BLACK PEARL

Palau Bumphead Spawning New Moon

Malakal to Malakal | Rock Islands Southern Lagoon



Palau at the new moon brings a rare spectacle, as hundreds of bumphead parrotfish gather and the males bump heads like buffaloes before rising from the sand to spawn.

The rest of the route is just as strong, with Palau's most famous dive, where a strong current draws sharks, jacks, trevallies, barracudas, turtles and Napoleon wrasse.

Manta rays visit a man-made channel to feed on plankton, and great hammerheads cruise along slopes and canyons.

A cavern is lit from above through four holes, and a wall drops almost 300 metres.

Second World War wrecks include a huge Japanese oil tanker, and a cave has chambers with air pockets.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	EXPERIENCE
7 nights	Malakal	Malakal	50+ dives, Nitrox







Your itinerary

DAY 1

Malakal Port

No diving today

Pick-up from your hotel is at about 3:00 pm and you board the yacht.
While you enjoy a welcome drink you get a general boat briefing and finish the paperwork, then see your cabin.
A safety briefing follows just after dinner at about 6:00 pm.

DAY 2-3

Ulong, Siaes and Shark City

Sandy Bar and wall and channel dives

Sandy Bar is a sloping coral garden on the western side of the barrier reef with a mild current, suitable for all levels.
Ulong Channel is a world-class drift dive, a narrow 50 metre channel with reef sharks, barracudas, turtles and coral gardens.
Siaes Corner is a shark hangout with grey reef sharks and turtles, Siaes Tunnel is a large cave with three openings in the reef wall, and Shark City has grey reef sharks and great hammerheads along its slopes and canyons.

DAY 4

German Channel

After lunch

The first dive after lunch is at German Channel, a man-made channel blasted by the Germans in the early 1900s between Ngemelis and Ngercheu Islands.
Manta rays visit to feed on plankton, with a cleaning station at 18 metres and a coral garden at 7 to 13 metres.
Eagle rays, garden eels, snappers, barracudas, trevallies and reef sharks are also seen.



DAY 5-6

Blue Corner and the Drop Offs

At least 2 dives at Blue Corner

The day starts with an early dive at Blue Corner, the most famous dive site in Palau, with a strong current that draws sharks, jacks, trevallies, barracudas, turtles and Napoleon wrasse.
The crew dive it at least twice over the two days, as every tide brings something new.
Blue Holes is a cavern lit from above through four holes, Big Drop Off is a wall dropping almost 300 metres, and New Drop Off is a smaller version of Blue Corner with grey reef sharks and schooling snappers.

DAY 7

Wrecks and Chandelier Cave

Wreck and cave dives

The Second World War wrecks around Malakal Harbour include the Iro, a 143 metre Japanese oil tanker at 30 to 40 metres, Jake's Seaplane in the lagoon at about 15 metres, and the Chuyo Maru, known as the Lionfish Wreck.
Short Drop Off is a gentle plateau with sharks, turtles and nautilus, and Chandelier Cave has chambers and air pockets at 8 metres, where torches are required.
The night is spent anchored in the Malakal Harbor area, with free time to dry your gear, paddle board, kayak or snorkel.

DAY 8

Departure

Breakfast is on board at 6:30 to 7:00 am.
You disembark at about 8:00 am and transfer to Koror International Airport or your next hotel.

GOOD TO KNOW

On land and on the way

New moon spawning dives

Diving during the new moon lets you see hundreds of Bumphead Parrotfish gather to mate, with loud bangs as the males bump heads, and colour changes as they prepare to spawn.

Diving in currents

Palau diving involves currents, and a minimum of 50 logged dives, a Nitrox certificate and experience diving in currents are recommended. Blue Corner is best with at least an advanced licence.

Flights home

Guests need at least 24 hours between their final dive and the scheduled departure of their flight from Palau.

Check in

Hotel pick-up is at about 3:00 pm in the Koror area. Embarkation at Malakal Port starts at 3:00 pm local time, and the crew give a welcome drink, a boat briefing and a safety briefing after dinner. There is no diving on the first day.

Check out

After breakfast you disembark at about 8:00 to 8:30 am and transfer to Koror International Airport or your hotel.

Itinerary

This is a sample route. The sites are not visited in any set order, because the Cruise Director and Captain work with the weather, tides, currents and the number of other dive boats to get the best conditions.







INCLUDED

What your trip covers

INCLUDED IN THE TRIP PRICE

- Full-board accommodation, with 3 meals on every full day on board
- 3 guided dives a day, except the second last day, plus 1 night dive
- Palau Goods and Services Tax
- Two-way transfers strictly between the hotels in the Koror area and Malakal Port
- Drinking water, coffee and tea, except specialty coffee
- Free Wi-Fi, which may be limited or unavailable in remote areas or at sea
- 12 litre tanks, weights and weight belts, with reef hooks, a surface marker buoy and a GPS
- Nitrox tanks
- Beach BBQ, cocktail party, jacuzzi, snorkelling, paddle boards and kayaking

NOT INCLUDED

- International flights and pre- or post-cruise accommodation
- Marine park fees and taxes, paid on board
- Fuel surcharge, shown on our trip listings
- Jellyfish Lake permit, optional
- Peleliu diving permit, optional
- Koror airport transfers, one way, optional, and special transfers between Malakal Port and the yacht
- Specialty coffee, soft drinks and alcoholic beverages
- 15 litre tank and dive gear rental
- Diving insurance, which can be bought on board
- Crew tips, which are customary

BEFORE YOU GO

What to bring

ESSENTIALS

- Dive certification cards, including your Nitrox card
- Dive log book, as a minimum of 50 logged dives is recommended
- Dive insurance card or confirmation slip
- Medical clearance from your physician, if any
- BCD, regulator, fins, mask, snorkel and wetsuit

AND ALSO

- Dive computer with a spare battery, and a surface marker buoy
- Hood, reef hook and a torch with spare batteries
- Reef-friendly sunscreen, hat and sunglasses
- Cash in US dollars for tips and extras
- Passport

WORTH KNOWING

Key notes

Good to know

The same sample route is used for the 5, 7, 9 and 10 night trips, so the number of sites visited depends on the length of the trip