

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION AUSTRALIA & PAPUA NEW GUINEA: MOUNT HAGEN FESTIVAL THE GOROKA FESTIVAL

PASSPORT AND VISA INFORMATION

Your passport needs to be valid for **at least six (6) months** after your journey ends, and should have a minimum of two (2) blank visa pages for entry and exit stamps.

An Electronic Travel Authority (ETA) is required for U.S. and Canadian passport holders for entry into Australia and must be obtained prior to departure. U.S. and Canadian citizens must apply for an ETA using the Australian ETA app on a mobile device. You can download the Australian ETA app for free from the [Apple Store \(Apple\)](#) or [Google Play store \(Android\)](#).

The current fee is AUD \$20 (subject to change without notice) and allows multiple entries for up to 12 months after the date of issuance. Read and follow all instructions carefully to ensure a smooth arrival in Australia. Once you download the app, be sure to have your passport with you when you start the e-Visa application process. More information is available here: [Step by step guide](#).

If you are asked to provide contact information for your local tour operator, please use:

ABERCROMBIE & KENT AUSTRALIA

Level 26
80 Collins Street (North Tower)
Melbourne VIC 3000
Australia
Telephone: +61 3 9536 1800
Emergency Telephone: +61 409 026 808

Papua New Guinea

A tourist visa is required for U.S. and Canadian passport holders for entry into Papua New Guinea and must be obtained prior to departure. There are currently two options available as outlined below. A&K recommends an electronic visa (eVisa).

Electronic Visa (eVisa): To apply for an eVisa, visit <https://evisa.ica.gov.pg/evisa/account/apply> and when the page comes up and click on 'Visitor' to apply . The single -entry eVisa (also referred to as an entry permit) is valid for 6 months (180 days) from the issue date and allows you to stay in Papua New Guinea for a 30-day period. We recommend that you apply for your eVisa no more than 2-3 months prior to arrival. The current fee is USD \$50 (subject to change without notice) payable by credit card. You will need a valid email address to apply. Read and follow all instructions carefully to avoid any possible complications on arrival in Papua New Guinea.

Although Papua New Guinea currently has no COVID-19 related entry requirements, as part of the on-line application process, you will be requested to upload proof of COVID-19 vaccination and complete a COVID Health form.

The following documents need to be provided/uploaded before your eVisa request can be approved:

- Corona Virus Supplementary Health Form
- Evidence of Funds (A&K Support Letter)
- Cover Letter (A&K Support Letter)
- Original COVID-19 vaccination certificate
- Copy of Passport Bio Page

The required Health Form and Evidence of Funds/Cover Letter will be emailed with Preliminary Documents. Please include these forms when submitting your Papua New Guinea eVisa application. The required Evidence of Funds/Cover Letter are provided by TransNiugini Tours, A&K's representative in Papua New Guinea. One document covers both the Evidence of Funds and the Cover Letter, but must be uploaded separately for each category.

Visa Stamp: A visa stamp in your passport can be obtained by applying through a visa processing service. (Evidence of Funds/Cover Letter and COVID-19 vaccination card are not required when applying for a visa stamp.) While there are additional costs involved in using a visa service, this option is available for guests who prefer assistance in the visa process.

Our partner VisaCentral offers easy, efficient U.S. passport and visa processing. Visit them online at visacentral.com/abercrombiekent or call 844 823 1224 and reference A&K's account number 73001. Service fees apply.

Citizens of other countries should contact the appropriate consular office for entry requirements pertaining to their journey.

YELLOW FEVER VACCINATION & MALARIA PREVENTION

A yellow fever vaccination is only required to enter Australia and Papua New Guinea if you are arriving from, or have transited through, a yellow fever-endemic area in South America or Africa. The CDC and WHO each provide a current list of all affected countries. If vaccination for yellow fever is necessary, you must carry an International Certificate of Vaccination provided by your physician; you may be denied entry without it. If your physician advises against receiving the vaccination because of your personal medical history, he or she can provide you with the necessary documentation for the country/countries you are visiting.

You will be travelling to an area of malaria transmission. We strongly advise that you speak with your doctor or travel clinic regarding your itinerary, individual risk assessment and options for mosquito bite prevention and antimalarial drugs. We recommend filling any prescriptions before you depart.

CASH & CREDIT CARDS

Australia

Cash transactions must be made in Australian currency. Major credit cards are widely accepted for goods and services. Access to ATMs is widespread in cities and towns, but may be limited in rural areas.

Papua New Guinea

The country has a cash-based economy. Cash transactions must be made in local currency (Kina). Smaller denominations are preferred as many village merchants cannot make change for larger bills. Major credit cards are generally accepted at larger hotels, restaurants and shops that cater to tourists. ATMs are limited in larger cities and towns, but unavailable in rural areas.

PACKING LIST & BAGGAGE RESTRICTIONS

On charter flights within Papua New Guinea, each passenger is limited to 1 piece of checked baggage with a maximum weight of approximately 22 pounds (10 kilograms), plus a small carry-on bag or camera bag with a maximum weight allowance of 11 pounds (5 kilograms). Soft-sided luggage or duffels are required. Large, hard-sided suitcases are not permitted on the aircraft.

Please use the provided A&K luggage tags, even if your bags already have ID tags. This makes it easier for A&K staff to collect and manage your luggage for you.

Clothing

Choose versatile styles that can be layered. This will maximize the versatility of your travel wardrobe and best prepare you for both warmer (Coastal) temperatures and cooler (Highland) temperatures. Dark-colored clothing may attract mosquitoes and other unwanted insects, so clothing that is light in color is suggested. Formal clothing is not necessary.

Modest clothing is suggested for touring in Papua New Guinea. Women should be especially careful to dress modestly and avoid clothing that may be considered provocative, including revealing swimsuits, sundresses, or similar apparel.

Short shorts are not commonly worn. You will find that slacks and Bermuda-length shorts are most adaptable to both Coastal and Highland temperatures and provide greater protection from insects and the sun.

- Casual slacks
- Polo shirts, casual short-sleeve shirts or blouses
- Comfortable walking shoes with traction
- Sweater or lightweight jacket
- Warm hat
- Sleepwear
- Socks
- Foldable umbrella for rain protection and sun shade
- Bermuda length walking shorts
- Long sleeve shirts or blouses
- Lightweight raincoat
- Brimmed hat for sun protection
- Warm gloves
- Personal garments (women may want to pack a supportive sports bra for bumpy roads)
- Swimwear/cover-up

Other Recommended Items

- Face masks and hand sanitizer
- Sunglasses
- Simple first-aid kit
- Soap, shampoo and conditioner. Hotel amenities are often minimal.
- Extra eyeglasses/contact lenses
- Charging cables for electronics
- Sun block / Insect repellent
- Prescriptions and medications (in their original bottles and/or packaging)
- An inflatable pillow or stadium cushion can help make bumpy roads more comfortable.
- Smartphone
- Global travel adapter

Optional Items

- Small LED flashlight
- Lightweight binoculars
- Foldable walking stick
- Small daypack or fanny pack

Laundry service is available at most hotels and dry cleaning is available in larger cities. Check costs and return times before using these services. There is no laundry service on board the 'Sepik Spirit' cruise vessel.

TIPPING GUIDELINES

While decisions regarding tipping rest entirely with you, we suggest the following gratuities (noted in U.S. dollars).

	All Small Group Journeys and Pre/Post Tour Group Extensions	Tailor Made Journeys
Resident Tour Director or Group Extension Guide	\$15 per person, per day	Not applicable
Local Guides	Included	\$20 per person, per day (full day)
Drivers	Included	\$10 per person, per day (full day)
Airport Transfer Drivers	Included	\$5 per person, per transfer
Hotel Porters	Included	\$2 per bag
Group tip boxes at Lodges or Cruise Vessels (if applicable)	Included	\$10-\$15 per person, per day – Gratuities are accepted on site and shared among the staff.
Housekeepers	Included	\$2 per person, per night
Included Meals	Included	Included
Restaurants or Room Service on Own	10-15% unless already added	10-15% unless already added

For extra nights or Tailor Made services added to a Small Group Journey, please follow the Tailor Made Journeys guidelines for these days only.

OF SPECIAL NOTE: TRAVEL IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA:

General Information

A journey to Papua New Guinea offers visitors a chance to immerse themselves in vibrant tribal cultures that have remained unchanged for centuries, while cruising rivers and exploring some of the most remote corners of the globe.

However, contrasts between the expectations of the international traveller and the realities of the destination can pose an interesting and illuminating challenge. When visiting Papua New Guinea, it is essential to pack your patience and good humor as well as your passport.

With this in mind, we would like to bring some key aspects of travel in Papua New Guinea to your attention. We hope that, by setting the proper expectations, the rewards of your cultural experience will outweigh any inconveniences imposed by the country's underdeveloped tourism infrastructure.

Cultural Interaction

One of Papua New Guinea's greatest attractions is the wide variety of indigenous cultures to be found. We ask that, during visits to local villages, guests be sensitive to local customs and traditions.

Road Travel

Vehicles used for touring are 18-20 seat coaches. The vehicles are comfortable; however, road conditions are rough and may not be paved. There are frequent potholes. An inflatable pillow or stadium cushion can help make bumpy roads more comfortable. Women may also want to equip themselves with a supportive sports bra. There are no bathrooms on the vehicles. Comfort breaks

will be made during long drives; however, facilities are likely to be quite basic by western standards.

Foot Travel

Sightseeing in Papua New Guinea can be physically challenging. The ground will be uneven in many locations with steep steps, making walking difficult in some areas, particularly for those guests with limited mobility. In general, there are no handrails to provide assistance. In the Sepik Region, be prepared to navigate muddy embankments when boarding/d disembarking rivercraft.

Accommodations

Hotel and lodge facilities in the more remote areas outside of Port Moresby are rustic and may operate on generator power. A&K chooses the best available properties in these regions, but accommodations are more comparable to a 2 or 3 star property by western standards. Most properties have no climate control such as heating or air conditioning, though some properties will provide guests with electric blankets. Not all accommodations have hair dryers. Hotel amenities such as soap and shampoo are minimal and as a result, we suggest you pack your own.

Food

Meals in Papua New Guinea tend to feature meats, fish, vegetables, and tropical fruits served Australian style. At remote properties, special meal requests are not available as the meals are set menus. If vegetarian meals are required, this should be advised to the property manager at the time of check-in.

Communications

In some locations there may be no cell phone, WI-FI or internet service available. When available, connections can be very slow and/or intermittent.

LIFE ON BOARD: 'SEPIK SPIRIT'

General Information

Cruising the heart of the Sepik River basin, 'Sepik Spirit's' greatest feature is its location. This floating lodge is the ideal jumping-off point for daily jet-boat excursions out into the remote villages that dot the river and jungles that lie beyond. Although 'Sepik Spirit' floats in the middle of a remote wilderness, it remains easily accessible to the outside world via light aircraft from Mount Hagen. Inspired by the hospitality of the local tribes of the river, 'Sepik Spirit's' cabins welcome guests in with their warm, inviting interiors. Elevated river views, en suite bathrooms and individual climate controls round the simple, yet comfortable, amenities.

Hair dryers and laundry service are not available onboard 'Sepik Spirit'.

Currency

Cash, in local currency, is the preferred method of payment for incidentals onboard 'Sepik Spirit.' Major credit cards are also accepted as payment, however, cannot be processed onboard. The boat manager would take guests' credit card information and forward it to the main office of Trans Niugini Tours for processing after the cruise.

Language & Communications

English is the official language onboard 'Sepik Spirit'. There is no internet service onboard the vessel. Cellular telephone service is likely to be very intermittent during the cruise and when available, it is recommended that it be confined to the privacy of your own cabin.

Food and Drink

On 'Sepik Spirit' you will find a varied and enticing menu that includes both local and international specialties. Meals are set menus prepared using locally purchased products (such as exotic fruit, organic vegetables, fish and meats) to give you a real taste of the lands you journey through.

Electricity

Electrical service onboard the vessel is 220-230 volts / 50 hertz.