



# PALAU KAYAK & DIVE LIVEABOARD EXPEDITION

Trip Brochure

# AT A GLANCE

**DATES** JANUARY 31ST, 2026 MARCH 21ST, 2026 OCTOBER 31ST, 2026

DURATION 9 DAYS

DIFFICULTY BEGINNER - INTERMEDIATE

PRICE FROM \$6,200.00

ACCOMMODATION LIVEABOARD

# OVERVIEW

Ever dreamed of finding a hidden paradise? That's exactly what Palau is. This amazing spot in the western Pacific is the easternmost part of the Micronesian Islands, with over 300 limestone islands and a huge, clear lagoon. Think tropical beaches, bright blue waters, exotic birds, and some of the most incredible marine life you'll ever see.

Join this expedition for an unforgettable live aboard adventure in Palau. Aboard the luxurious Palau Siren, your floating base camp, you'll paddle through the turquoise waters of the UNESCO-listed Rock Island Southern Lagoon, spotting sea turtles, manta rays, and even dugongs along the way.

Hike to ancient village sites and WWII relics, snorkel or dive among 700 species of coral and 1,500 species of fish. Enjoy daily activities tailored for both beginners and experienced kayakers. This trip promises a perfect blend of kayaking and diving, set against the backdrop of one of the world's most unspoiled marine environments.

If you rather focus purely on kayaking and camp every night (instead of staying on a liveaboard), check out the <u>Palau Paddling & Camping Expedition tour</u>.



# WHAT'S UNIQUE ABOUT THIS EXPEDITION

#### A TROPICAL PARADISE LIKE NO OTHER

Get ready to explore the stunning Rock Islands Southern Lagoon, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. You'll paddle through crystal-clear waters, weaving around lush limestone islands. Every twist and turn reveals colorful coral reefs, hidden marine lakes, and secluded beaches that feel like they're straight out of a dream.

#### UNPARALLELED MARINE BIODIVERSITY

Snorkel in one of the world's richest marine habitats, home to over 1,500 fish species, 700 coral species, and an array of sea life, from manta rays to dolphins and the elusive dugongs. This is paradise for marine enthusiasts.

#### **KAYAKING IN HIDDEN HAVENS**

Paddle your way through narrow channels and discover secret marine lakes, only accessible by kayak. These mushroomshaped islands and their calm lagoons make for an unforgettable kayaking adventure.









#### **2026 DEPARTURE**

PER PERSON	\$6,200.00 USD
BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY	

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

\$250.00 USD

#### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Transfers between Koror Airport or local hotel and the embarkation / disembarkation point.
- 7 nights full board accommodation based on double occupancy.
- 1 night hotel accommodation in Koror post cruise.
- All meals, snacks, drinking water, tea, coffee, fruit juice and soft drinks while on liveaboard.
- Daily kayaking (4-6 hours per day), land excursions and kayak use.
- Up to 4 scuba dives per day, air fills, weights, weight belt and SMB.

#### WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Flights unless listed in the itinerary.
- Single supplement.
- Visa, passport and vaccination charges.
- Airport departure taxes.
- Hotels and meals not included in the itinerary.
- Transfer from hotel to airport on the last day of the itinerary.
- Alcoholic beverages.
- Travel insurance, medical and emergency evacuation charges.
- Items of a personal nature such as bar charges, laundry and phone/email charges.
- Tips on board for crew and service personnel.
- Dive equipment.

ITINERARY



#### ΝΟΤΕ

Due to flight connections, the trips departing on January 31st & March 21st (2026) include a night in a hotel in Koror <u>before</u> the liveaboard, while the trip departing on October 31st (2026) includes a night in a hotel in Koror <u>after</u> the liveaboard. The actual itinerary once in the liveaboard are both the same.

#### JANUARY 31ST & MARCH 21ST (2026) DEPARTURES

#### **DAY 1 - ARRIVE TO KOROR**

Arrive in Koror and transfer to your hotel. Over- night in Palau.

#### **DAY 2 - EMBARKATION** Morning free and then transfer to the Palau Siren.

D / ON LIVEABOARD

#### DAY 3 TO 8 - ADVENTURE TIME

Cruise the islands of Palau and spend the days kayaking, snorkeling, exploring and diving.

BLD / ON LIVEABOARD

**DAY 9 - FINAL DAY** Trip Concludes.

#### **OCTOBER 31ST (2026) DEPARTURE**

#### **DAY 1 - ARRIVE TO KOROR** Arrive in Koror and transfer to the Palau Siren.

D / ON LIVEABOARD

#### DAY 2 TO 7 - ADVENTURE TIME

Cruise the islands of Palau and spend the days kayaking, snorkeling, exploring and diving.

BLD / ON LIVEABOARD

**DAY 8 - BACK TO KOROR** Overnight in Koror.

#### **DAY 9 - FINAL DAY** Trip Concludes.

## THE LIVEABOARD



#### PALAU SIREN

The Palau Siren is a comfortable 40-metre liveaboard yacht, crafted from ironwood and teak. It accommodates up to 16 guests in eight spacious, air-conditioned cabins, each with an ensuite bathroom.

The vessel features a large dive deck, personal storage, and dedicated rinse tanks for scuba and camera gear.

Enjoy meals in the outdoor dining area or relax in the airconditioned lounge, complete with a bar and large flatscreen TV.

With additional amenities like kayaks, massage services, and a dedicated camera preparation area, the Palau Siren ensures a comfortable and enjoyable experience for paddlers and divers alike.



# THE CABINS



#### PREMIUM TWIN CABIN

Palau Siren has four fixed twin cabins and two flexible twins which can be converted to double beds.

All cabins are equipped with individually controlled air-conditioning units, offer plenty of storage space as well as en-suite bathrooms with hot water. For added luxury, bathrobes and towels are provided.

Deck: Lower Deck Bedding: Twin and/or double Max. occupancy: 2 Ensuite: Yes Air-conditioning: Yes No. of cabins: 6



#### PREMIUM DOUBLE CABIN

Palau Siren has two fixed double bed cabins located at the bow which are fitted with individually controlled air-conditioning units, offer plenty of storage space as well as en-suite bathrooms with hot water.

For added luxury, bathrobes and towels are provided.

Deck: Lower Deck Bedding: Double Max. occupancy: 2 Ensuite: Yes Air-conditioning: Yes No. of cabins: 2

# SEA KAYAKING

Palau is a premier sea kayaking destination, offering endless spectacular kayaking routes through some of the clearest waters and most stunning islands on earth. Kayakers can explore the intricate waterways of the Rock Islands, paddle over teeming coral reefs, and venture into hidden caves and dramatic blue holes. The rich marine life, from colorful corals to schools of tropical fish, provides incredible snorkeling opportunities when you need a rest from paddling.

A typical paddling day comprises of approximately four to six hours of kayaking over two outings plus additional time spent snorkeling or diving throughout the day. We will often use the liveaboard tenders to transport us at the beginning or end of each paddling outing, ensuring you maximiZe your opportunities. An average paddling distance per day is around 12-18 kms. Palau promises an unforgettable experience for both novice and experienced kayakers. We will be paddling in tropical conditions and humidity is generally high. We ask that all participants feel confident in swimming and snorkeling.

Sea kayaking is an activity that any reasonably fit person can participate in and could be compared to brisk walking or cycling. The kayaks are stable, easy to paddle, control and ideally suited for this remote trip. Your trip leader is a highly experienced sea kayaker and professional wilderness guide. On Day 2 you will be given a thorough briefing on all aspects of sea kayaking techniques with ample time to practice and familiariZe yourself with the kayaks.

In general, the fitter you are, the more you will enjoy the paddling and it's a good idea to begin some regular exercise like brisk walking, running, cycling, gym classes or swimming well before the trip. If you have not paddled recently, we highly recommend some practice before your trip and we may be able to suggest a local operator for kayak hire and/or tuition near your home.



# SCUBA DIVING

Palau is considered one of the most spectacular scuba diving holiday destinations on earth, with over 60 amazing dive sites and visibility averaging around 30 metres. In addition to the now world famous wrecks from World War II, there are a variety of stunning reefs, canyons, caves, drop offs and blue holes to get excited about.

Due to strong currents, encounters with mantas are the norm, and the amazing biodiversity of corals and smaller fish will top off your Palaul liveaboard diving experience. You will have the option to dive up to 4 times per day.



### MEET YOUR GUIDES

Bringing an expedition like the Palau Kayak & Dive Adventure to life takes a worldclass team. That's why we've partnered with Southern Sea Ventures and Master Liveaboards to make this journey possible.

Founded in 1988 and based in Tasmania, **Southern Sea Ventures** is a globally recognized leader in multi-day sea kayaking expeditions. With a passion for adventure and exploration, they have spent decades guiding paddlers through some of the world's most remote and iconic destinations. Their expert team ensures a seamless and immersive experience, balancing safety, comfort, and a true spirit of discovery.

The Palau Siren, operated by **Master Liveaboards**, is the ultimate vessel for a Kayak & Dive Expedition in Palau. Launched in 2012 and handcrafted from ironwood and teak on the Indonesian island of Sulawesi, this 40m liveaboard was built by divers, for divers–ensuring both comfort and functionality at every turn. Welcoming just 16 guests, the Palau Siren offers spacious double-occupancy cabins with air conditioning and ensuite bathrooms, creating a relaxed and intimate atmosphere.

Designed for seamless exploration above and below the water, the expansive dive deck provides ample storage, rinse tanks, and fresh water showers, while the shaded skiffs allow easy access to Palau's legendary reefs and hidden lagoons.





# THINGS TO KNOW

#### **HOW TO GET THERE**

The trip itinerary is based around the Qantas Airlines direct flights between Brisbane (Queensland, Australia) and Koror in Palau. The flights operate weekly, departing Brisbane on a Saturday afternoon at 12.30pm and arriving into Palau International Airport at 5.30pm that same evening. On the return, the flight departs Palau early Sunday morning at 9am, arriving into Brisbane at 3.45pm. The flight is six hours in length. Palau is one hour behind Brisbane (Queensland time).

See the Qantas website for details and bookings: https://www.qantas. com.au

Other airlines that fly to Palau are Air China from Taipei, United Airlines from Manila/Guam and Air Palau Airlines via Singapore.

#### CLIMATE

Palau is 7 degrees north of the equator and enjoys a warm tropical climate all year round with temperatures averaging around 27°C (82°F). As a tropical island nation, Palau is subject to rainfall throughout the year but more frequently between July and October. However, diving is excellent year-round with the high season considered to be November through May.

#### INSURANCE

It is necessary to take out a personal insurance policy to cover yourself against sickness (including Covid-19 infection), accident, loss of baggage, trip cancellation due to weather or other reasons, and in the unlikely event that you need emergency evacuation by plane or helicopter due to illness or accident. Ensure you have read the policy thoroughly and are familiar with the claim process in case it becomes necessary to make an emergency claim. We will require proof of your insurance prior to departure. Please note, if you're planning to cruise or scuba dive, make sure your travel insurance includes these activities.

#### TIME ZONE

Palau is an hour behind Australian Eastern Standard time, three hours behind New Zealand and 16 hours ahead of Los Angeles time.

#### **MONEY MATTERS**

The official currency of the Republic of Palau is the US Dollar. The majority of established hotels, shops and restaurants accept Visa and Mastercard credit cards. Occasionally, smaller family-run businesses will only accept cash.

There are several U.S. operated banks and plenty of ATMs in Palau, making cash readily accessible. However, the exchange rate used in banks and ATMs is not very favorable, so we advise obtaining USD cash before arrival in Palau.

#### SUNSCREENS

On 1st January 2020, the Republic of Palau introduced a complete ban on sunscreens which contain ingredients that are known to be environmentally toxic. Please use only Reef Friendly sunscreens that do not contain any parabens, triclosan, trilocarban or phenoxyethanol.

We also suggest long-sleeve rash guards / full-length skinsuits, hats, sunglasses, lightweight protective clothing (e.g. long-sleeved tops, full-length dresses, skirts, trousers) and utilizing shade as an easy and environmentally friendly ways to further protect yourself.

#### HEALTH

Healthcare facilities are readily available in Palau but are not free. The Belau National Hospital is a professionally staffed hospital with an experienced barotrauma team for scuba divers. It is located in the capital city of Koror, along with several other private health clinics.

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 at least 4 weeks before departure for up-todate medical travel advice and vaccination requirements.

When on land, we recommend guests take normal precautions with food and be sure to drink bottled water only to prevent any stomach upsets. Please also be sure to use insect repellent and cover exposed skin to reduce the risk of insect-borne diseases.

#### LANGUAGE AND RELIGION

Palauan and English are the official languages of the Republic of Palau and both are widely spoken. Tagalog (Filipino), Japanese and Mandarin are also quite common.

The population is predominantly Christian - with 70% following either the Roman Catholic or Protestant faiths. Modekngei is a mix of Christianity and ancient Palauan customs practised by around 10% of the population. Islam and Judaism are also found in Palau.

#### COMMUNICATIONS

Mobile phone coverage in Palau is with PNCC (Palau National Communications Company) which may not be compatible with the majority of international mobile network providers. While some phone carriers say they are compatible with Palau, in reality, many are not.

Data only visitor SIM cards can be purchased from the PNCC offices in Koror, which are open Monday to Friday from 8am to 4pm.

#### PASSPORTS, VISA AND PERMITS

At the time of writing, a free visitor visa for up to 30 days is available on arrival for Australian, New Zealand, Canada, Europe and UK passport holders. US citizens receive a 12 month stay. A requirement for the visa is a return or onward ticket and at least six months validity remaining on your passport. For other passport holders please check with your closest Palauan embassy or consulate.

Additionally, visitors are required to complete an online Palau Entry Form, up to 72 hours prior to arrival. Be alert to scams, there is no charge for this form. Upon arrival, all visitors must sign the Palau Pledge which is stamped into your passport. All visitors must read the pledge and sign their name, committing to making an effort to protect the country's natural environment and preserve local traditions for generations to come. This is a world-first initiative that requires all visitors to the region.

#### **ESSENTIAL ITEMS**

- A wide brimmed hat for protection from the sun is essential. Visors are inadequate. A hat with a stiff brim that will hold rigid in a breeze, e.g. straw hat with a strap to put under your chin is good. A scarf made from a light material like silk to protect your neck can be useful too.
- Sun-glasses with a cord to prevent them from falling into the water. Side flaps are a good idea.
- Light weight rain jacket or spray jacket.
- One long sleeve lightweight synthetic shirt. This
- is highly recommended for sun protection while paddling. Cotton is not very suitable for paddling as it gets stiff with salt and can irritate the skin. A lightweight capilene or polypropylene top may be suitable.

- Two or three T-shirts.
- An additional long sleeve lycra sun top for snorkelling. Although there are no dangerous marine stingers, some jellyfish may cause irritation. Swimming leggings (combined with your long sleeve lycra top) or a stinger suit is highly recommended. Also effective for sunburn protection.
- One pair of light-weight, full length trousers and shirt with long sleeves to wear during the evenings for mosquito protection.
- Two pairs of shorts and swimwear. Please note that men's speedos are not culturally accepted, please wear board shorts.
- Sarong (this can be used as cover-up in villages).
- One pair of Reef shoes for paddling, Crocs, Tevas or Keens (not thongs).
- Running shoes or lightweight hiking boots and socks.
- Small swimming towel (a quick drying chamois towel is ideal).
- A small dry bag to hold items such as sun screen, glasses, water bottle, etc. (try and avoid day packs with metal zips as they will corrode).
- Minimal toiletries (environmentally friendly). One double walled drink bottle, 750ml or larger. Phone charger with adaptor (two round prongs). A small, fold up day pack is useful for hikes.
- Scuba dive gear is available for hire on the boat, or bring your own. Really keen divers might like to bring a small but bright waterproof torch for night outings.
- Snorkelling gear can be hired on board, however, to save money and for a better fit, you should bring your own.
- Paddling gloves

#### DELAYS OR PROBLEMS

In case of any last minute delays or complications, please contact your guide on the number noted on your final itinerary. Otherwise, contact Southern Sea Ventures at ssvtrips@southernseaventures.com

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