



SICKLEBILL SAFARIS

PO Box 387, Kuranda, Qld, Australia 4881,
 Ph. (61) 07 40 937 318
 Mob: +61 413 66 12 13
 e-mail: info@s2travel.com.au

Tour itinerary "PNG Photography" prepared for Ty Smedes

5th – 21st September 2021

<p>Day 1 - Sunday 5th September Port Moresby</p>	<p>Arrive in Port Moresby. You will be met at the airport and transfer to your accommodation to drop baggage. What you can do will depend on your arrival time and this will depend where you are flying in from. O/N Port Moresby L,D</p>
<p>Day 2 – Monday 6th September Flight to Kiunga</p>	<p>Today you will take a flight over to Kiunga in the Fly River lowlands. The afternoon will be spent exploring the immediate Kiunga area. There is lek for the Greater Bird of Paradise nearby and Flame Bowerbird, Palm Cockatoos and Trumpet Manucode can all be seen in quite close vicinity of the town. O/N Kiunga Guest House B,L,D</p>
<p>Day 3 – Tuesday 7th September Boat trip to Kwatu Hides – Flame Bowerbird & Flightless Rail</p>	<p>An early start up the Fly river by boat to Kwatu Lodge. Dawn is a great time to travel upriver and with luck 12 wired Bird of Paradise, King Bird of Paradise, Great-billed Heron, White-bellied Sea Eagle, Collared Imperial Pigeon and some rather beautiful parrots can all be seen at times from the boat. It is still relatively cool and you can sit back and watch the trees. Every now and then there will be a house on the bank or actually built over the river and canoes and outboards pass by with people going about their daily lives. During the journey there will be a chance to get off and walk in the forest looking for the elusive and enormous Southern Crowned Pigeon and other birds. On arrival at Kwatu Lodge you will settle in and then explore the immediate area. Kwatu is a very basic</p>

	<p>landowner lodge built in the style of the local houses, entirely from local materials. At night the forest is dark and, except for the sounds of native birds and animals, very quiet.</p> <p>O/N Kwatu B,L,D</p>
<p>Day 4 – Wednesday 8th September Kwatu Hides – Flame Bowerbird & Flightless Rail</p>	<p>Today you will start exploring the local area. There is a Flame Bowerbird lek nearby and New Guinea Flightless Rail can be seen as well and should both have hides for photographers. At night with luck you can see Starry Owlet Nightjar and perhaps Wallace’s Nightjar as well. O/N Kwatu B,L,D</p>
<p>Day 5 - Thursday 9th September Kwatu Hides – Flame Bowerbird & Flightless Rail</p>	<p>After breakfast you will spend some time on the trails around Kwatu and visit the hide for the New Guinea Flightless Rail before heading back down the river to Kiunga where you can relax in the guest house for the balance of the day or take a short around the township. O/NKiunga Guest House B,L,D</p>
<p>Day 6 - Friday 10th September Flight to Port</p>	<p>After an early morning around Kiunga you will take the lunchtime flight to Port Moresby and then the 1610 flight to Lae. You will be met and transferred to a nearby hotel for a one night stay. O/N Lae B,L,D</p>

Moresby	
Day 7 - Saturday 11th September Flight to Kabwum Wahnes Parotia Hide	<p>Take the early flight to Kabwum. The weather tends to be better at this time of day and as you are flying into the mountains of the Huon peninsula on a small plane so this is important. Excess baggage can be left at the charter office as the weight limit for these flights is only 10kg checked. We always do this and have had no problems with the arrangement. Does mean that not much more than lenses and cameras can travel with you. On arrival at Kabwum drive up to the camp. Accommodation is in safari style tents with shared bathrooms. O/N Huon B,L,D</p>
Day 8 - Sunday 12th September Kabwum Wahnes Parotia Hide	<p>Full day in Kabwum area. Target birds are Huon Astrapia, Wahnes' Parotia, Emperor Bird of Paradise plus Huon Bowerbird and Huon Catbird. The hides that have been set up for the Parotia are small and usually the group splits up and take it in turns to visit the different areas with local guides. O/N Huon B.L,D</p>
Day 9 - Monday 13th September Kabwum Wahnes Parotia Hide	<p>Second full day in Kabwum area. Best times of day tend to be morning and late afternoon. Mountain weather is unpredictable and allowing for days when it is not good is always a good idea. O/N Huon B,L,D</p>
Day 10 – Tuesday 14th September	<p>Third full day in the Kabwum area.O/N Huon B,L,D</p>

<p>Kabwum Wahnes Parotia Hide</p>	
<p>Day 11 – Wednesday 15th September Flight to Port Moresby</p>	<p>Today we leave Kabwum and head back to Port Moresby via Lae where we will reclaim any stored baggage. The plane leaves early weather permitting so we will be crossing our fingers for good weather. We usually book a mid afternoon flight back to Port Moresby so allowing for any holdups O/N Port Moresby B,L,D</p>
<p>Day 12– Thursday 16th September Varirata NP</p>	<p>After an early breakfast at hotel then head up to Varirata National Park for a mornings guided birding. Most of our birding will be on foot along roads, at clearing edges, and along well-maintained forest trails (some of them steep) in search of "black-and-rufous" flocks and some spectacular but secretive specialties such as Chestnut-backed Jewel-Babbler, Northern Scrub-Robin, and Painted Quail-Thrush, with exceedingly remote dreams of Dwarf Cassowary. Raggiana Bird-of-Paradise will be a priority and usually provide us with excellent photographic opportunities!</p> <p>Entrance-road and clearing-edge possibilities include Pacific Baza, Great and Slender-billed Cuckoo-Doves, Beautiful, Orange-bellied, and Pink-spotted Fruit-Doves, Zoe and Pinon Imperial-Pigeons, Red-cheeked Parrot, Yellow-streaked and Black-capped Lories, Rainbow Lorikeet, Brush Cuckoo, Pheasant Coucal, Sacred, Forest, Azure, and Yellow-billed kingfishers, Blue-winged and Rufous-bellied Kookaburras, Green-backed Gerygone, Black and Mountain Myzomelas, White-throated Honeyeater, Lemon-bellied Flycatcher, Grey Whistler, Grey Shrike-Thrush, Hooded Pitohui, Glossy-mantled Manucode, Hooded Butcherbird, Brown Oriole, Black-faced, White-bellied, Yellow-eyed, Boyer’s and Stout-</p>

	<p>billed Cuckoo-shrikes, Cicadabird, Red-capped Flowerpecker and Black-fronted White-eye. This is an excellent area for mixed-species flocks, which may include Chestnut-bellied Fantail, Dwarf Whistler (Goldenface), Yellow-bellied, Fairy and Green-backed Gerygones, Spot-winged, Frilled, Black-faced and Black-winged Monarchs, Pale-billed Scrubwren and the scarce Wallace's Fairywren. Elusive voices can include Pheasant Pigeon and Crested Pitohui. As photographers you are unlikely to get all these but there should be plenty of opportunity for photographs O/N Port Moresby B,L,D</p>
<p>Day 13 - Friday 17th September Flight to Mt Hagen & Kumul Lawes Parotia Hide</p>	<p>Today we fly up to Mt Hagen and transfer to Kumul Lodge for a 3 night stay. The verandahs at Kumul give excellent opportunities for photographing Ribbon-tailed Astrapia, and Brown Sicklebill. Belford's Melidectes, Brehm's Tiger Parrot and Smoky Honeyeater are also regular visitors here. O/N Kumul B.L.D</p>
<p>Day 14– Saturday 18th September Kumul Lawes Parotia Hide</p>	<p>The Kumul area gives us a chance of Lawes Parotia and we will be targeting this bird today. There is currently a hide for the Parotia on private land. This is best done early morning. returning to the lodge for lunch and an afternoon around the lodge. A local orchid garden often gives excellent birding and a chance of good photographic opportunities. O/N Kumul B,L,D</p>
<p>Day 15– Sunday 19th September</p>	<p>Your second full day in the Kumul area and today you will head for the Blue Bird of Paradise site which was giving excellent photographic opportunities last year. Lesser Bird of Paradise is also in the area but is often only viewed from a distance across the valley.</p>

Kumul Lawes Parotia Hide	<p>Again you will return to the lodge for dinner and an afternoon around the lodge. O/N Kumul B,L,D</p>
Day 16- Monday 20th September Kumul Lawes Parotia Hide	<p>Third full day at Kumul B,L,D</p>
Day 17– Tuesday 21st September Flight to Rondon Ridge	<p>Today after breakfast you will transfer to Rondon Ridge. This is situated on the other side of Mt Hagen and down the valley from Kumul and has a surprisingly different avifauna. A track up a hill takes you to an area where there is a good chance of photographs of Black Sicklebill and Superb Bird of Paradise. O/N Rondon Ridge B,L,D</p>
Day 18 – Wednesday 22nd Sept Rondon Ridge	<p>A full day around the Rondon area. Between them Kumul Lodge and Rondon Ridge are home to members of all the PNG endemics families and these and King of Saxony Bird of Paradise are amongst other birds that can be seen. O/N Rondon Ridge B,L,D</p>
Day 19 – Thursday 23rd September Flight to	<p>After breakfast you will head back to Mt Hagen for the flight back to Port Moresby. Depending where you are flying to you may be able to transfer to the international terminal and start your journey home. Other destinations may need an extra night in Port Moresby. B</p>

Port Moresby	
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Meals provided, B = Breakfast, L= Lunch, D = Dinner

Land Cost:

For 4 paying clients plus our guide the cost will be approximately AU\$19585.00 per person on a twin share basis (US \$13,487).

For 5 paying clients plus our guide the cost will be approximately AU\$.17750.00 on a twin share basis

It is approximate because we do not yet have next year's prices. We have added a bit to this year's costs but we are not yet sure if that will be enough or too much.

Single supplement will be AU\$1265.00 (US \$871) – however this option is unlikely to be available at Kwatu or Kabwum.

Cost includes;

- 18 nights accommodation
- meals as per itinerary
- transport including fuel and Fly River boat
- airport transfers within PNG
- Huon flights
- guide flights
- site fees and local guides
- group tips and gratuities
- hides in some areas where available.
- guide services of our tour leader.

It does not include;

- visas,
- personal travel insurance,
- international & domestic flights (excluding Huon) these will be extra and cost will depend on where you are coming from. We suggest we do the bookings from where you get on the Air Niugini flights as then we can deal easily with any changes that may occur and make sure everyone is booked on the same flights. It also means you will be on one ticket and that the 30kg of luggage allowed on Air Niugini international flights will be honoured on the domestic sector. Normally domestic flights allow only 16kg of luggage. This means for example you would book to Singapore or Brisbane and back. At Singapore or Brisbane you can get on Air Niugini and we will book from there on until you get back to Singapore or Brisbane. The exception for the luggage allowance is the charter flight to Kabwum where we leave excess baggage at the charter office.
- Personal tips and gratuities
- Items of a personal nature

