

Palau Islands, Micronesia

Trip Information

- **Arrival airport:** Koror Airport (ROR)
- **Departure airport:** Koror Airport (ROR)

Flights and Transfers

The liveboard price includes transfer between the airport or local hotels and Sam's Tours Dive Centre on the day of embarkation and on the day of disembarkation. If you are staying at a hotel in Koror, your hotel price will include airport transfers although you will need to confirm your departure transfer times on check-in.

Advice on International Flights

Even though Palau seems pretty remote, there are multiple international flight routes to Palau. United Airlines operates direct flights from Guam 6 times a week. Non-US citizens flying via Guam are required to obtain a 'transit visa' from US immigration prior to boarding. United Airlines also serves Palau from Manila twice a week. Air China operates direct flights from Taipei, and Korean Airlines have scheduled flights from Incheon, South Korea.

Ideally, you will arrive in Palau one day before your liveboard departure so that you can start your diving holiday well rested. If you will not be staying for any additional nights after your liveboard holiday, please allow plenty of time for transfer to the airport and check in.

Visa and Passports

Passport holders of most Western countries are granted a 30 day tourist visa on arrival at no extra charge. United States citizens are granted a 1 year visa upon arrival.

All visitors are required to present a valid passport and a return/onwards airline ticket to travel to Palau. Please make sure your passport is valid for at least 6 months from the date of entry into Palau.

Visa and passport regulations can change at short notice; therefore, we advise that guests check with their nearest embassy/consulate for any updates or changes of visa procedures and application times.

Transit via Guam or Hawaii

If your flight to or from Koror is via Guam or Hawaii, you will need to apply for an ESTA under the Visa Waiver Program, or acquire a USA visa in order to transit via Guam or Hawaii. Citizens of 37 countries, including most European nations, Australia, New Zealand and Japan are eligible for an 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/

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, in accordance with 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 Liveaboards 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 liveaboard holidays and covers expenses in the event of missing your liveaboard 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.masterliveaboards.com/insurance.

Diving Information

Palau Siren has at least two fiberglass "skiff" dive tenders which are used to transfer guests to the dive sites during each cruise. Exit from the water at the end of a dive is via a ladder onto the skiffs. Our dive tender drivers are happy to provide assistance to guests who need help with their equipment and exiting the water.

Guests' Level of Diving

It is recommended that guests wishing to participate in scuba diving aboard Palau Siren have PADI Advanced Open Water* certification, or equivalent, with a minimum of **30 logged dives (50 logged dives minimum for spawning itineraries)**. You will be asked to show certification cards and a record of your logged dives when you board as proof of experience.

*Guests with the minimum number of required dives but not certified as Advanced Open Water divers, may complete the course on board. Please contact our reservations team for further information.

Some of the diving in Palau is not suitable for inexperienced divers due to depths and strong currents. Your cruise director will be able to advise you whilst on board, and may recommend that guests with insufficient experience sit out certain dives.

Any guests who do not fulfil the recommended minimum requirements, or who the crew feel have insufficient experience in certain conditions, may be denied participation in some or all dives during the liveaboard.

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

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

If you are unable to complete the statement as directed, or provide a current doctor's certificate (less 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.

Diving Safety

Guests are responsible for their own dive profiles and must stay within the limits of their certification.

For your safety, we ask all guests to always remain well within the limits of their dive computer, follow the instructions of the cruise director and guides and make a safety stop at the end of each dive.

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

There is a recompression chamber located in Koror that is able to provide emergency treatment for decompression illness in the unlikely event of an accident. We strongly encourage all guests to dive well within their recognised limits, carefully follow dive guides' advice, and of course, purchase specific dive insurance before their trips.

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

Water Temperature and Exposure Suits

The warm tropical waters of Palau are pleasant throughout the year averaging 27°C (82 °F). Most guests find that a 3mm wetsuit or shorty is suitable and many dive with just a skin. For guests who tend to get cold easily, especially after repetitive dives, we recommend you bring the wetsuit you feel most comfortable in.

Diving Equipment

Diving equipment is available to rent for an additional charge but is subject to availability and should be pre-ordered.

11 litre (80 cu ft) tanks, weight belts and weights are provided free of charge.

There are a limited number of 13 litre (100cuft) aluminium tanks which are available, at an additional cost, by special request only and must be pre-booked

Equipment rental and Nitrox costs can be viewed under 'Extras' on the Palau Siren page of our website: www.masterliveboards.com/boats/palau-siren.

Please note that the use of a dive computer is compulsory on our yachts. For your safety, Master Liveboards ask all guests to always dive well within the limits of their dive computer and make a safety stop at the end of each dive.

Please pre-book rental equipment and cylinders at the time of confirming your liveboard holiday, as they are subject to availability.

Rebreather Diving

Palau Siren is equipped for rebreather divers only on our special wreck diving itineraries.

Booster pumps are installed to ensure your tanks can be filled to 135bars/ 2000psi and we have stage tanks available for your use. We can also facilitate the purchase of sofno-lime scrubber though there are additional charges for both this and oxygen. Charges are dependent on quantity used.

Pre-booking of any rebreather supplies is essential to guarantee availability. Please contact our reservations team to place your order and for up-to-date prices.

If rebreather diving is permitted on the trip which you have booked and you intend to participate in rebreather diving during your cruise, please complete the technical diving release form, which can be found at www.masterliveboards.com/forms and immediately email it to dive@masterliveboards.com to ensure we can cater for your equipment and gas requirements. This needs to be completed no later than 3 weeks before departure.

Underwater Photography and Videography

Palau Siren offers 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
- Large rinsing tanks with fresh water; changed frequently

Our crew are thoroughly trained in the handling of delicate camera equipment and will provide assistance when entering and exiting the water.

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.masterliveboards.com/portal.

Forms

It is a requirement for all guests to complete the following forms prior to or upon arrival in resort - medical statement, liability releases, and safe standard practice statement, which can be found at www.masterliveboards.com/forms.

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

If you are unable to complete 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 Republic of Palau is +9 hours UTC (GMT).

Money Matters

The official currency of Palau is the US Dollar. The majority of established hotels, shops and restaurants accept major credit cards or traveller's cheques. Occasionally, smaller family-run businesses will only accept cash.

There are several US operated banks and plenty of ATMs in Palau, making cash readily accessible. However, the exchange rate used in banks and ATMs is not very favourable, so guests are advised to change money prior to arrival in Palau.

Health

Health care is readily available in Palau. The Belau National Hospital is a professionally staffed hospital with an experienced barotrauma team. It is located in the capital city of Koror, along with several other private health clinics.

We recommend guests take normal precautions with food and be sure to drink bottled water only in order to prevent any stomach upsets.

Please make sure you use insect repellent and cover exposed skin to prevent any insect borne diseases.

Visitors arriving from countries affected by cholera or yellow fever are required to show proof of immunization upon arrival.

We recommend you consult your doctor, health care professional or travel clinic for up-to-date medical travel/vaccination information well before departure.

Language and Religion

Palauan and English are the official languages of the Republic of Palau and both are widely spoken. Tagalog, Japanese and Mandarin are also quite common. The population is predominantly Christian – with 70% following either the Roman Catholic or Protestant faiths. Modekngai is a mix of Christianity and ancient Palauan customs practiced by around 10% of the population. Islam and Judaism are also found in Palau.

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

Climate and Weather

Palau is 7 degrees north of the equator and enjoys a warm tropical climate year round. Temperatures average 27°C (82°F), while water temperatures average a pleasant 27°C (82°F) as well. As a tropical island, Palau is subject to rainfall throughout the year though more frequently between July and October. Diving, however, is excellent year around with the high season considered to be November through May.

Sun protection

Commencing 1st January 2020, the Republic of Palau introduced a complete ban on sunscreens which contain ingredients that are known to be environmentally toxic.

It is illegal to sell reef-toxic sunscreen products and illegal to bring any into the Republic of Palau; any prohibited reef-toxic sunscreen will be confiscated upon entry into the Republic of Palau. Please refer to www.icriforum.org for details of the banned ingredients.

Please ensure that any sunscreens you bring with you are reef safe, and compliant with these regulations. Alternatively, we have “Pura Vida Palau - Reef Safe Sunscreen” for sale on board, which is produced locally and uses plastic free packaging. By buying this product, you will not only help to protect the reef but also support a local company with a good cause.

Life on Board

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

Accessibility

Due to the layout of the boat, Palau Siren 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 Palau Siren are twin or 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 hairdryer, towels, bathrobes and lockable safety box.

Food and Drink

Meals are provided on a full board basis including a light breakfast, full breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks with unlimited drinking water, tea, coffee, fruit juices and soft drinks.

Local lager (beer), wine, and spirits are available from our cocktail bar for an additional fee.

We offer a choice of International and locally inspired cuisine and can cater to special dietary requirements with advance notice. Should you have any specific dietary needs, allergies, or special requests, please advise your sales consultant at the time of confirming your liveaboard 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

For sojourning on our yacht, we recommend guests bring casual and comfortable clothes; swimwear, shorts and t-shirts. A sweater is advised for cooler nights, particularly after multiple dives. Palau Siren is equipped with laundry facilities and our housekeeper is more than happy to launder your clothes during the trip for a small charge.

We do request that guests respect the wishes of others by donning clothing for meal times. Most guests prefer to walk barefoot on board of our vessel; however, island visits may require sturdy sandals or cross-trainers.

Electricity

Both 220V and 110V with 2 round pin sockets, European style, are available and we have some universal adapters on board as well as USB power outlets in common areas. Nevertheless, we do advise guests to bring their own to ensure you have the amount necessary.

Guests whose electrical items are rated as 220v are advised to bring power adapters with them to ensure their equipment charges correctly.

Staying Connected

We regret that we are unable to provide an internet service on board Palau Siren. Our trips are in relatively remote locations and internet service can be intermittent. The mobile phone coverage in Palau is with PNCC (Palau National Communications Company) which might not be compatible with most international mobile phone systems. While some phone carriers say they are compatible with Palau, in reality many are not. Please be aware that signal strength may be very weak and in some areas of your cruise or there may not be a signal at all for limited periods.

Smoking

Smoking on board is permitted in designated outdoor areas.

Environmental considerations

Although there are recycling programs and facilities in place in Palau, they are limited. We therefore ask our guests to consider the following to help with our mission to reduce our environmental impact.

Batteries

While some batteries may be available to purchase on board, please bring extras if your personal dive equipment may require a unique size, or need a lot of replacement batteries during your trip. We kindly request that you take spent batteries home so that they can 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 been banned on all of our boats and we do not provide single use plastic bottles on board.

If you own a sports bottle, we simply ask that you bring it with you, or you can purchase one on board. If you don't have one and you don't want to purchase one, 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 us 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.

Payments on Board

Marine and Port Fees

Marine park and port fees are dependent on the duration of your trip; please refer to your itinerary details for further information. The applicable amount can be added to your invoice to pay prior to departure, or they can be paid on board Palau Siren.

Optional Extras

Palau Siren offers a range of services and optional extras to make your stay on board even more enjoyable. We offer the use of kayaks and land excursions throughout your cruise free of charge. Full details of onboard extras and costs can be found on the Palau Siren page of our website: www.masterliveboards.com/palau-siren.

All prices on board are quoted in USD, however we are happy to accept cash payment in GBP, Euro, and AUD as well. We also accept payment by credit card (Mastercard or Visa) for which there is a 3% surcharge.

As banking facilities in Koror are limited, guests are advised to bring between 300-400US\$, additional to marine park & port fees, for any incidentals/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, they would certainly appreciate a tip. Please note we are only able to accept tips in cash. For this purpose, you can use the envelope provided by the cruise director. He/she will make sure the tips are divided equally amongst all crew members, including the captain and dive guides.

Safety on Board

Emergency Management & Equipment

All Palau Siren crew members have been extensively trained in emergency management procedures. A thorough boat safety briefing will be provided 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. Each yacht is equipped with modern safety features such as automated life rafts, EPIRB, satellite communication and emergency pumps.

First Aid

Palau Siren is 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. Each yacht has 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/from and within the Palau can be made exceptionally easy when you book with Master Liveboards. As well as a range of domestic flights, we can offer hotels, excursions and tour packages, which can be arranged for before and/or after your liveboard.

Should you require any assistance, please contact our reservations team who will be more than happy to make reservations on your behalf.

Optional, Additional Palau Package

Upon arrival into Koror you will be met by a hotel or Sam's Tours Palau representative and transferred to the hotel of your choice. Spend 1-5 nights at the resort before transferring to Sam's Tours Dive Centre on the day of your Palau Siren departure. You can also take advantage of one of the many example excursions we have to offer.

Our package includes:

- Up to 5 nights of accommodation at a hotel of your choice
- Transfers within Koror
- One of several additional land or boat based excursions.

For further information about hotel and excursion options and costs, please contact our reservations team.

FAQs

If there are any questions that have not been answered, please visit our website at www.masterliveboards.com or email us at dive@masterliveboards.com.

Contact Information

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)

Web: www.masterliveboards.com

Email: dive@masterliveboards.com

Thailand Office: +66 (0) 76 367 444

UK number: +44 (0) 208 099 2230

USA (Toll Free): +1 866 258 6398

WhatsApp: +66 (0) 93 574 4529

Palau Contacts

P.O. Box 6091
Kings Apartment #19
Malakal Koror, Palau 96940

Tel: +680 775 1179 (mobile)

Tel: +680 488 1190 (landline) - emergency contact

Palau Cruise Director:

Tel; +680 775 1178

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

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.