

Explore Waigeo

Outdoors break

6 days/5 nights

Please enquire for an up-to-date quote

Lying at the northern extremity of the fabled Raja Ampat or 'Four Kings' archipelago, just below the Equator, Waigeo is the largest island in the group, with a surface area in excess of 3,100 sq km. It is said that Waigeo means 'Water Island', a name it has not stolen since the island is divided in roughly two equal halves by the fjord-like Mayalibit Bay, surrounded by scenic, precipitous limestone karst country. This outdoors break combines Waigeo's breathtaking vistas with some of the most pristine stands of rainforest on the island and a taste of their exquisite wildlife, which includes a large-bodied marsupial cuscus, a mound-building megapode, a delightful crowned pigeon, and two nearly mythical birds-of-paradise. Indeed, the Wilson's and the Red Bird-of-paradise surely are contenders for the title of most beautiful bird on Earth. Just arriving on a remote island the stature of Waigeo is an overthrowing experience, let alone the journey inland in the company of friendly ethnic Ma'ya and Biak peoples, custodians of the island's splendid natural heritage. Best of all perhaps, just by joining this adventure of a lifetime, you actively help protecting an entire river catchment as part of an ambitious and innovative conservation agreement that Papua Expeditions concluded with customary landholding groups on Waigeo.

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 for this tour which plies some challenging terrain.

Tour summary

Day 1 > Sorong and Sorong lowlands.

Day 2 > Sorong and Waigeo Island.

Day 3-4 > Waigeo Island.

Day 5 > Waigeo Island, Dampier Strait atoll and Sorong.

Day 6 > Sorong.

Tour description

Day 1 > Sorong and Sorong lowlands Morning arrival at Sorong's DEO Airport on overnight domestic flight from Jakarta or alternative gateway. After an early lunch in town, we shall drive out by chartered vehicle for 30 minutes along a road winding into the surrounding foothills. Here we shall enjoy a relaxed walk through selectively logged rainforest. Dusk shall see us gathered at an open vantage point to witness evening flights of hornbills and parrots. Dinner and overnight in Sorong hotel.

Day 2 > Sorong and Waigeo Island After a hearty dawn breakfast in our Sorong hotel, we shall set out on the three hours' chartered speedboat ride across Dampier Strait to Waigeo. We will call in at both a Christian and a Muslim fishing village before proceeding to the mouth of the Orobiai River for lunch. Here we may be entertained by large water birds as Raja Shelduck and Great-billed Heron on tidal mudflats and in secondary mangroves. We shall then slowly hike along the river toward our camp in riparian lowland forest at c. 50 m elevation. Majestic hornbills and colorful parrots may fly overhead as we acquaint ourselves with some of the more conspicuous forest birds. The final hours of light will see us gathered at a popular display tree of the fabled Red Bird-of-paradise, taking ample time to observe the up to eight plumed males that normally gather here, interacting with soliciting females. After dinner back at camp, a nocturnal foray in the vicinity could bring us up close with a weird-looking Marbled Frogmouth or cuddly marsupials like the Striped Possum or the endemic and endangered Waigeo Cuscus. Overnight at camp.

Day 3 > Waigeo Island We shall enjoy our breakfast while listening to the developing dawn chorus and hike to

an area where several display courts of the Wilson's Bird-of-paradise are located, in the hope of witnessing the full array of amazing display postures of this nearly mythical bird at close range from the comfort of well-appointed palm-frond hides. Following lunch back at camp, we have an entire afternoon to hike along the scenic river. Dinner and overnight at camp.

Day 4 > Waigeo Island After breakfast we shall hike all day along a loop covering an array of bottom-valley and foothill forests, enjoying a packed lunch along the way. Incubation mounds of the Dusky Megapode are scattered everywhere throughout the flat bottom-valley forests here, and it should not take long before we feast our eyes on a couple of Western Crowned Pigeons as they lift off with clapping wing beats from the forest floor to alight in nearby emergent trees. Dinner and overnight at camp.

Day 5 > Waigeo Island, Dampier Strait atoll and Sorong Following breakfast we shall slowly hike our way along the river toward its mouth and transfer to a tiny atoll in Dampier Strait. After lunch here, we shall enjoy a spot of snorkeling on the surrounding reefs, or a leisurely hike around the islet which holds an important day-roost of flying-foxes and high densities of a number of so-called 'supertramp' bird species thriving on such tiny and species-poor islands. We shall proceed to Sorong in the late afternoon. Dinner and overnight in Sorong hotel.

Day 6 > Sorong We shall enjoy breakfast in our Sorong hotel and transfer to Sorong's DEO 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>