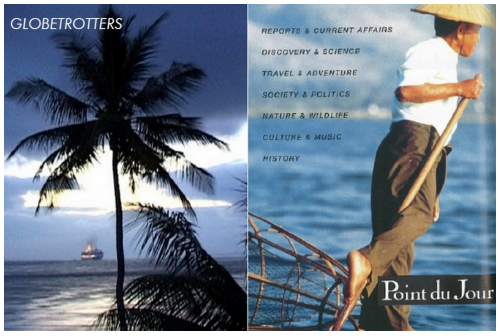

PAPUA NEW GUINEA: THE CROCODILE MEN

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The Sepik river in the north of Papua-New-Guinea is the kingdom of crocodile. They are so many that most villages on the river have a crocodile as totem, which is not the only way to prove their ultimate fascination for this animal. Every nine years, the people of the river villages organise an initiation ceremony: the skin of young boys is scarified to resemble that of a crocodile. Thus, they achieve the much respected status of crocodile men. We are invited to the ceremony in the village of Yenchemangua.

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