



# Palau, Micronesia

## Map



## Dive Highlights

- An amazing abundance of marine life, huge schools of fish, and pulse pounding shark action
- Exciting full on drift dives
- Reefs, coral, wrecks, caverns round out the picture
- The stunning Rock Islands surrounded by beautifully clear, warm water
- The Palau Archipelago has been named the number one underwater wonder of the world by a group of marine scientists and conservationists

## When to Travel

- Anytime is good for a visit to Palau
- Best diving is November to May, and this is the dry season
- January and February there is more spawning activity and there tend to be more Manta Rays
- Same warm temperature year round, rains any time of year
- Rainy season June to October. Brief patches of rain most days.
- February and March is peak tourist season and very busy

## First Light Travel Limited

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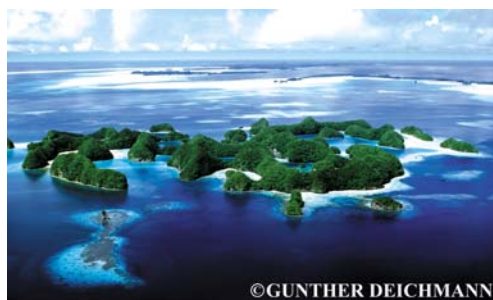
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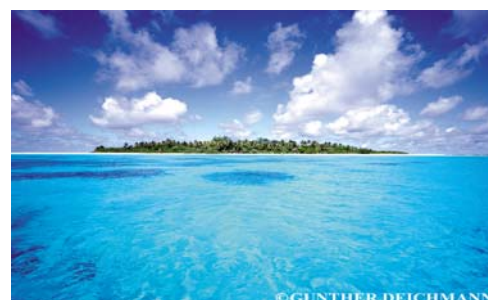
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## The dive destination with it all



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Palau is breathtaking above and below water. An archipelago of more than 300 islands, it lies in the southwest of Micronesia. The Rock Islands are their special jewel, a group of lush green limestone outcrops appearing to float on the sparkling blue water. Palau is a place of natural beauty, with jungle clad mountains, waterfalls, atolls, marine lakes, and a huge barrier reef.

The magic continues underwater—wrecks, tropical fish, big fish, exotic marine life, reefs, coral, walls, drop offs, caves, drift dives—all delivered in the warmest, clearest of water. There is a wide diversity of diving, but it is perhaps best known for its spectacular wall diving and drop offs. Three major ocean currents converge here bringing with them a wide variety of marine life and big fish. Palau more than deserves its title of one of the seven Underwater Wonders of the World.

### A selection of dive sites:

We dive with Sam's Dive Tours, widely regarded for their high quality service. Nitrox is free if you are a PADI-certified nitrox diver.

**Blue Corner:** the most famous and highly rated dive site in Micronesia. The reef juts out into the deep blue, and the current races over the top of the point bringing with it hordes of reef

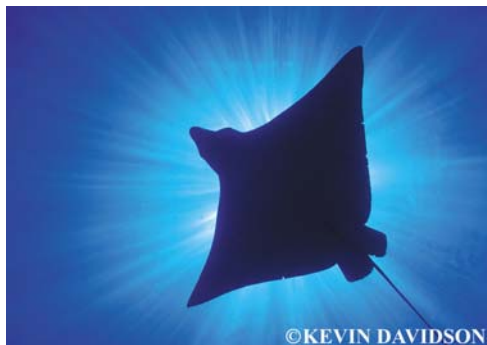
sharks and schools of large fish. The term drift dive sounds too leisurely for what you'll often experience here. When it's time for a break, hook yourself onto the reef with a specialised reef hook and watch the action fly by. Hang out and relax for ten minutes, and the sharks will get used to having you around and get a bit closer.

**German Channel:** at the mouth of this manmade channel you will find a manta ray cleaning station, where cleaner wrasses wait to pick parasites off these amazing creatures. The rays glide and swoop over your head as they pass by. Plenty of other fish hang around while you wait for the mantas to appear. Best time to see them is December to March.

**Blue Holes:** four amazing huge holes drop through the reef and into a large underwater cavern at 24



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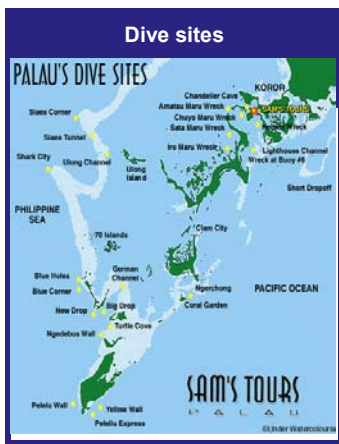


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**SPECIAL OFFER: 10% discount in our dive shop when booking travel**



PRICE per person US\$	7 nights 10 dives
Palau Pacific—Gardenview	Low season US\$1,680 High season US\$1,834
Carolines—Bungalow	US\$1,390
Sunrise Villa	US\$1,158

**Package includes**

7 nights accommodation, 5 days diving, tanks and weights, one day's kayaking the Rock Islands, airport and hotel transfers, breakfast, lunch on all tours, hotel tax and service charges. Prices will differ if requesting a single room, and if there is a non-diving partner.

Enquire about the "Ultimate Palau Escape" for groups of six or more.

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

**Flights**

Fly to Cairns, and then onto Guam. Flights leave from Guam to Palau three times a week, with a free stopover in Yap.

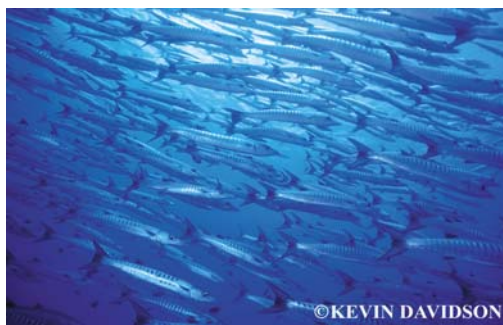
We will quote for airfares above the package price, allowing us to secure you cheaper flights when available.

**Travel insurance**

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



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to 40m. On a sunny day, shafts of sunlight will penetrate to the bottom. Take your time to explore the cavern, whip and cup coral, reef fish and pelagics. Exit through a hole in the cavern wall, and you are into a wall dive.

**Big Dropoff:** an absolutely beautiful wall dive with spectacular coral and tropical fish. Jacques Costeau considered this to be one of the best dives in the world.

**Peleliu Wall:** time it right and you'll get to spot some big fish action. But even if you don't you won't go home disappointed with the spectacular coral and wealth of fish life on offer here.

**New Dropoff:** an exciting ride for adrenalin junkies. This is a fast drift dive showcasing corals and sea fans, sharks, or Napoleon wrasse. On any given day you could spot almost anything here.

**Siaes Corner:** take a drift dive through schools of fish, past walls of soft coral, and over the Marianas Trench, a perfectly clear deep blue abyss.

**Ulong Channel:** your own underwater roller coaster ride. Use your fins to keep centred as the current zooms you over huge lettuce coral, and past walls of sea fans and soft coral, then spits you out 20 minutes later at Predator Point. In this lagoon, reef sharks lie in wait for the schools of fish that pass through the channel.

**The Iro:** deservedly the most famous wreck in Palau (of which there are more than 50). It is a 145m long freighter, weighing 14,050 ton, sunk by American bombers near the end of WWII at a depth of 8 to 27m.

**Dive experience:**

Some of the better dives are drift dives on the outer reef with deep drop offs to 1500 metres. For these dives we would recommend you are an intermediate to advanced diver. There are a lot of other dives within the archipelago that are just as spectacular and suitable for novice divers. Dive guides will find dive sites suitable for your level of experience.

**Accommodation:**

Palau Pacific Resort is the only hotel in Palau with a beach. It is truly special and offers first class accommodation in a full service resort setting.



Watch fabulous sunsets from the resort's own private beach or poolside bar.

The Carolines Resort is a secluded property with eight private, cozy bungalows. The Palauan style bungalows are set into the side of a hill and overlook the ocean. Sunset views are magnificent. Perfect for a romantic get away.

Sunrise Villa Hotel is a nice property with 21 rooms, all of which have a nice ocean view. Facilities include a swimming pool, hot tub, restaurant, and bar.

**Other things to do:**

- Jellyfish Lake: an inland saltwater lake where you can snorkel with oodles of jellyfish. Over the thousands of years that they have been locked in this lake, the jellyfish have lost their ability to sting. Find out what it's like to snorkel in a lake of jelly.
- During WWII, Palau was a Japanese fortress, and a tour of Peleliu is an unmissable piece of history. The US Marines launched an amphibious assault against an entrenched Japanese army, and the battlefield is still so filled with relics that it almost comes to life.
- Visit the aquarium in Koror.
- Take a boat trip through the Rock Islands and stop and picnic on one of their pristine white sand beaches.
- Take a kayak tour around Palau's network of marine lakes, tunnels, caverns, and tropical beaches.

Palau has a friendly, modern attitude and in the main town of Koror you will find plenty of activity, high quality restaurants, and shops. It is hot and humid year round.



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