

# SICKLEBILL SAFARIS



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# PNG ENDEMIC FAMILIES

## ITINERARY

### 10TH - 15TH JULY 2020





# SICKLEBILL SAFARIS

## TOUR INFORMATION

**This short 6 day tour** is designed to target at least one member of all 7 endemic bird families of PNG - **Crested & Tit Berrypecker, Blue-capped Ifrit, Mottled Berryhunter, Wattled Ploughbill, Lesser Melampitta, Crested & Loria's Satinbird & Fan-tailed Berrypecker.** Visiting just two areas, both close to Mt Hagen this tour give you a good chance of cleaning up on the current New Guinea Bird families in one surgical strike.

This is not a general birding tour and is set up for specific results. Although a number of other birds, including several birds of paradise will undoubtedly be seen, the priorities are members of each of the endemic families. Because of this it is not recommended for the more general birder. However, the same destinations will give a very good short introduction to New Guinea birds if the itinerary is approached differently as this is a very bird rich area.

This area also has a number of options for exploring the fascinating cultural side of New Guinea.

**This tour starts** and ends in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.

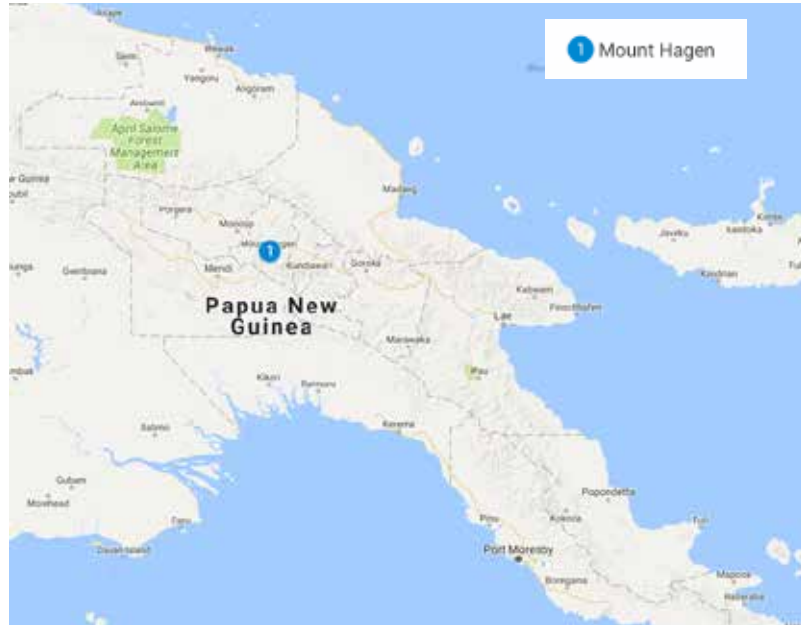
- **Costs will include:**

Accommodation, meals, airport transfers, transfers, transport, site fees, guide services, bird list.

- **Cost does not include:**

Flights, drinks, snacks, visas, laundry and items of a personal nature are not included.

*All flights are extra and costs will depend on the point of origin. We suggest that we book your flights from the point you get on the Air Niugini flight to PNG.*



Ribbon-tailed Astrapia



Rufous-naped Bellbird

### DIFFICULTY

Distances are not great but there is some rough walking up steep, and often muddy, tracks involved. Flights in and out of Mt Hagen can be affected by weather conditions especially during the wetter months of the year though rain can occur at any time. During the winter it can get very cold. Kumul Lodge is at 2600m!

### ACCOMMODATION

Kumul Lodge is a more upmarket than usual landowner lodges but still made of local materials. However, the rooms each have private bathrooms. It has some great feeders. You can sit on the verandah and comfortably watch birds of paradise! Rondon Ridge is a well appointed, comfortable, modern western style lodge.



## TOUR PRICE AND INFORMATION (GROUP OF 6)

**TOUR DURATION:**

5 Nights, 6 Days

**LAND COST:**

AUD\$4,595.00 per person Twin Share

**SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:**

AUD\$725.00 per person

**FLIGHTS (Approximately):**

From around AU\$1000.00 ex Brisbane. (Prices are not guaranteed until booked and paid for.)

**GROUP SIZE:**

6 Clients + Guide



Brehm's Tiger Parrot

## ABOUT YOUR GUIDE

**JUN MATSUI**

With a lifetime interest in wildlife in general Jun started bird guiding in 1993 when he worked as a volunteer ranger at the Hikarigaoka nature park in Tokyo, Japan. After working for the Japanese Environment Agency, where he collected and managed data and at several reserves, where he was involved in setting up environmental education projects and guiding as well as general management, he left Japan. He first arrived in Australia in 1999.

Spending a year traveling around and volunteering at various bird hotspots including Broome Bird Observatory he eventually took a job as a specialist bird tour guide for inbound Japanese groups, based in the tropical Far North Queensland town of Cairns. He has been involved in several bird publications and is the author of the very popular Japanese language field guide to the birds and wildlife of the Cairns/Atherton Tablelands area. He took the majority of photographs in the New Holland Photo Guide to Birds of the Wet Tropics.

Jun leads tours to Japan, Asia and around the Pacific region taking several tours to New Guinea each year. Jun joined Sicklebill Safaris in 2007.

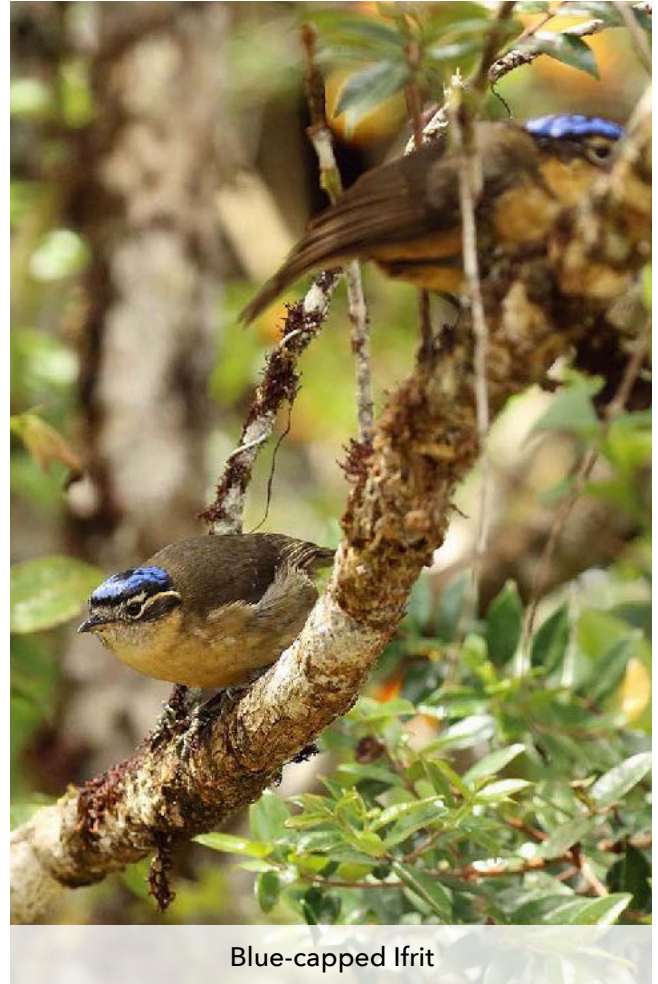
## ABOUT THE BIRDING AREAS

### KUMUL LODGE - ELEVATION BETWEEN 1700M & 2861M DEPENDING ON LOCATION

This area has many but not all of the birds found at the perhaps more famous Ambua plus a few different ones. It lacks the really high-altitude species such as **Lawes Parotia**, **Princess Stephanie's Bird of Paradise** and **Black Sicklebill** but has most of the other Tari goodies at a fraction of the cost. It is arguably the best place for photography in New Guinea as 2 species of **Birds of Paradise**, **Brown Sicklebill** and **Ribbon-tailed Astrapia** are regulars to the feeders there. Kumul Lodge is a comfortable landowner Lodge made from local materials but with en suite bathrooms.

### RONDON RIDGE - ELEVATION 2300M+

A comfortable lodge owned by the same company as own Ambua. There is some interesting birding around the area and feeders have been set up to attract **Birds of Paradise**. It is near Mt Hagen about 1 hours drive from Kumul. A hike up well maintained trails to higher elevations may produce goodies like **Black Sicklebill**.



Blue-capped Ifrit

## KEY SPECIES

Tit Berrypecker	Crested Berrypecker	Lesser Melampitta
Wattled Ploughbill	Crested Satinbird	Mottled Berryhunter
Blue-capped Ifrit	Fan-tailed Berrypecker	Spotted Berrypecker





## PNG ENDEMIC TOUR PLAN

### Day 1 - 10th July

Fly into Port Moresby. Meet with guide. Transfer to the domestic terminal staff at Kumul Lodge.

*Accommodation: Kumul Lodge*

*Meals included: Lunch & Dinner*

### Day 2 - 11th July

Birding the Kumul area. Members of all 7 endemic families can be seen in the Kumul area. They are not all easy but can be seen. The morning will be spent away from the lodge while the afternoon will concentrate on species closer to the lodge itself. **Lesser Melampitta, Blue-capped Ibrit, Tit and Crested Berry-pecker, Fan-tailed Berrypecker, Crested** and **Loria's Satinbird** are all possible here.

*Accommodation: Kumul Lodge*

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

### Day 3 - 12th July

Second full day in the Kumul area. Further exploration of the Murmur area if necessary while the afternoon can be spent in the lodge vicinity.

*Accommodation: Kumul Lodge*

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

### Day 4 - 13th July

After breakfast transfer to Rondon Ridge. Balance of the day will be spent walking the trails around the lodge. This is one of the best places to see **Mottled Berryhunter** and **Wattled Ploughbill** is usually easier here than at Kumul.

*Accommodation: Rondon Ridge*

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

### Day 5 - 14th July

Full day exploring the area around Rondon Ridge on foot.

*Accommodation: Rondon Ridge*

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

### Day 6 - 15th July

After breakfast transfer back to Mt Hagen area and take the morning flight back to Port Moresby. Here you will transfer to the international terminal and begin your journey home. It may be necessary, depending on your end destination, for some people to overnight in Port Moresby and we can arrange this for you if required.

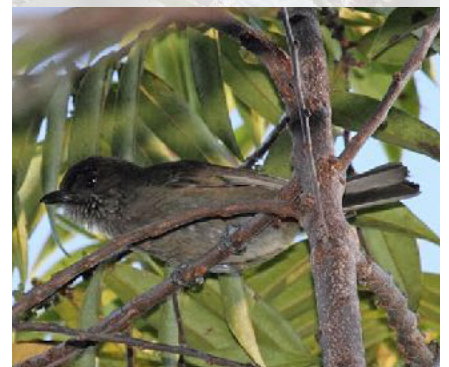
*Meals included: Breakfast*



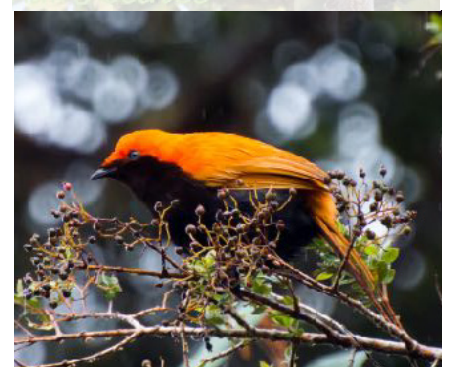
Crested Berrypecker



Wattled Ploughbill



Mottled Berryhunter



Crested Satinbird



## FURTHER USEFUL INFORMATION FOR PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND THIS TOUR

Further information about this tour will be sent to people once registration is confirmed. This includes:

- General information for travellers to Papua New Guinea
- Contact list
- Checklist of birds
- Trip report on completion

**Air Arrangements** - The flights are charged separately to the land or in this case sea, cost of the tour. It is best that we book your flight into Papua New Guinea and your internal flights as we can ensure everyone is on the same flight itinerary, can link international and domestic baggage allowances and if any problems arise will be able to get into your booking and sort them out quickly. You will be sent tickets and flight itineraries when they have been issued.

**Airport Transfers** - Within Papua New Guinea all transfers are covered by your tour costs. Transfers outside Papua New Guinea are not included.

**Smoking** - As most of our clients and all of our guides are non-smokers we would ask you to respect this and not to smoke in bedrooms, in vehicles or nearby on trails. We book non-smoking accommodation where it is available.

**Tour Inclusions and Exclusions** - The tour fee is in AUD and is based on twin occupancy. Cost includes accommodation, transfers, meals, site fees, guide services & bird list. Flights are given as a separate cost and this is not guaranteed until booked and paid for.

The fee does not include airport taxes, visa fees (you will need to check your visa requires for Indonesia), drinks, meals before starting the tour, optional tips to local drivers and guides, phone calls, laundry, or other items of a personal nature.

**Tour Registration** - To register for this tour, complete the enclosed Registration/Release and Indemnity form and return it with a **deposit of AU\$500.00** per person. If registering by phone, a

deposit must be received within fourteen days, or the space will be released. **Full payment** of the tour fee is due 120 days out from the tour start date.

**Cancellation Policy** - Refund of deposit and payment, less AU\$100 handling fee and airfares if already purchased, will be made if cancellation is received up to 120 days before departure. If cancellation occurs between 119 and 70 days before the departure date, 50% of the tour fee is refundable. Thereafter, all deposits and payments are not refundable as we will have to pay in advance for services.

This policy only applies to payments made to Sicklebill Safaris for the tour (and any services included in those fees). Airline tickets not included in the tour fee and purchased separately often carry penalties for cancellation or change or are sometimes totally non-refundable. Additionally, if you take out trip insurance the cost of the insurance is not refundable, so it is best to purchase the policy just prior to making full payment for the tour or at the time you purchase airline tickets, depending upon the airlines restrictions.

The right is reserved to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case full refund will constitute full settlement to the passenger. The right is reserved to substitute another guide for the original one. Where this is necessary, notification will be given to tour members, and they will have the right to cancel their participation and receive a full refund.

## FURTHER USEFUL INFORMATION FOR PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND THIS TOUR

### **Trip Cancellation and Emergency Insurance -**

We strongly recommend you consider purchasing comprehensive trip insurance, which includes trip cancellation, loss or damage to baggage and property, missed flights and also medical insurance (including a medical evacuation option), to cover your investment in case of injury or illness to you or your family prior to or during a trip. Because we must remit early (and substantial) tour deposits to our suppliers, we cannot offer any refund when cancellation occurs within 70 days of departure, and only a partial refund from 70 to 119 days prior to departure (see CANCELLATION POLICY).

When making a decision regarding health insurance you should consider that many foreign doctors and hospitals require payment in cash prior to providing service and that a medical evacuation to your home country may cost well in excess of AU\$50,000. Uninsured travellers who require medical care overseas often face extreme difficulties. When consulting with your insurer prior to your trip, please ascertain whether payment will be made to the overseas healthcare provider or whether you will be reimbursed later for expenses that you incur.

You are strongly advised to take out personal, health, baggage and holiday insurance before travelling. Please note Sicklebill Safaris/PNG Holidays does not accept responsibility or liability for any acts, omissions or defaults of service providers such as airlines, hotels, sightseeing, transfer, vehicle car hire services, or cruise lines and the like, whether negligent or otherwise, or for your acts, omissions, defaults, conduct, state of health, conditions or other circumstance or for any events beyond Sicklebill Safaris/PNG Holidays' control.

We will prepay your tour in advance and are happy to provide documentation for insurance purposes to prove we have paid for these services but will be unable to reimburse you ourselves. We will have paid the money you paid us out in good faith and will no longer have it at our disposal to refund you.

**Responsibility** - For and in consideration of the opportunity to participate in the tour, each tour participant and each parent or legal guardian of a tour participant who is under 18 agrees to release, indemnify, and hold harmless Sicklebill Safaris, its agents, servants, employees, shareholders, officers, directors, attorneys, and contractors as more fully set forth in the Release and Indemnity Agreement on the reverse side of the registration form. Sicklebill Safaris acts only as an agent for the passenger in regard to travel, whether by railroad, motorcar, motorcoach, boat, airplane, or other means, and assumes no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity caused by defect in such vehicles or for any reason whatsoever, including the acts, defaults, or bankruptcies of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. Sicklebill Safaris accepts no responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, or other causes. The tour participant shall bear all such losses and expenses. Sicklebill Safaris reserves the right to substitute hotels of a similar category for those indicated and to make any changes in the itinerary where deemed necessary or caused by changes in air schedules. Sicklebill Safaris reserves the right to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of any tour. Baggage is at owner's risk entirely.

Participants should be in good health and should consult a physician before undertaking a tour. If you have questions about the physical requirements of a tour, please contact our office for further information. Participants should prepare for the tour by reading the detailed itinerary, the information bulletin, and other pertinent matter provided by Sicklebill Safaris. Each participant is responsible for bringing appropriate clothing and equipment as recommended in our bulletins.

## **FURTHER USEFUL INFORMATION FOR PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND THIS TOUR**

THE RECEIPT OF YOUR TOUR DEPOSIT SHALL BE DEEMED TO BE CONSENT TO THE ABOVE CONDITIONS. EACH TOUR PARTICIPANT AND EACH PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF A TOUR PARTICIPANT WHO IS UNDER 18 SHALL SIGN AND DELIVER THE RELEASE AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION.