



Truk Lagoon, Micronesia



The greatest underwater museum in the world

Dive Highlights

- For those of you with a wreck addiction you will truly get your fix at Truk Lagoon, with over 60 different wrecks to dive
- The shallower depths of many of the wrecks gives extended bottom times. There are also plenty of deeper wrecks for those who like to go deep
- For some variety get a taste of reefs, coral, walls, shark feeding

Quote:

"Folks, it just doesn't get any better than this. If you're serious about wrecks, this is the place."

Bret Gilliam, *Mystical Wrecks of Truk*, Fathoms Magazine

When to Travel

Water temp: average 29C

Visibility: 20-30 metres

Wetsuit: 3mm

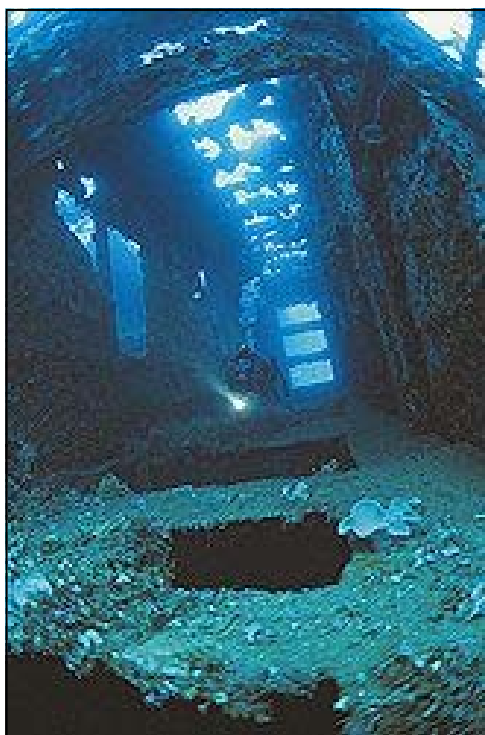
Rainy season: Aug to Nov



Truk Lagoon (Chuuk) is a very special place that has taken a cruel and ugly part of its history and turned it into something beautiful. During WWII Truk Lagoon was a centre of wartime activity. The heritage it left, buried under the sea, has become a haven for coral and fish life. It is a maze of military wrecks waiting to be explored.

Here in this special underwater world you will find every kind of military equipment that you can imagine—ships, submarines, planes, bulldozers, ammunition, cannons, tanks, jeeps, medical supplies ...you get the picture.

Near the end of WWII the US Navy unleashed the full fury of Operation Hailstone on the Japanese



Imperial 4th Fleet stationed in Truk Lagoon. In the blaze of battle, 15 Japanese naval ships, six tankers, 17 cargo ships, and 265 planes disappeared beneath the sea. Some have never been found and are declared MIA—missing in action.

Operation Hailstone was twelve times more powerful than the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour. If you are a wreck lover, this has created a feast of wrecks for you to explore in an area that has been declared a national monument. As you sink down the anchor line beneath the warm blue water, history comes to life in the eerie tranquility. The awe inspiring nature of the wrecks, and the tragedy and violence of their arrival at the bottom of the ocean, jarringly contrasts with the beauty and life that now surrounds them. In their destruction, these wrecks have found the most beautiful of graves.

One of the best features of Truk Lagoon is the accessibility of the wrecks to all levels of diver. Truk Lagoon is a sheltered harbour, relatively free of currents and with good visibility. It is ideal for novice through to experienced and tec divers. The water is warm, clear and shallow. The 40-mile diameter of the lagoon acts like an enormous fish bowl filled with the world's finest wrecks. It is simply the best place for diving wrecks in the world.

A small selection of dive sites:

Shinkoku Maru—a well preserved oil tanker with her main deck at 20 metres, mounted guns, and sailor's personal effects. A wide range of fish life make her their home. The engine room is definitely worth a visit.

Fujikawa Maru—a 132m long aircraft ferry with its deck at only 15 metres. Four of the holds are open for exploration, containing items such as a stripped back fighter plane, guns and ammunition.

First Light Travel Limited

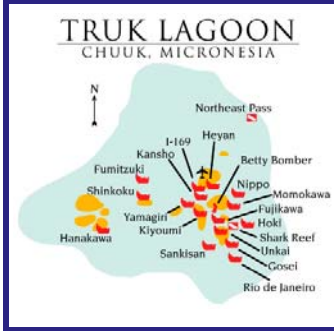
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SPECIAL OFFER: 10% discount in our dive shop when booking travel

Dive sites



PRICE per person

Thorfinn	From US\$1,195 7 nights	
Truk Stop	From US\$1302 8 nights 14 dives	From US\$792 5 nights 8 dives

Package includes

Truk Stop: twin share accommodation in a standard deluxe room, specified number of dives (includes tanks and weights), and airport transfers. Upgraded packages are available and include three dives per day and accommodation in an ocean view room. Full meal plans US\$42. Does not include state diving permit of US\$50.

Prices are subject to change until paid in full. Cancellation policy applies.

Flights

Fly to Guam, then onto Truk (Chuuk) with Continental Airlines. We will quote for airfares separate to the package price, allowing us to secure you cheaper flights if available.

Travel insurance

Travel insurance is strongly recommended. Please ask for a quote and policy details.

This is one of the most beautiful wrecks in the area, with a wealth of soft coral and colourful fish.

Heian Maru—at 155 metres long, this is the largest ship in the lagoon. Once a passenger ship it was converted into a submarine depot ship and still contains periscopes and torpedoes.

Submarine I-169—this sub had previously participated in the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour. During the air raid of Operation Hailstone, I-169 submerged to avoid being bombed. In its haste, the valves were not closed, flooding the control room and causing it to sink. In 1973 a dive rescue team reclaimed the skeletons of the hundred men who tragically died on board.

Nippon Maru—check out the wheelhouse for a great photo stop. This is a deeper dive and dives are limited to the bridge and deck areas.

San Francisco Maru—lying upright at a depth of 48m to 60m, this medium sized freighter carried military equipment. Loaded with so much war material, it is often nicknamed 'the Million Dollar Wreck'. You will also find the bow gun, ship's bell, and an open safe.

The Sankisan—appropriately named, it sank to become a beautiful wreck covered in coral, with trucks still tied to the deck.

Amongst the wrecks you will find more than 800 species of marine life, and 300 varieties of hard and soft coral. The outer reefs offer a change from the wrecks with peaks, caves, walls, and dropoffs covered in a profusion of hard and soft coral, fish, and pelagics.

Accommodation:

Truk Stop Hotel is in a majestic setting on Truk Lagoon. It is an easy walk to stores, markets, and other activities on Weno Island. All rooms have airconditioning, private balconies, and refrigerator. On-site is the Hard Wreck Café & Bar, the



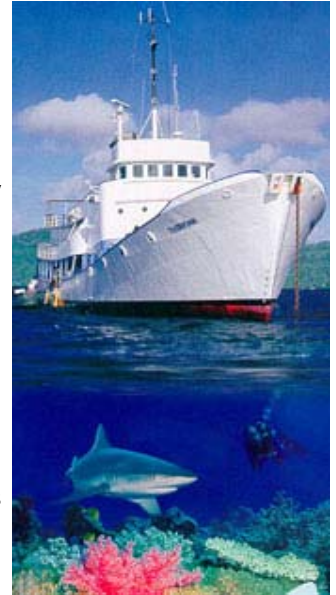
premier watering hole in Truk. Your dive operator is Truk Lagoon Dive Centre, who are also onsite. They are tec-friendly and have nitrox and trimix available.

Note that Truk is not a place for overly fussy people, and there are not a lot of activities for non-divers. It is in a beautiful setting on the lagoon, but is somewhere to go for the diving rather than to be a tourist.

Thorfinn Liveaboard:

Truk is a great place for a liveaboard, allowing you to do more diving and to explore further into the outer reefs.

The Thorfinn is well known for giving you the most flexible diving in Truk. You will have the opportunity to explore 30 wrecks over six days, with five daily dive sites. The use of four dive launches to take divers to different wrecks simultaneously ensures no more than six divers are put on a wreck at a time. It also means you can dive with people of similar abilities and interests. Nitrox is available on-board.



The ship has 11 superior airconditioned state-rooms with private facilities, a spacious deck with hot tub, state of the art entertainment centre, and gourmet a la carte dining. With a crew of 21, you are assured of safety and comfort.

Add ons:

While you're in Truk, you're a short plane flight to some other Micronesian dive hot spots—Yap and Palau, which are definitely worth spending some time in.

In Yap you can visit giant Pacific manta ray cleaning stations, drift dive along reef walls, caverns and swim throughs, and stay at the famous Manta Ray Bay Hotel.

The Palau Archipelago was named the number one underwater wonder of the world by a group of marine scientists and conservationists. There are landlocked lakes accessed through tunnels, WWII wrecks, spectacular wall dives, and reefs.



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