

# Palau Islands, Micronesia

## Trip Information

Arrival airport: Koror Airport (ROR)

Departure airport: Koror Airport (ROR)

Embarkation: Sam's Tours, Koror at 18:00

Disembarkation: Sam's Tours, Koror at 10:00

## Flights, Hotels, Transfers and Excursions

Travelling within Palau is exceptionally easy when you book with Siren Fleet. From booking hotel accommodations to land or Rock Island sightseeing tours, we can arrange everything for before or after your trip. The trip price includes transfer between the airport or local hotels to 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. Delta Airlines serves Palau four times a week from Narita, Japan.

Ideally, you would arrive in Palau one day in advance of your cruise departure so you can start your diving holiday well rested. If you do not remain for any additional nights after your diving holiday, please allow plenty of time for transfer to the airport and check in.

## Optional 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
- Transfers within Koror
- One of several additional excursions outlined below

## Excursions

### Snorkeling, Diving or Sea Kayak Trip – Rock Islands Tour

The snorkeling tour takes you to the most scenic and photogenic snorkeling spots around the island such as: Big Drop Off, German Channel, Milky Way, and WW II Zero Fighter Plane. Furthermore, you can enjoy some beach time in these wonderful places. You can opt for sea kayaking as well, which is quite an enjoyable way to see the hotspots of the island.

Obviously, there are more world-class dive sites to be explored in Palau than we can visit within 1 week or 10 days. If you just cannot get enough of diving in paradise; we can help you plan more diving in any area you would like. Contact us for more information: [info@sirenfleet.com](mailto:info@sirenfleet.com).

### Palau on Land

Palau has a very rich history, which can be experienced in numerous different tours.

- Visit to ancient Palauan remains, a Bai (traditional meeting house for men), swim at the Ngardmau Waterfall.
- Boat ride to Peleliu Islands and check out the interesting remnants of the WWII battle or visit the Stone Monoliths on the northern part of the island with their stunning views.
- A half day Koror city tour will show you the capital building, the museum, the aquarium, the clam farm and more.

These are just some of the many domestic travel options to choose from when you book with Siren Fleet. Prices for these add-ons vary; please contact our reservations team at [info@sirenfleet.com](mailto:info@sirenfleet.com) or ask your agent for more information.

## Insurance

Siren Fleet strongly recommend that all guests carry full travel and cancellation insurance, as we cannot be held liable for delays occurring during the cruise, any delays or cancellations of the flights, accommodations, or tours & transfers we organise on your behalf.

Insurance which covers scuba diving is mandatory aboard all Siren Fleet yachts, irrespective of your destination. Your insurance must cover all of your scuba diving and snorkeling activities, including the costs for recompression chamber treatment and emergency air evacuation.

Whilst many general travel insurance companies will cover scuba diving activities, they often impose depth limits and fall short on recompression treatment or emergency evacuation costs. We therefore we strongly recommend purchasing diving-specific insurance to cover any eventuality.

Siren Fleet works in partnership with DiveAssure who offer a selection of competitively priced dive and travel insurance policies, including short term and multiple trip policies.

We suggest their comprehensive 'Dive & Travel Plus' insurance plan which has been specifically developed for diving liveaboard holidays. This insurance covers your trip expenses in the event of missing your liveaboard departure due to (flight) delays. Moreover, it provides coverage 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: <http://www.sirenfleet.com/insurance>

## General Information

### Visa and Passports

Passport holders of most other Western countries obtain a 30-day tourist visa on arrival at no extra charge. They may ask to see your confirmed return/onward flight ticket. Please make sure your passport is valid for at least 6 months from date of entry into Palau. Citizens of the United States 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. Visa and passport regulations differ per country; therefore, we do advise our guests to check for any updates or changes of visa procedures with their nearest embassy/consulate.

### Time Zone

The local time in the Republic of Palau is +9 hours UMC (GMT).

### Money Matters

The US Dollar is the official currency of Palau. The majority of established hotels, shops and restaurants accept major credit cards or traveler's cheques. Occasionally, smaller family-run business will only accept cash. There are several US operated banks and plenty of ATMs in Palau, making cash readily accessible. On the other hand, the exchange rate used in banks and ATMs is not so favourable, so guests are advised to change money prior to arrival in Palau.

### Airport Fees

None, all fees are included in your airline ticket.

### 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.

Please make sure you use insect repellent and cover exposed skin to prevent any insect borne diseases. We recommend our guests to take normal precautions with food and be sure to drink bottled water only in order to prevent any stomach upsets. We recommend you consult your doctor or nearest health care professional for up-to-date medical travel/vaccination information well before departure.

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

### 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.

## 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 high season considered to be November through May.

## 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 to bring the wetsuit you feel most comfortable in.

## Life on Board

### Food and Drink

All Siren Fleet yachts provide their guests with a choice of international and Asian cuisine served buffet style in the outdoor dining area. We are happy to cater to special dietary requirements; please inform our reservations team about your requirements in advance of your trip to ensure that we have plenty of dishes to suit your needs. A well-selected range of carbonated soft drinks, fruit juices, black, green and herbal teas are available at all times, as well as instant and fresh brewed coffee. Moreover, a selection of fresh fruit and some tasty treats are available, should you feel peckish in between meal times. Local lager (beer) is provided free of charge but guests may also select wine or spirits from our cocktail bar for an additional fee.

### Sun protection

In 2018, Palau introduced a new law that completely bans sunscreen containing reef-harming chemicals per 1 January 2020. Please be advised that Palauan authorities may well be seriously enforcing this law and non-compliance may incur significant fines. Alternatively, on board we have for sale: "Pura Vida - Palau Reef Safe Sunscreen", which is produced by a local Palauan company run by a young lady entrepreneur who is dedicated to sustainability. By buying this product, you not only protect the reef but also support a local company with a good cause.

### Clothing and Footwear

Whilst sojourning on our yacht, we recommend our guests to bring casual and comfortable clothes; swim wear, shorts and t-shirts. A sweater is advised for cooler nights, particularly after multiple dives. All Master Liveaboards' vessels are equipped with laundry facilities and our housekeeper is more than happy to launder your clothes during the trip. A nominal fee of 0.75 USD is charged per item irrespective of size/weight.

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. Nevertheless, we do advise guests to bring their own to ensure you have the amount necessary.

### Smoking

Smoking on board is permitted in designated outdoor areas.

## Safety on Board

### Emergency Management & Equipment

All Siren Fleet 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

Siren Fleet yachts are 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.

### Staying Connected

In Palau, there is in general very limited internet access and/or roaming, due to its remote location. To allow our guests to keep in touch with loved ones and to be able to upload some envy-inducing pictures, Palau Siren now offers high speed wifi satellite internet access for all guests.

Pre-book and pre-pay your package to get the best special deals: <https://sirenfleet.com/palau-siren-internet/>

Please note that prior to boarding you are strongly recommended to manage your device settings to ensure that your data is not being used for processes such as application updates, file downloads, and so on.

Kindly note: unlike fiber optic and 3G/4G mobile internet, connectivity can be affected by weather as well as our satellite provider KVH. Palau Siren crew and management 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.

## Payments on Board

### Marine and Port Fees

The marine park and port fees are dependent on trip duration and the applicable amount will be added to your final cruise invoice in advance of your cruise. Alternatively, it can be paid on board the Palau Siren.

- 6/7 nights Palau Islands: 200 USD per person
- 10 nights Palau Islands: 270 USD per person

### Optional Extras

Siren Fleet yachts offer a range of services to make your stay on board even more enjoyable. We offer the use of kayaks and land excursions throughout your cruise free of charge. The following services are also available for an additional fee:

- 1 Hour Massage
- Wine (750ml bottle)
- Selection of Spirits and Cocktails
- Laundry
- Dive Courses
- Torch & Dive Computer Rental
- Reef Hook
- Exclusive Siren Fleet Merchandise: T-shirts, polo shirts, rash guards, caps, nudi pointer, cargo shorts, etc.

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 (Master Card or Visa) for which there is a 3% surcharge.

Banking facilities in Koror are limited, therefore guests are advised to bring between 300-400US\$, additional to marine park & port fees, for any incidentals/optional extras.

### Tipping

At Siren Fleet 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.



## Diving Information

### Guests' Level of Diving

Siren Fleet welcomes everyone on board; from non-divers to seasoned divers. Each destination has different diving conditions based on the season and time of the trip. Whilst all of our trips are suitable for each and every experience level, there may be some dives offered that are not suitable for beginners. Your cruise director will be able to advise you whilst on board. However, if you have any questions or concerns regarding the conditions of the destination you are planning to visit; please contact your agent or the Siren Fleet reservations team directly.

### Diving Equipment

Since some of the domestic airline carriers in the countries of our destinations have strict check-in luggage limits, all Siren Fleet liveaboard yachts provide most rental equipment free of charge. Please pre-book rental equipment upon booking your cruise, as it is subject to availability. All trips include:

- Aqua Lung Wave BCD – not weight-integrated
- Aqua Lung Calypso Regulator - complete with alternate air source and depth/pressure gauge console
- Wetsuits - 3mm shorty
- Mask
- Fins - full foot or open heel and boots depending on destination
- 12 litre tanks (15 litre tanks by special request and depending on availability)
- Weight belt and weights
- SMB

The following equipment is available for rent at an extra charge:

- Underwater torch/flashlight
- Dive computer\*

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

### Re-breather Diving

Palau Siren is equipped for re-breather 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 re-breather supplies is essential to guarantee availability. Please contact our reservations team to place your order and for up-to-date prices.

## Underwater Photography and Videography

Our yachts offer specialised features for underwater photographers and videographers. These 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 crews are thoroughly trained in the handling of delicate camera equipment and will bring your cameras to/from the tenders for you.

## Diving Health

### Flying after Diving

Current studies show 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 Insurance

Diving insurance is mandatory aboard all Siren Fleet yachts, irrespective of your destination. Your insurance must cover all of your scuba diving and snorkeling activities, including the costs for recompression chamber treatment and emergency air evacuation.

Siren Fleet works in partnership with DiveAssure who offer a selection of competitively priced dive and travel insurance policies, including short term and multiple trip policies. We suggest their comprehensive Dive & Travel Plus insurance plan which has been specifically developed for diving liveaboard holidays. This insurance covers your trip expenses in the event of missing your liveaboard departure due to (flight) delays. Moreover, it provides coverage 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.

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### 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.

### FAQ's

If there are any questions that have not been answered then please visit our website at [www.sirenfleet.com/about-us/faqs](http://www.sirenfleet.com/about-us/faqs) or email us at [info@sirenfleet.com](mailto:info@sirenfleet.com) and our team will be happy to assist you.

## Contact Info

### Head Office

Worldwide Dive and Sail International

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Tambon Vichit, 83000

Muang Phuket, Thailand

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T USA: (Toll Free): +1 866 258 6398

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### Palau Office

P.O. Box 6091

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Tel: + 680 775 1179 (mobile)

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

Palau Cruise Director: +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 one of our vessels.

### Passport

3-6 month validity depending on the nationality & 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): 300 - 400USD

### 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**

Swim wear, 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.**