see mouth watering species such as flame Bower bird, 12 wired Bird of Paradise ,King Bird of Paradise, New Guinea Flightless rail, Magnificent Rifle bird, Obscured berry pecker , Greater bird of paradise Western Crown Pigeon , Blue Jewel Babbler etc.

Day 7 (July 9)

After an early breakfast , we will be transferred to the airport to take our flight to Port Moresby . We will check in at Dixis hotel before heading for PAU for birding .

Pacific Adventist University (PAU) campus is home for many a species of water birds and nightjars , frogmouths , catbirds , parrots etc

Night at Dixis



Day 8 (July 10)

Today we will have an early B/F before driving up to the only national park in PNG : the Varirata national Park

Full day birding at the Varirata national park.

Target species include, displaying Raggiana Bird of Paradise (National bird of Papua New Guinea) , Trumpet Manucode, Brown Oriole , a collection of Birds of Preys, Great Cuckoo Dove, Fruit Doves, Parrots , Parakeets, Lorikeets, and other regional species such as Blyth's Hornbill, Marbled Frogmouth, Common Paradise Kingfisher, Yellow billed Kingfisher, Owlet Nightjars, Brown Headed paradise Kingfisher, Kookaburras, Jewel Babblers, Pitohuis , Riffle Bird , Pheasant Coucal and many more.

Day 9 (July 11)

We will have a very early departure today with packed breakfast and lunch to Brown River area.

Our prime target in Brown is rarely seen King bird of Paradise. We will also search for Black-billed Brush-turkey,



Variable Goshawk, Coroneted Fruit-Dove, Orange-bellied Fruit-Dove, Pied Imperial Pigeon,, Greater Streaked Lory, Eclectus Parrots, Red-cheeked Parrot, Orange-breasted Fig-parrot, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo,Rufous-bellied Kookaburra,Blue Jewel-babbler, White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike, Fairy-wrens, Shining Flycatcher, Northern Fantail, Little Shrike-thrush, Rusty Pitohui, Papuan Flowerpecker, Tawny-breasted Honeyeater, Black Sunbird, Grey Headed Mannikin, Yellow-faced Mynah, King Bird of Paradise, Spangled Drongo, Metallic Starling, Torresian Crow etc.

Night at Dixies

Day 10 (July 12)

After breakfast you will be transferred to Airport for take our short international flight to the Solomon Island



SOLOMON Island Extension

The Solomon Islands is a country in Melanesia, east of Papua New Guinea, consisting of nearly one thousand islands. The capital is Honiara, located on the island of Guadalcanal.

The Solomon Islands is a wide island nation that lies East of Papua New Guinea .The distance between the westernmost and easternmost islands is about 1,500 kilometres (930 mi).

The islands' ocean-equatorial climate is extremely humid throughout the year, with a mean temperature of 27 °C (80 °F) and few extremes of temperature or weather. June through August is the cooler period.

Out of the 278 species of birds recorded in the Island , 68 are endemics. Many of them are found only in remote Islands and object of our trip is to get a decent introduction to the avian life of the Solomon and Melanesia.

On July 12 , the day of arrival , we will visit the botanical garden to search for Duchess Lorikeet and Black-headed Myzomela.

Night at Solomon Kitano Mendana Hotel

Day 11 (July 13)

Today is going to be a busy day for us. We will head towards Mt Austen before dawn with packed lunch. We will search for many high altitude specialities such as Solomon Cockatoo, Yellow billed Lory, Cardinal Lory, Buff headed Cucul, Claret breasted fruit dove, Ultramarine Kingfisher, Brown winged starling, Log-tailed myna etc.

After a productive session at Mt Austen , we will take a short birding trip to the Wet land area in lower Guadalcanal looking for low land species

Night at Solomon Kitano Mendana Hotel

Day 12 (July 14)

We will do birding in the hotel garden for local birds before breakfast.

Transfer to the airport

Tour Ends



Inclusions

Accommodations, meals , guide fees , security staff fees , ground transportation, entry fees etc.

Exclusions

International and Domestic air tickets, Insurances , Extra food and beverages , (Afternoon Birding at a Private Orchard in near Kumul Lodge USD 15-20 per head- Optional) Tips and other incidental expenses .

Domestic Flights

July 3 : Port Moresby (POM) to Mt Hagen (HGU)

July 6 : Mt Hagen (HGU) to Kiunga (UNG)

July 9 : Kiunga (UNG) to Port Moresby (POM)

Extra International

July 12 : Port Moresby (POM) to Honiara (HIR)

* Subject to the availability of a suitable room mate. If not single supplement rate apply.

* Disclaimer

This is an indicative itinerary. The Ground Operators have the right and freedom to make necessary changes in the itinerary if they feel the same is required to have a productive tour. No parties involved in this offer / tour guarantee sighting of any birds named in this itinerary. Participants are solely responsible for their health, personal safety, and belongings.