

TRAVEL Papua

Fact Sheet





Dear Travellers,

We would like to provide you with some information about Papua and all the important topics which should be taken into account when you book a tour with Travel Papua and before your arrival to Papua. Please read this document carefully.

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Welcome to Papua!

Section 1: Quick facts about Papua

Section 1.1: New Guinea Island

New Guinea Island is divided into two parts; Indonesian Papua on the West side of the island and Papua New Guinea on the East side. The Indonesian part of the island consists of 6 provinces and is also known as West - Papua. We offer tours in this part of New Guinea and will refer to it as just 'Papua' in this document. New Guinea is the second biggest island in the world that lies directly north of Australia. It belongs to the Pacific Melanesian island group. The indigenous Papuans have a dark skin and frizzy hair. They became the minority of their island, due to transmigration programs of the Indonesian government. There is a huge cultural diversity within Papua and over 250 different languages are spoken. However, Bahasa Indonesia is the official language and is most commonly spoken in the cities. Very few people speak English.

Section 1.2: Religion

88% of Indonesia is Muslim and 10% is Christian. In Papua, 75% of the population is Christian and less than 25% Muslim. Religion in Indonesia is a very important part of daily life. Not having a religion or not believing is out of question.

Section 1.3: Wildlife

Papuan wildlife is very different from that of the rest of Indonesia. Besides crocodiles and endemic bird species, such as those belonging to the group of the Birds of Paradise, you can find tree kangaroos, wallabies, bandicoots, cuscuses and possums. Papua has still a lot of primary forest. Rivers and high mountains make natural boundaries between villages and tribes. Infrastructures outside the cities is poorly developed and the wild environment makes traveling in Papua difficult. Unfortunately, reality tells us that illegal logging is an increasing threat to wildlife.





Section 1.4: Economy



In remote areas of Papua, education and healthcare is often not well organised. Facilities are concentrated in cities and are difficult to reach for many people. The villages and countryside are among the poorest of Indonesia, whereas the living standards in cities have been rising. Many jobs in cities are occupied by immigrants from outside Papua leaving few opportunities for the indigenous Papuans. This is one of the reasons why Travel Papua works directly with Papuans and local communities as much as possible.

Section 2: Tourism Services in Papua

Tourism is still in its infancy here in Papua. Although tourism in Papua already exists for over 35 years, there has been little development in the quality of services provided. Most local people who work in the tourism industry e.g. at the local homestays, lodges or villages have a low education, have never travelled outside their city or village and therefore lack the understanding of the expectations from western travellers. It means you, as a world traveller need to be patient and understanding to their situation. Following we will tell you more about the quality of service you can expect.

Section 2.1: The Role of Travel Papua

We love Papua for its beautiful nature, culture, wildlife and people. We love the pureness of the island. From tropical forests inhabiting endemic species to the cold nights in the mountains. From intriguing tribes to colourful corals in the ocean. Papua is a destination on its own and we want you to see it! Our travellers travel easily up to 3 or 4 weeks around Papua. We have a very broad network all over Papua and can therefore facilitate your travels. We believe that we offer the best services available on the island. We organise your

accommodation, transportation, local guides and so on. We are also your back – up team, it means we take direct action in case trouble occurs. If you have any problems during your trip, please contact us **directly** through our emergency number (and not afterwards) so that we can help and assist you accordingly and find a solution right away. Often, problems can be easily solved on location, and it would be a shame if we weren't aware of them.



Section 2.2: Guide Services

All guides of Travel Papua are certified guides and licensed under the Indonesian government and law. Despite their certification we see that the level of guiding remains lower comparing to other parts of Indonesia let alone internationally. Most of our guides speak average English. They master the English language for more or less 60%. Only a few of them speak English fluently. For enhanced guiding standards, we can arrange for a guide from Java or Bali, but they would need to be flown to Papua and still work alongside a local guide. Papua has a strict policy that requires tourists and travelers to be accompanied by



local guides on location. Traveling with an outside guide alone is not permitted, and this will result in higher costs. Please note that there is a shortage of guides across Papua, and guide services are limited..

Section 2.3: Accommodations and Hygiene

When you travel to worlds' most remote place you want to stay in the best accommodation possible. We carefully select them personally, but that does not guarantee that they offer standard services you would expect. There are good hotels in the bigger cities but it is common that even the best ones can have its deficiencies. If you travel around Papua you will likely experience staying in homestays, lodges or local houses. In general, these kind of accommodation in Papua are not comparable to those in other parts of Indonesia and other Asian countries and therefore are below western standards. Most of them provide mattresses on the floor and shared locally styled bathrooms. Unfortunately, the lack of hygiene and maintenance is a common issue. If you encounter this, please discuss it with your guide, who can instruct the local people to clean the area. If the situation is particularly bad and unacceptable, don't hesitate to contact our office for assistance. In some cases, we will advise you to bring your own sheets/ sleeping bag and a sleeping pad for your own comfort. Communication in these locations can be a big challenge because the staff do not speak English, but when you travel with a guide it becomes easier.



Section 2.4: Communication

Few people speak English. Resorts and big hotels could may have staff that speak English, but otherwise, the only person that you can count on that speaks (average) English will be your guide. And of course, your back-up team in the office or Travel Papua speaks the language. An exception to this are the resorts in Raja Ampat, where staff members speak English

Section 2.5: Birding Essentials

Travel Papua offers birding tours in Papua since 2016, specializing in the region's prime birdwatching spots. We handle all logistics and challenges, ensuring a smooth experience. However, due to the lack of professional birding guides in Papua, we recommend bringing your own expert for an enhanced birding adventure.

Key points to note:

- We see an increasing interest in birding trips in Papua since 2017. At each birding location you will be accompanied by our basic English-speaking guide plus a local guide familiar with the area's birdlife and jungle terrain. The local guides, having grown up in the forest, possessing intimate knowledge of bird species and wildlife locations, but they lack the experience of a professional birding guide. They learn through self-study and most have only finished primary school.
- Due to the lack of professional birding guides in Papua, we recommend bringing your own expert for an enhanced birding adventure
- There is a shortage of birding location available and a shortage of local guides in general in Papua. There is a chance that you visit a bird display with other birdwatchers staying at the same time.
- Birding here can be tough. The rainforest is thick, paths can be tricky, and the weather is unpredictable. Birds of Paradise will not display when it rains. They need the sun to reflect their beautiful feathers and colors.
- The Birds of Paradise have a fixed display ground where they 'perform' twice a day (sunrise and late afternoon) when weather conditions are good. Some species play high in the tree tops (e.g., Lesser, Twelve-Wired, Red and King Bird of Paradise) while other species play on ground level (e.g. Wilson, Magnificent, Superb Bird of Paradise and Western Parotia). You will observe the ones that display high in the trees, from the ground. In several birding locations like Nimbokrang and Malasigi the local people have built a tower to observe the birds.

The ones that display on ground level will be observed by hiding in a blind. A blind is a small, simple tent with holes from where you can view the birds. You will hide in this blind and observe the birds without disturbing them.

- Sightseeing of birds and other wildlife cannot be guaranteed.
- Photographing birds is even more challenging and we recommend spending a minimum of 1 week in 1 birding destination if you are a fanatic photographer and want to increase your chances of capturing the best images. If seeing the birds only is your main objective, then a minimum of 4 days is recommended at each birding location to look for the main icons. In general birding trips in Papua run for 3 – 4 weeks.
- Birding equipment like binoculars and birding guide books are not provided during the tours, so don't forget to bring your own. Local guides can assist in identifying the bird species while looking at the pictures. Your English speaking guide will help you with translations.
- For better birding guiding standards, we advise you to bring your own expert guide or ornithologist.

Papua is undoubtedly one of the finest birding destinations, where every moment presents the opportunity to witness nature's most extraordinary creations.



Section 2.6: Diving and Snorkeling

Travel Papua offers a wide variety of diving and snorkeling experiences. To ensure the highest quality and safety for our travelers, we primarily offer diving programs through resort bookings. These resorts are carefully selected by Travel Papua, with certified dive instructors and/or affiliation with PADI/SSI standards

Diving & Snorkelling with Homestay Bookings:

There are over 100 homestays in Raja Ampat, and we carefully select those with access to PADI/SSI certified dive centers that can arrange diving excursions on-site. This ensures higher safety standards and more diving options for our guests. Please note that we cannot arrange diving in advance for homestay stays; travelers should book diving directly with the homestay upon arrival.

Section 3: Practical Information



Section 3.1: Visa and Travel Permit

VISA:

To save time at upon arrival in Indonesia, consider to apply for the your Visa on Arrival (B1 – Tourist Visa on Arrival) online. Please check with the Indonesian embassy in your passport country to determine if you are eligible for this visa. It cost Rp. 500.000 (subject to change) and is valid for 30 days. The Visa on Arrival can get extended once, with 30 days, at a local Immigration Office in Indonesia. To apply for the E-visa please follow the instruction on the official E-visa website for Indonesia: <https://evisa.imigrasi.go.id/>

Please note: Make sure you have your onward or return ticket printed out. This is compulsory and can be asked for by immigration authorities.

TRAVEL PERMIT

When you travel to Wamena, Korowai, Asmat and other more remote area in Papua, it is compulsory to have a so called ‘Surat Jalan’ – Travel Permit. For other parts in Papua e.g Arfak, Manowkari, Sorong, Raja Ampat you do not need a Travel Permit. In case you need a travel permit, it will be arranged by Travel Papua, at the local police office in town. This service is included in your travel package. Please send us the following documents via e-mail or WhatsApp before your arrival in Papua, so that your Travel Permits will be ready upon your arrival:

- 2 passport size photos
- Copy of your passport
- Copy of your visa

Section 3.2: Currency, Monetary and Financial Tips

The official currency in Indonesia is the Indonesian Rupiah (RP. or IDR.). Check the current exchange rate before and upon arrival.

- Credit card payments are (mostly) possible in bigger hotels in town throughout Papua and in resorts in Raja Ampat

- Always prepare to have cash with you in the local currency.
- Not all ATM'S accept foreign debit bank cards. We recommend BNI-Bank or BCA-Bank because they accept most international cards. These are only available in the bigger cities like; Wamena, Jayapura, Sorong, Manokwari, Merauke and Sentani.
- It is not possible to exchange your foreign currency in Papua, unless you go to an official bank. However, the exchange rate will be very poor so we recommend to withdraw cash from the ATM machines instead.
- When using some ATM machines, your bank card might come out in the end of the transaction. So do not forget to take your card!
- The maximum amount of money you are able to withdraw is between Rp 1.000.000 and Rp 2.000.000 depending on the machine. However, you can get more money out by making multiple transactions.
- In addition, sometimes people struggle to give you change-when you pay with a 50.000 note or bigger. Please try to get smaller notes when paying e.g. in supermarkets/hotels.
- Many areas in Papua are designated as conservation zones, such as national parks and marine sanctuaries. These areas often require an entry fee to support conservation efforts.

Before your trip, carefully review the "inclusions" and "exclusions" section of your travel package. This will help you determine if conservation or marine park fees are already included in the cost. If not, be prepared to pay these fees directly at the entrance to the designated areas.

++ Important note for Wamena Prepare small money (Rp 5.000 – Rp 20.000) for taking pictures of local people during your travels in Wamena. You pay between Rp. 10.000 – Rp. 20.000 per picture (per 'click'). Before photographing, always discuss with your guide when and how to pay the small fee and try to negotiate beforehand.

Valuables Travel Papua cannot be hold responsible for any valuables lost or damaged during the trip.

Tipping In a country where many people have an income of less than 200 euros per month, tipping for good service is very much appreciated. People working in the hospitality business are also getting more and more used to this custom. For example,

- You can tip a hotel porter carrying your bag Rp.10.000-20.000 / bag. If you arrange a porter for example in the airports or harbours, you have to agree on the price beforehand (Usually Rp30,000 - Rp. 50,000 per bag).

- At a restaurant or a hotel 5-10% of the bill, unless there is already a Service Charge included to your bill
- Also a guide and a driver will be happy with a little extra. A reasonable amount for a driver is Rp. 75.000 – 100.000 / day and for a guide around Rp. 100.000 / day.

Please note that these are general guidelines for tipping amounts. The decision to tip and the amount should reflect your satisfaction with the service provided.

Section 3.3: **Payment and Cancellation Policy**

Payment

- The deposit of the booking is 25% of the total amount with a minimum of € 250
- The deposit must be made within 10 days of receiving the invoice on the IDR account of Travel Papua.
- The remaining payment has to be transferred, 45 days prior to arrival, on the IDR account of Travel Papua.
- If the traveller departs within 45 days, the entire bill has to be paid after receiving the invoice.

Cancellation:

- Cancellation until 2 months before the start of the trip, the cancellation fee will cost 25% from the whole payment.
- Cancellation from 2 months until the 30th day before the start of the trip, the cancellation fee will cost 50% from the whole payment.
- * Cancellation on the 30th day until the 14th day before the start of the trip, the cancellation fee will cost 75% from the whole payment.
- * Cancellation on the 14th day until the day of the start of the trip, the cancellation fee will cost the whole payment.

Cancellation additional note:

In case a travel ban is in place due to Pandemic related travel restrictions, reschedule the booking is possible within the next 12 months from the original travel date. Confirmation is subject to availability. The voucher is refundable after the expiring date if it has not been used minus € 50 euro admin charge and bank transfer costs

Section 3.4: Health and Medical Issues

Medical care in Papua is moderate in the bigger cities, but not available when traveling to remote areas. However here are some tips to reduce the chances of getting sick. Please consult the health service in your country 6 to 8 weeks before departure in order to get yourself well informed on the possible health risks when traveling to Papua. Vaccinations for Hepatitis A, DTP and Typhoid as well as Malaria prophylaxis are strongly recommended. There is no prophylaxis against the Dengue fever so pre-caution is important. We recommend you to bring mosquito repellent with a high concentration of DEET from your home country.

- Cover your legs and arms with long clothing, especially during sunrise and sunset when mosquitos are most active. Always use mosquito repellent. Malaria and Dengue are common in Papua
- Remember to drink enough water. This is essential in the tropics!
- Protect your skin from the sun and use a sufficient sunscreen, with a high SPF. The sun is much stronger as Papua is located near the equator
- Take care of your personal hygiene and wash your hands regularly Never drink tap water, always buy bottled drinking water
- Try to avoid ice in your drinks. It is easy to catch diarrhoea in Papua.
- Listen to the instructions of the guide and don't be afraid to ask for help



Section 3:5. Cultural differences

Leave positives thoughts behind and handle situations in Papua with a respectful approach.
Practice the local manners:

- Always ask before taking a picture
- Say no with a smile
- Communications often goes indirectly and humbleness is the key word to many things
- 'yes' is a common word to use here, even if they mean no. So always make sure if they mean yes, yes or yes.
- Take off your shoes whenever you enter someone's room or house
- Do not sniff on your food, the people will compare this with dogs or pigs
- Always show respect to elders and official authorities

- Use only your right hand to take or give something, to wave or to eat with. Using your left hand is a no-go
- When we closely walk pass a group of sitting people, always bend a bit forward to show our respect and excuse ourselves that we get ahead of them

Considering donations If you would like to bring donations or presents to the villagers, it is the best to give the items to the guide and who will pass them on to the parents/head of the village. It is better when people get something from their own people, instead of a 'rich tourist'. Unfortunately, a 'rich tourist' is the way many Papuans see our travellers and we kindly ask you to not promote that image.



Dress code

Proper dressing is appreciated. It is respectful to have shirts covering your shoulders and trousers as well as skirts that are not too short. Locals wear clothing at the beaches as well. Look at how a local dresses to see what is appropriate. Cotton clothes are more comfortable to wear in a hot weather. A jacket or a sweater can be useful when travelling in higher altitudes e.g. to Arfak or the Baliem Valley. When you stay in a place for more than one night, you may check if your laundry can be done by using a local laundry service.

Bargaining It is possible to bargain in the local markets, but the habit is not as common as in other parts of Indonesia. It is difficult to indicate how much you should to bargain from the product. You should decide on a price that is reasonable for you and the seller. Most important is to keep smiling while bargaining.

Section 3:6. Good to Know

Electricity Indonesia and so Papua has a standard voltage of 230 V and the frequency is 50 Hz. You can use your electric appliances in Indonesia, if the standard voltage in your country is in between **220 - 240 V**. In Papua the power plugs and sockets are of type C and F. C is also known as the standard “Euro” plug.

Power shut downs are common all over Papua. Most hotels have a generator. Homestays and local houses often only work with generators because they have no access to electricity yet. Take into account that generators can break down or are not working properly.



Jam Karet or the Elastically Time Locals call it; Jam Karet. The elastically time. What is a 10 minutes' drive for the Papuan, is a 30 minutes' drive for Westerners. If you have an appointment and someone is not there, we suggest you to call after 10 minutes waiting. Your back-up team in the office is also always available and stand-by to assist you.



Communication via Internet or mail If your mobile phone company offers international roaming in Indonesia, you can use your own data. However, high fees will most likely apply. Some hotels in the cities offer a free Wi-Fi connection but the network and data coverage can be weak and it is usual that the data operates slower. Few hotels e.g. in Wamena and Nabire offer paid WI-FI. When travelling to the more remote area internet is limited or not available. Purchasing an e-sim is probably the best way to go.

Business hours Banks, post- and public offices are usually open from Mon - Fri from 08.00 am – 03.00 pm. Shops are usually open daily until 9PM or 10PM. Some shops close their doors for siesta in the afternoon and on Sunday most shops are closed and will only open in the afternoon. Museums are closed on Sunday. Public holidays

Food and Restaurants Rice, noodles, beef, chicken and fish are local dishes here in Papua. Vegetarians may enjoy soya dishes like tofu and tempe. When you stay in homestays, local houses or go on a trekking the meals are simple. Our travellers have recommended to bring the following when you spend the nights in remote places:
<https://drytech.no/en/>



Services in local restaurants is generally really slow compared to western standards. If you want to skip the waiting, we recommend you to order your meals beforehand and state the time you would like to have the dinner ready. However, this tactic does not guarantee your food will be there at the specific time, but at least you have saved some time.

Time differences Papua time is on GMT +9 hours (Greenwich Mean Time/ Universal Time Coordinated). Bali is on GMT +8 hours and Sumatra, Java and Kalimantan are on GMT +7 hours.

Taxis In several bigger cities in Papua e.g Jayapura, Manokwari and Sorong you can make use of the MAXIM application where you can order a car or motorbike transfer. GOJEK and GRAB may be available limited. Public transportation is also called 'taxi'. These are hop on / hop off minibuses that drive a certain route. You can identify each direction and route from a different colour of the mini-bus or a number written on the minibus. In addition, there is also the motorbike taxi called "ojek", recognizable for their helmet with an 'ojek registration number'. If taking public transportation is too adventurous for you, your hotel can often arrange a private drop off or pick up to your desired destination.

Section 3.7: Travelling to Raja Ampat

Reaching Raja Ampat can present some logistical challenges. Here's a breakdown of transportation options:

Air Travel: Fly into Sorong Airport (SOQ).

Travel Papua provides private car transfers from the airport to Sorong harbor as part of our packages.

Travel to Waisai:

- **Public Transfer:** Utilize the twice-daily public fast ferry from Sorong Harbor to Waisai Harbor in Raja Ampat (approximately 2-hour journey). Shared longboat transfers or speedboat are then available from Waisai Harbor to your chosen accommodation.
- **Private Transfer:** Private boat transfers from Sorong directly to a homestay or resort in Raja Ampat cost starting from EUR 1,000 per way per boat.

Important Considerations:

Transfer duration and cost will vary based on the distance to your destination. Please note that boat transportation in Raja Ampat is highly dependent on weather and sea conditions, which may affect availability.

Due to limited transportation and accommodation options—especially during peak season—we strongly recommend making your travel plans and securing your bookings as early as possible. A deposit is required to confirm all reservations.

Additionally, all visitors to Raja Ampat are required to pay the Marine Park Fee. The current fee is IDR 700,000 (subject to change) and can be paid by debit or credit card at the information desk at Waisai Port.



Section 3.8: What to bring

In the bigger cities, like Jayapura, Manokwari and Sorong, you can find personal items such as toothpaste or shampoo, in the supermarkets in town. However, there are certain necessities we recommend you to bring from your home country:

- Torch



- Power bank
- Extra batteries
- Towel
- Mosquito Net
- Mosquito repellent
- Sunblock (30 to 50 SPF)
- Rain clothing (you are in the tropics so rain can fall any time!)
- Long sleeves and trousers for the pre-caution of mosquitos
- Personal medication and malaria prophylaxis
- Snorkelling equipment + water shoes
- Sleeping pad & Sleeping bag or an extra blanket (during trekking or when staying in local houses)
- Windproof jacket (higher altitude destination)
- Good trekking shoes
- During trekking tours water will be boiled from springs nearby. We recommend to bring water purifiers from your home country if you wish to. These are not available in Papua.

We hope that this documents has clarified some of the important travel issues for Papua. If you still have any questions we are happy to answer them any time. Last but not least; we look much forward to having you here in Papua!

Salam Hangat (Warm Regards),

TRAVEL
Papua