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April 9th, 2014

Dra. Lirca Victoria Valles, Ph.D.

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Dear Miss. Lirca,

I apologize for not having you written before. Through this letter I wish to answer to you about your question about is really safe or not to do a touristic travel safari to Okapa in [Papua New Guinea](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Papua_New_Guinea) with your husband the next month.

The Fore people in the [Okapa District](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Okapa_District), [Papua New Guinea](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Papua_New_Guinea) practice a funerary ritual so-called endocanibalism that is the consumption of the flesh of a member of the group and who is passed away.

Upon the death of an individual, the [maternal kin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kinship_and_descent) is responsible for the [dismemberment](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dismemberment) of the [corpse](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dead_body) in a complex ritual. The women would remove the arms and feet, strip the limbs of [muscle](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muscle), remove the [brain](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brain) and cut open the chest in order to remove [internal organs](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Organ_%28anatomy%29). The meat distribution is governed by rules that determine which parts of the victim can be consumed and who can consume it. For example, a woman ate the [brain](http://science.howstuffworks.com/life/inside-the-mind/human-brain/brain.htm) of her dead brother and a sister-in-law ate the hands of her husband's dead.

Consequently, in this tribe the ritual is performed most often like an expression of veneration of the death, the body is consumed like an esoteric aspect. To eat the dead means inherit some of his personal qualities like his wisdom. This behavior is learned and passed down from generation to generation. This anthropophagy practice is also found in some Amazon or African tribes.

Finally I want to tell you is not completely safe to take the safari trip because lately in that region there was two missing tourist and the natives tour guides only go to certain place, they don’t likes meet with the Fore people by respect. If you decide to follow, is possible that you will meet with this cannibal tribe which is very dangerous.

Respectfully,

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Professor Harold Rodriguez Echeverry