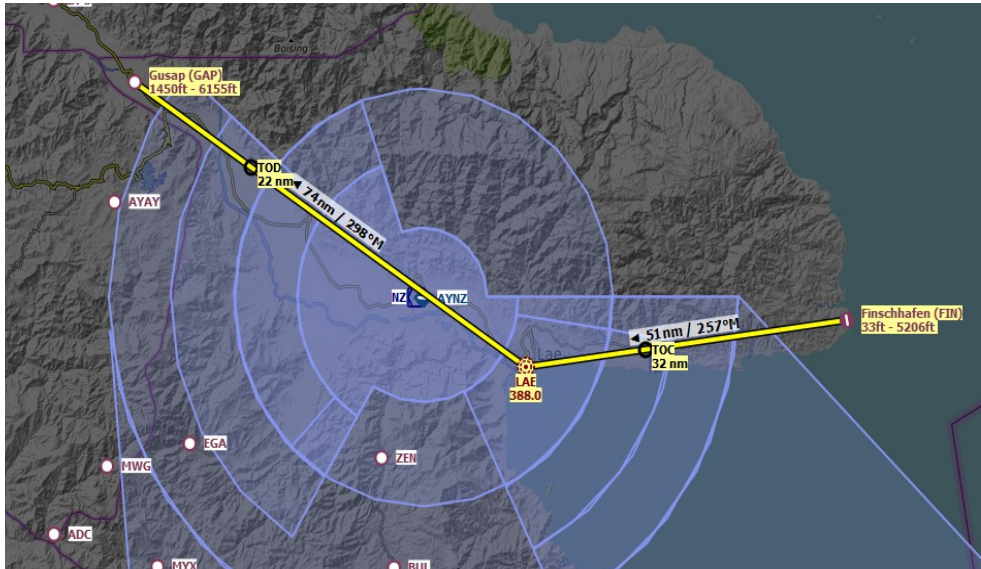


The CIX VFR Club

Christmas Caper – 2019

Day 13 - Finschhafen to Gusap



Gusap Airport was built by US Army engineers of the 871st, 872nd and 875th Airborne Aviation Engineer Battalions during World War II, and was developed into major base consisting of ten airstrips and numerous facilities for fighters and light bombers of the Fifth Air Force. Later during the war, the airfield was also a base for Royal Australian Air Force aircraft. The base was built around eight grass runways, with 180 revetments in the complex. The airstrip at Gusap paid for itself many times over in the quantity of Japanese aircraft, equipment and personnel destroyed by Allied attack missions projected from it.

Many relics from this period can be still found in the surrounding environment, and Ramu Agri Industries Limited at Gusap have established a mini-museum with restored relics for viewing. These include strip dozers, Bren Guns, 50mm Aircraft cannon, various ammunition, US & Japanese helmets and even the engine from a Japanese "Sally" Bomber recovered from the nearby mountains, on display.

The Route

Leg 1 Finschhafen to Gusap

126 nms

This days flying is 126 nms and can be comfortably undertaken in a Cessna 172 or similar aircraft.