

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION SOUTH PACIFIC CRUISE: PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND SOLOMON ISLANDS

PASSPORT AND VISA INFORMATION

Your passport needs to be valid for **at least six (6) months** after your journey ends, and should have a minimum of three (3) blank visa pages for entry and exit stamps.

Australia

An Electronic Travel Authority visa (ETA) is required for U.S. and Canadian passport holders for entry into Australia and must be obtained prior to departure. U.S. and Canadian citizens must apply for an ETA using the Australian ETA app on a mobile device. You can download the Australian ETA app for free from the [Apple Store \(Apple\)](#) or [Google Play store \(Android\)](#).

The current fee is AUD \$20 (subject to change without notice) and allows multiple entries for up to 12 months after the date of issuance. Read and follow all instructions carefully to ensure a smooth arrival in Australia. Once you download the app, be sure to have your passport with you when you start the e-Visa application process. More information is available here: [Step by step guide](#).

If you are asked to provide contact information for your local tour operator in Australia, please use the following:

ABERCROMBIE & KENT AUSTRALIA

Level 3, 290 Coventry Street
South Melbourne VIC 3205
Australia
Telephone: +61 3 9536 1800
Emergency Telephone: +61 409 026 808

Papua New Guinea

A tourist visa is required for U.S. and Canadian passport holders for entry into Papua New Guinea and must be obtained prior to departure. There are currently two options available as outlined below. A&K recommends an electronic visa (eVisa).

Electronic Visa (eVisa): To apply for an eVisa, visit <https://evisa.ica.gov.pg/evisa/account/apply> and when the page comes up and click on "Visitor" to apply. The single -entry eVisa (also referred to as an entry permit) is valid for 6 months (180 days) from the issue date and allows you to stay in Papua New Guinea for a 30-day period. We recommend that you apply for your eVisa no more than 2-3 months prior to arrival. The current fee is USD \$50 (subject to change without notice) payable by credit card. You will need a valid email address to apply. Read and follow all instructions carefully to avoid any possible complications on arrival in Papua New Guinea.

The following documents need to be provided/uploaded before your eVisa request can be approved:

- Corona Virus Supplementary Health Form
- Evidence of Funds
- Cover Letter
- Copy of Passport Bio Page

The required Health Form and Evidence of Funds/Cover Letter will be emailed with Preliminary Documents. Please include these forms when submitting your Papua New Guinea

eVisa application. The LEC Support Letter (Proof of funds) needs to be uploaded separately for the Evidence of Funds and Cover Letter.

Visa Stamp: A visa stamp in your passport can be obtained by applying through a visa processing service. (Evidence of Funds/Cover Letter are not required when applying for a visa stamp.) While there are additional costs involved in using a visa service, this option is available for guests who prefer assistance in the visa process.

Solomon Islands

Holders of U.S. and Canadian passports are not required to obtain a tourist visa for entry into Solomon Islands for stays of up to 30 days.

Our partner VisaCentral offers easy, efficient U.S. passport and visa processing. Visit them online at visacentral.com/abercrombiekent or call 844 823 1224 and reference A&K's account number 73001. Service fees apply.

Citizens of other countries should contact the appropriate consular office for entry requirements pertaining to their journey.

YELLOW FEVER & MALARIA PREVENTION

A yellow fever vaccination is required to enter the countries visited on this itinerary only if you are arriving from, or have transited through, a yellow fever-endemic area in South America or Africa. The CDC and WHO each provide a current list of all affected countries. If vaccination for yellow fever is necessary, you must carry an International Certificate of Vaccination provided by your physician; you may be denied entry without it. If your physician advises against receiving the vaccination because of your personal medical history, he or she can provide you with the necessary documentation for the country/countries you are visiting.

You will be travelling to areas of malaria transmission. We strongly advise that you speak with your doctor or travel clinic regarding your itinerary, individual risk assessment and options for mosquito bite prevention and antimalarial drugs. We recommend filling any prescriptions before you depart.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR EXPEDITION CRUISES

This cruise travels to remote destinations far removed from medical facilities, and major medical care is not available. There is a medical center on board, staffed with a physician and nurse to offer immediate medical care to guests; fees may apply. A minimum level of fitness is required to enjoy this journey as intended, with active elements that include navigating stairs and gangplanks, entering and exiting Zodiacs, and walking over uneven terrain with steep slopes and slippery footing during shore excursions.

Please ensure that we are aware of any physical, medical or other condition that might affect your ability to participate on this journey. You may be required to produce a doctor's certificate prior to travel. Due to ship restrictions, women who will be at least twelve (12) weeks pregnant at the start of the cruise, or any time during the sailing will not be permitted to travel on Expedition Cruises. The ship owner's medical staff and Captain reserve the right to refuse passage to anyone who is deemed unfit for travel either before or during the journey.

Prior to boarding, all guests must complete Ponant's **Mandatory Health Declaration** form, provided to you in Cairns.

Emergency Evacuation Repatriation Insurance

Due to the remote locations, A&K requires proof of a minimum of \$100,000 per person in emergency evacuation/repatriation insurance for this journey. This minimum amount is included in A&K's Guest Protection Program; upgrades can be purchased for higher coverage on request. If you do not purchase A&K's Guest Protection Program, we require proof of alternative coverage.

Please include your insurance carrier's name and telephone number when completing your guest information online. Additionally, carry proof of coverage with you on the cruise.

Please note emergency evacuation insurance provides for covering the cost associated with emergency evacuation and repatriation up to the limits of the respective policy; however, it does not guarantee the timing, method or mode of such evacuation and repatriation, which is subject to weather, location and other conditions or variables outside of A&K's control.

OF SPECIAL NOTE: SCUBA DIVING EXCURSIONS

Scuba diving may be available to qualified guests with an open-water diving certificate (PADI, NAUI or other authorized scuba training organization). Scuba diving is offered at an additional cost and requires pre-registration with proof of certification and experience.

A minimum of two dives must be completed and logged within twelve months prior to the start of the expedition. Availability is dependent on conditions and local restrictions. Dive times, locations and frequency are at the discretion of *PONANT Cruises* and A&K Dive Masters and are determined by the guest's diving experience and by the environmental conditions on that day. Certain medical conditions may exclude you from scuba diving at certain locations.

If you intend to participate in the scuba diving optional excursion, call Abercrombie & Kent in advance of your journey. You will be sent additional scuba diving information and a medical questionnaire. Please complete the Scuba Diving Guest Registration Form, PADI Statement of Risk and Liability and Participant Medical Questionnaire, and email these forms along with a copy of your certification card to A&K at usashoreexcursions@abercrombiekent.com no later than July 19, 2024.

Please ensure you bring the all the original completed forms sent to you by A&K, your valid diving certificate and logbook with you on the cruise. Additional forms may be required to be completed on board.

CASH & CREDIT CARDS

Australia

Cash transactions must be made in Australian currency. Major credit cards are widely accepted for goods and services. Access to ATMs is widespread in cities and towns, but may be limited in rural areas.

Papua New Guinea & Solomon Islands

Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands are cash-based economies. Cash transactions must be made in local currency. Smaller denominations are preferred as many village merchants cannot make change for larger bills. Major credit cards are accepted on a very limited basis, mainly in the largest shops and hotels. ATM access is limited in larger cities and unavailable in rural areas.

BAGGAGE RESTRICTIONS & PACKING LIST

Please use the provided A&K luggage tags, even if your bags already have ID tags. This makes it easier for A&K staff to collect and manage your luggage for you.

On the flight from Honiara to Cairns, each passenger is limited to one piece of checked luggage with a maximum weight of 50 pounds (23 kilograms). For carry-on baggage, each passenger is limited to one piece of luggage with a maximum weight of 15 pounds (7 kilograms), plus a personal item. Baggage restrictions may vary from the airlines' stated policy on contracted charter flights and are subject to change at the discretion of the air carrier.

Clothing

Casual comfortable clothing is appropriate on board. A jacket and tie for men and smart casual dress for women are suggested for the Captain's Welcome Cocktail Party and the Farewell Party on board. Formal clothing is not necessary.

Dark-colored clothing may attract mosquitoes and other unwanted insects, so clothing that is light in color is suggested.

Modest clothing is suggested for touring in Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands for both men and women. Women should be especially careful when going ashore on visit to towns or villages to avoid clothing that may be considered provocative, including revealing swimsuits, sundresses, or similar apparel.

- Casual slacks
- Walking shorts
- Polo shirts, casual short-sleeve shirts or blouses
- Long sleeve shirts or blouses
- Lightweight raincoat
- Sweater or lightweight jacket
- Brimmed hat or visor for sun protection (one that ties beneath the chin is recommended)
- Personal garments
- Socks
- Sleepwear
- Comfortable walking shoes with traction; slip on water shoes for wet Zodiac landings (highly recommended)
- Hiking shoes or lightweight boots
- Swimwear/cover-up (swimwear or Rash Guard that provides UV protection is ideal)
- Small waterproof dry bag for Zodiac excursions

Other Recommended Items

- Face masks and hand sanitizer
- Prescriptions and medications (in their original bottles and/or packaging)
- Simple first-aid kit
- Sun block and lip balm / insect repellent
- Extra eyeglasses/contact lenses
- Small LED flashlight
- Sunglasses
- Smartphone
- Charging cables for electronics
- Global travel adapter
- Foldable walking stick
- Lightweight binoculars
- Scuba divers must bring their valid diving certificates and logbooks

Laundry service is available at most hotels and dry cleaning is available in larger cities. Check costs and return times before using these services.

Traveller's Valet: A&K's complimentary laundry service for 8 articles of clothing per person will be provided twice during your journey on board. Additional laundry can be done for a charge. Dry cleaning is not available.

TIPPING GUIDELINES

On A&K Luxury Expedition Cruises, all gratuities, including for the ship's crew, A&K Expedition Team and guides, are included in the cost of the program and group extensions.

For extra nights or Tailor Made services pre or post-cruise, please follow the Tailor Made Journeys guidelines for these days only. While decisions regarding tipping rest entirely with you, we suggest the following gratuities (noted in U.S. dollars):

	Tailor Made Journeys
Local Guides	\$20 per person, per day (full day)
Drivers	\$10 per person, per day (full day)
Private Guide (driving own vehicle)	\$30 per person, per day (full day)
Airport Transfer Drivers	\$5 per person, per transfer
Hotel Porters	\$2 per bag
Housekeepers	\$2 per person, per night
Included Meals	Included
Restaurants or Room Service on Own	10-15% unless already added

LIFE ON BOARD: 'LE LAPEROUSE'

SHIP AMENITIES

Your exclusively chartered ship is 430 feet long and accommodates up to 184 passengers; however, A&K limits occupancy to a maximum of 148 guests. The ship has three elevators with ramps accessing all passenger decks.

Each stateroom features individual climate control, 110V American/220V European plugs, Wi-Fi, stocked minibar, Nespresso coffee maker and tea kettle, small electronic safe, direct line telephone, Bluetooth speaker, flat-screen TV with video on demand, wardrobe, vanity with mirror, robe, slippers, hairdryer and luxury bath products. Nightly turndown is provided.

All suites feature butler service — an A&K-exclusive feature — which includes a personalized welcome, unpacking and packing upon request, nightly canapes, room service, shoe polishing and expedited laundry, as well as priority spa and salon booking.

Deck 3 features a variety of guest services and public spaces. The reception area includes a 24-hour front desk and a boutique with a selection of clothing and jewelry. The spacious main lounge offers a bar with live music on most evenings. The ship's pool deck features a heated outdoor pool with a counter-current swimming system and exterior bar with armchairs and sofas. Lectures are held in the Theater with comfortable seating for all guests, as well as audio/visual equipment and an LED wall for projecting high-resolution images and videos. Finally, medical facilities with a doctor and nurse are available 24 hours a day.

On Deck 6, the Panoramic lounge offers a small library with a selection of books and board games and direct access to the panoramic terrace.

The Wellness area on Deck 7 features a fitness center offering guests complimentary use of equipment including stationary bikes, treadmills, Kinesis wall and other exercise equipment. Due to safety reasons, there are no free weights on board the ship. Sea conditions may affect the fitness center's opening hours. There is a hair salon as well as a full-service spa equipped with a sauna and steam room, and which offers a range of beauty treatments and massage services. All spa and salon services are charged to your shipboard account.

A daily program detailing the following day's events, excursions, and hours for the restaurants, boutique and spa is delivered to your stateroom each evening.

ONBOARD CULINARY AND BEVERAGE PROGRAM

Dining is a special treat on board. International cuisine is available in two restaurants. The main dining room at the rear of Deck 4 accommodates all guests in one sitting and offers panoramic views. This unique dining area, which opens onto the outside, offers a selection of salads, hot meals, cheeses and desserts. The al fresco restaurant on Deck 3 has seating for 70 guests and features a casual menu of grilled meats, salads and desserts.

Complimentary 24-hour room service is also available. Early riser coffee and breakfast pastries, afternoon tea and late-night snacks are offered daily. Meals on board are scheduled around the day's sightseeing and shipboard activities. Please consult your daily program for mealtimes and opening hours.

Complimentary bar drinks, beer, house wine, soft drinks, coffee drinks, juices and water (excluding premium wines, Champagne and spirits) are provided while on board.

If you have special dietary requirements (vegetarian or vegan menus, food allergies, etc.) please advise Abercrombie & Kent at least six weeks prior to the beginning of your journey. In addition, please take the opportunity early in the cruise to meet with the Maître D' and Cruise Director to discuss your special requests and inform your server prior to dining. Chefs on board will make every effort to accommodate your needs. Kosher meals are not available on board.

LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATIONS

English is the language used by staff on board A&K charters.

Complimentary Wi-Fi Internet is featured on A&K charters. Internet access at sea is made possible by satellite, and speed and connectivity are dependent on latitude, weather and atmospheric conditions as well as the number of guests using their computers or mobile devices. Ship's internet services may not always be available and could be very slow at times. Your patience and understanding are appreciated when this situation occurs.

To make an international call onboard, please visit the reception desk. Charges for maritime satellite connections are significantly higher than those for land services and the cost of the call will be added your shipboard account. Guests may be able to use the ship's Wi-Fi to make international phone calls on their own personal devices using messaging apps such as WhatsApp, Viber, Messenger, etc., which can be downloaded from the iOS App Store or Google Play Store.

OF SPECIAL NOTE

The ship is nonsmoking except in a designated area outside on Deck 3.

Maritime law does not permit unrestricted access to the bridge. At the Captain's discretion, guests may be offered the opportunity to visit the bridge during scheduled times in accordance with security protocols.

Access to outdoor areas may be restricted during inclement weather and ship maneuvers. The ship's daily scheduled sightseeing events and timings may be altered, and flexibility is required.