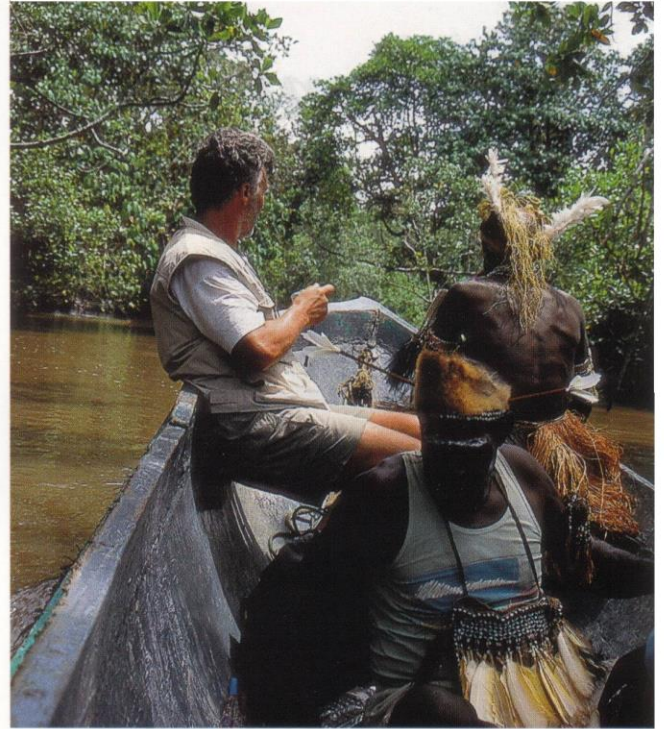
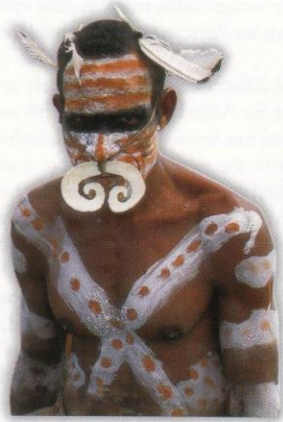
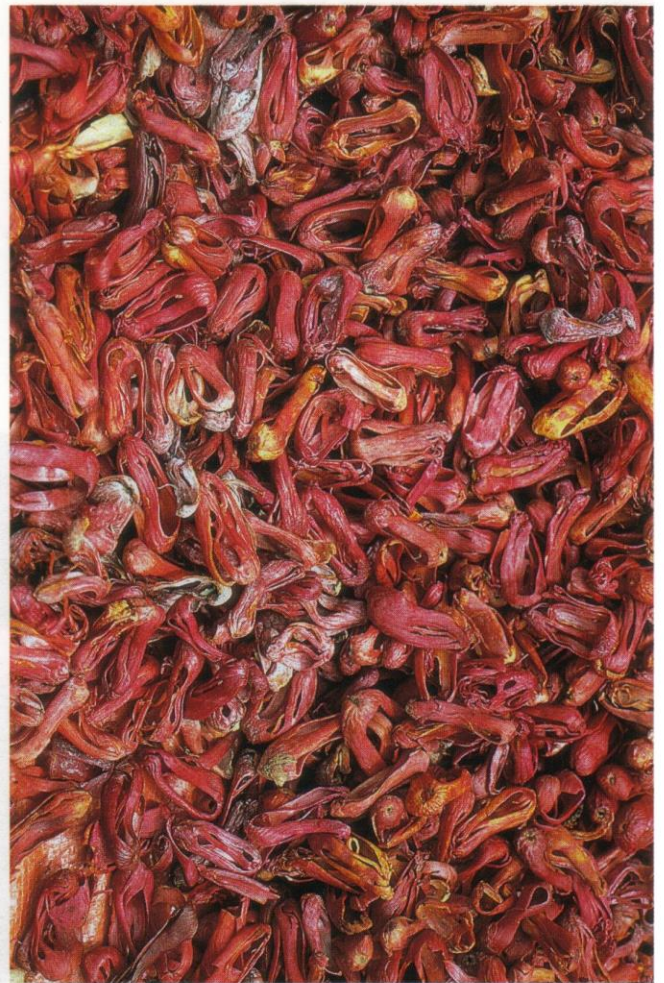


Irian Jaya



Indonesia's most easterly province, Irian Jaya (West Papua), is part of one of the world's last frontiers and almost totally covered in tropical rainforest. From snow capped peaks to palm fringed beaches, this is a land that tourism has hardly touched. Populated by ancient tribes like the Dani and the Asmat, some just emerging from the Stone Age, Irian Jaya offers the traveller an adventure beyond comparison. Sail emerald waters, discover underwater realms never experienced, visit traditional villages unchanged in centuries and meet the descendents of perhaps the fiercest headhunters the world has ever known - there is never a dull moment on the largest tropical island in the world.

Irian Jaya is definitely a destination for the adventure traveller.



It is a land of exceptional natural grandeur, with stretches of marshlands, cool grassy meadows and powerful rivers carving gorges through dense primeval forests. The most heavily populated and cultivated parts of the island are the Paniai Lakes district and the Baliem Valley to the east.

Jayapura

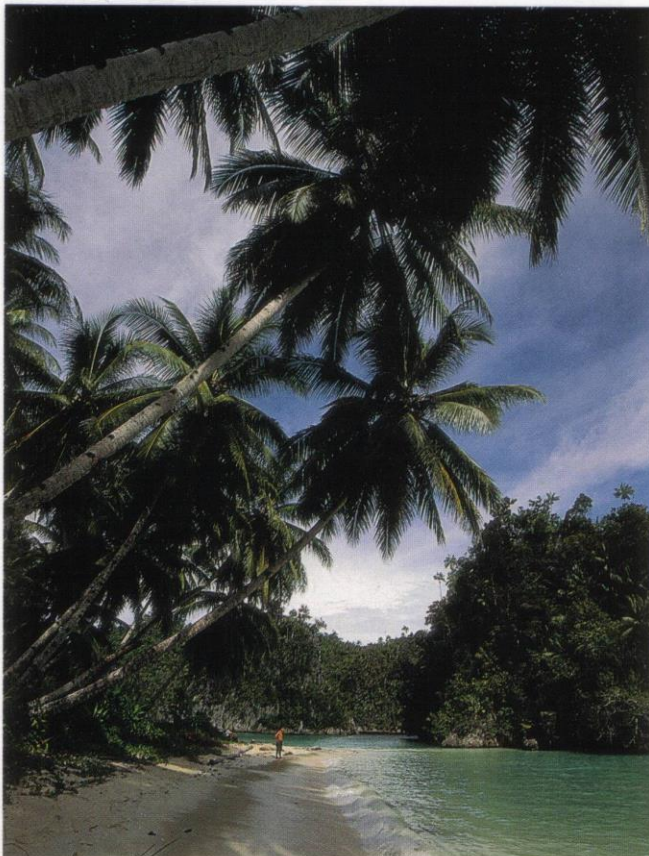
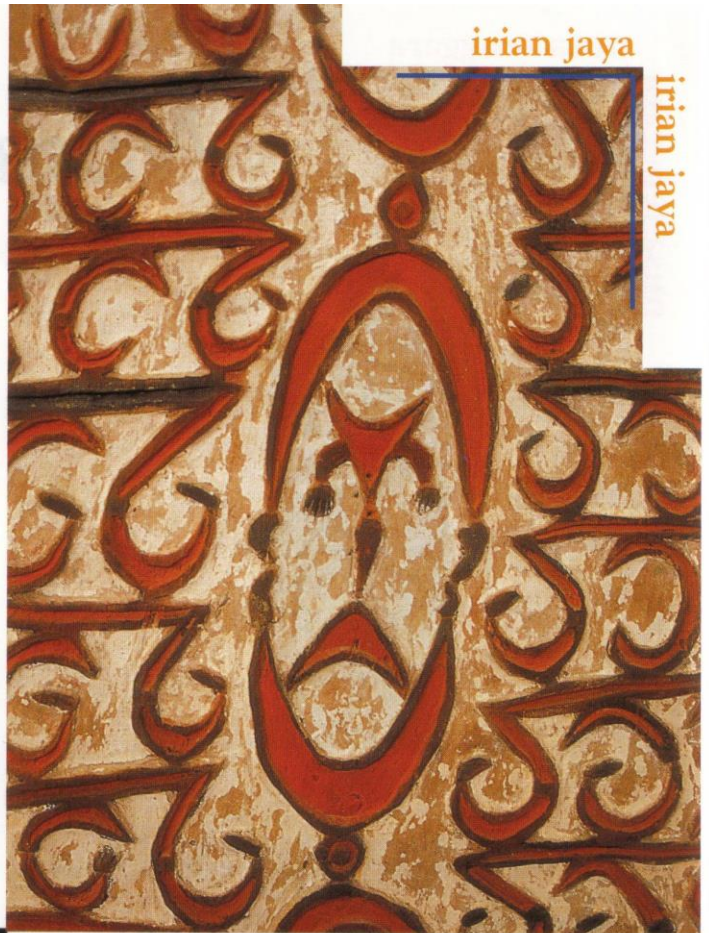
Jayapura is the capital and the biggest city of this easternmost province. It is a neat and pleasant city, built on the slope of a hill overlooking the bay. The Museum Jayapura is located on the Cenderawasih University campus. Tanjung Ria Beach, known as Base G by the Allies during World War 11, is a popular holiday resort with facilities for water sports.

Lake Sentani

A short trip from Jayapura, Lake Sentani is still virtually untouched by tourism. The people who call the shores of this magnificent lake home still live in a traditional manner, and are renowned for their woodworking and pottery.

Biak

Biak, a town on an island of the same name in Cenderawasih Bay, is Irian Jaya's main gateway. It has a better infrastructure than most other places in the province. There are some good beaches on Biak island, the most popular of which are Bosnik on the east coast, which is good for swimming and skydiving, and Korem on the north coast, where one can watch young men dive for pearls. Supiori Island, just north of Biak, has a wilderness reserve and traditional villages where visitors are welcome.



The Asmat

The Asmat people, who live along the remote southeast coast, are famed for their artistic primitive woodcarving. Modern civilization did not reach this area until recently. Agats has an interesting museum filled with woodcarvings and other objects. Asmat crafts received a boost in the late 1960s under a United Nations supported project encouraging local craftsmen to keep their art alive. Much of the area is still untamed wilderness.

