

Solomon Islands

General Destination & Trip Information

Flights and Transfers

There are two possible embarkation and disembarkation locations for our Solomon Islands itineraries which depend on the itinerary. Most start and end at Honiara; Guadalcanal & Western Province trips operate one way between Honiara and Munda.

Please check your booking details carefully for embarkation and disembarkation locations and the itinerary-specific information sheet for embarkation times and domestic flight arrival and departure recommendations.

Advice on Flights

Ideally, you should plan to arrive in the Solomon Islands one day before the start of your liveaboard itinerary to allow for potential flight schedule changes and to ensure that you start your diving holiday well-rested.

We recommend booking international flights into and out of Honiara International Airport (HIR) regardless of embarkation and disembarkation. Embarkation or disembarkation in Munda will require an additional domestic flight, which is not included in the liveaboard price.

There is one direct international flight per week to and from Munda (MUA) and four indirect flights which are operated by Solomon Airlines out of Brisbane (BNE), Australia.

International flight routes to and from Honiara International Airport (HIR) include:

- Via Brisbane (BNE) – flights with Solomon Airlines (codeshare with Qantas) and Virgin Australia
- Via Fiji (NAN) - limited flights operated by Solomon Airlines, Fiji Airways and Air Niugini
- Via Port Moresby, PNG (POM) with Air Niugini

IMPORTANT: Guests travelling via Australia, Fiji or PNG may require a [transit visa](#).

Airlines may deny boarding if travellers do not have all of the documents needed for the route they are travelling on.

It is the travellers' responsibility to check and ensure they have all of the necessary documents for their entire journey.

Transfers

For your convenience, a transfer between the airport or a local hotel and the boat will be provided free of charge on embarkation and disembarkation days.

Guests arriving on the day of embarkation will be met at the airport by a Master Liveboards representative upon arrival of their flight and transferred to the resort whose jetty we use for embarkation where they can spend the afternoon relaxing, or visit one of the local museums, until it is time to board Solomons Master.

Transfer from hotels is generally between 17:30 and 18:00 on embarkation day, depending on the hotel location. If you are staying in a hotel before your liveboard our reservations team will provide pick-up and embarkation transfer details in your departure pack.

PLEASE NOTE: Most of our itineraries operate back to back on the same day; therefore *early embarkation or late disembarkation is not possible* as the crew are on a tight schedule to turn the boat around.

Passports & Visas

IMPORTANT: The following information is gleaned from the Solomon Islands Government and Ministry of Commerce, Industry, Labour and Immigration websites and is provided as general guidance only. Visa and passport regulations for different nationalities can change at short notice and, while we endeavour to keep this information as up-to-date as possible, we can not guarantee that it will still be applicable for your travel dates.

We **strongly advise all travellers to check their home country's government advisories** or with their airline for updates and changes that may affect them.

Passports

Your passport must have at least 2 blank pages to accommodate entry stamps and be valid for no less than 6 months beyond the period you intend to stay in the Solomon Islands. You must also have an onward or return flight ticket.

Visas

It is your responsibility to ensure you have the proper entry permits for your travels, including those that might be required for [transit](#).

We suggest referring to the IATA Travel Centre website to check visa requirements for the countries you will be travelling to (including transit): [www.iatatravelcentre.com/Solomon Islands passport and visa requirements](http://www.iatatravelcentre.com/Solomon_Islands_passport_and_visa_requirements).

Citizens of EU countries, the U.K., the U.S., Canada, Australia, and most other Western countries do not need a visa to enter the Solomon Islands. Upon arrival, they will be issued with a **visitor's permit** free of charge with 3 months validity.

However, some nationalities need to give prior notice and receive clearance from the immigration department to obtain a visitor's visa.

We are happy to assist with Solomon Islands visa applications for guests who need one. However, at least 8 weeks' notice is required and a handling fee will be charged for this service in addition to the visa cost, regardless of the outcome of the application.

Transit requirements

via Australia

Guests travelling via Australia may need to apply for a transit or visitor's visa before travelling if the time between connecting flights is more than 8 hours, or if they wish to leave the airport during their transit period.

To check which visa you may need, please refer to the visa section of the Australian Immigration website: www.immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-finder/visit.

Australian visa applications can take up to 14 days to process.

via Papua New Guinea

If you will be at Port Moresby Airport for more than 8 hours or will be exiting the airport for any reason during your layover, you need to apply for a Visitor Entry Permit before travelling. Certain nationalities can apply online for an e-Visa through the PNG government's immigration website: <https://evisa.ica.gov.pg/evisa/account/Apply>. Processing time is usually no more than 3 business days.

Please check with your nearest Papua New Guinea embassy, high commission or consulate for further information if you are not eligible or unable to apply for an e-Visa.

via Fiji

Depending on your nationality, and if your transit period in Fiji is more than 3 hours, you may need to apply for a visitor visa before travelling. Please check with your airline, home country government advisories, Fiji embassy or consulate in your home country, or [Fijian immigration](#) to see if this applies to you.

Solomon Islands Travel Authorisation (SI-TA)

The Travel Authorization trial which was introduced by the Solomon Islands Government in November 2022 has been *suspended until further notice*. However, all incoming travellers are required to complete a Health Declaration Card which will be made available either in flight or at the port of entry.

Airport Tax

Currently, there are no airport taxes to pay in the Solomon Islands.

If you are travelling with medication, please bring a copy of your physician's prescription.

Insurance

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

All guests are also required to carry full travel and cancellation insurance, as outlined under section 3 of 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.

For further details of why travel insurance is a crucial part of your holiday arrangements, take a look at our blog - [Do You Really Need Travel Insurance?](#)

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 a direct link to DiveAssure's booking portal: www.masterliveboards.com/insurance.

Diving Information

While we are happy to welcome divers of all levels on board, some of the dives offered may not be suitable for inexperienced divers. Diving conditions vary based on the season, currents and time of day. Our Cruise Directors will make decisions regarding maximum depths, time limits, and dive profiles based on environmental conditions and diver experience. The Cruise Director's and dive guides' directions must be followed at all times.

Visibility is usually 25-40 metres (85-100 feet) but can sometimes be significantly less due to influxes of nutrient-rich waters.

Guests' Diving Certification & Experience Requirements

The experience requirements for each itinerary are based on the diving conditions in the areas they cover. ***Please refer to the itinerary information sheets,*** which can be downloaded from the Master Liveboards website, ***before confirming your liveboard booking*** to ensure your chosen itinerary is suitable for you.

You will need to provide copies of your certification card(s) as part of your pre-embarkation [API](#), and may also be asked to show them as well as a record of your logged dives as proof of experience when you board.

Any guests who do not meet the minimum certification and experience requirements, or who the crew feel have insufficient experience or skills to dive safely in certain conditions, may be denied participation in some or all dives.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the diving conditions and the mandatory certification requirements, please contact your agent or our reservations team.

Wreck Diving

On Best of Solomons, Florida & Russell Islands and Guadalcanal & Western Province itineraries we dive a few wrecks. They are all within recreational dive depth limits and light penetration is possible. However, guests wishing to do any wreck penetration must be certified to do so and be prepared for the risks which it involves.

Our WWII Wreck Weeks itineraries are primarily aimed at divers who are happy to do almost every dive on a wreck. The wrecks covered on this itinerary are all within recreational depth limits, although some are at the very boundaries. However, there are also interesting reef dives included in the WWII Wrecks itinerary.

Solo Diving

Solo diving is not permitted on any Solomons Master itineraries.

Rebreather Diving

We can support rebreather diving on Solomons Master within recreational limits on standard itineraries. In some cases, extended bottom times may be possible although there will be time limits set to maintain daily diving and travel schedules for the comfort of all guests on board.

Rebreather divers must dive with a buddy who is also on a rebreather if they wish to do extended bottom times. If this is not possible, their dive times will be dictated by the group of non-rebreather divers which they will be a part of.

Technical Diving

Technical diving takes some additional planning on our part and, due to the constraints of standard itineraries, may not be possible where there are also recreational divers on board.

Guests who want to dive beyond recreational limits should discuss their specific requirements with us when booking.

We offer dedicated technical diving trips which explore some of the wrecks and other sites that are beyond recreational dive limits. Please check our schedule, or speak to one of our consultants if you would like further details of these special itineraries.

Stage tanks are available to rent and gases are charged per litre, per fill.

Water Temperature and Exposure Suits

Water temperatures average around 28°–30°C (82°F to 85°F) all year round. The majority of divers will find a 3mm wetsuit provides sufficient warmth. However, if you are prone to feeling chilly after multiple dives, you may wish to bring a 5mm wetsuit, or additional thermal protection with you. Rental wetsuits on Solomons Master are 3mm, full-length. **We do not allow the use of dive gloves.**

Diving Equipment

Use of a dive computer and surface marker buoy (SMB) is compulsory for all divers; Both are available on board for guests who do not have their own.

Although we do not allow the use of dive gloves, you are welcome to bring a reef hook or pointer stick should you wish to do so.

A single 11 litre (80 cu ft) aluminium cylinder with air fills, SMB*, weight belt and weights are provided free of charge.

PLEASE NOTE: *There are no 13L/15L (100 cu ft) cylinders on Solomons Master.*

Rental equipment and gas costs can be viewed under 'Extras' on the Solomons Master page of our website or downloaded here: [Solomons - Useful trip Information - Onboard Extras](#)

Equipment sizes and quantities are limited, and therefore subject to availability; *please let us know your requirements at the time of confirming your liveaboard holiday* so we can make sure they are available.

Rebreathers & Tech Equipment

Guests are advised to bring their own technical diving equipment. Please inspect and thoroughly test all your equipment before travelling, even if it has recently been serviced. There are no facilities for repairing equipment or rebreathers in Honiara.

Solomons Master has booster pumps on board to support rebreather divers and bailout cylinders are available to rent. We can facilitate the supply of CO2 absorbent (Molecular Products 797 Sofnolime) which is charged per 20kg tub and MUST be pre-ordered at least 6 months before the commencement of your liveaboard itinerary.

PLEASE NOTE:

- We do not carry spare oxygen cells or specialist rebreather tools. Therefore rebreather divers will need to bring their own.
- We are unable to supply pre-packed scrubber cartridges for rebreathers such as Poseidon.

Pre-booking of all rebreather supplies is essential to ensure we have sufficient quantities on board.

Helium (Tec. trips only)

We can provide Helium for rebreather and open circuit Trimix divers on tec. trips.

Please complete the [Technical Equipment and Gases Requests Form](#) as soon as possible to let us know your equipment and gas requirements.

Diving Safety

All guests are responsible for their own dive profiles and must stay within the limits of their certification and computer guidelines, follow the dive guide's advice and make a safety stop at the end of each dive.

Fit to Dive

All divers are responsible for ensuring that they are fit to dive and are required to provide a completed medical statement before their liveaboard departure. ***Guests who are taking medication, or have any medical conditions or symptoms that could be restrictive to diving need to obtain a doctor's evaluation and clearance to dive before travelling.***

The medical statement is available in English, German, Mandarin and Spanish and can be downloaded from our website at www.masterliveaboards.com/forms.

If you are unable to complete the medical statement as directed or provide a current doctor's certificate (less than 12 months old) clearing you to dive, you accept that you will not be able to take part in scuba diving activities during the liveaboard holiday you have booked with us.

Flying after Diving

Current studies indicate you should wait at least 18 hours after multiple days of repetitive diving before flying, although we strongly recommend a minimum of 24 hours. Please keep this in mind when you book your onward international or domestic flights.

Diving Emergencies

There is a volunteer-operated, Divers Alert Network (DAN) affiliated recompression chamber in Honiara.

Should the chamber in Honiara be unavailable, the nearest chambers are in Port Moresby or Australia (Townsville or Brisbane). In the event of a diving emergency, depending on which chamber is available, where the vessel is at the time, and under the direction of DAN (or other emergency support agencies), a light aircraft or helicopter may be required to evacuate the patient from Solomons Master to Honiara; from there additional evacuation via a low-level flight may be required the cost of which can easily exceed \$30,000 USD.

We strongly urge all guests to dive well within the limits of their certification and experience, follow dive guides' advice and, above all, purchase specific dive insurance which covers emergency evacuation and treatment costs before their trip.

As outlined in our [Terms & Conditions](#), dive insurance and travel insurance covering medical and diving emergencies, evacuation and treatment costs are mandatory.

General Information

Advanced Passenger Information (API)

There are certain details we require for administrative purposes before guests travel. All guests are required to submit their prerequisite information via our secure online portal at www.masterliveaboards.com/portal.

Forms

All guests are also required to complete a medical statement, liability releases, and standard safe diving practices statement before the commencement of their liveaboard itinerary.

To save some time, and to ensure you have no pre-existing conditions that could affect your diving, you can download the documents from the forms page of the Master Liveboards website, - www.masterliveboards.com/forms - fill them in and bring them with you. By completing and signing the forms, you verify that you have read, understood, and agree to the conditions outlined in them.

Rebreather divers and Technical divers need to complete and sign the [Technical Diving Liability Release](#), in addition to the standard liability release form.

If you are unable, or unwilling 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.

Destination Information

Time Zone

The local time in Honiara is + 11 hours UTC (GMT).

Money Matters

The local currency is the Solomon Islands dollar (SBD). Currency from other countries can be exchanged at Honiara Airport, or at any of the banks in town. The majority of established hotels and restaurants will accept credit card payments, usually with the addition of a surcharge, although smaller establishments often only accept cash payments.

We suggest carrying a small amount of SBD to make purchases when we visit villages or local markets. The exchange rate is approximately 8 SBD to 1 USD. Most guests find that \$750 SBD to \$1,500 SBD is adequate to cover incidental costs.

There are several options to obtain local currency:

Honiara Airport - Currency Exchange: There is an exchange desk available as you exit customs and immigration. Most major currencies can be exchanged (including USD and AUD cash) for SBD cash. The exchange rate is within 3% to 5% of the bank exchange rate.

Honiara Airport - ATM: There is a CIRRUS bank system ATM in the departure hall of the airport (exit arrivals and turn right) where cash can be withdrawn for a fee. However, this ATM is often out of cash once the first few flights of the day have arrived.

Honiara Town - ATMs: There are two major banks in the Solomon Islands - Bank of South Pacific and ANZ. Both have ATMs widely available throughout the city centre. Ask your driver to stop on the way into town and you should be able to withdraw cash at any of the ATMs. Many of the major hotels also have ATMs available.

Honiara - Bank Withdrawal: You can visit any of the local banks to withdraw cash from your account or credit card. However, you should be aware that the queues are often in excess of 2 hours so this is not the best option.

In Munda you will need to visit a local bank or ATM in town to obtain cash; There are no currency exchange facilities in Munda.

Health

Generally, healthcare in the Solomon Islands is very basic and medical supplies are limited. There are only 8 public hospitals in the entire country, the largest and most modern of which is the National Referral Hospital in Honiara although it is by no means up to Western standards. Additionally, there are 4 church-funded hospitals, as well as area health centres, rural health clinics and nurse aide posts providing basic medical services across the islands.

Vaccination requirements

The following is intended as general guidance only. Recommendations and requirements can change depending on outbreaks of certain diseases and many countries have different travel recommendations for their nationals.

While we endeavour to keep the following information as up-to-date as possible, *it is your responsibility to check your home country's government travel advisories or with your nearest travel clinic* for the latest information at least 6 weeks before travelling.

It is recommended that all travellers ensure routine vaccinations, such as MMR (Measles, Mumps and Rubella), Tetanus, Diphtheria, Polio and Typhoid are up to date.

Please make sure you use insect repellent and cover exposed skin to reduce the risk of insect-borne such as malaria and dengue fever, which are both present in the Solomon Islands.

Please note: Some malaria prevention medications including mefloquine (brand name Lariam) have side effects which can mimic decompression sickness.

To prevent, or minimise stomach ailments, we advise travellers to take sensible precautions with food and drink bottled water only when on land. Water on board is safe to drink.

Measles

Travellers arriving from Australia, New Zealand, American Samoa, Samoa, Fiji, Tonga, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea or the Philippines (excluding transit passengers) must be able to provide proof of immunisation against measles.

Although it is unlikely that you will be asked to show it, accepted proof of vaccination include:

1. Internal Certification of Vaccination (yellow card).
2. Any official documentation/ letter from a recognised hospital or medical practitioner confirming that the holder has been vaccinated against measles. Vaccination should be given at least 15 days before arrival.
3. Blood test results showing positive for measles antibodies which indicates immunity to measles. This may be expensive but can be done a few days before arrival and should be positive for someone who has been vaccinated in the past.

Yellow Fever

There is no risk of Yellow Fever in the Solomons Islands and proof of vaccination against the disease is only required if travelling from a country where there is a transmission risk.

Culture

Language and Religion

The official language of the Solomon Islands is English, but there are around 70 local languages most of which are of Melanesian origins. The common language across the islands is Pidgin.

It is illegal to swear in the Solomon Islands. Swearing at someone, or using language that could be deemed as offensive to locals may lead to a large compensation claim or even a prison sentence. Please be mindful of your language, especially when not on the boat.

Approximately 92% of Solomon Islanders follow Christian beliefs, while approximately 5% of the population adhere to traditional Animistic beliefs.

Island Life

Irrespective of religious beliefs, the Solomon Islanders maintain a way of life that is steeped in spiritual beliefs and respect for their natural surroundings. The traditional ways and etiquette, referred to as 'Kastom' in Pidgin, are passed down from generation to generation and are key to maintaining the rich and colourful culture of the islands.

This is evident across the islands, as you will have the opportunity to experience during your liveaboard trip. Whether it is villagers supplying Solomons Master with fresh produce from their dugout boats, a traditional dance performance, a visit to an ancestral site, or hand-carved souvenirs, you are sure to leave with vibrant and happy memories of the traditions and culture of this island nation.

Public Displays of Affection

PDA's of any kind are generally frowned upon throughout the Solomon Islands. Additionally, the Solomons do not recognise same-sex unions in any form, which may be cause for concern for some couples. Contrary to this, hand-holding is a common sign of friendly affection between men and between women so it's not unusual to see two men or two women holding hands while talking.

Like any socially conservative country, simply being discreet in public settings is all that's required; On Solomons Master, it is not a concern at all.

Climate and Weather

The Solomon Islands has an equatorial climate typical of many tropical areas, meaning it is usually hot and humid all year round. The average air temperature is around 27° Celsius with only marginal changes from season to season. However, there are two distinct seasons – a dry season from May to October and a wet season from November to April, with the wettest months being January and February.

Although uncommon, cyclones can occur in the wet season, but they usually bypass the Solomon Islands and veer toward Vanuatu or down the coast of Australia.

Mobile Phone Coverage

International SIM cards will not work in the Solomons. Guests who wish to have phone or internet service on the islands will need to purchase a local SIM card and data package. This will allow mobile and internet coverage within the major towns although connectivity in smaller towns and remote areas may be patchy, or non-existent.

Local SIMs can be purchased in Honiara at most major hotels and directly from Our Telekom or BMobile offices. Each provider has their own coverage area which will be available for about 25%-30% of your time on board Solomons Master. Be sure to buy a SIM with data capability, and install and test it before leaving Honiara.

Drones

The use of drones is permitted in the Solomons but must be authorised. Further information can be found here: [CAASI - Unmanned Aerial Vehicles](#)

Life on Board

The main features of the vessel can be reviewed on the Solomons Master page of the Master Liveboards website: www.masterliveboards.com/boats/solomons-master/

Safety and dive briefings will be given in English. If you do not speak or fully understand English, please let us know before your trip.

Accessibility

Due to the layout of the boat, the vessel is not suitable for wheelchairs and may provide challenges, or be unsuitable for guests with limited mobility. Please contact us for further details if you have any concerns.

Accommodation

Unless otherwise stated, accommodation on board is based on standard occupancy of each specific cabin type. Single occupancy of double/twin cabins may be available on request, and is subject to a supplemental charge.

Cabin Facilities

All cabins have individually controlled air-conditioning, private en-suite bathroom and lockable safety box; Towels and shower gel are provided free of charge to all guests.

Food and Drink

Meals are provided on a full board basis including a light breakfast, full breakfast, lunch and dinner served buffet style in the indoor dining area. We offer a choice of International and locally inspired dishes and can cater to most special dietary needs with advance notice.

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. There is also beer, wine and spirits available from our bar on board for an additional charge.

Guests may bring a single bottle of wine, spirits, or champagne to consume on board if they wish, but not beer.

Special dietary requirements:

Should you have any special dietary needs, please inform our reservations team at the time of confirming your liveaboard booking so we can do our best to make provisions for those.

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 be aware that choices may be limited and consider bringing some food items with you if the lack thereof may constitute a health risk or seriously compromise your enjoyment of your holiday.

Clothing and Footwear

For your time on board, we recommend casual, lightweight and comfortable clothes; swimwear, shorts, t-shirts for daytime and a sweater for cooler nights, particularly after multiple dives. We kindly ask guests to respect local customs and the wishes of others by donning appropriate clothing for meal times and when visiting local villages.

Most guests prefer to walk barefoot on board our vessel but sturdy sandals or cross-trainers are suggested for island visits.

For island village visits, modest clothing is recommended, i.e. covered shoulders (t-shirt rather than tank top) and long shorts or sarong (that cover the thighs) are considered appropriate for both men and women.

The boat is equipped with laundry facilities and our housekeeper is happy to launder your clothes during the trip. A nominal fee of 1.00 USD per item is charged for laundry, irrespective of size/ weight.

Electricity

The majority of power outlets on Solomons Master are 110V/60Hz, double universal sockets which can accommodate US 2 or 3 pin plugs and European 2 pin. There are some 220V sockets provided at the camera tables in the dining area.

European, and most other non-US electrical equipment generally require 220V at 50 hz so guests are advised to bring power converters and plug adapters with them to avoid potential damage to their equipment and ensure it charges correctly.

A limited number of universal plug adapters are available for guests to use onboard but we advise bringing your own to ensure you have the amount and type necessary.

Staying Connected

Solomons Master is equipped with Starlink satellite internet access. This is available for guests to use and is chargeable at 90 USD per person, regardless of itinerary duration. This can not be pre-booked and is payable on board only. An access code will be provided on the boat and is subject to availability and signal strength.

NOTE: Connectivity can be affected by weather as well as the satellite service provider. We 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.

Should your family need to contact you in the event of an emergency back home they can do so via our office on the numbers at the end of this document. We will pass on a message, which can take up to 48 hours to be relayed depending on where the boat happens to be.

Smoking

Smoking on board is permitted in designated outdoor areas only.

Underwater Photography and Videography

Master Liveboards vessels are equipped with specialised features for underwater photographers and videographers, which include:

- Indoor and outdoor workstations for the preparation and maintenance of cameras.
- Individual storage drawers for cameras and peripheral items.
- Large rinsing tanks with frequently changed fresh water.

Our crew are thoroughly briefed on the handling of delicate camera equipment and will offer to assist you when entering and 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.

Environmental considerations

Although there are recycling programs and facilities in the Solomons, they are very limited and only able to process a small amount of recyclable plastic waste. We therefore ask our guests to consider the following to help with our mission to reduce our environmental impact.

Batteries

We kindly request that you take all used batteries home so they can be recycled or disposed of properly as there are no such facilities in the Solomon Islands. Alternatively, consider using rechargeable batteries rather than single-use but, don't forget to bring the charger with you.

Water Bottles

If you own a sports bottle, please 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 that 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 ask that guests consider the type of products they are bringing with them and, where possible, bring environmentally-friendly toiletries for use on board and take partially or unused products home.

When selecting sun protection, please consider a rash guard or other cover as your primary defence. If you do require sunscreen, look for Reef Safe products which do not contain oxybenzone or other chemical ingredients that have been shown to damage corals.

If you are bringing cotton buds (Q-tips) with you, please avoid the types that have plastic stems. Many such products are available that use unbleached paper or bamboo instead of plastic and are therefore much more environmentally friendly.

Underwater

We operate a glove-free boat as there should be no need to touch the coral or reefs while diving. However, you are welcome to bring a reef hook or muck stick/nudi-pointer, should you wish to do so.

Giving back to the community

In the past, Solomons Master, through association with Solomon Islands Dive Expeditions, has been a proud member of the [Pack for a Purpose](#) charitable organisation.

Although there are currently no active Pack For a Purpose projects in the Solomon Islands, we are keen to continue supporting local communities and encourage Solomons Master guests to be a part of that.

You can help by bringing books and library or school supplies to the Solomon Islands; Find out more about our involvement and immediate supply needs in our blog: [Pack for a Purpose in the Solomons](#).

Please remove packaging from any products that you choose to bring to reduce plastic waste in the country.

Payments on Board

Marine and Port Fees & Taxes

The waters surrounding the Solomon Islands are vital to local communities. They provide food, transport, and form the backbone to the local way of life. Communities own the water surrounding their land from the high-tide mark out as far as the villagers can paddle. As part of their ownership rights, chiefs from each village collect Marine Kastom fees from all who use their waters.

The Kastom fees apply to all guests on board and are currently \$25 USD per night. The fee is tracked by our Trip Directors and distributed among the villages where we dive, snorkel, anchor or participate in village visits.

Please refer to your itinerary details for the amount payable for your trip. The applicable amount will be added to your invoice to be paid on board.

Optional Extras

Extras such as laundry, alcoholic drinks, and Master Liveboards merchandise, as well as equipment and nitrox which has not been paid for in advance can be paid for on board in cash or by credit card.

All prices onboard are quoted in USD. For cash payments we prefer USD or SBD; Due to a lack of banking facilities, exchange rates on board for payment in other currencies (EUR, GBP, AUD and NZD) are very unfavourable. We therefore recommend guests bring USD with them or withdraw SBD when they arrive. We suggest 300–500 USD (or equivalent currency) for any optional extras.

We can accept payment by Visa and Mastercard onboard for which there is a 3% surcharge.

PLEASE NOTE: For credit card payments on board, the total USD amount will be converted and charged in SBD using the prevailing rate as listed on Bank of South Pacific website on the day of embarkation. This may mean that the final amount charged to your card will be slightly different to your onboard invoice total due to exchange rate fluctuations, and exchange rate fees imposed by the card issuer.

Items that are paid in advance do not incur additional charges; we therefore strongly recommend adding equipment rental and nitrox costs to your liveaboard booking to be paid prior to the commencement of your holiday.

Tipping

We believe that tipping is a matter of personal choice. Should you feel that the crew has made your holiday extra special, they will certainly appreciate a tip which you can leave in cash, or pay by credit card*. An envelope will be provided for your convenience by your cruise director for cash gratuities which will be divided equally amongst all the crew, including the captain and dive guides.

*Gratuities charged to credit or debit cards are subject to a 3% surcharge.

As part of the Solomon Islands culture is to work collectively, individual tipping is discouraged.

Safety on Board

Emergency Management & Equipment

All 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.

The vessel is equipped with many modern safety features including automated life rafts, EPIRB, satellite communication and emergency pumps.

First Aid

There is a fully stocked medical first aid kit for treating minor injuries and ailments, as well as for assisting trained medical professionals in remote locations. We have a full complement of medical grade oxygen on board which can be administered to divers through DAN kits or unit specific attachments.

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

Travelling to, from, and within Solomon Islands can be made exceptionally easy when you book with Master Liveboards. We can offer a range of domestic flights, hotels, transfers, and short excursions which can be arranged for before or after your liveaboard. Prices vary depending on the time of booking and level of accommodation; please ask our reservations team or your agent for further details and prices.

Optional Solomons package

If you want to make your travel as simple and easy as possible, take advantage of our optional Solomons Package. We will book a hotel of your choice in Honiara for the night immediately before and after your liveaboard and organise your arrival and departure airport transfers as well as to and from the boat. For further details and hotel choices, please contact our reservations team at dive@masterliveboards.com.

Embarkation day options

Should you choose to arrive on the same day as your liveaboard starts, you will most likely have a few hours to fill before embarkation. You may opt to spend the time relaxing at Coral Sea Resort, or visit the outdoor art museum or the national museum, which are just a short walk from the resort. Admission to both is free, although donations are encouraged, and welcomed.

Disembarkation day options

Depending on flight departure time, some guests may choose to take a half or full day tour of Honiara after disembarkation; opt for a visit to the Vilu War Museum, or book a day room at a local hotel before transferring to the airport. Our reservations department will happily organise this for you.

FAQs

If you have any questions that have not been answered, please check the [Solomons FAQs](#) 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) 62 668 7136

Solomon Islands

Emergency Number (DAY OF ARRIVAL ONLY):

+677 749 6286 (Dave - Ops Manager)

or

+677 748 6143 (Eva - shore support)

Vessel cell phone number (Cruise Director): +677 778 8991 (Lupa)

Vessel satellite phone: +61 147 14 1178

Master Liveboards 24hr emergency number:

Please only use the Master Liveboards 24hr emergency if you are unable to get a response from the numbers above.

UK Mobile: +44 7862 126398

What to Bring

If you can spare a little room in your luggage, don't forget to check our [Pack for a Purpose blog](#) to see what you can bring to help support local communities in the Solomons.

The following is a check list of essential items that you should bring with you for your trip aboard a Master Liveboards vessel. We also have a comprehensive packing checklist which you can download here: [Packing List](#)

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

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 (reef-safe) & 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 their hand luggage in case of lost or delayed luggage through International or Domestic Flights.