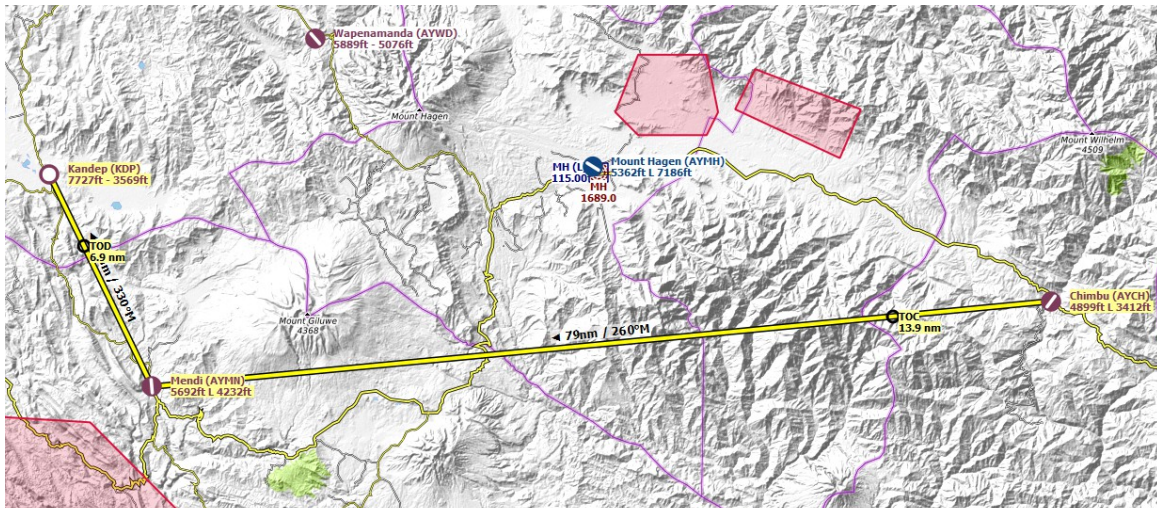


Christmas Caper – 2019

Day 9 - Chimbu to Kandep via Mendi



Chimbu Province is the rugged mountainous terrain, and its inhabitants transformed their steep hills into a patchwork of gardens. Traditionally, the Chimbu tribes don't live in villages but in dispersed settlements. Typical houses in Chimbu Province are oval or rectangular, with dirt floors, low thatched roofs, and walls woven from flattened reeds. Men live in large communal men's houses (hausman) set on ridges for defensive purpose while women, children, and pigs live in separate houses. Today, with the influence of the modern world, the majority of men and women live together as a couple.

One of the important ceremonies in Chimbu culture used to be the boys' initiation where young boys live in seclusion while receiving the traditional male education. The ceremony, during which the young boys are subject to bloodletting and painful ordeals, culminates in massive pig sacrifices. The ceremony used to be held every seven to ten years. Although today this ceremony has slowly died out, large pig killing ceremonies are still held.

Pigs are the most valuable asset for Chimbu tribes and the main exchange item in many ceremonies such as marriage celebration or death rituals. Pigs are also used to thank women for giving birth to a child to perpetuate the husband's clan. The largest of these ceremonies is bugla ingu (pig killing ceremony), where hundreds or thousands of pigs are slaughtered, cooked, and distributed. Bugla ingu is an exchange ceremony where the giver creates a debt that the receiver must repay in the future in order not to lose prestige. These ceremonial exchanges are important in Chimbu culture in developing and maintaining relationships between the tribes.

The Route

Leg 1	Chimbu to Mendi	79 nms
Leg 2	Mendi to Kandep	21 nms

This day's flying is 99 nms and will not take too long. However, you might have to climb to 14 500 ft in order to clear the mountains, so choose a suitable aircraft.