SAMPLE EXPEDITION ITINERARY

Upper Sepik River Adventure (FA 01)

Want to experience the Last Frontier of Papua New Guinea where few foreign visitors have ventured?

If so, this adventure is for you!

The Sepik River is one of the richest areas in PNG for traditional culture, rainforests and carvings. The Upper Sepik is particularly renowned for its smaller and different style ancestral 'Men's Spirit Houses' and the 'Insect Culture' Clan (Swagup Village) as opposed to further down the river in the Middle Sepik region with Iatmul people with their 'Crocodile Clan Culture'. The villages we visit in the Upper Sepik region are remote and located in a less populated area. These villages tend to be smaller communities and are further apart in location to each other village than in the Middle and Lower Sepik regions. Some can take many hours of canoe travel to reach but still offer very welcoming village people.

Due to the remoteness of this part of the river, villagers will seldom be informed of your arrival beforehand so we send you with a complete survival kit including mosquito nets, basic food provisions and bedding together with a true sense of adventure into the unknown!

Our English-speaking guides are from the area and in knowing the region and village people well, are totally trustworthy and friendly.

Example Itinerary
4 Days / 3 Nights on the Sepik River

Day 1
Arrive in Wewak by air from Port Moresby or Madang. Met at airport and checked into a Wewak Hotel.

CONTACT US

EMAIL: - info@pngfrontieradventures.com
POSTAL ADDRESS: P.O.Box 51, Wewak, East Sepik Province, Papua New Guinea
LANDLINE TEL: +675 456 1584 MOBILE: +675 738 31 130 or MOBILE : + 675 736 64 075

Acknowledgements: Some photos provided by courtesy of Georgie McKie, Ron Skinner, Pete Sanders , Eric Garen & Mike Holtby.

Day 2
Leave Wewak by private hire car to Pagwi, Middle Sepik. From Pagwi board and travel upriver by motorized dugout canoe. Passing Ambunti then Wagu Lagoon, canoe on to Yambon to visit the lovely Haus Tambaran and see their wooden carvings. Travel further on to Mino where you will overnight in a family house.

Day 3
After breakfast travel to the villages of Yessan and Maio where the people follow the Yam culture that is reflected in their carved artefacts. Motor on to the Insect clan people in Swagup village. There you can see their delicate and intricately carved wooden canoe paddles together with their style of artefacts . Sleep in a village home along the river.

Day 4
Canoe on to Tongujam, meet the village people and visit their distinctive Haus Tambaran. Canoe down river to the beautiful Wagu Lagoon and sleep in the village guesthouse.

Day 5
Rise before dawn and cross over Wagu Lagoon and take a short trek in the hope of witnessing the beautiful Birds of Paradise presenting their captivating dawn chorus in the rain forest canopy. After a quick breakfast back at the guesthouse, return downriver to Pagwi where your hire car will be waiting to take you back into Wewak by late afternoon.
Sleep in Wewak Hotel.

Day 6
Fly out of Wewak.

Note:
Villages in the Upper Sepik Regions are very spread out so travelling takes time and requires a lot of fuel to reach. Also, water levels at various times of the year result in some villages being inaccessible. Your guide will discuss any required change of itinerary plans and discuss alternative ideas with you if this situation arises. Your guide is from this section of the Sepik River and therefore knows the villages and the river very well.
With the Upper Sepik expeditions it is important understand that itineraries are only an outline draft and there will be changes required as the expedition is happening.

CONTACT US

EMAIL: - info@pngfrontieradventures.com
POSTAL ADDRESS: P.O.Box 51, Wewak, East Sepik Province, Papua New Guinea
LANDLINE TEL: +675 456 1584 MOBILE: +675 738 31 130 or MOBILE : + 675 736 64 075

Acknowledgements: Some photos provided by courtesy of Georgie McKie, Ron Skinner, Pete Sanders , Eric Garen & Mike Holtby.

PNG Frontier Adventures

Indicative Costings

Factors influencing the cost of expeditions include the fluctuation of the PNG currency, “the Kina”, the spiralling rise in inflation within PNG as well as the fact that each “Adventure Expedition” is individually planned to suit the client’s wishes and requirements. It is very difficult, therefore, to give actual costings until we know exactly what your requirements are. We do not offer a standard ‘Package Tour’.

Other factors which influence costs greatly:

- Transportation transfers to and from Wewak to the river and back. High cost of fuel for both the town and river transfers and also the motorised canoes.
- On which part of the River you will be travelling - the further up the Sepik, the higher the cost due to logistics and fuel consumption.
- How many miles along the river one travels, due to varied fuel costs. Lower Sepik has less costly motor fuel than the Middle Sepik and in the Upper Sepik fuel is scarce and at an even higher cost.
- The size of the group to share the costs. For example one person hiring a guide, canoe, paying for all the fuel etc is more expensive than if 4 people go on the expedition and share all the main costs between them.

Bearing all these factors in mind, below are the approximate prices based on the Upper Sepik Adventure (FA 01) with 4 days and 3 nights.

Based on 8 persons’ approximate price Kina 3,500/person all-inclusive ex Wewak.
Based on 6 persons’ approximate price Kina 4,290/person all-inclusive ex Wewak.
Based on 4 persons’ approximate price Kina 4,390/person all-inclusive ex Wewak
Based on 2 persons’ approximate price Kina 6,950/person all-inclusive ex Wewak

Your Sepik Adventure can be longer or shorter depending on your time and wishes.

We offer 10% discounted rates for PNG residents and volunteers working in PNG.

CONTACT US

EMAIL: - info@pngfrontieradventures.com
POSTAL ADDRESS: P.O.Box 51, Wewak, East Sepik Province, Papua New Guinea
LANDLINE TEL: +675 456 1584 MOBILE: +675 738 31 130 or MOBILE : + 675 736 64 075

Acknowledgements: Some photos provided by courtesy of Georgie McKie, Ron Skinner, Pete Sanders , Eric Garen & Mike Holtby.

Please contact us, without any obligation, for further information and more accurate costings.

Reality Checks!

Change of Plan
PNG Frontier Adventures puts great emphasis on experience and interaction with the village people. To fulfil this experience you will stay in remote villages and be exposed to the same travel limitations and hazards as the villagers themselves.

PNG Frontier Adventures will do everything possible to organise your expedition itinerary as requested, however, due to the remote nature of the destination and possible sudden changes in the tropical weather conditions and lack of reliable communications, when on the Sepik, changes of plans are sometimes / often necessary. For example, transportation may be, in rare occasions, unreliable or disrupted.

We make plans to cover most problems should they arise, which is very seldom, but the visitor must be aware of the small possibility of plans not working out as per schedule and accept this warning. Please be assured we will do everything in our powers to rearrange the expedition accordingly and find suitable solutions for you. However PNG Frontier Adventures cannot be held responsible for sudden changes of plan when there is no alternative.

Please be aware that any additional costs incurred in rearranging a disrupted itinerary will be your responsibility and/or your travel insurers.

Travel Insurance
We strongly recommend that all visitors obtain their own travel insurance to cover forced cancellation of the tour due to unexpected circumstances, eg., bad weather conditions causing stoppage of flights, loss of baggage or personal items, medical emergency, and forced changes to your itinerary due to reasons beyond our control or planning.

Food while on the river.
Food while on the Sepik River will be very basic and simple due to the lack of any refrigeration & power supply along the river. Daily meals will consist of rice with either tinned fish or meat and/ or fresh fish and chicken together with

CONTACT US

EMAIL: - info@pngfrontieradventures.com
POSTAL ADDRESS: P.O.Box 51, Wewak, East Sepik Province, Papua New Guinea
LANDLINE TEL: +675 456 1584 MOBILE: +675 738 31 130 or MOBILE : + 675 736 64 075

Acknowledgements: Some photos provided by courtesy of Georgie McKie, Ron Skinner, Pete Sanders , Eric Garen & Mike Holtby.

fruits. We also pack eggs for the first part of the expedition. There is not any bread or bakery outside of Wewak town. It is important to understand the basic reality of this remote region and the limitations' it makes on our provisions.

Local Accommodation
We also wish you to understand that due to the remoteness and lack of development at the location that the village guesthouses and home stays are of a very simple, basic standard and in no way comparable to guesthouses in many other countries. For example, the toilets are pit toilets, the same as the villagers use, beds will be mattresses on the floor covered with mosquito nets, washing areas may consist of a bucket and scoop or a dip in the Sepik River.

Wewak Town Hotel Accommodation
PNG Frontier Adventures books visitors into a local hotel both prior and post a Sepik River Adventure but does not take responsibility for the standard or service of meals and facilities within the local hotel management.

Guests are responsible for full payment to cover accommodation, food and beverages in the hotel. Only one hotel accepts credit cards.

The hotels in Wewak town are of a much higher standard of development than village life, with electric power, telephones, WiFi, flush toilets and air conditioning but can only be rated as one star at the most with the exception of the In-Wewak Boutique Hotel.

Communications
Lately, mobile telephone communication towers are gradually being constructed along the Sepik River giving reasonable coverage mainly in the Middle Sepik River locations.

Transportation
PNG Frontier Adventures advises visitors that transportation on our adventures will include dug-out timber motorised canoes and car or bus hire from local rental firms. These forms of transport may not be carrying safety equipment such as life jackets, flares or emergency radios as the law in PNG does not require this standard as yet.

Health
PNG Frontier Adventures informs the visitor that medical services are very

CONTACT US

EMAIL: - info@pngfrontieradventures.com
POSTAL ADDRESS: P.O.Box 51, Wewak, East Sepik Province, Papua New Guinea
LANDLINE TEL: +675 456 1584 MOBILE: +675 738 31 130 or MOBILE : + 675 736 64 075

Acknowledgements: Some photos provided by courtesy of Georgie McKie, Ron Skinner, Pete Sanders , Eric Garen & Mike Holtby.

limited here and rescue services even more limited. With that in mind we ask our visitors to visit your doctor before travelling to PNG and to ensure you start taking prophylactic medication against malaria to be on the safe side. Please also check on your travel insurance and medical insurance.

Booking Information, Terms and Conditions

Upon receiving an enquiry we design and plan your personal itinerary via emails and provide a quotation for your perusal.

Once you are happy with the arrangements and wish to proceed with a booking, we ask for a deposit of 50% to be paid 8 weeks prior to the commencement date. As soon as we have the deposit your booking reservation is confirmed. We ask for the final balance of payment 4 weeks before the expedition commences. Cancellation within 2 weeks of the commencement of the expedition incurs a penalty of 100% of monies paid to date.

The reason for this pre-paid booking system is due to the limitations of banking facilities, credit card facilities and currency exchange facilities within Wewak, coupled with the need to purchase fuel and food prior to your intended arrival. In many cases we need to have purchased the fuel beforehand and have it on the river ready, ahead of your expedition. We organise everything needed for your adventure; all you need to bring is your own personal effects and any spending money for the purchasing of artefacts or for extra food and drinks when up the river.

Please note a full breakdown of the expedition costing cannot be provided. Please also be aware that while we can reserve a Wewak hotel in your name, we do not include the cost of accommodation or food or drink in the chosen Wewak hotel in our quotation. Guests pay the hotel direct.

PNG Frontier Adventures does not accept liability for and indemnifies itself from any claims for loss, damages, personal injury or sickness from/to the client/visitor and medical insurance. PNG Frontier Adventures reserves the right to cancel wholly or part or revise the itinerary plans due to current tribal situations, bad weather conditions or detrimental acts of nature at the time of, or just prior to the commencement of, the expedition.

CONTACT US

EMAIL: - info@pngfrontieradventures.com
POSTAL ADDRESS: P.O.Box 51, Wewak, East Sepik Province, Papua New Guinea
LANDLINE TEL: +675 456 1584 MOBILE: +675 738 31 130 or MOBILE : + 675 736 64 075

Acknowledgements: Some photos provided by courtesy of Georgie McKie, Ron Skinner, Pete Sanders , Eric Garen & Mike Holtby.

PNG Frontier Adventures offer these terms and conditions in accordance with the Law of Papua New Guinea.

Payment of the required deposit to PNG Frontier Adventures assumes automatic acceptance of the terms and conditions mentioned above.

CONTACT US

EMAIL: - info@pngfrontieradventures.com
POSTAL ADDRESS: P.O.Box 51, Wewak, East Sepik Province, Papua New Guinea
LANDLINE TEL: +675 456 1584 MOBILE: +675 738 31 130 or MOBILE : + 675 736 64 075

Acknowledgements: Some photos provided by courtesy of Georgie McKie, Ron Skinner, Pete Sanders , Eric Garen & Mike Holtby.