

PAPUA NEW GUINEA: SEPIK TRADITIONS AND ISLAND MYSTERIES

Welcome to your North Coast expedition--where the mighty Sepik River meets traditional island cultures, and every village preserves customs unchanged for millennia. Over the next 11 days, you'll navigate from the mouth of Papua New Guinea's greatest river to volcanic islands where ancient traditions thrive in communities largely untouched by outside influence. This isn't cultural observation--you'll participate in the famous dragon dance at Kopar village where crocodiles are worshipped as water spirits, witness elaborate bilum weaving on fertile Karkar Island, and join vibrant sing-sing ceremonies on remote islands speaking languages found nowhere else on Earth. Each morning brings new cultural immersion as we explore coastlines where islanders maintain traditional practices across dramatically different environments. You'll paddle dugout canoes through maze-like wetland systems, snorkel above Japanese shipwrecks from WWII battles, and join traditional welcome ceremonies featuring impressive dragon-like figures crafted from pandanus branches and shells. From tracking through traditional stilt villages where boys become men through ancient ceremonies to swimming pristine waters around islands where indigenous languages blend ancient customs with contemporary aspirations, every encounter connects you with communities whose genuine warmth transforms strangers into extended family. Our small expedition community of just 30 guests ensures authentic cultural exchanges rather than staged performances, whether you're sharing meals in village houses or learning traditional fishing techniques passed through countless generations. This is cultural immersion where ancient rivers meet modern adventure: respectful, genuine, and utterly transformative. Your North Coast cultural journey begins the moment we



depart Madang.

ITINERARY

Day 1 Madang Your Cultural Gateway

Board Paspaley Pearl in the "Pearl of the South Pacific," where volcanic islands dot the natural harbour. Meet fellow adventurers while our expedition team prepares you for cultural encounters along Papua New Guinea's dynamic northern coastline featuring traditional communities maintaining ancient customs.

Day 2 Kopar Village, Sepik River - Dragon Dances and Water Spirits

Experience daily life at Papua New Guinea's mightiest river mouth, where traditional stilt houses stand over water and crocodiles are worshipped as water spirits. Witness the famous



"dragon dance" and observe village life in this important trading point between river communities and coastal regions.

Day 3 Murik Lakes - Dugout Canoes and Wetland Communities

Navigate maze-like wetland systems by traditional dugout canoes where the Murik people developed unique cultural practices centred around their aquatic environment. Participate in traditional fishing methods while learning how community identities reflect intimate relationships with distinctive wetland environments.

Day 4 Ali Island - Rare Visits and Vibrant Ceremonies

Connect with rarely visited island communities where the indigenous Yakamul language is spoken. Experience vibrant sing-sing ceremonies featuring traditional costumes and rhythmic dances, participating in daily activities while learning how isolated communities balance cultural preservation with contemporary aspirations.

Day 5 Tarawai/Walis Islands - Catholic Traditions and Evergreen Forests

Experience traditional welcome ceremonies on neighbouring islands where 1,500 predominantly Catholic Melanesian residents maintain distinctive cultural practices in an environment of lush evergreen forests. Join coastal exploration walks, participate in fishing activities, and enjoy swimming opportunities in pristine waters surrounding these friendly communities.

Day 6 Watam Village Dragon Processions and Elaborate Ceremonies

Witness one of Papua New Guinea's most elaborate welcome ceremonies featuring impressive dragon-like figures made from pandanus branches, feathers, and shells. Learn how the Watam people maintain distinctive traditions while adapting Protestant Christianity, creating fascinating examples of cultural continuity and adaptation.

Day 7 Awar Village, Hansa Bay WWII Wrecks and Traditional Communities

Experience traditional village ceremonies before snorkelling Japanese shipwrecks from WWII naval operations. Discover how communities maintaining Awar language traditions balance cultural heritage with historical influences. Explore approximately 35 Japanese WWII wrecks scattered throughout this historically significant coastal inlet.

Day 8 Karkar Island Volcanic Fertility and Traditional Bilum Weaving

Witness traditional bilum weaving on this fertile volcanic island where local people live among nested summit calderas. Learn how bilum-making represents cultural initiation for young women, with traditional patterns representing garden plots and pathways while understanding the volcanic soil's agricultural significance.

Day 9 Nip Island, Cape Gloucester Pristine Waters and Historic Battlefields

Explore uninhabited islands offshore from this historic WWII battlefield where American forces landed in 1943. Swim and snorkel pristine beaches and coral reefs while learning how this remote rainforest-covered peninsula became a crucial Pacific War strategic position during Operation Cartwheel.

DAy 10 Tuam Island Cultural Exchanges and Traditional Performances



Experience traditional music and dance performances showcasing exchanges between mainland and archipelago traditions. Despite its modest 5-kilometre length, this culturally rich island reflects Papua New Guinea's extraordinary diversity through ceremonies and stories shared by welcoming families maintaining distinct cultural identities.

Day 11 Madang Cultural Crossroads Conclusion

Conclude your cultural journey carrying memories of diverse encounters from river mouths to volcanic islands. From dragon dances to bilum weaving, WWII wrecks to village ceremonies, your northern coastline exploration will reveal Papua New Guinea's remarkable cultural diversity and transformative community connections.

Please note:

Itineraries are subject to change.



YOUR SHIP: PASPALEY PEARL

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VESSEL TYPE:

LENGTH:

PASSENGER CAPACITY:

BUILT/REFURBISHED:

PASPALEY PEARL marks a milestone in the development of boutique expedition travel, offering a benchmark-setting standard of excellence in the Asia Pacific region. As a modern boutique expedition vessel in the Kimberley featuring private balconies, we have the ability of reaching exotic destinations previously inaccessible by larger vessels. You're invited to ignite your sense of discovery, all whilst travelling in comfort and safety that has been designed to create the smallest possible footprint, with a philosophy of empowering local people and creating ambassadors for the destinations visited. Designed to feel like your home away from home Marrying PASPALEY's heritage of over 80 years in the Kimberley and Northern Australia with PONANT's 35-year history of luxury expedition travel, PASPALEY PEARL emerges as the embodiment of comfort and adventure. Featuring 15 staterooms and suites and hosting a maximum of 30 guests per voyage, PASPALEY PEARL emerges as the newest and only boutique expedition motor yacht in the Kimberley with private balconies. The perfect place to relax while exploring _Main Dining, Lounge and Bar_ Nestled on the Ocean Deck is our main dining area, lounge, and bar. As our skilled chefs craft your locally-inspired dinner, take a moment for a pre-dinner drink before being spoiled with the finest produce Australia has to offer. If you're interested in exploring some of PASPALEY's exquisite offerings, you'll be delighted by their showcase of the world's most beautiful pearls, available for purchase as a cherished memento of your time on board. _Outdoor Dining, Lounge and Bar_ When journeying through the tropics, immersing yourself in the outdoors becomes essential. Indulge in breakfast and lunch daily within a relaxed yet refined setting. With two expansive dining tables and abundant lounges, relish the idea of dining amidst the natural surroundings you explore. Craving a refreshing drink after a day of exploration? Our friendly staff at the Outdoor Bar have you covered. The Outdoor Lounge doubles as the perfect space for afternoon briefings with your expedition team, ensuring you receive all the information needed for the following day's adventure. _Sun Deck Lounge and Jacuzzi_ Bask in the sunshine on the Sun Deck, furnished with sun beds, lounges, and an 8-person jacuzzi. Whether you prefer reading a book under the shelter of the protective shade cloth or engaging in conversations with newfound friends, the Sun Deck promises a haven of pure relaxation. _Sunset Lounge_ Located ahead of the bridge, you can savour panoramic views rivaling those of the captain at the Sunset Lounge. Order a drink from one of the bars downstairs and relax as you witness some of the most breathtaking sunsets you've





ever seen.

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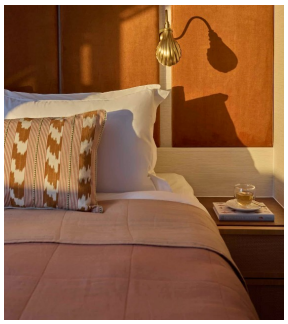
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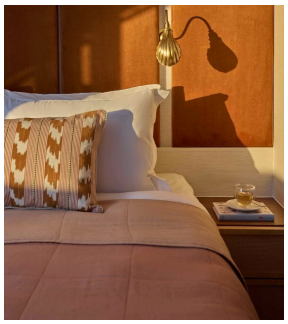


INSIDE YOUR SHIP

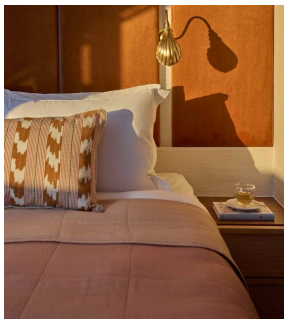
Horizon Suite



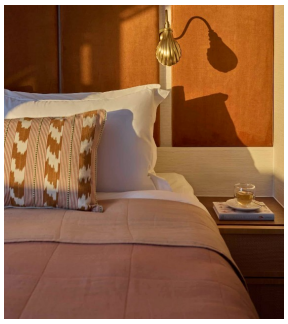
Ocean Double Stateroom



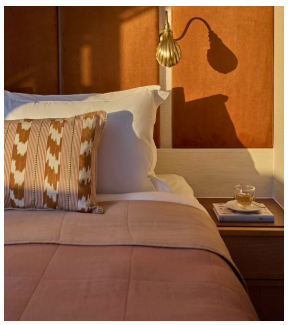
Ocean Stateroom



Ocean Twin Stateroom



Pearl Suite





PRICING

18-Nov-2026 to 28-Nov-2026

Ocean Double Stateroom	**£8748 GBP pp**
Ocean Twin Stateroom	**£9248 GBP pp**
Horizon Suite	**£11998 GBP pp**
Pearl Suite	**£14498 GBP pp**
Ocean Stateroom	**£9998 GBP pp**