

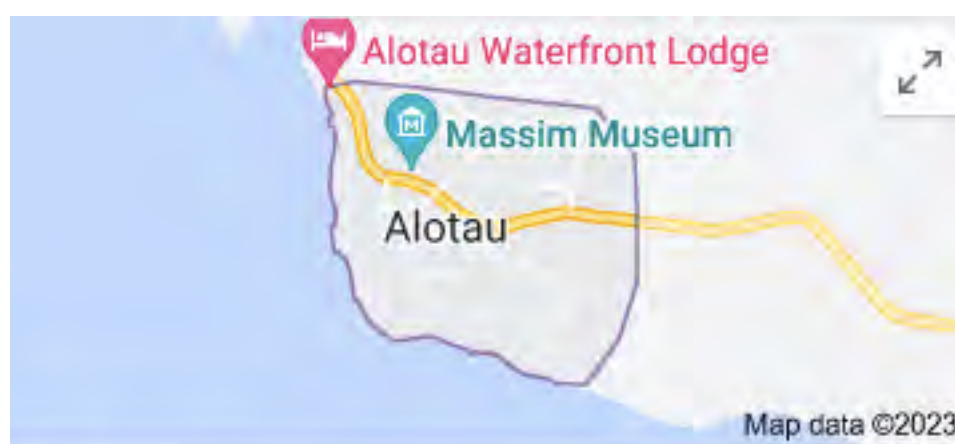
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March 25, 2023
Alotau, Papua New Guinea

After leaving New Caledonia MSC Magnifica will head to Alotau, Papua New Guinea. The distance between Lifou Island & Alotau is 1196 nautical miles and our cruise speed is about 19 knots.

The independent state of Papua New Guinea is a country in Oceania that comprises the eastern half of the island of New Guinea and its offshore islands in Melanesia (a region of the southwestern Pacific Ocean north of Australia). Its capital, located along its south-eastern coast is Port Moresby. The country is the world's third largest island country.

The word papua is derived from an old local term of uncertain origin. "New Guinea" (Nueva Guinea) was the name coined by the Spanish explorer Ynigo Ortiz de Retez. In 1545, he touted the resemblance of the people to those he had earlier seen along the Guinea coast of Africa. Guinea, in its turn, is etymologically derived from the Portuguese word Guine. The same is one of several toponyms sharing similar etymologies, ultimately meaning "land of the blacks" or similar meanings, in reference to the dark skin of the inhabitants.

We docked again at a container yard. It doesn't look like they have a dock for cruise ships.



Alotau

Town in Papua New Guinea

Alotau is the capital of Milne Bay Province, in the south-east of Papua New Guinea. It is located on the northern shore of Milne Bay. The town is located within Alotau Urban LLG. Alotau is also the annual forum for Australian and Papua New Guinean ministers.



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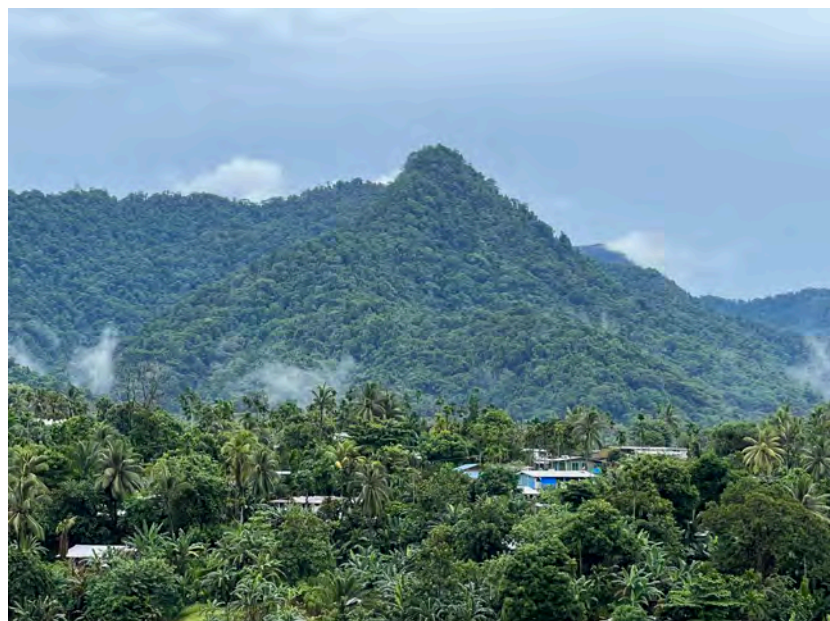
As a child I remember Papua New Guinea as a place of shrunken heads, not sure if that is still practiced in the distant villages.

We are now on our way to Cairns, Australia MSC Magnifica will enter the Solomon Sea, where it will sail between various islands visible on both port and starboard side of the ship. The Solomon Sea is a semi-enclosed sea located at the western boundary of the equatorial Southwest Pacific Ocean, between Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands.

Notice from the ship.

IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA, TOURS ARE ACCOMPANIED BY AMATEUR GUIDES WITH LOCAL KNOWLEDGE AND SPEAKING ENGLISH ONLY.

ALOTAU'S LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE IS BASIC, SEATS ON TOUR BUSES ARE NOT UPHOLSTERED AND COACHES ARE NOT AIR-CONDITIONED. THE TOUR MAY BE PERFORMED WITH WHATEVER TRANSPORT AVAILABLE AT THE TIME OF THE VISIT. IT MAY BE OPEN BACK TRUCKS, 4X4 TROOP CARRIERS, MINI VANS, OR BUSES WITH DIFFERENT CAPACITY. ROADS AND DIRT TRAILS MAY BE POTHOLED AND BUMPY. PUBLIC COMFORT FACILITIES ARE VERY BASIC, AND GUESTS ARE RECOMMENDED TO BRING TISSUE PAPER AND HAND SANITISER WITH THEM. IN VIEW OF THE HOT AND HUMID CLIMATE, GUESTS ARE ADVISED TO TAKE CONSIDERATION OF THEIR HEALTH STATUS (E.G. SENSITIVITY TO HEAT DUE TO AGE OR MEDICATION). IN ADDITION, GUESTS ARE RECOMMENDED TO WEAR A HAT AT ALL TIMES AND TO DRESS IN LINE WITH THE SUDDEN TROPICAL SHOWERS THAT ARE COMMONPLACE IN ALOTAU. GUESTS (ESP. WOMEN) ARE REQUESTED TO DRESS MODESTLY (NO SHORT PANTS ALLOWED, ONLY KNEE-LENGTH OR LONGER) AND NOT TO GIVE CASH OPENLY TO YOUNG CHILDREN. ALCOHOL MUST NOT BE CONSUMED DURING THE TOUR OR IN PUBLIC. GUESTS WITH A VISUAL AND/OR HEARING IMPAIRMENT MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A PAYING HELPER AT ALL TIMES DURING THE TOUR. ALTHOUGH THE PEOPLE OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA ARE NATURALLY QUITE SHY, YOUR GUIDE WILL BE HAPPY TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU HAVE ABOUT THE ISLAND. TOURS ARE UNSUITABLE FOR GUESTS WITH WALKING DIFFICULTIES ON UNPAVED AND UNEVEN TERRAIN.



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Tonights Theatre Show/Concert
Anna Hawkins: Divine
Anna Hawkins returns with a performance of classic and contemporary songs to move and inspire. From Bocelli to Le Miserables, Anna captivates with her signature voice.

