



Ecotourism Melanesia

Discover Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands

EM207A 2014 **GOROKA SHOW WEEKENDER** FRI12-MON15 SEPTEMBER 3 nights Goroka (semi-escorted program for independent travellers)

This three night program is designed for independent travellers requiring managed arrangements for visiting the Goroka Show. There is a selection of accommodation options - subject to availability at time of booking - and escorted excursions to the Goroka Show and other attractions. For the excursions you will share a bus, guide and Show seating with other Ecotourism Melanesia clients booking this package. Flights or road transfers in and out of Goroka are not included.

The Goroka Show (also incorrectly labelled the Goroka Festival by overseas tour promoters) is partly an agricultural show and partly a highlands sing-sing. Since colonial days the people of the Eastern Highlands have come together once a year to display samples of their best crops and livestock, and to show off their most colourful and energetic dance traditions. The pride of each tribe is vested in its dancing groups which vie for attention and prominence on the dance ground - often there are several groups performing at once in different parts of the arena. Sparks fly occasionally as jealousy and competition fuel conflict between tribal groups. At the end of the Show, judges award prizes to the best dancing groups. Cash awards have now taken the place of pigs and brides.

TOUR COST (per person, 3 nights):

	2.0 star Backpacker lodge (shared bathroom) INCL LUNCHESES ONLY	2.5 star Budget motel (ensuite bathroom) INCL LUNCHESES ONLY	3.5 star Tourist hotel (all facilities) INCLUDES ALL MEALS
Standard package (3 nights accom and 2.5 days touring)	TWIN-SHARE PGK 3000 pp	TWIN-SHARE PGK 3500 pp	TWIN-SHARE PGK 4500 pp
Single supplement	PGK 600	PGK 800	PGK 1200

NOTES:

- Hotels in Goroka charge peak-season rates for the Show weekend and there is an acute shortage of rooms (Goroka has less than 200 hotel and motel rooms). This contributes to the high cost of this package.
- Package rate for 3.5 star at Pacific Gardens Hotel or Bird of Paradise Hotel includes all meals because it is a condition of booking rooms at those hotels for the peak Show weekend that dinners and breakfasts must be pre-purchased in-house.
- When booking a Goroka Show Weekender package with us we require a 50% deposit at the time of booking so that we can immediately secure your preferred accommodation. Our normal cancellation penalties apply (see page 2 of your invoice).
- Star ratings are an approximate guide only and are not based on any published star rating system.
- For package modifications please enquire.

TOUR INCLUSIONS

- Port Moresby - meet and greet, assist with connection
- Port Moresby - tour welcome kit including welcome gift, souvenir polo shirt, maps, country information
- Goroka - meet and greet, transfer to accommodation
- Goroka - 3 nights accommodation as per selected package
- Goroka - half day tour of Goroka town with fruit and bottled water
- Goroka - two half day escorted excursions to the Goroka Show with entry pass, fruit and bottled water
- Goroka - half day excursion to Akameku village (or similar) with local style lunch and bottled water
- Goroka - half day excursion to Daulo Pass moss forest with packed lunch and bottled water
- Goroka - departure transfer to airport
- Goroka - all fees and gratuities for local villagers, local guides and helpers
- Goroka - on-site company tour leader to escort and manage daily tours and arrangements
- 24-hour phone assistance (+675 7686 8917)

TOUR EXCLUSIONS

- airfares and/or road travel in and out of Goroka
- any meals not stated as included
- tips (not expected, and only appropriate for exceptional service)
- souvenirs and items of a personal nature
- bar drinks

ITINERARY

DAY 1: FRI 12 SEP 2014

PORT MORESBY / GOROKA (half day tour of Goroka)

On arrival at Port Moresby airport you will be met by staff from Ecotourism Melanesia who will assist you to check in for your connecting flight to Goroka.

08:50 Air Niugini flight PX960 departs Port Moresby for Goroka (aircraft: Dash 8-400 turboprop with 70 seats)

09:45 You will be met on arrival in Goroka by our local guide - look for somebody holding a sign with your name. The guide will drive you 5 minutes to your hotel, assist you to check in and have lunch (included) at the Bird of Paradise Hotel with other visitors hosted by Ecotourism Melanesia.

13:00 Commence a half day group tour of Goroka travelling by mini bus. The tour includes:

- Mt Kiss lookout (views of Goroka and Asaro Valley)
- JK McCarthy Museum of Highlands Culture (displays of highlands artifacts, traditional dress and customs)
- Goroka handicrafts market
- Goroka fresh produce market
- Goroka Coffee factory and/or Niugini Fruit Company (local wildfruit is used to produce PNG's only local jam)
- a scenic drive out the winding Bena Bena which crosses bridges over babbling brooks and meanders through native forest and roadside villages with waving children.

17:30 Drop off at your accommodation.

Overnight at selected accommodation, Goroka

TOUR NOTE: meals in Goroka

Dinner and breakfast are not included in the tour package for 2.0 star and 2.5 star accommodations. On request you will be transported to other hotels for your dinners and breakfasts but these meals are pay-as-you-go - you can pay by cash or credit card at the eatery.

Goroka has 4 main restaurants: the bistro/pizzeria and fine dining restaurants at the Bird of Paradise Hotel (both of these offer a buffet during the Show weekend), the bistro at the Pacific Gardens Hotel, and the Mandarin Chinese café across the street from the Bird of Paradise Hotel.

Groceries for self-catering can be purchased from the supermarkets, most of which close at 17:00 but there are one or two smaller ones that close at 18:30.

DAY 2: SAT 13 SEP 2014

GOROKA (Goroka Show + Akameku village)

08:00 You will be picked up from your accommodation and transferred to the show grounds in time to settle into your seat before the commencement of the sing-sing performances around 09:00.

The tourist enclosure has good views of the performance area and your tourist pass (provided as part of your tour package) gives you blanket permission to enter the performance area if you wish to take close-up photographs. Special toilets for tourists are situated nearby.

A number of our guides will accompany our group today to interpret the performances for you. Fruit and bottled water is supplied for you at the Show.

13:00 Depart from the Show grounds and head straight for Akameku village about 45 minutes drive out of town. Akameku is a typical semi-rural highlands village with round huts made of bush materials, smoky cooking fires and pigs wandering around free.

At Akameku a traditional-style lunch is ready for you. Meat and vegetables has been wrapped in banana leaves or stuffed into the nodes of giant bamboo stalks and cooked in a pit under hot coals or hot stones. The food has taken several hours to slow-cook this way and when it comes out of the “oven” it has a delightful smoky barbeque flavour.

At Akameku you'll see local people engaged in a variety of daily activities such as market gardening, harvesting, food preparation, billum weaving, hunting wild pigs with bows and arrows, and tending their coffee crops. Organic coffee grown on smallholder blocks is the major cash crop in the highlands.

Also at Akameku you have the option to take a 1 hour round-trip hike through montane forest (different from the moss forest at Daulo) to the nearby river and waterfall. This forest is populated by birds and tree mammals such as cuscus which can sometimes be seen peeping out of their hiding places, understandably wary of bows and arrows. Mid to late afternoon like this is the time of day when the raucous Raggiana bird of paradise is most active: the bird is relatively easy to spot in the trees as it flutters from tree to tree emitting a loud distinctive cackle. There are known nesting spots along the forest paths near Akameku. Wild animals including birds of paradise are plentiful in PNG and are not protected by law but locals at Akameku have preserved the area of forest nearest the village for visitors to enjoy.

17:30 Drop off at your accommodation.

Overnight at selected accommodation, Goroka

DAY 3: SUN 14 SEP 2014

GOROKA (Goroka Show + Daulo Pass)

Second day at the Goroka Show as per yesterday.

13:00 Depart from the Show grounds and drive 1 hour out the Highlands Highway through the Asaro Valley to the Daulo Pass. A packed lunch is provided to eat on board the bus.

The Daulo Pass is a high altitude biodiversity hotspot where the highway winds through swirling mists past giant tree ferns and trickling waterfalls. Near the peak of the pass, you will leave your vehicle at the road side and some locals, who live a rather cold existence way up here, will lead you on a one hour guided walk through the moss forest. The forest is populated by flowering trees, gingers and tree ferns which form a substrate for the growth of a wide variety of saprophytic native orchids, green mosses and colourful fungi, lichens, liverworts and leafy epiphytes. Real “Lord of the Rings” stuff. Local children also sell colourful flowers on the side of the road here.

17:30 Drop off at your accommodation.

Overnight at selected accommodation, Goroka

DAY 4: MON 15 SEP 2014

DEPART GOROKA

Depart Goroka by road or air (own arrangements). Your hotel will provide your shuttle transfer to the airport or other departure point.