

Arfak montane specialties

Birding break

6 days/5 nights

Please enquire for an up-to-date quote

On this West Papuan birding break we basically follow in the footsteps of the great Italian naturalists D'Albertis and Beccari, who once collected in the Hattam-country only a few kilometers away from our base in the Arfak Mountains on the mid-slopes of majestic Mount Indon, towering 2,425 m above the Prafi Valley. Nearly a century and a half elapsed since the intrepid D'Albertis was the first westerner to penetrate any distance into the mountains of New Guinea exactly here in 1872, but birding these magnificent woods, swathed in clouds during parts of most days, remains an irresistible adventure. A privileged opportunity also, to be taken in tow by the Hattam, across their ancestral lands, and marvel at endemic birdlife that few outsiders have ventured to come and see before.

When?

Possible year-round, but most certainly best from June to November.

Scheduled departures

Please enquire for details on our upcoming departures.

Physical effort

Reasonable physical fitness and good agility are required to bird the relatively steep slopes here.

Tour summary

Day 1 > Manokwari and Arfak montane forests.

Day 2-4 > Arfak montane forests.

Day 5 > Arfak montane forests and Manokwari.

Day 6 > Manokwari.

Tour description

Day 1 > Manokwari and Arfak montane forests Morning arrival at Manokwari's Rendani Airport on overnight domestic flight from Jakarta or alternative gateway. We shall soon set out on the two hours' drive by chartered 4WD-vehicle to a community-owned guest house located at c. 1,600 m elevation in the Mount Indon area of the Arfak Mountains. Here we shall start our exploration of these fabled mountains after a packed lunch with a gentle introduction to the commoner or more conspicuous species of the garden clearings and roadside tree-gaps: Variable Goshawk, Sultan's and Bar-tailed Cuckoo-Dove, Mountain Fruit Dove, Papuan Mountain Pigeon, White-eared Bronze Cuckoo, Chestnut-breasted and Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Plum-faced and Yellow-billed Lorikeet, Red-collared Myzomela, Rufous-sided and Western Smoky Honeyeater, Vogelkop and Ornate Melidectes, Vogelkop Scrubwren, Brown-breasted Gerygone, Grey Thornbill, Mid-mountain Berrypecker, Black-breasted Boatbill, Sclater's Whistler, Black and Friendly Fantail, Western Parotia, Blue-grey Robin, Canary Flyrobin, Island Leaf Warbler, Capped and New Guinea White-eye, Olive-crowned Flowerpecker, and Streak-headed Munia. Other goodies we may come to grips with here include Long-tailed Honey Buzzard, Metallic Pigeon, Pesquet's Parrot, Pygmy, Fairy and Josephine's Lorikeet, Blue-collared Parrot, Spotted Berrypecker, Long-tailed Paradigalla, Superb Bird-of-paradise, and both Blue-faced and Papuan Parrotfinch. A nocturnal excursion after dinner could produce Greater Sooty Owl, Papuan Boobook, and Feline and Mountain Owlet-nightjar. Overnight in community guest house.

Day 2 > Arfak montane forests After a pre-dawn breakfast, we shall monitor nearby display courts of the Western Parotia from well-appointed palm-frond hides. The wacko ballet performance of the court-tending male of this species simply has to be witnessed to be believed and invariably ranks as the highlight of a birding trip to the Arfaks. Besides the not-to-be-missed display performances of the parotias, the hides potentially also offer an intimate window of observation into the secretive lives of habitual ground-dwellers as Wattled Brushturkey, White-striped Forest Rail, Cinnamon and Bronze Ground Dove, Mountain Mouse-warbler, Spotted Jewel-babbler, Ashy and Green-backed Robin, and Lesser Ground Robin. Following lunch back at the guest house, there shall be further opportunities to spend potentially rewarding time with the parotias, or to get up close and personal with the highly entertaining Vogelkop Bowerbird from one of the palm-frond hides set up in front of its formidable so-called roofed maypole bowers in the area. The last hours of light shall see us

birding around the garden clearings. Dinner and overnight in community guest house.

Day 3 > Arfak montane forests Following a hearty nocturnal breakfast, we shall proceed pre-dawn to an area of secondary forest where numerous display courts of the Magnificent Bird-of-paradise are to be found. Here we stand an excellent chance of witnessing the full array of display postures of this beautiful species at close range from well-appointed palm-frond hides. Other birds often in evidence around the courts here include Cinnamon Ground Dove, Arfak Catbird, Rusty Mouse-warbler, Pale-billed Scrubwren, Green-backed Robin, and Trumpet Manucode. In adjacent tracts of primary forest we may see White-striped Forest Rail, Wallace's Fairywren, Red, Papuan Black and Mountain Myzomela, Marbled, Long-billed and Mountain Honeyeater, Goldenface, Perplexing and Grey-green Scrubwren, Fairy Gerygone, Dwarf and Yellow-bellied Longbill, Chestnut-backed Jewel-babbler, Mountain Peltops, Vogelkop and Sclater's Whistler, Little Shrikethrush, Hooded Pitohui, Drongo Fantail, Black, Black-winged and Frilled Monarch, White-rumped and White-faced Robin, Yellow-legged Flyrobin, Papuan Scrub Robin, and Black-crowned White-eye. After a packed lunch on site, there shall be further opportunities to spend potentially rewarding time with the Magnificent Bird-of-paradise, or we could continue our search of the vicinity for some of its more elusive species already mentioned above. Dinner and overnight in community guest house.

Day 4 > Arfak montane forests After a pre-dawn breakfast, we shall bird all day along a loop ascending to a high point at c. 2,000 m elevation in search of three potentially highly elusive species of bird-of-paradise present here: Arfak Astrapia and Black and Black-billed Sicklebill. Most of the trail follows gently-sloping ridgetop cloud-forest but we shall also be traversing some challenging and steep terrain. Other goodies we may come across along the loop include Wattled Brushturkey, New Guinea Eagle, Ornate Fruit Dove, Rufescent Imperial Pigeon, Rufous-throated Bronze Cuckoo, Red-breasted Pygmy Parrot, Papuan Lorikeet, Brehm's and Modest Tiger Parrot, Vogelkop Bowerbird, Papuan Treecreeper, Orange-crowned Fairywren, Olive Straightbill, Black-throated Honeyeater, Cinnamon-browed Melidectes, Mountain Mouse-warbler, Papuan Logrunner, Fan-tailed and Tit Berrypecker, Spotted Jewel-babbler, Mottled Berryhunter, Black-bellied Cicadabird, Papuan Sittella, Rufous-naped Whistler, Black Pitohui, Regent Whistler, Dimorphic Fantail, Lesser Melampitta, Ashy, Black-throated, Smoky and Garnet Robin, and Lesser Ground Robin. We shall enjoy a packed lunch in a natural forest clearing in which Archbold's Nightjar has been found to nest, and where Black-mantled and Meyer's Goshawk, Collared Sparrowhawk, Mountain Swiftlet, and Great Woodswallow may be seen flying overhead. Dinner and overnight in community guest house.

Day 5 > Arfak montane forests and Manokwari Following a pre-dawn breakfast, there shall be a final opportunity for an observation session at either the Vogelkop Bowerbird, Western Parotia or Magnificent Bird-of-paradise, or we could bird in the wider vicinity in search of some of the more elusive species already mentioned above. After lunch back at the guest house and a final afternoon's birding, we shall drive back to Manokwari in the late afternoon. Dinner and overnight in Manokwari hotel.

Day 6 > Manokwari We shall enjoy breakfast in our Manokwari hotel and transfer to Manokwari's Rendani Airport for the first morning flight to Jakarta or alternative destination.

Related links

Browse our terms and conditions from the PE web site through the following link
<http://www.PapuaExpeditions.com/conditions.html>