

Cruising Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands



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Sherry & Dave McCampbell
s/v Soggy Paws 2019



s/v Soggy Paws

Florida to the Philippines 2007–2019



Sherry & Dave McCampbell
s/v Soggy Paws 2019



4 years cruising in SE Asia from the Philippines



South East Asia via Davao

2018 Cruise Route

2,000 NM 6 Months
No overnights



Busuanga

Coron

Palawan

Puerto Galera

Bonbonon

Mindanao

Surigao Strait



**Ocean View Marina,
Samal Island, Davao, Mindanao,
Philippines, looking north**





Philippines

2019

7,000 nm, 11 months underway
25 nights on passage
Phil, Indo, PNG, Solomons

Indonesia

Papua
New Guinea

Solomon
Islands

PAPUA NEW
GUINEA

SOLOMON
ISLANDS

Vanuatu

Cebu City

Davao City

Molucca Sea

Banda Sea

Arafura Sea

Bismarck Sea

Solomon Sea

Port Moresby

Honiara

Dili
TIMOR-LESTE

— Jan-June
— July-Nov

Why This Route?

- **World War II History**
- **Scuba Diving**
- **Exotic Cultures**
- **Far-flung Islands**
- **Virtually No Tourists**

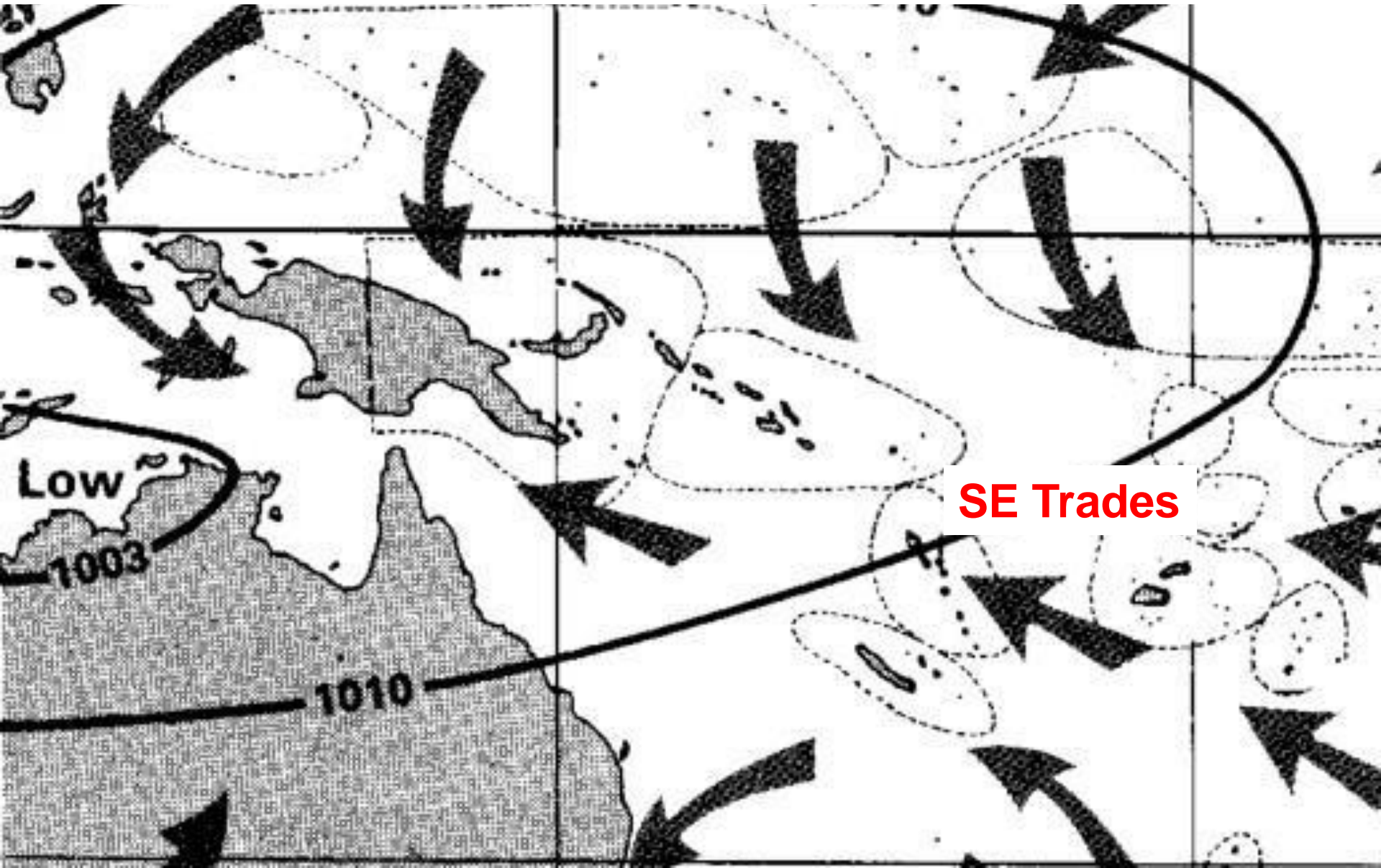
Challenges

- **Weather**
 - Going against the trade winds
 - North hurricane/typhoon season, south cyclones
- **Logistics**
 - Fuel & Provisioning
 - Security Issues
 - Communications (cell phones & internet)
- **Formalities**
 - Check-in/check-out locations
 - Visas & length of stay limitations
- **Charts & Navigation**
- **Medical Issues**

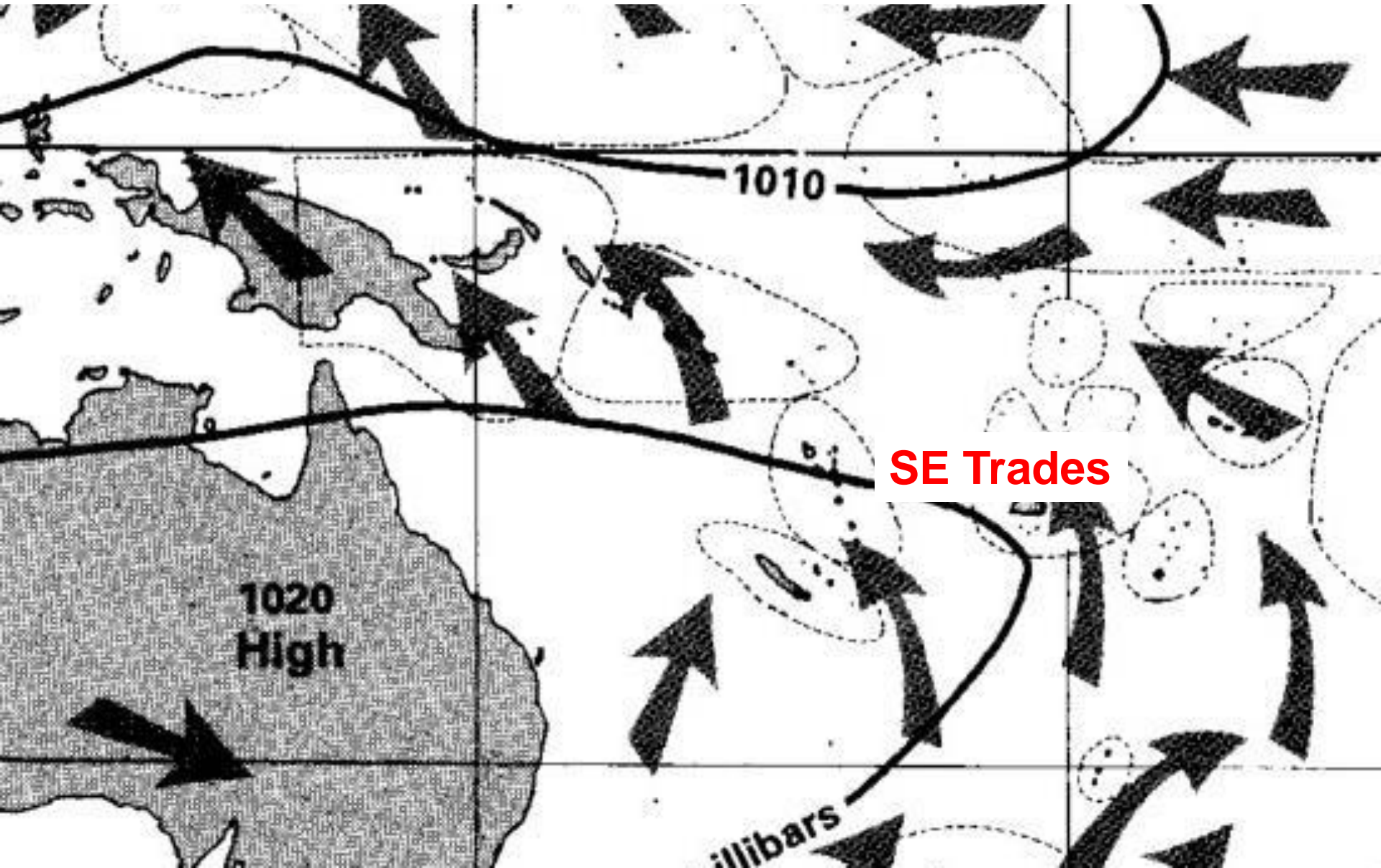
The Weather Challenge

- **NW Winds Blow Indo->PNG Nov-Mar**
- **Mid Mar to Mid May, Very light winds**
- **Mid May, SE TRADES (15-25 kts)**
- **Need to be in Vanuatu by May 15!**
- **Need to be back in Philippines by Oct**

January Wind Patterns



July Wind Patterns



A6M Zero
engine

The World War II Bug “Finding Rusty Bits in the Jungle” (and underwater)



Why are we WWII Enthusiasts?

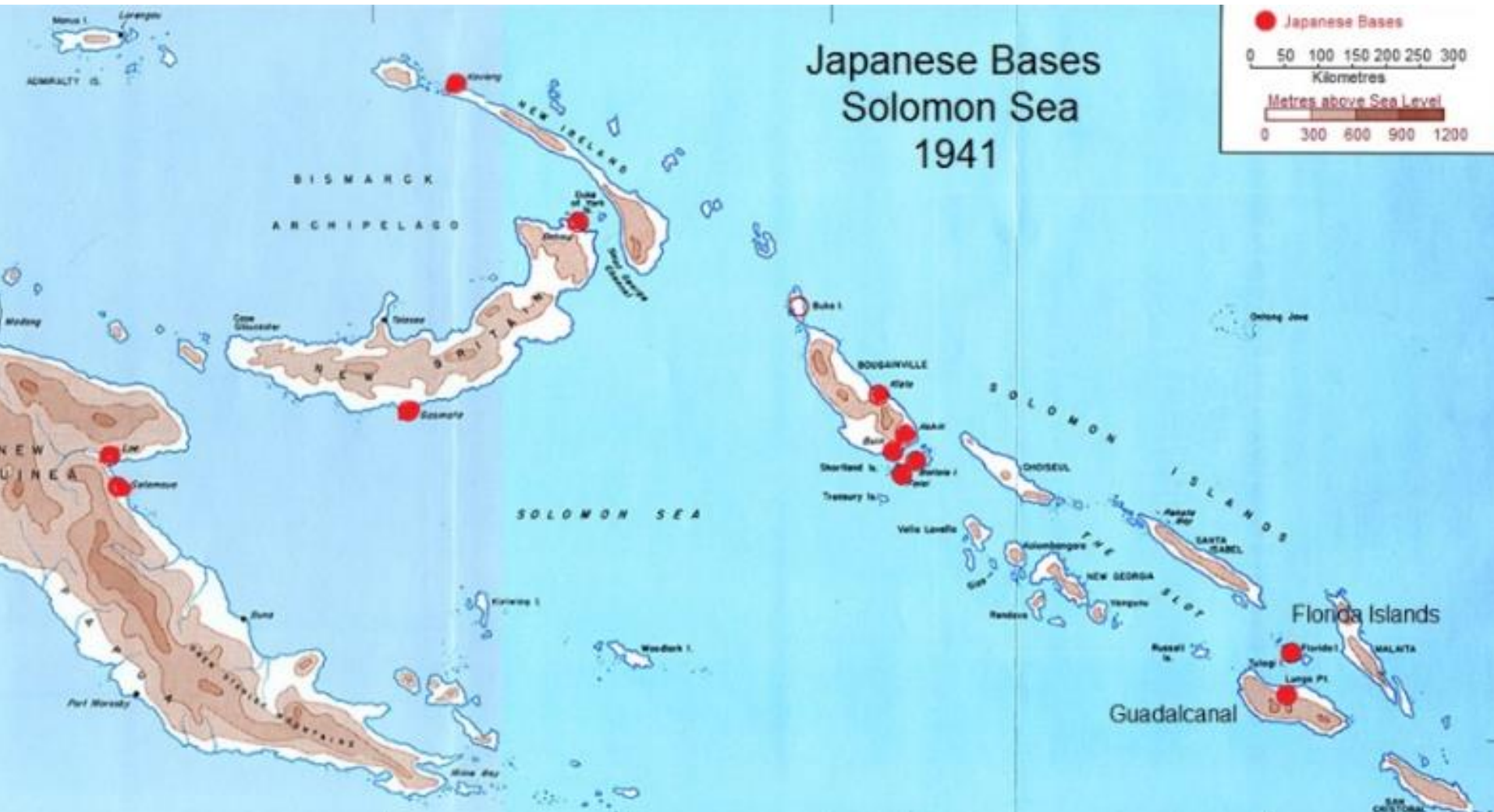
**Dave's Dad – Top Navy Ace of WWII
Flew Hellcats in the Western Pacific**



**Hellcat Minsi III
Landing on USS
Essex CV-9 1944**



Major Jap Bases PNG & Solomons Start of WWII



Major WWII Dates SW Pacific

(start dates of major Allied Campaigns)

- Guadalcanal – Aug 1942
- New Georgia (N Solomons) – June 1943
- Stirling Island (N Solomons) – Oct 1943
- Bougainville (S PNG) – Nov 1943
- Rabaul (Mid PNG) – October 1943
- Kavieng (Mid PNG) – April 1943
- Biak (Indo) – April 1944

Tactics

- Japanese
 - Dig in and build, to stay permanently
- Allies
 - Keep moving toward ultimate goal (Philippines / Japanese home islands)
 - Disable shipping and airfields and move on
 - Maintain skeleton force (nearby) to keep airfields and shipping from returning
- Most bypassed places were not fully liberated until after Japanese surrender
 - Lots of war material left “as is, where is”

Step 1:
Meeting our buddy boats
in Raja Ampat
3 overnights, 550 Miles in 12 Days

Morotai

Halmahera

Wind
Dec-Mar



Maluku Utara

Wayag

Raja Ampat

Sorong



Our Buddy Boats





**Ocelot – Kronos 45 – Jon & Sue – Americans
Adventurers – Divers – Birdwatchers**



Indigo II

- **Lagoon 410**
- **Chris & Liz**
- **Australian**
- **Birdwatchers**



**Berzerker – Selection 37 – Craig & Pam – Kiwis
Adventurers – 1 Diver – Foodies**



**Soggy Paws – St. Francis 44 – Americans
Adventurers – Divers – WWII Nuts**

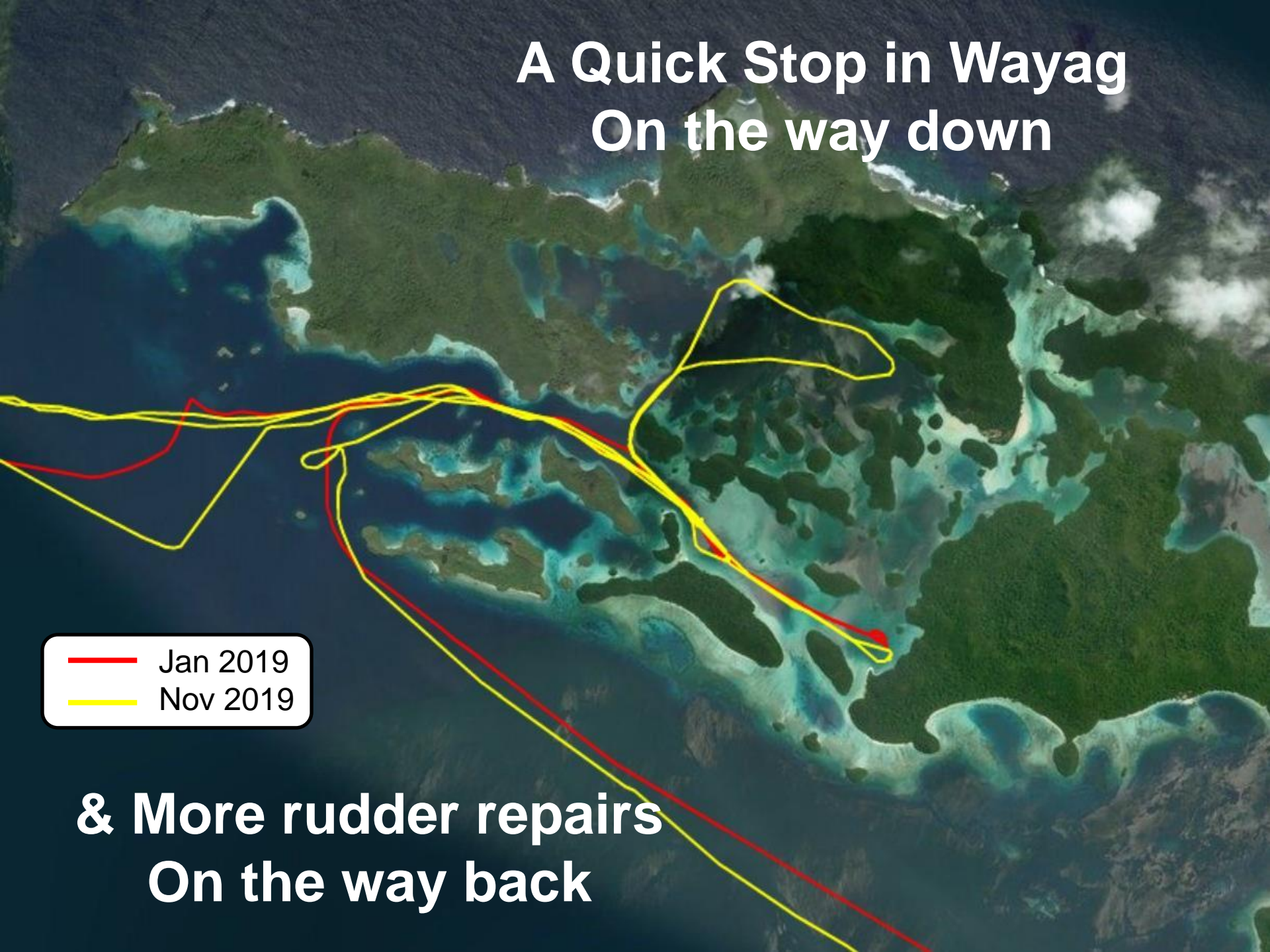
One of Many Planning Sessions



Highlights/Lowlights of Indonesia

- Wayag
 - Beautiful anchorage
- Long Traverse of “Bird’s Head”
- Biak
 - Catalina dive
 - Final provisioning
- Saildrive maintenance on the beach
- Logs & Log Damage

**A Quick Stop in Wayag
On the way down**



**& More rudder repairs
On the way back**





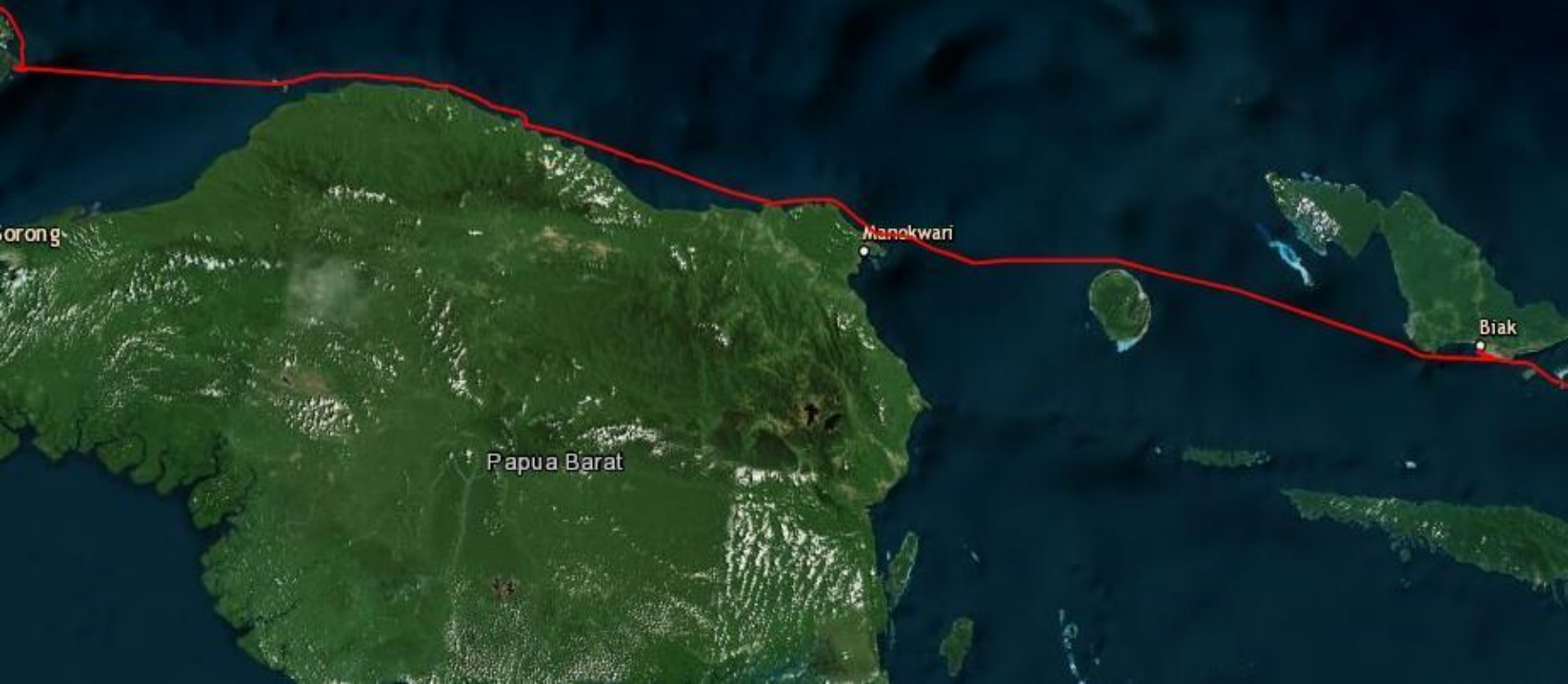


Indonesian Liveaboard Charter Boats



Coast-Hopping Raja Ampat to Biak

- avoiding logs, FADs, and fishermen
- rocky, exposed anchorages



Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs)



Fishing Boats, many miles offshore



Logs!



Biak Indonesia (Check-out Port)



Biak

Customs
Groceries
Fuel
Diving
WWII

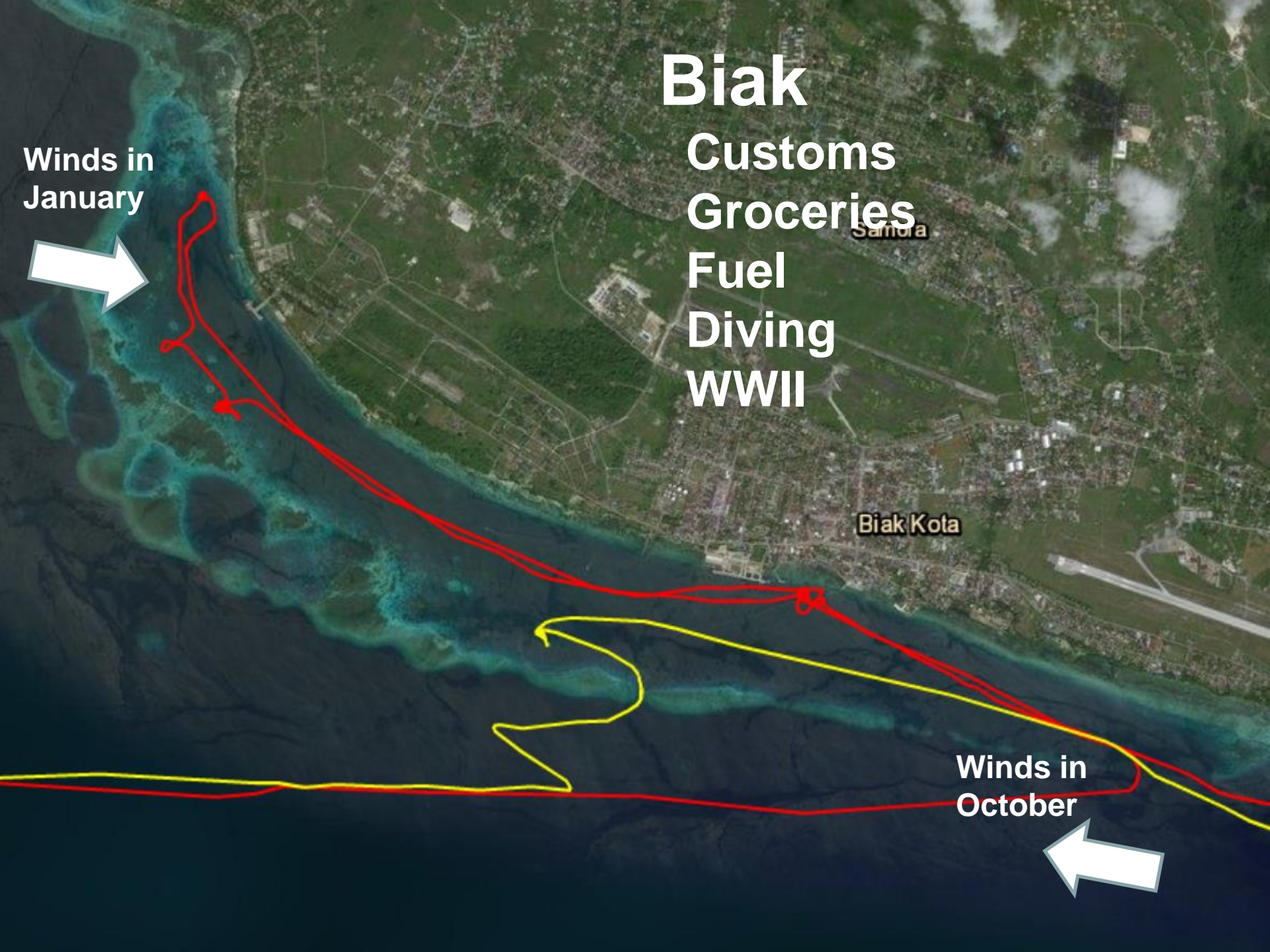
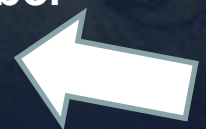
Sanda

Biak Kota

Winds in
January



Winds in
October



Consolidated PBY-5 *Catalina* Flying Boat



Biak Catalina







The Never-Ending Quest for Diesel

Checking Out of Indonesia (an all-day affair)





NOEL KEMBAREN

CUSTOMS
EX CISE



CUSTOMS



Midnight Saildrive Repair

On a Beach Near Biak











**We Hit a Big Log!
Big dent in rudder**



On the Radio with Our Buddies



Land Ho, Ninigos!



Highlights of Papua New Guinea

- Ninigos Islands (very remote)
- New Hanover River Trip
- Kavieng & Rabaul WW2 Stuff
- Rudder Repairs in Kavieng
- Volcanos!
- Fishing
- Diving in Kimbe Bay
- Garove Island



Ninigos

New Hanover

Kavieng

Manus

Dangerous

Garove

Bismarck Sea

Rabaul

Kokopo

Kimbe

Dangerous

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Bougainville

Dangerous

Gulf of Papua

Port Moresby

Dangerous

Solomon Sea

Torres Strait

Louisiades

Jayapura

— Jan-Feb
— Oct

Ninigos
Islands

Hermit
Islands

Our First & Last Stop In Papua New Guinea
After 4 day Passage to/from Biak



The Whole Village Singing a Welcome









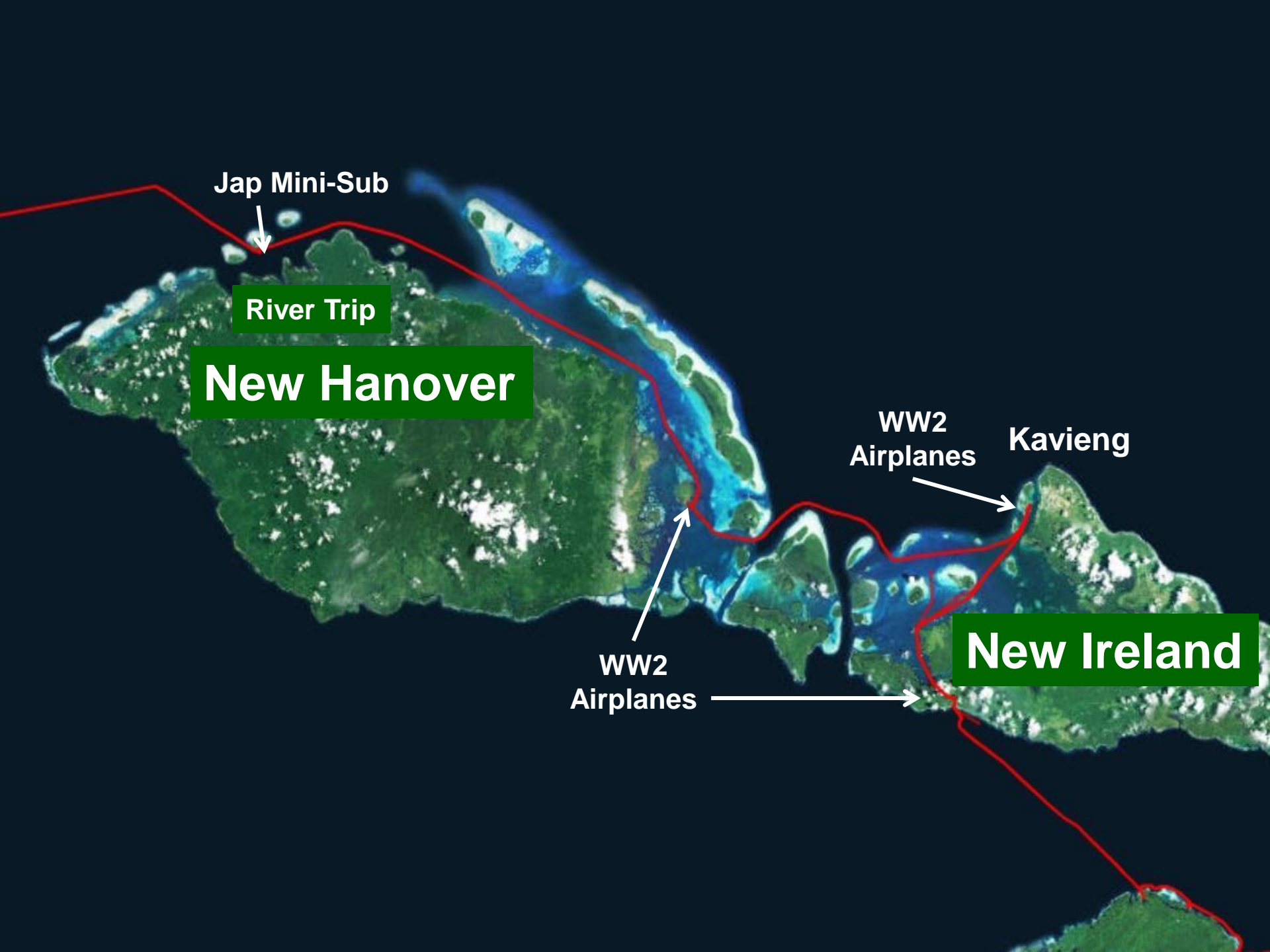
Drone Flying, Ninigos Lagoon



Hermit Islands



— Feb 2019
— Oct 2019



Jap Mini-Sub

River Trip

New Hanover

WW2
Airplanes

Kavieng

WW2
Airplanes

New Ireland

Kids Trading Fruits & Veggies for Cookies & Money



Our River Adventure



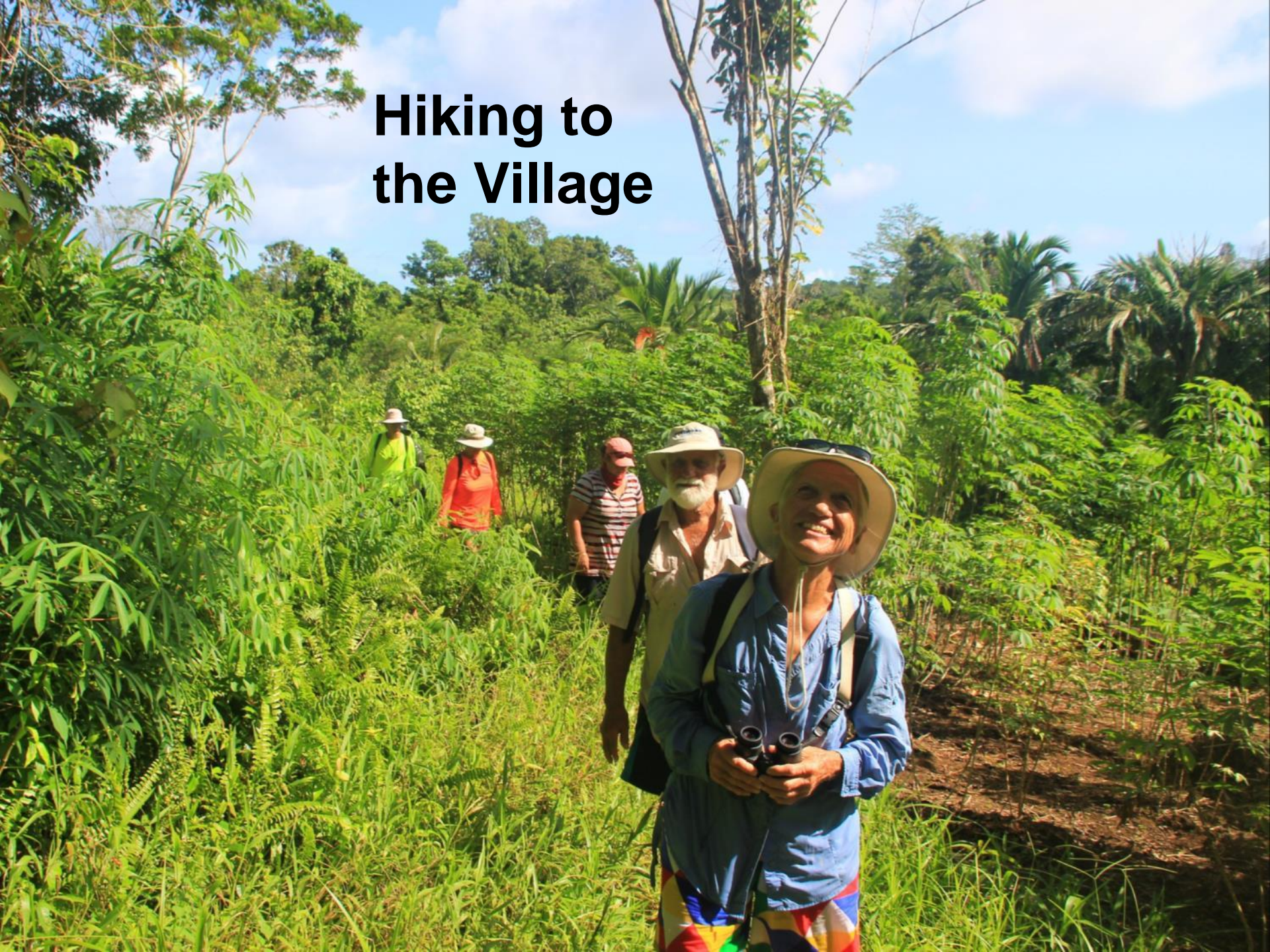
Festival
Teluk Jaliah







Hiking to the Village







The School

- 50 students, 1 teacher
- No chairs, no books





Their Church

The men build rafts
for us



And off we go, down the river!

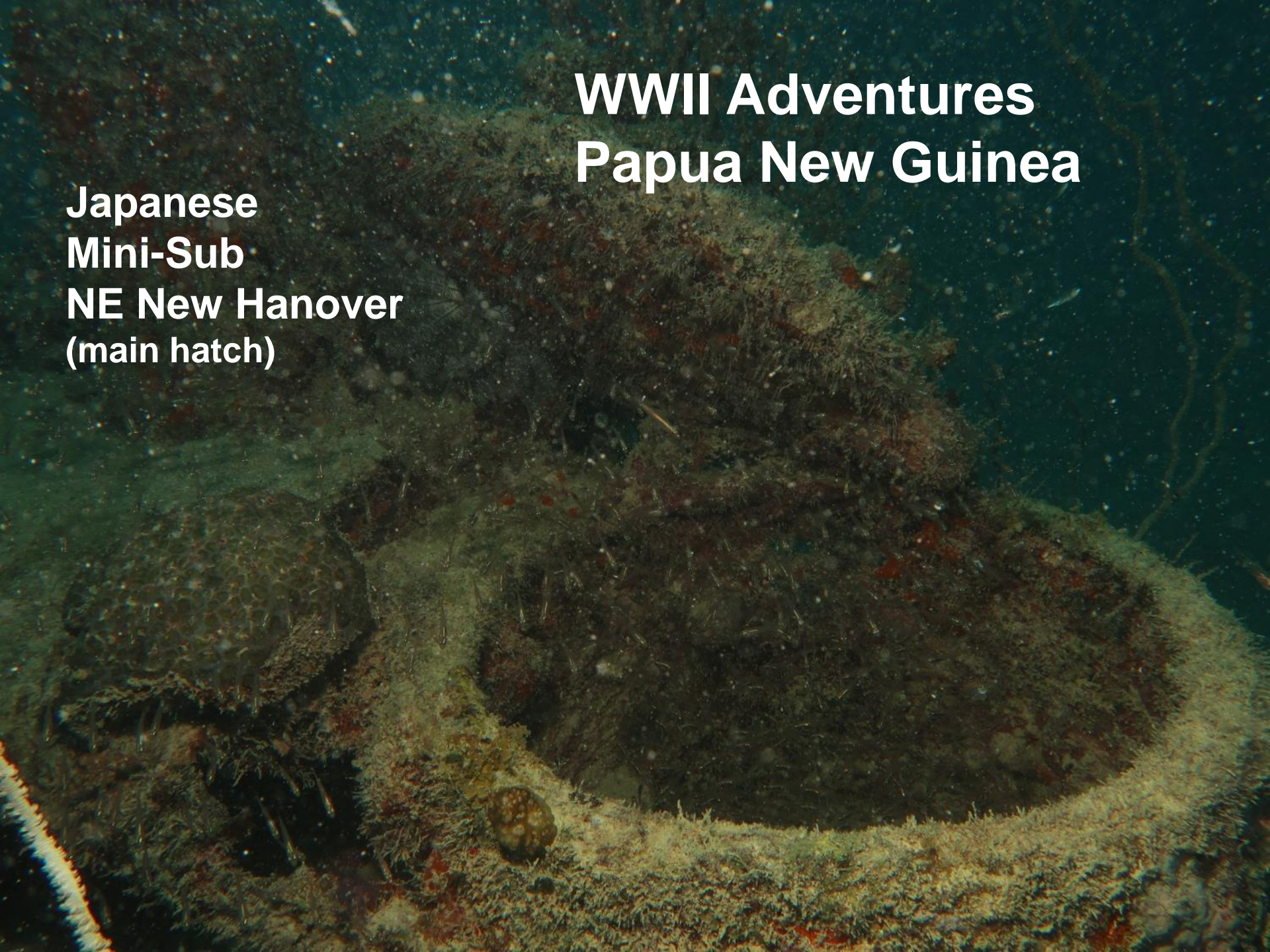


“Dese white people so crazy!”



WWII Adventures Papua New Guinea

Japanese
Mini-Sub
NE New Hanover
(main hatch)



Mini-Sub Torpedo Tubes





Mini-Sub Propeller



**Japanese “Kate” Torpedo Bomber
SE New Hanover**

Some U/W Stuff Not So Nicely Preserved

S Kavieng – US B25 Bomber





**Big Guns in
Kavieng, New
Ireland, PNG**

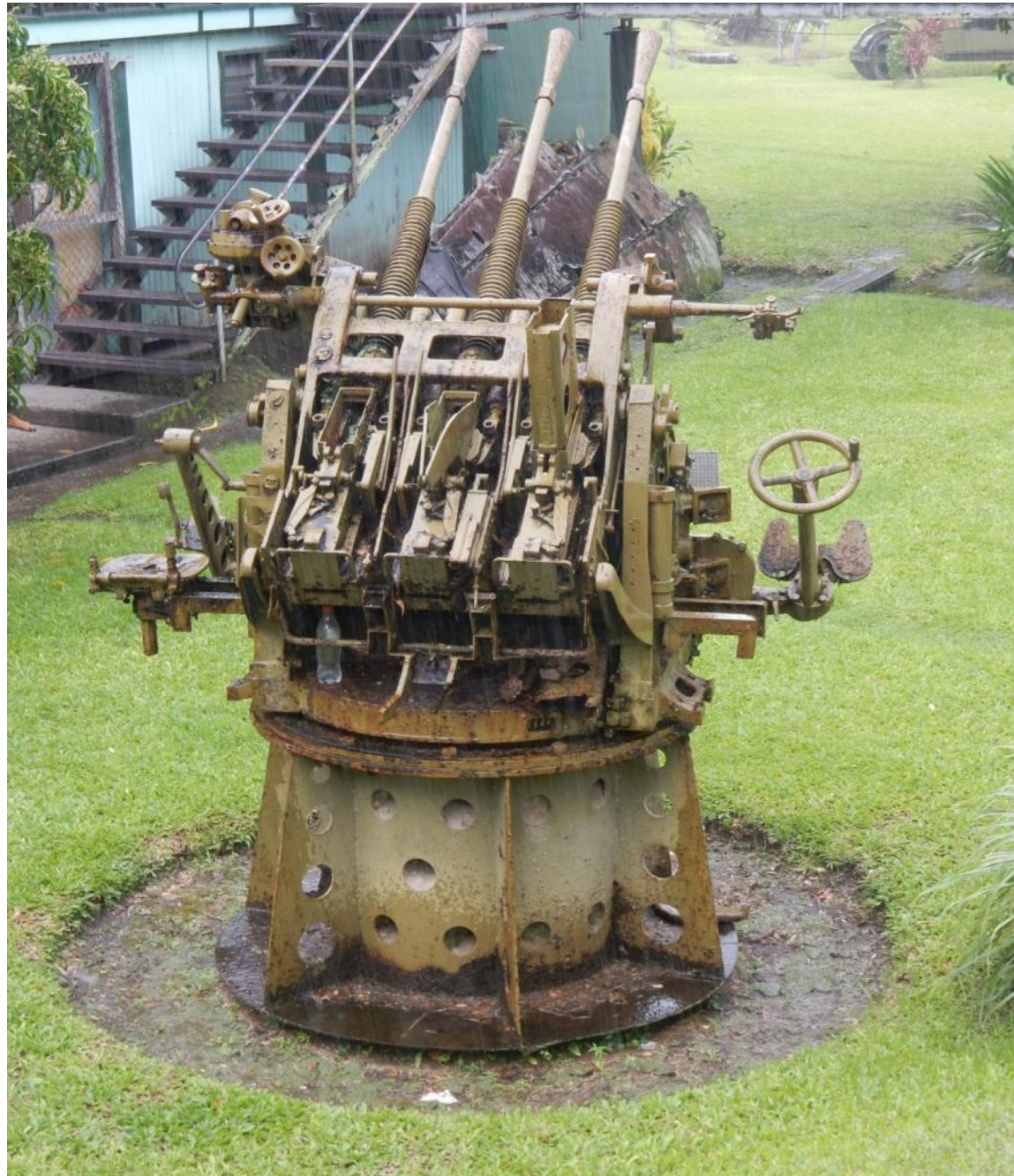


**Big Japanese Shore Gun
Rabaul, New Ireland**



**WWII Museum
Rabaul, New Ireland**

Anti-aircraft gun - Rabaul, New Ireland



Admiral Yamamoto's Bunker - Rabaul



JAPANESE MODEL 97 (1937)
MOTORCYCLE PRE-WAR
MILITARY MOTORCYCLE
WERE MADE UNDER LICENCE
TO HARLEY-DAVIDSON





Japanese Barge Tunnels, Rabaul
(supply boats for ships hidden from US bombing raids)



American Dog Tags, Bougainville



American Dog Tags, Bougainville



Garove Island





Garove Island



Rudder Repair, Kavieng (Log Damage)







And Back She Goes



Local Markets









Kokopo Market (near Rabaul)

Volcanoes In Papua New Guinea



● Where We Saw Volcanos



RABAUL Excellent Harbor in Ancient Volcanic Caldera

Volcanos



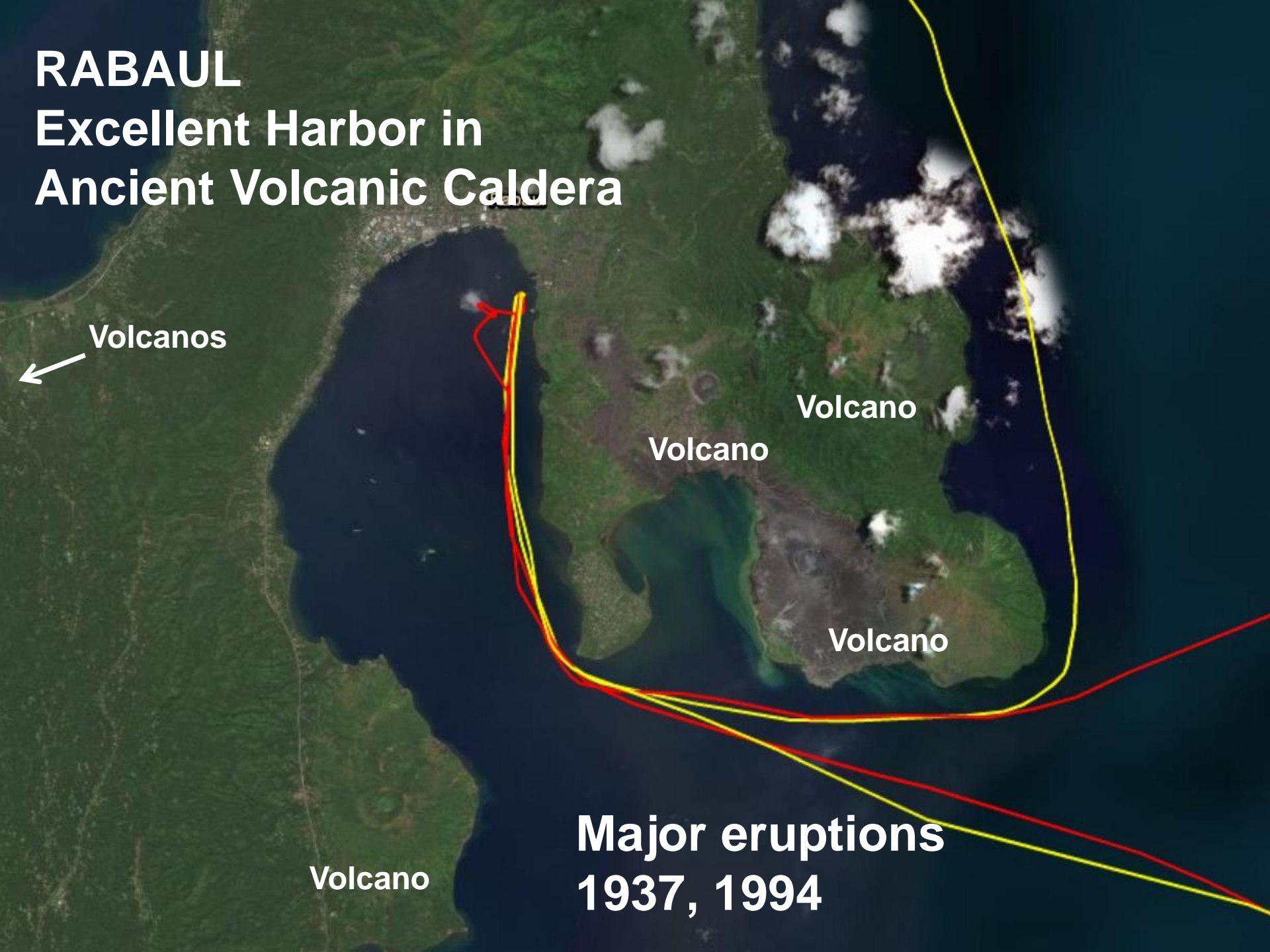
Volcano

Volcano

Volcano

Volcano

Major eruptions
1937, 1994



**Rabaul,
New Britain,
PNG**



On the Edge of the Caldera



Rabaul Yacht Club

(note volcanic ash in foreground)



Smoking Volcano as we Sailed By Bougainville



Smoking Volcano as we Sailed By N Coast New Britain



Sulfer Hot Springs, N Coast New Britain





**Anchored in a caldera
Garove Island**



Highlights of the Solomon Islands

- Lots of WWII stuff
 - Shortlands, Rendova, Tulagi, Guadalcanal
- Carvers
- Hikes and Waterfalls
- Friendly people
 - Roderick Bay
 - Marovo Lagoon

Solomon Islands

07°00's to 09°30's



— Mar-June
— July-Aug

Solomon Islands

07°00's to 09°30's



Arawa
Shortlands
Stirling

Vella Lavella

Gizo

Kolombangara
New Georgia

Viru

Rendova

Morovo Lagoon

SOLOMON ISLANDS

Tetepare

Seghe

Russells

Roderick Bay

Tulaghii

Honiara

Where we saw WWII stuff

Guadalcanal 115

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Shortlands, Solomon Islands

1942

Nila



© 2018 Google
Image © 2019 Maxar Technologies

374 m

Google Earth

2012

Imagery Date: 10/16/2012 7°04'36.56" S 155°51'50.47" E elev 2 m eye alt 1.62 km



**Old Truck, Nila Ridge Trail
Shortlands**



**Radar Installation, Nila Ridge Trail
Shortlands**











**Seaplanes in Nila
Harbor, Shortlands**

Airplanes on the Beach, Ballalae, Shortlands









Mitsubishi G4M Betty Bomber



7 crew, 265 mph, 29k,
3750 mi, 1x20 mm & 4
7.7 mm guns, bombs
or torpedoes

Airplanes on the Beach, Ballalae, Shortlands











**Japanese Shore Gun
South shore, Shortlands**

**American AA Gun
Stirling Island**



Seabee Construction Equipment, Stirling





Grumman TBF Avengers on Stirling Island

Huge Coke Bottle Pile Sterling

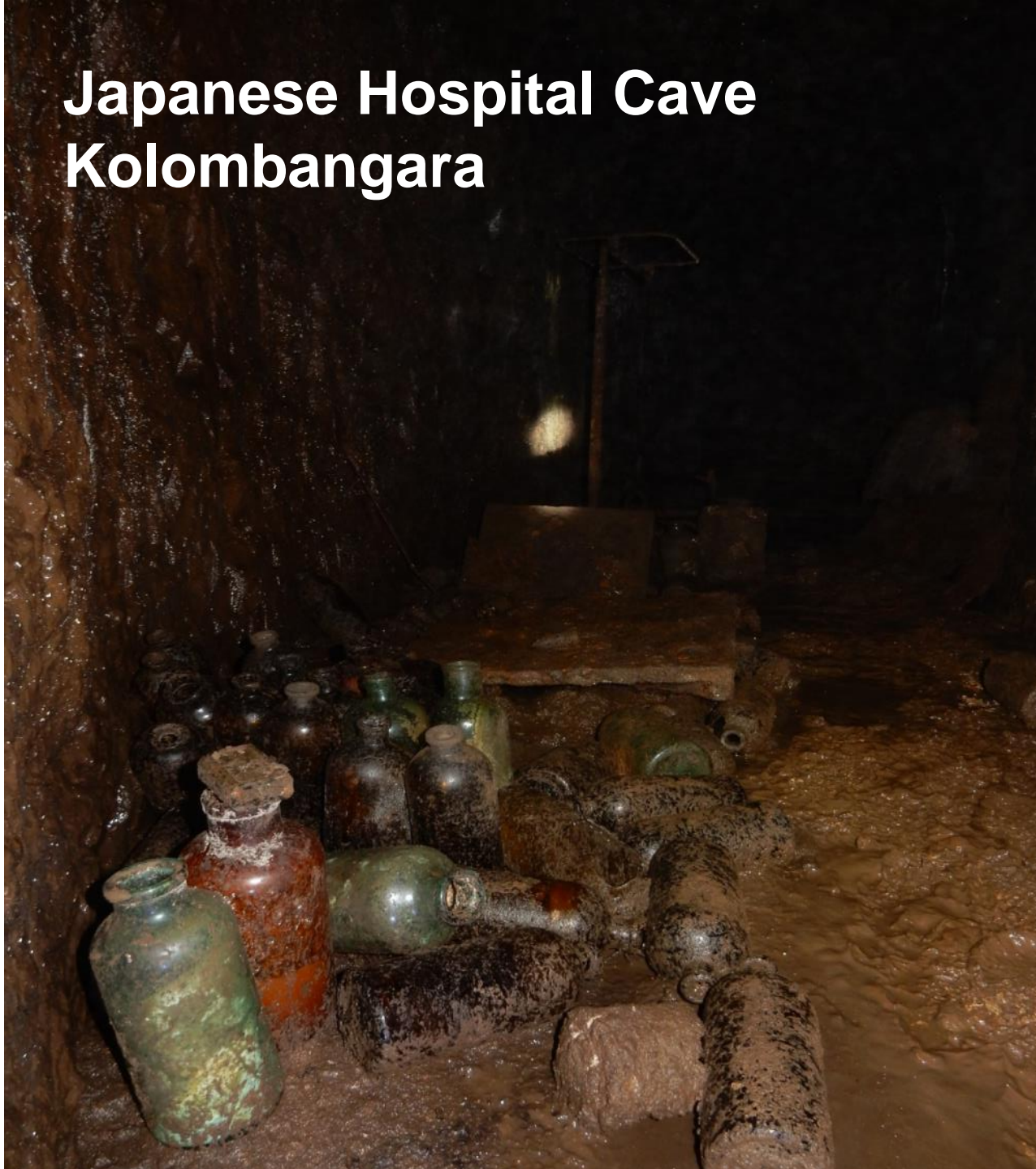






WW2 Stuart Tank on Arundel Isl

Japanese Hospital Cave Kolombangara



Hellcat Vonavona Lagoon



Wildcat Upside Down North New Georgia





Toa Maru Shipwreck, Near Gizo

Douglas Skytrain (DC-3) Vella Lavella



Private WWII Museum, Munda





Intrenching Equipment



U.S. 1918
L.F. CHAMBERLAIN

P38 Air Cobra, Rendova Lagoon





Rifle
Vonavona Lagoon



**Personal Artifact Collection
Rendova**

B24 Bomber, Marovo Lagoon





**B24 Engine (1 of 4)
Marovo Lagoon**

P-38 Lightning Seghe





Beached LST, Tokio Bay, Florida Group



Beached LST



**JOHN F. KENNEDY'S
PT 109 BASE during
WORLD WAR II**

**LILIA ISLAND, RENDOVA
WESTERN PROVINCE, S.I.**



Solomon Islands Peace Park Guadalcanal



碑文 INSCRIPTION

第二次世界大戦においてソロモン地域で勇猛果敢に戦い散華されたソロモン諸島、アメリカ軍及び日本将兵 118,700 人に対し、名誉と尊厳の念をもって 1980 年 10 月、本慰霊公苑を建立し、2011 年 10 月改修工事を実施した。

1942 年 8 月 7 日、日本国海軍設営隊、1850 名構築のルンガ飛行場は、米軍により奪取された。この戦闘で 8 月 16 日タイボ岬に上陸した一木支隊 916 名は大多数の将兵を失い戦力を消耗し、10 月 2 日以降諸隊と共に第二師団の指揮下に入った。

10 月 2, 3 日、第二師団先頭部隊はコカンボナに上陸、後続部隊は

10 月 14, 15 日にタサファロングに上陸した。

10 月初旬には川口支隊、一木支隊他各部隊は第二師団に合流。

11 月、第 38 師団が上陸、過酷な持久戦に入った。

12 月 31 日、御前会議にてガダルカナル島撤退が決定した。

1943 年 1 月、米軍によるアウステン山、ギフ高地、見晴台への攻撃があって、終戦を迎えた。

犠牲となられた全ての御霊が心安らかに眠られ、ソロモン諸島国民と日本国民の親交が永代継がれることを念じます。

ソロモン諸島政府のご協力と認可により両国の英霊を鎮魂する本公苑は 1980 年に建立され、2011 年に改修が行われ、感謝の意を表します。

This monument is being dedicated on October, 1980 to honor and give respect to the People of Solomon Islands, the Americans and also to the 118,700 Japanese Soldiers who bravely fought and gave their precious lives in this specific area during World War II.

On 7th August 1942, the American Navy captured the Lunga runway.

This runway was erected by 1,850 strong soldiers. During the fight, majority of the soldiers composed of the Japanese Navy Construction Party and the other half of 916 soldiers from ICHIKI Unit, which landed in cape Taivu, lost their lives. The KAWAGUCHI Platoon, which landed in Tasimboko on 29th August to 2nd October 1942 was later joined by the survivors of ICHIKI Unit to continue the battle. From 2-3 October, the first group of the No.2 Division landed at Kakambona and the second group of the No.2 Division arrived at Tsavarong on 14-15 October.

The KAWAGUCHI Platoon, ICHIKI Unit and other companies were united with the No.2 Division in early October.

In November No.38 Division also landed and a fierce and protracted battle took place. A council in the Imperial presence met and decided to withdraw from the Guadalcanal on 31st December 1942.

In January 1943, the American forces decided to attack Mt. Austen, Gifu Hill and See Horse, which ended the war.

We sincerely pray for eternal repose of the souls who have departed in this tragic war and wish for lasting friendship between the people of Solomon Islands and Japan.

We greatly appreciate the support and cooperation of the Government of Solomon Islands in allowing us to erect monument in honor of both our fallen heroes.

公益財団法人 太平洋戦争戦没者慰霊協会

Pacific War Memorial Association

Friendly People!











“Lolly Hunters” at Rendova



Our Guides on a Jungle Walk Rendova



Beautiful Village Shortlands





Having a “toktok” with a local Chief

**Every village, the kids would
come running to look**

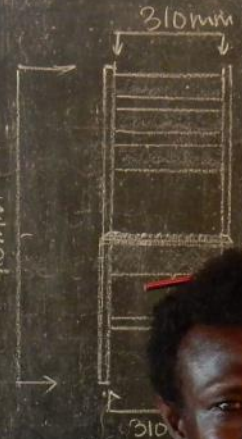




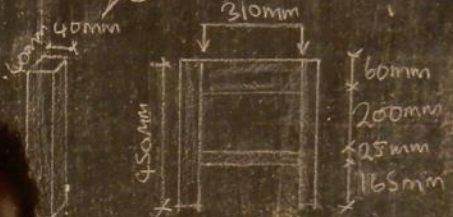
Dinning Chair



Back leg



Front leg



Flooring cushion

Front leg

Front rail

Small tail

Teacher at Training College Teaching Furniture Making



Kids want to see their pictures!

**Chief John Ruka
Roderick Bay**



John Ruka's Grandson





Relics of Solomons Head Hunting Days





Carvers & Carvings



Sometimes they come to the boat



Sometimes we arranged a showing

WELCOME TO
BOBOE SDA
COMMUNITY





Nuzu-nuzu's at Uepi Resort

Holding birds of peace or skulls of war





**Spirit of the Solomons carving
Mbili Village**



Scuba
Tank



Octopus Bowl

War Canoe Uepi Resort



A Carver's Workshop Cheke Village



A Work in Progress



Octopus, Manta Ray, Fish, Turtles, Sea Horse

Cheke Village Marovo Lagoon



Bone Carvings Telina Village



**Master Carver
“Rocky”’s Mask
Nicki Traded for
an iPhone**



Our Own Commissioned Work



Traditional Dugout Canoes





Hikes and Waterfalls

- Kolombangara
- Munda
- The Watering Hole
- Marovo

Group Expedition Kolombangara Rainforest





Hike Location

Kolombangara

Habere

Iri

Vavanga

Ghatere

Kuzi

Ghizo

N





Lush Virgin Rainforest



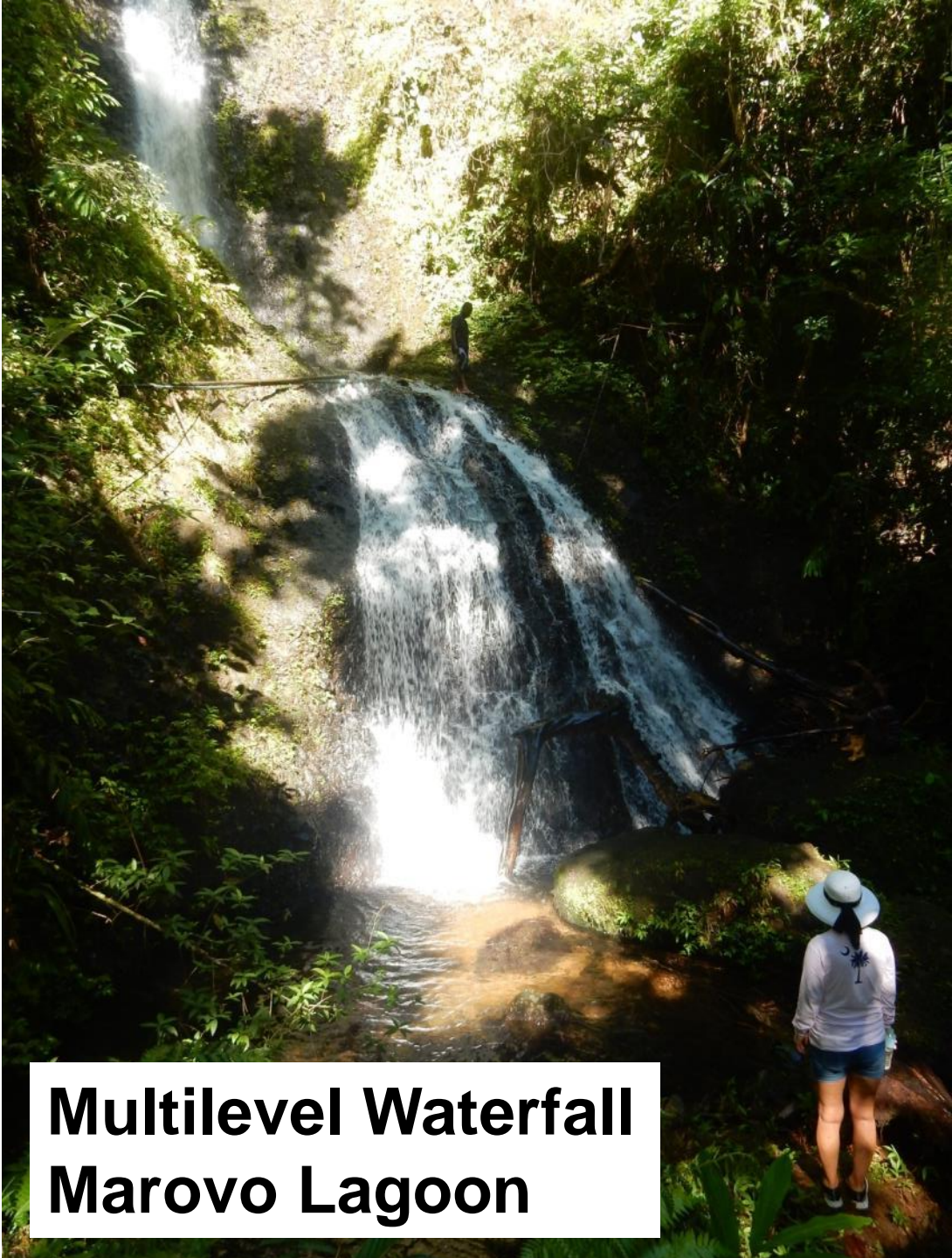
River & Waterfall Hike Munda





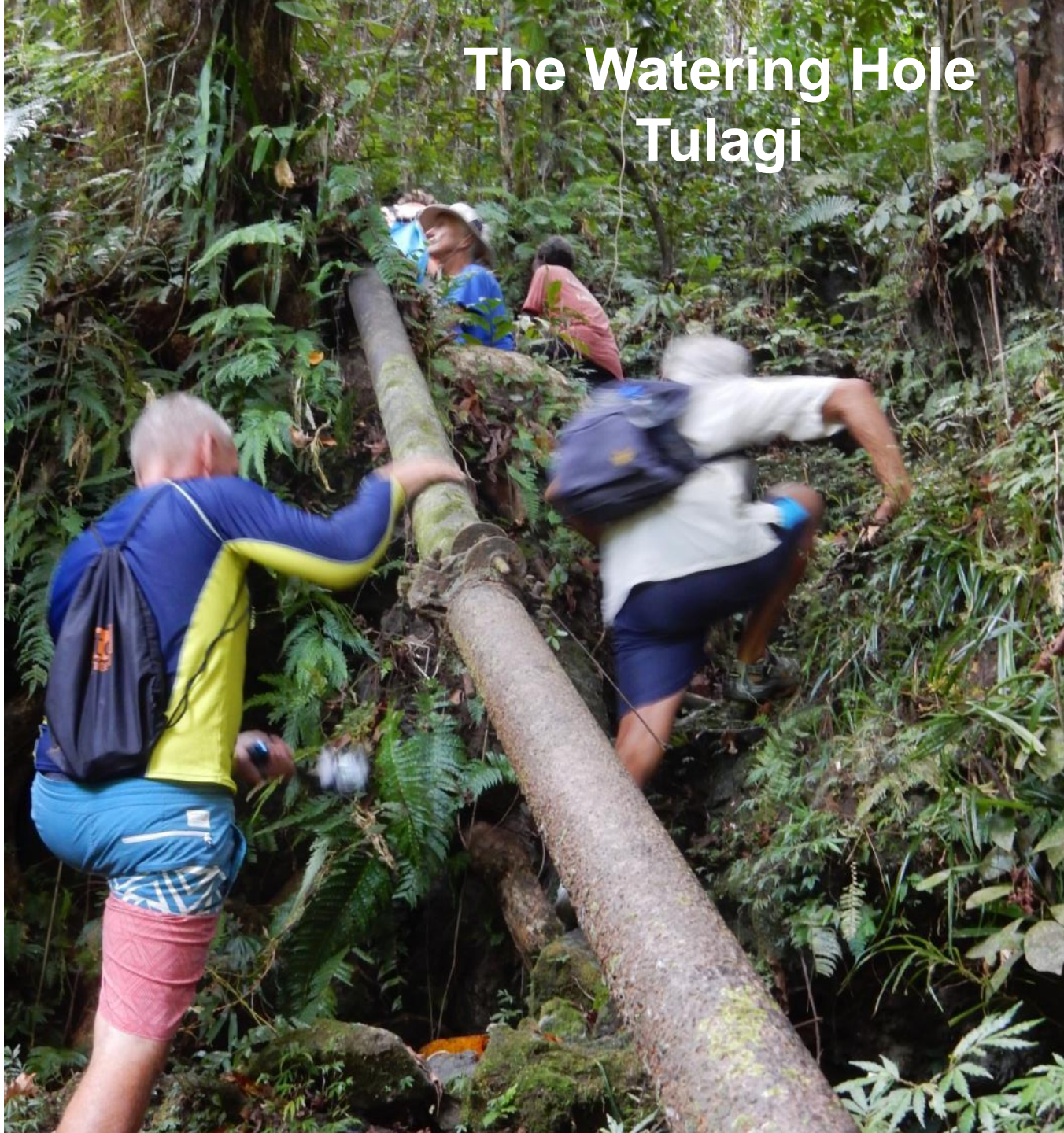






**Multilevel Waterfall
Marovo Lagoon**

The Watering Hole Tulagi





Cruising Marovo Lagoon



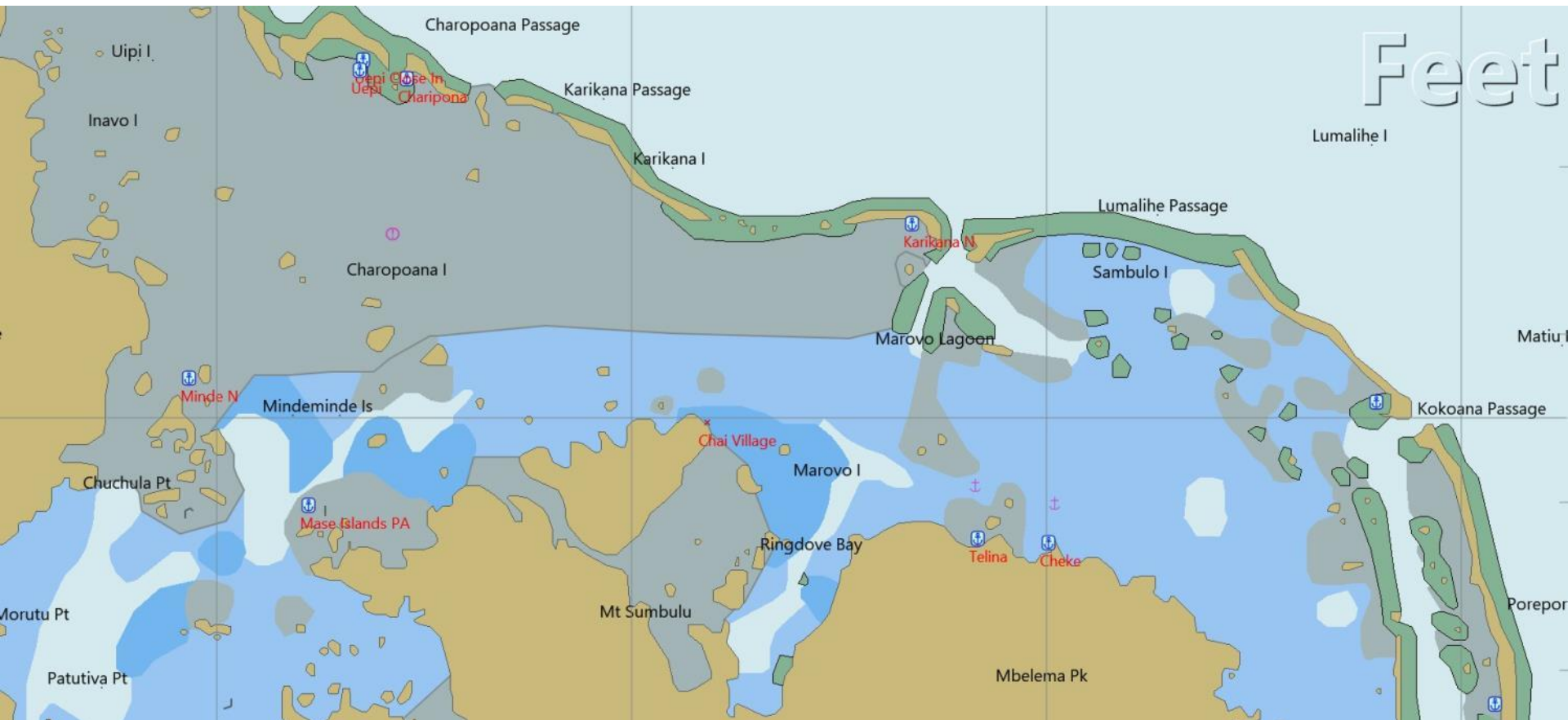
New Georgia

Vangunu

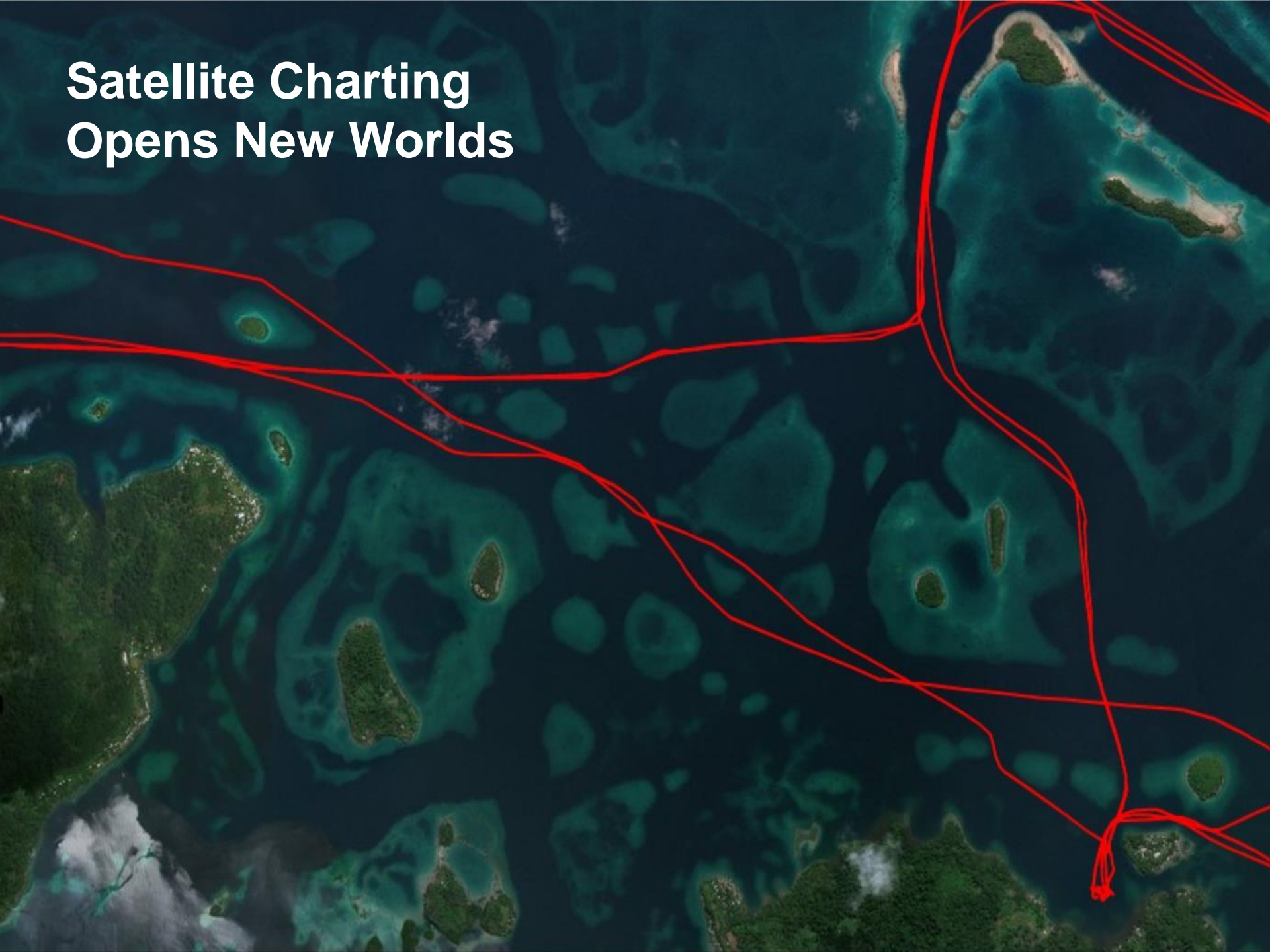
Kingguru

Charting Challenges

- Where are the depth soundings?
- Where are the markers?

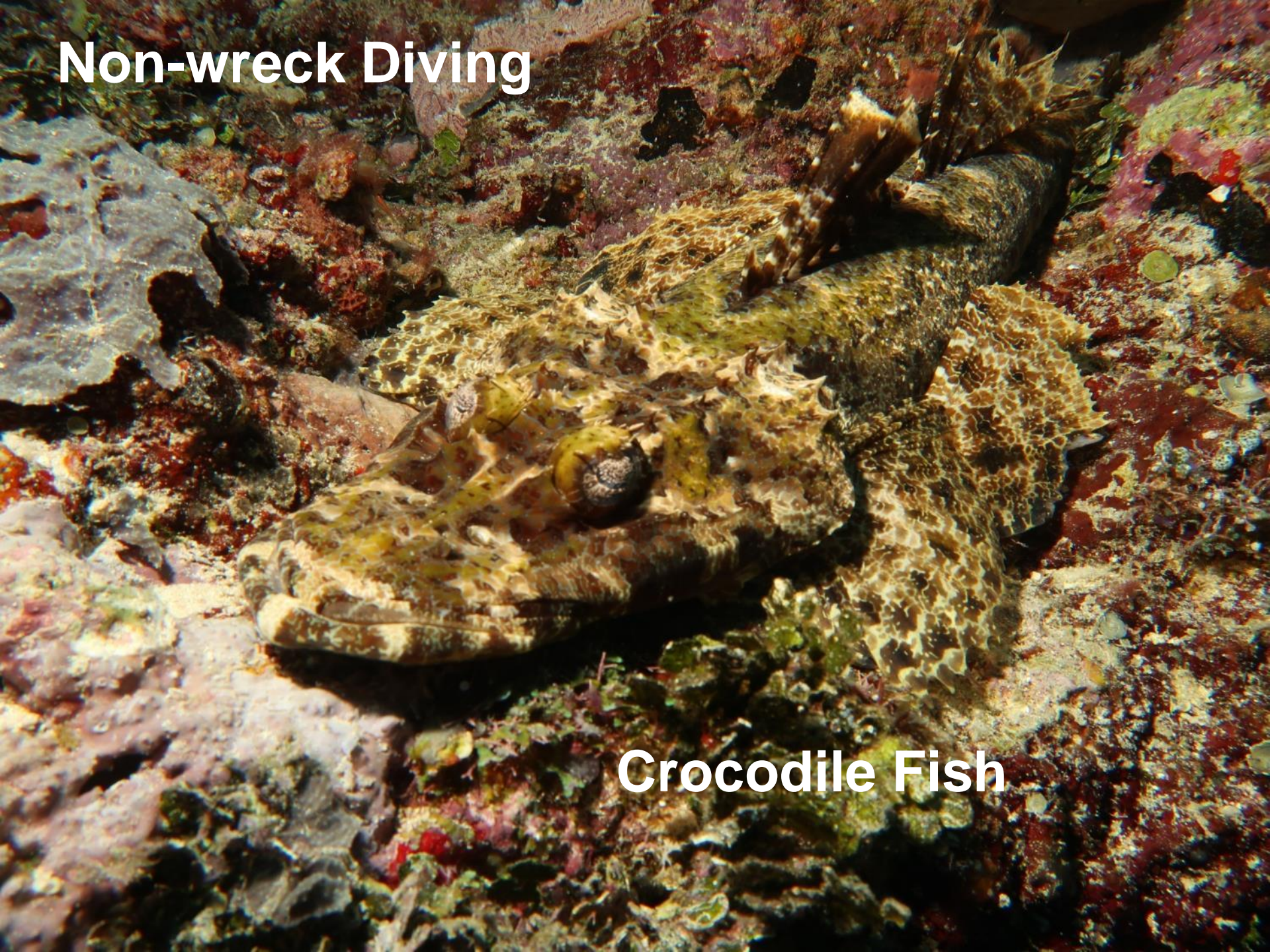


Satellite Charting Opens New Worlds

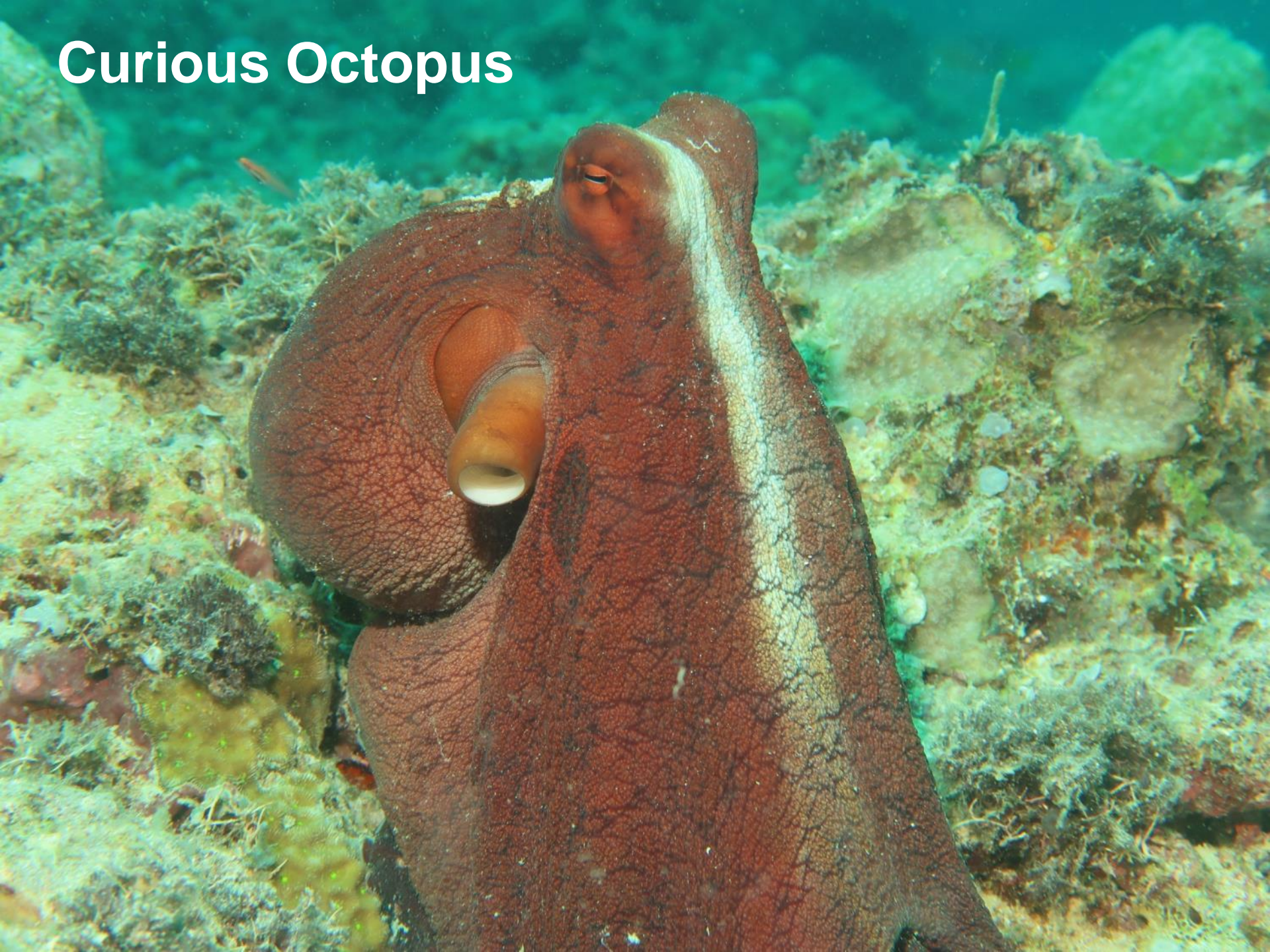


Non-wreck Diving

Crocodile Fish



Curious Octopus



Nudibranchs and Sea Slugs







Anemone Shrimp



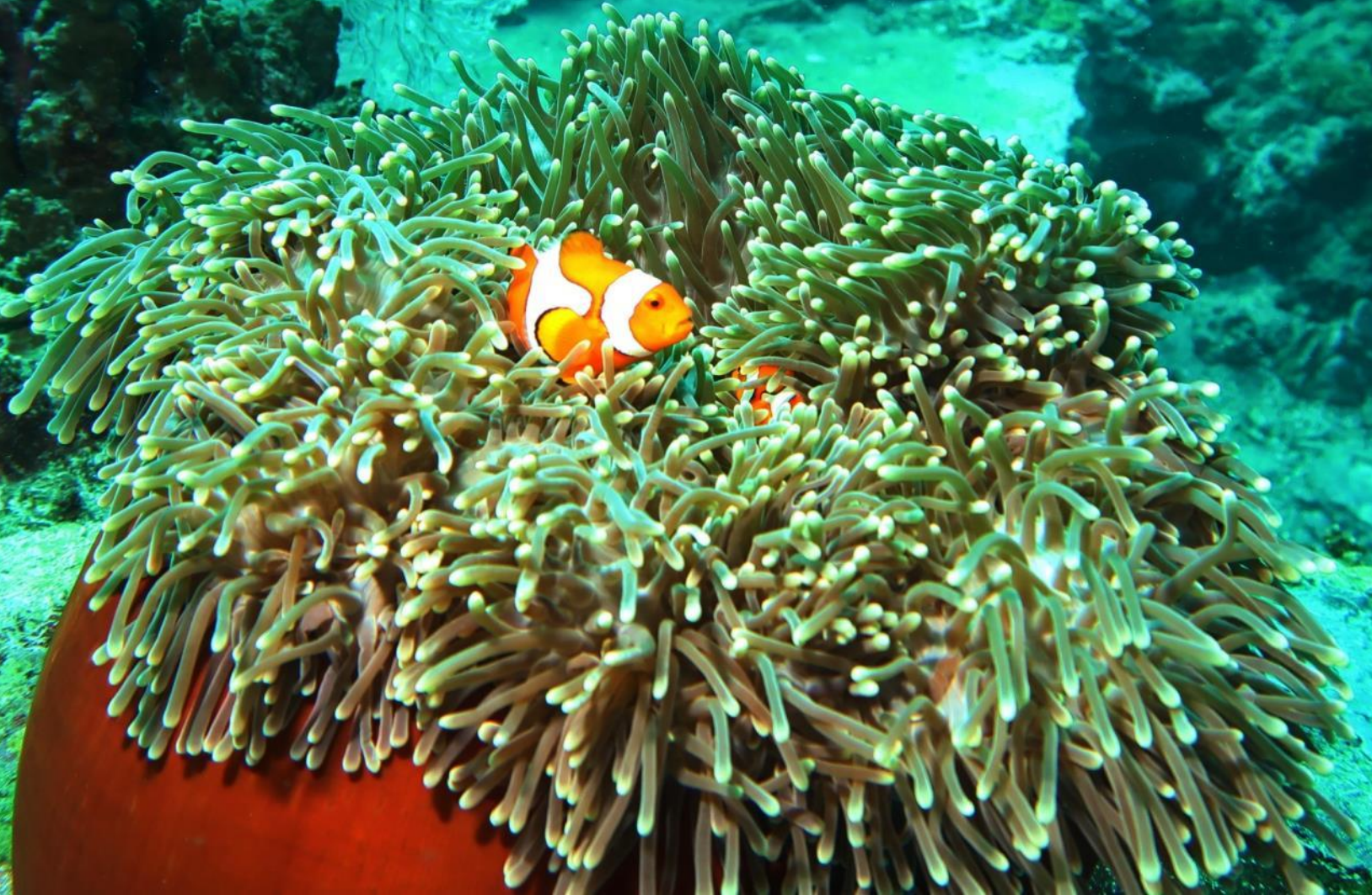
Reef Lizardfish



**Green Urn
Sea Squirt**



Basket Anemone With “Nemo”





Hermit Crab

Cruising Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands



The End



Sherry & Dave McCampbell
s/v Soggy Paws 2019





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