STANFORD TRAVEL/STUDY

Papua New Guinea EXPEDITION

NATURAL BEAUTY, UNSPOILED VILLAGES, SUPERB SNORKELING

October 13 to 27, 2017

a program of the stanford alumni association
There are very few places remaining in the world as ecologically and culturally diverse as Papua New Guinea. With its striking geological features, lush tropical rain forests, thousands of species of birds and plants, and over 850 indigenous languages, Papua New Guinea offers an experience unequalled anywhere else on the planet. In a country with few roads, there is no better way to explore all that this remote land has to offer than by small ship, which is our luxurious mode of transportation throughout our journey. Join us on this incomparable adventure!!

BRETT S. THOMPSON, ’83, DIRECTOR, STANFORD TRAVEL/STUDY

Highlights

**GAIN** insight into remote village life and local culture as we travel 30 miles up the Sepik River.

**SNORKEL** or dive in one of the world’s richest and most diverse coral reef systems where more than 860 different species of tropical fish dwell.

**CRUISE** through the rarely visited Tufi Fjords that are distinguished by their sheer basalt cliffs and 25 separate canyons.

**VIEW** marine-life-encrusted WWII shipwrecks while snorkeling or diving in the renowned crystal-clear waters off the historic town of Madang.
Professors Pamela Matson and Peter Vitousek, the popular husband/wife faculty team, have worked in the area of environment and sustainability for more than 20 years. Pamela is a thought leader in the emerging field of sustainability science. She and her students and collaborators have worked on sustainability of agricultural systems, vulnerability of particular people and places to climate change, and the consequences of tropical deforestation on climate and water systems. Her teams have developed agricultural approaches that reduce environmental impacts while maintaining livelihoods and human well-being. Peter and his laboratory have worked on the global cycles of nitrogen and phosphorus, and how they are altered by human activity; biological invasions by exotic species and how they can change the functioning of whole ecosystems; and the development and sustainability of agricultural systems of the Pacific, prior to European contact. Peter and Pamela have educated and fascinated travelers on numerous Travel/Study programs and both have won numerous awards for their teaching and research. On this program they will lecture on the climate and landforms of the tropics, indigenous resource management, global environmental change as it influences coral reefs in particular, and transitions to sustainability—globally, in New Guinea and at Stanford.

Pamela Matson
— Naramore Dean of the School of Earth, Energy, and Environmental Sciences
— Richard and Rhoda Goldman Chair of Environmental Studies
— Senior fellow at the Woods Institute for Environment
— Member of the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and a MacArthur Award winner

Peter Vitousek
— Clifford G. Morrison Professor of Population and Resource Studies
— Sykes Family Director of the Emmett Interdisciplinary Program in Environment and Resources
— Member of the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and a Japan Prize winner
FRIDAY TO SUNDAY,
OCTOBER 13 TO 15
DEPART U.S. / CAIRNS, AUSTRALIA

Depart the U.S. and fly across the international date line en route to Australia. Arrive in Cairns on Sunday and transfer to our hotel. Named after William Wellington Cairns, the city was established to serve miners heading for the Hodgkinson River goldfield; in the present day Cairns is a large exporter of sugar cane. This evening celebrate the start of our adventure at a welcome reception and dinner. PULLMAN REEF HOTEL (10/15: D)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 16
CAIRNS / RABaul, PAPUA NEW GUINEA / EMBARK

Board our charter flight to Rabaul, and embark the Coral Discoverer. Enjoy time to relax, settle in and explore the ship as it cruises Simpson Harbor, set against a stunning backdrop of six towering volcanoes. Join the captain and crew for a reception as the sun sets spectacularly over the Coral Sea. CORAL DISCOVERER (B,L,D)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17
GAROVE ISLAND

Cruise to Garove Island, the largest island of the Witu Island group. This volcanic island has a flooded caldera that opens to the sea through a narrow breach on the southern side. Enjoy a festive welcome from the local school, visit the village and have an opportunity to swim off the back of our ship. CORAL DISCOVERER (B,L,D)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18
SEPIK RIVER

This morning enter the mouth of the mighty Sepik River, one of the world’s great river systems. Cruise upriver 65 miles to the middle Sepik region. This primitive, densely populated region is home to some of the most isolated people on earth and is renowned for its unique artifacts. Visit the village of Bien, where the local Sepik people rank among the greatest primitive artists on earth and are famed for their unique hand carvings. Enjoy another beautiful sunset with a BBQ as we leave the Sepik region and pass Manam Island and its active volcano, which erupted in 2004 displacing 6,000 people and continues to smolder to this day. CORAL DISCOVERER (B,L,D)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19
MADANG

Today we visit the historic town of Madang, often referred to as “the prettiest town in the Pacific.” It sits on a peninsula surrounded by a number of picturesque islands and is famed for its diving. Enjoy a harbor exploration aboard the Xplorer before traveling ashore for a guided bus tour of Madang and its surroundings; visit a village for a cultural show put on by the locals. Return to Madang for a town tour with time to visit the markets and stroll around town before returning to our ship. CORAL DISCOVERER (B,L,D)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20
TUAM ISLAND

Tuam, located in the Siassi group of islands, offers a mix of both mainland and Bisirman Archipelago cultures. The prized trinkets and decorations here include dog’s teeth, spondylus shells, and wonderful balsa wood and sago bark headdresses. Today travel ashore and spend time with the locals to learn about their traditional village lifestyles, which still operate on subsistence principles and do not rely on the outside world. Continue this afternoon to the Dregerhafen area / Fly Island for a guided tour of Madang and its surroundings; visit a village for a cultural show put on by the locals. Return to Madang for a town tour with time to visit the markets and stroll around town before returning to our ship. CORAL DISCOVERER (B,L,D)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21
LABABIA / KAMIALI WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA / FLy ISLAND

Travel ashore to the island village of Lababia, gateway to one of the most important conservation areas in Papua New Guinea: the Kamiali Wildlife Management Area. Take a guided walk through a prehistoric rain forest. With luck we may see some of the prolific birdlife that resides here, including hornbills, parrots, palm cockatoos and the iconic Raggiana birds-of-paradise. This afternoon brings us to Fly Island for snorkeling, diving or a tour in the glass bottom boat. CORAL DISCOVERER (B,L,D)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22
TUFI FJORDS

Today enjoy one of the high points of our Expedition as we soak up the scenic beauty of the rarely visited Tufi Fjords. Similar to the fjords of Norway, the Tufi Fjords feature 25 individual canyons with sheer basalt cliffs and offer a wealth of sightseeing opportunities. Take in spectacular views as we cruise close to the towering cliffs before boarding the Xplorer to travel ashore to meet the friendly locals. End the day with a leisurely swim and snorkel among spectacular fringing reefs. CORAL DISCOVERER (B,L,D)
MONDAY, OCTOBER 23
BUNA / SANANANDA
This morning disembark in Buna, famous for the Battle of Buna, where WWII American troops stormed the beach in the final stages of victory. Situated on one side of the Kokoda Trail, take a walk through the jungle to the war memorial. In the afternoon visit the War museum at Sanananda where we will be welcomed by the local people of the Girewo village.

CORAL DISCOVERER (B,L,D)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24
TROBRIAND ISLANDS
Disembark this morning on the island of Kuiawa in the Trobriand Islands and witness a colorful traditional dance. The Trobiands, historically known as the “Islands of Love,” offer a glimpse of traditional culture largely unspoiled by outside influence.

CORAL DISCOVERER (B,L,D)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25
DOBU AND FERGUSSON ISLANDS
This morning our ship is greeted by a flotilla of canoes as it approaches the Dobu anchorage. Meet with local primary school children who welcome our group with a traditional dance performance. This afternoon, join an expedition to the Dei Dei Hot Springs where the landowner shares with us the mythical and spiritual tales of these hot-water-and-mud springs. Enjoy a farewell reception before dinner aboard ship this evening.

CORAL DISCOVERER (B,L,D)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26
ALOTAU / DISEMBARK / CAIRNS, AUSTRALIA
Arrive this morning in Alotau and bid farewell to the Coral Discoverer and its crew. Board a charter flight back to Cairns, Australia, and upon arrival there transfer to our hotel for an evening at leisure.

PULLMAN REEF HOTEL (B,L)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27
CAIRNS / U.S.
Following breakfast at our hotel, transfer to the international airport for flights home, arriving back in the U.S. on the same day.

Optional Pre-trip Extension

OCTOBER 10 TO 15
(4 ADDITIONAL DAYS)
DAINTREE NATIONAL PARK
Upon arrival at Cairns airport, travel deep into Daintree National Park’s rain forest to explore the Cooper Creek Wilderness, whose centerpiece is the last remnant of the oldest-surviving rain forest in the world. Enjoy a three-night stay at the Silky Oaks Lodge with its unique and amazing tree house rooms, and explore the surrounding area on guided walks, by mountain bike, or with snorkel and fins. Also, cruise out to the Agincourt Ribbon Reefs located on the very edge of the Great Barrier Reef.

Optional Post-trip Extension

OCTOBER 26 TO 30
(4 ADDITIONAL DAYS)
HIGHLANDS OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA
Travel from Alotau to Port Moresby before flying to the highlands of Papua New Guinea. Spend three nights at the Ambua Lodge in the Tari Valley, home of the Huli wigman, one of the largest ethnic groups in the Southern Highlands, and also home to 13 species of birds of paradise. Enjoy two full days visiting the Huli clans and searching for the elusive birds of paradise before returning to Port Moresby for our flight back home.

Details and pricing for both extensions will be provided to confirmed participants.
Being refurbished in 2016, the Coral Discoverer, consists of 36 spacious, modern staterooms that offer a choice of twin or junior king beds. All staterooms have an ocean view, en suite facilities, settee, large wardrobe, desk, luggage storage and individual air-conditioning controls. Spacious and finely appointed public areas include a reference library, lecture lounge, purser’s desk, large sun deck, spa pool and bars. The restaurant offers buffet-style breakfast and lunch service and a three-course table d’hôte dinner service. Menus are “modern Australian,” with the chefs seeking out the freshest of local ingredients to prepare truly memorable dining experiences; all guests are accommodated at a single seating. The state-of-the-art Coral Discoverer is equipped with the latest technology, active stabilizers, Wi-Fi access and the Xplorer, the ship’s specially designed aluminum expedition vessel used for the majority of our shore excursions.

Program Cost*

Rates per person, based on double or single occupancy, as specified

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<td>Bridge Deck, 195 sq. ft. w/balcony</td>
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*Association nonmembers add $300 per person.
**Single accommodations may be limited to as few as 2 cabins.

Length: 207 feet
Beam: 43 feet
Draft: 10 feet
Speed: 14 knots
Registry: Australia
Inclusions

2 nights at the Pullman Reef Hotel  ■ 10-night cruise aboard the Coral Discoverer  ■ 12 breakfasts, 11 lunches and 11 dinners  ■ Welcome and farewell cocktail receptions  ■ Gratuities to guides, drivers and ship crew for all group activities  ■ All tours and shore excursions as described in the itinerary  ■ Charter flights on 10/16 and 10/26  ■ Transfers and baggage handling on program arrival and departure days  ■ Port fees and embarkation taxes  ■ Minimal medical, accident and evacuation insurance  ■ Educational program with lecture series and pre-departure materials, including recommended reading list, a selected book, map and travel information  ■ Services of our professional tour manager to assist you throughout the program

Not Included

International and U.S. domestic airfare  ■ Passport and visa fees  ■ Immunization costs  ■ Meals and beverages other than those specified as included  ■ Independent and private transfers  ■ Trip-cancellation/interruption and baggage insurance  ■ Excess-baggage charges  ■ Personal items such as internet access, telephone and fax calls, laundry and gratuities for nongroup services

Air Arrangements

International and U.S. domestic airfare is not included in the program cost. Round-trip, economy-class airfare on New Zealand Airlines between San Francisco and Cairns, Australia, is approximately $2,100 as of May 2016 and is subject to change without notice. Information on recommended flight itineraries will be sent by our designated agent.

What to Expect

We consider this to be a mildly strenuous program. No prior snorkeling experience is needed, however all participants should be comfortable swimming unassisted in open water. No prior experience is needed for scuba diving, but medical clearance is required. There will be opportunities to dive, however the numbers of opportunities may vary depending on one’s prior scuba diving experience. Boarding the ship’s excursion vessel, the Xplorer, is safe and easy; you simply step aboard the vessel from the ship’s Main Deck and Coral Discoverer’s unique hydraulic platform gently lowers the excursion vessel into the water, without your even getting your feet wet. Ashore, you must be able to walk moderate distances unaided, along beaches and sometimes over rough terrain, including steep and sandy trails. Participants must be physically fit, active and in good health. We welcome travelers 15 years of age and older on this program.
“This was a dream vacation that was excellent on many levels—scuba diving, history, anthropology, and local corals and fish.”

JOHN POWELL, ’87, SOUTH PACIFIC EXPEDITION, 2015