

Cruising in Papua New Guinea

In 2006 GO BUSH Safaris will provide three opportunities to explore one of the least westernized civilizations on Earth and Australia's nearest foreign neighbour from the comfort of a small ship. Experience the magnificent diversity of New Guinea, especially its rich rainforests, the magical coral reefs, amazing evidence of its volcanic activity and the rich treasures of Melanesian culture and crafts. Encounter a diversity of wildlife such as you haven't seen before. Our two 2005 PNG Cruises filled in record time.

The Vessel: *Miss Rankin* is a 100 foot steel vessel, comfortable but not luxurious. It has so far been used on four very happy GO BUSH cruises. It carries 24 safarists plus crew. Living aboard avoids health and security issues arising from land travel in PNG. James and Tony Collins are *Miss Rankin*'s owners and skippers. They were born in PNG and are from a family of famous expatriate New Guinea pioneers. They have wide PNG experience and contacts, and familiarity with the areas to be visited.

One Class: GO BUSH attempts to provide everyone with the same experience. However, *Miss Rankin*'s cabin standards mean some very significant differences. There are four deluxe twin cabins with ensuites and windows. The seven other cabins are inside with bunk beds, and safarists must use the shared facilities. There are four twin cabins, one four-berth cabin, one three-berth and one single. Air fares within PNG and meals are included.

Preferential Bookings are not accepted. GO BUSH will not accept any bookings which are conditional on having one of the luxury cabins. The luxury cabins will be assigned on the strict order that applications are received from people who indicate that they are prepared to pay the \$1000 premium per person for their use. Other cabins are all at the set price. They will be assigned on the basis of gender or nominated preferred partner in order of receipt of applications.

Travel Arrangements: Safarists should book their own international flights and Port Moresby accommodation. GO BUSH will book the domestic but not international air flights so that the whole safari group travels together. This will necessitate an additional interim payment four months before each cruise.

NOTE: nm = nautical miles. *Miss Rankin* cruises at approx 9 nmph. Much of the sea cruising is done at night.

Sepik River & New Guinea's North

Cruise 1	Thursday, 18th May to Thursday, 1st June, 2006	15 days
Cruise 2	Monday, 5th June to Monday, 19th June, 2006	15 days
Cost: \$5900	Style: Live aboard	Start and Finish: Port Moresby

Draft Itinerary — Cruise 1

Thursday, 18/5/06: Catch Wewak flight departing 10.55 am, arriving 12.15 pm. After a quick tour of Wewak, travel by bus to Angoram, a village on the Sepik, to board the *Miss Rankin*.

Days 2-5, Sepik River: The Sepik region is an immense grassland reserve, drained by one of the world's greatest rivers. The river is this region's Congo, with an amazing Melanesian culture, which produces wonderful artifacts. The people along the 1126 kilometre river depend heavily on it for transportation, water and food. They are famous for their masks and intricate carvings. Over 4 days, cruise 160 nm up the Sepik River, visiting villages and points of interest.

Tuesday, 23/5/06: Cruise into Madang, a picturesque town. Visit the sulphur springs and gardens, Bil Bil village for pottery then along the sea front to the Coastwatchers monument. Stroll around town and the market (very safe). In the evening anchor at Pig Island for a cooling dip. 130nm

Wednesday, 24/5/06: Take tour of a working coconut and cocoa plantation at Saidor. Lunch at the house set atop a lime stone ridge with uninterrupted 180 degree views of the Bismarck Sea and its many islands. 50nm

Thursday, 25/5/06: Follow beside the Finisterre Ranges, which tower to 13,000 feet straight out of the sea. At beautiful Tami Islands visit a village, snorkel or shop for some wonderful hand-crafted wooden bowls. 120nm

Friday, 26/5/06: Explore Lae, the second largest city in PNG. Discover flora and fauna from around PNG at the excellently presented Rainforest Habitat. Visit the War Memorial and the interesting top town market. Finish the day with a cooling drink at the Yacht Club. 50nm

Saturday, 27/5/06: Visit a couple of magical, uninhabited islands, Lasanga (mountainous) and Thong (coral cay) for superb snorkelling and terrestrial explorations. 50 nm

Sunday, 28/5/06: At Cape Nelson, experience PNG's dramatic rias. Go ashore to the government station and school, visit the dive resort or snorkel and relax. In the afternoon a 'sing sing' at one of the villages. Spectacular scenery. 180 nm

Monday, 29/5/06: Cape Vogel, Boga Boga Village. This very tidy and neatly laid out village provides a welcome 'sing sing' then a chance to stroll through the village to buy artifacts and see how the villagers live. Cruise to Goodenough Island. Enter the beautiful Galaiwa mangrove lagoon for bird watching. Visit the village or snorkel. 50 nm + 30nm

Tuesday, 30/5/06: Visit hot springs at Dei Dei (like Roturua but without the smell), then on to Dobu Island and a snorkel in the bubbling sea water from undersea vents. Move on to Observation Point for birdwatching or snorkeling. 40 nm

Wednesday, 31/5/06: Spend the morning snorkeling at the Duchess Islands, then cruise on to Boia Boia Waga for an afternoon snorkel, or go ashore and explore the dense jungle on this small idyllic island. Last night festivities. 40 nm

Thursday, 1/6/06: Arrive Alotau, wander around town. A chance to buy Trobriand Island artifacts and visit the war memorial which describes the WW2 battles in Milne Bay. Catch the afternoon flight to Port Moresby.

Cruise 2

No bookings for the second Sepik-North Coast Cruise will be accepted until the first cruise is filled. Due to prior commitments, John Sinclair will not lead the second cruise which will still have Ian Morris, OAM, as Intrepid Guide. The above itinerary will be approximately reversed.