

# Truk Lagoon, Federated States of Micronesia

## 7, 8, 9 and 10 Nights Itineraries

- **Embarkation:** between 15:00 and 17:00\*
- **Disembarkation:** Weno at 07:00\*\*

Transfer between Chuuk Airport, or your hotel in Weno, and Pacific Master on embarkation and disembarkation day is included in the liveaboard price.

Due to flight constraints, some itineraries operate back-to-back on the same day which may impact the embarkation and disembarkation arrangements. If you are unsure how this may affect your trip, please contact our reservations team: [dive@masterliveaboards.com](mailto:dive@masterliveaboards.com) or your preferred agent.

\*Guests arriving in the morning on the day of embarkation will be transferred to a local resort where they can relax and enjoy a light lunch or visit the local museum before embarkation.

Guests staying in Chuuk before their liveaboard will be picked up between 15:00 and 17:00. Our local ops team will contact guests at their hotel to confirm the transfer arrangements and pick-up time.

\*\*Where possible, disembarkation may be later but this is dependent on the vessel's schedule. Where it is not possible, departing guests will be transferred to a local resort after a light breakfast where they can wait in comfort before transferring to the airport.

## Diving Information

The average depth of most of the wrecks in Truk Lagoon is 25-35 metres, making the majority accessible to recreational divers. However, some are beyond or have interesting features deeper than Advanced Open Water depth limits. Therefore, certain areas are only suitable for divers with deep diver training (40 metres) or technical diving qualifications.

You can find an overview of wreck depths in our blog: [How deep are the Truk Lagoon wrecks?](#)

In addition to exploring some of the many famous wrecks within the lagoon, we also offer guests the opportunity to experience some superb reef diving. Numerous channels cut through the atoll and reefs serving as hunting grounds for a variety of sharks and schooling pelagics which all add to the wonder of diving Truk Lagoon.

## Minimum dive certification and experience requirements

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

**Technical and Rebreather Divers** must have the relevant certification and experience for the depths and type of diving they intend to do.

All divers who wish to go beyond recognised recreational, no-decompression depth limits, or who plan to make deep wreck penetration must show proof of qualification and experience upon boarding and will be required to sign an additional [Technical Diving liability waiver](#).

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

It is a mandatory requirement for all divers to have appropriate insurance for the type of diving and depths they will be participating in. Your insurance must also provide full cover for emergency evacuation and recompression chamber treatment costs.

## Diving Safety

**Use of at least one dive computer and SMB are compulsory for all divers.**

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

## Recompression facilities

The recompression chamber in Truk Lagoon is manned by volunteers and is not guaranteed to always be operational. In the event of a suspected DCI case where the chamber is not available, private emergency air evacuation to Guam or Australia may be necessary to obtain appropriate treatment.

*It is your responsibility to ensure your insurance will fully cover and reimburse all evacuation costs as well as recompression chamber and/or hospital treatment. We strongly urge all guests to purchase specific dive insurance before their trip.*

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).

## Itinerary Details

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

### **Truk Lagoon taxes and permits** (payable onboard only)

- 7 nights: 215 USD
- 8 nights: 240 USD
- 9 nights: 265 USD
- 10 nights: 275 USD

**PLEASE NOTE:** *Marine & Port fees are subject to change without notice. The applicable amount at the time of departure will be added to your onboard extras to be paid before disembarkation.*

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

- 7 nights: up to 22
- 8 nights: up to 26
- 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.

Departing from Weno we take you directly to the main concentration of wrecks located within the bay around Dublon (also known as Tonoas or Tonowas). The vessel will moor over the deeper wrecks allowing an easy descent down the line directly onto the wreck. Technical divers will benefit from the support of the “mother ship”, whilst our 2 skiffs can shuttle less experienced divers to the shallower sites and offer reef diving as an alternative to the wrecks.

Our Cruise Director and dive guides will offer guided dives, with simple wreck penetration, within the bounds of their own training and experience. Before 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.

Technical divers will need to submit a complete 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 plans and extended bottom times must be reasonable from a safety point of view as Truk Lagoon is in a very remote location with limited emergency facilities.

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

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

**Day 1:** Embarkation from 15:00 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; which are usually 3 day dives and a twilight dive, typically 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\*\*

\*There are **no night dives on the wrecks.**

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

**Day before disembarkation:** For the last full day on board, there may be the possibility to schedule 1 or 2 dives in the morning, depending on guests' flight departure\*\* times.

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

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

## The Wrecks of Truk Lagoon

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 51 ships, including transport vessels and a submarine, as well as several aircraft. The result of this attack is a large collection of wrecks, closely packed into a coral lagoon, many of which lie at depths easily reached by recreational divers.

The majority of the wrecks in Truk Lagoon are Japanese merchant vessels, known as Maru, that had been left at anchor; Some had been fortified with anti-aircraft weapons, and many carried important army supplies including Zero Fighter aircraft parts, tanks, torpedo shells, trucks and road supplies. Bottles, cooking utensils, personal items and other artefacts from everyday life can be found in several of the wrecks, serving as a poignant reminder of those who lost their lives during the battle. The more gruesome reminders of the conflict, such as human skulls, have since been removed and may only be seldom found in the deeper reaches of the wrecks.

During your liveaboard itinerary, 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 alternative 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, such requests are usually respected.

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

### [Fujikawa Maru](#)

A signature dive of Truk Lagoon, this 132 metre (436ft) armed cargo ship sits perfectly upright on the sandy bottom at a depth of 37 metres (121ft), whilst the forward king post reaches up to just 9 metres (30ft). 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.

On 10-night itineraries, we will offer several dives on this famous wreck to allow our guests to explore in full and take photographs at different times of the day.

### **Submarine I-169**

Quickly submerging during the attack to avoid damage, the submarine unfortunately failed to close her valves allowing water to enter as she descended; she came to rest mostly upright at a depth of 42 metres (138ft) with her starboard at around 30 metres (99ft).

### **IJN Fumizuki**

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

### **Yamagiri Maru**

Resting on her port side at 33 metres, and almost completely intact despite repeated bombings, the Yamagiri freighter still contains many artillery shells and ammunition as well as the construction equipment she was carrying when she sank.

### **Kensho Maru**

A favourite dive for many visitors to Truk Lagoon, the Kensho was a passenger-cargo ship that was undergoing repairs when she was hit by US airstrikes. She now rests upright at a maximum depth of 38 metres while her superstructure is at just 18 metres. Her engine room is easily accessible making it one of the best and most popular to explore in Truk. You can swim past her steering equipment at the stern and exit through a bomb hole, visit the galley, bathrooms, toilets, radio room and bridge in the main superstructure, and enter the holds where you can find a salvage pump, gas bottles, batteries and cooking utensils.

### **Shinkoku Maru**

A large oil tanker, the Shinkoku Maru is encrusted with corals, sponges & hydroids. With a depth range of 9 metres - 39 metres, 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 21 metres - 47 metres (69ft - 154ft), the Nippo is an intriguing dive site for recreational divers and tech 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 (115 ft) of water. Within her holds divers may find torpedoes, shells and even the occasional periscope.

### San Francisco Maru

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

The passenger and cargo ship, weighing 5,831 tons, sits upright at a depth of 60-62m (195-203 ft). 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).

### **Hoki Maru**

This 130m (426ft) long freighter sits upright from 50m (165ft) at the bottom to 21m (68ft) at the top. The front section was mostly destroyed by explosions in her forward holds but the aft sections remain more or less intact. The rear holds contain trucks, tractors and road supplies; she was also carrying hundreds of bottles of sake and beer which can be found strewn around the wreck.

### **Gosei Maru**

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

### Rio de Janeiro Maru

140m (430ft) long, she lies on her port side at 35m (115 ft) with the upper deck reaching a depth of 9m (30ft). 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.

### **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.

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