



Carstensz Pyramid

Climb one of the seven summits



20 days/19 nights - from/to Jakarta - 14 nights in tent - min 6 pax/max 12 pax - Level of difficulty: extreme

During this 20 days/19 nights group expedition from/to Jakarta you will climb the Carstensz Pyramid, also known as Puncak Jaya. At 4,884 meters, the Carstensz Pyramid is the highest peak in Oceania, making it one of the famous 7-Summits, the highest peaks of the seven continents. The Carstensz was first climbed in 1962 by the Austrian Heinrich Harrer. And even today, expeditions to this mountainous region of New Guinea require complex approval procedures. Due to his experience and network, Dr. Weiglein is one of the few experts for Papua who can successfully guide and organize expeditions to the Carstensz region. From the wet and muddy

jungle to the glaciers of Carstensz mountain, this trekking expedition in Papua is a real challenge for the truly adventurous.

A brief History of Carstensz:



Imaginary portrait of Jan Carstensz; there is no known portrait of this amazing explorer

Jan Carstensz – the man who saw snow

Not much is known about the Dutch explorer Jan Carstensz. We know that he belongs to the Dutch East India Company (also called VOC – Vereenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie) and was stationed in Ambon on the Maluku Islands when the VOC assigned him in 1622 to lead an expedition into the waters of New Guinea.

Carstensz was assigned to explore the southern coast of the “great country of New Guinea” and to verify the records of his colleague Willem Janszoon. Janszoon had sighted Australia a few years earlier, on an expedition along the coast of New Guinea, and had told his employers about it. Janszoon was wrongly convinced that New Guinea and Australia are parts of a coherent landmass (Dutch maps will be drawn with this error for many years to come).

Carstensz’s expedition lasts for over a year and is not very successful. During a stopover on the coast of New Guinea the crew is attacked by natives and several crew members lose their lives. Nevertheless, the Dutch explorer sails further towards Australia and goes ashore several times. Again there are clashes with the native population. Carstensz is able to capture some of the attackers and decides to take two of them to Batavia, the former name of Jakarta, where the VOC is based. When Carstensz is about to discover the passage between New Guinea and Australia, he encounters headwinds and decides to return.

Apart from trouble with the natives, Carstensz does not find much on the Australian coast. His official report is therefore quite negative and will have a discouraging effect on further exploration of this region by the Netherlands for some time to come.

Since Carstensz does not find anything of interest on his shore excursions, and since he is also denied to discover the passage between Australia and New Guinea, his expedition almost fell into oblivion. But this did not happen. Instead, his name today is in the history books for a discovery that Carstensz made on his way back, for which he was mocked and called a fool in his homeland at the time: Jan Carstensz had seen snow.

On February 16, 1623, Carstensz stood on the deck of his ship and looked east, and as he noted in his diary, “we were about 1½ miles from the lowlands, in 5 or 6 fathoms, loamy ground; at a distance of about 10 miles, according to estimates, inland, we saw a very high mountain range which was snow-white in many places, which we thought was a very unique sight, since it was so close to the equinox line”.

Carstensz referred to the snow-covered peaks of the mountains of New Guinea which we now know as Puncak Trikora, Puncak Yamin and Puncak Mandala. And of course the highest of them, the one that now bears his name, the Carstensz Pyramid (Puncak Jaya).



The papua highlands with the mountains in the distance

Nobody in Europe at that time could imagine that there could be snow-covered peaks near the equator, and it had to take another 200 years before his statement could be verified. Better late than never.

More than 300 years had to pass until the Austrian **Heinrich Harrer** succeeded in the **first ascent of the Carstensz Pyramid**.

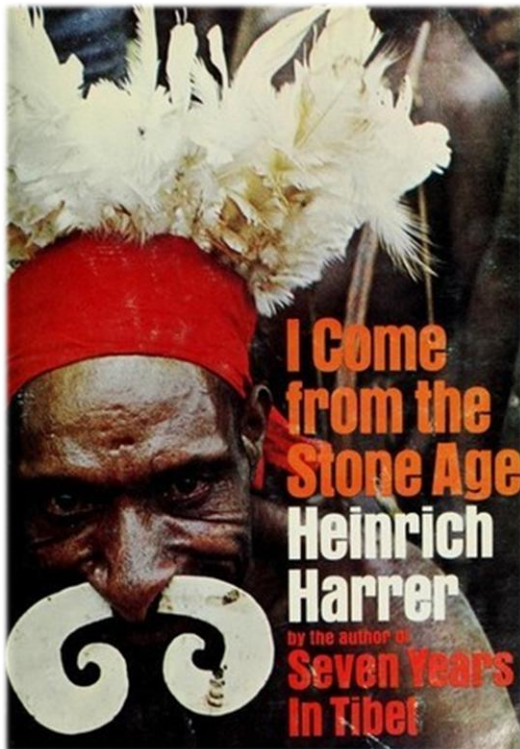
Heinrich Harrer – His life in the stone age

Heinrich Harrer achieved fame around the globe through numerous first ascents. One of his greatest achievements remains the first ascent of the Carstensz Pyramid, which he achieved in 1962. But not only that. He also escaped from captivity in British India to Tibet and became friends with the Dalai Lama. Harrer's book "Seven Years in Tibet" became a classic and was made into two movies.

The Carstensz Pyramid is with a height of 4,884 meters (16,023 feet) the highest peak in Oceania and belongs to the famous group of the 7 Summits. The first attempt to climb it by a Dutch expedition in 1936 failed. At the time the group could not agree which of the three summits in the mountain range was the highest. They first climbed Ngga Pulu and then East Carstensz. When trying to reach the third peak, the Carstensz pyramid, the group got into bad weather and had to retreat.

Lucky for Harrer, who was the first to make his way through the glaciers to the summit in 1962. At that time, just as during the Dutch expedition before, it was still not clear that the Carstensz Pyramid was indeed the highest peak. In fact, it was only in 1994 that the Carstensz Pyramid was confirmed and generally accepted as the highest peak.

Harrer was accompanied by a diverse team, including geologist Jean Jaques Dozy, who, when he saw a strangely dark and green colored peak, realized that it must be a mountain of gold and copper ore. This will later become the largest gold mine in the world.



Until today the Carstensz Pyramid has not been conquered by many mountaineers. And this is only partly due to the fact that from 1995 to 2005 access to the area was prohibited. Even after the opening, a lengthy permit procedure is necessary and the climb itself is extremely demanding.

The above mentioned "Seven Years in Tibet" is Harrer's most famous book, thanks to the filming of the same name with Brad Pitt – but by far not the only one! Harrer has recorded his adventures in over 20 books and especially his works about the expeditions in Papua became classics. Particularly noteworthy is the "I come from the Stone Age" about Harrer's ascent of the Carstensz Pyramid.

But in New Guinea Heinrich Harrer did not only climb the Carstensz Pyramid.

Further expeditions, many of them with an absolute pioneering character, bring Harrer as one of the first foreigners to the Baliem Valley and the Asmat area, to name a few. For months Harrer fights his way through the brutal wilderness. He gets seriously ill, falls, breaks 32 bones in his body, barely gets away with his life, only to set off again into the jungle some time later. Exciting stories about these adventures with precise explanations of the conditions at the time can also be found in Harrer's publications.

We will follow in the footsteps of Heinrich Harrer and follow his approach to the mountain. This way we relive a little mountaineering history!

Proposed Itinerary:

Day 1: Jakarta airport, Java

Arrival in Jakarta and transfer to Hotel

Upon arrival at Jakarta Airport, you are welcomed and picked up by your driver, Mr. Ketut. He drives you to your hotel in Jakarta where you can rest before the big Carstensz adventure in Papua!

Transportation: 45 minutes – 1hr of airport transfer. Accommodation: Hotel; Breakfast included.

Day 2: Jakarta

Free day in Jakarta

Today you enjoy a day off while our team takes care of the travel permit for our upcoming trip to the Carstensz Pyramid. Our Jakarta Hotel is very centrally located, you can take a walk in the surrounding shopping streets or go sightseeing. Or you can spend the day with a private day Java sightseeing, our driver, can easily organize this for you. After dinner, you get ready for your upcoming flight to Papua. Late evening/midnight (depending on our Timika flight) Mr. Ketut picks you up at the hotel and takes you to the airport for the flight to Timika, Papua. We will spend one night in the plane

Transportation: 45 minutes of airport transfer. Accommodation: Hotel in Jakarta (with late check-out). Meals: breakfast.

Day 3: Jakarta airport – Timika

Arrival in Timika, Papua

You land in Timika early morning and are greeted by Werner Weiglein. Werner has led more than 250 successful expeditions in New Guinea. With more than 30 tours to the Carstensz Pyramid, he is the unofficial current world record holder for tours to this mountain. Our driver transfers us to the Komoro Tame Hotel in the city center, where we make the final preparations for the expedition that starts tomorrow. In the afternoon we may need to weigh the entire team and our luggage, as the charter flight is scheduled for very early the next morning.

Transportation: Flight from Jakarta to Timika: 6 hours. 30 minutes of drive. Guide included. Accommodation: Hotel Komoro Tame. Meals: full board.

Day 4: Timika – Ilaga

Arrival in Ilaga Valley and recruitment of porters

Early in the morning we take our charter flight to Ilaga, the starting point of our trekking expedition to Carstensz Pyramid. Once in the Ilaga Valley, we hike from the airstrip to the nearby village of Pinapa. We set up camp for the night, and after lunch we recruit our porters. We also visit the local government offices to register with our travel permits.

Transportation: 30 minutes of drive. 40 minutes by charter plane. 30 minutes hiking. Guide and cook included. Accommodation: tent. Meals: full board.



Ilaga airport

Day 5: Carstensz expedition

1st day of trekking

Today a long and very exhausting route awaits us. So we start our trekking as early as possible. The climb is steep and we have to reach the ridge behind Ilaga for our tent camp. Camping on the way is not possible. The beautiful views and wonderful nature ease a little the strain.

Full day of trekking. Guide, porters and cook included. Accommodation: tent. Meals: full board.



Dense jungle during the 1st day of trekking

Day 6: Carstensz expedition

2nd day of trekking

Today we hike mainly through open terrain. We pass vast landscapes with constant but easy climbs and descents. We set up our tent camp for the night in a beautiful river valley with tree ferns.

Full day of trekking. Guide, porters and cook included. Accommodation: tent. Meals: full board.



The highlands

Day 7: Carstensz expedition

3rd day of trekking

This morning we hike over a huge plateau. In the afternoon the landscape changes and we hike into a primal forest area. Tonight our camp has a beautiful view over the pyramid region.

Full day of trekking. Guide, porters and cook included. Accommodation: tent. Meals: full board.



A typical day of camping

Day 8: Carstensz expedition

4th day of trekking

Today's route leads through beautiful high moorland landscapes with several lakes and rivers. If the rivers have a lot of water, we might have difficulties crossing them. But our team is used to such obstacles and we are well prepared for them. We pitch our tents at the end of the Larson drainage, near the Latolampege cave.

Full day of trekking. Guide, porters and cook included. Accommodation: tent. Meals: full board.



The Meren Lakes

Day 9: Carstenz expedition

5th day of trekking and arrival at the base camp

Today we cross the New Zealand Pass and take the shortest way to the base camp! If the weather is good and the trails are not too muddy, we reach the so-called “Yellow Valley” around 12 o'clock. Here we set up our base camp with tents and kitchen near the lake. This is our starting point for the second part of the expedition: the climbing of the Carstenz Pyramid!

Full day of trekking. Guide, porters and cook included. Accommodation: tent. Meals: full board.



Porters During the trek

Day 10: Carstenz expedition

1st day at base camp, preparing for the Carstenz climb

Today we explore the northern area at the base of Carstensz Pyramid to familiarize ourselves with the surroundings. We want to make the necessary preparations for tomorrow's climb.

Full day of trekking. Guide, porters and cook included. Accommodation: tent. Meals: full board.



Pitoresque Base Camp next to the lake



Left over glacier near Base Camp

Day 11: Carstensz expedition

First attempt to climb the Carstensz Pyramid

From the base camp we prepare for the ascent and hike to the starting point. Hopefully the weather is good enough to climb the pyramid!

Full day of trekking/mountain climbing. Accommodation: tent. Meals: full board.

Day 12: Carstensz expedition

Extra day: Second attempt to climb the pyramid, or climb the neighbouring peaks

If yesterday's attempt failed, we have an extra day to try again. Otherwise, we can either choose to climb the neighbouring peaks like Ngga Pulu or leave base camp a day early.

Full day of trekking/mountain climbing. Accommodation: tent. Meals: full board.



Rope bridge near the summit



Working hard on the fixed ropes

Day 13 to Day 17: Carstensz expedition – Ilaga

Trekking back to Ilaga village

Today we leave our base camp and hike back to Ilaga village. We follow the same path as for the ascent, which we already know. The descent requires a total of 5 days trekking.

Full days of trekking. Guide, porters and cook included. Accommodation: tent. Meals: full board.



Summit!

Day 18: Ilaga – Timika

Flying back to Timika

Today we leave Ilaga village and walk to the airport to catch our charter flight to Timika. Once in Timika, we are transferred to the Komoro Tame Hotel and we enjoy the afternoon by the pool. Dinner at the hotel's restaurant.

Transportation: 40 minutes by charter plane. 30 minutes walking. 20 minutes of drive. Guide included. Accommodation: Hotel Komoro Tame. Meals: full board.

Day 19: Timika – Jakarta

Return to Jakarta

In the morning, we are transferred to Timika airport for our flight back to Jakarta. We arrive in Jakarta in the early afternoon and Mr Ketut is here to drive us to our hotel. The rest of the day is free. We can also arrange your return flight to Bali if you wish to add some relaxation time after your Carstensz climb. Flights to Bali are less regular and might require a transit in an other city, but you can reach there the same day.

Transportation: 30 minutes of drive. Flight time to Jakarta: 6 hours. Accommodation: Hotel. Meals: breakfast.

Day 20: Jakarta – Airport

End of the tour

Today is your last day in Indonesia. We say goodbye to each other and matching your departure time you are transferred to Jakarta airport for your international flight. End of the tour.

Transportation: 45 minutes of airport transfer. Meals: breakfast.

PRICE & CONDITIONS

Carstensz Pyramid - 20 days/19 nights - Group Tour

Price per person from/to Jakarta: 10995 Euro – 11395 USD*

**USD price is subject to €-\$ exchange rate at the time of booking*

Included

- Arnold Coster as expedition leader under expert supervision of Dr. Werner Weiglein
- Flight tickets Jakarta - Timika - Jakarta
- Charter flights Timika - Ilaga - Timika
- 3x nights in Hotel Jakarta (double room)
- 2x nights in Hotel Komoro Tame, Timika (double room)
- 14x nights in tent (Single tent included)
- Tour as per itinerary
- Cook and porters during the trek
- Equipment (tents, cooking, dishes etc)
- All transfers
- All entrance fees
- Meals full board (Bali only breakfast)
- Surat Jalan travel permit

Not Included

- International flights to/from Jakarta
- Cost of Indonesian visa
- Single rooms in Hotels
- Sleeping bag and mattress
- Personal trekking/climbing equipment
- Additional drinks, meals and personal expenses
- Meals & Drinks except breakfast in Jakarta
- Costs for excess luggage
- Cost of sightseeing tour in Jakarta
- Tips for our porters and cooks, expect to pay around 150€ to our loyal trekking staff