#### QUIC K KNO WLEG DE...

Amust-re ad for anyo ne heading to the Philip pines and/or So litude One for the first time

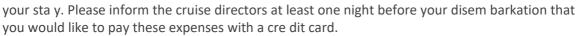
The official **language** of the Phil ppines is Tagalog, but English is also the working language of the country

Time Zo ne: GMT +8

**Climate**: Tropical Cli mate with an annual me an temper ature of 28° C (82°F). Rai n is frequent between the mo nths of July a nd October

Water T emperature , like most tropical coun tries, varies between 27° C and 29°C (  $81^{\circ}F$  -  $84^{\circ}F$ ) with thermo clines due to the ocean trenches that surround the Philippines.

Currency is in Philip pine Pesos (PHP). Credit cards are widely a ccepted in r esorts, hotels and upscale business services. S olitude One also accepts credit card (Visa/Master O nly, Applicable Facility Fee) payments on board for any incidentals incurred during



On land, **electricity and plug so kets** are the same as in the USA (Single phase 6 0 cycles, 220volts AC). Howeve r, universal sockets (EU, USA, AUS, UK, CN, etc) are used on board Solitude One incl ding USB

chargin g outlets (1A mp) – see i mage.

**Duty-Free Allowanc e** -2 bottle s (maximum 1 litre each of alcohol and no mor e than 400 sticks of cigar ettes, 50 cigars or 250g (8. 8 ounces) of tobacco.

**Postal service** is pro vided by PhilPost – ww w.phlpost.gov.ph. Do note th at all inbound items sent by couriers (DHL, FEDe , UPS) or internat ional postal services are subject to C ustoms and Duties. We strongly discourage you fro m sending a nything such as your diving equipment o r accessories to the Phili ppines by courier.

**Diving** – We have E nriched Air N itrox, and s upport sidemount too. Please refer to page 4 for m ore information.





On your **Philippines I mmigration arrival form**, indicate "M V Solitude One" as you r address in the Philippine s.



#### What Do I Need To Pay On Board?

Your cruise package essentially excludes Equipment Rentals, Satellite Communications, EANitrox, Alcohol, Laundry Service, Marine Park Fees & Taxes and Local Barangay (district administration) permits. Marine Park Fees and Local Barangay permits will be collected on check-in. You will pay the other incidental expenses at check-out. **Mode of Payment is in CASH (PHP or USD) or Credit Card Visa/Master Card** (Online with Applicable Facility Fee). An overview of some of the regions' fees (subject to change)

- ★ Tubbataha Marine Park Fee: 5000PHP per person
- Sumilon Island: 350PHP per person (500PHP if using photo/video equipment)
- ★ Apo Island (off Dumaguete): 500PHP per person/per day

Applicable fees are dependent on your cruise itinerary if the mentioned region is visited.

## Do we have WIFI? Do you have internet? Yes We Do!

Solitude One provides internet access on board via Satellite using VSAT Services. To access the internet, our guests may pre-purchase data packages and log in via our WIFI Network Hotspot on board.



Available Data Packages are USD20/50Mb, USD40/100Mb, USD70/200Mb and 100USD/300Mb.

You are strongly recommended to manage your device settings (our crew will be able to assist) whilst using satellite internet to ensure that you do not waste precious data traffic, as you can already expect that the charges for satellite internet are significantly costlier than what you would be accustomed to paying for the internet.



# Tips on using satellite internet with your devices

Keep your messages short. Use short hand, or acronyms. A longer message means more data.

Disable Auto-Updates, Auto Sync on your devices.

If your device has such a setting, mark our on board WIFI SSID as metered (or similarly referred to as metered so that your device knows that although you are on WIFI, your data is precious and limited)

Please note that the satellite communications are an additional facility provided by an external source. Solitude is not responsible for any consequences resulting from the use or the lack of use of satellite communications including hardware failure.

As connectivity can be affected by weather and is also reliant on a 3<sup>rd</sup> party service provider (VSAT K-Band), Solitude One, her crew and management are NOT responsible for any inconveniences and/or loss of income, data or information which may arise due to the lack of the service, partially or completely.

#### Phone Calls, SMS and Emails

When out of local mobile signal coverage, Solitude One's on board VSAT satellite communication system will be your only option if the need to make or receive calls is urgently required.

Guests will be charged for all incoming/outgoing calls and messages: US \$3 per 60 seconds block.



Voice Call: **+65 67158903** (even though it is a Singapore land line, the system is still using a VSAT Satellite band to relay the phone calls)

## Local SIM Card? Can I get Mobile Data? Yes, You Can

Pre-Paid SIM cards are easily accessible! In fact, they are available as soon as you exit from the baggage collection at the airport! There are 2 major mobile telecoms providers – GLOBE and SMART. Both are as good as the other in our opinion and both are affordable. Upon purchasing, you can have the sales person advise you and set you up with your chosen package.

That said, mobile data is reliant on the mobile signal of your chosen provider and obviously being out at sea, especially in Tubbataha, you can be sure that there is no mobile signal.

#### **Entertainment**

Our WIFI SSID on board is also used for our media entertainment library (Powered by PLEX Media Server) from which you will be able to stream/download what we have in our library to watch/listen to. Install PLEX app (RECOMMENDED: Android, Windows and IOs) or any popular UPNP media player app that will read/discover DLNA devices and you are all set!

## Do you have Nitrox? Yes, We Have!



Although the standard mix for EAN is 32%, on most dives we have made an educated decision to provide in the proximity of EAN30 instead, to allow a safer M.O.D. EAN 30% would provide some degree of depth buffer if you are caught especially in a down current, but will still allow ample extended length of bottom time (compared to normal air). EANitrox prices are as follows: USD8 per dive OR USD135 for 7 days/6 nights Philippines itinerary, with subsequent additional use USD20 per day.

**DIN or International?** We have both.

#### 15L/100cuft Scuba Cylinders?

Yes we have. It is an additional US \$8 per cylinder per diving day.

#### **Side-mount Diving?**

Additional 12L/80cuft cylinder with air: US \$10 per cylinder per diving day

Additional 12L/80cuft cylinder with EANitrox: US \$28 per cylinder per diving day. Whole trip use of 10% discount applies.

#### **Rebreather Diving? Twins?**

Yes, we do support Rebreather Diving but we do not have Twin-Tanks. Our support is only on oxygen filling (US \$0.06 per litre) with a booster pump on board. Your dive profile must also follow with the other recreational divers in consideration for other guests' comfort and safety. Complete support (including Twin Tank configurations) can be accommodated for full charters. For full charters, profiles are of course not limited to our standard recreational limits. Do note that the price of helium, if required, can be costly.

#### **Drone/UAVs**

Tubbataha Marine Office (since 2016 season) does not allow Drone/UAV flights unless permission is granted. If you would like to bring your drone and fly it in Tubbataha Atoll, you will need to write in to request permission. The contact details of Tubbataha Management Office (TMO) are as follow

Tel/Fax: +63 (48) 434 5759 E-mail: tmo@tubbatahareef.org

\*We are unable to request on your behalf as the responsibility and ownership of the permission, if granted, belongs to the person who requested it and also, TMO may have (very likely) questions to ask the requestor.

\* Do note that there have been reports circulating on internet forums that Drones/UAV may subject to "import duties" by the Philippines Customs authority officers at the airport on arrival. If you would like to avoid such predicament, you should probably not bring your Drone/UAV while travelling into Philippines. For more advice or information, please search on the internet (especially on forums but don't restrict to diving forums).

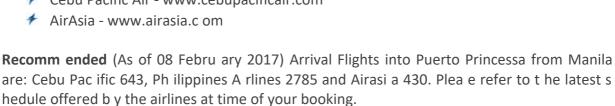
# Princesa (For Tubbat aha Cruise Itinerary)

If you are to arrive n the same day as your cruise embarkation date, the ideal tie to arrive is between 1400Hrs to 1700Hrs.

Puerto Princesa (IA A Code: PP S) is located on the island of Palawan a nd is where the main airport is located, which tran slates to m ultiple airlin es with at least thrice daily flig hts with ea ch airline e specially from Manila or Ceb u (as they are 2 of the main international airports). If you are entering the Philippines via any o ther intern ational air port or sea port, you should also be able to find flights to Puerto Princesa .

The main airlines servicing Puerto Princes a are

- Philippines A irlines/PAL Express www.philipp ineairlines com
- Cebu Pacific Air www.cebupacificair.com



**Recomm ended** (As of 08 Febru ary 2017) Departure flights from Puerto Prin cessa to Manila are: Cebu Pac ific 644, Ph ilippines A rlines 1198 /2786 and Airasia 431. Please refer to the latest schedule offered by the airlines. Please refer to the latest schedule offered by the airlines at time of your b ooking.

Meeting with the Crew on Arrival (between 1400Hr s to 1800Hrs on Embarkation Da y): Once you have picked up your lugga ge and leaving the passenger area to the pub lic area, pl ease look out for t he SOLITUD E LIVEABO ARDS paging board by a member of our Crew (we do no t use 3<sup>rd</sup> party rep resentativ es). In case you do not see our cre w, please c all Gerard Ogang (Solitude Philippines Manager): +63 918 7817056 or the boat directly +65 67158903



#### **Embarkation**

Embarkation starts from 1400hrs. The harbour where Solitude One will be embarking and disembarking is the Puerto Princesa Port (location: https://goo.gl/maps/YCmF3qeCZF62). For guests that are arriving earlier than 1400hrs, the rendezvous location for pick up is Acacia Tree Garden Hotel's restaurant. Identify yourself to the staff of Acacia Tree Garden Hotel as a guest of Solitude waiting for your transfer, and you will be greeted with a welcome drink while you wait for Solitude One's crew.

Our crew will arrive just after 1400hrs at the Acacia Tree Garden Hotel to pick every guest that has been listed to meet at this hotel.

#### Hotel Suggestion in Puerto Princessa

If you are planning to arrive earlier or stay a day later due to flight constraints, here are some suggested hotels (in no particular order)

<u>Acacia Tree Garden Hotel</u> - **Recommended** as it is the pick-up location (besides the airport) at 1400hrs

The Legend hotel Palawan

Blue Lagoon Inn and Suites

Princesa Island Garden Resort Spa

**Hotel Fleuris** 

Grande Vista Hotel

**Empire Suites Hotel** 

Solitude is **unable** to assist in booking hotels. You can book through your dive travel agent or the wide variety of on-line hotel booking websites.

### Special Mention: Manila Airport

The Ninoy Aquino International Airport is a challenging airport to transit. Unlike most international airports, ease of moving between terminals can be an exasperating task in Manila.

Check which terminals in Manila you are arriving in or leaving from.

If you find yourself arriving and needing to switch terminals to catch your domestic flight to Puerto Princesa (or Cebu), here are some options for you:

- 1. **RECOMMENDED** There is a NEW service call the Terminal Transfer Service (Bus). Please ask for directions if you do not see the sign to where you should go to take that transfer bus which is free of charge. This bus though not a short frequent service (30mins interval) is your best way to get to your terminal. Do queue because the bus is limited space missing one will mean a 30 minutes wait. Make sure you ask the warden or bus driver to
- 2. Taxi. Look for the yellow taxi (metered & airport accredited) counter and inform the counter staff that you are going to Terminal 1. Terminal 3 is the furthest from Terminal 1 and, depending on traffic, it can take you between 60mins to 90mins (for what should be a 30minute drive). Terminal 2 is the closest but can also take 30mins to 60mins due to traffic. Depending on traffic and which terminal you are travelling from, your taxi fares

c an vary (yellow taxi m eters are a little more expensive than the reg ular white taxis) but generally it s hould not be more than 250PHP - make sur they have their meter ON! If you are trav elling in gro ups, be pre pared to only fit 2 of ou in one taxi with your luggage.

#### Airpo rt Passenger Te rminal Fees/Ta xes

- ¬ M anila International Ai rport Terminal Fee (550PHP per person);
- ¬ M anila Domestic Airpor t Terminal Fee (250PH P per pers on);
- ¬ Cebu Intern ational Airport Termin al Fee (750 PHP per pe son);
- ¬ Cebu Domes tic Airport Terminal F ee (250PHP per person );
- ¬ Puerto Princessa Airport Terminal Fee (200PH P per pers n).

#### Exces s Check-In Lugg age Ch arges (D omestic Sectors Only)

Most of the Airlines charge in the region of 200PHP p er KG. Please check with the airlines on their res pective we bsites to obtain the m ost current informatio n.