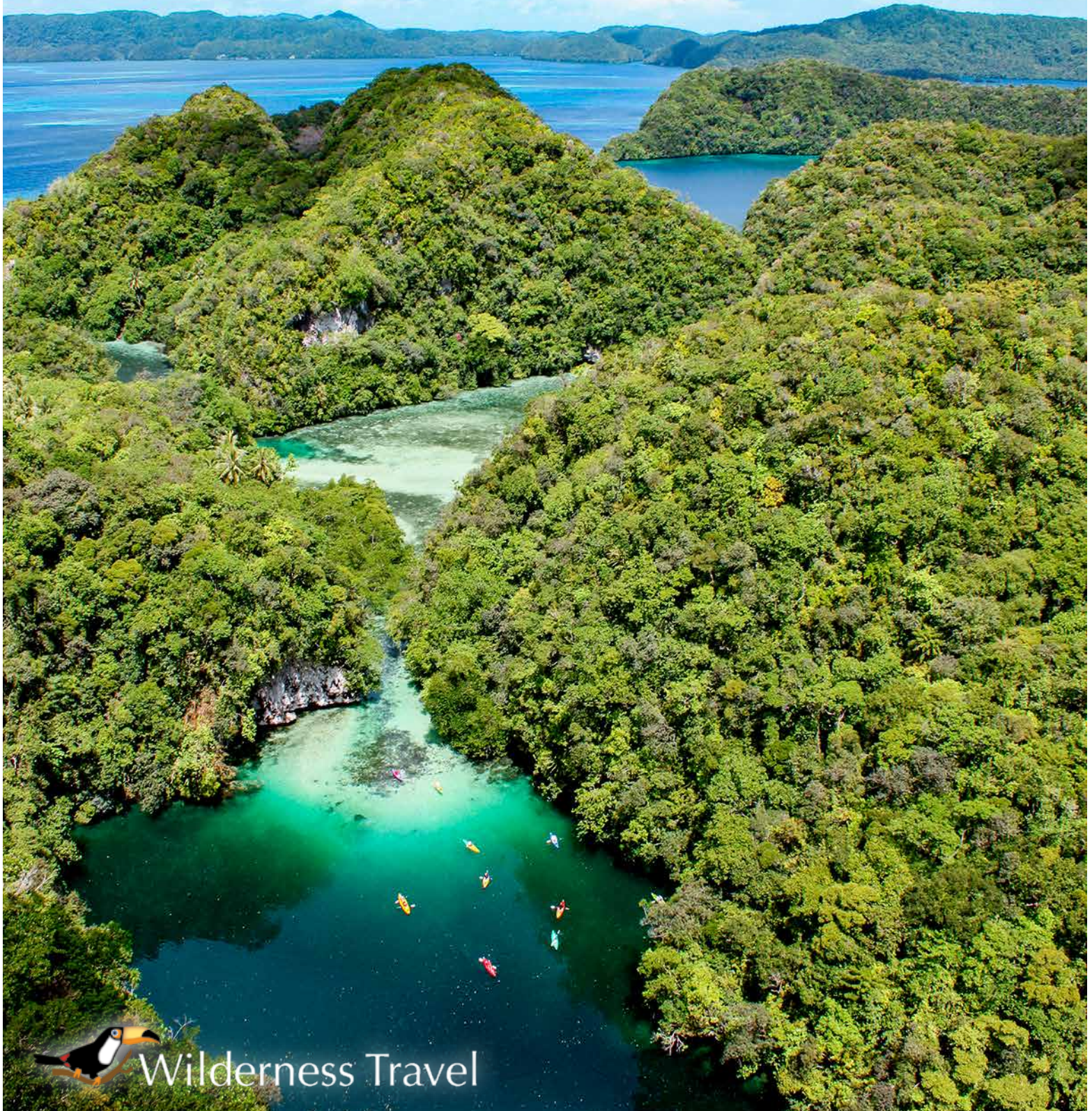


Palau Snorkeling and Sea Kayaking

THE MAGNIFICENT ROCK ISLANDS, PELELIU, AND JELLYFISH LAKE



Wilderness Travel



Palau Snorkeling and Sea Kayaking

TRIP DATES

2024

November 15-24, 2024

2025

January 28-February 6, 2025

February 13-22, 2025

April 15-24, 2025

October 8-17, 2025

November 6-15, 2025

2026

January 19-28, 2026

February 18-27, 2026

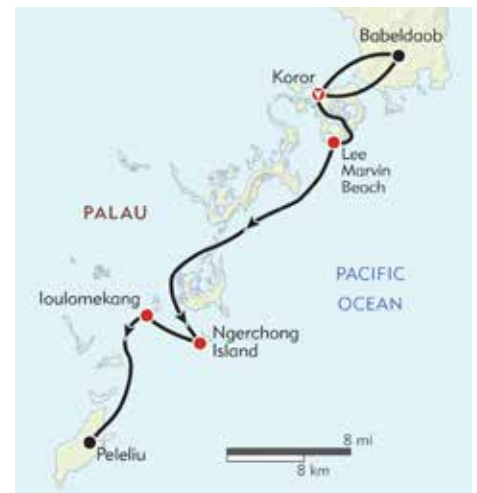
March 19-28, 2026

April 20-29, 2026

October 12-21, 2026

November 10-19, 2026

Enter Palau's aquamarine world of old-growth coral gardens, saltwater waterfalls, and outer-reef "drop-offs" teeming with tropical fish. On this unique WT adventure, our Trip Leaders are natural teachers and Palau's phenomenally scenic Rock Islands provide a stunning backdrop. We'll paddle across the cream-colored waters of the Milky Way Lagoon, kayak beneath mangrove canopies draped with hanging orchids, learn about Palau's rich culture, and even snorkel over the wreck of a Zero fighter plane. Our private beach camps offer special access to this natural history paradise, along with barbecues and crimson sunsets.



What Makes WT's Palau Itinerary Special?



THE CAMPING EXPERIENCE

Camping in comfort in the spectacular Rock Islands is a truly unbeatable way to experience Palau. We have exclusive access to private beach camps, complete with walk-in tents, solar showers, bathroom facilities, and an alfresco dining area. By moving our camps from island to island, we experience more of Palau's beauty without traveling far each day—and our snorkeling sites are often just steps from our camp's beach! With sunset cocktails at dinner and the rhythmic sound of the waves lulling you to sleep in your tent, you will feel truly removed from the outside world.



ITINERARY DESIGN

With over 20 years of experience in Palau, we have perfected every aspect of our itinerary. We carefully plan trip dates around moon and tide cycles so that we visit each reef, marine lake, and waterfall at the ideal time. Each trip explores the lifecycle of local marine life, as we see organisms from their juvenile to adult stages. At the start of our trip, we visit protected shallows that house baby black-tip sharks and juvenile reef fish. Making our way to Palau's famous deep-water "Drop Off" by the end of the trip, we are surrounded by adult versions of these incredible creatures!



EXPERT TRIP LEADERS

Our Trip Leaders grew up in Palau, and they are true experts on these wondrous islands that they call home. Not only will you leave feeling as if you've had a crash course in marine biology, you will also become familiar with Palau's bird life, WWII history, and Micronesian culture.



CUISINE

When you wake up to fresh fruit, eggs, and bacon each morning, you'll forget you're camping on a remote beach! Our picnic-style lunches on postcard-worthy beaches allow for a perfect moment to relax between the days' activities. At the end of the day, enjoy a glass of wine or cold beer, a dinner of fresh fish caught just that morning and a variety of fresh vegetables, all served in our alfresco dining area by our wonderful Palauan camp crew.



LIMITED TO 9 TRAVELERS

Our small group size—a maximum of 9 travelers—means you'll have an intimate and personalized experience both above and below the water. Larger groups can be chaotic (and unsafe in the water) and can often miss the chance to ask your guide questions or see them expertly point out the elusive reef creatures. Your Trip Leader is always nearby on this journey, along with our support boat.

OUR COMMITMENT TO CONSERVATION

WT offsets all carbon emissions for your trip from the time you land to the time you leave. Our partners in Palau maintain several conservation projects and actively lobby Palau's government to implement new initiatives. We are committed to preserving the healthy and biodiverse ecosystem of Palau long into the future!

Wilderness Travel's Palau Itinerary



MAGICAL ROCK ISLANDS

With full days of idyllic kayaking and snorkeling, as well as a scenic flight at the end of the adventure, you'll truly experience all aspects of these majestic, jungle-draped limestone islands, both above and below the water.

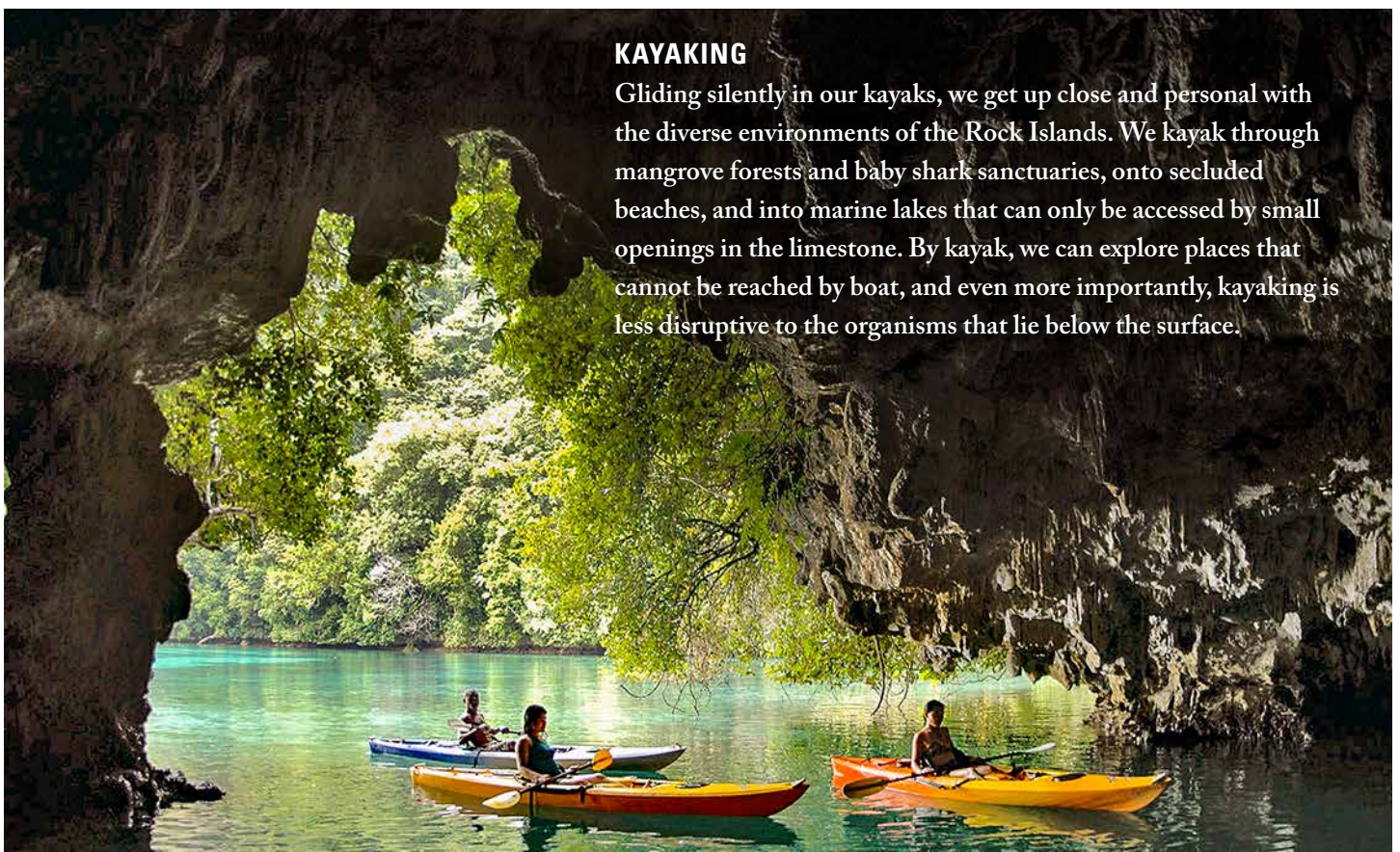
JELLYFISH LAKE

Palau is one of only two places in the world where jellyfish have evolved to be stingless. Although we can't always guarantee sightings because of the fluctuating water temperatures, it's quite the surreal experience to be safely surrounded by a bloom of jellyfish! Contact our Area Specialists for more information about their population this year.



KAYAKING

Gliding silently in our kayaks, we get up close and personal with the diverse environments of the Rock Islands. We kayak through mangrove forests and baby shark sanctuaries, onto secluded beaches, and into marine lakes that can only be accessed by small openings in the limestone. By kayak, we can explore places that cannot be reached by boat, and even more importantly, kayaking is less disruptive to the organisms that lie below the surface.





SNORKELING

One of the most celebrated snorkeling destinations in the Pacific, Palau has a pristine underwater environment. Its corals have adapted to the higher temperatures of shallow waters, so you'll often snorkel just a couple of feet above a vibrant reef! Palau is also home to many marine mammals, and it often delivers them in high numbers. Palau's "Big Five," which we search for on our extension, includes pilot whales, spinner dolphins, dugongs, sharks, and manta rays.

JUNGLE WALKS

In addition to our in-water adventures, we also explore the islands on foot in search of waterfalls, ancient "Yap Stone Money," and World War II relics. Palau was a strategic base for the Japanese in World War II, and you'll see Japanese bunkers, sunken bomber planes, and battle sites throughout the trip. Our private campsites also give us incredible access to exploration on foot.



HISTORY

Palau was settled by the early Micronesians, and their history and culture thrive today. Our Trip Leaders will enthusiastically teach you about ancient traditions, including the Micronesian games for traditional sailing (which they compete in themselves!).



Itinerary

TRIP DETAILS AT-A-GLANCE

- Length:** 10 days
Arrive: Koror, Palau
Depart: Koror, Palau
Lodging: 3 nights beach resorts, 6 nights full-service camping (full-sized walk-in tents)
Meals: All meals included except 1 dinner (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
Activity: Sea Kayaking, Snorkeling, Wildlife and Natural History
Trip Level: 1 2 3 4 5 6
 Snorkeling, easy to moderate sea kayaking (3-5 hours a day), easy hikes, exploration by boat

DAY 1 KOROR, PALAU

Flights arrive in the late evening in Koror, capital of the Republic of Palau. You will be met at the airport and transferred to the Palau Carolines Resort overlooking the blue Pacific...meals on your own

Please note that in order to arrive in Palau on Day 1, it is necessary to depart from the US at least one day prior.

DAY 2 KOROR / BABELDAOB ISLAND

In the morning we meet with the Trip Leader and head to the Palau International Coral Reef Center, where we'll review the geology, habitat types, and natural history of the archipelago. Enjoy a scenic charter flight over the pristine islands then drive to Babeldaob Island, the largest in the island nation of Palau. A short hike brings us to the Ngchesar Waterfalls, where we can take a dip in the upper pools, look for freshwater fish and shrimp in the "Queen's Pool," and enjoy a picnic lunch. Meeting our vehicle, we continue to explore Babeldaob with a visit to Aimeliik Bai, where we learn about Palau's history, culture, and artistic traditions and visit a traditional men's meeting house (bai). We return to the hotel in time to freshen up for our Welcome Dinner. Overnight at the Palau Carolines Resort...BLD

Hiking Time: Approximately 1 hour



Please note: the charter flight is subject to cancellation due to weather or government regulations. We hope to be able to take this scenic flight, but in the case of non-operation, your internal airfare cost will be refunded.

Our Days in the Rock Islands: Our activities on these six days vary with the wind as well as group interests. We kayak approximately 4-5 hours per day, interspersed with snorkeling (1-2 hours), and short hikes (30-45 minutes).

Our support boat allows us to access more remote sites and cover a greater distance, and you can use it to opt out of some kayaking if you wish. Although we will visit all the places listed on the itinerary, we rarely follow the schedule as described exactly due to weather, tides, preferences of trip members, and other factors. Come prepared to be flexible!

"The Palau trip is my idea of the ideal vacation. That is why I have taken it three times!"

Bob G., Elizabethtown, PA

DAY 3 ROCK ISLANDS: NIKKO BAY

The phenomenally beautiful Rock Islands are glittering emeralds scattered across a sapphire sea. These celebrated islands offer not just a spectacular natural setting but also

some of the richest marine biodiversity on the planet. For six days, we explore their extraordinary hidden network of marine lakes, mangrove channels, marine tunnels, tropical beaches, and marine caverns. Our first foray into this fascinating realm is Nikko Bay, sheltered by the castle-like limestone walls of the Rock Islands. The bay's

calm waters provide idyllic sea kayaking opportunities in rare "old-growth coral forests." Our kayak adventures begin with a paddle into a hidden world known as Disney Lake, entering by way of a marine tunnel that is only exposed at low tide. Here we discover reefs that are many thousands of years old, protected by limestone walls that prevent surge and wind from

disturbing the delicate marine environment. The big theme for this first day is geology, and these wondrous islands present a dramatic example of how an uplifted ancient reef eroded away into 300 islands, lakes, lagoons, undercuts, and archways. Our first camp is usually at a place known as Lee Marvin Beach, with its great birding and exotic night sounds (endemic owls and burrowing frogs!). Beautiful green sea turtles nest here in season. Our private beach camp has walk-in tents with cots and sleeping pads, a toilet facility, a solar shower, and delicious multi-course meals...BLD

DAY 4 ROCK ISLANDS: RISONG BAY / BLUE DEVIL GARDENS / SALT-WATER WATERFALL

Marine lakes and isolated turquoise bays—each with its own unique habitat—make amazing Risong Bay a sea kayaking paradise. This diverse day is a chance to focus on inner lagoon nursery habitats. Highlights include caves, drift snorkeling, an ancient Palauan village, and the absolutely pristine coral environments known as the Blue Devil Gardens, where sparkling blue devil damsel fish dance between the corals (so numerous they can be seen from our kayaks). Our grand finale today is an unbelievable sight—a salt-water waterfall spilling into a

turquoise oasis. One of the most bizarre phenomena in Palau, the waterfall is created as tidal waters flow out of an enclosed marine lake, spilling into Mandarin Fish Bay. Our snorkeling focus is on juvenile fish, and on our paddle excursions, we should see baby sharks and rays in tranquil little nursery bays. Overnight at camp...BLD

“Great itinerary—well planned, and the food at camp was beyond expectations. My family and I had a terrific time.”

Jim J., Ojai, CA

DAY 5 ROCK ISLANDS: MILKY WAY / EINSTEIN'S GARDENS

Today we snorkel over the wreck of a Zero fighter airplane from World War II, paddle across the cream-colored waters of a narrow channel that the locals call the Milky Way, and pass through a tunnel to secluded Secret Lake, surrounded by high limestone walls. The lake's underwater attractions

include cuttlefish and exquisite sponge life of every shape and color. Snorkel sites today include multicolored Einstein's Garden (so named for its proliferation of giant lobophyllia brain corals), fed by the 250-foot-long Tunnels of Doom. Themes of this day will be stunning beauty, sea birds, and local flora, including the leafless orchid. The gentle lapping of the waves at our camp helps put us to sleep. Overnight at camp... BLD



DAY 6 ROCK ISLANDS: LONG LAKE / HONEYMOON BEACH

A paddle excursion takes us to Long Lake, a place unique even by Palau standards, where the current carries our kayaks through crystal-clear waters beneath a mangrove canopy draped with hanging orchids and epiphytic ferns. We navigate this winding passage into a mile-long lake, a hidden oasis for nesting birds and baby fishes. Many of the ancient plants at the lake (cycads, for example) are not seen anywhere else in Palau—or anywhere else in the world for that matter. Baby eagle rays, turtles, and giant clams are found here, and the skies overhead are full of tropical avians, from white-tailed tropicbirds to white-breasted wood swallows. Afterwards, we head to the coral gardens at a place known as Honeymoon Beach, much more beautiful than any picture-postcard beach, with its tiny sand spit and swaying coconut palms sandwiched between two limestone islands. The coral here is simply pristine. Overnight at camp...BLD

DAY 7 ROCK ISLANDS: GIANT CLAM BEACH / JELLYFISH LAKE / STONE MONEY

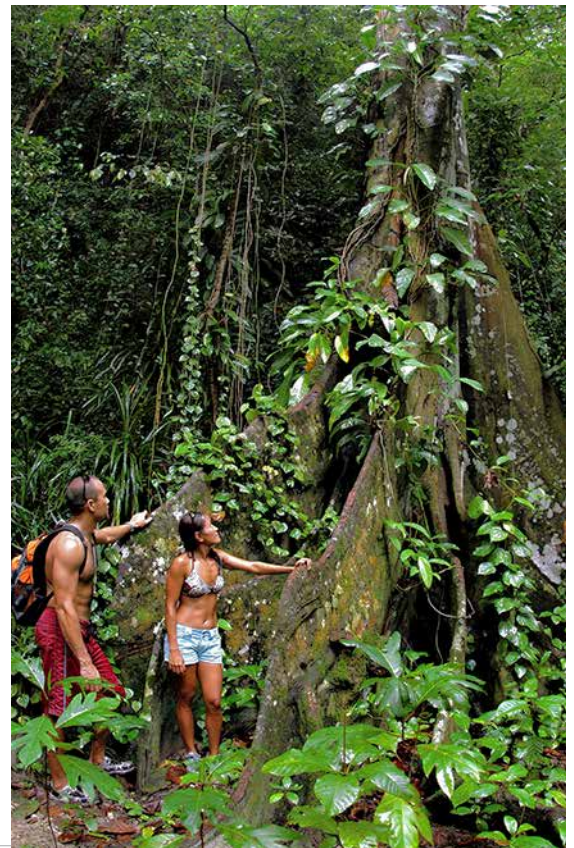
Paddling past isolated little beaches, we stop to inspect, refresh, and snorkel along the way. Two memorable highlights today are Giant Clam Beach and Jellyfish Lake. Giant Clam Beach, home to Palau's largest bivalves, has stacks of

"Palau was a nothing less than a snorkeler's paradise! Our leader guided us each day to places where he knew Mother Nature would reveal a new canvas of coral and crystal-clear water and paint it with a kaleidoscope of tropical marine life. What a treat for the eyes!"

George F. Pleasanton, CA

500-pound clams simply piled on top of one another, and no one dares to touch these ancient leviathans, now protected in this marine preserve. Weather depending, we continue to Jellyfish Lake, a place truly beyond description—here, schools of non-stinging jellyfish bounce off our bodies as we snorkel among them. This is one of the only two places in the world where stingless jellyfish exist. Due to fluctuating water temperatures and other conditions, it's not always a guarantee that we can see (and swim with) the massive blooms of golden

jellyfish (*mastigias papua*) that make the lake famous. In that case, our expert guides may plan an excursion to another destination. Later, we make impromptu stops including a foray into the jungle to see hidden treasures that only WT trip members ever see! Overnight at camp...BLD





DAY 8 ROCK ISLANDS: BIG DROP-OFF

The Big Drop-Off, the common name for Palau's legendary Ngemelis Wall, is the culmination of all we've seen this week. Famed as the world's very best wall dive, it drops nearly 1,000 feet to the sea floor, with the upper reaches festooned with spectacular sea fans, coral whips, and sponges. We enjoy surreal snorkeling in crystal-clear seas with 100-foot visibility amid sharks, rays, turtles, and an overwhelming profusion of reef fish! Big Drop-Off is the place where we really come to understand Palau as the "underwater Serengeti". Tonight, our last night on the Rock Islands, we enjoy a traditional Palauan feast. Overnight at camp...BLD

DAY 9 PELELIU / KOROR

Motoring to scenic Peleliu, we have a fascinating day of exploring its World War II battle sites. After a picnic feast and some final snorkeling, we'll head back to Koror by boat. Tonight we gather for our Farewell Dinner. Overnight at the Palau Carolines Resort...BLD

DAY 10 KOROR / DEPART

The morning is free to enjoy the facilities at Palau Carolines Resort, or to explore Koror on your own. Check-out time is at 12:00 pm (noon). Transfer to the Koror Airport and depart on homeward-bound flights...B*

"Palau was a nothing less than a snorkeler's paradise! Our leader guided us each day to places where he knew Mother Nature would reveal a new canvas of coral and crystal-clear water and paint it with a kaleidoscope of tropical marine life. What a treat for the eyes!"

George F. Pleasanton, CA

*Please Note: Many flights depart Koror in the early morning (12:00 am to 5:00 am). If your flight departs in the early morning hours of Day 10, you will transfer to the Koror Airport just after the Farewell Dinner on Day 9, to connect with flights departing early morning on Day 10. However, if your flight departs later in the day on Day 10, you will overnight in Koror on Day 9 and transfer to the Koror Airport the following day.

We are happy to arrange additional hotel nights for you (at extra cost) at our group hotel in Koror. Koror's dive shops can arrange day trips to wonderful local diving destinations.

Trip Details

DATE AND PRICING INFORMATION

TRIP COST

Prices are per person, valid through 2024

\$7,295 (7-9 members)

\$7,595 (5-6 members)

Single supplement: \$415

Internal airfare: \$185 (subject to change)

Prices are per person, valid through 2025

\$7,995 (5-9 members)

Single supplement: \$435

Internal airfare: \$325 (subject to change)

Please contact us for future years' pricing

To offer the lowest possible cost, our trips are priced according to the number of participants on the trip. All costs are per person, based on double occupancy. If you wish to have a single room, you must pay the single supplement fee. Please note that Wilderness Travel staff, or guests of Wilderness Travel such as travel writers, photographers, or leaders-in-training, are not included in the tier pricing count.

CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATE

Because the prices published for our program are set so far in advance of the trip dates, we are occasionally faced with exceptional cost increases and/or currency fluctuations that affect the actual cost of running the trip. In most years, no price changes are necessary. However, we do reserve the right to raise or lower the trip price if there is a significant change in costs or exchange rates. If this is the case, your final invoice will reflect the difference in trip cost.

TRIP COST INCLUDES

- Expert leadership of a Wilderness Travel Trip Leader and local guides
- Hotel accommodations as noted
- Camping accommodations, including group camping equipment
- All meals included except 1 dinner as indicated in the Detailed Itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- Support boat and ground transportation
- Kayaks, paddles, PFDs (life jackets), and boat safety gear

TRIP COST DOES NOT INCLUDE

Snorkeling equipment (wetsuit, snorkel, mask, fins), international airfare to/from Palau, any meals not specified after each itinerary day, optional gratuities to leaders or staff, additional hotel nights made necessary by airline schedule or other factors, expenses such as immunizations (if any), emergency medical evacuation insurance (required), and other expenses of a personal nature (alcoholic beverages, laundry, etc.).

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

At time of reservation: \$600

90 days prior to departure: Balance

CANCELLATION AND TRANSFER FEE SCHEDULE

Up to 91 days prior to departure: No charge!

61-90 days prior to departure: 25% of trip cost

46-60 days prior to departure: 50% of trip cost

45 days or less: 100% of trip cost

MANDATORY EMERGENCY EVACUATION INSURANCE

Please note: Insurance for emergency medical evacuation is required for this trip. Wilderness Travel offers a comprehensive Travel Protection Plan through Travelex Insurance that meets this requirement. For more details, visit our website: www.wildernesstravel.com/insurance. Alternatively, you can purchase a different policy on your own, as long as it includes emergency medical evacuation coverage of at least \$250,000 per person. You can compare various options at www.insuremytrip.com.

Palau Extension—The “Big Five”

Our post-trip extension provides ample opportunities to see Palau’s “Big Five”—pilot whales, spinner dolphins, dugongs, sharks, mantas—that are not normally seen in the areas we explore on our regular itinerary. Join us for what promises to be an exciting “safari” discovering some of Palau’s most fascinating creatures!

DAY 1 DUGONGS AND CROCODILES

We meet in the morning and depart Koror by boat in search of crocodiles within the labyrinth of islands of Nikko Bay (in a different area than the one we explored on the main trip). After lunch in a secluded cove, we’ll slip into kayaks with the hopes of paddling with dugongs, the only remaining species of the serenia, or moon creatures, distant aquatic relatives of the elephant. These slow-moving marine mammals graze on sea grass in shallow waters along coastlines in the Pacific and Indian Oceans. Their feeding style gives them their more common nickname: sea cow. We finish the day with a snorkel at Lolita’s Coral Gardens. We return to the Palau Carolines Resort by speedboat. Dinner on your own and overnight at hotel...BL

DAY 2 CETACEANS

We’re picked up by boat at 8:30 am and head out to the trenches on the east side of the archipelago, where we hope to find spinner dolphins. We have excellent chances to spot these creatures as we cruise along: they frolic in the bow wake of the boat and often hang around for 30 minutes or more. In-water experiences with the spinners tend to be brief and our attempts will be based exclusively on their behavior. The primary goal of our day is to spot pilot whales, melon-headed whales, false killer whales (all of these are known collectively as “Black Fish”), and potentially, sperm whales. All these cetaceans are highly social, ridiculously intelligent, and curious. In-water experiences will be based on surface conditions and each guest’s confidence in the open-ocean environment. Additionally, we’ll have hydrophones that help us pinpoint their locations. Return to Palau Carolines Resort for overnight...BL

DAY 3 MANTAS AND SHARKS

Today we head out through Ulong Channel and troll the open waters as we make our way to Ngemelis Island. Dolphin and whale encounters in this area are also quite common. We snorkel even more of the outer reef sites to include Shark City

and New Drop Off, which are typically not included in our regular itinerary. As the afternoon incoming tide rolls in, we’ll slip in the water at German Channel to witness the barrel-rolling feeding behavior of giant mantas. During the mating season (highly variable, but typically covering about three months a year), the mantas collect in massive numbers and form what we call manta trains. All this feeding and courtship occurs just below the surface, so even snorkelers—and not just SCUBA divers—have good chances of witnessing this behavior. We return to the Palau Carolines Resort as the sun sets...BL

DAY 4 DEPART

Transfer to the airport for homeward-bound flight...B

2025 PALAU EXTENSION LAND COST

From \$2,295 per person, double occupancy

Solo Traveler: from \$3,995

Single supplement: \$395 (based on 2 or more participants)

Prices are not guaranteed until services are confirmed.

Extension Cost Includes: accommodations based on double occupancy (including the night previous to the extension start), meals as indicated (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch), local airport transfers, all touring activities as noted.

Does Not Include: Dinners, airport taxes, alcoholic beverages, items of a personal nature such as laundry, telephone, internet, etc., extra hotel nights in Koror (if necessary), optional gratuities to staff, transfer agents, drivers and guides.

Lodging



PALAU CAROLINES RESORT

Koror, Palau

Days 1 to 2 (2 nights), Day 9 (1 night)

Eight private bungalows with views of the rock islands across the bay are situated in a quiet spot where you'll awake to the warble of birds and the ocean breeze. Built from mahogany, mangrove, and bamboo, each bungalow features air conditioning, a separate sitting area, and a private bathroom. Several of the bungalows also have a private balcony. Walk along the jungle path to the terrace and bar, and enjoy a continental breakfast delivered to your door each morning.



PALAU CAMPS

The Rock Islands, Palau

Days 3 to 8 (6 nights)

On the phenomenally beautiful Rock Islands, we enjoy our own wonderful campsites chosen for their beauty and access to fantastic snorkeling. Our private, full-service camps have walk-in tents, complete with cots, sheets, blankets and pillows, a toilet structure, solar shower, and a dining tent set with table and chairs. After full days of physical activity, we'll have good appetites, and our camp cooks provide delicious meals. Typical breakfasts include fresh papaya, pineapple, eggs, pancakes, or Palauan specialties. Lunch is usually picnic style, featuring sandwiches and fruit. Dinner is usually a beach barbecue with fresh-grilled fish or chicken, vegetables, and baked local desserts while we savor the sunset. Our support boat goes ahead to each new campsite with our gear so that our new camp is set up and awaiting our arrival.

These are our signature accommodations for this trip. Although it is highly unlikely, we may make substitutions when necessary. To see more photos and descriptions, please visit our [Palau Snorkeling and Sea Kayaking](#) webpage and click on "Accommodations."

Arrival & Departure

Upon confirming your trip reservation, we will send you a Welcome Packet that includes a list of documents (passport, visas, etc.) required for your trip. Please feel free to call if you would like this information before making your air arrangements.

If you have booked extra services before or after the trip, an Extra Services Confirmation will be sent with your Final Documents.

ARRIVAL & MEETING PLACE

Koror, Palau

Suggested Airport: Roman Tmetuchl Int'l Airport (ROR)

Suggested Date & Time: Day 1, anytime

Meeting Place: You will meet your Trip Leader in the lobby of Palau Carolines Resort at 8:00 am on Day 2.

A complimentary transfer will be provided from the airport to Palau Carolines Resort. If you are staying at a different resort before or after your trip, you will be responsible for your own transfer arrangements.

DEPARTURE

Koror, Palau

Suggested Airport: Roman Tmetuchl Int'l Airport (ROR)

Suggested Date & Time: Day 10, anytime

Many flights depart Koror in the early morning (12:00 am to 5:00 am). A complimentary transfer will be provided from Palau Carolines Resort to the airport.

INTERNATIONAL AIR TRAVEL

You are responsible for making your own arrangements for flights to and from Palau.

There are many online consolidators for booking travel, but for more personal help arranging air transport, you can contact Exito Travel at 970-818-8459 in the US or Canada. They are very adept at putting flight itineraries together, to even the most far-flung places. More information can be found at www.exitotravel.com.

Most flights to Koror fly via Honolulu and Guam. United and Delta are the only major airlines that fly to Palau from the US. United offers daily flights that best match with trip dates; Delta schedules are limited to and from Palau. All flights usually arrive Koror in the evening/nighttime of Day 1. Please note that in order to arrive in Palau on Day 1 it is necessary to depart from the US at least one day prior.

The name on your airline ticket must match the name on your passport exactly, and your passport must be valid for at least six months after your date of return to the US.

Please do not purchase your tickets until you are confirmed on the trip. Once tickets are purchased, please forward a copy of your email flight confirmation from the airline. It is your responsibility to ensure your flight times coordinate with the arrival and departure logistics for this trip.

EXTRA HOTEL NIGHTS

We are happy to arrange extra nights at Palau Carolines Resort in Koror should you choose to spend extra time there. Please see the Extra Hotel Request Form to book these reservations.

Our Guides

MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE

Our Palau Trip Leaders are the best and most experienced guides in the country, with a genuine gift for bringing the rich natural history of the underwater world to life. Their deep knowledge, insights, and genuine love for this part of the world give you an “insider” experience as you explore the spectacular natural and cultural wonders of Palau.



MACSTYL SASAO

From a young age, Macstyl proved to be quite the outdoor enthusiast in his homeland of Palau. At six years old, he was climbing coconut trees and mastering the art of capturing land and coconut crabs (local delicacies in Palau). He attended school in the Pacific Northwest, where he was introduced to kayaking and fishing for salmon, and later returned to Palau to pursue his newfound passions as a sustainable fisherman for his village. Macstyl soon became an underwater photographer, enjoys tracking dugongs, whales, and dolphins with his aerial camera, and hopes to use his data and imagery to help protect Palau's fragile environment and precious resources.



ELILAI SUGIYAMA

EliLai grew up with adventure in her veins. With a father from Palau and mother from the Native American tribe of Shoshone-Bannock, she feels equally at home whether she's free diving the sapphire-blue waters of Palau or fishing and horseback riding in the mountains of Idaho. EliLai has a keen eye for Palau's elusive birds and has been known to be a dugong whisperer—she can hold her breath up to three minutes to swim alongside these gentle species. When she's not guiding, you'll find EliLai racing outrigger canoes for Palau's national women's team, constructing traditional Micronesian sailing canoes using local materials, or adventuring in the wilds of Idaho.



COBI JONES

Cobi Jones is a storyteller. Whether through his captivating narratives of the various cultural, historic, and natural sites of Palau or his eye-catching visuals, he strives to educate through entertainment and adventure. His commitment to safeguarding his ancestral lands for future generations is palpable in every tour he leads. An adventurer at heart, Cobi also takes time to travel abroad to expand his horizons, delve into different cultures, and indulge in new cuisine. When not leading tours, you can find him outdoors on hikes, fishing trips to feed his family, or working on video posts. Cobi loves a good challenge, whether it's competing for his home state in Palau (Belau Games) or representing his country in competing in outrigger canoe races in Micronesia (Micro Games).

What the Trip is Like

TRIP LEVEL

This trip is rated a Level 3 (Moderate) according to our trip grading system.

Average Day

- 4-5 hours kayaking
- 1-3 hours snorkeling
- Occasional short hikes

Challenge Days

Day 8: 2 hours kayaking including time in the open ocean (potentially with current), 4 hours snorkeling

How Tough is This Trip?

You need to be comfortable kayaking for up to 2 hours at a time and up to 5 hours in a day, and snorkeling in a variety of conditions, including drift snorkels with strong currents. While kayaking and snorkeling is usually at your own pace, it is sometimes necessary to be able to keep up with the group

GETTING IN SHAPE

For maximum enjoyment of the trip, you must be in good health and able to kayak and snorkel for multiple hours at a time. Previous kayaking and snorkeling experience is not required, however we recommend kayaking experience if possible.

If the paddling ends up being easier than you had expected, you will have the option of doing some extra kayaking or hiking in the afternoon after we reach camp. If it turns out to be more difficult than you had expected, you can opt out of kayaking for that day and ride along in the support boat. We have welcomed both beginner and experienced paddlers on this trip, and they have found sea kayaking to be a fantastic way to experience the wonders of Palau.

There are a few optional hikes, and if you would like to participate you will need to be comfortable hiking up limestone rocks and through narrow, slippery jungle paths.

WEATHER

Palau has a warm, humid tropical climate with some of the most uniform year-round temperatures in the world. The average humidity is a balmy 78 percent. Water temperatures range between 82 and 86°F. Rainfall can occur throughout the year, but is heaviest in June and July.

ACCOMMODATIONS

In Koror, we will stay in comfortable bungalows located up on a hill, with views of the jungle and the Rock Islands. While in the Rock Islands, we will stay at three different campsites, all of which are located on the beach. While not luxurious, they are comfortable and well located to begin each day's activities. There are walk-in tents with a cot and an inflatable mattress pad, a composting toilet facility, a solar shower strung from the palm trees, and a dining tent.

CUISINE

Breakfast and dinner are served at the campsites, and include a variety of Palauan and Western meals. Breakfasts usually include fresh fruit and eggs. Lunch is picnic-style and typically includes sandwiches. Dinner is usually a barbecue with fresh-caught fish or chicken and vegetables. There are a variety of vegetarian options.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation on our Babeldoab tour is in an air conditioned van. Our kayaks are sit-on-top Mission XStream 400 Kayaks with carbon fiber paddles and high back seats. While kayaking and camping, there is a 33 foot Yamaha support boat with covered seating that we use to access the farther sites, and can also be used to opt out of kayaking or snorkeling.

OCEAN CONDITIONS

Most of our kayaking and sailing is in calm, protected waters. We have a few short crossings (both in the boat and on kayak) over the open ocean, and the sea can be rough if it is windy or stormy.

Average Daily Max/Min °F	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Koror, Palau	88/75	87/75	88/75	89/75	88/75	88/75	87/75	87/75	88/75	89/75	89/75	88/75
Rainfall - Inches												
Koror, Palau	11	9	8	8	12	18	18	13	12	12	11	11

In general, we choose routes that are largely protected from high winds and strong currents, and we run the trips at the times of year when the weather is most reliable. We also adapt our daily schedule to local conditions.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT TRIP

Adventure travel often involves exotic destinations, unusual levels of physical exertion, or activities you may not have participated in previously. We work hard to help you choose the right trip for you, paying attention to your individual interests, abilities, and needs. If you have questions about the level of comfort or any of the activities described in this itinerary, please call Wilderness Travel at 1-800-368-2794 and ask for the Pacific Manager or email us at pacific@wildernesstravel.com.

REFERENCES

We'd be happy to put you in touch with a past client that has traveled with us on this or a similar trip.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

At www.wildernesstravel.com, you can book your trip online or find out about added departures, last-minute deals, and one-time Limited Edition adventures that aren't listed in our catalog. You can also access our complete library of detailed itineraries filled with enticing photos and videos, read bios of our Trip Leaders, find descriptions of trip accommodations, and check real-time availability of any trips that interest you.



Toucan Club Rewards & Discounts



T-SHIRT FRONT



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PATAGONIA SYNCHILLA FLEECE VEST
PLUS INSULATED CAMELBAK WATER BOTTLE



PATAGONIA R1 PULLOVER

We are very proud to have one of the highest rates of repeat travelers in the business, and have established the Wilderness Travel Toucan Club to reward you for your loyalty. For more information, please visit the Toucan Club page of our website at www.wildernesstravel.com/toucan.

Here's how it works:

YOUR FIRST TRIP

As a first-time traveler, you receive a lightweight Wilderness Travel T-shirt and set of durable WT Luggage Tags. On subsequent trips, we're happy to send you a new WT T-shirt and set of Luggage Tags by request.

YOUR SECOND TRIP

A top quality Wilderness Travel insulated stainless steel water bottle by CamelBak and a cozy Wilderness Travel fleece vest by Patagonia (\$130 value).

YOUR THIRD TRIP

A versatile Wilderness Travel R-1 pullover by Patagonia (\$140 value).

YOUR FOURTH TRIP

Discounts on the cost of your trip begin! You receive a 4% discount on the tour cost.

FIVE AND MORE TRIPS

You receive a 5% discount on the base trip cost. On your sixth trip, you receive a 6% discount, and so on up to your 10th trip. The maximum discount is 10%, with a ceiling of \$500.

Note: Due to special pricing considerations, Toucan Club discounts do not apply to our Private Journeys or Special Events. However, your participation on these trips does count toward your Toucan discount on future departures of Wilderness Travel's regular adventures.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Toucan Club travel discounts cannot be used in conjunction with any other discount, unless otherwise specified. Discounts are deducted from the base trip cost and shown on the final invoice. The base trip cost is the main land/tier cost and does not include single supplement fees, extensions, internal airfare, or other additional charges. Bonus gifts (T-shirts, luggage tags, vests, water bottles, and pullovers) will be mailed approximately three weeks prior to trip departure. Terms and conditions of Toucan Club bonuses are subject to change or cancellation at the discretion of Wilderness Travel, Inc.

Travel Notes



WILDERNESS TRAVEL HAS BEEN AWARDED:

Best Travel Specialists in the World: *Conde Nast Traveler*, 2024, 4-time winner

World's Best Tour Operators: *Travel + Leisure*, 11-time winner

Best Wildlife, Hiking & Walking Trips: *AFAR Magazine*, 3 years in a row

Best Adventure Travel Companies: *USA Today*

Trip of the Year: *Outside Magazine*, 9-time winner

50 Tours of a Lifetime: *National Geographic Traveler*, 9 years in a row

Best Adventure Travel Companies: *National Geographic Adventure*, 3-time winner

Please be advised that California has established a Travel Consumer Restitution Fund under the California Seller of Travel Law that took effect January 1, 1996. This fund is designed to protect consumers from unscrupulous practices by discount airfare ticket sellers or air charter operators. Unfortunately, this law does not cover non-California residents and, even in the case of California residents, it does not cover any foreign travel where the foreign "providers of transportation or travel services" are not in compliance with the Sellers of Travel Law (compliance being defined as registered as a Seller of Travel in California and a participant in the Travel Consumer Restitution Fund). Thus none of Wilderness Travel's tours qualify and we are required by law to advise each client that they are not covered by the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires sellers of travel to maintain a trust account or bond. This business has a trust account. California Seller of Travel #100769640

While as accurate as possible at the time of printing, this itinerary should be considered an approximate indication of the schedule and scope of activities and trip routing, rather than an inflexible schedule of events; it is subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control. This trip is subject to the Limitation of Liability and all the terms and conditions as detailed in the General Information section of the Wilderness Travel Catalog.

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