

Adventures in Paradise

Papua New Guinea December 2010

Untamed Papua New Guinea in ultimate luxury! Mighty rivers, impenetrable jungle, unique culture, smouldering volcanoes and classic South Pacific vista! This is one of the world's great luxury adventure-cruises!



detailed sample itinerary

itinerary

(B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)

day 1: Your "welcome aboard" is in the vibrant city of Cairns – but this time embarkation proceedings will be little different! One of our crew members will escort you aboard North Star's very own charter aircraft! Now sit back and enjoy the comfortable flight to Alotau – a traditional islander welcome awaits. As soon as you step off the plane you will begin to reshape your impressions of the

"land of the unexpected". Perhaps the clean and fresh sea breezes will take you by surprise, or will it be the huge smiles of locals so eager to welcome you to their island paradise! After clearing customs, we will transfer you to the onboard luxury of the True North and, the delights of our renowned galley! A 'seafood extravaganza' would be fitting fare as we begin to cruise the Province of Milne Bay – a maritime region featuring more than 600 islands! After lunch join the first shore parties to discover 'post card' beaches, palm trees, tranquil villages and a flotilla of canoes. The ship's helicopter will provide even more unique views of the many fishing villages and back on the ground; you will experience firsthand the uncomplicated charm of a subsistence life style! See how everyday life is provided for with few of the modern conveniences that so many of us take for granted! The fisherman onboard will be busy providing more local fare and the area's prolific corals will entice even those that have never snorkelled before! At days end, relax with a drink in the alfresco bar before a memorable dining experience!



day 2: On this morning's walk discover jungle that shelters countless varieties of birds including colourful parrots, hornbills, wild fowl and the famed bird of paradise. Many rare species of butterfly are present and Papua New Guinea is also home to over two thirds of the world's orchid species. You may even be lucky enough to see a reclusive tree kangaroo! The fishermen will do battle with hard fighting table fish such as mackerel, yellow fin tuna and mahi mahi. You will certainly find endless irresistible beaches and amazing coral gardens that are just a 'fin kick' away! And, for the slightly more

adventurous, Papua New Guinea's reputation as a diving destination could very well be without peer! An excursion to the Hot Springs will top off an amazing day.

day 3: Start the day with a refreshing snorkel; catch your breakfast or just stroll along a pristine beach fringed with coconut palms! Then fill your day with swimming, island walks and village life as we cruise the beautiful fiords of Tufi. The ship's helicopter will spoil with exhilarating flights to the Isurava Memorial on the Kokoda Track. Tufi is renowned for SCUBA diving and our guides will be looking forward to a spot of mackerel fishing as the setting sun heralds the end of another day in paradise.

day 4: As you gaze out your cabin window this morning you will notice that our overnight passage has delivered us to a very different place. This morning we are anchored in the middle of the Solomon Sea amongst the corals of Star Reef and, the strikingly beautiful yet un-inhabited Lusancay Islands. What a place!! So today let's have some fun at the beach. Take a stroll around your very own deserted island, snorkel in the shallows or drop off the outer reef for the dive of a lifetime! The fishing is second to none. Battle with tuna, mackerel or even a sailfish. If the fisher-persons have held up their end of the bargain then coral trout could be tonight's fare but no doubt there will be plenty of adventures to re-live in the ship's bar!



day 5: Wake to find the True North off the coast of New Britain and the beautiful Jacqinot Bay area. Dense jungle and mighty rivers will dominate proceedings today as the True North's 'shallow draft' provides unique access! Join our comfortable expedition boats as we explore deeper into the jungle visiting isolated villages that have little contact with the outside world and visit the grotto where fresh water pounds out of a rock face onto a pristine beach. No matter what your desire, the coast of New Britain promises unrivalled adventure! Another star filled night in the silhouette of the jungle, and tonight is party night – things might just get a little 'South Pacific'!



day 6: This morning we arrive at the Duke of York Islands – 17th century trading ships collected water from here. A Methodist preacher by the name of Reverend George Brown settled here in 1875 and, the beautiful and very enterprising daughter of an American whaling captain started a trading empire here! The grim reminders of a world conflict are here too – the snorkelling expeditions will re-discover Japanese tanks in shallow island waters. The ship's helicopter will provide stunning island views that have been the privilege of few before. Then visit Rabaul – once described as the most beautiful town in the South Pacific! Perched on the edge of a magnificent natural harbour and, surrounded by active volcanoes! In 1994, the town was smothered under a cloud of ash and now lies largely abandoned – courtesy of nearby Matupit! The volcano still belches smoke throughout the day and the helicopter flights here will be a cruise highlight!

day 7: The many islands around Kavieng are a cruise highlight. A morning sing sing will be a memorable event as every man, woman and child turns out in welcome. And, what a place for diving and snorkelling! Here we find ships, planes and even submarines in shallow water and, there will be more hot action in the fishing tenders!

day 8: Early morning disembarkation and charter flight back to Cairns.

cruise price

Prices quoted are valid for the following dates: 1-12 December 2010.

itinerary

USD10,995 per person double occupancy Ocean Class Cabin



pionair terms & conditions

Please take a few minutes to review the following.

By signing a Pionair reservation form, the traveller acknowledges the following and agrees to be bound by these terms and conditions. These terms and conditions govern the relationship between Pionair Adventures Limited, (referred to as PAL) and the traveller, and apply to this itinerary prepared for the traveller by PAL. Acceptance and completion of the registration/booking form establishes an agreement between the traveller and PAL in accordance with the itinerary and these terms and conditions. No alterations to these terms and conditions may be made by any PAL employee, authorised representative or agent, unless recorded in writing and signed by a manager of PAL. Any decision or notification required by PAL in accordance with these terms and conditions must be made by an authorised manager of PAL.

land price

As per previous page

air price

As per previous page

included in the land price: The prices quoted are based upon the land cost of the tour, including:

- All accommodation as per the itinerary
- All transfers as per the itinerary
- All guides as per the itinerary
- All activities as per the itinerary
- Personal meet and greet
- Pre trip information and assistance from your Personal Travel Coordinator

not included in the land price: The price quoted DOES NOT INCLUDE: international air and/or air ticket taxes; departure taxes; optional excursions or deviations from the scheduled itinerary; domestic airfares other than those specified in the itinerary; personal expenditure (laundry, overweight baggage, phone calls, emails etc); excludes fuel, luggage, cancellation, medical or accident insurance; passport and/or visa expenses; meals and beverages other than those specified in the itinerary; tips or gratuities (not customary in the South Pacific); mini bar or room service.

please note: All accommodation, guides, activities etc are subject to availability at the time of booking.

tour operator. Pionair Adventures Limited, 'The Tower', Wigram Airfield, PO Box 333, Christchurch 8140, New Zealand, is the Tour Operator for these programmes.

deposit and final payments. All payments are subject to the cancellation and refund policy outlined in these terms and conditions

- A non refundable deposit of NZD\$1,000 per person is required to confirm a reservation.
- Your final invoice will be sent 120 days prior to departure
Full payment is due 90 days prior to departure, by wire transfer or major credit card only.
- On completion of your programme, if required, an invoice will be sent for any outstanding payments, i.e. activities additional to the itinerary.
- Bookings made within 90 days prior to departure require full payment to confirm a reservation.

cancellation and refund policy. Cancellation penalties imposed on PAL by its suppliers are stringent. All cancellations must be made in writing to PAL. The date on which cancellation notice is received will determine the cancellation charges applicable. These charges are expressed as a percentage of the total price per person dependant on the number of days prior to departure

- 120 - 90 days, initial non refundable NZD\$1,000 deposit per person
- 89 - 60 days, 50% of the tour cost
- 60 - 0 days, 100% of the tour cost
- No partial refunds are made for unused items or services included in a programme for any reason whatsoever. Programmes are sold as a package only.

travel insurance. We strongly recommend that all our travellers are covered by some form of travel insurance. As a service and courtesy to all our travellers, and on request, we can provide information on trip insurance. While we recommend trip insurance, you are under no obligation to use this policy and may prefer to use another company.

participation. It is the traveller's sole responsibility to take all appropriate medical advice prior to departure as to the required level of fitness to undertake the trip and participate in the activities booked for you. Please be aware of your own health and well-being during your stay.

passport and visas. The traveller must be in possession of a valid passport and any necessary visas required for the whole of the journey and the traveller accepts responsibility for obtaining the same. All information and advice given by PAL on matters such as visas, climate, clothing, baggage, and special requirements is given in good faith.

domestic airlines/carriers, activities and accommodation. The terms and conditions of contract for each independent airline, carrier and activity or accommodation supplier engaged or chartered by PAL to supply transport, guides or activities for the traveller shall apply in respect of and during any transportation, guiding, accommodation service or activity.

No employee, director or associate of PAL owns or operates any of the entities that will provide transport, guiding, accommodation services or activities as part of the itinerary. The providers of these services and activities are independent of PAL. PAL will not accept or be responsible for any claim for loss, injury, damage or expense arising from the default or omission of any independent provider.

liability. The safety of PAL's clients is of paramount importance to us. PAL endeavours to ensure that each activity included in the itinerary is undertaken within strict safety guidelines. There are certain inherent risks in adventure travel and participation in some activities involves a degree of risk. PAL does not in any way guarantee the safety of those participating.

PAL is not responsible for any injury (physical or otherwise), death, inconvenience, delay, loss, or damage in connection with the provision of any goods, services and activities and resulting from but not limited to any of the following; acts of God or force majeure, civil disturbance, industrial action, strikes, wars, floods, illness or food poisoning, and mechanical or other failure of aircraft or other means of transportation or for failure of any transportation mechanism to arrive or depart on time and the traveller assumes all such risks and/or additional expenses incurred or arising from any such event.

governing law. This agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of New Zealand and the parties hereby submit to the non-exclusive jurisdiction of the Courts of New Zealand.