

Islands and Cultures of Papua New Guinea

From **10/02/2023**
to **20/02/2023**

Ship: **LE LAPÉROUSE**

From **Cairns**
to **Cairns**



This PONANT **all-new 11-day Expedition cruise** aboard *Le Lapérouse* will take you to discover the **wonders and ancestral tribes of Papua New Guinea**.

You will board your ship in **Cairns**. With its many colonial buildings, its picturesque port and its exceptional panorama over the surrounding natural environment, this city in the north-east of Australia is sure to win you over.

Le Lapérouse will then set sail for **Papua New Guinea**, a fascinating land that is home to no fewer than 700 ethnic groups within a highly diverse yet mainly unexplored, ecosystem.

Your call at **Tufi**, will undoubtedly be one of the highlights of your voyage. You will fall under the charm of this picturesque region, dubbed the "Scandinavia of the Tropics", with its deep fiords or locally known '**rias**' **formed through volcanic activity**. In this unique setting the local **Papuan tribes** will share their customs, beliefs and artwork with you.

You will then head north along the coast to **Madang**, nicknamed "the most beautiful city in the South Pacific. Within this attractive province with great geographical diversity, 170 different languages are spoken. Its festival showcases this richness and offers colourful exhibitions of "songs" interpreted by many of the cultural groups of the province. They include the mysterious Asaro Mudmen, who re-enact a warrior episode from their history wearing masks of mud, their bodies coated in clay.

In the heart of the **Solomon Sea** you will discover the splendid turquoise waters and white sand beaches of the uninhabited islands of the **Lusançay archipelago**. These **paradisiac coral islets** offer the promise of sumptuous moments of swimming and snorkelling to discover **fabulous seabeds**.

The encounters with the wildlife described above illustrate possible experiences only and cannot be guaranteed.



The information in this document is valid as of 06/07/2022

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YOUR STOPOVERS :

CAIRNS

Embarkation 10/02/2023 from 15:00 to 16:00

Departure 10/02/2023 at 17:00

Washed by the Coral Sea, the harbour town of **Cairns** is located on Australia's north-east coast. The seafront esplanade is a popular place for locals and visitors to walk, swim and picnic under the shade of swaying **palm trees**. The hills surrounding Cairns form the gateway to the **Queensland Rainforests**, proclaimed a UNESCO World Heritage site for their fauna and flora from the Gondwana era.

AT SEA

Arrival 11/02/2023

Departure 11/02/2023

During your day at sea, make the most of the many services and activities on board. Treat yourself to a moment of relaxation in the spa or stay in shape in the fitness centre. Depending on the season, let yourself be tempted by the swimming pool or a spot of sunbathing. This day without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, to do some shopping in the boutique or to meet the PONANT photographers in their dedicated space. As for lovers of the open sea, they will be able to visit the ship's upper deck to admire the spectacle of the waves and perhaps be lucky enough to observe marine species. A truly enchanted interlude, combining comfort, rest and entertainment.

ALOTAU

Arrival 12/02/2023

Departure 12/02/2023

Alotau became the provincial capital of Milne Bay in 1969 and today has a population of approximately 16,000. It serves as our port of entry into Papua New Guinea. Missionaries, miners, pearlers, Japanese and American warships have all contributed to the History of Milne Bay. Perhaps the most significant history surrounds the **Battle of Milne Bay**. It was here that the invading Japanese army suffered their first land defeat in the Pacific War in 1942. A memorial park at the battle site commemorates the event. The local people are warm and welcoming resulting in one of the most relaxed, secure and easy-going towns in Papua New Guinea. Join your expedition team for a tour taking in the town markets and **WWII memorials**.

TUFI

Arrival 13/02/2023

Departure 13/02/2023

Often described as the “Scandinavia of the tropics”. The spectacular **Tufi** “fiords” plunge over 90 metres deep and rise over 150 metres vertically above the water making for a spectacular backdrop. The traditional way of life plays an important role amongst the villagers with many living in isolated areas along the coast of **Cape Nelson** and on the slopes of **Mount Trafalgar**. The area is known for its production of **tapa cloth**, made from the bark of the paper mulberry tree and skilfully decorated. Guests will travel into the **ancient mangrove forests** of the Fiords to witness one of the most colourful **traditional performances** in all of Papua New Guinea. There is also the opportunity to swim and snorkel in the clear waters of **Kamoa Beach**.

TAMI ISLANDS

Arrival 14/02/2023

Departure 14/02/2023

The **Tami Islands** (Kalal, Wanam & Idjan) are a small group of uplifted **coral atolls**, with two main villages on the two larger islands and many smaller reefs and cays. In the centre is a beautiful, crystal clear **blue lagoon** with **abundant marine life** and **stunning coral formations**. The islands, located in Morobe Province not far from the town of Finschaffien are seldom-visited. Tami Islanders are **renowned artisans** and are most famous for their intricately decorated bowls.

MADANG

Arrival 15/02/2023

Departure 15/02/2023

Madang Township was once known as the “prettiest town in the South Pacific”. Its peninsula setting is a show-place of parks, waterways, luxuriant shade trees and sparkling tropical islands. The diverse geographical nature of Madang province is reflected in the **170 different languages** that are spoken. This diversity is showcased in the **Madang festival** with its colourful displays of “sing sings” performed by numerous cultural groups from across the Madang Province. Today, you will also be treated to a number of cultural performances showcasing the local **customs, costume and dance** of the coastal, midland and highland communities.

MOROBE HARBOUR

Arrival 16/02/2023

Departure 16/02/2023

Located at the Southern end of the picturesque Huon gulf lies **Morobe Harbour**, named for the **French explorer Jean-Michel Huon de Kermadec**. Here, in one of the remotest parts of the Papua New Guinea mainland, culture and tradition remain strong. Several villages are spread along the foreshore amid lush forests where locals can be seen fishing or tending to their communal crops. Guests are welcomed ashore by the proud and friendly local people who relish the opportunity to showcase their cultural heritage. You will be welcomed ashore with a ceremony and cultural performances followed by the opportunity to **witness traditional Morobe village life**.

LUSANCAY ISLANDS

Arrival 17/02/2023

Departure 17/02/2023

A Solomon Sea archipelago situated in the Milne Bay province in Papua New Guinea, the **Lusancay Islands** were named after the French navigator Pierre Carré de Lusançay, who participated in the D'Entrecasteaux expedition at the end of the 18th century. **Protected from human impact**, the Lusancay Islands are considered to be a **real paradise** of coral reefs and white-sand beaches, offering visitors magnificent panoramas. You will have the opportunity to swim and snorkel in the warm, tropical waters.

SAMARAI ISLAND

Arrival 18/02/2023

Departure 18/02/2023

The **Samarai islands** are located in the China Strait off the south-eastern tip of New Guinea. In its colonial heyday it was said to be one of the most beautiful places in the Pacific. The island was declared a National Historical Heritage Island by the government of Papua New Guinea in 2006. Just 3km west of Samarai, Kwato Island was once an educational center and home to a thriving boat building industry. Following the old tree-lined road to the top of the island reveals a stonewalled church that was built in 1937 and remains a testimony to the missionaries of a bygone era. Join your expedition team for a guided walk on Samarai and Kwato Islands. You also will enjoy swimming and snorkelling on nearby Deka Deka island.

AT SEA

Arrival 19/02/2023

Departure 19/02/2023

During your day at sea, make the most of the many services and activities on board. Treat yourself to a moment of relaxation in the spa or stay in shape in the fitness centre. Depending on the season, let yourself be tempted by the swimming pool or a spot of sunbathing. This day without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, to do some shopping in the boutique or to meet the PONANT photographers in their dedicated space. As for lovers of the open sea, they will be able to visit the ship's upper deck to admire the spectacle of the waves and perhaps be lucky enough to observe marine species. A truly enchanted interlude, combining comfort, rest and entertainment.

CAIRNS

Arrival 20/02/2023 early morning

Disembarkation 20/02/2023 at 08:00

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