

## By Anonymous traveler (2023)

As a loyal traveler, I am often privileged to embark on incredible journeys that take me to the most captivating destinations. Recently, I had the opportunity to explore the enchanting country of Papua New Guinea, and the experience was nothing short of extraordinary.



Our adventure began with our arrival in the bustling capital city of Port Moresby. After a long but exhilarating flight, we were eager to settle into our hotel and unwind from the journey. The warm hospitality of the hotel staff provided the perfect welcome, ensuring our stay would be comfortable and memorable. Once we had settled in, it was time to indulge in some authentic Papua New Guinean cuisine. The tantalizing aromas from the local delicacies filled the air as we made our way to the hotel restaurant. Our taste buds were delighted with a delightful dinner, showcasing the rich flavors and unique culinary traditions of the region. After a satisfying meal, we retreated to our well-appointed rooms for a restful overnight stay. The comfortable beds and serene atmosphere provided the ideal setting to recharge before embarking on the adventures that awaited us in the coming days.

Papua New Guinea, known for its diverse landscapes and fascinating indigenous cultures, had captured our imagination, and we eagerly anticipated what lay ahead. From the lush rainforests and volcanic peaks to the pristine coral reefs and vibrant traditional villages, this remarkable country had so much to offer. Over the course of our journey, we would venture deep into remote tribal communities, learn about ancient customs, and witness breathtaking natural wonders. We would navigate winding rivers in traditional canoes, hike through dense jungles, and dive into crystal-clear waters teeming with vibrant marine life. The journey had just begun, and Port Moresby had only provided a glimpse into the beauty and authenticity that Papua New Guinea had in store for us. As we closed our eyes that night, we couldn't help but feel a sense of anticipation for the remarkable adventures that awaited us. Little did we know just how profound and unforgettable our experience in this mysterious land would be.

Stay tuned for the next chapter of our expedition in Papua New Guinea, as we venture further into the heart of this captivating country, immersing ourselves in its rich tapestry of culture, nature, and awe-inspiring landscapes.



On a crisp morning in the heart of Tari Valley, our adventurous spirits soared as we embarked on a journey

that promised to be filled with captivating wonders. After savoring a delightful breakfast at our hotel, we eagerly made our way to the airport, brimming with anticipation for the experiences that lay ahead. As we touched down in Tari Valley, we were met with warm smiles and a genuine hospitality that instantly made us feel at home. A seamless transfer awaited us, transporting us to the enchanting Ambua Lodge – a hidden gem nestled amidst the lush rainforest. The breathtaking beauty of the surroundings left us in awe, as we marveled at the verdant landscape that seemed to stretch endlessly. Ambua Lodge, like a tranquil oasis in the midst of nature's symphony, provided the perfect sanctuary for our expedition. Surrounded by thick foliage and singing birds, its charm and comfort harmonized with the natural wonders that beckoned us to explore further.



Our days in Tari Valley unfolded like a vivid painting, with each stroke offering awe-inspiring experiences. Venturing along forest trails, we found ourselves immersed in a realm of emerald green. Gushing waterfalls cascaded down the mountainside, their rhythmic melody blending with the rustling leaves and creating a symphony of nature's finest tunes. Excitement coursed through our veins as we crossed traditional vine bridges – an ancient tradition that connected us to the rich cultural heritage of the region.

Within the vibrant rainforest, nature enthusiasts like us were treated to the kaleidoscope of life. The air alive with the flapping of wings, we marveled at the sight of up to 13 bird species gracefully gliding through the canopy. Their colorful feathers painted an ethereal scene that will forever be etched in our memories. Everywhere we turned, we discovered a myriad of vibrant flowers, exotic plants, and intriguing insects that added a touch of enchantment to this already magical setting.

Evenings at Ambua Lodge were a delightful affair. As the sun dipped below the horizon, casting a mellow golden glow, we gathered to indulge in the tantalizing flavors of the region. The delectable dinners were lovingly prepared, merging traditional recipes with contemporary finesse. The satisfying meals were complemented by the warmth of the lodge's ambiance and the camaraderie that blossomed among fellow adventurers. When nighttime settled upon us, we sank into blissful slumber, cradled by the symphony of nature surrounding Ambua Lodge. In their nocturnal chorus, the creatures of the rainforest serenaded us, inviting us into dreams of misty mountaintops and hidden treasures yet to be discovered.

Our sojourn in Tari Valley had been nothing short of extraordinary. We left with our hearts full of the captivating memories we had gathered, vowing to return someday to this paradise of natural abundance. As we bid Ambua Lodge farewell, we carried a piece of its magic within us, forever grateful for the wonders it had revealed and the experiences it had bestowed upon us.

After fueling ourselves with another delicious breakfast, we embarked on a journey to discover the nearby villages that were home to the iconic Huli tribe. Eager to immerse ourselves in their vibrant culture, we set out with anticipation. Our first destination was the Men's Wig School, a place that promised a truly unique cultural experience. As we arrived, we were immediately captivated by the intricate process of creating traditional wigs. The Huli tribe is well-known for their elaborate wigs, and witnessing the artistry firsthand was truly awe-inspiring. We watched as skilled artisans meticulously crafted each strand, turning them into elaborate headdresses that symbolized status and identity within the tribe. It was a mesmerizing sight, showcasing the tribe's deep connection to their heritage and traditions.

Leaving the Men's Wig School, we continued our exploration of the local villages. Each step revealed valuable insights into the Huli tribe's way of life. The villages were abuzz with activity, reflecting both the tribe's self-sufficiency and their harmonious relationship with nature. From traditional agricultural practices to intricate crafts, every aspect of their daily lives demonstrated a profound respect for their surroundings. As we interacted with the community, we were welcomed with open arms, a testament to the Huli tribe's warm and hospitable nature. We had the privilege of observing their customs and traditions up close, gaining a deeper understanding of their rich heritage. From storytelling sessions around the fire to witnessing ancient dance rituals, every experience left an indelible mark on our hearts. We marveled at the oral history preserved through generations and were enchanted by the mesmerizing performances that conveyed the tribe's deep-rooted spirituality.



As the day drew to a close, we found ourselves eagerly anticipating another delightful dinner and restful overnight stay. The local cuisine, bursting with flavors unique to the Huli tribe, tantalized our taste buds, while the cozy accommodations provided the perfect sanctuary after a day of exploration and cultural immersion. Reflecting on the day's experiences, we felt a deep sense of gratitude for the opportunity to witness the Huli tribe's way of life. Their customs, traditions, and artistry are not only a testament to their heritage but also a reminder of the beauty that lies in diversity. We left the villages with hearts full of memories and a newfound appreciation for the richness of human culture. As we settled in for the night, we knew that our journey with the Huli tribe had only just begun. Tomorrow promised further adventures and a chance to forge deeper connections with a people whose legacy would forever dwell within us.

On a crisp morning, as the sun gently began to illuminate the horizon, we found ourselves indulging in a hearty breakfast before embarking on an extraordinary adventure. Our destination: the ethereal realm of Karawari. With great anticipation, we transferred from our hotel to the airport, ready to board the awaiting charter flight that would carry us to this hidden gem of Papua New Guinea.

As we touched down on Karawari's untouched runway, a sense of tranquility and anticipation filled the air. But it was upon stepping onto the riverboat that the true enchantment of this journey began to unfold. The vessel, our magnificent mode of transportation for the next leg of our expedition, offered a perfect perspective to absorb the mesmerizing hues of green that characterized the surrounding jungle. Slowly gliding along the river, we marveled at the breathtaking panoramas that unfolded before us. Dense foliage stretched out in every direction, interrupted only by the occasional glimpse of a vibrant tropical flower or the silhouette of an exotic bird perched elegantly on a branch. It was a true symphony of nature, overwhelming our senses with its splendor.

Upon reaching the Karawari Lodge, we were greeted with warm smiles and a lavish spread for lunch. As we savored each morsel of the sumptuous meal, our anticipation for the day ahead only grew. Eager to immerse ourselves in the local culture, we soon set out to visit a nearby village, where we discovered the customary process of harvesting and preparing the sago palm.



Intrigued and humbled, we followed the villagers' guidance, learning the delicate art of extracting the sago



flour from the palm's trunk. The rhythmic sound of wooden pestles pounding against the fibers filled the air as we worked together, observing the meticulous process. It was not just a lesson in practical skills but an opportunity to glimpse into the heart and soul of a community that thrived harmoniously with their environment. As evening descended upon Karawari, we returned to the lodge, our hearts filled with gratitude and wonder. The day's endless charm was amplified by the delightful dinner that awaited us, showcasing the finest culinary delights the region had to offer. Each dish whispered secrets of the land, leaving us spellbound by its flavors. Fully satiated, we retired to our comfortable accommodations at the Karawari Lodge. Nestled amidst the dense canopy, surrounded by nature's gentle lullaby and the distant murmur of the river, we drifted into a peaceful slumber. The day's captivating experiences danced in our dreams, promising to be treasured forever. Tomorrow beckoned with new adventures, but for now, we relished in the tranquility of Karawari, grateful to have embarked on a journey that had unlocked the door to a world so enchanting and preserved, a world that left us yearning for more.

Our adventure continued as we stepped aboard the magnificent Sepik Spirit River boat. This vessel, which would be our home for the day, promised an unforgettable journey into the heart of Papua New Guinea's untamed beauty. As we settled in, anticipation grew in our hearts. The rhythmic hum of the boat's engine seemed to resonate with our excitement, pulling us further into the realms of exploration awaiting us. With each passing mile, the waters beneath us shimmered like liquid silver, a testament to the enchanting allure of the Karawari River. At noon, we were treated to a delightful lunch, surrounded by the breathtaking spectacle of the swirling waters. It felt as if time had paused, allowing us to fully immerse ourselves in the tranquil atmosphere that enveloped us. Over our shared meal, we marveled at the raw power and serenity of nature, grateful for the privilege of being a part of this exhilarating adventure.

In the afternoon, our journey took an even more profound turn as we arrived at local villages nestled along the riverbanks. It was here that we had the incredible opportunity to witness the vibrant tribal traditions unique to this region. The meticulous craftsmanship of carved totems, each telling stories of ancestral heritage, left us in awe of the artistic expressions of these communities.

Intricate drums, with their hypnotic rhythms, seemed to echo the heartbeat of the land. The villagers graciously shared their music, inviting us to dance and experience a sense of unity and celebration. Woodcarvings adorned every corner, each piece a testament to the deep-rooted creativity and innovation that permeates these lands.

As the day drew to a close, we found ourselves back in the Sepik Spirit, reflecting on the wonders we had encountered. The boat transformed into a stage where conversations flowed, and memories were shared. With each laughter-filled conversation, new friendships were forged, connected by the shared experience of witnessing the resiliency and spirit of these remarkable communities.

The crescendo of our day was an exquisite dinner onboard the Sepik Spirit, a feast that ignited our taste buds and further deepened our appreciation for the cultural richness of this land. Delicacies from the region danced upon our palates, leaving a tantalizing impression. As nightfall descended, we retired to our comfortable cabins, grateful for the opportunity to spend another overnight on the Sepik Spirit. The gentle lullaby of the river became our soundtrack, lulling us into a peaceful slumber filled with dreams of the day's remarkable adventures. Tomorrow held even greater promises, but for now, we embraced the tranquility and beauty of the river, knowing



that the Sepik Spirit would continue to guide us on an unforgettable journey through Papua New Guinea's hidden treasures.

As we awakened from our slumber, the morning sunlight gently illuminated the meandering Sepik River, casting a golden hue on the water. It was yet another beautiful morning that promised new adventures on our extraordinary journey through Papua New Guinea. Stepping aboard the riverboat, our senses were immediately greeted by the aroma of freshly brewed coffee and the sound of sizzling bacon wafting from the onboard kitchen. Breakfast was served, and as we indulged in a delicious meal, we eagerly anticipated the day's itinerary. Our destination for the day was the Krosmeri river junction and the enchanting Blackwater Lakes. As the boat gracefully sailed through the water, we marveled at the vibrant greenery lining the riverbanks and the occasional glimpse of exotic wildlife that called this place home.



Along the way, we couldn't help but fall under the spell of the remote villages dotting the landscape. Each village was a portal into the daily lives of the Sepik people, offering us a chance to immerse ourselves in their customs and traditions. The hospitality of the locals was overwhelming, and we were warmly welcomed into their homes. The village visits were nothing short of captivating, as we were introduced to the remarkable artifacts and crafts that showcased the rich cultural heritage of the Sepik people. Intricately carved totems, exquisite masks, and vibrant paintings adorned the walls of their traditionally designed dwellings, reflecting the artistic prowess and deep-rooted spirituality of the community.

As the sun began to dip below the horizon, signaling the end of another remarkable day, we returned to the comfort of our riverboat. Evenings were reserved for relaxation and reflection, and dinner became a celebration of both the local delicacies and the camaraderie fostered among our fellow travelers. The rhythmic sounds of the river gently lulled us to sleep, providing a peaceful respite from the day's adventures. Dreams of encounters with diverse cultures, stunning landscapes, and remarkable wildlife danced in our minds as we slumbered, etching memories that would stay with us for a lifetime.

The journey through Papua New Guinea had been nothing short of extraordinary. Each day brought new discoveries, fostering a deeper appreciation for the beauty of this incredible country and its people. As we reflected on our adventure, a profound sense of gratitude overcame us. We were truly fortunate to have witnessed firsthand the vibrant tapestry of Papua New Guinea, and it was an experience we would cherish forever.

Our adventure continued with a sail back to the Karawari River, where we were once again captivated by the stunning beauty of our surroundings. The crystal-clear waters shimmered under the radiant sun, creating a picturesque scene that I knew would stay imprinted in my mind forever.

After bidding farewell to the tranquil Karawari River, we made our way to the airport for our flight to Mount Hagen. As we soared through the skies, I couldn't help but feel a tinge of excitement for the next leg of our journey. Mount Hagen, with its reputation for breathtaking landscapes and cultural richness, promised to be nothing short of extraordinary.

Touching down at the airport, we embarked on a scenic drive through the highlands gardens. The verdant landscapes unfolded before us like a vibrant tapestry, dotted with colorful blooms and lush foliage. Each passing mile offered a new burst of natural beauty that seemed to breathe life into our tired souls. Our destination, the enchanting Rondon Ridge Lodge, welcomed us with open arms. As we stepped foot on its

grounds, a sense of tranquility washed over us, instantly melting away any remnants of weariness. Nestled amidst the rolling hills, the lodge offered a panoramic view of the surrounding valleys and distant peaks. Checking in to our accommodations, the serenity of Rondon Ridge Lodge embraced us like an old friend. The cozy rooms, adorned with traditional touches and modern comforts, provided the perfect haven for relaxation and rejuvenation. It was as if time had slowed down in this remote paradise, allowing us to savor every precious moment. As the evening sun dipped below the horizon, we gathered on the lodge's terrace, indulging in a delicious meal crafted from locally sourced ingredients. The flavors danced on our tongues, complementing the exquisite setting that surrounded us. Here, in the heart of nature's embrace, we felt a deep sense of connection with the world around us.



Over the following days, we immersed ourselves in the wonders of Mount Hagen. We explored nearby villages, where the warm smiles of locals greeted us at every turn. We delved into the vibrant traditions and cultural tapestry that define this region, witnessing captivating ceremonies and experiencing the genuine hospitality of the people. Our time at Rondon Ridge Lodge was filled with unforgettable moments, from watching the mist-laden mountains come alive under the morning sun to hiking through lush trails that revealed hidden waterfalls and panoramic vistas. But amidst the grandeur of the landscapes, it was the tranquility and spiritual energy of this place that truly touched our souls.

As our journey drew to a close, we reluctantly bid farewell to Rondon Ridge Lodge, filled with gratitude for the memories it had gifted us. Mount Hagen had left an indelible mark on our hearts, reminding us of the immense beauty that lies off the beaten path. And as we made our way back home, we carried with us not only photographs and souvenirs, but also a renewed sense of wonder and a deeper appreciation for the enchanting corners of our world.

The crisp morning breeze greeted us as we stepped out onto the lodge's patio, ready for another day of exploration. Our filled bellies from a delicious breakfast energized us for the adventure that awaited. Today, we were about to immerse ourselves in the wonders of the natural world that surrounded us, thanks to a guided birding and nature walk along the enchanting nature trails.

As we ventured forth, it didn't take long for our senses to be captivated by the extraordinary diversity of flora and fauna that enveloped us. Vibrant orchids adorned moss-covered trees, creating an otherworldly ambiance. The calls of exotic birds filled the air, as if mother nature herself was orchestrating a symphony. Our knowledgeable guide enlightened us about the intricate interconnectedness of this unique ecology, leaving us in awe of its brilliance.

Returning to the lodge after our adventure, a tantalizing aroma greeted us. It was time for a well-deserved scrumptious dinner, a feast for both our taste buds and our hungry souls. The culinary mastery presented before us left us with a lingering appreciation for the rich flavors of the region. Satiated, we retired to our comfortable accommodations, feeling grateful for the peaceful overnight stay that awaited.



Dawn broke, and a new day brought the promise of an enthralling cultural experience. After a hearty breakfast, we embarked on a journey to the Rondon Ridge property, eagerly anticipating the captivating Tumbuna sing-sing



show. As we arrived, we were greeted with a visual spectacle that surpassed our wildest expectations. Tribes adorned with vibrant paint and donned in traditional clothing transformed before our eyes, radiating an undeniable sense of heritage and pride.



The rhythmic drumming and melodic voices filled the air, instantly transporting us into a different realm. The energy was infectious as each tribe showcased their ancestral roots in a synchronized display of traditional dance and song. We marveled at the intricate storytelling woven into every movement, each beat resonating with the essence of their culture. It was a captivating celebration, where reverence and jubilation coexisted harmoniously.

Returning to the lodge, we were welcomed back by the comforting embrace of its tranquil surroundings. A delectable dinner awaited us, showcasing the best of local cuisine and allowing us to savor the flavors of the land. The night unveiled a serene ambiance, as nature's symphony of chirping insects and rustling leaves lulled us into a deep slumber, filled with dreams of the extraordinary experiences we had encountered.

Our journey at Rondon Ridge had been nothing short of extraordinary. From the guided exploration of the breathtaking natural trails to the immersive cultural celebration of the Tumbuna sing-sing show, every moment had woven itself into the fabric of our memories. As we reflect on our time there, we cannot help but marvel at the unparalleled beauty of the area and the unique blend of nature and culture that permeated every aspect of our stay. Rondon Ridge truly captured our hearts and left an indelible mark on our souls.

Our journey in Papua New Guinea continued as we bid adieu to the serene Rondon Ridge Lodge and made our way to Kagamuga Airport. The transfer was smooth, and soon we found ourselves boarding a short flight to Port Moresby. The anticipation of exploring a new destination filled the air as we settled comfortably in our seats. Upon touching down in Port Moresby, we were warmly greeted by our local guide and transferred to our hotel, beaming with excitement for the day ahead. The aroma of a well-deserved lunch welcomed us, and we gladly indulged in the flavorful local cuisine, refueling our energy for the adventures to come.

After rejuvenating ourselves, we embarked on a tour of the Nature Park, a place renowned for its rich biodiversity. As we strolled through the park's lush pathways, we were captivated by the abundance of wildlife that called this place home. Vibrant birds of paradise displayed their colorful plumage, while tree kangaroos hopped gracefully from branch to branch. The park's collection of more than 500 species of orchids left us in awe of nature's artistry. Our knowledgeable guide shared fascinating facts about the flora and fauna, offering us a deeper understanding and appreciation of the region's unique ecosystem.

As the day transitioned into evening, we made our way to a cozy restaurant and savored a delightful dinner. The local flavors danced on our taste buds, a perfect blend of exotic spices and fresh ingredients. Over candlelight, we shared stories and laughter while relishing the flavors of Papua New Guinea.

With stomachs full and hearts content, we retreated to our hotel for a restful night. As we laid in our comfortable beds, surrounded by the sounds of the city settling into slumber, we couldn't help but reminisce about

the remarkable experiences we had witnessed throughout our journey. From the serenity of Rondon Ridge Lodge to the captivating wildlife of the Nature Park, each moment had contributed to an unforgettable adventure.

Tomorrow would hold further explorations, but for now, we drifted off to sleep, filled with gratitude for the day we had just experienced, eagerly awaiting what Papua New Guinea had in store for us next.



As the sun began to set on our remarkable journey through Papua New Guinea, we found ourselves engrossed in a final conversation, reflecting on the myriad experiences we had shared over the past few weeks. Soon, it would be time to bid farewell and make our way back to the United States, but our departure was merely physical. The memories we made and the stories we gathered would forever remain etched within our hearts.

This captivating voyage had touched our souls in ways we could never have anticipated. Papua New Guinea, with its rich natural beauty and enduring cultural heritage, had drawn us into its embrace from the very beginning. Exploring the Karawari River, a mystical waterway weaving through dense rainforests, provided us with a glimpse into the untouched wonders of nature. Witnessing the vibrant highlands gardens, bursting with a kaleidoscope of colors and fragrances, left us in awe of the profound connection between the people and their land. One of the highlights of our journey was undoubtedly the Tumbuna sing-sing show, a celebration of tradition and artistry. The rhythmic beats of the drums, the mesmerizing dance movements, and the intricate traditional costumes transported us to a different time, where ancient customs seamlessly merged with the present. Sharing in the joy and pride of the local communities, we felt a deep appreciation for the resilience and cultural richness of Papua New Guinea.

As we prepared to leave, there was a bittersweet sensation in the air. We knew we were saying goodbye to a place that had captured our hearts and left an indelible mark on our souls. Yet, we were also deeply grateful for the experiences we had encountered, the friendships we had forged, and the knowledge we had acquired.



Our trip to Papua New Guinea was more than just a vacation; it was an extraordinary adventure that had broadened our horizons and enriched our lives. The landscapes we had traversed, the encounters we had shared, and the immersion in the local traditions had left us with a profound appreciation for the diversity and beauty of our world.

As we made our way to the airport, we carried with us not just photographs and souvenirs, but a treasure trove of memories. These memories would serve as a constant reminder of the people we had met, the kindness we had encountered, and the unique essence of Papua New Guinea that had seeped into our very beings. Though physically leaving Papua New Guinea, our hearts would forever remain intertwined with this captivating land. The journey had come to a close, but the imprint it left upon us was eternal.

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