



PAPUA NEW GUINEA:
New Britain Premium Extension – Bismarck Archipelago Birding

GENERAL INFORMATION



Purple-bellied Lory is one of the many species of colorful parrots to be found on this New Britain birding tour (photo Dejan Stojanovic).

PLEASE SEE SPECIFIC TOUR PAGES FOR INFORMATION ABOUT INDIVIDUAL PAPUA NEW GUINEA TOURS

SAFETY AND SECURITY NOTE

Papua New Guinea is a mind-boggling destination for birds, wildlife, and culture, because it is one of the world's last great, unexplored frontiers. However, frontiers can be risky places. The Australian government's travel advice provides a good outline of the types of risks in PNG but please check the advice of your own government.

Birding Ecotours exercises extreme care in planning and coordinating its tours, and we stay alert to and avoid areas of trouble. Birding Ecotours does require, however, that all birders on our PNG tours have a comprehensive travel insurance policy that specifically covers PNG. We consider it a less safe destination than most, and we need potential participants on our tours to this country to be aware of this and provide us with evidence of suitable insurance cover. We will provide each tour participant with a detailed tour information package prior to departure.

MEDICAL AND TRIP CANCELLATION INSURANCE

We highly recommend you purchase trip cancellation or interruption insurance in case you have to cancel due to illness or for any other reason, as tour payments are non-refundable as per our [terms and conditions](#). **We strongly advise you to get a plan that will fully cover your medical care as well as evacuation back to your home country.**

MEALS

The meal schedule and program will vary depending on your birding tour. We normally have a hotel breakfast as early as possible before heading out birding, or in some cases, we will have breakfast in the field if hotels cannot serve breakfast before our early morning departure. Lunch varies from hot meals in restaurants and lodges to box lunches which often include sandwiches, various snacks and a drink. The dinners are always hot meals in hotel/lodge restaurants or occasionally at a special restaurant in town where the food is highly recommended.

ACCOMMODATION

We always try to include the best accommodations available on our tours to provide our clients with a truly memorable holiday. In general, we use accommodations that we consider comfortable however not luxurious. In some more remote areas, the lodges provide fairly basic accommodation, with no other options available; in these areas, it is necessary to stay in these more basic lodges to ensure the best chance of finding our key target species. If the birding sites are nearby, we often rather stay in better accommodations in cities.

MONEY

Your holiday is almost an all-inclusive tour, so you would only need money to cover personal expenses such as drinks, laundry service, phone calls from the hotels, bar expenses, souvenirs and gifts you want to take home, or any non-mandatory gratuities you would like to give to any person who you think has provided exceptional service.

ATM machines are available in the larger cities and towns. Be aware that credit cards are not accepted everywhere, especially in remote locations.

HEALTH

Please refer to the Center for Disease Control website for health advice in Papua New Guinea.

Please also consult your physician or your local travel clinic for recommendations.

Please note that sometimes the dramatic change from your normal diet might result in some mild stomach or digestive abnormalities that may disappear in a short time. Only when this problem is followed by nausea and/or even fever, there may be a real diarrhea problem. Again, please ask your doctor what they recommend is best for you.

We strongly recommend drinking bottled water only, as will be pointed out to you by your tour leader.

We take care of the places where we go for meals and of the food we prepare in the field. We ask you to clean your hands using hand sanitizer.

Please let us know about any medical condition you have, such as diabetes, asthma, allergies, heart conditions, or knee problems, also including phobias or anything you think we should know. This will help us to take care of you and make suggestions as to what you may or may not appreciate to ensure an enjoyable trip.

INSECTS

Insects should not be a big problem over most of our route, but we recommend that you wear loose-fitting, long pants, long-sleeved shirts and keep insect repellent handy.

WHAT TO BRING

Please kindly read the general list of what to bring on a birding tour, [here](#).

The tour leader will usually have a spotting scope for the general use of all participants. However, we ask you to initially only have brief scope views of the birds in order to ensure everybody gets a good view, this is especially important for elusive species. Once the whole group has enjoyed scope views of the bird, you are of course welcome to enjoy a longer look. If you would like to enjoy longer scope views of species, you might consider bringing your own scope.

Please avoid nylon or plastic jackets and/or rainwear of similar materials. Noisy clothing is annoying to others and may frighten birds, especially when out owling.

TOUR VEHICLES & SEAT ROTATION

At Birding Ecotours, we employ a seat rotation policy on all our small-group set departure tours. We always want everybody to have equal opportunities throughout the tour and feel our seat rotation policy will help ensure this. Unfortunately motion sickness will not excuse you from our seat rotation policy and thus if you are prone to motion sickness you should ensure you consult a physician and bring the necessary medication. We also require that you are fit and flexible enough to maneuver yourself around and to the back of the vehicle. Tour participants should also be aware of what extra equipment they bring into the general seating area of the vehicle (rather than the luggage section) and should ensure they do not obstruct general thoroughfare or use up extra seats with camera equipment, tripods, etc. from a comfort and health and safety point of view.

