



**PALAU | TO FORGET YOUR WORRIES**

Also known as “The Black Islands,” Palau is made up of eight large islands and some 250 islets, creating an island chain southeast of the Philippines that stretches 125 miles long. This Pacific island nation is one of the world’s greatest scuba diving destinations. The crystal clear water surrounding Palau often has a visibility often exceeding 50 meters.

**DAY 1**

**EN ROUTE**

16:00

Arrive in Palau

*Someone from the resort will meet you at the dock and take you to your ocean front digs.*

16:30

Happy hour on the beach

Stay

PALAU PACIFIC RESORT



**SUGGESTED ROUTE**

Los Angeles [LAX]— Tokyo [NRT]

Tokyo [NRT] — Guam [GUM]

Guam [GUM]— Palau [ROR]

**DAY 2**

**KOROR**

09:00

Breakfast @ Palau Pacific Resort

10:00

City tour with resident expert Tangie Hesus

*Get acquainted with the city from a fourth generation local.*

13:00

Palau Island Waterfall Tours

*Hike down lush mountainsides to catch a glimpse of heavenly waterfall.*

17:00

Sail into Distance

*Watch the sunset & the sky change colors aboard a TO chartered sailboat. Toast*

*Champaign as you sail through placid channels and azure lagoons with the quiet solitude that only sailboats can bring.*

19:00

Sailboat will deliver you to a private dinner on the beach.

Stay

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**DAY 3**

**KOROR**

09:00 Rise & Shine! It's breakfast time.

10:00 Rock Island

*Formed by ancient coral reefs, the bases of these limestone formations have been eroded over millennia into quirky mushroom shapes. Hike through tropical rainforests; snorkel vibrant coral reefs teeming with colorful marine life; swim with Jellyfish Lake; relax on white sandy beaches.*

01:00 Spearfish off the islands & catch your lunch.

16:00 Return to hotel

18:00 BBQ on the beach with the locals

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**DAY 4**

**KOROR**

89:00 Breakfast @ Palau Pacific Resort

09:00 Kayak Risong Bay

*Kayak through small pockets of bays and lagoons, all unreachable by boat or land serve as nurseries for baby sharks, stingrays, and eagle rays. Watch as the little ones hone their hunting and feeding skills before they graduate to the outer reef.*

11:30 Lunch in Koror

12:30 Dolphin Free Dive

*Dive deep into the ocean & swim side-by-side with the dolphins.*

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**DAY 5**

**IN TRANSIT**

09:00 Breakfast on the beach

10:00 Head back to mainland

Tanzania for a safari.





**to: get ready**

Tourist visa are issued for up to 30 days and dispensed on arrival; no need to do anything before you leave, other than dig out your passport. June to August is typically Palau's stormiest period, but when the rain is like bath water it's not much of a hardship. If sun is your focus, the least-rainy months are February and March. Also worth noting: spring is a time of festivals in Palau, making it an interesting time to visit.

**to: pack**

A local I met tidily summed up Palau's weather: "Eighty to 82 year-round. Eighty to 79 when it's raining." T-shirts, shorts, enough bathing suits (average year-round water temp: 82 degrees). Bring something nice to wear, too, as Palauans appreciate a sense of decorum. Wandering through downtown Koror shirtless or in a halter top is frowned upon by the older, more conservative Palauans. This is even truer on the more remote islands.

**to: get there**

Continental has regular flights from the U.S., with daily departures from Guam. Expat yachties offer private sailing charters to take you to the outer islands; there are also liveaboard scuba-dive boats. Plenty of Palauans come into Koror from their outer island homes by boat; hang around the gas docks, offer to chip in for gas, and you might find yourself on a unique trip. Several outfitters offer treks to other islands, most notably Peleliu and Anguar. Sam's Tours, in Koror, is first-rate.

**to: stay there**

Palau has, to date, escaped the Miami Beach look. The Palau Pacific Resort is Koror's most upscale offering, but dozens of smaller—and cheaper—basic hotels, motels, and apartments abound. Other options include the West Plaza Hotel, the Sunrise Villa Resort, and the Carolines Resort.

**to: see and do**

You can dive, snorkel, swim, kayak, and camp overnight on secluded beaches. Touring the famed mushroom-shaped Rock Islands is a must. Get thee also to Jellyfish Lake. Plenty of operators can get you underwater, on the water, and on to the islands. Some of the best: Sam's Tours, Fish 'n Fins, and Neco Marine. For those who want to better understand the cost of freedom, a tour of Peleliu Island, 26 miles southwest of Koror, is a must. Sam's Tours offers Peleliu tours. You can also arrange a special tour with resident expert Tangie Hesus. Almost anyone in Koror will know how to contact Tangie.

**to: eat and drink**

Oriental cuisine is everywhere. The more daring epicurean might want to try fruit bat pie or fruit bat soup.

**to: learn more**

Expatriate author Mandy Etpison has two lovely, well-researched books, *Cultural History and Natural History*. For a good introduction to Micronesia, try William H. Alkire's *An Introduction to the Peoples and Cultures of Micronesia*. On the Web, visit the Palau Visitors Authority at [www.visit-palau.com](http://www.visit-palau.com).