

## ITINERARY

TU – Carstensz Pyramid

[Map image]

### **D1 TO D3 Fly to Indonesia. Arrive at Denpasar (Bali).**

Arrive in Bali, Indonesia, on day 2 of your trip. Transfer to our charming hotel near the beach. Bali is an unparalleled destination, an extraordinary tropical island bathed in the beauty of mystical temples, colourful festivals, art and unique artisans. Bali is well worth a visit, not least because of its charming atmosphere and sunny weather. We'll take advantage of our time here and explore some of the many sites on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day.

Overnight stay at the hotel.

Accommodation: Hotel

Meal: D.L.S.

### **D4 Bali – Timika (Papua)**

We'll fly to Timika, a small city that serves as the supply point for the Grasberg mine. Because of its importance to the mine and its large labour force, Garuda Indonesia national airline made Timika a stopover point. Here, we'll make the last preparations for the expedition. Overnight stay at a hotel.

Transportation: 3 h (flight)

Accommodation: Hotel

Meal: D.L.S.

### **D5 Timika – Suanggama (via Sugapa)**

We're going to fly over West Papua, over the impressive (and supposedly impenetrable) Papua rainforest, which will give us a chance to take in its vastness from above. When we land on the bumpy runway, there's a good chance we'll be greeted by plenty of curious spectators. Then, we'll drive to a bridge near Sugapa (2,244 m) on the back of a motorcycle! After negotiating with local landowners demanding payment for crossing their land, we should be able to continue on our way and set up camp in Suanggama (2,018 m).

Transportation: 1 h (flight) + 1 h (motorcycle)

Accommodation: Camp

Meal: D.L.S.

### **D6 Suanggama (2,018 m) at River Side Camp (2,380 m)**

From Suanggama, the last "village," we'll descend to the banks of a river that we'll more or less follow for the entire day. We'll walk for approximately two more hours to reach our camp site in the middle of the jungle. Given that we'll be in one of the thickest and deepest rainforests in the world, the chances for rain are very high. Thus, good preparation is of the utmost importance!

Hiking time: 6-8 h, drop + 970 m / - 660 m

Distance: 15.5 km

Accommodation: Camp

Meal: D.L.S.

### **D7 River Side Camp (2,380 m) in Endasiga (3,230 m)**

Today will be the most intense of all our trekking days! As we make our way through our path in the forest, we'll be stepping over huge roots and skirting big mud holes...it's the law of the jungle! After reaching the Salt Factory camp, we'll take a path that ascends steeply, until we reach the small Blind's camp. From here, we'll have 2-3 hours left in our climb. The rainforest ends abruptly in a clearing at 3,200 m, where we'll set up our camp.

Ascent: 1,115 m / Descent: - 275 m

Distance: 17 km

Hiking time: 8–10 h

### **D8 Endasiga camp (3,230 m) in Ebay (3,584 m)**

The first hour of our trek will lead us to the ridge that separates the first valley from "our" valley. After descending along this ridge, we'll reach our penultimate camp.

Ascent: 760 m / Descent: - 420 m

Distance: 11 km

Hiking time: 6-7 h

### **D9 Camp Ebay (from 3,584 m) at Nasidome (from 3,734)**

We'll descend into the beautiful valley. Here, the wild landscape will take us back millions of years, to a time when dinosaurs roamed the vast forests. Then, we'll cross the river on a natural stone bridge to get to the top of the next ridge, where we'll meet up with the other route option (via Illaga). We'll wade through swampland before shortly reaching our last camp before base camp and the New Zealand pass, leading us to the foot of the pyramid.

Ascent: 780 m / Descent: - 630 m

Distance: 13 km

Hiking time: 6-7 h

### **D10 Nasideom (3,734 m) – New Zealand pass at Carstensz Base Camp (4,273 m)**

The most difficult part of this section is the New Zealand pass (you could use the plural form here, since it is actually several passes following each other!). There's a 50 m long climbing passage, which can be quite difficult on a rainy day. Once we've mastered it, we'll descend to the base camp at the foot of the Carstensz Pyramid.

Ascent: 920 m / Descent: - 350 m

Distance: 8.5 km

Hiking time: 6-7 h

### **D 11 AND D12 Ascend the Carstensz Pyramid (4,884 m)**

We set off in the morning to meet our objective: the Carstensz Pyramid. We'll cross a small pass to reach the entrance point to the highest mountain of Oceania. We'll hook our jumars into the fixed rope—and off we go! We'll have to be alert from the very start, for there are a lot of loose rocks lying around; kicking one of them off can have severe consequences. We'll discuss the ascent route in more detail at the information meeting. Given that rain and snowfall can occur towards midday, the exact programme of the day will be set on site. This gives us 2 days of margin to manoeuvre to attempt the summit. In the event that we summit earlier, we'll

return at a more leisurely pace. Note: We'll be summiting the Carstensz Pyramid via the West Ridge (UIAA III-IV), which requires confident climbing skills and endurance.

Ascent: 600 m / Descent: - 600 m

Hiking time: Long day!

### **D13 TO D16 Return excursion to base camp at Sugapa**

We'll take the same route on the way back. Because we'll already know the route, we should be faster on the return trek and we might even save a day.

See the distance descriptions above.

### **D17 Fly from Sugapa to Nabire or from Timika to Denpasar**

Today, we'll fly via Timika back to Bali. We'll transfer to our hotel, where we can relax and drink a toast to our big, challenging but wonderful adventure!

Overnight stay at the hotel.

### **D18 Float day (depending on the weather forecast for domestic flights)**

Planning a spare day is essential to allow for any unforeseeable occurrences of the Adventure! This also gives us a chance with the elements, in case there are bad weather conditions for the summit.

### **D19 Bali visit**

Day of visiting and relaxing in Bali.

Overnight stay at the hotel.

### **D20 AND D21 Return flight and arrival in Quebec**

We'll enjoy our few last hours in Bali the morning before we leave for the airport and go back to Quebec.

### **Description of the Carstensz Pyramid route**

The route of the first ascent follows the path on the right part of the North Face. Cracks and slabs alternating with scree lead to the first ridge. Once at the sandy foot of the rock face, a steep slab (75°) has to be mastered, which gradually leads to flatter stretches. A good section of scree basin follows, which leads to the West Ridge, whose difficulty is graded III to IV on the UIAA scale, though large parts of it are easier. At the West Ridge, you follow the obvious line at the right side to the top of the ridge. The next section of the ridge shows several splits and gaps. The most spectacular gap is crossed hanging from a fixed rope—a technique which, though it needs some getting used to, is very efficient and quick. The "Yellow Tower" follows, which can be passed over easy terrain on the right side. The next small gap isn't too difficult to pass, provided you've got some flexibility and manage to cross it with ease. After another short stretch on the wide ridge, you have to cross another gap, this time descending slightly and crossing a large chockstone to then, stepping wide, reach the other side. The final section before the summit involves climbing a long slab and a gendarme that leads to the summit ridge. Now, the summit is almost in reach; the terrain is getting easier and flatter, though there is a bit more slippery scree. If you're lucky enough to reach the summit before the daily rain showers, we can have a magnificent view of the area approximately 4,000 m below! The glaciated summit of the Ngga Pulu can be seen in the distance. Finally, the descent follows shortly thereafter. Here, speed is key to avoiding the afternoon rainfalls and potentially sub-zero temperatures (there's a risk of ice forming on the rocks). The descent to base camp is done using a combination of climbing down and abseiling.