

9. Point Cruz

Point Cruz (or Point Cross) in the centre of Honiara was named by a Spanish expedition led by Álvaro de Mandaña de Neira's in 1568. Originally, it was an island joined to Guadalcanal by a narrow neck of swampy land. Creation of an international port facility at Point Cruz began in the mid-1950s, the first stage complete by 1966. The land behind Point Cruz has become the centre of modern Honiara, and the Point is a substantial harbour and container terminal. Next to it are the smaller wharves for inter-island shipping.



9.1. Point Cruz in 1944 during the American occupation. (UQ FML, Alexander Wilson Collection)

9.2. Plans for the redevelopment of Point Cruz with Japanese funding, 2015. (Solomon Islands Ports Authority)



9.3. In the 1940s and 1950s, Honiara had no port, other than small wharves at Kukum. Since the 1950s, Port Cruz has been expanded and made into an extensive area of docks for international and local shipping. This photo shows the early stages of the development in the 1950s. (British Museum, Patrick Barrett Collection)



9.4. Point Cruz in 2008. This is the commercial and administrative hub of the nation. (Clive Moore Collection)



9.5. Point Cruz and the centre of Honiara, looking down from the ridges behind, 2008. (Clive Moore Collection)



9.6. An international container ship at Point Cruz, next to inter-island shipping. This scene was in 2012. (Clive Moore Collection)



9.7. Point Cruz in 2014, showing the fuel depot, the docks for local shipping and the main wharf where overseas shipping arrives. (Clive Moore Collection)



9.8. One landmark at Point Cruz is Sweetie Kwan Wing Leung Ltd. General Merchants, Mendana Avenue. (Clive Moore Collection)



9.9. Sweetie Kwan Wing Leung Ltd.'s store has maintained the style of the original Chinese stores. In 2016, these Isabel women were shopping and chatting. (Graham Baines Collection)