



Liveaboard Excellence

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Star Dancer

Milne Bay Papua New Guinea



EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

Dancer Fleet, Inc. Emergency Cell
Email

(USA) 1-706-664-0111 (After hours)
wecare@dancerfleet.com (Delay in travel and emergency only)

Contact Numbers While In Papua New Guinea:

Jennifer Bergram (Land Agent in Alotau)

011-675-041-0098 Off Phone (Driftwood Hotel)
011-675-717-09741 Cell
jbergram@concept.com.pg E-mail

Star Dancer Cell Phone:

011-675-7255-7595*
* Available only while in port.

Thank you for choosing Star Dancer for your LiveAboard dive vacation. Our crew looks forward to your visit.

All information contained here is correct at the time of printing, however is subject to change without notice.

Dream, Dive, Discover

Revised
15-May-2012



OVERVIEW OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND THE STAR DANCER

Papua New Guinea is an independent country, comprised of a group of islands situated to the north of Australia. Mainland Papua New Guinea is the eastern part of a large island shared with Irian Jaya to the west. Numerous islands lie off the mainland's eastern shores and there is a myriad of smaller island groups within Papua New Guinea's waters. Currents from three seas meet around Papua New Guinea; the Bismarck Sea, the Solomon Sea and the Coral Sea, bringing diverse nutrients to feed the remarkable variety of marine life living in these waters.

Your home away from home – the Star Dancer is an aluminum monohull yacht with a length of 115 feet and a beam of 23 feet. She comfortably accommodates 16 passengers with a staff to guest ratio of 1:2. This sailing will explore the black sand diving, walls, reefs and bommies lying offshore in various island groups.



WHERE IS MILNE BAY IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA (PNG)?

Milne Bay Province takes in the land at the extreme eastern end of Papua New Guinea together with seven groups of islands, the Trobriand, Woodlark, Laughlan, Louisiade archipelago, the Conflict Group, the Samarai Group and the D'Entrecasteaux Group. The names come from a variety of explorers from as early as 1660 when D'Entrecasteaux sailed through and left his name behind. Milne Bay Province is blessed with a landscape of mountains, jungles, waterfalls, caves, hot springs, mud pools, and extinct volcanoes so visitors can enjoy a wide range of natural attractions in addition to some of the best diving available in Papua New Guinea.

Alotau, the provincial capital is located on the edge of the bay (Milne Bay), named by Captain Moresby in 1873 after the Lord of the British Navy. The Bay is 36km long and 16km wide and has the depth to cater to ships of more than 5000 tons, and come as close as 40ft offshore. The province has about 210,000 inhabitants, speaking about 40 languages, most of which belong to the Eastern Ma-

layo-Polynesian branch of the Austronesian language family. Economically the province is dependent upon tourism, palm oil, and in the past gold mining on Misima Island; in addition to these larger industries there are many small-scale village projects in cocoa and copra cultivation. The World War II Battle of Milne Bay took place in the province.

WHAT KIND OF DIVING IS FOUND AROUND MILNE BAY, PNG?

To truly experience PNG, visitors must embrace the people and culture of this exotic region. When you arrive, consider yourself an explorer discovering the new world brimming with rare creatures and friendly villagers. Milne Bay and its offshore islands have some of the best dive spots in the world filled with a "freak show" of underwater critters that are in endless supply.

As you forage your way through reefs teeming with life, you will discover that there are more varieties of fish here than you could possibly believe. The diving conditions will range from slumbering black sand creature dives to current driven clear water pinnacle dives along the vertical drops surrounding seamounts, which are locally referred to as "bommies". Diving is easily accessed off the aft of the yacht making this an ideal destination. There is simply something for everyone.

The reefs are also a photographer's paradise. Pristine and colorful corals are home to a unique and wide variety of fish, crustacean and invertebrate life. Massive schools of scad form silvery fluid rivers of tens of thousands of fish that is breathtaking to view!!! You'll see various species of pygmy seahorses and ghost pipe fish, flamboyant cuttlefish, Coleman and Imperitor shrimp pairs, mantis shrimp and special nudibranchs that are endemic to Milne Bay. This is a rare creature hunters utopia.

IN WHAT TIME ZONE IS PNG LOCATED?

The time zone is GMT+ 10 hours with no daylight savings time.

WHAT LANGUAGES ARE SPOKEN ONBOARD?

Despite more than 480 languages and dialects being spoken in Papua New Guinea, English is the language of business and education with Pidgin and Hiri Motu also accepted as official languages. Onboard the Star Dancer, our crew will converse in English with the guests.

WHAT WEATHER CONDITIONS CAN I EXPECT IN PNG?

PNG is a destination that offers year round diving. Papua New Guinea's climate is generally warm with definite wet and dry seasons. In the Milne Bay Province, the visibility increases substantially during the wet season due to the prevailing currents. While July and August are the wettest months, visibility remains high from June into October. The rain tends to fall mainly in the evenings and rarely disrupts daily activities. November through May marks the drier

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season. Over this period visibility will drop, however a different variety of macro subjects seems to appear. Water temperatures range from 84F in the summer months to 77F in the winter months. A light wetsuit is necessary, though some people choose more thermal protection (a 3mm suit) to ensure continued core temperature warmth throughout their visit.

WHAT CURRENCY IS USED?

The local currency is the Papua New Guinea Kina. Banks will exchange Kina for US Dollars or travelers checks. It is advisable to exchange currency at banks which have the most favorable exchange rates and most are open Monday to Friday. It is recommended that you exchange enough currency for island tipping, airport taxes and local shopping. During the cruise there will be several opportunities to purchase local crafts and carvings. Goods range from a few kina up to 500 kina for large wood carvings. Major credit cards are accepted by most restaurants, hotels, car rental companies and shops. Travelers checks are not welcomed at many local establishments.

WHAT DOES MY STAR DANCER PACKAGE INCLUDE?

All staterooms are air-conditioned and fitted with private toilets, showers and sinks. Breakfast (cooked to order), buffet lunch and an elegant meal at dinner with table side service are served daily in addition to fresh mid-morning and mid-afternoon snacks. Beverages (including soft drinks and local beer and wine) are complimentary while onboard. Bathrobes, shampoo and soap/body wash are available for your use onboard. The yacht is equipped with hair dryers in each stateroom. Linens are changed mid-week and fresh towels are placed in each stateroom daily as needed. Filled tanks, weights and weight belts are included. Ground transfers to and from the Alotau Airport are also included.

FOR WHAT ADDITIONAL EXPENSES WILL I BE RESPONSIBLE?

No air transportation is included in the Dancer package. An Environmental and Safety fee is charged on your invoice for the local recompression chamber and mooring marine conservation programs. You must purchase the PNG Tourist Visa prior to or upon arrival (if eligible) - cost 100 kina (approximately \$50 US). This visa may be obtained in advance from the PNG Embassy in Washington, DC or upon arrival in PNG. Dinner on the last night of charter (when you are back in port) is not included and will be on your own in town. Instruction, dive and photo equipment rentals and "Boatique" purchases must be settled onboard prior to disembarkation. Acceptable methods of payment include: US Dollars, Kina, traveler's checks or credit cards (Visa or MasterCard). No personal checks are accepted. All purchases made in PNG are subject to a 10% VAT tax. Crew gratuities are not included.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF PNG

Papua New Guinea occupies the eastern portion of the second largest island in the world. The country consists of a mainland and some 600 islands, of which New Britain,

New Ireland and Bougainville are the largest. The first recorded sightings by Europeans were by Portuguese navigators, first in 1511 then in 1526 by Don Jorge Meneses who, after sighting the west coast of the island named it Los Ilhas los Papuas (Island of the Papuas) after the Malayan expression Papua, meaning black, curly hair. It wasn't until 1545 that Spanish explorer Inigo Ortiz de Retes, who believed the northern coastline resembled the Guinea coast of West Africa, names the country Nueva Guinea, New Guinea.

In 1828 the Dutch claimed the western portion of the island, near their colony, the Dutch East Indies. Over the next 40 years, the British took an interest in the south-east portion of the island, near their colony of Queensland. In 1873 Captain John Moresby, while on a survey of the island, went ashore at Hanuabada and hoisted the Queen's flag, taking possession of the area "by right of discovery". He called the place Port Moresby after his father. In 1884 the northern portion of New Guinea was declared German protectorate forcing the British to claim southern Papua as part of their empire. The island was now divided into three parts by the Dutch, Germans and British while the inhabitants had no idea what had taken place.

In September 1914, an Australian naval and military expeditionary force landed in Rabaul, the capital of German New Guinea and confronted the small contingent of German soldiers based there with a demand for their surrender. The Australian military occupation of German New Guinea had begun. After World War 1 the Territory of New Guinea was mandated to the League of Nations, while Papua remained a Territory of Australia.

The years between the wars were a period of trading and discovery. World War II was markedly different with Papua and New Guinea encountering some of the bloodiest battles. In January 1942 a force of 20,000 Japanese troops stormed Rabaul forcing the Australian contingent to flee to the jungle.

After World War II a civilian administration was set up to govern the Australian Territory of Papua and the United Nations Trust Territory of New Guinea. New developments, expansion and investments improved the social and economic standing of the native population. In 1973 self-government was attained and then on September 16, 1975 Papua New Guinea became an independent nation.

Papua New Guinea is a member of the British Commonwealth with strong ties to Australia. It has become a modern nation with an economy based mainly on resources such as gold, copper, oil, gas, copra, timber, tea, coffee, cocoa, fisheries and tourism. The mountainous topography of the land has seen the development of an extensive network for air travel, upon which the country is now heavily dependent.

The people are predominantly Melanesian, with some Polynesian and Micronesian influence. Papua New Guinea remains a country steeped in the traditions of its

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ancestors, while participating fully in the modern era.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE MILNE BAY PROVINCE

Over the years Milne Bay Province has been visited by missionaries, miners, traders in pearls and people, scientists, Japanese and American warships. During the war (WWII) Milne Bay became a huge naval base that hundreds of thousands of servicemen passed through.

The economy of the province is largely dependent on primary produce. Most of the people are subsistence farmers and fisher folk. Less than 10 per cent of the population enjoys formal employment, however, remittance to families to satisfy customary obligations ensure wider cash distribution. Until 1975, when the price of copra dropped on the world market, it was the main source of revenue. The other major exports include: logging, gold and copper, fish and other marine products.

Today, tourists arrive to enjoy diving this remote yet historic area. There are 160 named islands and 500 cays and atolls scattered over 250,000 square kilometers of ocean. In many parts of Milne Bay, the reefs are characterized by dramatic drop-offs, clefts and overhangs.

STAR DANCER TRAVEL INFORMATION

HOW DO I GET TO PNG AND MILNE BAY?

The port of entry for all flights into PNG is Port Moresby (POM). You must then connect to an Air Nuigini or Airlines PNG flight which will take you to your final destination of Alotau (GUR) located about 220 miles away.

We strongly encourage guests to arrive in Alotau at least one day prior to embarkation. This allows a window of opportunity for any luggage that you may have been separated from to catch up to you, prior to embarking on the cruise. Once the cruise departs - your luggage may not be able to catch up to you, or if it is possible - it will require chartering a private speed boat (which is quite expensive).

Depending on the flight connections, an overnight stay may be required in Port Moresby before joining your domestic flight. In addition to the busy airport hotels, we also recommend the Loloata Island Resort as a wonderful place to recover from jet lag.

If you wish us to assist with your hotel or flight arrangements, be sure to contact Dancer Fleet's in-house travel specialists **LiveAboard Vacations** at 1-800-932-6237 or 305-669-9391 for the most competitive airfares.

WHAT TRAVEL VISAS WILL I NEED?

A valid passport and PNG Visa are required for the dive areas that Star Dancer travels to during the charter.

North American citizens and selected other nationalities are eligible for *Visa On Arrival* service inside the arrivals hall in the Port Moresby airport. This service should only be used if your connecting time is long enough. Guests utilizing this service must present (1) a valid passport from a participating country, (2) a passport size photo of themselves for immigration to keep, and (3) make payment (100 Kina about US\$50.00 on arrival). Payment is accepted in local currency (Kina) only. Cost of the visa is subject to change. If you want to purchase your Tourist Visa in advance you may do so directly from the Papua New Guinea Embassy in Washington, D.C. (202-745-3680).

Guests of all other nationalities should check if further documentation is required.

For residents of certain countries, Visas are required to be arranged for in advance, prior to arrival in PNG. This includes guests from Afghanistan, all African countries, all Arab & Middle Eastern countries (including Israel), Bangladesh, all Caribbean Island states, Central and Eastern European countries, India, Nepal, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, China, former satellite states of the Soviet Union, and Sri Lanka.

Guests in transit to Papua New Guinea through Australia must also obtain an Australian Visa which can be done electronically by the travel agent who arranges for your air ticket.

WHAT SHOULD I KNOW ABOUT CUSTOMS AND IMMIGRATION?

At the airport, customs formalities are usually quick and trouble free. Tourists are allowed articles for use during their stay. These include items of personal adornment, wearing apparel, toiletries and any portable articles which someone can reasonably be expected to use during their stay.

WHAT ARE THE EMBARKATION AND DISEMBARKATION TIMES?

Embarkation will begin at 2:00 pm on the first day of charter and the Star Dancer typically sails around 4:00 pm. If you arrive early on the day of embarkation, you may relax at the Driftwood Resort until embarkation. While there you will have the opportunity to purchase beverages or lunch at the resort's restaurant and bar while you await boarding time. Guests may also have time to join in a 1/2 day tour. Consult with **LiveAboard Vacations**, our in-house travel agency for details on what is available.

All guests will disembark at 8:00 am on the final day of charter. When guests have an early departing flight, an early disembarkation and airport transfer can be arranged with advance notice.

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HOW DO I GET FROM THE AIRPORT TO STAR DANCER?

Airport transfers are provided for guests between the Alotau/Gurney Airport and Star Dancer's dock at the Driftwood Resort. For guests who arrive early or depart late who choose to utilize one of the other several accommodation options available in Alotau / Milne Bay area, airport transfers are available for an additional fee.

HOW DO I GET FROM THE HOTEL TO STAR DANCER IF I ARRIVE EARLY?

The Driftwood Resort includes airport transfers in their package for guests who choose stay there. No additional transfers are needed as you are at Star Dancer's home port. If you choose any other resort, you will be responsible for transporting yourself to the Driftwood Resort in Alotau on the day of embarkation. **LiveAboard Vacations**, your Dancer Fleet travel specialists will be able to arrange airport transfers for you in addition to a hotel accommodation should you arrive a night or two before embarkation.

WHAT DO WE DO ON THE DAY WE DISEMBARK?

Star Dancer returns to the Alotau port in the afternoon on the day before disembarkation. Your last day with us has been organized to give you time to off gas and enjoy the land sites that the area has to offer. All tours are at additional charge, but are highly recommended. Your package includes the Captains Cocktail Party that evening followed by dinner on your own in town. You will stay on board the yacht this final night.

Final disembarkation will occur at 8:00 am. Transfers are provided to the airport for guests departing this day. (Early transfers are available for guest who may be on a very early flight.) For guests departing later in the day, you may relax at the Driftwood Resort. If you are departing in the afternoon, you may even have time to enjoy one of our shore excursions in the morning as well.

HOW DO I ARRANGE FOR PRE AND POST CHARTER HOTELS AND TRANSFERS?

LiveAboard Vacations, Dancer Fleet's in-house travel agency has already done the legwork for you and created several package tours that will fit most of your needs. We highly recommend a pre or post cruise stay at the Tawali Resort in Milne Bay. Custom packages are also available. Please inquire with us if your schedule will permit.

DO I NEED DIVE ACCIDENT INSURANCE?

We strongly encourage all guests to have purchased Dive Accident Insurance for this trip. We strongly recommend that guests purchase the DAN Dive Accident policy. DAN's Australia branch is very familiar and experienced in working issues in PNG due to their close relationship and as such, will provide the most prompt response to a situation.

DO I NEED TRIP INSURANCE?

We strongly recommend that each guest purchase comprehensive accident, medical, baggage and trip cancellation and interruption insurance when space is reserved. Trip insurance will protect you from financial disappointment if you are prevented from making your scheduled trip due to illness or family illness, or in the event that unforeseen circumstances prevent the airline or yacht from making its scheduled trip.

STARDANCER- THE ONBOARD EXPERIENCE

IF I AM TRAVELING AS A SINGLE, WILL I HAVE A ROOMMATE?

All rates are quoted on a share basis; therefore, unless you require a guaranteed single room and pay an additional 65% supplement, you will very likely be sharing your stateroom with one other guest of the same gender.

WHAT TYPE OF CUISINE IS PREPARED?

Meals prepared by our onboard chef consist of an international mix with a local flair. If you have any special dietary requirements, please advise our US office as soon as possible so we can try to prepare to meet your needs. Certain special dietary and beverage requests may not be available on a consistent basis due to the remote nature of this location.

WHAT KINDS OF BEVERAGES ARE AVAILABLE?

The Star Dancer's selection includes fruit juices, soft drinks, iced water, tea and coffee and a limited selection of local beer and wine. Fresh milk may not be available, although UHT long life milk is provided onboard. We recommend that you purchase any hard alcoholic beverages that you may want to consume onboard the Star Dancer at the Duty Free Shop at any airport. We encourage you to consume lots of non-alcoholic liquids during the week to avoid dehydration. **REMEMBER: ALCOHOL AND DIVING DO NOT MIX.** Once you consume alcohol you become a snorkeler until the next day.

Limited Supplies Availability

Due to the extreme remoteness of PNG, we are very limited in our selection and availability of supplies for the yacht. Some things we consider staples at home are rare items at the PNG stores (for example Diet Coke, M&M's, soy milk). Your crew will make every effort to fill special diet requests. However it simply may not be possible. If you absolutely positively must have the item for your cruise - then the only guaranteed way to have it is to bring it with you.

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IS THE WATER ONBOARD SAFE TO DRINK?

All water on the Star Dancer is safe to drink. On the Lido and Dive decks will find a water cooler with hot and cold taps to refill any water bottle that you may bring.

WHAT ELECTRICAL CURRENT IS AVAILABLE?

The electrical current on the Star Dancer is 220 volts including cabin outlets. There is a charging station on the back deck that has a transformer to obtain 110 V power.

The standard for the country of PNG is 240 Volts, 50Hz and type I plug (oblique flat blades with ground / inverted V plugs). If staying at locations other than Star Dancer, you will need a transformer to convert power to 110 volts. Star Dancer has a limited number of socket shaped converters, but we recommend bringing your own to ensure compatibility with the Australian/PNG standard.

HOW MUCH SHALL I PACK?

Please plan to travel light, as on all Liveboard's space is limited. We recommend that you pack your gear in soft luggage such as a duffel bag for easy stowage and leave those large, rigid suitcases at home which will add to your comfort in your cabin. For guests on a longer itinerary, it is advised to pack separately the gear you will require onboard. Star Dancer has storage facilities on shore at Alotau for items you will not require onboard, or for those larger suitcases once you have removed the necessary items for your trip.

Clothing should be lightweight, comfortable sportswear and swim suits are a must. A light sweater or throw-over is ideal for evening - especially during the months of June through August. Dress aboard Star Dancer is always casual. Hair dryers are provided in each cabin. You may wish to pack your regulator, dive computer, mask, swim suit, change of clothes and essential items in your carry-on bag. This will make it easier in the event your luggage is delayed. Please check with your airline as to what weight restrictions will apply to your carry-on and checked luggage.

Crew Needs / Gifts:

Many time our guests ask us if there is anything the crew needs or likes. They love keeping in touch with current events and pop culture. New movies, current paperback books, and "gossip" magazines such as People are always appreciated. Ironically – with the proliferation of "pad" devices – electronic media has replaced physical books and DVD's that residents of remote locations treasure accessing and sharing with others.

WILL THERE BE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ANY LAND TOURS DURING THE CRUISE?

A land tour is typically offered to the Skull Caves and Waterfall in the Tawali Region. Guests are taken ashore in the dingy and led on a walk to the caves and/or waterfall. Closed-toed shoes or dive booties are recommended

as the trail can be slippery at times and crosses a small stream. The tour is optional and most likely will require guests to miss one dive if they choose to partake. Guests are reminded that they should be dressed conservatively (in a sarong or long shorts) while ashore within view of the villages. Do not take photographs without first asking permission to do so. If you care to bring along small gifts for the children we will likely encounter, may we recommend that you offer them books, paper, pens, pencils, rulers, and they also appreciate clothing. Do not give them food or money.

You may also encounter local villagers as they may paddle out in their canoes. They will attempt to trade fresh fruits and vegetables with you. Once again, books, paper, pens, pencils, and rulers would be appropriate trading items.

WHAT IF I AM PRONE TO SEASICKNESS?

Currents and winds may cause moderate movement of the yacht at times. If you have a tendency toward seasickness we strongly urge you to bring some sort of over-the-counter motion sickness medication or consult your doctor about prescription brands, such as the trans-dermal patch or Scopace tablets. Chewable ginger tablets or capsules of powdered ginger have also proved to be a very effective natural alternative.

WHAT IF THERE IS AN EMERGENCY ONBOARD?

The Star Dancer crew is trained in first aid and diving accident management. The yacht is equipped with a complete first aid kit and a high capacity oxygen system. Since emergency transportation and treatment cost is the responsibility of each guest, we require that each guest purchase dive accident insurance.

WHERE IS THE NEAREST RECOMPRESSION CHAMBER?

Melanesian Hyperbaric Services is a facility in Port Moresby established and maintained with your diving safety in mind. Air evacuation to Australia is a secondary option as well.

HOW CAN MY FAMILY CONTACT ME IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY AT HOME?

In the case of emergency your family may contact you by calling our Miami office at 1-800-932-6237 or 305-669-9391 during business hours (8:00 am – 6:00 pm weekdays). If outside of our operating hours, you may call our emergency cell phone number, 706-664-0111. Please reserve calling this number for emergencies only.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS, MAIL, AND E-MAIL?

Check with your local cell phone provider for service while visiting the Dancer yacht and its destination. The Star Dancer is equipped with satellite based phone and email for emergency communications. You may purchase a local SIM card for your cell phone at the airport in Port Moresby and receive cell signal most of the charter.

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IS SMOKING PERMITTED?

A designated area on the back of the outdoor lido deck is available for smoking. Smoking is not permitted in any other area for any reason.

IS THERE ENTERTAINMENT ONBOARD?

Star Dancer has a multi-system TV/DVD unit for video camera playback and a compact disc player. If you have a favorite movie, a slide show or a video to share, we encourage you to bring it along! A small library of "books for exchange" is maintained onboard, as well as fish identification books for reference.

HOW CAN I CELEBRATE A SPECIAL OCCASION?

Our crew is delighted to help you celebrate any special occasion onboard including birthdays, anniversaries, honeymoons or weddings. Kindly advise our US office at least 30 days prior to departure so that we can adequately prepare.

IS IT CUSTOMARY TO OFFER A GRATUITY TO THE CREW?

Aboard Dancer Fleet yachts, gratuities are not included. We prefer that our guests reward our crew based on performance. If the crew performs to your expectations, we suggest that a gratuity of approximately 10% of the published package price be considered normal aboard a live aboard dive yacht. Payment of gratuities is entirely at the discretion of the guest. Payment of gratuities can be by cash, traveler's checks, or credit card (Visa or MasterCard). The crew greatly appreciate cash as local banking fees and government taxes for traveler's checks and credit cards reduce the amount of gratuity left up to 35% in some destinations.

HOW CAN I PAY FOR MY EXPENSES AND PURCHASES ONBOARD?

The Star Dancer has a small on-board "Boatique" which sells a selection of logo clothing, sundries, diving accessories, batteries, etc. Prices are quoted in US Dollars. A 10% government VAT tax will be added to all on-board purchases. A crew member will gladly assist you with your "Boatique" purchases at any time during the week. The method of payment for these items may be in US Dollars, PNG Kina, travelers checks or credit cards (Visa or MasterCard). Personal checks are not accepted.

STARDANCER- DIVING OPERATIONS

HOW MANY DIVES WILL WE DO EACH DAY?

While we strive to offer our guests up to 5 dives per day and one or two dives on the day we return to port, there may be situations, such as sea conditions or tide changes which will prevent us from doing so. Sometimes, we are only able to offer one dive on your last morning before we return to Alotau.

WHAT PAPERWORK WILL I NEED FOR DIVING?

Remember to bring your c-card or proof of certification. The divemaster requires proof of certification before the first dive. You will be required to complete our Cruise Application and Waiver agreement prior to departure for Papua New Guinea. The GIS (Guest Information System) allows guests to complete all required paperwork on-line including the cruise application, waiver agreement, special requests and travel information. If you haven't received a link to access the GIS, please contact a Dancer Fleet agent. Passengers who fail to complete the GIS registration process will be denied boarding. Please remember, many Dancer destinations require complete passenger information prior to departure for itinerary approval by government agencies.

HOW WILL WE DIVE FROM THE STAR DANCER?

Almost all of the dives will be made from the dive deck on the Star Dancer. Our experienced crew will happily provide assistance to divers with special needs. Our crew will hand down cameras and other equipment and to re-board the yacht, guests may remove their gear in the water and hand it up to our staff and simply climb onboard by way of a ladder.

ARE THERE ANY LIMITATIONS OR RESTRICTIONS ON THE DIVING?

All diving onboard the Star Dancer should be within the limits and standards of the training agency which certified you. All dives should be planned no-decompression dives. Solo diving and rebreather is not permitted.

CAN I EARN ADVANCED DIVING CERTIFICATIONS OR SPECIALTIES ONBOARD?

Several diving specialty courses are offered on the Star Dancer, but it is necessary to give at least one month notice to Dancer Fleet in advance of your charter date to ensure that an instructor will have the time available and that all required paperwork is complete. If you intend to receive diving instruction onboard, you must complete a medical statement in advance and return it to Dancer Fleet prior to your departure. A doctor's note may be required if you answer yes to any of the questions on the medical statement. A list of available courses and prices is located on our website. You will also need to bring the appropriate books and materials with you.

ARE NITROX FILLS AVAILABLE?

The Star Dancer is equipped with Nitrox facilities. Nitrox fills of up to 32% are normally available to all certified Nitrox divers for an additional charge. It is recommended that the planned PO2 level be set within the limits of your certifying agency. All Nitrox fills must be analyzed by the divers using the mix and logged prior to each and every dive. Oxygen analyzers available for use by guests while onboard will be calibrated a minimum of one time per day by a crew member. Nitrox certifications are usually available onboard to all certified open water divers for an additional charge.

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WHAT DIVING EQUIPMENT WILL I NEED TO BRING?

Equipment provided aboard the Star Dancer includes tanks (80 cu. ft. aluminum with yoke style “K” valves), weights and weight belts. Divers will also need the following equipment:

Basic Required Diving Equipment
for Each Diver

- Regulator with alternate air source
- Depth and pressure gauge
- Dive computer
- Buoyancy Compensation Device (BCD)
- Mask / fins / snorkel
- Visual Surface Signaling Device (Daytime) such as an Inflatable Safety Sausage or similar device.
- Night Dives: we require at least two light sources on a night dive.

Recommended (Additional) Dive Equipment

- Battery operated tank marker light.
- Dive light w/ extra batteries/charging source

WHAT SAFETY EQUIPMENT DO I NEED TO HAVE?

We suggest that you bring your own to ensure compatibility with your personal equipment. The Star Dancer has a limited supply available for rental by our guests.

Recommended Surface Safety Equipment
For Each Diver

- Audible Surface Signaling Device such as a Dive Alert (Air Horn) or an Emergency Whistle of superior quality.
- Visual Surface Device (Night or Dusk) such as a Personal Mini-Strobe or similar device.

Additional Recommended Surface Safety Equipment

- Signaling mirror
- Whistle

ARE DIVE GEAR AND PHOTO/VIDEO GEAR AVAILABLE FOR RENT?

Star Dancer has a limited amount of diving equipment available for rent, so it is critical that you advise our US office staff in advance if you decide you want to rent gear. We offer BCD's with Dive Alerts and regulators. The photo shop offers digital cameras housed in an underwater housing.

I AM A PHOTOGRAPHER – WHAT CAN I EXPECT?

Photo opportunities are abundant no matter what system you have. The yacht has a desktop Mac computer on board where the dive staff will be more than happy to assist any guest who wants to have their photos copied onto a hard drive or DVD. (Please bring blank DVD's if you wish to use this service.)

Camera Tables: Every Dancer has a camera table built into the dive deck for your use.

Charging Stations: There is a charging station with 110V and 220V power available for your use.

Rinse Buckets: There is a “cameras only” rinse bucket for the exclusive use of photographers onboard.

All divers are required to have a buddy with them at all times. When on a drift dive, photographers are expected to stay with the body of the group. You may move away from the group within reason – providing that the divemaster leading the dive is kept in sight at all times. You will not be permitted to separate from the group or carry your own drift line.

CAN I FISH OR SPEARFISH?

Fishing and spear fishing are not available. Spear fishing equipment is prohibited onboard the diving yacht.

NOTE ABOUT PERSONAL ITEMS

Dancer Fleet and Carib Dancer are not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged laptop computers and other electronic devices while onboard during your vacation. Electronic equipment (laptops, ipads, ipods, cell phones etc) should always be stowed after use to avoid the risk of damage.

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Dancer Fleet

SAMPLE ITINERARY

EMBARKATION: Guests are met at the airport and transferred to the Driftwood Resort in Alotau. Embarkation begins at 2pm with an estimated 4pm departure.

FULL DAYS Experience the best that PNG has to offer with up to 5 dives a day delivered in Dancer Fleet style in and around Milne Bay Province.

Star Dancer's diving is not restricted to Milne Bay proper. Star Dancer will typically head south to the Samarai Island region then east along the islands before heading north to Nuakata Island and finishing up along the north side of Milne bay. The scattered islands and reefs of Milne Bay area act as an oasis to marine life from the biggest creatures of the deep to the delicate and sometimes weirdest sea creatures ever seen. The reefs are a spectacular eye-catching combination of hard and soft corals. Sea grass beds are home to numerous unusual creatures. There will also be opportunities to go ashore and visit the Skull Caves and visit a wonderful waterfall.

Each cruise of the Star Dancer will be slightly different and unique. Using his knowledge of the area, along with current environmental conditions and weather forecast, your Captain will plan a route that will provide you with the best available diving for the duration of your cruise. Visit our website for descriptions of a few of the best known sites in our area of operations and an illustrative example of one potential route our Captain could create.

**DAY BEFORE
DISEMBARK** 1-2 Dives on in the morning.

Your Star Dancer cruise will conclude on your final day with return to Alotau in mid afternoon for some off gassing time. Guests may spend the afternoon relaxing on board, at the Driftwood resort or joining some of the hikes and excursions that may be offered. A cocktail party is hosted for you by the Captain around 5:30 p.m. (depending on tour schedules) followed by dinner in town (at your expense).

**DISEMBARK
DAY** Checkout time 8:00 am.

Disembarkation occurs between 8 and 9am with transfers to the airport. Early disembarkation is available for guests with earlier flights.

Dancer Fleet