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Travel Papua New Guinea with Niugini Eco Tourism Services and experience a pure adventure and a pure escapism style of holiday...

PNG Mainland Birding Tours (Tour Code: BT-M12)

This birding program is designed to give our clients a birding experience of both the lowlands and highlands of Papua New Guinea. The first leg includes lowlands birding in and around Port Moresby including Varirata National Park, Pacific Adventist University and Port Moresby.



After Port Moresby you will fly over to Tari where you will visit the famous Tari Gap to see bird of paradise species found nowhere else in Papua New Guinea such as Blue, Superb, and Stephanie's Astrapia. From Tari Gap fly over to Mt Hagen and stay couple more days enjoying highlands birding at Kumul Lodge where you will see rare bird species that you missed in Tari Gap such as Crested Bird-of-paradise, Painted Tiger-Parrot and Yellow-breasted Bowerbird. From the highlands birding experience fly over to Western Province where you will spend the next couple

of days in Kiunga and Tabubil seeing lowland rainforests and swamp forests birds that you never had the chance to see in the highlands. Commonly you would see Long-tailed Buzzard, Variable Goshawk, Pink-spotted Fruit-dove, Beautiful Fruit-dove, Orange-bellied Fruit-dove, Papuan Mountain-pigeon plus more bird of paradise species. This birding package which includes such renowned birding spots as the Tari Gap, Kumul Lodge, Kiunga and Varirata promises to provide very exciting tour with superb birding for many very unique birds!

Program Overview

Commencing Days:	Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays,
Number of Nights:	Fifteen (15)
Tour Availability:	All year around 2012 and 2013
Places to Visit:	Varirata, PAU, Tari Gap, Kumul Lodge, Tabubil and Kiunga.
Tour Extension:	To Walindi in West New Britain for 3 additional nights.

Detailed Itinerary: Port Moresby (Varirata, PAU, and Brown River), Tari Gap, Kumul Lodge, Tabubil and Kiunga. (This program can be extended to the Walindi for 3 additional nights).

Day 1: International Flight/Port Moresby

Arrive in Jacksons International Airport from your international flight and meet your birding guide and our staff and transfer to Gateway Hotel. Birds to look for around the airport and the

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hotel are Masked Lapwing (grassy strips around the runway), Intermediate Egret, Peaceful Dove, Pacific Swallow, White-breasted Wood-swallow, Yellow-tinted and Rufous-breasted Honeyeaters (around ornamental flowers), Torresian Crow, Willie Wagtail and Singing Starling. Overnight at Gateway Hotel. (D)

Day 2, 3: Port Moresby (Varirata/ Pacific Adventist University)

After breakfast you will be transferred to Varirata National Park, where you will spend most of the day birding forest trails. Here, you may encounter Dwarf Cassowary, Black-billed Brush-turkey (and their nest mounds) and Brown-headed Paradise-Kingfisher. On the way back to Port Moresby, stop at several points including Pacific Adventist University in open eucalyptus woodland. Around Port Moresby, you will bird localities within a short driving distance such as Brown River and Moitaka Ponds. The lowland forest at Brown River supports several interesting species including Orange-breasted Fig-Parrot, Rufous-bellied Kookaburra and Raggiana's Bird-of-Paradise. The ponds at Moitaka hold Spotted Whistling-Duck amongst other waterbirds, and are a good spot for Orange-fronted Fruit-Dove. If time permits, you may visit the Hisiu mangroves for a different community of birds, including the endemic Dusky Myzomela. Spend this two nights at Gateway Hotel with all meals included. (BLD)

Day 4: Port Moresby/Tari (Ambua Lodge)

After breakfast transfer to the airport and board flight PX864 to Tari at 09:35 and arrive in Tari at 11:05. Meet the staff of Ambua Lodge and transfer to Ambua Lodge for your birding expedition. Ambua Lodge is situated at the Tari Gap which has over 200 species of birds, with 12 species of birds-of-paradise (including Blue and Superb, and Stephanie's *Astrapia*), have been recorded at the vicinity of the Ambua Lodge. Half of today and the next two full days enjoy birding and overnight at Ambua Lodge. (BLD)

Day 5, 6: Tari Gap Birding

Today and tomorrow full day birding at the Tari Gap. Apart from all the bird of paradise species found in Tari Gap, you will also see other goodies include Tit-Berrypecker and Crested Berrypecker, Lemon-breasted and Fan-tailed Berrypecker, Modest Tiger-Parrot, Sanford's Bowerbird, Lesser Ground-Robin, Mountain Firetail, Hooded Munia, White-breasted Fruit-Dove and New Guinea Logrunner. Overnight at Ambua Lodge (BLD)

Day 7: Tari/Mt Hagen/Kumul Lodge

After breakfast travel to Mt Hagen. There are two travel options from Tari to Mt Hagen: Options¹ - If your tour commences on a Friday, then you will be flying by MAF Airlines which operates flight out from Tari to Mt Hagen every Thursdays. Option 2 - If your tour commences on the other days, then you will go by road, courtesy of our 4WD Suv transfers, which will take 6-7 hours drive time. The second options although may take longer to travel, will however compensate you with authentic tour experiences where you will see hundreds of different natives tribal groups scattered along the highway. You will also see beautiful scenery along the way with majestic photo opportunities rarely proffered in other parts of your travel in this program. On arrival in Mt Hagen transfer up to the upper reaches of cloud forest to Kumul Lodge where you will spend 3 nights. Kumul Lodge is situated close to the base of Mt Hagen at the borders of the Western Highlands and Enga provinces. It is owned and run by local landowners and is a model of the type of sustainable eco-tourism that will enable the world to conserve significant wilderness areas. Enjoy your birding experience right at your balconies. Overnight at Kumul Lodge with all meals provided. (BD)

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Day 8, 9, 10: Kumul Lodge Birding

Your time around Kumul Lodge will allow you to see a large number of highland birds. Some species that are rare at the Tari Gap area are easier to see at and near the lodge, such as Crested Bird-of-paradise, Painted Tiger-Parrot and Yellow-breasted Bowerbird. A highlight at the lodge is the bird-of-paradise feeder, where some exciting birds visit throughout the day and can be seen and photographed up close. Your stay will allow you a chance at Chestnut Forest-Rail which visits feeders, Mountain Owlet-Nightjar and Black-billed Cuckoo-Dove. Overnight at Kumul Lodge with all meals. (BLD)

Day 11: Mt Hagen/Tabubil

After breakfast transfer to Mt Hagen and arrive at Kagamuga airport and board APNG Flight CG1404 to Tabubil. Flight departs at 15:10 and arrives at 16:05. On arrival at Tabubil airport meet your local birding guide and transfer to Cloudsland Hotel and overnight. In the evening your birding guide will brief you on the rest of the birding program in Western Province. (BD)

Day 12: Tabubil

Today you will do birding in the surroundings hills and lower montane forest of the Ok Tedi area. Among the many species found in this area are Salvadori's Teal, Long-tailed Buzzard, Papuan Mountain-pigeon, Dusky Lory, Striated Lorikeet, Pesquet's (Vulturine) Parrot, Red-breasted Pygmy-parrot, Blue-collared Parrot, Eclectus Parrot, Black-tipped (Grey-headed) Cuckoo-shrike, Stout-billed Cuckoo-shrike, Black-bellied Cuckoo-shrike, Chestnut-backed Jewel-babbler, Black Fantail, River (Torrent) Flycatcher, White-rumped Robin, Black-headed Whistler, Long-billed Honeyeater, Spotted Honeyeater, Scrub White-eared Honeyeater, Obscure Berrypecker, Mountain Peltops, New Guinea Wood-swallow, Greater Melampitta, Magnificent Bird of Paradise and Greater Bird of Paradise. Overnight at Cloudsland Hotel with all meals included. (BLD)

Day 13: Tabubil/Kiunga

After breakfast transfer to Kiunga by car. En route you may see Little Ringed Plover (Papuan form), Lesser Black Coucal, Golden-backed Whistler and other native species. Arrive at the Kiunga Guest-house and check in. Have lunch and in the afternoon birding continues including the next two days. See details of birds you may see around Kiunga below. Overnight at Kiunga Guest-house. (BLD)

Day 14, 15: Kiunga

Today and tomorrow enjoy the birding experience near Kiunga Guesthouse and its surroundings. The lowland rainforests and swamp forests in the Kiunga area offer a great variety of birds including Long-tailed Buzzard, Variable Goshawk, Pink-spotted Fruit-dove, Beautiful Fruit-dove, Orange-bellied Fruit-dove, Papuan Mountain-pigeon, Yellow-streaked Lory, Western Black-capped Lory, Red-flanked Lorikeet, Yellow-capped Pygmy-parrot, Orange-breasted Fig-parrot, Double-eyed Fig-parrot, Red-cheeked Parrot, Eclectus Parrot, Moustached Tree-swift, Yellow-billed Kingfisher, Blyth's Hornbill, Hooded Pitta, Boyer's Cuckoo-shrike, Golden Cuckoo-shrike, Blue Jewel-babbler, Black-sided Robin, Variable Pitohui, Tawny-breasted Honeyeater, Black Sunbird, Lowland Peltops, Flame Bowerbird, Glossy-mantled Manucode, Crinkle-collared Manucode, Trumpet Manucode, Magnificent Riflebird, Greater Bird of Paradise and Grey Crow. Overnight these two nights at Kiunga Guest-House. (BLD)

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Day 16: Kiunga/Port Moresby

After breakfast today transfer airport and board flight APNG CG1403 to Port Moresby via Mt Hagen. The flight departs at 08:35 and arrive at 11:45. END OF PROGRAM or for EXTENSION to Walindi see program below.

LAND COST:

2012/2013 Land Cost Per Person: Prices quoted below are on twin/double share basis for all group (pax) categories except for 1 pax which is on single room basis.

1 pax	2-3 pax	4-6 pax	7-10 pax	11+ pax
PGK22,100	PGK15,500	PGK14,100	PGK12,800	PGK11,700

Note:

- Single room supplement cost: PGK3,050 per person.
- Travel Agents' commissions for the above land cost for all cost categories are available only on application.

LAND COST INCLUDES:

Accommodations, tours, transfers, all meals, mineral (bottled) water, English Speaking birding guide/s, birding spot-fees, and entry fees.

LAND COST DOES NOT INCLUDE:

Entry visa fees, all international flights and domestic fares, items of a personal nature such as beverages, phone/fax bills and laundry services.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

1. You are advice to book and ticket the domestic Air Niugini flights together with your international flights to take advantage of discounts that are available in the international ticketing.
2. We will only book the MAF Tari/Hagen flight upon confirmation of your travel dates. The MAF airfares will cost an additional K410 per person.

BOOKINGS:

Please email us at sales@png-tourism.com for any inquiries or bookings into this tour. Click [here](#) to see our booking terms and conditions.

EXTENDED BIRDING PROGRAM**Walindi Birding. Tour Code: ET-BW12**

From Western Province, you will leave the mainland of PNG and cross the Bismarck Sea to West New Britain and stay at Wilindi Resort. Here you will see lowland and ocean birds such as the Melanesian Scrubfowl, New Britain Buzzard, Stephan's Dove, Pied Cuckoo-dove, Red-knobbed Fruit-dove, Red-knobbed Imperial-pigeon, Finsch's Imperial-pigeon, Blue-eyed Cockatoo, Eastern Black-capped Lory, Song Parrot, Eclectus Parrot, and Bismarck Hanging-parrot and more.

3 nights itinerary: Kiunga, Hoskins, and Walindi.

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Day 16: Tabubil/Port Moresby/Hoskins

After breakfast today transfer airport and board flight APNG CG1403 to Port Moresby via Mt Hagen. The flight departs at 08:35 and arrives at 11:45. Have lunch in a nearby restaurant and then transfer to the airport and get your connection flight to Hoskins on flight PX844 at 15:30 and arrive in Hoskins at 17:00. Meet the staff of Walindi Resort and overnight. (D)

Day 17: Walindi

After breakfast a visit to the the Garu Wildlife Management Area in the morning and Kilu Ridge in the afternoon for full-day birding. The birds to see includes the Melanesian Scrubfowl, New Britain Buzzard, Stephan's Dove, Pied Cuckoo-dove, Red-knobbed Fruit-dove, Red-knobbed Imperial-pigeon, Finsch's Imperial-pigeon, Blue-eyed Cockatoo, Eastern Black-capped Lory, Song Parrot, Eclectus Parrot, Bismarck Hanging-parrot, Violaceous Coucal, Pied Coucal, New Britain Boobook, Black-headed Paradise-kingfisher, White-mantled Kingfisher, Blyth's Hornbill, Bismarck Pied Monarch, Lesser Shining (Dull) Flycatcher, New Britain Friarbird, Ashy Honeyeater, New Britain Red-headed Honeyeater, Bismarck Flowerpecker, Buff-bellied Mannikin and White-backed Wood-swallow. Return to the resort and overnight. (BLD)

Day 18: Walindi

After breakfast transfer by boat to some of the islands in Kimbe Bay for full day birding. Birds to look for includes Nicobar Pigeon, Island Imperial-pigeon, Yellow-bibbed Fruit-dove, Beach Kingfisher, Island Monarc and Scarlet-bibbed Honeyeater (Sclaters Myzomela). From the boat we may also have a chance of seeing the rare Heinroth's Shearwater. In the afternoon we will visit the Kulu River area for more forest birding. Return to the resort and overnight. (BLD)

Day 19: Walindi/Port Moresby

Early morning transfer to the airport and board flight PX841 to Port Moresby. The flight departs at 07:55 and arrives at 09:25. END OF PROGRAM. (B)

LAND COST:

2012/2013 – Land Cost Per Person: Prices quoted below are on twin/double share basis for all group (pax) categories except for 1 pax which is on single room basis.

1 pax	2-3 pax	4-6 pax	7-10 pax	11+ pax
PGK5,500	PGK3,500	PGK3,000	PGK2,500	PGK2,100

Note:

- Single room supplement cost: PGK750 per person.
- Travel Agents' commissions for the above land cost for all cost categories are available only on application.

LAND COST INCLUDES:

Accommodation, tours, transfers, all meals, mineral (bottled) water, local English Speaking birding guide/s, porters, birding spot fees and entry fees.

LAND COST DOES NOT INCLUDE:

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Entry visa fees, all international and domestic flights, items of a personal nature such as beverages, phone/fax bills and laundry services.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

1. You are advised to book and ticket the domestic Air Niugini flights together with your international flights to take advantage of discounts available to overseas bookings.

BOOKINGS:

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