MT. HAGEN SHOW TOUR 2

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

Picture 1: Melanesian Discoverer

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

Board the ship at 1730. 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, marveling 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 for 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 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 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 Wewak. On arrival, meet for transfer onward MAF light flight to Ambunti. On arrival, meet by guide for

transfer to Ambunti Lodge. Afternoon visit to nearby villages. Overnight Ambunti Lodge (3 Nights).

UPPER MIDDLE SEPIK ARTIFACTS TOUR.

SEPIK RIVER BASIN:
The environment has been described as “raw and primitive”, but for the traveler with an adventurous spirit, it is adventure “par excellence”. Travel in this region is by motorized dugout canoe, exploring the main waterways and smaller channels, visiting traditional villages, sleeping in village houses and experiencing the lifestyle and culture of these river people. This area is renowned as the finest source of primitive art in the world. Sepik art is valued not only for its beautiful workmanship and aesthetic appeal, but also as a cultural statement. The art of the Sepik people enhances an understanding of the culture and values of the Sepik people. Their art is a visual language.

Tuesday 12th August: (BLD) Arrive Ambunti by light aircraft (MAF) transfer to canoe travel to Maliwe, Meno, Tongijamb return overnight Meno village.

Wednesday 13th August: (BLD) Depart Meno village by motorised canoe to Yambon, Wagu lakes return to Ambunti then travel on to Korogo, Palimbe. Overnight Ambunti Lodge.

Thursday 14th August: (BLD) Depart Ambunti by Charter to Mt. Hagen. Meet for transfer to Hagen Airport Motel. Afternoon tour to local market and Paiagona village and water falls. Overnight Hagen Airport Motel (3 Nights).

Friday 15th August: (BLD) Full day tour Chimbu including visit to Pari burial caves and the chimbu gorge. Visit coffee and tea plantations whilst en route to Chimbu.

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 singsing groups from all over Papua New Guinea. Packed lunches will be provided by your local guides. Overnight in Mt. Hagen.

Sunday 17th August: (B--) 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$4,094.20 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, all Airlink & Charter flights plus Motorised canoe, driver and guide and fuel.

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$ 33.00 net per single occupancy (single supplement except in Mt. Hagen and on-board Melanesian Discoverer).

Interests Include: People and village life, Artifacts, Pristine natural environment, Bird Life, Spirit House or Haus Tambaran, Sepik River and Tributaries.

Picture 2: Haus Tambaran (Sepik)

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 repellant.
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. With every booking on the Melanesian Discoverer, for every double room, there is a surcharge of 25% on top of the total cruise cost.
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.
Our Addresses;

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Best regards,

Elijah