

Bikini, Republic of the Marshall Islands

Trip Information

Embarkation: Kwajalein/Ebeye Island, Marshall Islands

Disembarkation: Kwajalein/Ebeye Island, Marshall Islands

Arrival airport: Kwajalein Airport (KWA)

Departure airport: Kwajalein Airport (KWA)

Flights, Hotels, Transfers, Excursions and Insurance

Traveling to and from the Marshall Islands can be made exceptionally easy when you book with Master Liveaboards. We offer a range of domestic flights, hotels, transfers and excursions that can be arranged before or after your diving holiday.

Advice on International Flights

We recommend that you book your international flight to and from Kwajalein Airport (KWA), which is served by United Airlines 3 times per week from Honolulu, Hawaii (HNL) and takes around 7 hours. **(The HNL – MAJ – KWA flight leaves on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, so generally you will have to leave the day before that (Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday) from Los Angeles (LAX) or San Francisco (SFO) to make the connection.)** Ideally, you arrive in Honolulu one day in advance of your flight to Kwajalein as this flight departs early in the morning. Keep in mind you will be crossing the date line traveling to Kwajalein Atoll. There is also a flight from Guam arriving at Kwajalein, however; we have scheduled our itinerary around the Honolulu flight.

Arriving at Kwajalein Airport:

A representative from Master Liveaboards will meet you at the airport and will accompany you to the Truk Master. As Kwajalein is US Army territory, a shuttle bus will take you to the ferry terminal, from where an Army ferry departs for Ebeye Island. Here you will embark the Truk Master.



The distance from Kwajalein to Bikini is 406 kilometres (215 nautical miles); of which 120 kilometres (65 nautical miles) are in the sheltered waters in the lee of Kwajalein Atoll and 280 kilometres (150 nautical miles) of open seas from the northerly point of Kwajalein Atoll to Bikini Atoll. On average the trip takes 25-30 hours depending on weather.

Optional Hawaii/Marshall Islands package

To extend your luxury feeling and pamper you a little extra we can offer you the following package. We will organise your transfers to and from the airport in both Hawaii and on Kwajalein, as well as to and from the Truk Master, and book the hotel of your choice in Honolulu for your first and last night before and after your flight to the Marshall Islands. Please contact our reservations team at info@masterliveboards.com for more information and quotes.

Insurance

Master Liveboards strongly recommend that all guests carry full travel and cancellation insurance as we cannot be held liable for delays which occur during the cruise, nor any delays or cancellations of the flights, accommodation, tours and transfers we organise on your behalf. Master Liveboards work 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 liveboard holidays. This insurance covers your trip expenses in the event of missing your liveboard 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. Please consult our webpage: www.masterliveboards.com/insurance or contact our reservations team at info@masterliveboards.com.



General Information

Visa and Passports

No visa is required for entering the Marshall Islands for US citizens, EU countries, Canada and most other Western countries. Nevertheless, we recommend our guests to check for any updates and changes with their nearest Marshall Islands embassy or consulate. Please make sure that your passport is valid for at least 6 months beyond the period you intend to stay in the Marshall Islands. If you are traveling with medication, please ensure to bring your physician's prescription with you.

Time Zone

The local time in the Marshall Islands is 12 hours ahead of UTC (GMT).

Money Matters

The local currency in the Marshall Islands is the US Dollar (US\$). Major businesses will accept credit cards; traveller's cheques are accepted by banks and larger businesses. The number of ATMs on the islands is very limited, so we recommend bringing a sufficient amount of USD in cash, preferably in smaller denominations.

Airport Tax

All passengers travelling out of the Marshall Islands are charged USD \$ 20 departure tax.

Health

In the Marshall Islands, medical care is very basic with the 'best' medical facility in Majuro. Any form of treatment other than basic requires evacuation. Normal precautions should be taken with food and it is advisable to drink bottled water only. No vaccinations are required before entering the Marshall Islands, however; we recommend consulting your doctor for updated information well before departure. Please make sure you use insect repellent and cover exposed skin to prevent any insect borne diseases.

Radioactive radiation to which divers are exposed from the shipwrecks is negligible, since water acts as an excellent insulator. Divers are safe, as long as they do not try to grab souvenirs from the wrecks. Pilfering is forbidden and hazardous.



Language and Religion

The official languages are English and Marshallese. The population of mixed religion: 51.5 % United Church of Christ, Assemblies of God 24.2% and 8% Mormons. There is a small community of Muslims on Majuro.

Climate and Weather

The climate of the Marshall Islands is a tropical climate, with temperatures averaging between 27 and 29°C (80-84°F) all year round, with some trade winds and a light cooling down in the evening. Generally, the northern islands tend not to receive as much rainfall as the southern islands.

Water Temperature and Exposure Suits

Warm water is to be expected year round with very little variation from the norm of 27-29°C (82-84°F). A 5 mm full length exposure suit is strongly recommended for wreck divers to avoid injury from the wreckage, whilst technical divers are advised to bring appropriate exposure protection for prolonged deco-stops.

Life on Board

Food and Drink

All Master Liveaboards yachts offer a choice of international and local cuisine, served buffet style, in the indoor air-conditioned dining area. We cater to special dietary requirements; please inform our reservations team prior to your trip to ensure we have plenty of dishes to suit your needs. A range of carbonated soft drinks, fruit juices, black, green and herbal teas are commonly available, as well as instant and freshly brewed coffee. A selection of fresh fruit is readily available, as well as some tasty treats, should you feel peckish in between meal times. Guests may also select beer, wine, or spirits from our cocktail bar for an additional fee.

Clothing and Footwear

Whilst sojourning on our yacht, we recommend our guests to bring casual and comfortable clothes; swim wear, shorts and t-shirts. A sweater is advised for cooler nights, particularly after multiple dives. All Master Liveaboards vessels are equipped with laundry facilities and our housekeeper is more than happy to launder your clothes during the trip. A nominal fee of 1.00 USD 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 to walk barefoot on board of our vessel; however, island visits may require sturdy sandals or cross-trainers.

Electricity

On board the Truk Master we have 110V US/Euro style sockets. There are universal adapters available; however, 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.



Safety on Board

Emergency Management

All Master Liveboards crew members undergo rigorous training 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 & First Aid

Each Master Liveboards vessel is equipped with modern safety features such as automated life rafts, EPIRB, satellite communication and emergency pumps.

Master Liveboards vessels 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) that 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

High speed Wi-Fi satellite internet access is available for all guests on board. We have three packages available:

- 200Mb package : \$50 (\$42.50 pre-booking special)
- 500Mb package : \$100 (\$85 pre-booking special)
- 1Gb package : \$150 (\$127.50 pre-booking special)

Our out of office contact numbers can be found below, should your family need to contact you during the cruise, however these numbers are reserved for emergencies only.



Payments on Board

Marine and Port Fees

The dive permit for Bikini costs: USD \$500 for 10 nights and \$550 for 11 nights, subject to change. This amount should be paid in cash.

Optional Extras

Master Liveaboards offer a range of services to make your stay on board even more enjoyable. We offer the following services for an additional fee:

- Nitrox – 10 nights: 150 USD, 11 nights: 165 USD
- Beer
- Wine (750ml bottle)
- Selection of spirits and cocktails
- Dive equipment rental
- Exclusive Master Liveaboards merchandise: T-shirts, polo shirts, rash guards, nudi pointers, cargo shorts, etc.

All prices on board are quoted in USD; however, we accept payment in Euro, GBP, and AUD as well. We are also able to accept payment by credit card (Mastercard or Visa) for which there is a 3% surcharge. Guests are advised to bring from 250 – 600 USD for any optional extras.

Tipping

At Master Liveaboards we believe that tipping is a matter of personal choice. Should you feel that your crew has made your holiday extra special; then they will certainly appreciate a tip. Please be advised that we can only accept tips in cash. An envelope will be provided for your convenience by your cruise director and gratuities then divided equally amongst all the crew, including the captain and dive guides.



Diving Information

Guests' Level of Diving

Diving on the Bikini wrecks is respectfully recommended for technical divers only with a minimum of PADI Tec 40 level or equivalent, with wreck experience, as the average depth of the wrecks is around 50 meters (150 ft). To get the most out of your dives in Bikini Atoll, **highly recommended are:**

TDI – Advanced Nitrox & Deco Procedures

IANTD – Tech Nitrox

NAUI – Tech Nitrox & Deco Techniques

ANDI – Technical Nitrox and

PADI – Tec 50

Depth limits given by the Cruise Director must be followed and wreck penetration is not allowed without a dive guide. If you have any questions or concerns about the required diving level, please contact your agent or the Master Liveaboards reservations team.

Scuba Equipment

Master Liveaboards vessels provide the rental equipment listed below for an additional fee. Please pre-book rental equipment upon booking your cruise, as it is subject to availability.

- Aqua Lung Wave BCD
- Aqua Lung Calypso Regulator - complete with alternate air source and depth/pressure gauge console
- Wetsuits – 3mm full
- Mask
- Fins - full foot and open heel boots depending on destination
- Underwater torch/flashlight
- 15 litre tanks
- Dive computer*



*** Please note that the use of a dive computer and SMB is compulsory on our vessels. For your safety, Master Liveaboards ask all guests to always dive within the limits of their dive computer and make a safety stop at the end of each dive.**

12 litre aluminium tanks, SMB, weight belts and weights are provided free of charge.

Deco / Tec Diving

For your convenience we have installed a “Deco Bar” under the dive platform of the Truk Master and the following equipment is available on board:

- Manifold Twin-Tanks
- 80/40 cuft Deco Stage
- Oxygen
- Helium

While we offer helium on-board, due to the logistical difficulties of obtaining it and the resultant costs we advise clients not to dive tri-mix, or to limit themselves to Helitrox. It is possible to use helium in your rebreather as long as you carry the correct certification.

Rebreather Diving

The Truk Master is equipped for supporting the rebreather 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 O₂. Charges are dependent on quantity used.

Pre-booking of any rebreather supplies is essential to guarantee availability for you. Please contact our reservations team to place your order and for up-to-date prices.

Underwater Photography and Videography

Our vessels offer specialised features for underwater photographers and videographers, such as ample storage space, individual storage drawers for cameras and peripheral items and designated charging areas. Our crew is 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 repetitive dives before you fly. Please bear this in mind when booking your onward international or domestic flights.

Diving Insurance

Diving insurance is mandatory aboard all Master Liveaboard vessels, irrespective of destination. Your insurance must cover all of your scuba diving activities, according to your certification level, including the costs for recompression chamber treatment and emergency air evacuation.

Whilst many general travel insurance companies will cover scuba diving activities, they often fall short on recompression treatment or evacuation. Master Liveaboards strongly recommends purchasing diving-specific insurance and is working with DiveAssure to offer policies that cover everything our guests need. You can find more details at the following link on our website: www.masterliveaboards.com/insurance.html

Master Liveaboards can offer short-term diving insurance coverage (1-4 weeks), though we recommend that you contact our reservations team regarding insurance at least 1 week prior to your cruise departure date to ensure adequate time for arrangements.

Diving Emergencies

The Marshall Islands are an extremely remote diving destination without hyperbaric facilities. The nearest hyperbaric chamber is in either Hawaii or Australia, which is why the Truk Master has been equipped with a deck hyperbaric decompression chamber for emergency treatment. For follow-up recompression treatment, emergency air evacuation to one of the aforementioned countries is required. With this in mind, it is mandatory that our guests purchase dive and liveaboard specific insurance according to their level of certification.



This insurance needs to cover air evacuation and the appropriate depths you plan to dive to. We strongly urge that all guests dive well within recognised limits and follow our Dive Guides' advice.

FAQs

If you have any questions that have not been answered then please visit our website at www.masterliveaboards.com/about-us/faqs or contact our reservations team at bookings@masterliveaboards.com, who will be happy to assist you.

Head Office

Worldwide Dive and Sail International

10/512 Moo 3

Tambon Vichit, 83000

Muang Phuket, Thailand

T TH: +66 (0) 76 367 444

F TH: +66 (0) 76 367 134

T UK: +44 (0) 208 099 2230

T USA: (Toll Free): +1 866 258 6398

W: www.masterliveaboards.com

E: bookings@masterliveaboards.com



What to Bring

The following is a check list of items that you should ensure to bring with you for your trip aboard a Master Liveaboards vessel.

Passport

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

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Travel Documents

Flight tickets - International & Domestic; hotel booking; excursions

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Cash & Credit Card for emergencies

Recommended amount (additional to park & port fees): 250 - 600 USD

Airport Departure Tax in local currency

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Diving Certification & Logbook

Including Nitrox Card if certified & intending to use Nitrox

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Travel and Diving Insurance Documents

To include emergency medical evacuation

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Essential Diving Items

Dive computer with full battery

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Toiletries & Medications

Including sunscreen & insect repellent

Inform booking team of medical conditions

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Essential Clothing Items

Swim wear, hat and lightweight jacket

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Guests are strongly advised to carry essential items in hand luggage in case of lost or delayed luggage through International or Domestic Flights.

