

Wokabout Wantaim Wantoks

Professor George Weiblen proposes to lead a small group of wantoks to Madang in support of biodiversity and cultural renewal. This two-week excursion to Nagada, Amele, Baitabag, and Middle Ramu aims to introduce participants to the work of Binatang Center in rural communities. We will engage with current efforts in search of sustainable livelihoods and healthy forests. Airfare to/from PNG, lodging, meals, transportation, and contributions to each of four community partnership efforts are included for a total cost approaching US\$10,000 per person.



Day 1: flights to PNG

Day 2: arrive Port Moresby, rest at Grand Papua & optional tour of National Museum

Day 3: fly to Madang, resort accommodation (TBD) & tour of Binatang Center (Nagada)

Day 4: Kakoba Canopy Crane experience, Kau Wildlife (Baitabag) & PNGELC locations

Day 5: Wiad Conservation with birds of paradise, butterfly farm, waterfalls (Amele)

Day 6: Rest, reconnect, or/& provision in Madang for Middle Ramu

Day 7: journey to Wanang: 4WD to Sogeram River, trek with carriers to Wanang community

Day 8: guesthouse, Wanang Conservation School, aid post & trek to Swire Station

Day 9: Wanang Conservation with birds of paradise, fishing, biodiversity research in action

Day 10: return trek to Wanang community, overnight at Wanang guesthouse

Day 11: return journey to Madang, dinner with friends & community leaders

Day 12: flex day (contingency)

Day 13: Madang to Port Moresby, rest at Grand Papua & optional tour of Nature Park

Day 14: flights from PNG

Days 7-11 involve up to 30 km of trekking through potentially muddy forest paths. Helicopter transport or an alternative excursion (Lae, Highlands?) could be arranged at additional cost. Options for timing include May 2025 or (more likely) September 2025. If you are interested in knowing more and/or participating, please contact George Weiblen (gweiblen@umn.edu).

