# Palau Islands

# **Trip Information**

Embarkation: Sam's Tours Palau, Koror

Disembarkation: Sam's Tours Palau, Koror

Arrival Airport: Koror (ROR)

Departure Airport: Koror (ROR)

## Flights, Hotels, Transfers and Excursions

Travelling within the Republic of 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 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 transfers though you will need to confirm your departure transfer times on check-in. Embarkation is at Sam's Tours at 18:00pm on 7 & 10 night trips; and 01:30am on 6 night trips. Disembarkation is also at Sam's Tours at 10:00am on 7 & 10 night trips; at 16:00pm on 6 night trips.

## **Advice on International Flights**

Even though Palau seems pretty remote, there are multiple international flight routes into Koror, Palau. United Airlines operates direct flights from Guam 6x per 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 per week. Air China operates direct flights from Taipei and Korean Airlines have scheduled flights from Incheon, South Korea. Delta Airlines serves Palau four times per week from Narita, Japan.

## **Optional Pre/Post Cruise Package**

Upon arrival into Koror you will be met by a hotel or Sam's Tours Palau representative and transferred to your choice of one of Palau's variety of resorts or hotels. Spend 2-5 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. Package includes:

Up to 5 nights of accommodation

Transfers within Koror

One of several additional excursions outlined below

# **Excursion Examples**

## 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.

#### 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.

#### **Travel & Diving 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.

Please note that *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 and can offer you a selection of competitively priced dive and travel insurance policies, including short term and multiple trip policies.

We recommend the comprehensive insurance plan Dive & Travel Plus; 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.

# 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 – Environmental Impact Fees

The government of Palau is due to implement a new Environmental Impact Fee (EIF) in Palau that is to be implemented as law on April 1, 2017. However, the process is still not resolved due to the fact that there are concerns locally about implementing the increased fee and so rumours suggest that it will be postponed for up to a year.

However, until officially confirmed from government entities, and to be on the safe side, we would suggest that all guests travelling to Palau with a departure from April 1, 2017 onwards to be prepared to pay the new US\$100 per person Environmental Impact Fee and to have this in cash available unless we notify otherwise in the meantime.

It is presently unclear whether the EIF will be collected upon arrival or departure, so please be prepared either way. Once implemented, the \$100 EIF will entirely replace the current combined Green Fee & Departure Tax of \$50.

#### 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. Please 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. Modekngei 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.

#### **Clothing and Footwear**

Dress on board our yachts is very casual and most guests feel comfortable in little more than swim wear, shorts and t-shirts. A sweater is advised for cooler nights, particularly after multiple dives. Each Siren Fleet yacht is equipped with laundry facilities and our housekeeper is more than happy to launder your clothes during the trip. A nominal fee of 0.50 Euro 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 walking bare feet on board the yacht; 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. Guests are kindly requested to refrain from smoking in the outdoor dining areas during meal times.



#### **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. We have three packages available and you can **save now** by pre-booking your packages before even leaving for your trip.

200Mb package : \$50 \$42.50 pre-booking special

500Mb package : \$100 \$85 pre-booking special

1Gb package : \$150 \$127.50 pre-booking special

Please note that prior to boarding you are strongly recommended to manage your device settings to ensure that your data traffic is being used for processes such as application updates, file downloads, and so on. Kindly note: unlike fibre 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.

Built by divers for divers FIJI · INDONESIA · PALAU · PHILIPPINES

# Payments on Board

#### **Marine and Port Fees**

The marine park and port fees are dependent on trip duration and must be paid on board prior to departure:

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 luxury 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 Thai style or Oil Relaxation 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 are also able to accept payment by credit card (Mastercard or Visa) for which there is a 3.5% 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 of 5€ per day. ●

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 <u>special wreck diving itineraries</u>. 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 upto-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 flight.

#### **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 and can offer you a selection of competitively priced dive and travel insurance policies, including short term and multiple trip

policies. We recommend the comprehensive insurance plan Dive & Travel Plus; 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.

# **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.

# What to Bring

Below you will find a check list of items that are required to bring with you on your cruise on a Siren Fleet Liveaboard yacht:

# Passport

6 month validity & at least 2 empty pages for visa stickers and stamps

## **Travel Documents**

Flight tickets- International & Domestic; hotel bookings; excursions

# **Cash & Credit Card for emergencies**

Recommended amount (additional to park & port fees) - USD \$ 300-400

Airport Departure Tax in cash - USD\$ 50

# **Diving Certification & Logbook**

Including Nitrox Card if certified & intending to use Nitrox

# **Travel and Diving Insurance Documents**

To include in case of emergency medical evacuation

# **Essential Diving Items**

Dive computer with full batteries

## **Toiletries & Medications**

Including sunscreen & insect repellent

Inform booking team of pre-existing medical conditions

# **Essential Clothing Items**

Swim wear, hat and lightweight jacket

Guests are strongly advised to carry essential items in their hand luggage in case of lost or delayed luggage through international or domestic flights.

# Palau Islands, Wrecks

# **Trip Information**

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Up to 5 nights of accommodation

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One of several additional excursions outlined below

#### **Excursion Examples**

#### Palau – 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.

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#### Palau on Land

Palau has a very rich history, which can be experienced in numerous different tours. These include: visit to ancient Palauan remains, a Bai (traditional meeting house for men), hike the Japanese Bauxite Mining area at Ngardmau Waterfall. You could also take a boat ride out to Peleliu Islands to 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.

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#### Language and Religion

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#### **Climate and Weather**

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#### 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.

#### **Clothing and Footwear**

Dress on board our yachts is very casual and most guests feel comfortable in little more than swim wear, shorts and t-shirts. A sweater is advised for cooler nights, particularly after multiple dives. Each Siren Fleet yacht is equipped with laundry facilities and our housekeeper is more than happy to launder your clothes during the trip. A nominal fee of 0.50 Euro 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 walking bare feet on board the yacht; 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. Guests are kindly requested to refrain from smoking in the outdoor dining areas during meal times.

# Safety on Board

#### **Emergency Management**

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.

#### **Emergency Equipment**

Each yacht is equipped with modern safety features such as automated life rafts, EPIRB, satellite communication and emergency pumps. All guests will be offered the optional rental of a Nautilus Lifeline, which can be used to communicate your location to the yacht or coast guard, in the unlikely event you find yourself drifting away from either the group or the boat.

#### 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.

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200Mb package : <del>\$50</del> \$42.50 pre-booking special 500Mb package : <del>\$100</del> \$85 pre-booking special 1Gb package : <del>\$150</del> \$127.50 pre-booking special

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# Payments on Board

#### **Marine and Port Fees**

The marine park and port fees are dependent on trip duration and must be paid on board prior to departure:

6/7 nights Palau Islands – 155 Euro per person

10 nights Palau Islands – 210 Euro per person

## **Optional Extras**

Siren Fleet yachts offer a range of services to make your luxury 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 Thai style or Oil Relaxation Massage

Wine (750ml bottle)

Selection of Spirits and Cocktails

Laundry

**Dive Courses** 

Torch & Dive Computer Rental

Exclusive Siren Fleet Merchandise; T-shirts, polo shirts, rash guards, caps, nudi

pointer, cargo shorts, etc.

All prices on board are quoted in Euros, however we are happy to accept cash payment in GBP, USD, NZD, and AUD as well. We are also able to accept payment by credit card (Mastercard or Visa) for which there is a 3.5% 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

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# **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.

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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 of 5€ per day. ●

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**

The Palau Siren is equipped for the re-breather diver. 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 and can offer you a selection of competitively priced dive and travel insurance policies, including short term and multiple

trip policies. We recommend the comprehensive insurance plan Dive & Travel Plus; 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.

## **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.

# What to Bring

Below you will find a check list of items that are required to bring with you on your cruise on **a** Siren Fleet yacht:

# Passport

6 month validity & at least 2 empty pages for visa stickers and stamps

# **Travel Documents**

Flight tickets- International & Domestic; hotel bookings; excursions

## **Cash & Credit Card for emergencies**

Recommended amount (additional to park & port fees) – USD \$ 300-400

Airport Departure Tax in cash - USD\$ 50

## **Diving Certification & Logbook**

Including Nitrox Card if certified & intending to use Nitrox

## **Travel and Diving Insurance Documents**

To include in case of emergency medical evacuation

# **Essential Diving Items**

Dive computer with full batteries

## **Toiletries & Medications**

Including sunscreen & insect repellent

Inform booking team of pre-existing medical conditions

## **Essential Clothing Items**

Swim wear, hat and lightweight jacket

Guests are strongly advised to carry essential items in their hand luggage in case of lost or delayed luggage through international or domestic flights.

# Palau, Full/New Moon Spawning with Unique Expeditions

#### **Unique Expeditions**

Siren Fleet are excited to announce that they have teamed up with Paul Collins and Richard Barnden of Sam's Tours Unique Dive Expeditions to offer our guests something truly exceptional in Palau. Divers joining the Palau Siren on these cruises will have a chance to witness one of the most spectacular natural events on earth, the spawning aggregations of the Bumphead Parrotfish and the Red Snapper.

These aggregations of Bumphead Parrotfish (Bolbomeotpon Muricatum) and Red Snapper (Lutjanus Bohar) occur during the new and full moon lunar cycles. Imagine seeing thousands of Bumphead Parrotfish or tens of thousands of Red Snappers in one area, at one particular time each month. Imagine seeing Bull Sharks and Oceanic Blacktips actively hunting within the large school of Red Snapper. It is something only a select few people ever get to witness and you can now be one of them!

In addition to these special aggregation dives, Paul and Richard have pioneered 'Blackwater' diving in Palau. Imagine rolling off the boat in the pitch black of night, sometimes many miles away from the shallow water of the reefs, to watch one of the largest migrations on earth as all manner of weird and wonderful creatures from the depths head closer to the surface to feed. From post larval fish to Cephalopods, many smaller than your finger nail, these amazing dives present some of weirdest creatures you are ever likely to see without a submarine.

During these special Palau Siren trips, Paul and Richard will also deliver a number of presentations about these unique dives. These talks will cover everything from the ecology of these events to the best way to photograph them.

We will split the group into two teams of 8 with Richard and Paul taking only 8 people to these spectacular events each day, thereby maximizing the experience and ensuring that we only observe, not interfere with, this spectacular behavior.

Better yet, for Siren Fleet guests there is no additional charge for this extraordinary adventure! Please note, however, that these dives are only for the experienced divers as there can often be very strong currents at the sites where the action is happening.

#### About Paul & Richard

Paul Collins, who holds a Master's Degree in Marine Science, has spent the last 4 years studying the full and new moon cycles and their effect on the marine life, establishing where and when they occur on the reefs in Palau.

Together with his photo-pro partner, Richard Barnden, they have worked with Sam's Tours Palau to set up Unique Dive Expeditions. This company focuses on bringing divers to the right place, at the right moment, so they can also witness these spectacular events.

Richard has published many articles on the marine life in Palau and Paul, an award winning cameraman himself, having worked for the BBC, CNN and many other world class production companies. Most certainly, you can learn a lot from the knowledge of these two experts; not only of the marine life but also how to get that once in a lifetime shot!!

#### Unique Expeditions Cruises are available on the following limited

dates:

- 18 November 2016
- 17 December 2016
- 15 February 2017
- 17 May 2017
- 25 July 2017
- 22 November 2017
- 18 January 2018
- 16 February 2018
- 18 May 2018
- 9 November 2018
- 6 December 2018