

NEW GUINEA ADVENTURE  
August 2 – 18, 2009

Travel with biology teachers Mike Sipes and Marilyn Schmidt to the tropical island of New Guinea. Divided into two countries, Papua New Guinea and Papua Indonesia, this island has often been called “the South Pacific’s best kept secret”. Our trip will take us to the east side of the island, Papua New Guinea, where we will experience the culture and art of the indigenous people as well as the great diversity of the plants and animals, many of which are endemic to the island.

This 16 day trip will leave from Denver International Airport on Sunday, August 2 and return to Denver on Tuesday, August 18. Our international flights will be from Denver to Los Angeles, Los Angeles to Brisbane and Brisbane to Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.

Space on the trip will be limited to 16 participants. The cost of the trip is \$4100.00 and will include roundtrip airfare between Denver, Colorado and Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, ground, air and water transportation while on New Guinea, food, accommodations and guide fees.

The financial arrangements for this trip are as follows:

<u>DATE PAYMENT DUE</u>	<u>PAYMENT AMOUNT</u>	
January 2	\$525.00	Make checks payable to: New Guinea Adventure
February 2	\$525.00	
March 2	\$525.00	
April 2	\$525.00	Send checks to: Mike Sipes 2065 Miller Street Lakewood, Colorado 80215-1319
May 2	\$500.00	
June 2	\$500.00	
July 2	\$500.00	
August 1	\$500.00	

CREDIT FOR TEACHERS

For an additional \$115.00 you will receive 3.0 semester credit hours applicable toward teacher recertification or advancement on the salary schedule (dependent on your school district policy). This is available through the Teacher Enhancement/Continuing Education Program at the Colorado School of Mines.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR NEW GUINEA ADVENTURE

### THE HIGHLANDS

The Highlands are made up of a series of valleys and rugged intervening mountains that form the watershed for some of the world's largest rivers (the Ramu, Sepik, Strickland, Fly and Purari). These mountains form a central spine running the length of the island. Several Highlands mountains exceed 13,000 ft. in height with Mt Wilhelm, PNG's highest, reaching 14,789 ft. The Highland people are skilled farmers and take pride in their decorative gardens. They wear Western "sekonhan klos" (second-hand clothes) but during the celebrated festivals the feathers, shells, bark, mud quills and skins come out. These festivals feature mud-men and snake-boys, wigmen and skeleton people. These Highlanders in traditional costume and face paint dancing in formation and playing their "kundus" (an hourglass-shaped drum with lizard skin) are really quite a sight to behold.

### THE SEPIK RIVER

The mighty Sepik River is the second largest river in Papua New Guinea and one of the great river systems of the world. Biologically this region holds some of the most diverse and least described ecosystems on Earth and is probably the largest uncontaminated freshwater wetland system in the Asia-Pacific Region. The scale of this river, the impressive architecture of the "haus tambarans" (spirit houses), the beautiful stilt villages, the long canoes with crocodile-head prows, the bird life, flower-clogged lakes, misty dawns and spectacular sunsets make a trip along this river unforgettable.

### THE MARINE WORLD

Papua New Guinea is located in the "Coral Triangle" an area with the highest diversity of tropical fish and coral in the world. The waters surrounding PNG contain twice as many species of marine organisms as the waters of the Red Sea and up to 10 times as many as the Caribbean. It has been termed an underwater photographer's paradise. The country is surrounded by the Bismarck, Coral and Solomon Seas whose constant movements feed and enrich the marine environment. The immense diversity of sites include barrier reefs, patch reefs, fringing reefs, sea grass beds and coral atolls.

If you have questions or would like to have additional information contact the trip organizers:

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NEW GUINEA ADVENTURE  
Itinerary

August 2 (Sunday)

- Leave Denver International Airport for Los Angeles.
- Leave Los Angeles (LAX) for Brisbane, Australia (overnight flight).

August 3 (Monday)

- Cross the International Dateline (“lost day”).

August 4 (Tuesday)

- Fly from Brisbane to Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.
- Tour of the National Botanic Gardens.
- Overnight at the Gateway Hotel (next to the airport).

August 5 (Wednesday)

- Fly to Wewak.
- Snorkeling on the fringing reefs at Wewak headland.
- Overnight at Surfside Lodge.

August 6 (Thursday)

- Visit Cape Wom International Memorial Park (site of Japanese surrender)
- Snorkeling on the reef on the west side of the cape.
- Travel to Angoram.
- Stay overnight in Angoram.

August 7 (Friday) Travel on Sepik River to Tamabanum Village. Stay overnight.

August 8 (Saturday) Travel in motorized canoes on River to Chambri Lakes. Stay.

August 9 (Sunday) Motorized canoes from Chambri Lakes to Ambunti. Stay there.

August 10 (Monday) Canoes to Wagu to visit a Haus Tambaran (Spirit House).  
Guided hike in the lowland rainforest. Overnight in Wagu.

August 11 (Tuesday)

- Attend the Sepik River Crocodile Festival in Ambunti – cultural groups from several villages in the Sepik Basin perform.
- Overnight at Ambunti Lodge.

August 12 (Wednesday)

- Travel to Wewak.
- Fly to Madang.
- Overnight at Madang Lodge.

August 13 (Thursday)

- Snorkeling at “Planet Rock” (Hammerhead Sharks/ other marine life).
- Visit Kau Rainforest Museum and Conservation Area.
- Visit Ohu Butterfly Habitat.
- Overnight at Madang Lodge.

August 14 (Friday)

- Travel to Goroka in the PNG Highlands.
- See the mud men in the village of Asaro.
- Overnight at the Diwai Hotel Lodge.

August 15 (Saturday)

- Travel to Mt Hagen.
- Attend the Mt Hagen Highlands Show.
- Overnight at the New Town Lodge.

August 16 (Sunday)

- Mt Hagen Highlands Show.
- Birding in the Wahgi Valley.
- Overnight at the Wahgi Guesthouse.

August 17 (Monday)

- Fly to Port Moresby.
- Fly to Brisbane.

August 18 (Tuesday)

- Fly to Los Angeles.
- Fly to Denver.

Papua New Guinea Environment

Papua New Guinea lies south of the equator and north of Australia. It's the last of a string of islands spilling down from South-East Asia into the Pacific and comprises the eastern half of the island of New Guinea and a collection of surrounding islands. The country is dominated by a central spine of mountains, the Owen Stanley Range, with many peaks over 4000m (13,120ft). Three quarters of PNG is covered by tropical rainforest and the remainder is made up of delta plains, flat grassland and mangrove swamps. The principal rivers include the Fly, Sepik and Ramu. The major islands of New Ireland, Bougainville and New Britain are surrounded by striking coral formations and are often scenes of unpredictable natural violence (in 1994 the once-beautiful New Britain town of Rabaul was destroyed by the eruption of the Tuvuvur Volcano. There are close to 9,000 species of plants in PNG, most of them found in lowland rainforests. Around 250 species of animals live, mostly bats and rats, but also including marsupials such as tree kangaroos. There are also two kinds of echidnas (spiny anteaters). The real treat however is the 700 species of birds. There are more parrot, pigeon and kingfisher species – from huge crowned pigeons to delicate pygmy parrots- than anywhere else in the world. Other notable birds are cassowaries, kokomos (hornbills) and cockatoos. The highlights of the insect world are the world's largest butterfly, the Queen Alexandra Birdwing (the first collected specimen was felled by a shotgun blast), and scarab beetles (which are often used as body ornaments).

## SOME ANIMALS FOUND IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

### Mammals

Alpine Wallaby	<u>Thylogale calabyi</u>
Black-spotted Cuscus	<u>Spilocuscus rufoniger</u>
Goodfellow's Tree Kangaroo	<u>Dendrolagus goodfellowi</u>
Huon Tree Kangaroo	<u>Dendrolagus matschiei</u>
Long-beaked Echinda	<u>Zaglossus bruijni</u>
Poncelet's Giant Rat	<u>Solomys ponceleti</u>
Telefomin Cuscus	<u>Phalanger matanim</u>
Big-eared Mastiff Bat	<u>Otomops papuensis</u>
Bismarck's Trumpet-eared Bat	<u>Kerivoula myrella</u>
Bronze Quoll	<u>Dasyurus spartacus</u>
Carpentarian Dunnart	<u>Sminthopsis butleri</u>
D'Albertis Ringtail	<u>Pseudochirops albertsii</u> <u>Gekko</u>
Demonic Tube-nosed Fruit Bat	<u>Nyctimene masalai</u>
Dugong	<u>Dugong dugong</u>
Dusky Pademelon	<u>Thylogale brunii</u>
Gilliard's Flying Fox	<u>Pteropus gilliardi</u>
Great-tailed Troik	<u>Dactylopsila megalura</u>
Northern Glider	<u>Petaurus abidi</u>
Papuan Planigale	<u>Planigale novaeguineae</u>
Plush-coated Ringtail	<u>Pseudochirops corinnae</u>

### Birds

Hooded Pitohui	<u>Pitohui dichrous</u>
Southern Cassowary	<u>Casuarius casuarius</u>
Blyth's Hornbill	<u>Aceros plicatus</u>
Blue-winged Kookaburra	<u>Dacelo leachii</u>
Yellow-streaked Lory	<u>Chalcopsitta sintillata</u>
Red-winged Parrot	<u>Aprosmictus erythropterus</u>
Papuan Frogmouth	<u>Podargus papuensis</u>
Comb-crested Jacana	<u>Irediparra gallinacean</u>
Red-footed Booby	<u>Sula sula</u>
Royal Spoonbill	<u>Platalea regia</u>
Olive-crowned Flowerpecker	<u>Dicaeum p pectorale</u>
Wilson's Bird of Paradise	<u>Cicinnurus republica</u>

### Reptiles and Amphibians

Cane Toad	<u>Bufo marinus</u>
Pacific Hawksbill Turtle	<u>Eretmochelys imbricata bissa</u>
Palm Gecko	<u>Gekko vittatus</u>
Emerald Tree Snake	<u>Lamprolepis smaragolina</u>
Brown Treesnake	<u>Boiga irregularis</u>
New Guinea Tree Boa	<u>Candoia c. carinata</u>
New Guinea Crocodile	<u>Crocodylus novaeguineae</u>

### Insects

Queen Alexandra Birdwing Butterfly	<u>Ornithoptera alexandrae</u>
Hercules Moth	<u>Coscinocera Hercules</u>
Papua Stick Insect	<u>Eurycnema goliath</u>