

Papua New Guinea – A trip to the Stone Age!

It is hard to imagine that societies still live under the conditions we observed. We have visited many primitive places around the world, but none match PNG.



These are Hulis who live in the central highlands. They were first contacted in the mid-1930s by two Australian prospectors. There were more than a million Hulis living in the unexplored area. They had never seen a white person before and thought their tribes were the only people on Earth.



The yellow face paint often is used to depict the cultures of PNG. The many of the feathers in the headdress come from endangered “birds of paradise.”



“We fight over three things: land, women and pigs.” Tribal wars go on today – with bows and arrows.



Women farm- but at subsistence level



The women plant sweet potatoes in a most primitive fashion. The pigs assist them in the gardens.



Not happy with polygamy, this woman makes a talisman to keep other woman away from her husband. Twice she severed digits from her left hand because she was mad at him.



A chief with his wives. They are bought for between 10 and 30 pigs. The wives live with the pigs. Men live in a separate hut and heterosexual sex limited and mostly for procreation. Not mentioned, though prevalent, are homosexual encounters.



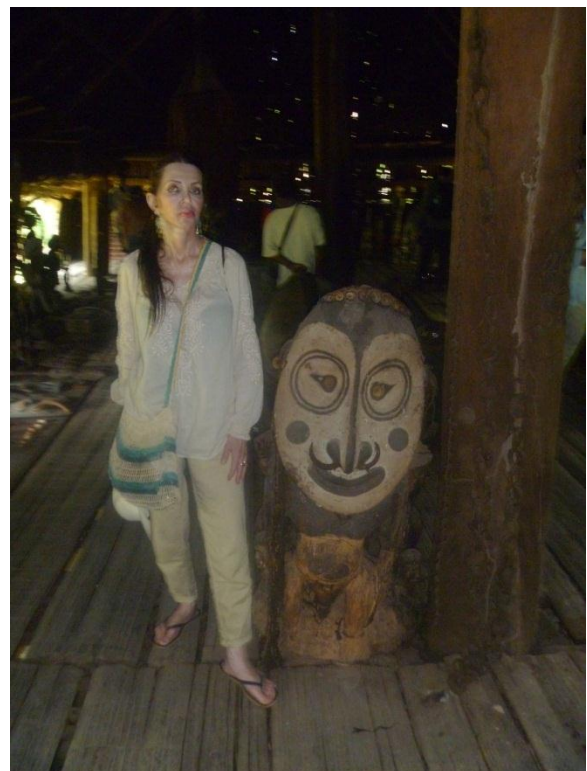
I hit a 3 inch diameter tree, which excited them. They have yet to learn to notch the arrow, use a metal tip, or feathers for aerodynamics.



Getting to the village and their carvings is not always easy.



On the Sepik River, all of the small villages have a spirit house where the men stay and keep their carvings.





Many men are intentionally scared as homage to the crocodiles that live there. This medium-size one is 13 feet long.



At another spirit house



Women dance separately in their hut.





The Sepik River is over 700 miles long and looks like the Amazon when you fly into the area. The tribes survive by fishing and even catch enough to smoke and take to market.



Remember that Croc? These kids play and swim unsupervised along the river. Here we would have the parents arrested for child

Endangerment



Each day they chop down a palm tree and open it up and pulverize the inside as a staple in their diet. They are surviving on sawdust! Tastes like it too.



The jungle airports are quite crude. With luck you are off the ground before the trees.



Mount Hagen Sing-Sing was indescribable



The Mud Men
Those masks weigh over 30 lbs.



And much, much more