Indonesia

West Papua

Arfak Mountains Extension

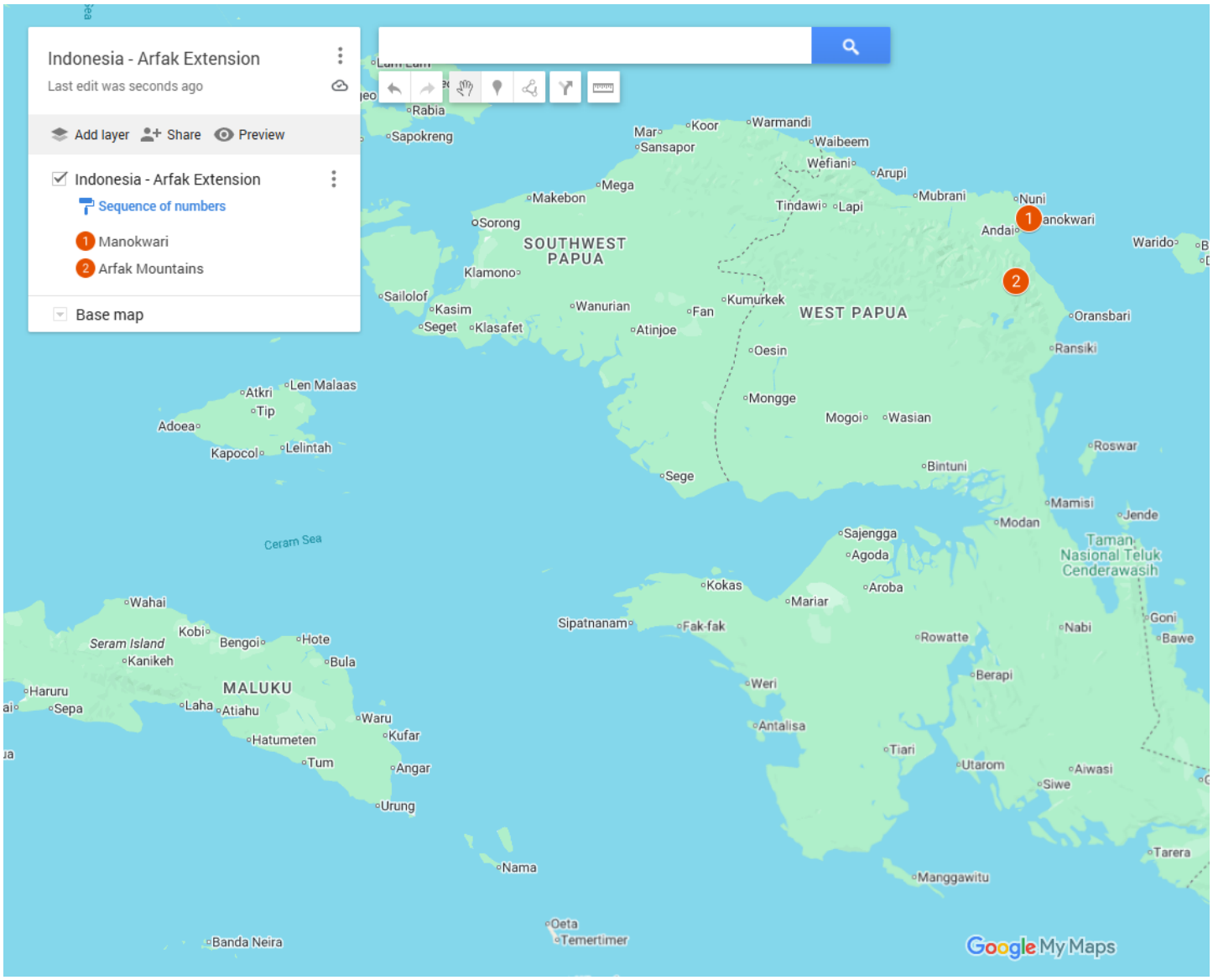


Lesser Melampitta by Glen Valentine

Embark on an unforgettable birding adventure through the lush Arfak Mountains of New Guinea. This tour offers a unique opportunity to see some of the world's most spectacular birds-of-paradise. Diverse habitat, from lowland forest to high-elevation cloud forests, seeking out endemic species such as Lesser Melampitta, Vogelkop Melidectes and the elusive Arfak Astrapia. Marvel at the vibrant colours and elaborate courtship displays of the Western Parotia, Magnificent Bird-of-paradise, and Long-tailed Paradigalla. We'll spend time in specially constructed blinds, providing unparalleled views of otherwise very tricky species. Join us for an extraordinary journey into the heart of New Guinea's avian treasures.

Itinerary & Map

Day 1	**Arrival in Manokwari, transfer to Arfak Mountains**
Days 2 to 4	**Arfak Mountains**
Day 5	**Arfak Mountains to Manokwari**
Day 6	**Final departure**



Birding sites in detail



Western Parotia by Adam Walleyn

Manokwari to Arfak Mountains. From Manokwari, we'll drive for approximately two-hours into the Arfak Mountains. There is plenty of excellent forest on the drive up into the Arfak Mountains and we will make a few stops along the way to bird. Here we may find some of the more conspicuous species of the foothills, clearings and secondary forests, including Blyth's Hornbill, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, White-eared Bronze Cuckoo, Bar-tailed Cuckoo-Dove, Red-collared and Papuan Black Myzomelas, Tawny-breasted, Rufous-sided and Western Smoky Honeyeater, Northern Variable Pitohui, Brown-breasted Gerygone, Golden Monarch, Sclater's Whistler, Black Fantail, Capped White-eye, Wallace's Fairywren, Yellow-bellied and Pygmy Longbills (the latter is New Guinea's smallest bird), and Olive-crowned Flowerpecker. Lesser Bird-of-paradise can also be found at lower elevations in the Arfaks and we have good chances of connecting with this species, even along the drive!

Arfak Mountains. The trees close to our accommodation can offer up some interesting species including the sought-after Vogelkop Melidectes. Sometimes the local guides know the whereabouts of several special nocturnal species which could include Mountain, Feline and Vogelkop Owlet-Nightjars. Sooty Owl is also found in the area, and we will spend some time after dark trying for this scarce species while we also have chances for Papuan Frogmouth, and Papuan Boobook.

Over the next few days, we will explore a variety of different habitats, forest types and altitudes in our efforts to enjoy and experience as many different species as we can. Naturally birds-of-paradise take centre stage and are often the most sought-after of all the birds occurring in these lush mountain forests. During our visit, we will be making use of specially constructed blinds which will give us access to various well-known display sites for the region's special birds-of-paradise. Each morning, we will stake out a display area hoping for the likes of Western Parotia, Magnificent Bird-of-paradise, Black Sicklebill, Crescent-caped Lophorina and Long-tailed Paradigalla. We hope to be able to spend some time watching some of these amazing species and with luck we can witness the full array of display postures. The elusive Arfak Astrapia and Black-billed Sicklebill are two of the region's more difficult endemics to connect with, however, we will spend



Magnificent Bird-of-paradise by Glen Valentine



Black Sicklebill by Stephan Lorenz

ample time in good habitat and hope that some recent display sites have been found by some of the local guides.

Overall mornings provide a hub of activity, and the birding is generally excellent. We will be listening out for some of the region's most special birds, which are often best located by voice like Pheasant Pigeon, White-striped and Chestnut Forest Rails, Lesser Ground Robin, Smoky Robin, Papuan Logrunner and Spotted Jewel-babbler.

Flocks are also a major feature of these forests and time spent grilling the interior and edge mixed flocks should yield a variety of honeyeaters such as Long-billed, Marbled, Rufous-sided, Western Smoky and the endemic Arfak Honeyeater. Scrubwrens are also in good evidence, and we will look out for Perplexing, Vogelkop and Pale-billed.

Other flock associated species include the endemic Vogelkop Whistler, Papuan Treecreeper, Ashy Gerygone, and Drongo and Friendly Fantails. Another special that can be associated with the mixed flocks is Mottled Berryhunter. This species has been recently elevated to monotypic family status and is of particular interest to global family listers. The Arfak Mountains can be a good location to try and connect with this often-elusive species. Others such as the delicate Slaty and Green-backed Robins are fairly common and can be quite confiding in the understory while we will also keep a lookout for Ashy and Garnet Robins, Mountain Peltops, Black-shouldered Cicadabird, Black Monarch, Black-breasted Boatbill, Mountain Mouse-warbler and Island Leaf Warbler.

Another of our major targets in the Arfaks is Lesser Melampitta, a species that has recently been elevated to its own family together with the Greater Melampitta. This shy and retiring species was once lumped within the birds-of-paradise and we will put in a good deal of effort to secure views of this unique and sought-after bird.

Our accommodations are near an excellent area of primary forest where several specials can be found including the endemic Vogelkop Bowerbird. Like the various birds-of-paradise this species is often best seen at dedicated blinds where their display courts, adorned with a spectacular array of objects, need to be seen to be believed! Other species of the primary forest include Mountain Gerygone, Canary Flyrobin, Rufous-naped Bellbird, the endemic Arfak Catbird, Black Pitohui, scarce and little-known Obscure Berrypecker, Black-winged Monarch, and Dimorphic Fantail. This is also the



Tit Berrypecker by Lev Frid



Obscure Berrypecker by Glen Valentine

very best location for another major special, the endemic Western Parotia, which can often be seen at known display courts. If we can get to enjoy the weird dance of the male it usually ranks as a highlight of any birding trip to the Arfaks. Occasionally, we get super lucky with highly retiring species such as Wattled Brushturkey and Bronze Ground Dove walking across the display courts in search of the undigested fruit items found in parotia faeces. Masked Bowerbird also occurs in the area and if any active bowers are in use we will definitely make a concerted effort to see this stunning species.

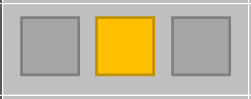
Other species of higher elevation forests and clearings that we will be on the lookout for include the gorgeous Ornate and White-bibbed Fruit Doves, Papuan Mountain and Rufescent Imperial Pigeons, Pygmy Eagle, Rufous-throated and White-eared Bronze Cuckoos, Modest Tiger Parrot, Papuan, Fairy and Pygmy Lorikeets, Red-breasted and Yellow-capped Pygmy Parrots, Pesquet's and Blue-collared Parrots, Mountain Swiftlet, Long-tailed Honey Buzzard, Varied Sittella, White-shouldered Fairywren, Regent Whistler, Tit Berrypecker, Black Pitohui, Yellow-legged Flyrobin, Black-bellied and Stout-billed Cuckooshrikes, striking Goldenface, Fan-tailed and Mid-mountain Berrypeckers, Black Monarch, Grey Thornbill, Hooded Pitohui, Black-fronted White-eye and endemic Vogelkop Melidectes. The latter species is best searched for around flowering trees together with the likes of Ornate and Cinnamon-browed Melidectes. In good weather, New Guinea Eagle may be heard calling persistently and can sometimes be tracked down with moderate effort.

On one of the afternoons, we will drive up to higher elevation around Anggi Lake. This is area is home to a very special and highly localised endemic, the Grey-banded Mannikin. This species will be our primary target for the afternoon while the surrounding wetter areas offer a good chance of seeing Papuan Grassbird.



Papuan Grassbird by Stephan Lorenz

Tour Grading & Key

Overall Ease		This is not an easy tour, you should have a GOOD level of fitness & stamina, as well as be in good health. This tour is NOT suitable for dedicated or avid photographers; inexperienced birders; or anyone with mobility or health challenges.
Birding Ease		Moderate to difficult. Bird density is low, many visuals are high in the canopy. Several difficult target species.
Accommodation		Reasonable, simple to rather basic in the Arfaks.
Walking / Trails		Some trails or short walks can be very muddy & fairly steep to very steep. Some longer hikes are optional.
Vehicles / Roads		Roads are mostly in good condition. Short drives only on gravel roads.
Photography		Reasonable, typical rainforest conditions of variable light & rain.
Annoyances		Can be rainy at times making trails muddy. Insects can be annoying especially when sitting in the blinds.

Financial Arrangements and Important Notes

Tour dates, prices, single supplement, approximate flight costs and tour spaces are displayed on our website.

Tour inclusions:

- All meals from lunch on day 1 to breakfast on day 6;
- All lodgings;
- Bottled drinking water;
- All ground transportation during the tour;
- All reserve entrance fees;
- Local land owner fees;
- All guiding services
- Tips for local guides, drivers and services.

Tour exclusions:

- Visa fees;
- ANY flights;
- Any beverages (including mini-bar charges at hotels);
- Camera fees;
- Special gratuities;
- Telephone calls, laundry and other items of a personal nature.

Single Supplement: Single accommodation is not likely on this tour. The single supplement cost for this tour will be charged if you wish to have single accommodation. If RBL cannot provide you with a rooming partner for these nights although you choose to share, the single supplement will become applicable. We will make all reasonable efforts to ensure that a rooming partner is found if you do wish to share.

Tipping: As noted above, gratuities (drivers, hotel staff, restaurants etc.) are included on this tour. However, this does NOT include your Rockjumper leader/s. If you feel that they have given you excellent service, it is entirely appropriate to tip them at your discretion.

- **Due to constantly fluctuating exchange rates, we quote our tours in 4 currencies. The tour price is fixed only in the currency printed in bold, and the actual cost in the other currencies listed will be adjusted according to prevailing exchange rates at the time of final invoicing. The same applies to approximate flight and single supplement rates.**
- **Rates are based upon group tariffs; if the tour does not have sufficient registrations, a small group supplement will be offered to confirm the tour.**
- **Tour prices are subject to unforeseen increases in tour related costs and may have to be adjusted as a result.**
- **The designated tour leader/s may be changed at short due to unforeseen circumstances.**
- **The itinerary is indicative only. Changes may need to be made to the order in which the tour is conducted, or some of the venues we visit closer to departure. We will attempt to adhere as close to the original program as possible.**

- This tour requires a very good level of fitness and participants should be in good general health. Much of the forest birding will be done on foot and may require walking for several hours at a time. Should you have any physical limitations, please notify us in advance of departure.
- It is important to note that for most of this tour we will be far from civilization and medical facilities and, as such, this tour is not suitable for people with physical or medical limitations; nor is this tour suitable for the casual birder. Please let us know in advance of the tour if you have any medical conditions.
- West Papua is a challenging place to visit, and the likelihood is high for things to go awry, so please do expect some hassles along the way - we will, however, do our utmost to make this as smooth as possible. Delays, sometimes significant, should be expected when taking internal flights that are necessary to access these remote locations; weather or airline problems, for example, might cause delays that are out of our control.
- Most days in the lowlands will be hot, dry and sunny, but overcast conditions are fairly frequent, and some rain, heavy at times, can be expected in the afternoons particularly in the mountains. In montane areas it will range from very cool to warm. Humidity levels in the lowlands are often rather high.
- With early starts, some long days in the field are to be expected.

Arrival and Departure Details

The tour will depart mid-morning from Manokwari on day 1 and conclude here after breakfast on day 6.

The above information in respect of arrivals and departures is a guide only. Precise arrival and departure information will be sent to you in your Tour Confirmation package once the tour has been officially confirmed. If you wish to arrive early and/or depart late and would like assistance in this regard, kindly contact the Rockjumper office.

Rendani Airport, Manokwari (IATA: MKW) is the main port of arrival and departure for this tour and is best reached via Jakarta (IATA: CGK) or Sorong (IATA: SOQ).

DO NOT book any flights until the Rockjumper Team have officially confirmed the tour.