PALAU SIREN

# Palau Islands

*Koror to Koror | Rock Islands Southern Lagoon and Peleliu*



The Rock Islands Southern Lagoon, a UNESCO World Heritage site, is the setting for some of the best diving in Palau.

Drift dives run along walls encrusted with hard and soft coral, past schools of sharks, a stand of lettuce coral and plenty of groupers.

Where the currents run hardest the shark action is consistent and abundant, and Napoleon wrasses come close for a perfect photo.

Japanese wrecks from the Second World War lie in clear blue water, one wearing black coral trees, and a floatplane sits in one piece.

| LENGTH | DEPARTURE PORT | ARRIVAL PORT | EXPERIENCE |
|---|---|---|---|
| 10 nights | Koror | Koror | Advanced Open Water |







# Your itinerary

STOP 1

## Embarkation

Embarkation from the meeting point at 17:30, followed by introductions, boat and safety briefings and dinner.
There is no diving on embarkation day.

STOP 2

## Malakal Harbour

The boat leaves Malakal Harbour after breakfast, followed by a check dive and up to 3 more dives.

STOP 3

## Diving days

The Cruise Director schedules up to 4 dives a day: 3 day dives and either a sunset or a night dive. A typical diving day is a light breakfast, briefing and dive 1; full breakfast, relaxation, briefing and dive 2; lunch, relaxation, briefing and dive 3; a snack; a briefing for the sunset or night dive; and dinner.



STOP 10

## Last full day

Up to 3 dives before the boat cruises back to Malakal Harbour, where she stays at anchor overnight.
Please leave a minimum of 24 hours between your final dive and your flight home.

STOP 11

## Disembarkation

After breakfast on board, disembarkation is at 10:00.

THE DIVING

# Dive sites

## Ulong Channel

Often considered the best dive in Palau!

## Siaes Tunnel

Siaes Tunnel offers divers an awesome experience as they dive through a naturally lit tunnel with several windows where they can experience endemic species only normally seen in deeper water.

## Shark City

Southwest of Ulong Island, a wall dive where currents attract many large pelagic fish from grey reef sharks to the occasional sighting of a bull shark or hammerhead.

## Sand Bar

This shallow sloping reef featuring garden eels and stingrays is also the place where hundreds of thousands of bumphead parrotfish are known to congregate for spawning; this stunning spectacle may only be witnessed at certain times of the month during the right moon phase.

## Chandelier Cave

A gorgeous cave system, containing four separate chambers with stalactites and stalagmites thus creating a ‘chandelier’ effect.

## Teshio Maru

On her way to seek refuge from the American attacks, the Teshio Maru was bombed and strafed by a passing US fighter north of the Malakal harbor, during “Operation Desecrate One” on March 30th 1944.

## Iro Maru

This Japanese oil supply ship, sunk during ‘Operation Desecrate’, lays upright in 20m (75ft) of clear blue water.

## Chuyo Maru

Located just west of Malakal Island, this is a medium sized Japanese coastal freighter that was also sunk during World War II.

## Jake Seaplane

Jake was a reconnaissance floatplane that is believed to have crashed during take-off.

## Blue Corner

The most famous dive site in Palau, World-class diving does not get much better than Blue Corner!

## Blue Holes

Just along the reef from Blue Corner, is a large cavern with four “blue holes” at the top allowing natural light to enter from above.

## New Drop Off

Located south of Blue Corner on a shallow plateau.

## Big Drop Off

Another one of Palau's famous wall dives.

## German Channel

This artificial channel was created during the German occupation (1899 – 1914) to enable easier transportation of the phosphates they were mining.

## Virgin Blue Holes

Just south of Blue Corner, this site offers divers swim throughs and caverns to explore, before exiting onto the reef wall.

## Dexter's Wall

A wonderful wall dive filled with soft corals, sea fans, nudibranchs, anemones and sea turtles.

## Peleliu Cut

A site where we can experience some of the strongest currents of our trip due to converging ocean currents that flow around the archipelago.

## Yellow Wall

Named after the golden yellow cup corals (Tubastraea faulkneri) that cover the wall along this area of the reef, Yellow Wall is located northeast of Peleliu Express.

## Peleliu Express

Located at the southernmost tip of Peleliu Island, the open ocean currents converge bringing in large schools of pelagic fish.

## Barnum's Wall

A favourite spot for a night dive.

## Peleliu Wall

Covered with black corals and large sea fans, this huge wall allows for an easy drift dive whilst observing reef sharks, jacks and barracuda.

## Orange Beach

A soft drift dive along a colourful coral garden.

## South Dock

A beautiful reef wall where divers can find parrotfish, surgeonfish as well as whitetip reef sharks cruising.

## Check in

Embarkation is at the meeting point in Koror at 17:30 only, with hotel pick-up usually between 16:30 and 17:00.

## Check out

Disembarkation is at the meeting point at 10:00, with transfers to Koror airport or a local hotel.

## Last dive

Please leave a minimum of 24 hours between your final dive and your flight home.

INCLUDED

# What your trip covers

## INCLUDED IN THE TRIP PRICE

- Full board meals and snacks
- Drinking water, tea, coffee, juices and soft drinks
- Guided diving with three permanent dive guides
- One 11 litre cylinder per dive, weights and belts
- Rock Islands and Jellyfish Lake speedboat tour
- Use of kayaks
- Transfers between Koror airport or hotels and the meeting point on embarkation and disembarkation days

## NOT INCLUDED

- Palau permits and fees, paid on board
- Drinks from the cocktail bar
- Equipment rental and Nitrox
- Peleliu WWII land excursion
- Wi-Fi and laundry
- Crew tips, which are customary
- Diving and travel insurance

WORTH KNOWING

# Key notes

### Good to know

Divers need Advanced Open Water certification, or equivalent, with a minimum of 30 logged dives, and experience diving in currents is recommended.

### Good to know

Open Water divers are limited to 18 metres and can complete a Deep Adventure dive on board, which allows diving to 30 metres.

### Good to know

Every guest dives with a guide at all times in Palau, and dive groups stay small at 5 to 6 divers.

### Good to know

Reef hooks are needed at sites such as Blue Corner and Peleliu Cut.





