

# Truk Lagoon, Federated States of Micronesia

## Itinerary - 7 Nights, 9 Nights, and 10 Nights

- **Embarkation: Weno at 14:00**
- **Disembarkation: Weno at 07:00**

Transfers from and to the airport or hotels in Chuuk for embarkation and disembarkation are included in the cruise price.

Due to flight constraints, some Truk Lagoon itineraries operate back to back on the same day. In these instances, outgoing guests will be transferred to a local resort after a light breakfast where they can wait in comfort for their outgoing flight.

Incoming guests flying in early on embarkation day will be transferred to a local resort where they can enjoy a light lunch and some time to relax or visit the local museum.

As schedules and embarkation locations are subject to change, please check your cruise confirmation carefully.

### **Marine & Port Fees:**

- 7 nights: 195 USD
- 9 nights: 240 USD
- 10 nights: 250 USD

Marine park fees can be paid in advance, or on board.

### **Minimum dive certification and experience requirements:**

Recreational Divers: PADI Advanced Open Water, or equivalent, with a minimum of 50 logged dives. Deep Diver Speciality (40 metres) certification is also recommended.

Technical and Rebreather Divers are required to have the relevant certification and experience for the depths and type of diving which they are intending to do.

Guests who do not fulfil the minimum certification and experience requirements may be denied participation in some or all dives.

It is mandatory for all divers to have insurance which covers the type of diving and depths that they will be participating in, and includes emergency air evacuation and recompression chamber treatment costs.

Participation in this liveboard itinerary is subject to acceptance of our Terms & Conditions as outlined here: [www.masterliveboards.com/terms-conditions](http://www.masterliveboards.com/terms-conditions).

### **Number of scheduled recreational dives:**

- 7 nights: up to 22
- 9 nights: up to 30
- 10 nights: up to 34

Whilst we attempt to ensure the number of dives we have scheduled is fulfilled, the safety of all on board is paramount and will play a factor in how many dives are offered.

**The number of technical level dives** possible will be determined by individual dive plans taking into consideration bottom times and decompression stops.

Technical divers need to submit a dive plan before each dive. Normally, we do not limit dive times, unless we need to move the boat, which guests will be informed of during the dive briefings. However, all dive plans and extended bottom times must be reasonable from a safety point of view as Truk is in a very remote location with limited emergency facilities.

While we wish to show you the very best diving possible, a number of factors can determine which sites are selected for diving on any particular trip.

**Safety and dive briefings are conducted in English. If you, or any of your group do not speak or understand English, please contact us.**

The following is an example of the day-to-day itinerary.

Day 1: Embarkation from 14:00 onwards (dependent on flight schedules) followed by introductions, boat and safety briefings and dinner. There is no diving on embarkation day.

On the following days, your Cruise Director will schedule up to 4 recreational dives per day; either 4 day dives or 3 day dives and a twilight dive. There are no night dives.

Days 2-6 (7 nights)

Days 2-8 (9 nights)

Days 2-9 (10 nights)

A typical day is scheduled as follows:

- Light Breakfast followed by a briefing & Dive 1
- Full Breakfast, relaxation followed by briefing & Dive 2
- Lunch\*, relaxation followed by briefing & Dive 3
- Snack
- Briefing for Dive 4

- Dinner\*

\*Meal times are fixed so technical divers need to take this into consideration when planning their dive profiles and times.

Day before disembarkation:

Depending on guests' flight departure time\*, there may be the possibility to schedule 1 or 2 dives in the morning for the last full day on board.

Disembarkation day: Following light breakfast on board, disembarkation is scheduled for 07:00.

\*We kindly request that guests check their flight departure times to ensure that they leave a minimum of 24 hours between their final dive and their flight home.

## Itinerary Details

During World War II, Truk Lagoon was the Empire of Japan's main base in the South Pacific theatre and was a heavily fortified base for Japanese naval operations against Allied forces in New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. In February of 1944, Truk was devastated in one of the most important naval attacks of the war, "Operation Hailstone", which resulted in the loss of 61 ships, mostly "Maru" or merchant vessels that had been left at anchor. The result of this attack is a collection of shipwrecks closely packed into a coral lagoon, many of which lie at depths easily reached by recreational divers.

Although the majority of the wrecks are deemed suitable for recreational divers and offer varying depths for multi-level profiles, some lie beyond, or have interesting features deeper than the recognized, no decompression, recreational diving depth limit of 40m (130ft). As such they may not be suitable for divers without deep diver or technical diving qualifications. Our Cruise Director and dive guides will offer guided dives, with simple wreck penetration, within the bounds of their own training and experience.

Over the course of your liveaboard on Truk Master we will explore many of the wrecks detailed below. Where it is not possible to dive on a particular wreck for any reason, we will do our best to offer diving at alternate locations.

The Cruise Director is happy to listen to requests from guests to visit or remain at certain sites and providing it is possible and the schedule allows, then guest's requests are respected.

Dive sites will include a selection from, but are not limited to:

### Fujikawa Maru

a signature dive of Truk Lagoon, this 132m (436ft) armed cargo ship sits perfectly upright on the sandy bottom at a depth of 37m (121ft) whilst the forward king post reaches up to 5m (15ft). The "Fuji" offers 6 holds, 4 of which are open, in which can be found parts of Zero Fighter Aircraft including engine parts, propeller blades and fuel cells. Deeper inside the

wreck, Mitsubishi A5m Claude & A6M parts can be discovered. The bow gun is encrusted with corals and the outer wreck supports sea fans, soft corals & anemones. Exploring the "Fuji" is possible for divers of all levels however deeper penetration into the engine room will only be permitted to certified tec / wreck divers. Throughout the 10-night cruise we will offer several dives on this famous wreck to allow our guests to explore in full and take photographs at different times of day.

### **Submarine I.169**

Quickly submerging during the attack to avoid damage, the submarine unfortunately failed to close her valves, allowing for water to enter and as she descended she came to rest on her port side at a depth of 42m (138ft).

### **IJN Fumizuki**

A 97m (300ft) long Japanese Destroyer. She sits upright in 39m (128ft) of water rising up to 27m (89ft). Covered in marine life she is a pleasure to dive.

### **Yamagiri Maru**

Resting on her port side, though almost completely intact despite repeated bombings, the Yamagiri freighter still contains many artillery shells and ammunition.

### **Shinkoku Maru**

A large oil tanker, now rests upright on the bottom encrusted with corals, sponges & hydroids. Highlights include the telegraph room on the bridge, a spacious engine room and a galley that still features many utensils on the large stove. Small guns, mounted fore and aft are also covered with corals making this one of the most colourful and spectacular wrecks to be found in Truk.

### **Nippo Maru**

With a depth range of 21m - 47m (69ft - 154ft) the Nippo is an intriguing dive site for recreational divers and tec divers alike. With a tank and howitzer guns on deck, and 5-inch guns in the holds, the Nippo is not to be missed.

### **Heian Maru**

The largest ship in the lagoon, the Heian, originally used as a cargo ship, is 165m (510ft) in length and lies on her port side in 35m (115ft) of water. Within her holds divers may find torpedoes, shells and even the occasional periscope.

### **San Francisco Maru**

The passenger & cargo ship, weighing 5,831 tons, lays upright at a depth of 62m (203ft). Here divers can check out the remains of many well preserved war-relics including three large tanks which rest on the deck at 50m (164ft).

**NOTE:** Due to the depth of the San Francisco Maru, this dive will be offered only to those divers possessing the necessary training and experience to plan and safely execute technical dives.

## Hoki Maru

This 30m (100ft) long freighter lies upright from 50m (165ft) and is only partially intact. The aft hold carries trucks and road supplies whilst sake bottles can be found here too. The superstructure is awe-inspiring and covered with brightly coloured sponges.

## Gosei Maru

A submarine tender carrying torpedoes starts in just 3m (10ft) and drops to 35m (115ft) within which can be found many personal artifacts, serving as a reminder of those who lost their lives during the battle.

## Rio de Janeiro Maru

140m (430ft) long she lays on her port side in 35m (115ft). Once a luxury passenger vessel she was converted to a cargo vessel in wartime. Exploration of her holds turns up a range of supplies from beer bottles to guns. The upper deck reaches to an easily diveable depth of 9m (30ft).

## Betty Bomber

A Mitsubishi G4M "Betty" Bomber aircraft lies on the seabed at 18m (60ft) and is surrounded by schooling fish. Nicknamed: "The Flying Cigar" for its shape but also because the aircraft lit up when shot, as the fuel tanks were unprotected.

## Diving Details

The majority of shipwrecks within Truk Lagoon are deemed suitable for recreational divers and offer varying depths for multi-level profiles. However, some sites do lie beyond, or have interesting features deeper than the recognised recreational diving depth limit of 40m (130ft). As such they may not be suitable for divers without deep diver or technical diving qualifications.

Our Cruise Director and dive guides will offer guided dives, with simple wreck penetration, within the bounds of their own training and experience. Prior to each dive our guides will give an in-depth briefing for all our guests which will include a detailed site map with entries/exits, points of interest, hazardous objects and special considerations for the dive to enable you to plan appropriately.

Guests are responsible for their own dive profiles and for obtaining suitable dive insurance to cover deeper diving. We respectfully request our divers stay within the bounds of their training, follow dive computer guidelines and make decompression stops where necessary. When planning deep dives or dives with extended bottom times, please bear in mind that recompression facilities in the region are limited, therefore we recommend you dive conservatively.

M/Y Truk Master provides equipment and facilities for deep, technical and rebreather diving with a "Deco-bar" situated under the yacht for your convenience. All divers who wish to go beyond recognised recreational depth limits, plan to make deep wreck penetration or

decompression dives must show proof of qualification and experience upon boarding and will be requested to sign an additional liability waiver.

Should you have any questions or queries concerning the dive sites or whether this itinerary is suitable for your experience level, please contact our reservations team [dive@masterliveboards.com](mailto:dive@masterliveboards.com) who will be pleased to assist and advise you.