

ITINERARY  
**PAPUA NEW GUINEA & NEW BRITAIN IN STYLE**  
*Sept 16-Oct 3, 2017*



*We will find the beautiful Nicobar Pigeon on the island of New Britain. These birds are small-island specialists, occurring on islands from India eastward through the Solomon Islands. Photograph by guide Dave Stejskal.*

*We include here information for those interested in the 2017 Field Guides Papua New Guinea & New Britain in Style tour:*

- a general introduction to the tour
- a description of the birding areas to be visited on the tour
- an abbreviated daily itinerary with some indication of the nature of each day's birding outings

*Those who register for the tour will be sent this additional material:*

- an annotated list of the birds recorded on a previous year's Field Guides trip to the area, with comments by guide(s) on notable species or sightings
- a detailed information bulletin with important logistical information and answers to questions regarding accommodations, air arrangements, clothing, currency, customs and immigration, documents, health precautions, and personal items
- a reference list
- a Field Guides checklist for preparing for and keeping track of the birds we see on the tour
- after the conclusion of the tour, a list of birds seen on the tour

**T**his 1400-mile-long island, the largest tropical island and the world's second largest overall (after Greenland), lies less than 400 miles below the equator. Here in the warm latitudes of the South Pacific, New Guinea represents the northern limit of the Australasian Region, and a major center for avian evolution with well over 400 endemics. It is in the massive backbone cordillera of New Guinea that the great mountain system extending from the Himalayas through Indonesia makes its easternmost thrust into the Pacific.

New Guinea's location at the juncture of two vast biogeographic regions has made it a crossroads on the pathway of evolution. There is a high degree of specialization to be found in virtually all forms of life, from entire families of minute

invertebrates living on the mossy backs of weevils, to the more than 800 distinct languages spoken by native peoples. And New Guinea is the land of the fabled birds-of-paradise and bowerbirds. These two fascinating groups have evolved to occupy practically every habitat on this great island, from verdant rainforest and dry savanna to montane forest at tree line on high mountain peaks.

Our tour visits some of the beautiful Trans Niugini Tours Lodges, located in remote areas of both the highlands and lowlands, with Rondon Ridge, Karawari and Lake Murray seldom visited by birding groups. Birds of Paradise feature strongly and are some of the most highly sought birds on Earth: King-of-Saxony, Raggiana, Greater, Lesser, Lawes's Parotia, Twelve-wired and Blue birds-of-Paradise, the elegant Ribbon-tailed Astrapia, the huge Brown Sicklebill, and various others, each so uniquely plumed as to seem unrelated to the others. Parrots, pigeons and fruit-doves, cuckoos, and kingfishers are particularly well represented, and most have elaborate and beautiful plumages. Some less-familiar groups of birds form the bulk of the passerine avifauna: spritely fairywrens, cuckoo-shrikes, whistlers, sunbirds, logrunners, and honeyeaters. There are three endemic families too, in berrypeckers and longbills, painted and tit berrypeckers, and satinbirds, split off from the bird-of-paradise assemblage and including the Crested and Loria's as former birds-of-paradise.

Over the centuries the island of New Guinea developed a human population equally as colorful and diverse as its bird life, totaling some 7.5 million at the last census. Amid the isolation of forested mountains, more than 800 languages developed, representing some 20% of the world's languages. Here, far more than in most places, the native peoples understand and appreciate their bird life, an attitude strongly reflected in their art and customs. On our tour we'll have the opportunity to encounter tribes ranging from the Huli highlanders of the Tari Valley, famous for their elaborate wigs decorated with bird plumes, to the sago swamp dwellers of Sepik Province and the coastal peoples of the Port Moresby area. Dress is mostly western and the housing increasingly so, but there is still a very strong rural culture, far more so than in most other places. Karawari Lodge gives the opportunity for a visit to one of the local villages where you can see the sacrifice stone from head-hunting and cannibalism days and see inside some village longhouses, as well as having a chance to purchase some of the beautiful local arts and crafts, particularly carvings.

Many people have the impression that a birding tour to Papua New Guinea must be unusually demanding or uncomfortable. For all of Papua New Guinea's remoteness, however, travel is surprisingly easy and food and accommodations on this special tour are good to very good. While we spend some time in the humid lowlands (which can be hot if sunny!), more than half of our birding is done in the wonderfully comfortable foothills and highlands, with cool nights and pleasant days.



*View of the forest and river near Karawari from the air. Photograph by guide Richard Webster.*

Our tour will begin in New Britain in the Bismarck Archipelago, where we stay at a world-famous dive resort called **Walindi** sited on Kimbe Bay. This gives us chance to see some of the endemic lowland birds of New Britain like Blue-eyed Cockatoo, Finsch's, Yellowish and Red-knobbed Imperial Pigeons, Red-knobbed Fruit Dove, White-mantled Kingfisher, Violaceous and White-necked Coucals and Buff-bellied Mannikin; Next we return to Port Moresby and will sample the savannas and lowland and foothill rainforest on the south slope near Port Moresby. **Karawari Lodge** is in the sultry Sepik lowlands where our lodge, designed to look like a spirit house, is sited on a river bluff with great views across the Sepik plains; and montane forest and grasslands of the Central Highlands at **Rondon Ridge** near Mt Hagen and at

the world famous **Ambua Lodge**. We also go to the rather inaccessible Trans-Fly lowlands at the recently opened **Lake Murray Lodge**, which gives a window into the life of this remote and seldom visited region, where boat travel is the norm.

We access these rural sites by the TNT private charter plane, a 9-seater PAC built in New Zealand with a good freight payload and short take-off and landing capability, ideal for these conditions.

**About the Physical Requirements & Pace:** New Guinea represents a particular challenge for our company. To get you to join us we need to convince you that it is one of the most wonderful regions on Earth, one of those must-see destinations on the planet. However, we find that the people who enjoy the tour the most are those who have (relatively) low expectations, and are then excited by the numerous rewards. Thus, our challenge is to raise your expectations, carefully lower them, and then let New Guinea delight you.



*The King Bird-of-Paradise is one of the smallest of the birds-of-paradise, but they are fairly common in the lowlands across New Guinea. The males tend to be shy, but we'll make an effort to get good looks. Photograph by guide Phil Gregory.*

**The birding in New Guinea may well be the most difficult in the world.** Many species are very shy, the beautiful forests have quite low bird densities, and individual birds are often very wary. Do not go to New Guinea thinking the birding will be like an endless David Attenborough documentary: Adult male birds-of-paradise may constitute only 10% of a population and be the shyest individuals, and we don't have the months to spend waiting for every skulker to perform. Not everyone sees every bird; some shy ones will slip away.

New Guinea also presents other challenges. It rains a lot (in some areas at some point most every day) and heavy rain means no birds. We see very few mammals in New Guinea; hunting pressure is high and most live in areas inaccessible to us: this is indeed rubber boot or Neos and umbrella country. It can be warm and humid in the lowlands. There are bugs (mosquitoes, leeches, etc.), though they are seldom bad. There are travel hassles (planes and drivers can be late, tires do go flat, etc.).

Papua New Guinea can also be a dangerous place, though many of the dangers are in common with many other tours (boats, planes, etc.), and as with those, we rely on well-established local operators, with many of whom we have worked for years. Crime is a major problem in this country, a country that is more elemental, closer to the edge. We believe that travel as a group reduces the risks, and we limit our activities to areas that we understand to be safe: certain areas around Port Moresby, and Ambua and Karawari Lodge are long-established and run by a veteran company working with the local landowners. We are comfortable offering this tour, but we also know that it encompasses even more of what adventure travel is about, the risks and benefits, than most other tours we do. **Be assured though, that our local contacts are our best insurance policy, as it is in their interest to look after us, and they have a great track record.** Phil has been coming here since 1991 and has excellent relations and contacts, and this "in style" tour gives a chance to see a rather different side of PNG

New Guinea *is* one of the most wonderful regions on Earth, one of those must-see destinations on the planet. The birds include some of the most incredible in the world. Of the various species of birds-of-paradise the tour can encounter, we see adult males of a majority, usually including the displays of several. While these are truly incredible, there are a delightful number of New Guinea birds that possess a simpler but almost equal beauty, including fruit-doves, lorises and

lorikeets, kingfishers, whistlers, robins, jewel-babblers, boatbills, and berrypeckers. The accommodations range from rustic but comfortable to excellent (and are often remarkable given the remote locations), the food is quite good (though one does not come here for a gourmet experience!), and there is enough of a transportation system to get us around some of the most rugged country on the globe. The cultural milieu is fascinating.



*The Crested Berrypecker is found in the highlands of Papua New Guinea. Although this photo does not show it, the species has an erectile crest. Photograph by guide Phil Gregory.*

Field Guides has been taking one or more groups to Papua New Guinea every year for some thirty-five years; the route we have developed consistently produces a comprehensive survey of New Guinea's habitats and birds. By selecting five rich areas in different regions, we are able to reduce the number of changes of hotels; multi-night stays are the rule. Early mornings are precious, and we will be up early to enjoy them. Siestas are possible on a number of days, and a good night's sleep is typically to be had. Our birding will be on a mixture of seldom-traveled roads and trails, a few of them steep or muddy, and some patience and agility are needed every day for climbing over treefalls, getting in and out of boats, pushing through wet shrubbery to get to a trail. We will take it all slowly. Overall, the

pace of this trip is certainly not strenuous and is mostly easy, though regularly moderate. Rondon Ridge will require a walk of about a mile and half up to the summit at 2100 m, (6500') on a well-maintained trail, so that may be optional for some.

**Special Notes:** Plane schedules change all the time. It is possible that our original itinerary will not be the final itinerary. We try to keep the tour length the same, but likely changes up and down include the number of days around Port Moresby, and Ambua Lodge, as it can with Ambua too. Then there are unscheduled changes, such as those caused by weather or tribal troubles, which may necessitate last minute changes, though we always end up finding great birds whatever.

Another issue of which you should be aware is the luggage limitation on this tour. There are often *luggage weight restrictions of 35 lbs* (15kg) on checked baggage on our commercial flights *within* Papua New Guinea, though we can often get 20 kg on some flights by saying we are staying at a dive resort. If your luggage exceeds 35 lbs we will be fortunate merely to pay additional charges to the airline, which we will pass along to you. **However, our TNT charter is now limited to just one flight and their new PAC plane makes life much easier as it has a good payload capacity, so the angst caused in the past by very strict weight limits is now much gone.**

That said, we find that by packing reasonably and leaving excess weight in Port Moresby, we can get by, at worst some non-essential bags may have to follow on later flights. "Unnecessary" luggage (clothes for the return flight, or items you may need if you are staying over in Australia) can be stored safely at our hotel in Port Moresby, but once we fly out of Moresby we won't return there until near the end of the tour.

**About the Tour Fee:** This tour is not inexpensive. In fact, it is very expensive, as tourist-class travel in remote parts of the world generally is, but you have some of the most experienced tour leaders in New Guinea, and a great support staff with whom we have dealt for years. We have had to make many decisions, our primary concern being to maximize your experience through a convenient, safe, and comfortable trip. In particular, we are staying at some wonderful lodges that are expensive, as are the charter aircraft. Charters are the only option for most flights, and in some cases they substantially decrease (but don't eliminate) the chances of losing a day to missed connections. This tour may stretch your budget, but this is an excellent way to have a comprehensive introductory in-style tour of Papua New Guinea, with many fantastic sightings of unforgettable birds.

## About the Birding Areas



**Port Moresby**, the capital of Papua New Guinea, lies in the rain shadow of the Owen Stanley Mountains and is in one of the driest parts of the country. Predominant habitats are grasslands, spotted with palm like *Pandanus* and *Eucalyptus* and *Melaleuca* savanna, both very similar to (and sharing birds with) the drier regions of northern Australia. As one moves westward or inland from the immediate Port Moresby area, however, rainfall increases gradually until one reaches humid forest. Species for which we'll make an effort in the Port Moresby area include Spotted Whistling-Duck, Fawn-breasted Bowerbird, the huge and bizarre Papuan Frogmouth, and Gray-headed Munia. We usually have time to visit a couple of ponds, and while the species are often widespread, Australian (Pacific) Swamphen, Pied Heron, and Comb-crested Jacana are always fun.

**Walindi Plantation Resort**, Kimbe, New Britain, A lovely little world famous dive resort, with cabins on the shore of beautiful Kimbe Bay. The grounds can be good for Buff-faced Pygmy-Parrot, the world's smallest parrot (about the size of your thumb), Blue-eyed Cockatoo, Common Kingfisher, New Britain Friarbird and Bismarck Crow. We travel out through the oil palm desert to get to some remaining lowland forest habitat where we will look for Melanesian Scrubfowl, Red-knobbed, Finsch's and Yellowish Imperial Pigeons, Red-knobbed Fruit Dove, White-necked and Violaceous Coucal, Song Parrot, Purple-bellied Lory, White-mantled Kingfisher, Black-bellied and Ashy Myzomela; A short boat trip early next morning out to some nearby islands gives good chances for Nicobar Pigeon, Island Imperial Pigeon, Island Monarch, Sclater's Myzomela and Mangrove Golden Whistler, whilst Black Noddy is likely offshore. We may make a foray one evening after the rare and almost unknown Golden Masked Owl, which is sometimes seen nearby in the coconut plantations.

**Tari and Ambua Lodge**—Tari, nestled in a remote valley of Southern Highlands Province, was first touched by outside influence only in the 1940s. Indeed, the Highlands Highway that ascends the mountains from Lae, passing through Goroka, Mt. Hagen, and Mendi, was completed as far west as Tari only in the 1980s and is now being upgraded as the oil and gas boom develops in these highlands provinces. Thus the Huli people of the Tari Valley have not yet completed the thorough (and inevitable) cultural reorganization experienced by most tribal societies accessible to outsiders. Although the Tari Valley is a typical, intensively cultivated highland valley, we will spend some time birding there in order to see such "yard birds" for the locals as Superb and Blue Birds of Paradise, Lawes's Parotia, and Papuan King-Parrot! There are also fascinating cultural trip opportunities for those who may feel so inclined, with outstanding photographic potential. This can be arranged via the Lodge and would incur a small additional charge.

Above the valley the lushly forested Müller Range, Mt. Kerewa, and the Doma Peaks provide a vast, undisturbed refuge for numerous birds-of-paradise (fifteen species are known from the area!) and other highland birds. The mountains of Papua New Guinea are home to a high proportion of the island's endemic birds, and beautiful Ambua Lodge, situated at 6800 feet (2092 m) and overlooking the Tari Valley, is the perfect base from which to enjoy this avian wealth. Above the lodge, the forest is dominated by *Lithocarpus* or *Castanopsis* oaks and *Nothofagus* "Antarctic beeches," and epiphytes and ferns abound. This remarkable forest, long mooted as a conservation area by local landowners to continue to attract ecotourism, reaches up to about 8600 feet (2646 m), where fire and wet natural soil conditions have created a large area of rolling grassland. Sadly a lot of logging has encroached on the lower levels in recent years, causing habitat damage and making male Princess Stephanie's *Astrapia* hard to come by, but the area is still very rich. Road traffic has also

increased due to the various oil and gas projects which are rapidly transforming the province, which has suddenly become an industrial magnet with huge capital inflows, alongside the traditional rural lifestyle.

Highland specialties we'll look for in the area include four species of tiger-parrots, Chestnut and Forbes's Forest-Rail (both hard), White-bibbed Fruit-Dove, Papuan, Plum-faced, and Goldie's lorikeets, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Rufous-throated Bronze-Cuckoo, Mountain Kingfisher, Papuan Treecreeper, the little-known Archbold's and Macgregor's bowerbirds, Orange-crowned Fairywren, Red-collared Myzomela, Wattled Ploughbill, Sclater's and Regent whistlers, the diminutive Garnet Robin, Black-throated and White-winged robins, Lesser Ground-Robin, Regent and Rufous-naped whistlers, Papuan Logrunner, Spotted Jewel-Babbler, Blue-capped Ifrita, Black-breasted Boatbill, Friendly, Black, and Dimorphic fantails, Torrent-Lark, Hooded and Black-bellied cuckoo-shrikes, Mountain Firetail, Fan-tailed, Crested, and Tit berrypeckers, Lesser Melampitta, Crested Satinbird (former bird-of-paradise; tough, especially males), Loria's Satinbird (another ex-bop), and such spectacular birds-of-paradise as King-of-Saxony, Ribbon-tailed and Stephanie's astrapias, and Brown and Black sicklebills. We've also been fortunate enough to see the magnificent New Guinea (Harpy-) Eagle on some of our tours. Little-known riches abound, and to help us find them an experienced local guide should be on hand to assist.



*The spectacular Victoria Crowned Pigeon is one of the largest of the world's pigeons. We'll look for this species near Karawari Lodge. Photograph by guide Phil Gregory.*

**Karawari Lodge** is a rustic, landowner-style lodge situated high on a river bluff overlooking the Sepik River lowlands in far north-western PNG. We will bird from the helipad at the lodge for Palm Cockatoo, Edwards's Fig-Parrot, Blyth's Hornbill, Black-browed Triller and Meyer's Friarbird amongst others. A morning boat trip should permit nice looks at Twelve-wired Bird of Paradise, and we can venture a short way into the swamp forest after King Bird of Paradise, Black-sided Robin and maybe Papuan Hooded Pitta. Be aware that at this site there can be the irritating forest mites called chiggers, so covering up is essential and I usually dust with sulfur powder in a bid to keep them away. Birding the airstrip here can also be rewarding, for Lesser Black Coucal, Streak-headed Mannikin and just maybe the remarkably little known and newly split Rand's Sunbird. One afternoon we can make an optional cultural foray down to one of the local villages for an insight into how village culture is thriving, maybe even seeing one of the initiates of the crocodile cult who have their upper body heavily scarred to resemble the pattern of a crocodile skin. This was suppressed by the missionaries but has recently again become a somewhat risky rite of passage for the bravest young men with a high pain threshold! Buying small artefacts here is a nice souvenir and makes an important contribution to the local economy, where a very little can go a surprisingly long way. Another time we may do a boat trip up to Ymas Lakes to see Pied Herons, White-bellied Sea-Eagles and maybe Great-billed Heron, but bring earplugs, as the fast boats are quite noisy.

**Lake Murray Lodge** A recently opened comfortable lodge owned by the same company (TNT) that owns Ambua, Rondon and Karawari. Lake Murray is the largest lake in Papua New Guinea. During the wet season it spreads to occupy an area of about 1200 square miles. Lake Murray is a good bird watching area in Western Province. In addition to a host of migratory birds, several birds of paradise species, pelicans, hornbills, eagles, parrots and numerous other birds have been sighted, with star birds being Spotted Whistling Duck, Southern Crowned Pigeon, Black Mannikin and just possibly the rare and virtually unknown Campbell's Fairywren.

**Rondon Ridge** A comfortable TNT lodge. There is some interesting birding around the area with the summit of the ridge having King of Saxony, Brown and Black Sicklebills and Princess Stephanie's Birds of Paradise, as well as fair chances of Wattled Ploughbill, Mottled Berryhunter and Rufescent Imperial Pigeon whilst Yellow-breasted Bowerbird, White-shouldered Fairywren, Hooded Mannikin, Elfin Myzomela and New Guinea White-eye can be seen near the Lodge itself. It is near Mt Hagen about 1 hours drive from Kumul.

## Itinerary for Papua New Guinea & New Britain in Style

**Days 1-3, Sat-Mon, 16-18 Sep. Los Angeles to Brisbane; continue to Port Moresby.** Qantas offers a direct flight from Los Angeles to Brisbane, departing at 11:20 p.m. on Day 1 and arriving the morning of Day 3 at 6:20 a.m. (“losing” Day 2 to the International Dateline). Our group flight to Hoskins with a stop in Port Moresby is scheduled to depart Brisbane at 10:40am., arriving at 4:25 p.m.; in past years this flight has left a couple of hours earlier, so allow plenty of time in Brisbane (or better yet, if you have the time, plan to spend an extra night or two in Brisbane to overcome jetlag; we’ll be happy to book a hotel for you near the Brisbane airport). If you will be spending less than twenty-four hours in transit through Australia, you may get a tax-exempt stamp for your boarding pass there instead of paying the standard Australian departure tax.

Upon arrival at the airport in Port Moresby, each participant will need to purchase a tourist visa (100 Kina in 2016—paid in Kina, which is available in Australia or from an exchange behind customs; it is strange—you reach the immigration officer, who allows you to go to the bank and then come back and get your visa). After clearing customs but before exiting to the street, there is also a bank to the right where you may change money for extras. Phil Gregory, the Field Guides leader, will be waiting to meet you as you exit customs, ready for the connection with the Air Niugini flight to Hoskins in New Britain. We should be able to collect our bags on arrival at Port Moresby and then give them to the domestic transfer counter in the same terminal before we head to the Domestic Terminal for the Air Niugini flight. Upon arrival at Hoskins we will transfer by minibus to Walindi, which takes about an hour on a reasonable road.

**Day 4, Tue, 19 Sep. Walindi area-Garu Wildlife Management Area.** An early start is essential here, as New Britain will be hot and humid, so a 5:30 a.m. breakfast will then see us hit the road to Garu, a great site for lowland forest birds. We will spend the morning here, primarily birding from the roadside with perhaps some short forays into the forest edge with our local guides. We’ll pass through miles of oil-palm “desert,” then come into patchy forest before the main entry.

We can hope for many of the Bismarck lowland endemics today, plus a good supporting cast of Blyth’s Hornbill, Pacific Baza, Eclectus Parrot, and maybe Channel-billed Cuckoo. Forest species such as pigeons and kingfishers will feature strongly: Red-knobbed, Island (Gray), Yellowish-streaked, the rare Finsch’s, and perhaps Bismarck (Black) imperial-pigeons; Red-knobbed Fruit-Dove, Stephan’s Ground-Dove, and a chance of Pied Cuckoo-Dove; the elusive White-mantled Kingfisher, Black-headed Paradise-Kingfisher and Melanesian Kingfisher; Volcano (Melanesian) Scrubfowl at the nesting grounds; Violaceous and White-necked (Pied) Coucal; Blue-eyed Cockatoo, and a chance for both Song Parrot and Bismarck Hanging-Parrot (very elusive!); Black-bellied and Ashy Myzomelas; and Bismarck Flowerpecker, Black-tailed Monarch, Bismarck Whistler (here only a large islands species), and Long-tailed Myna. Raptors are also of interest and Variable Goshawk can be expected, with a chance of Black Honey-buzzard or one of the rare endemic accipiters such as Slaty-backed Goshawk or New Britain Sparrowhawk. Night at Walindi Dive Resort.



*The large Blyth’s Hornbill is the only hornbill in the region we will visit on this tour. It can be found in much of Papua New Guinea and the surrounding islands. Photograph by guide Dave Stejskal.*

**Day 5, Wed, 20 Sep. Boat trip out to Kimbe Bay** We’ll have an early breakfast at Walindi, then head down to the jetty for an early morning dive boat trip to Restorf Island in beautiful Kimbe Bay, for a one-hour journey to see many of the small-island specialties that occur here- Nicobar Pigeon, Island Imperial-Pigeon, Mackinlay’s Cuckoo-Dove, the spectacular Beach Kingfisher, Sclater’s Myzomela, Island Monarch, and Mangrove Golden Whistler. The snorkeling here is also superb. Seabirds can also be found on this crossing, we can expect Lesser and perhaps Great Frigatebird, Black Noddy, Sooty Tern, Great Crested and Common terns.

We’ll return to Walindi for lunch, and a break during the heat of the day. In mid-afternoon we’ll head off to Numundo for Buff-bellied Mannikin and afternoon birding at some of the local lowland sites. Night at Walindi Dive Resort.

**Day 6, Thu, 21 Sep. Fly from Hoskins to Port Moresby,** then connect to Air Niugini's Mt Hagen (>1 hour) flight and then transfer to Rondon Ridge, about 45 minutes drive away on a ridge overlooking the great Wahgi Valley. This is a very comfortable lodge sited at around 6000' (1900 m), owned by the same company that owns Ambua, Karawari and Lake Murray Lodges. There is some interesting birding around the area and weather permitting birding the grounds should reveal Superb Bird Of Paradise, New Guinea White-eye and maybe MacGregor's Bowerbird. Night at Rondon Ridge.

**Day 7, Fri, 22 Sep. Birding the Rondon Ridge area,** Early morning walk up to the top of the ridge, about an hour uphill on a pretty good track for most of the way, though with some steeper scrambles at the last short section. Target birds here will be King of Saxony Bird of Paradise, Brown and Black Sicklebill, Wattled Ploughbill, Lesser Melampitta, Rufescent Imperial Pigeon and perhaps Mottled Berryhunter. Return for lunch, and mid-afternoon more birding around the lodge area, with Yellow-breasted Bowerbird a particular target. Night at Rondon Ridge.

**Day 8, Sat, 23 Sep. Drive back to Mt Hagen and TNT charter flight to Lake Murray (about 2 hours),** transfer by boat to Lake Murray Lodge and birding around the area after lunch in the cooler part of the day. Night at Lake Murray Lodge.

**Day 9, Sun, 24 Sep. Lake Murray Lodge area.** Early birding in some forest sites accessed by boat from the lodge, with chances of Southern Crowned Pigeon, Buff-breasted Paradise-Kingfisher, Coroneted Fruit Dove and just maybe Campbell's Fairywren. Night at Lake Murray Lodge.

**Day 10, Mon, 25 Sep. Birding around lodge** or nearby forest areas in the morning, after lunch a boat trip out to some riverine areas after Black Mannikin and Spotted Whistling Ducks. Night at Lake Murray Lodge.

**Day 11, Tue, 26 Sep. Flight from Lake Murray to the Tari Valley; transfer to Ambua Lodge.** This morning we'll take a charter flight from Lake Murray to Tari. After our transfer to Ambua Lodge and time to settle in, we'll do some inaugural birding with the prospect of some 3 nights in this terrific highland birding area. Trails into the woodland here afford a nice introduction to a more highland avifauna than we will have yet encountered.

This lovely lodge consists of a large and beautiful dining hall/lounge/bar and several dozen very comfortable bungalows attractively laid out on the slope around the exotic flower gardens and orchid house. A beautifully wild forested canyon lies just behind the lodge. We'll have opportunities to bird the lovely grounds and good trails in the upcoming days. Mountain and Glossy swiftlets circle over the grounds, and Great Woodswallows huddle to roost side-by-side on the rooftops. A very convenient fruiting tree (outside Cabins 6-10) often attracts Tit Berrypeckers as well as several species of birds-of-paradise. The bamboo behind the cabins can be visited by Black-breasted Boatbill and Black Fantails, and the forest beside the driveway can have Blue-gray and Black-throated robins, or a mixed flock with Sclater's Whistler, Lemon-breasted (Mid-Mountain) Berrypecker, and Buff-faced and Large scrubwrens. At this time of year expect some fog and/or rain in the evenings; always bring your umbrella to meals! 3 nights at Ambua Lodge.

**Days 12-13, Wed-Thu, 27-28 Sep. Ambua Lodge.** Ambua is set on the slopes of the mountains surrounding the Tari Valley and is generally a high-rainfall area. Although we will be birding primarily along gravel roads and good trails and waterproof boots may not always be necessary, they are very handy to have on (or at least along in the bus) at all times as we will also enter some small trails (likely to be muddy) or step off onto the roadsides (which may have wet grass) in pursuit of some of the world's great birds. Lodge trails include several vine bridges, necessary to cross streams and rivers in this land of cascades and waterfalls. We plan, weather permitting, some short duration night birding around the Lodge area on one night, which will require individual flashlights for walking along the trails.

In addition to some of the birds listed above, species regularly seen on the grounds include Yellow-browed Melidectes (pugnacious; Belford's is higher up; some hybrids occur around the lodge), Smoky Honeyeater, Varied Sittella, and even Buff-banded Rail. Papuan Boobooks can be heard or seen by night. On at least one day we will journey down into the



*Yellow-browed Melidectes.*  
Photograph by guide Dave Stejskal.

Tari Valley. Besides those specialties mentioned in the introduction, other regularly seen birds of this mile-high valley include Yellow-billed Lorikeet, White-shouldered Fairywren, Brown-breasted Gerygone, Buff-faced Scrubwren, Island Leaf Warbler, Black-headed Whistler, Ornate and Yellow-browed Melidectes, Mountain Meliphaga, Black Butcherbird, Capped White-eye, and Hooded Mannikin. Nights at Ambua Lodge.

**Day 14, Fri, 29 Sep. Transfer to Tari and TNT charter flight to Karawari Lodge.** Transfer by boat to the lodge, and late afternoon birding around the lodge grounds, which can produce Palm Cockatoo, Eclectus Parrot, Dusky Lory, Edwards's Fig-Parrot and Buff-faced Pygmy-Parrot, as well as Northern Variable Pitohui and Black-browed Triller. Overnight at Karawari Lodge for 3 nights.

**Days 15-16, Sat-Sun, 30 Sep -1 Oct.** Early morning boat trip for Twelve-wired Bird of Paradise, and a short foray into the swamp forest for a chance of finding Victoria Crowned Pigeon, Papuan Hooded Pitta, King Bird of Paradise and both Hooded and Frill-necked Monarch. Afternoon trip down to a village on one of the tributaries for a cultural visit, with birding from the boat en route, with a good chance of Black Bittern and Blue-tailed Bee-eater.

Next day some birding around then lodge, then a trip down to the airstrip for Lesser Black Coucal, Glossy-mantled Manucode and the almost unknown Rand's Sunbird; afternoon take a boat trip upriver to Ymas lakes for great scenery and views of some of the remote Sepik mountains, and good chances for Great-billed and Pied Herons and various flyovers en route. Overnights at Karawari Lodge.

**Day 17, Mon, 2 Oct. Karawari to Mt Hagen** by charter flight, then Air Niugini connection to Port Moresby and check-in to the hotel. Some initial birding around Karawari Lodge, and perhaps a trip out to the PAU ponds in Port Moresby that afternoon for Fawn-breasted Bowerbird, Orange-fronted Fruit Dove and Grey-headed Mannikin. Overnight at a comfortable hotel in Port Moresby.

**Day 18, Tue, 3 Oct. Departure from PNG** for flights home.

## About Your Guide

**Phil Gregory** was born in Southampton, UK, and became a birder as a youth when the steam engines were scrapped and birding offered a way to travel and look for wonderful things. The quest for birds has led to many forays in Europe, Africa, Asia, Australasia, and the Pacific. He and his wife, Sue, worked as teachers for eight years in Nigeria and Zambia, where they raised their two children and made serious inroads into the birds of Africa, before transferring to the Falkland Islands for a two-year stint. In 1991-97 they relocated to Papua New Guinea where the 450-plus endemics proved a great challenge, and since then they have lived in the Northern Territory and since 1998 in far north Queensland, Australia.

Phil's major interests are field identification, vocalizations, and the geographic distribution of birds. He is also a writer with assorted contributions to many reference books including doing some family accounts for the *Handbook of Birds of the World*. He is currently working on a *Birds-of-paradise and Bowerbirds* title in the Pica/Helm series, and a forthcoming *Field Guide to the Birds of New Guinea* for Lynx Edicions. He has also published and now maintains three checklists, one for the birds of Australia and its island territories, one for the Solomon Islands and one for New Guinea and associated islands. Phil and Sue run the well-known Cassowary House, a birding and nature lodge situated in a great birding spot in the rainforest at Kuranda, near Cairns in the far north of Queensland.

Visit <http://fieldguides.com/guides> for Phil's complete tour schedule; just click on his photo.

*"I had a wonderful time on the tour. Guide **Phil Gregory** is a world-class bird expert with a great personality who did an outstanding job as an expert guide and traveling partner."  
R.W., Papua New Guinea*

## Financial Information

**FEE: \$15,575 from Brisbane** (includes all flights within New Guinea as well as the flight from Brisbane to Port Moresby and return)

**DEPOSIT:** \$1550

**FINAL PAYMENT DUE:** May 19, 2017

**SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional): \$1250** (Singles may not be available at Karawari)

**LIMIT:** 8

## Other Things You Need to Know

**TOUR MANAGER:** The manager for this tour is Karen Turner. Karen will be happy to assist you in preparing for the tour. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call her!

**DOCUMENTS:** A current **passport** valid beyond the date of your return is necessary for US citizens to enter Australia and Papua New Guinea. If you are a US Citizen you will need a tourist visa for Papua New Guinea. We will send you the information on obtaining a visa in the tour packets that go out approximately 90 days before the tour. Visas are necessary for passengers transiting Australia; our office can issue them electronically for you (no need to part with your passport or fill out any forms!).

If you are not a US citizen, please check with the Australia and New Guinea consulates nearest you for entry requirements. Information about consulates and entry requirements is generally available online or you can contact us and we will be happy to look this up for you. Passports should have an adequate number of blank pages for the entire journey. Some countries require a blank page for their stamp, and as a precaution it is best to have one blank page per country you will visit or transit.

**AIR ARRANGEMENTS:** Field Guides is a full service travel agency and your tour manager will be happy to assist you with flights to join this tour. Field Guides does not charge a service fee for these services to clients booking a tour. However, we understand that tech-savvy clients often prefer to shop online or that you may wish to use mileage to purchase tickets. Regardless of which method you choose, your tour manager will be happy to provide assistance regarding ticket prices and schedules, along with rental cars and extra hotel nights as needed.

Please be sure to check with your tour manager prior to purchasing your ticket to make sure the flights you have chosen will work well with the tour itinerary and that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate. Once purchased, most airline tickets are non-refundable and carry a penalty to change. Field Guides cannot be responsible for these fees.

**Also, it is imperative that we receive a copy of your comprehensive flight itinerary—including any and all flights not covered in the tour fee—so that we may track you in the event of missed connections, delays, or other mishaps.**

**LUGGAGE:** Please be aware that many airlines have recently modified their luggage policies and are charging additional fees for checked bags. Updates could easily occur before your departure, so you may wish to contact your airline to verify the policy. Additional charges for bags on any flights, whether these are covered by the tour fee or not, will be the client's responsibility.

**TOUR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS:** The tour fee is \$15,575 for one person in double occupancy from Brisbane. It includes all lodging from Day 3 through Day 16, all meals from dinner on Day 3 through dinner on Day 16, airfare from Brisbane to Port Moresby and return, all flights within New Guinea, all ground transportation, entrance fees, tips for baggage handling and meal service, and the guide services of the tour leader(s).

The above fee does not include your airfare to Brisbane, airport taxes, visa fees, any checked or carry-on baggage charges imposed by the airlines, any alcoholic beverages, optional tips to local drivers, phone calls, laundry, or other items of a personal nature. If you would like to recognize your Field Guides leader(s) or any local guide(s) for exceptional service, it is entirely appropriate to tip. We emphasize that such tips are optional and not expected.

The **single supplement** for the tour is \$1250. (Singles may not be available at Karawari.) If you do not have a roommate but wish to share, we will try to pair you with a roommate from the tour; but if none is available, you will be billed for the single supplement. Our tour fees are based on double occupancy; one-half the cost of a double room is priced into the tour fee. The single supplement is calculated by taking the actual cost of a single room and subtracting one-half the cost of a double room (plus any applicable taxes).

**TOUR REGISTRATION:** To register for this tour, complete the enclosed Registration/Release and Indemnity form and return it with a **deposit of \$1550** per person. If registering by phone, a deposit must be received within fourteen days, or the space will be released. **Full payment** of the tour fee is due 120 days prior to departure, or **by May 19, 2017. We will bill you for the final payment at either 120 days or when the tour has reached sufficient subscription to operate, whichever date comes later.** Since the cost of your trip insurance and airline tickets is generally non-refundable, please do not finalize these purchases until you have received final billing for the tour or have been advised that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate by your tour manager.

**SMOKING:** Almost all of our clients prefer a smoke-free environment. If you smoke, please be sensitive to the group and refrain from smoking at meals, in vehicles, and in proximity to the group on trails and elsewhere.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** Refund of deposit and payment, less \$100 handling fee, will be made if cancellation is received up to 120 days before departure. If cancellation occurs between 119 and 70 days before the departure date, 50% of the tour fee is refundable. Thereafter, all deposits and payments are not refundable.

This policy only applies to payments made to Field Guides for tour (and any services included in those fees). Airline tickets not included in the tour fee and purchased separately often carry penalties for cancellation or change, or are sometimes totally non-refundable. Additionally, if you take out trip insurance the cost of the insurance is not refundable so it is best to purchase the policy just prior to making full payment for the tour or at the time you purchase airline tickets, depending upon the airlines restrictions.

The right is reserved to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case full refund will constitute full settlement to the passenger. The right is reserved to substitute in case of emergency another guide for the original one.

**TRIP CANCELLATION & MEDICAL EMERGENCY INSURANCE:** We strongly recommend you consider purchasing trip cancellation (including medical emergency) insurance to cover your investment in case of injury or illness to you or your family prior to or during a trip. Because we must remit early (and substantial) tour deposits to our suppliers, we cannot offer any refund when cancellation occurs within 70 days of departure, and only a partial refund from 70 to 119 days prior to departure (see CANCELLATION POLICY). In addition, the Department of State strongly urges Americans to consult with their medical insurance company prior to traveling abroad to confirm whether their policy applies overseas and if it will cover emergency expenses such as a medical evacuation. US medical insurance plans seldom cover health costs incurred outside the United States unless supplemental coverage is purchased. Furthermore, US Medicare and Medicaid programs do not provide payment for medical services outside the United States.

When making a decision regarding health insurance, Americans should consider that many foreign doctors and hospitals require payment in cash prior to providing service and that a medical evacuation to the United States may cost well in excess of \$50,000. Uninsured travelers who require medical care overseas often face extreme difficulties. When consulting with your insurer prior to your trip, please ascertain whether payment will be made to the overseas healthcare provider or whether you will be reimbursed later for expenses that you incur.

US citizens will receive from us a brochure regarding optional tour cancellation/emergency medical insurance. Our agent, CSA, will insure for trip cancellation and interruption, medical coverage, travel delay, baggage loss and delay, 24-hour accident protection, and emergency medical transportation. If you purchase the insurance when making final payment for the tour, and cover all non-refundable parts of the trip (including any non-refundable flights), pre-existing conditions are covered. The CSA brochure includes a contact number; you may also purchase your CSA policy on-line by visiting our website at [www.fieldguides.com/travelinsurance.htm](http://www.fieldguides.com/travelinsurance.htm) and clicking the link to CSA. Please note, once the insurance is purchased it is non-refundable, so please check with your tour manager prior to making the purchase to assure the tour will operate as scheduled. Citizens of other countries are urged to consult their insurance broker.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** For and in consideration of the opportunity to participate in the tour, each tour participant and each parent or legal guardian of a tour participant who is under 18 agrees to release, indemnify, and hold harmless Field Guides Incorporated, its agents, servants, employees, shareholders, officers, directors, attorneys, and contractors as more fully set forth in the Release and Indemnity Agreement on the reverse side of the registration form. Field Guides Incorporated acts only as an agent for the passenger in regard to travel, whether by railroad, motorcar, motorcoach, boat, airplane, or other means, and assumes no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity caused by defect in such vehicles or for any reason whatsoever, including the acts, defaults, or bankruptcies of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. Field Guides Incorporated accepts no responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, or other causes. The tour participant shall bear all such losses and expenses. Field Guides Incorporated reserves the right to substitute hotels of similar category for those indicated and to make any changes in the itinerary where deemed necessary or caused by changes in air schedules. Field Guides Incorporated reserves the right to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of any tour. Baggage is at owner's risk entirely.

Participants should be in good health and should consult a physician before undertaking a tour. If you have questions about the physical requirements of a tour, please contact our office for further information. Participants should prepare for

the tour by reading the detailed itinerary, the information bulletin, and other pertinent matter provided by Field Guides. Each participant is responsible for bringing appropriate clothing and equipment as recommended in our bulletins.

THE RECEIPT OF YOUR TOUR DEPOSIT SHALL BE DEEMED TO BE CONSENT TO THE ABOVE CONDITIONS. EACH TOUR PARTICIPANT AND EACH PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF A TOUR PARTICIPANT WHO IS UNDER 18 SHALL SIGN AND DELIVER THE RELEASE AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION.  
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