Papua New Guinea Expedition

Natural Beauty, Unspoiled Villages, Superb Snorkeling

March 14 to 30, 2012
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 traveling 65 miles up the Sepik River.

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

**Cruise** through the rarely visited Tufi Fjords that feature sheer basalt cliffs and 25 separate canyons.

**Discover** WWII wrecks while snorkeling or diving in the renowned crystal-clear waters off the historic town of Madang.
Depart the U.S. and fly across the international date line en route to Australia. Arrive in Cairns on Friday 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.

**NOVOTEL CAIRNS OASIS RESORT (3/16: L,D)**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 17**

**CAIRNS / RABAUL, PAPUA NEW GUINEA / EMBARK OCEANIC DISCOVERER**

Board our charter flight to Rabaul, and embark the Oceanic 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. **OCEANIC DISCOVERER (B,L,D)**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 18**

**KIMBE BAY**

Cruise through Kimbe Bay, one of the world’s richest and most diverse coral reef systems, and home to over 360 species of tropical fish and more than 400 varieties of coral. Experience genuine island friendliness and hospitality as the ship is welcomed in the Bay by a flotilla of outrigger canoes. This afternoon cruise the New Britain coastline by “Xplorer,” the ship’s specially designed aluminum excursion vessel. The “Xplorer” will be used for the majority of our excursions on this expedition. **OCEANIC DISCOVERER (B,L,D)**

**MONDAY, MARCH 19**

**CROWN ISLAND**

Traveling aboard the “Xplorer,” spend the day investigating the seldom-visited Crown Island, a turtle nesting ground and home of the giant lizard. Also enjoy time to snorkel or swim in the beautiful clear waters of the Coral Sea. **OCEANIC DISCOVERER (B,L,D)**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 20**

**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 world’s most isolated people and is renowned for its unique artifacts. Visit the remote villages of Angoram, the oldest and largest Sepik stations, and Bien, where the local Sepik people rank among the greatest primitive artists on earth and are famed for their unique hand carvings. This evening anchor in the river and enjoy the sights and sounds while overhead hundreds of “flying foxes,” or fruit bats, stream through the sky. **OCEANIC DISCOVERER (B,L,D)**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21**

**SEPIK RIVER / MANAM ISLAND**

Our early-morning start offers a great opportunity for bird watching. Identify the spotted blue-eyed cockatoo, wagtail, great egret, little egret, great billed heron, the enormous Blyth’s hornbill and others as we cruise back down river. Enjoy another beautiful sunset as we leave the Sepik and pass Manam Island and its active volcano, which erupted in 2004, displacing 6,000 people, and continues to smolder to this day. **OCEANIC DISCOVERER (B,L,D)**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 22**

**MADANG**

The historic town of Madang, often referred to as “the prettiest town in the Pacific,” sits on a peninsula surrounded by a number of picturesque islands and is famed for its diving. Enjoy a harbor exploration aboard “Xplorer” before traveling ashore for a guided bus tour of Madang.
and its surroundings; visit the village of Haya for a rainforest walk and 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 Oceanic Discoverer. Alternatively spend the day snorkeling or diving in the waters surrounding Madang, which offer excellent visibility and many WWII wrecks to explore.

SATURDAY, MARCH 24
LABABIA / KAMIALI WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA
Travel ashore to the picturesque village of Lababia, gateway to one of the most important conservation areas in Papua New Guinea – the Kamiali Wildlife Management Area. Walk along the David Suzuki trail through the 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.

SUNDAY, MARCH 25
TUFI FJORDS
Today enjoy a true Expedition highlight 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 the spectacular views as we cruise close to the towering cliffs before boarding “Xplorer” to travel ashore to meet the friendly locals. End the day exploring the region’s numerous white sandy beaches or take a leisurely swim and snorkel among spectacular fringing reefs.

MONDAY, MARCH 26
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.

TUESDAY, MARCH 27
ALOTAU
Relax this morning as we cruise through Milne Bay, start of the Pacific Ocean and where tiny atolls, coral reefs, volcanic islands, swaying palms and white beaches dot the seascape. Disembark our ship in Alotau and tour this hillside town, which played a pivotal role in the WWII Battle of Milne Bay.

THURSDAY, MARCH 29
CAIRNS, AUSTRALIA / DISEMBARK
Arrive in Cairns at midday and disembark Oceanic Discoverer. Enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure and dine independently this evening.

FRIDAY, MARCH 30
CAIRNS / U.S.
Depart Cairns this afternoon on flights back to the U.S. (B)
Oceanic Discoverer

The recently built Oceanic Discoverer comprises 36 spacious, modern staterooms, offering a choice of twin or queen beds. All staterooms have an ocean view, en suite facilities, settee, large wardrobe, desk, luggage storage and individual air-conditioning control; staterooms are serviced daily. Spacious and finely appointed public areas include a reference library, lecture lounge, boutique, dive shop, large sun deck, spa pool and two 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 Oceanic Discoverer is equipped with the latest technology, active stabilizers and the “Xplorer,” its specially designed aluminium expedition vessel used for the majority of our excursions.

Program Costs*
Rates per person, based on double or single occupancy, as noted

| Double Occupancy/Main Deck, 195 sq. ft., $13,995  |
| Double Occupancy/Promenade Deck, 175 sq. ft., $14,495 |
| Double Occupancy/Bridge Deck, 195 sq. ft., $14,995 |
| Single Occupancy/Main Deck, 195 sq. ft., $17,595** |
| Single Occupancy/Promenade Deck, 175 sq. ft., $18,295** |

* Association nonmembers add $200 per person.
** Single accommodations are limited at these rates.

Length: 207 feet
Beam: 43 feet
Draft: 10 feet
Number of guests: 72
Speed: 14 knots
Registry: Australia
Information

**DATES**
March 14 to 30, 2012 (17 days)

**SIZE**
Limited to 36 Stanford participants. We have secured block space on the Oceanic Discoverer.

**INCLUDED**
2 nights of deluxe hotel accommodations • 12-night cruise aboard the Oceanic Discoverer • 14 breakfasts, 14 lunches and 13 dinners • Welcome and farewell receptions • Local beer and house wine with lunches and dinners • Bottled water on excursions • Gratuities to porters, guides, drivers and ship crew for all group activities • All tours and shore excursions as described in the itinerary • Use of snorkeling equipment onboard the ship, including masks, snorkels and fins • One-way charter flight from Cairns, Australia, to Rabaul, Papua New Guinea • Transfers and baggage handling on program arrival and departure days • Port fees and embarkation taxes • Papua New Guinea visa fees • 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 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 email, 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 Qantas Airlines from San Francisco to Cairns, Australia, is approximately $2,500 as of May 2011 and is subject to change without notice.

**FUEL COSTS**
In the uncertain, often volatile oil market of late, it is difficult to predict fuel costs over the long term and, more specifically, at the time of operation of this voyage. Our prices are based upon the prevailing fuel rates at the time of brochure printing. While we will do everything possible to maintain our prices, if the fuel rates increase significantly, it may be necessary to institute a fuel surcharge.

**WHAT TO EXPECT**
We consider this to be a moderately strenuous program that is at times physically demanding and busy. Daily programs involve one to two miles of walking, often on uneven terrain such as unpaved roads and loose sand. There will also be several days of snorkeling and/or swimming. While no prior snorkeling experience is necessary, all participants should be comfortable swimming unassisted in open water. Participants must be physically fit and in active good health. Travel to this part of world does require sensitivity to local cultures and customs and one should be prepared to witness local ceremonies. We welcome travelers over the age of 15 on this program.

**EQUIPMENT**
All necessary snorkeling equipment is provided on the Oceanic Discoverer. However, past travelers have recommended bringing one’s own mask and snorkel to ensure the most comfortable fit. Information on optional SCUBA diving excursions offered by the cruise line will be provided to confirmed participants.

Terms & Conditions

**Deposit & Final Payment**
A $1,000 deposit is required to hold space for the Papua New Guinea Expedition. Complete and return the attached reservation form or sign up online. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure. As a condition of participation, all confirmed participants are required to sign a Release of Liability.

**Cancellations & Refunds**
Deposits and any payments are fully refundable, less a $500-per-person cancellation fee, until 120 days prior to departure. After that date, refunds can be made only if the program is sold out and your place(s) can be resold, in which case a $1,000-per-person cancellation fee will apply. We recommend trip-cancellation insurance; applications will be sent to you.

**Insurance**
Stanford Travel/Study provides all travelers who are U.S. or Canadian citizens with minimal medical, accident and evacuation coverage under our group-travel insurance policy. Our group policy is intended to provide minimal levels of protection while you are traveling on this program. We strongly recommend that you subscribe to optional baggage and trip-cancellation insurance. A brochure offering such insurance will be mailed with your confirmation about one week after we receive your deposit. The product offered in this brochure includes a special Waiver of Pre-Existing Conditions and coverage for Financial Insolvency and Terrorist Acts if you postmark your insurance payment within 15 days of the date listed on the confirmation letter.

**Eligibility**
We encourage membership in the Alumni Association as the program cost for nonmembers is $200 more than the members’ price. Parents and their children under 21 may travel on one membership. For more information or to purchase a membership, visit www.stanfordalumni.org/membership or call (800) 725-0692.

California Seller of Travel Program Registration #2048 523-50

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Stanford Faculty Leader

ROBERT SIEGEL, ’76, MA ’77, MD ’90, (aka Dr. Bob) has been fascinated with Papua New Guinea (PNG) since he began teaching at Stanford 30 years ago. "Papua New Guinea evokes images of amazing wildlife, linguistic diversity and remarkable cultures" says Bob. Ten years ago, he first traveled to PNG as part of a medical education project, returning subsequently with a group of medical students to do research on malaria. More recently, Bob sponsored student initiatives to host a conference on PNG as well as an undergraduate class focused on preparing students to teach there in conjunction with the Panango Program. During our program Bob will lecture on a variety of topics, including an introduction to Papua New Guinea, the Kuru and cannibalism, the art and artists of the Sepik, and current issues concerning development within the country.

- Appointments in the department of microbiology and immunology, the Center for African Studies and The Program in Human Biology, and in charge of preclinical infectious disease curriculum at the Stanford University School of Medicine
- Recipient of numerous teaching awards at Stanford, including the Human Biology Master Advisor Award, the Henry J. Kaiser Award for Excellence in Preclinical Teaching, and the Committee on Courses and Curriculum Commendation for Outstanding Teaching
- Sits on several advisory boards including Support for International Change, Teach AIDS, Free the Children, Ocean Medicine Foundation and FACE AIDS
- BA, Psychology, MA in education and MD, Stanford University; PhD, molecular biology, University of Colorado

“Bob Siegel was one of the highlights of the trip for us. He was always available, always interested and always interesting.”

Reservation Form

Papua New Guinea Expedition
March 14 to 30, 2012

I/We have read the Terms and Conditions for the program and agree to them. Signature ____________________________

If this is a reservation for one person, please indicate:

☐ I wish to have single accommodations.
OR ☐ I plan to share accommodations with ____________________________
OR ☐ I’d like to know about possible roommates.

Category Preference:
1st choice: ____________________________  □ Twin Beds  □ Queen Bed
2nd choice: ____________________________  □ Twin Beds  □ Queen Bed

Here is my deposit of $________ ($1,000 per person) for ______ space(s)
☐ Enclosed is my check (make payable to Stanford Alumni Association)  OR
☐ Charge my deposit to my:  □ Visa  □ MasterCard  □ American Express

Mail completed form to address on mail panel or fax to (650) 725-8675 or place your deposit online at alumni.stanford.edu/trip/png2012. Please submit your reservation only once to avoid multiple charges to your account.
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“...I was so pleased to find that there is such a great way for me to travel to more challenging destinations where I would not go on my own.”

PATRICIA LEICHER, ’70 | STANFORD TRAVELER