



TRUK LAGOON

Frequently Asked Questions

I really appreciate your interest in wanting to come with us to one of the worlds Diving Meccas - Truk Lagoon. I have tried to detail as many issues as I can in this document. I really hope that the majority of your questions will be answered. If you still have specific questions, please dont hesitate to contact me on petemes@ihug.co.nz

Here are some frequently asked questions about the trip.

Q : What certification do we need to come to Truk with you?

A : Truk lagoon ranges in depths from 10 - 70 meters with the majority of wrecks in the 20-40m range. There are about 20 wrecks that are in the 40-70m range. So really, there are wrecks to match most diving training and experience levels. If you want to dive the deep wrecks anything deeper than 50m you will need to be trimix trained. If you are on a rebreather - you will need the appropriate training and experience on the unit you are diving! So if you are an advanced open water diver then your max depth will be limited to 30m no decompression diving.

Q: Do you only take people on rebreathers on your trips?

A: Absolutely not!! We welcome anyone who has an appetite for world class wreck diving! We carefully allocate conducive divers and their diving experience levels to boats to reduce any frustration. For example we would not put a single tank diver on a technical boat, we would team up all single tank recreational divers so that they can do more frequent dives as opposed to tech divers who will do less dives but much longer bottom times.

Q: Why do you only offer land based pricing packages?

A: The main reason for this is that we have people coming on our trips from all over the world and it is impossible to know where people are flying from. Also these days people like to take advantage of air mile credits etc etc. Flights are also the first to change in price and this can be frustrating for people that get quoted a price, then only to be informed that their trip cost just increased!

What we do is once you inform us of your intent to come to truk we will find out where you are flying from, then work out an appropriate flight plan for

you. That way you can go to your local travel agent and get the flights sorted as soon as you can.

Q: How much is the trip? (2011 prices)

A: LAND ONLY package - US\$2895.00

Q: What does this include?

A:

- 12 full days diving (2dives a day = 24 dive package)
- 13 nights accommodation based on twin share (twin or double) ALL have ocean views, fridge and en suite
- Transfers to and from hotel from the airport in Truk
- Advanced Medical emergency kit
- Onsite Hyperbaric Physician (see note)
- Weight belts and lead
- 2 x Standard cylinder hire OR 2 x sling tanks (These are 80cf aliminum tanks. you will get the use of two if you need them)
- Stage rigging kits on all tanks
- ALL air fills (O2, Helium is extra)
- Any extra nights accom and days diving will incur additional charges.

Q: What is NOT included in the price

A:

- **Oxygen:** us\$0.06c a litre! we have been working very hard to reduce the price of O2.
- **Helium:** us\$0.15c a litre!
- **Rebreather cylinder hire** – us\$10/tank/day (\$240us)
 - We have at considerable expense shipped in 34 sets of rebreather tanks and there is 20 x 3l fabre steel tanks, and 14 x 2l fabre steel tanks. These are us\$10/tank/day (this is us\$240.00 for the trip) (ESSENTIAL that these are booked in advance they are mostly 3l fabre steel inspiration tanks all with the 5/8th DIN fittings NOT the European standard threads.) we will really try and accommodate everyones tank needs. This is paid directly in

US\$ to Pete at the end of the trip. Please ensure you have appropriate amounts of US\$.

- **Sorb** – us\$15/kg this is the 797 grade 1-2mm grade Sofnolime. They are in the 4.5kg tubs and this is purchased per tub. If you book far enough ahead of time we can sort out shipping of specific sorb for your needs but we cant guarantee this. We ship in enough for each trip so it is essential to book to avoid disappointment. This is paid directly in US\$ to Pete at the end of the trip. Please ensure you have appropriate amounts of US\$.
- **ISOLATION Manifolded Twins** hire – us\$15/day It is ESSENTIAL that these are booked in advance. There is STRICTLY limited numbers of tanks. If we need more then I will simply ship more to truk. BUT it must be at least 12- 15 weeks before the dates to ensure that they arrive in time.
- We have really tried to make your lives as easy as possible for the rebreather and technical diver and if you cant be bothered by bringing your own tanks, and sorb we have taken all the hassle out of the equation for you. But you are welcome to bring all your own gear if you prefer this.

Q: Are we limited to dive times?

A: In short - NO! One of my pet hates is having some muppet dive guide telling me that I can only do a 30 minute bottom time at a certain depth and then we must all ascend!!! On all of our trips if you want to do a 4 hour run time - then we plan for it!!!! This is why we take time ensuring that people who go on the right boats (max 6) and are conducive to eachothers training and experience! That way people that are happy doing a 40 minute dive on a wreck wont have to wait 3 hours for others!

Q: What do I need to do to book onto a trip?

A: Simply contact me, Pete Mesley (petemes@ihug.co.nz) for a booking form and I will send one out to you immediately. All we need is a us\$500 deposit to book your spot and kit needs, and the remainder of monies due 10 weeks before the trip dates.

Q: What sort of money do I need to budget for food?

A: Always a hard one! The food is really well priced so with three meals a day, I would probably budget on, say round \$450-\$500us for meals for a 13 night stay.

Q: What about tipping?

A: Being an American based environment tipping is a way of life. What we have done to ease confusion is keep it simple. During your stay, you dont pay for each meal, it is just added to your room bill and you settle it at the end. The same for all your diving needs, gas, etc etc

What we do is recommend that you keep aside us\$100 for the hotel and us \$100 for the diving operation (\$200 in total) for the gratuities. This works well. This is all collected by Pete and handed to the respective managers. You can, of course, give more if you want to.

Q: What about bringing money and paying for things while we are there?

A: As mentioned above, within the resort and dive shop its pretty much a cashless society and you can charge pretty much everything to your room. All food, drinks, extras at the dive store you name it! Then you can just pay in one fowl swoop at the end of the trip. This eliminates the need to pay as you go. If you prefer this this option is always available. The currency in Chuuk is all in US Dollars. It is recommended to taken \$800us cash if you are paying for everything on credit card. But also please bear in mind that you will need \$200 at least for tipping and payment of the sorb and tank hire.

Q: Do I need Medical and Diving Insurance?

A: YES YES YES!!!! unfortunately one of the disadvantages of such great diving is the sheer remoteness of the area! Don't be fooled you will be staying in comfortable accommodation and have great diving but the medical facilities are SPARCE at the best of times. It is mandatory for you to have DAN insurance. There is a chamber in Chuuk (about 5 minutes away from the resort) also but the nearest advanced medical facilities are Guam or most of the time Townsville, Australia. This is why DAN insurance is mandatory. Also please ensure that you have the appropriate insurance policy for the type of diving you will be doing, if you dive deeper than your training and policy limits - you might not get coverage.

Q: Do you have a world class diving hyperbaric physician on all your trips?

A: YES! Because medical facilities are so sparse, we have taken steps to ensure the safety and well being of people on our groups. We have a fully kitted emergency field medic kit on hand exclusively for our groups. ALSO we will have a world class diving hyperbaric physician on all our trips diving with us. So if anyone were to have any problems we have this back up. We also have immediate authorization to treat patients at the chamber so dont need to waste valuable time getting permission to treat the patients. Obviously we prefer to prevent accidents rather than treat them, but we always like to be prepared for most eventuations. But also bear in mind that there is only so much we can carry and offer.

Q: How many different wreck sites could we expect to visit in a day?

A: When I first went to Truk all I could think of was diving as many wrecks a possible - but in the end the reality of the place is you end up seeing 10% of everything and 100% of nothing! There is so much to see there it will take you 10 lifetimes to see it all properly. So for the tech divers, my best

recommendation is to really focus on 2 wrecks a day and what you will find is that you will want to go back to a few wrecks again and again.!! Remember there are 8 ocean liners alone there!!!!!!!

For the recreational divers in our group, we can offer as many dives as you want! Dive times will be significantly shorter than the technical diver groups so this enables you to do more dives in a day. The amount of dives you do will really be limited to your dive fitness. A common number for this sort of diving is 3 a day, but you can do more if you want to (additional costs will occur if you do more than your package states)

Q: Is there anything else to do while in Chuuk between dives?

A: There are a few kayaks that you can take out for a paddle, beach to read a book on, land tours showing war relics etc etc But basically diving is 99.8% of activities in Chuuk!!! The resort has a small fleet of mopeds but just a word of warning here, most injuries while on vacation come from mopeds!!! This is not a place dedicated to focus on activities other than diving so non divers that come will love the tranquility (while everyone is out diving!) and non commercial basis of the island!

Q: How important is it to do some research on the wrecks before we come to Truk?

A: Personally I think that by doing some research on the wrecks before your trip will give you more enjoyment knowing what you are diving. All the sites are fully briefed before you dive them. But without doing some of your own research with the sheer amount of wreck dives you will do all the wrecks fall into either the "morning Maru" or "afternoon Maru"! You will really appreciate the wrecks so much more. You can have a read of the history here <http://petemesley.com/truklagoonhistory.htm> or even better purchase Dan Baileys book WWII Shipwrecks of Truk Lagoon (<http://www.northvalleydiver.com/>) directly from Dans site. This publication is by far the best resource I have ever seen. We have a book that stays in Truk for people to reference too.

Q: Are the tanks DIN or Yoke?

A: We have 34 sets of breather tanks will be 5/8" BSP DIN fittings (standard APD rebreather tanks with NON european threads). there are 20 sets of 3l and 14 x sets of 2l tanks. There are limited amounts of DIN valved stage deco tanks. There are 30 of the larger tanks with DINs. All deco tanks and side slung tanks are 80cf aluminum and rebreather tanks fabre steel 3l or 2l (you MUST let us know what you need and as we would love to accommodate everyone all the time sometimes we might not have the tank size or material you are after) We will just have to do the best we can.

Q: What is the food like at the resort?

A: Food at the Blue lagoon resort is great! There is over 40 main course meals on the menu. The food comes out hot, and in a timely manner, but hey its the

tropics so expect every now and then to get something completely different that you order! It all adds to the mystique of these amazing places. Just embrace the fact that things dont move as fast as you are probably used to back home. Noone to date has had any major problems with food or the water on the island but due care and diligence is always recommended. We have copies of the menu on our site just follow the links www.petemesley.com/truklagoonbiresort.htm . for your interest.

Q: Is there internet on the island?

A: The answer to this question is YES. BLDS has since put in free wireless internet in the lobby and restaurant areas for you to enjoy free internet. Unfortunately they dont stretch to your rooms yet (as of June 2011) but they are working on it. The internet is not super fast but at least you will be able to download your emails. So if you cant leave your business for 2 weeks, want to keep in contact with your family while you are away this makes it really simple and easy.

Q: What power is on the island?

A: All the rooms at BLDS have 110volt US electrical plugs. They also have a 240vlt inverter which is located at reception (for the use of this there is a nominal one time fee of \$5). If you are like me, and have loads of things to charge then what i recommend is bringing a multibox from your part of the world, that way you only need one adaptor to plug it into the wall. Then you can use all your plugs in the multibox!

Q: What if I have some other questions, who do I contact?

A: Pete Mesley petemes@ihug.co.nz or skype: petemes or +64 27 2782250 (New Zealand)