

PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA: THE MOUNT HAGEN FESTIVAL!

14 days | 09 Aug 2023 - 22 Aug 2023

-  Group tours
-  Photography
-  Adventurous tours
-  Travel photography
-  Workshops

Always dreamed to visit the tribes of Papua? Curious about the local cultures, customs and peoples? We go out and explore one of the wildest corners of our planet. We travel to remote villages, sleep on the tribes' property and schedule a visit to the national Mount Hagen festival, organized for and by the local population. There are plenty of photography opportunities, always with respect and awe for the people we are going to photograph. Under the guidance of experienced top photographers Piet Van den Eynde and David Vandriessche, this will be an opportunity to remember.



Trumps of this trip

- sophisticated preparation thanks to a prospecting trip in 2022!
- small group of maximum 8 photographers
- guidance by two experienced professional photographers
- various image editing discussions during the trip
- a lot of provided flash material/studio material to get the best results
- the most beautiful diversity of tribes, where we also spend the night
- all inclusive with the exception of international flights!



What makes this photography tour to Papua so special?

- You'll be initiated into a national meeting of dozens of different tribes.
- You're on tour with 8 participants and 2 experienced professional STARLING photographers.
- Our photographers go the extra mile with a lot of tips and tricks while providing you with additional gear.
- You 'll get to see and photograph unique dance performances by the locals.
- We bring you in close contact with the locals in an authentic way.
- The unique (STARLING) atmosphere...

Get to know your tour guide

Piet is a real workshop guide. He will help you with compositions and techniques. How do you use artificial light to create the right atmosphere? How can you best edit your images? All this and much more will be discussed in this photography workshop! Piet takes you on this journey along the tribes of Papua. His passion for photography and sense of adventure are indispensable to bring this tour to a good end. Together with our local contacts, you can count on a spotless organization so that you can fully focus on photography. Piet is assisted by David Vandriessche. David truly excels in his profession and is a specialist in organizing photography tours in Asia. A great added value for this unique workshop.



Is this photography tour to Papua something for you?

The tour as a whole can be a little spicy if it comes to general conditions. It's good to be at least a little in shape.

Experience travelling to remote areas is asset if you're considering joining this tour. The accommodation is pretty basic. We're doing everything in our effort to raise the comfort levels to a reasonable level and if possible make use of a hotel.

Experience travelling to tropical regions is a plus. Both warm temperatures and high humidity will be omnipresent during the tour.

You have a huge passion for photography, specifically portraits, and you enjoy the rush of a new adventure.

Experience

Beginner

Expert

Comfort

Basic

Luxurious

Condition

Easy

Heavy



Photography Level



Nature Level

Interested? We keep you posted

Itinerary & Locations

08 - 09/08

departure to Port Moresby

Take into account departure on August 8 or 9. The departure depends on the flights and if you're keen on adding a short extension to the tour planning.



The tour kicks off on the evening of August 10 in Port Moresby.

10/08 - 11/08

Port Moresby - Goroka

Travelers are expected in Port Moresby on the evening of August 10.

11/08 arrival in Goroka and transfer to the hotel in Goroka city. Here we plan an afternoon visit to a nearby tribe for photo shoots. In the evening we stay in the city hotel of Goroka.

12/08

Asaro

After breakfast we'll have a transfer to the Asaro Mudmen Eco Resort. We stay in Asaro all day. We walk to Gurupoka Mountain and see the Moko Moko dance performance. We reach the top of the mountain and visit the ancestral cave. We have our lunch on the mountain and in the afternoon we witness the Bere Bere war dance. In the late afternoon we return to the lodge and in the evening dinner is prepared in the traditional way of cooking in Papua: MuMu underground cooking.

13/08

Asaro

A full day of activities: We go to the Asaro River after breakfast and see the Asaro Mudmen doing their painting and mask preparation, we do a local picnic and attend an Asaro Mudmen performance near the Asaro River. In the afternoon there is a mask molding demonstration, where we will be shown how to make the famous clay mud mask and reenact a small cannibal ceremony. Then we return to the lodge for dinner and overnight.

Overnight at the Asaro Mudmen Eco Resort.

14/08

Mindima

We drive from Asaro to the Skeleton Tribe in Mindima. In the afternoon we will see the Insect Hunters and the Dust Shaker performance by the river. We spend the night in the Skeleton village.

15/08

Skeleton

Today we are in Skeleton for a full day. After breakfast we walk to the cave for a performance by the Skeleton Tribe, in and around the cave. We also have lunch in the cave.

We spend the night in a nearby guest house.

16/23

Mindima - Bogu



Transfer from Mindima to Bogo. In Bogo we will attend the welcome ceremony shown by about 40 people in traditional Simbu fighting clothes. This is followed by lunch and a free evening.

17/08

Bogo

Today a full day of Bogo is planned with flash photography of traditional houses, waterfalls, jungle scene, river backgrounds, etc.

18/08

Bogo - Mount Hagen

Early morning transfer from Bogo to Mount Hagen. We check into the hotel and in the afternoon we photograph the Huli Wigmen in a special jungle/tropical garden with flash setup.

19/08

Mount Hagen

Today is the day: Mount Hagen Cultural Show, a creative gathering of more than 50 coastal, lowland and highland tribes. Access this privileged experience few travelers get to experience as you immerse yourself in a festival by locals, for locals: a bold, joyous proclamation of tribal festivities and dances.

20/08

Mount Hagen

Enjoy another day of the festival. Admire the participants as they sing vibrant, ancestral songs and dances that showcase their diverse and distinctive cultural heritage. Witness an unparalleled spectacle of color, music and movement as feathered headdresses, beautifully painted faces and skirts of dyed grass float to the driving beat of traditional drums and the rousing voices of the tribesmen. Lose yourself in the sights and sounds of the heady festival and gain a deeper understanding of the enduring traditions that help define this unique corner of the world.

21/08

Mount Hagen - Port Moresby

Farewell from Mount Hagen in the early morning towards Port Moresby. From here we depart back home to Brussels/Amsterdam.

22/08

arrival

We expect to arrive back home on August 22.

Practical



Accommodation and transportation

The accommodation is simple.

At locations in the inhabited world we use standard hotels. In more remote locations we use local guest houses with the tribes. Sanitary facilities are shared and basic at these locations.

Electricity is usually available throughout the journey. Spare batteries are a must. You need a plugin type I.

We don't walk much during this trip. If desired, you can have your photo bag carried by the locals, for a small fee. The presence of two guides guarantees personal guidance.

We also travel by vans, 4x4s and domestic flights. Adventure assured!

National flights are included in the price! International flights are not. As soon as the trip has a guaranteed departure, we will contact you for the flights. You can book the flights through us or on your own. Take into account 1500 – 1800 euros per person for the flights.

Climate and clothing

Papua is a destination with still a lot of tropical rainforest. Good rain gear is therefore recommended (umbrella, poncho, etc.). An umbrella can be useful.

The highlands are not tropical, there are almost no mosquitoes and we are at an altitude of 1600 to 2000 meters. That means that the temperatures are pleasant and comparable to chilly spring-autumn weather.

Provide loose light clothing. You should provide warmer clothing for the evening and the highlands. Do not match your attire to the traditional costumes that you can see in the photos of the locals

