



Useful Information for Photographers and Videographers

Every country has its own specific rules and regulations regarding photography for both above and below the water's surface, and regarding the use of drones, which we have outlined below. We strive to ensure all information provided here is accurate and up-to-date; However, the information is subject to change and we therefore cannot guarantee the accuracy of all content. We recommend that you check with the local authorities directly to avoid disappointment.

Always speak with your Cruise Director and Captain before flying your drone.

Egypt

- No gloves nor muck sticks (pointer sticks) are allowed when diving in Egypt
- Follow the CDWS guidelines for best practice when photographing or filming:
https://www.cdws.travel/downloads/rulesAndRegulations/74ad4-GF_Egy_Eng_UwPhotoGuidelines_A4.pdf
- The CDWS recommends using rechargeable batteries:
https://www.cdws.travel/downloads/rulesAndRegulations/1a210-GF_Egy_Eng_Batteries_A4.pdf
- Help the scientists and ongoing research with your photos/videos:
<https://www.cdws.travel/downloads/rulesAndRegulations/MarineLifeSightings.pdf>
- The use of drones is closely regulated in Egypt and you need to obtain permission from the Egyptian Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) to bring one into the country and fly it.

Galapagos

- Drones are not permitted for use by tourists in the Galapagos Islands. The use of drones is only allowed under strict regulations for research and monitoring purposes and only with permission to do so.
- No strobes or flashlights allowed near mola molas (sunfish/moonfish)
- Flash photography is not permitted when taking photos of wildlife on land.
- Professional photography and videos recorded for commercial purposes must be authorised by the GNPD.
- A distance of at least 2 metres (6 feet) from wildlife must be maintained to avoid disturbing them, even if they approach you.

Indonesia

- Wide-angle and macro photo opportunities
- Additional focus light for photographing macro subjects
- ***Use of strobes and flashlights is not allowed around the manta cleaning stations*** in Raja Ampat or Komodo.
- Zoom lens for photographing Komodo dragons
- Drones can be used in most areas, but not near the airports
- A permit is required to use a drone in Komodo National Park and there are restrictions on which areas they can be flown in.

Maldives

- Underwater - lots of wide-angle opportunities, but also plenty of macro at some locations.
- Although drones can be used in the Maldives there are strict rules and guidelines regarding their operation and registration and approval must be obtained from the Maldives National Defence Force, the Maldives Civil Aviation Authority and other parties. Further information can be found on the CAA's website, here: [https://caa.gov.mv/operations/flying-remotely-piloted-aircraft-\(drones\)-in-the-maldives](https://caa.gov.mv/operations/flying-remotely-piloted-aircraft-(drones)-in-the-maldives)
- As any violations can result in trouble for us as a liveaboard operator, as a general rule, ***we do not allow guests on Blue Voyager to operate drones*** from the vessel or the dhoni.

Palau

- Wide-angle and macro photo opportunities
- Reef hooks are required for some locations
- Gloves are not allowed when diving in Palau
- Drones can be used, but not near the airport

Philippines

- Wide-angle best for Tubbataha
- Drones are permitted in Tubbataha but a permit needs to be obtained from Tubbataha Management Office at least 2 weeks in advance via: www.tubbatahareefs.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Pro-Forma-Drone-Permit.pdf
- Visayas - wide-angle and macro
- Use of drones is NOT permitted in Oslob
- Gloves, sticks/reef hooks, flashlights and/or strobes are not permitted in Monad Shoal (thresher shark dive) or at Oslob (whale shark dive)

Solomon Islands

- Underwater wide-angle and macro photo opportunities
- No drones allowed near the airport
- Flying drones low over villages/settlements and invading people's privacy is not acceptable without their permission
- Guests should always speak with the Captain and obtain permission before launching a drone

Thailand & Myanmar

- Underwater wide-angle and macro photo opportunities
- The use of drones in Thailand is permitted, but regulated. Visitors wishing to use a drone in the Kingdom must have drone insurance and register with the [NBTC](#) (National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission) and [CAAT](#) (Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand). Anyone caught flying an unregistered or uninsured drone faces heavy fines or even imprisonment. Further information and assistance with registration and insurance can be found here: <https://www.feic.co.th/aviation-insurance/drone-insurance/>

Truk Lagoon/Bikini Atoll

- **Strictly no drones allowed on Kwajalein;** this includes Ebeye, due to its proximity to Kwajalein.
- No drones allowed near Chuuk airport
- Flying low over villages/settlements and invading people's privacy is not acceptable without their permission
- Guests should always speak with the Captain and obtain permission before launching a drone
- Wide-angle is recommended underwater due to the nature of diving (big wrecks)