

Papua New Guinea

PAPUA NEW GUINEA & INDONESIA

Why join this Voyage?

- A one-off expeditionary voyage combining New Guinea and eastern Indonesia, travelling from the wilds of New Guinea via the enchanting Spice Islands and Komodo National Park and finishing in Bali
- A fascinating adventure through one of the world's most culturally diverse regions. Highlights include privileged visits to tribal villages and the chance to encounter the infamous Komodo Dragon
- Travel aboard a small 110-passenger expeditionary ship, ideally suited for this type of adventure with a fleet of zodiac for daily landings, knowledgeable on board experts and casual atmosphere



Trip Summary

On this Papua New Guinea cruise incorporating eastern Indonesia, beginning in PNG's capital Port Moresby you will voyage westward exploring strikingly diverse island groups and ultramarine seas en route to Bali. Explore remote West Papua, Thursday Island which was once a pearling capital, the fragrant Spice Islands, the volcanic island of Flores with its three crater lakes and Komodo, home to the world's largest living species of lizard, the infamous Komodo dragon. Few travel experiences will rival our welcome by the Asmat people of West Papua; elaborately painted warriors row out to greet us before welcoming us to their villages. Snorkel and dive in translucent waters, wander pristine beaches in search of endemic birds and plants and experience rich cultural encounters throughout this unique expedition.

Itinerary



Day 1 London/ Brisbane

Depart London and fly to Brisbane, flying overnight.

Day 2 Travelling

Day 3 Brisbane

Arrival into Brisbane with the afternoon to explore. Welcome dinner and briefing this evening, with chance to meet fellow passengers. Overnight in Brisbane.

Day 4 Brisbane/ Port Moresby/ Embarkation

Group flight to Port Moresby with visit the National Museum and Arts before embarking the Clipper Odyssey and setting sail westward into the Coral Sea.

Day 5 At Sea

Settle in and become acquainted with the Clipper Odyssey. Our lecture series introduces us to the natural and cultural riches you will encounter on this voyage.

Day 6 Thursday Island

Thursday Island, Australia's northernmost point, lies in the strategic Torres Strait that separates New Guinea from Australia. We explore the small sleepy town and take in the sweeping views from Green Hill Fort, built in 1893.

Day 7 At Sea

Relaxing day at sea as we sail into the Arafura Sea toward the western coast of Papua New Guinea. Lectures provide insights to the remarkable Asmat world.

Days 8 & 9 Asmat Villages

A remote riverine world is revealed as zodiacs carry us along narrow waterways thick with mangrove forests, home to a variety of birdlife. As we make our way upstream, villagers whooping and chanting in elaborate warrior gear and war paint paddle vigorously toward us in intricately carved canoes.

Visit to the village of Agats where an enthusiastic welcomes await. Explore the cathedral with its superb carvings and the museum with its elaborate displays of ancestor poles, drums, body masks, shields, daggers and skulls! Asmat woodcarvings are widely considered by collectors and scholars to be among the world's finest. With our anthropologist helping us to communicate we have the opportunity to purchase carvings directly from village artisans.

Day 10 Aru Islands

Sailing west we arrive at the Aru Islands mid-day, renowned for its excellent snorkelling and diving, and green turtle nests dug into the beach.

Day 11 Tanimbar Island, Spice Islands

The spectacular Tanimbars are the southernmost islands of the Spice Islands (or Moluccas) and home to a mixture of Melanesian races with strong cultural traditions. We visit the village of Sangliat Dol, whose highlights include some of the area's best megalithic remains. A 150-foot-long monumental stone staircase climbs nearly 100 feet, linking the beach with a village that overlooks the sea.

Day 12 Leti Island Group

Today we cruise among the islands in the Wallacea region, where the Pacific and Asian continental shelves meet. The islands support many endemic species and the marine life in the region is extraordinarily rich. In the Leti Island group we step ashore on Lakor. After a traditional welcome ceremony we embark on a walking tour of the village that includes a look at the local textile weaving, for which the area is famous.

Day 13 Alor Island

For centuries the island of Alor has been cut off from the cultural and historical changes taking place around it. Today the population of Alor is divided between





Islamic peoples and a large number of indigenous ethno-linguistic groups who live in the rugged mountainous interior. These Christian-animist mountain dwellers live in isolated villages which sit like fortresses on hilltops, and they speak some 70 varied dialects.

At the town of Kalabahi we venture inland to visit one of these traditional and remote hilltop villages. At first, we are confronted with war cries and spears, before the villagers, clad in colourful dress, welcome us with traditional music, lively dances, and the chance to view their superb carvings, ikats, jewellery, baskets, swords and other artefacts.

Day 14 Lomblem Island

The placid waters surrounding this volcanic island are filled with marine life. We anchor in the remote town of Lamalerap where children welcome us ashore and offer the chance for a close-up look at the fishing boats and traditional mat weaving that takes place. A welcome dance leads into a mock whaling ceremony during which songs and play-acting illustrate the taking of a sperm whale. In the afternoon, opportunity snorkel and dive in the warm waters off the island.



Day 15 Maumere, Flores Island

Portuguese explorers named these lovely islands after the areas colourful coral formations. Picture-perfect cone-shaped volcanoes and palm-fringed beaches backed by thick tropical forests make it a veritable island paradise. Wildlife includes species of lizards, monkeys and parrots, while the marine rich waters play home to hundreds of species of tropical fish, giant clams, sperm whales and dolphins. Pacific and Asian people have mixed here for centuries and the result is a rich and varied folklore expressed through dance, music and rituals. Warm welcome on arrival at Maumere with a dance presentation. A short drive takes us to a traditional weaving village where we have the rare chance to witness ikat weaving.



Day 16 Rinca Island, Komodo National Park

As we approach Rinca Island in the Flores Sea look out for sperm whales. The island's national park is a sanctuary for the fabled prehistoric giant monitor lizard, the Komodo dragon (known as *oras* by the locals), which exists here and on nearby Komodo. We walk along a forested pathway to a viewing area for a close inspection of these enormous reptiles, which grow up to 10 feet in length and weigh up to 300 pounds. The surrounding forest is also home sulfur-crested cockatoos, friarbirds, megapodes, and sambar deer. In the afternoon, enjoy the marine life either snorkelling or diving, or from our glass-bottomed boat.



Day 17 Kananga Village, Sumbawa Island

Zodiacs take us ashore to the small village of Kananga, home to about 500 traditional Muslim fishermen and their families. We are greeted with drumming, dances and pole-climbing competitions by nimble boys. Afternoon at sea.

Day 18 Bena, Bali/ Disembark/ Sanur

In the morning we disembark in Bena, Bali. We drive to Ubud with time to visit some of the countless galleries and artisan workshops before continuing onto Sanur, an expansive beachfront area, where we enjoy dinner and overnight.

Day 19 Bali/ London

Depart Bali on the evening flight back to London

Day 20 London

Arrive back into the UK

IMPORTANT: Travelling through this remote, little-visited area is both thrilling and challenging. However, please be aware that the daily itinerary will need to be able to incorporate a certain amount of flexibility to make the most of what the opportunities you find.

The Boat



Clipper Odyssey

The *Clipper Odyssey* is a 110-passenger luxury expedition vessel, ideally suited for expeditionary cruising. She carries a fleet of zodiacs, which allows us to land anywhere nature or curiosity dictates. All cabins have an ocean view, safe, mini-bar, individually controlled heat/air conditioner, in-room music system, and sitting area with sofa. Passengers can track the progress of their voyage on the Global Positioning System broadcast in each cabin. Beds can be configured to either a twin or queen-sized bed. All cabins have an en suite bathroom with shower and small bathtub. The *Clipper Odyssey* has a gourmet kitchen specialising in providing international specialties.

Facilities on board the *Clipper Odyssey* include a dining room, lounge, small library and gym, outdoor pool, and gift shop. An lift services all passenger cabin decks.

Route Map



Activities



While onboard your days will be filled with a carefully arranged programme of daily activities and excursions, including:

- Exploring pristine islands and traditional villages
- Zodiac cruising
- Village visits
- Wildlife sightings
- On board lectures
- Snorkelling or diving
- Birding

2010 Expedition Date

2nd - 20th December

Guide Price for 2010

Cabin Type

(quoted per person based on 2 sharing)

Category 1	£5,895
Category 2	£6,350
Category 3	£6,795
Category 4	£7,260
Category 5	£7,715
Category 6	£8,170
Suite	£9,985
Single in Category 2	£7,850
Single in Category 3	£8,495

Includes

- Group transfers in Brisbane
- Pre & post voyage hotel accommodation in Brisbane & Bali
- On board accommodation on full board basis
- All guided activities, lectures and shore excursions while on board

Excludes

- International flights into Brisbane and out of Bali
- Flight from Brisbane to PNG
- Any additional accommodation or excursions
- Drinks and laundry while on board
- Gratuities to the crew
- Visas

Please note that these prices are a **guide only** and are subject to exchange rate fluctuations.

Single Supplement

For those solo travellers wishing to secure their own cabin, Singles are available in Categories 2 & 3 (see above), otherwise a multiplier of 1.7 is used to calculate the single supplement. Please contact the office for a quotation.

Flight Information

The International and Brisbane to Port Moresby flights are not included in the guide prices above. However we can help book these for you if you are departing from the UK.

Pre Voyage Extension

An *optional* pre voyage group trip into PNG's rich and diverse interior for up to 34 passengers from the 26th November is available in combination with this voyage. Estimated cost approx. £2,300 per person. Otherwise extra pre &/ or post voyage days can easily be added as requested for those who would like to explore further.

Visa Information

At all times it remains your responsibility to organise visas, although we are more than happy to advise, help and provide the relevant supporting documentation where necessary.

Want to discuss this trip?

Please call **Alex** on **01285 880981** for more details or to check availability



Fostered by a childhood in the West Indies, the travel bug bit Alex early. Propelled by his enthusiasm for diverse cultures and hot food, he's travelled to over 50 countries across 7 continents, including both poles. Some of his most memorable recent experiences include dog sledding in The Arctic, kayaking in Alaska, snorkelling with whale sharks off Mexico and piranha fishing in The Amazon.

Alex is General Manager of Steppes Voyages.
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