

Bikini Atoll, Republic of the Marshall Islands

Trip Information

- **Arrival airport:** Kwajalein Airport (KWA)
- **Departure airport:** Kwajalein Airport (KWA)

Flights

Advice on International Flights

We recommend that you book your international flight to and from Kwajalein Airport (KWA) from Honolulu, Hawaii (HNL), which is served by United Airlines 3 times per week and takes around 7 hours.

The HNL–MAJ–KWA flight operates on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and departs very early in the morning. Generally you will need to leave from Los Angeles (LAX) or San Francisco (SFO) the day before (Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday) to make the connection and ideally you will arrive in Honolulu one day before your flight to Kwajalein. Bear in mind that you will be crossing the date line when traveling from Hawaii to the Marshall Islands.

There is also a flight from Guam to Kwajalein via Chuuk and Ponphei which operates on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. However, embarkation and disembarkation of our Bikini Atoll itineraries are scheduled around the Honolulu flights.

Visas and Passports

US citizens do not require a visa to enter the Marshall Islands. Visitors from the EU, UK, and Taiwan are exempt from visa requirements for stays up to 90 days. Most other nationalities will be granted a visa on arrival for \$100 for stays up to 90 days. Please see www.rmiocit.org/visa-requirements or check with your nearest Marshall Islands embassy or consulate for more details.

Nationalities not covered by visa waiver agreements or eligible for a visa on arrival must obtain a visa prior to travelling to the Marshall Islands. Processing time for visa applications is up to 14 days.

Passports must be valid for 6 months beyond the date of departure from the Marshall Islands.

Guests travelling with medication should bring a copy of their physician's prescription with them.

ESTA

Non-US citizens need a US Visa or ESTA to travel via Guam or the United States and Hawaii. Guests without a US visa or ESTA may be denied boarding of their flight.

An Electronic System of Travel Authorization (ESTA) or US visa must be obtained prior to travel. Citizens of 37 countries, including most European nations, Australia, New Zealand and Japan are eligible for the ESTA under the visa waiver program and should apply online at least 72 hours prior to travel. Please refer to the US Department of Homeland Security's ESTA information page for further details and application: esta.cbp.dhs.gov/

Arriving at Kwajalein Airport

As it is a US Military base, there are special procedures in place for entering Kwajalein. Please ensure you have a printed copy of the **Master Liveboards Sponsor Letter** on hand when arriving in Kwajalein as it is a declaration of the reason why you are travelling to / through Kwajalein. Important information on arrival procedures can be found in our **Procedure for arrival in Kwajalein** document which can be found at www.masterliveboards.com/forms. A shuttle bus will take you from the airport to the ferry terminal, from where an Army ferry departs on a short trip to Ebeye Island.

Airport Tax

All passengers travelling out of the Marshall Islands are charged \$20 USD departure tax.

Insurance

Insurance which covers scuba diving is mandatory aboard all of our vessels. All guests are also required to carry full travel and cancellation insurance, as outlined in our [Terms and Conditions](#). We cannot be held liable for delays occurring during the cruise, nor any delays or cancellations of flights, accommodations or tours and transfers that we organise on your behalf.

Your insurance must cover all of your scuba diving and snorkelling activities, including the costs for recompression chamber treatment and emergency air evacuation. We therefore strongly recommend purchasing diving-specific insurance to cover any diving related eventuality.

Master Liveboards act as a referrer for DiveAssure who offer dive and travel insurance policies, including short term and multiple trip policies. Their comprehensive 'Dive & Travel Plus' plan has been specifically developed for diving liveboard holidays and covers expenses in the event of missing your liveboard departure due to flight delays or missed connections, and also provides cover for lost diving days if for any reason the boat is required to abort the cruise; for instance, due to a guest injury, mechanical breakdown of the ship, air supply failure, inclement weather conditions, etc.

Please consult our webpage for details and direct link to DiveAssure's booking portal:
www.masterliveboards.com/insurance.

Diving Information

The average dive depth in Bikini Atoll is 50 metres and therefore Bikini itineraries are **NOT SUITABLE FOR RECREATIONAL DIVERS**.

Diving on the Bikini wrecks is suitable only for divers with technical diving certifications and deep, wreck diving experience.

Guests are responsible for planning and adhering to their own dive profiles. However, depth limits given by the Cruise Director must be followed and wreck penetration is not allowed without a dive guide.

A maximum of two dives per day will be scheduled, with a standard, minimum surface interval of 4 hours between dives in Bikini.

It is mandatory for guests to take an afternoon off diving mid-trip. We will offer an optional land tour on Bikini Island and beach BBQ. No alternative shallow dive will be offered.

Guests' Level of Diving

The minimum, **MANDATORY** certification required for guests joining a Bikini Atoll itinerary on Truk Master is PADI Tec 50, or equivalent, with 100 logged dives and wreck diving experience.

Closed Circuit Rebreather (CCR) divers must have normoxic trimix certification.

To get the most out of your dives in Bikini Atoll, the following certifications levels are highly recommended:

- TDI – Advanced Nitrox & Deco Procedures
- IANTD – Tech Nitrox
- NAUI – Tech Nitrox & Deco Techniques
- ANDI – Technical Nitrox

All guests will be asked to show their certification card(s) and record of logged dives upon check-in onto the vessel as proof that they meet the mandatory dive qualifications and experience.

Any guests who do not meet the minimum mandatory certification and experience requirements will not be able to dive.

Guests are responsible for obtaining suitable dive insurance for technical diving, which must include cover for emergency evacuation and recompression chamber costs.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the diving conditions and experience requirements please contact our reservations team directly.

Deco / Tec Diving Facilities

For your convenience there is a “Deco Bar” installed under the dive platform of Truk Master and deco stage tanks available to rent.

Rebreather Diving

Truk Master is equipped with booster pumps to support rebreather divers and we have bailout tanks available to rent. We can also facilitate the purchase of CO2 absorbent (Molecular Products 797 Sofnolime) which is charged per full 4.5kg tub.

PLEASE NOTE:

- We are unable to supply pre-packed scrubber cartridges for rebreather units such as Poseidon.
- Guests who need M26 valves or adapters for their rebreather are advised to bring their own. M26 valves / adapters are NOT available on board.
- We do not carry spare oxygen cells or specialist rebreather tools on Truk Master. Therefore rebreather divers will need to bring their own.

Pre-booking of any rebreather supplies well in advance is essential to ensure we have sufficient quantities on board. Please complete **Truk Master Tech Diving Form** which can be downloaded from the forms page of our website (www.masterliveboards.com/forms) and send it to our reservations team to place your order.

Oxygen

The oxygen on board Truk Master comes from an Oxygen Generator, which does not produce 100% pure oxygen, but up to 93% purity, +/- 3%.

Helium

While we can provide trimix for rebreather divers, due to the logistics of obtaining and storing helium, we are unable to cater for trimix divers on open circuit.

PLEASE NOTE: Oxygen and Helium must be requested in advance but paid for on board, and are charged per litre, per fill. We do not bank non-standard gases on Truk Master so all gases supplied will be charged for in full, even if they are not fully used.

Gas prices, and equipment and cylinder rental costs can be viewed under 'Extras' on the Truk Master page of our website: www.masterliveboards.com/boats/truk-master.

Diving Equipment

Guests are advised to bring their own Tech. diving equipment. Truk Master has a limited amount of rental equipment which is available for an additional fee.

Weight belts and weights are provided free of charge.

As rental equipment, cylinders and gases are subject to availability, please inform us of your requirements at the time of confirming your liveaboard booking by completing the Truk Master Tech Diving Form from www.masterliveboards.com/forms and returning it to our reservations team.

Required Scuba Equipment

To dive in Bikini Atoll you will need the following items:

- Two methods of buoyancy. This can be achieved by using a wing with a redundant bladder, dry-suit or lift bag with a minimum of 20kg/45lb of positive lift.
- Dive Computer - Multi-gas dive computer capable of switching between a minimum of 2 gasses ideally more.
- Backup Computer or depth/bottom timer.
- 2 Surface Marker Buoys (SMB) - One red or orange SMB and one yellow SMB with a slate or wet notes attached for emergency use.
- 2 Reels or spools - One with a minimum 15m of line and one with a minimum of 60m of line.
- Dive Slate or Wet Notes - Additional dive slate in addition to the slate used with the emergency surface marker buoy or a set of wet notes.
- Minimum of two dive torches (primary and back-up) for guests planning on doing wreck penetration.

Recommended Equipment

- Back-plate, harness and wing - capable of carrying manifolded twin aluminium 80cuft cylinders and one or two 40/80cuft aluminium stage cylinders. The wing should have a minimum of 20kg/45lb of positive lift.
- Two DIN regulator sets: one with a long hose configured for twin cylinder operation.
- One or two DIN stage regulators for use with up to 95% oxygen.
- Protection – 3mm or 5mm full length wetsuit. Some divers also like to use a hood or helmet and gloves. Water temperature is between 27 - 29 degrees all year round with no thermoclines.
- Spare Mask - Spare mask should be carried on all dives.

Please inspect and test all of your dive equipment before travelling. If your equipment has recently been serviced we still recommend that you test it thoroughly before coming to Bikini. There are no dive centres or facilities for repairing equipment in Kwajalein or Bikini.

Fit to Dive

All divers are responsible for ensuring that they are fit to dive, and are required to complete a medical statement upon arrival in resort. Guests who have any symptoms that could be restrictive to diving will need to obtain a doctor's note clearing them to dive, prior to arriving in resort.

If you are unable to complete the statement as directed, or provide a current doctor's certificate (less than 1 year old) clearing you to dive, you accept that you may not be able to take part in certain aspects of the holiday you have booked with us.

The medical statement can be found on our website at www.masterliveboards.com/forms.

Diving Safety

Use of a dive computer and SMB are compulsory on Truk Master.

All guests are responsible for their own dive profiles and must stay within the limits of their certification, follow dive computer guidelines, and make safety stops. They must also follow any instruction given by the dive crew aboard the vessel.

Due to the remote nature of diving in Bikini we recommend that all divers plan and execute conservative dive profiles and, once all the necessary decompression obligations are met, spend an additional 10 minutes between 3 - 6m before surfacing.

As per our [Terms & Conditions](#), dive insurance and travel insurance are mandatory.

Flying after Diving

Current studies indicate that you should wait at least 24 hours after multiple days with repetitive diving before flying. Please keep this in mind when you book your onward international or domestic flights.

Diving Emergencies

The Marshall Islands are an extremely remote diving destination without hyperbaric facilities. The nearest hyperbaric chamber is in either Hawaii or Australia and emergency air evacuation to one of these countries is required.

Kindly note we do not support 'In Water Recompression' from Truk Master.

With the above in mind, it is mandatory that our guests purchase dive and liveaboard specific insurance according to their level of certification. This insurance needs to cover air evacuation and the appropriate depths you plan to dive to. We strongly urge that all guests dive well within recognised limits and follow our Dive Guides' advice.

General Information

Advanced Passenger Information (API)

There are certain details that we require for the airlines and our own administrative purposes prior to travel. Guests are required to submit the required information via our secure online portal at www.masterliveaboards.com/portal.

Standard Forms

It is a requirement for all guests to complete a medical statement, liability releases, and safe standard practice statement prior to, or upon arrival in resort. The forms can be found on our website at www.masterliveaboards.com/forms.

To save some time, and to ensure that you have no pre-existing conditions which could affect your diving, you can download the forms from the above link, fill them in, and bring them with you. By completing and signing the forms, you are confirming that you have read, understood, and agree to the conditions outlined in the forms.

Additional Technical Diving Forms

In addition to the standard liability release, safe diving practices and medical forms, guests joining a Bikini Atoll itinerary on Truk Master are required to complete the **Technical Diving Liability Release** and **Bikini Atoll Liability Release** which can also be downloaded from the forms page of our website: www.masterliveaboards.com/forms.

If you are unable to complete any of the forms as instructed, you accept that you may not be able to take part in certain aspects of the holiday you have booked with us.

Time Zone: The local time in the Marshall Islands is 12 hours ahead of UTC /GMT.

Money Matters

The local currency in the Marshall Islands is the US Dollar (US\$). Major businesses will accept credit cards; traveller's cheques are accepted by banks and larger businesses. There are no ATMs in Ebeye. Therefore we recommend bringing a sufficient amount of USD in cash, preferably in smaller denominations.

Health

Guests visiting the Marshall Islands are required to provide proof that they have been vaccinated against measles. Please ensure your vaccination records are up to date or, if necessary, obtain a note from your doctor confirming that you have received the measles vaccination.

Please consult your doctor or nearest health care professional for up-to-date medical travel information and vaccination advice well before departure.

In the Marshall Islands, medical care is very basic with the 'best' medical facility in Majuro. Any form of treatment other than basic requires evacuation. Normal precautions should be taken with food and it is advisable to drink bottled water only. Please make sure you use insect repellent and cover exposed skin to prevent any insect borne diseases.

Radioactive radiation to which divers are exposed from the shipwrecks in Bikini Atoll is negligible, since water acts as an excellent insulator. Divers are safe, as long as they do not try to grab souvenirs from the wrecks. Pilfering is forbidden and hazardous

Language and Religion

The official languages are English and Marshallese. The population of mixed religion: 51.5 % United Church of Christ, Assemblies of God 24.2% and 8% Mormons. There is a small community of Muslims on Majuro.

Safety and dive briefings on board Truk Master will be provided in English. If you do not speak and understand English please let us know prior to arrival.

Climate and Weather

As part of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Chuuk is a tropical country and the climate is fairly even all year round. The average high is 30°C (86°F) whilst the average low is 25°C (77°F) throughout the year. The highest rainfall occurs during the summer months (Jun-Sept) whilst trade winds come mainly from the northeast between December and June.

Water Temperature and Exposure Suits

The climate of the Marshall Islands is a tropical climate, with temperatures averaging between 27 and 29C (80-84F) all year round, with some trade winds and a light cooling down in the evening. Generally, the northern islands tend not to receive as much rainfall as the southern islands.

Environmental considerations

Waste disposal in The Republic of the Marshall Islands is a constant challenge, with traditional disposal methods being neither ideal nor environmentally acceptable. Although the Marshall Islands Government have introduced a Solid Waste Management Strategy, the current challenges, which include a lack of recycling facilities, remain until the project is complete. We therefore kindly ask our guests to consider the following to help with our mission to reduce our environmental impact.

Batteries

If your personal dive equipment may require a unique size, or a lot of replacement batteries during your trip, please bring extra batteries with you and take the spent ones home to be recycled or disposed of properly. Alternatively, consider using rechargeable batteries as there are plenty of sockets to plug in a charger on board.

Water Bottles

We are dedicated to becoming single use plastic free across all of our fleets. Plastic straws and stirrers have already been banned and we are removing single use plastic bottles from our vessels. If you own a sports bottle, we simply ask that you bring it with you, or you can purchase one on board. Alternatively, we have plenty of cups on board which you can use to ensure you remain well hydrated.

Plastic bags and wrappers

We do not provide plastic bags for purchases made on board, although reusable canvas bags are available for sale. Please help use minimise plastic waste by removing plastic wrappers and packaging from items before travelling. If you bring plastic bags with you, please reuse them, and take them home.

Toiletries

We kindly ask that guests consider the type of products which they are bringing with them and, where possible, to bring environmentally friendly toiletries for use on board, and to take partially or unused products home with them.

Life on Board

The main features of the vessel can be seen here:
www.masterliveboards.com/boats/truk-master.

Accessibility

Due to the layout of the boat, Truk Master may provide challenges, or be unsuitable for guests with limited mobility. Please contact us for further details if you have any concerns.

Accommodation

All cabins on board Truk Master are double occupancy. Single occupancy may be available on request, and is subject to a supplemental charge.

Cabin Facilities

All cabins have individually controllable air-conditioning and private en-suite bathrooms with centrally heated hot water. Other facilities include towels, bathrobes and lockable safety box.

Food and Drink

Meals are provided on a full board basis including breakfast, lunch and dinner served buffet style in the indoor dining area. A complimentary range of carbonated soft drinks, fruit juices and teas are available at all times as well as instant and fresh brewed coffee, snacks and fresh fruit.

When not diving, guests may also select beer, wine, or spirits from our cocktail bar for an additional charge.

We offer a choice of International and Asian cuisine and can cater to special dietary requirements with advance notice. Should you have any specific dietary requirements, allergies, or special requests, please advise your sales consultant time of confirming your liveboard trip to ensure we are able to make provisions for your needs.

Please note: It can be very difficult to find low-fat or soya products that are common elsewhere. While we always do our best to accommodate dietary requests, please consider bringing some of your own foods if the lack thereof may constitute a health risk or seriously compromise your enjoyment of your holiday.

Clothing and Footwear

Dress on board Truk Master is very casual and most guests feel comfortable in little more than swimwear, shorts and t-shirts. A sweater is advised for cooler nights, particularly after extended dive times. Truk Master is equipped with laundry facilities and our housekeeper is happy to launder your clothes during the trip for a nominal fee of 1.00 USD per item, irrespective of size/weight. We kindly request guests respect the wishes of others by wearing appropriate clothing for meal times. Most guests prefer bare feet on board the vessels; however any land visits may require sturdy sandals or cross-trainers.

Electricity

Electrical sockets on M/Y Truk Master are 110V 60Hz US/Euro style. Additionally, there are a limited number of 220V sockets provided at the camera tables in the dining area. There are universal adapters available for guests to use although we advise bringing your own to ensure you have the amount and type necessary.

Smoking

Smoking on board is permitted in designated outdoor areas.

Staying Connected

There is very limited general internet access throughout The Marshall Islands and no mobile roaming data available at all. To enable our guests to keep in touch with the outside world, M/Y Truk Master offers high speed wifi satellite internet access for all guests which can be purchased in advance, or on board.

Pre-book and pre-pay to get the best special deals:

Pre-booked rates:	On board rates
200MB: 60 USD	200MB: 70 USD
500MB: 150 USD	500MB: 175 USD
1 GB: 300 USD*	1 GB: Not available*

*1 GB data packages are only available for pre-booking and pre-payment.

Kindly note: Connectivity can be affected by weather as well as our satellite provider KVH. Our crew and management cannot be held responsible for any inconvenience, loss of income, data, or information which may arise due to the lack of the service or incorrectly configured devices.

We strongly recommend that guests manage their device settings prior to boarding to ensure that data is not being used unnecessarily for application updates, file downloads, etc.

Underwater Photography and Videography

Our vessels offer specialised features for underwater photographers and videographers which include, indoor and outdoor work stations for the preparation and maintenance of cameras, individual storage drawers for cameras and peripheral items and large rinsing tanks with frequently changed fresh water.

Our crew are thoroughly briefed in the handling of delicate camera equipment and will offer to assist you when entering or exiting the water. However, each diver bears the sole responsibility to look after and care for their own camera equipment and fully assumes the risk of any loss or damage to such equipment.

Payments on Board

Marine Park and Port Fees

Marine Park and port fees are dependent on the itinerary duration and can be added to your invoice to pay prior to departure, or they can be paid on board.

Please refer to your booking and itinerary details for the amount applicable to your trip.

The full amount of the Marine Park and Port Fees are paid directly to the Bikini Council and cannot be fully or partially reimbursed if a trip is cut short for any reason.

We strongly recommend that guests have insurance which covers losses due to trip curtailment.

On board extras and payments

Additional charges on board for items such as laundry, alcoholic drinks and Truk Master merchandise, as well as equipment which has not been paid for in advance and gases / sofnolime can be paid in cash or by credit card.

All prices are given in USD, but can be also paid in Euro, GBP, and AUD calculated using the applicable exchange rate on the last day of your liveaboard.

We accept Mastercard and Visa credit card payments for which there is a 3% surcharge.

Guests are advised to bring from 250 – 600 USD for any additional, optional extras.

Tipping

We believe that tipping is a matter of personal choice. Should you feel that your crew has made your holiday extra special then a tip is always appreciated; an envelope will be provided for your convenience by your cruise director and all gratuities are divided equally amongst all the crew, including the captain and dive guides. Please note that tips can only be accepted in cash.

Safety on Board

Emergency Management

All of our crew members undergo rigorous training in emergency management procedures. A thorough boat safety briefing will be provided, in English, by your Cruise Director at the start of your trip during which all guests will be requested to participate in a life jacket drill. Further practice scenarios may be performed during your cruise to assist our crew in keeping their skills sharp.

If you do not understand, or speak English, please let us know.

Emergency Equipment & First Aid

Truk Master is equipped with modern safety features such as automated life rafts, EPIRB, satellite communication and emergency pumps.

The vessel is also equipped with a fully stocked medical first aid kit for treating minor injuries and ailments as well as for assisting trained medical professionals in remote locations, including a full complement of medical grade oxygen which can be administered to divers through DAN kits or unit specific attachments. You will also find on board an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) which has been proven to greatly increase the survival rate in the eventuality of cardiac fibrillation.

Our dive teams are all qualified emergency responders. Should you feel unwell at any point during your cruise, please seek the advice of your cruise director who will be able to assist you.

Extending your holiday

Traveling to and from the Marshall Islands can be made exceptionally easy when you book with Master Liveaboards. We offer a range of flights, hotels, transfers and excursions that can be arranged before or after your diving holiday.

Optional Bikini Atoll package

To extend pamper you a little extra we can arrange the following package for you, for an additional cost.

We will organise your transfers to and from the airport in Hawaii and book the hotel of your choice in Honolulu for your first and last night before and after your flight to the Marshall Islands.

Please contact our reservations team at dive@masterliveaboards.com for more information and quotes.

FAQs

If there are any questions that have not been answered, please visit our website at www.masterliveaboards.com or email us at dive@masterliveaboards.com and our team will be happy to assist you.

Contact Info

Thailand Office - Master Liveboards

10/512 Moo 3,
Tambon Vichit,
Muang Phuket 83000,
Thailand

Open Monday - Friday 08:30 - 18:30 and Saturday 09:00 - 17:00 ICT (UTC+7)

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Truk Master

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What to Bring

The following is a check list of items that you should ensure to bring with you for your trip aboard a Master Liveboards vessel.

Passport

6 month validity & at least 2 empty pages for visa stickers and stamps

Travel Documents

Flight tickets - International & Domestic; hotel booking; excursions
Printed copy of the Master Liveboards Sponsor Letter

Cash & Credit Card for emergencies

Recommended amount (additional to park & port fees): 250 - 500 USD
Airport Departure Tax in local currency

Diving Certification & Logbook

Including Nitrox Card if certified & intending to use Nitrox

Travel and Diving Insurance Documents

To include emergency medical evacuation

Essential Diving Items

Dive computer with full battery

Toiletries & Medications

Including sunscreen & insect repellent
Inform booking team of medical conditions

Essential Clothing Items

Swimwear, hat and lightweight jacket

Guests are strongly advised to carry essential items in hand luggage in case of lost or delayed luggage through International or Domestic Flights.