

MT. HAGEN SHOW TOUR 1

AUGUST 2003: 14 Days & 13 Nights:

Mon 04th August: (--LD) Arrive into Port Moresby on Air Niugini flight PX393 from Singapore. On arrival, meet for transit transfer to Air Niugini flight PX154 (0950/1040) to Gurney. On arrival, meet for transfer to your 7 nights Melanesian Discoverer cruise of the Trobriand Islands to Madang.

MELANESIAN DISCOVERER CRUISES ALOTAU TO MADANG CRUISE



Monday 04th August to Sunday 10th August 2003: (BLD) - On board the Melanesian Discoverer

Board the ship at 1730 pm. After cabin assignments have been made and luggage stowed, the Cruise Lecturer will brief you on safety matters aboard the ship and the vessel will depart for a night crossing of the Bismarck Sea to the Siassi Group of Islands.

In Siassi you will visit Aromot Island, a miniature Hong Kong of the Pacific. It is so densely populated for such a tiny area that houses nestle cheek by jowl, and many families have been forced to move to the nearby island of Umboi. Pigs forage for mussels at low tide and it is quaint to see them in line, moving out to their marine pasture. Close by we visit Tuam Island.

If conditions permit the cruise will explore the southeast coast of West New Britain, including a voyage up the remote Purlie River to reach the isolated village of Urin some 30 kms inland.

The remainder of the cruise is spent amongst a myriad of superb islands, islets, and atolls, marvelling at the clarity of the water and the varying land conformations. These islands could include Kaileuna, Kiriwina, Kuyawa, Kitava, Iwa, Gawa, Yaneba, Dugumeru, Simsim, the Amphlett and D'Entrecasteaux Groups of islands. (Weather conditions permitting).

The Trobriand Islands lie north of the D'Entrecasteaux Group, and comprise four major islands and many islets. They were named after Denis de Trobriand, an officer with the D'Entrecasteaux Expedition. Composed of coral, some islands rise abruptly from the shore to a height of approximately 50 metres, forming sheer coral cliffs. Others lie just

above the surface of the water. The people appear more Polynesian than Melanesian, both in appearance and disposition. They are delightfully warm and welcoming.

Perhaps one of the most interesting and complex customs practiced by the people of the area is the "Kula Trading Circle", and with the "Melanesian Discoverer" we endeavour to follow the traditional routes. Malinowski, who documented the Trobriand lifestyle during the period 1915-18, wrote a very good exposition of the "Kula Ring", which links the non-monetary value of the objects exchanged to the social, moral and competitive obligations of their culture.

The Trobrianders are lissome dancers and during the time we spend amongst them we shall enjoy entertainment either on shore or aboard the "Melanesian Discoverer". Wherever possible we stay a full day on a particular island, thus giving sufficient time to walk into villages which are often situated in the centre of an island close to the yam gardens, and also enjoy the beaches.

The Yam Festival in July and August of each year is a very important time for the Trobriand people, as Yam is the staple food and an object of veneration. They take great pains with their gardens, sometimes growing tubers of enormous size and thus earning great individual renown as well as increasing their social stature within the exchange obligations of the matrilineal system.

Dependent on weather conditions we may visit the Amphlett Group of islands, famous for their distinctive pottery which is made from the rim to the base and not vice-versa as is usual in pottery formation. The Amphletts are small mountainous islands with village houses clustered on the beach below densely foliated ridges. It is a tremendous thrill to be present when a Kula canoe, with its decorative splashboards and woven sail, is beached during one of our visits ashore. The village people gather around to heave the outrigger and canoe on to the beach, and often the chant of a magic spell is required to assist the action, showing us how closely the people still cling to traditional beliefs.

The Marshall Bennett Group of islands is also elevated with sheer cliffs of coral and limestone rising from the beaches. It is quite amazing to see the women carry water in containers on their heads up the steep paths, as often water is not available in the villages and must be obtained from the soaks on the beaches or caves at high tide.

The Melanesian Discoverer normally visits Fergusson Island where a visit is made to the thermal springs at Deidei Village and Budoya, a Catholic Mission, school and hospital. A short stop is made at Dobu for a swim and a visit to the historic Methodist Mission.

We arrive at Alotau in the morning. After breakfast you will be transferred by bus for a twenty minutes drive to Gurney Airport and the cruise terminates with a flight to Port Moresby.

It is important to remember that the schedule is subject to change due to the prevailing conditions, and we may also deviate to Islands never visited before, thereby eliminating some of those previously mentioned. The purpose of the description in the itinerary is to give you a general idea of the type of cruise to expect.

Monday 11th August: (BLD) Depart Madang on Airlink flight 100 to Mt. Hagen. On arrival, meet for transfer to Haus Poroman Lodge. Afternoon visit villages nearby and do venture by foot. Overnight Haus Poroman Lodge (1 Night).

Tuesday 12th August: (BLD) Depart Mt. Hagen on Airlink flight ND452 to Tari. On arrival, meet by Steven WARI your local experience guide for the whole Tari trek. Transfer by vehicle to Warili village. Afternoon tour to waterfalls more than 30 metres high and a walk across the famous Huli bridge. Overnight Warili Guest House.

TARI VALLEY - HULI

Isolated by geography and history, the Huli people of the Tari Valley were one of the last groups in Papua New Guinea to be brought under government control. The Huli Wigmen are noted for their flamboyant and colorful appearance, beautifully painted faces, and their use of bird of paradise feathers and everlasting daisies to decorate their wigs of human hair. This is a male dominated society concerned with maintaining the strength and status of the male. Separation of men and women in village life is an integral part of their culture. A complex society in which land and rights to land are of importance and the cause of much tribal warfare. So you will gain a genuine insight into this society still governed by sorcery and ancestral spirits in its everyday activities.

Wednesday 13th August: (BLD) Wake up at 05.30 am and take a soft walk to the Tari gap to do an early morning bird watching tour. At this point you will have the chance to see 13 species of the birds of Paradise and the display of the bower birds. Walk back to Warili Guest House for breakfast. After breakfast, full day tour and trekking to Hudi village. Overnight Hudi Guest House.

Thursday 14th August: (BLD) Full day trek from Hudi village to Kakanalu village. On the way, visit Kawi village Huli Wigmen school and a short walk to Alua Kambe for Huli sing sing and ceremonial grounds. On arrival at Kakanalu, enjoy by fire place evening Huli spirit dance. Dinner and overnight at Kakanalu Guest House.

***Activities Include:** Evening "mumu" dinner, visit to Huli Wigmen Bachelor boys centre and Huli traditional sing sing, Bird watching, nature walks, walk across suspension bridge, visit to Huli widows and : Huli spirit dance, visit to ceremonial grounds, village study and courting ceremony.*

Friday 15th August: (BLD) Transfer by vehicle to Tari airport. On arrival, connect with charter flight to Mt. Hagen. On arrival, meet for transfer to Hagen Airport Motel (2 Nights).

Saturday 16th August: (BLD) Depart your hotel in Mt. Hagen as early as 07.30 am in order to take photos when the performers are doing their face paintings. The show will feature nearly 150 different cultural sing sing groups from all over Papua New Guinea. Packed lunches will be provided by your local guides. Overnight in Mt. Hagen.

Sunday 17th August: (BL--) Depart your hotel in Mt. Hagen as early as 07.30 am in order to take photos when the performers are doing their face paintings. After taking photos, depart for the airport for Air Niugini flight PX181 to Port Moresby. On arrival, meet for transfer to Air Niugini international flight PX392 to Singapore. End of Our Services!

LAND COST IN USA DOLLARS NET PER PERSON:

Twin Share: US\$3,820.30 per person.

Cost includes accommodation twin share, show admission passes, local English speaking guides, transport, village and basic accommodation whilst on trek, meals as

specified above by their symbols, B=Breakfast, L=Lunch and D=Dinner, transfers and tours, cultural activities, entrance fees and all government taxes plus all Airlink and Charter flights .

Cost does NOT include internal Air Niugini flights, pre/post nights accommodation in Port Moresby, other meals not specified, beverages, laundry services (note, laundry services are not provided in village guest houses) and services of personal nature such telephone/fax bills.

ADDITIONAL COSTS:

Air Niugini Flight PX154 04th August - Port Moresby to Gurney

Air Niugini Flight PX181 17th August - Mt. Hagen to Port Moresby

Single supplement: US\$ 30.00 net per single occupancy (single supplement except in Mt. Hagen and on-board Melanesian Discoverer).

What to Bring: Items of personal nature such as tooth paste, sun glass, hat, sweater/warm clothes, good strong walking boots, rain coat and insect repelant.

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

Again our terms and conditions are genuine and we kindly ask you to comply with.

Room Allocation:

This itinerary uses the Hagen Airport Motel. This is quite a new facility with spacious rooms, multi channel TV, tea and coffee making facilities and all rooms with private bath facilities.

Deposits & Final payment

A deposit of US\$150.00 per person is required at the time of accepting and booking the tour in order to secure rooms in Mt. Hagen. Your rooms will be confirmed upon receipt of the US\$150.00 per person deposit. Please forward the payment by Telegraphic Transfer to our PNG account. Final payment is required 30 days prior to arrival.

After forwarding the deposit and the final payment, please kindly inform us by fax us a copy of the official TT receipt and advising via email and we will monitor the payment with our bank to ensure payment is well received into the account.

Our Addresses;

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Best regards,

Elijah
