



SIREN FLEET

Philippines - Palau Islands Combo Cruise

Trip Information

Philippines

Please schedule your international flight to arrive at Cebu Mactan Airport (CEB), preferably one day before the cruise departs, in order for you to be well rested. Day 1 of your cruise starts with the transfer from Cebu Mactan Airport (CEB) to the Philippine Siren yacht in either Cebu or Moalboal. After spending 6 nights aboard the Philippine Siren, we schedule 2 morning dives to allow plenty of time for off-gassing before disembarkation and your onward flight to Palau.

Palau

Upon arrival at Koror Airport (ROR), you will be transferred directly to the Palau Siren where your cruise will start for 6 nights as well. As your flight out of Palau leaves later in the day, we are able to schedule up to 3 dives on your final dive day aboard the Palau Siren. Please bear in mind the recommended 24hrs surface interval before flying; especially after two cruises. Your transfer from Palau Siren back to Koror Airport will also be organised by our travel team.

Itinerary – 13 nights

The following is a sample itinerary of dive sites we may visit during your liveaboard cruise with the Philippine and Palau Siren. We wish to show you the very best diving possible, however, a number of factors determine which route the yacht takes and which dive sites we visit. Weather, tides, currents and the number of other dive vessels at a particular site all play a part in the Cruise Director's decision of where the Siren yachts are heading to. This itinerary involves some long distance travel. Whilst we attempt to ensure the number of dives we have scheduled is fulfilled, bad weather can hinder the yacht's ability to reach a specific dive site in good time. The safety of our guests on board is paramount and we always do our best to offer diving at alternate locations, should we be unable to visit those sites listed below.

Your Cruise Director will schedule up to 4 dives per day; 3 day dives and either a sunset or a night dive. A typical diving day is scheduled as follows:

- Light Breakfast followed by a briefing & Dive 1
- Full Breakfast, relaxation followed by briefing & Dive 2



- Lunch, relaxation followed by briefing & Dive 3
- Snack
- Briefing for Sunset or Night dive
- Dinner

The Cruise Director is happy to listen to suggestions from guests regarding dive sites to visit or remain at certain sites and providing it is possible and the schedule allows, then guest's requests are respected.

Philippine Dive Sites

Moalboal, Cebu

Kasai Wall – is where we see many turtles; both hawksbill and green turtles are common visitors to the reef here.

Dolphin House Reef – the shallow reef top hosts pipefish and many varieties of nudibranchs. Along the slope we can see bannerfish and trevallies, trigger fish and snappers. Turtles are common here as well.

Tongo Point - yellow tail barracuda, shrimp fish hovering in schools, and schools of big mouth mackerel make for an interesting dive. Add crocodile fish, scorpion fish, sea snakes and turtles for an awesome dive site.

Turtle Bay - makes for an excellent night dive with juvenile pinate batfish, white snout pipefish, soft coral crabs and so many species of nudibranch- far too many to list!

Serena House Reef - a superb spot for a sunset dive to see mandarin fish mating.

Pescador Island

The tiny offshore island of Pescador attracts large schools of sardines, just seeing the wall of fish is spectacular in itself but these sardines have also been known to bring some larger friends with them! Fortunate divers have been lucky enough to see whale sharks and thresher sharks here. Other large pelagic fish include dog tooth tuna, potato groupers and yellow-tail barracuda. Oceanic triggerfish, midnight snappers and blue-lined fusiliers as well as trumpet fish, box fish, turtles, angle fish and batfish are commonly seen. The walls themselves are adorned with gorgonian fans, soft and hard corals provide the perfect places for white-eyed morays to lurk.



Sumilon Island

Sumilon Island is where black tip and white tip reefs sharks are known to frequent the waters. The sanctuaries also support numerous fish species and healthy coral growth. Sightings of tuna, batfish, trevally and unicorn fish are common and there is also a wide variety of crustaceans. We typically make two dives here before crossing the strait to Balicasag Island or moving to Pescador Island. Dependent on our guests' wishes we offer the option to substitute dives for whale shark snorkeling at Oslob, subject to additional fees payable at destination.

Apo Island

Apo Island Marine Reserve is one of most successful marine sanctuaries to be established in the Philippines. Unfortunately, night diving is not permitted in the Marine Reserve, however, a sunset dive at The Chapel provides a superb opportunity to watch mandarin fish mating. The order of dives will be based on the currents and conditions of the day choosing from:

Coconut Point - an often fast paced drift brings divers over the sloping coral reef wall. Giant trevally, hump head parrotfish and marbled groupers are seen off the reef along with schools of banner fish. Turtles cruise effortlessly in the currents and nembrotha nudibranchs can be seen munching on tunicates.

Rock Point West - just beyond the chapel opposite the marine park warden's office, Rock Point offers some of the most stunning hard corals to be found in the region. The steep reef walls support numerous colourful reef species – pyramid butterfly fish and redtoothed trigger fish are here in their hundreds, frogfish, cuttlefish, banded sea snakes and hawksbill turtles are amongst the common sightings.

Boluarte - marbled groupers, batfish & snowflake morays are to be expected, perhaps attracted by the hot bubbles emerging from the dark sand from the active volcano.

Dauin, Negros

Your Cruise Director will choose sites based on where the most interesting critters are being seen, these sites include:

The Cars - between 25-30m (80-100ft) lay 2 Volkswagens sunk as an artificial reef and attracting schools of lionfish. Nudibranchs, porcelain crabs & ghost pipe fish are amongst the many weird and wonderful creatures found at this site.

Dauin North - the sanctuary just to the left of The Cars, offers a shallow sloping reef, however it is the sand patches to the right of the sanctuary that really capture our attention. Seahorses, minute frogfish, ghost pipefish, flying gurnards, waspfish, devil scorpionfish, pipefish and octopus are all to be found scurrying over the sand. The sand itself appears to be moving as hundreds of skeleton shrimp bounce their way across. Tiny pygmy pipehorses can also be seen on the shallow shelf during a safety stop – expect to make a long dive here!

Ginama Point – a typical dark sand dive with small out-croppings in which to hunt for octopus, frog fish and scorpion fish, with the occasional turtle cruising by.



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Ceres - provides a mix of marine life from schools of snapper, banner fish and fusiliers to tiny bubble coral shrimp and squat lobsters. An assortment of anemone fish can be seen including spine cheek and skunk varieties. Demon stingers and smashing mantis shrimp can be seen scurrying along the bottom and robust ghost pipefish can be spotted bobbing about.

Atlantis Sanctuary - offers a dark sandy slope with a collection of sunken tires that provide an artificial reef in which seahorses and pipefish, moray eels, lion fish and nudibranchs can all be found.

San Miguel - another critter wonderland! Painted frogfish, varieties of ghost pipefish, cockatoo waspfish and flamboyant cuttlefish are just a few of the most commonly seen species. Occasionally, we see up to 4 flamboyant cuttlefish in one dive!! During night dives coconut octopus can be seen creeping about with their shells and bobtail squid quickly scurrying under the sand.

Balicasag Island

The small island of Balicasag, just off the tip of Panglao, is characterised for its many turtles, coral gardens and steep walls which provide overhangs, cracks and crevices in which to search for a variety of marine species.

Sanctuary - a steep coral wall covered in soft corals and gorgonian fans. A great place to find frogfish & leaf fish and as you end the dive you can be surrounded by schooling jacks in the shallows.

Divers Heaven/ Cathedral - two dives in one along this stunning wall complete with crags and overhangs. Sponges, sea fans, soft corals and cup corals provide a haven for many tiny critters such as warty frogfish and porcelain crabs. Also seen are schools of pyramid butterfly fish and banner fish, titan triggerfish moray eel and clown anemones.

Rico's Wall - makes for an interesting dive with shallow swim throughs and gaps in the craggy wall, at sunset turtles can be spotted coming into the reef to rest.

Black Forest- once famed for its black coral is where we encounter schools of jacks, meanwhile leaf fish are often seen resting on the rough coral ledges. Turtles are a common sight in the shallow sea grass garden- a perfect place for your safety stop.

Cabilao Island

There are several interesting wall and coral garden dives around the island of Cabilao; we choose from the following:

Cambiquiz - a fantastic spot with a gentle sloping reef and sandy bottom to 20m - soft corals and seapens can be found dotted over the sand; also a great site for sightings of bent stick pipefish and Pegasus seamoths.

Paradise Wall - provides a gentle drift along a fantastic coral reef with schooling fish and plenty of macro life in the shallow water, including odd shaped plakobranchs and leaf fish.



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Lighthouse - sloping walls full of sponges and gorgonian fans. This is a great place to look for pygmy seahorses and to dive with large green turtles. You may also find giant frogfish, which can be spotted resting on sponges and numerous cowries hiding amidst the stunning hard coral garden.

Talisay Tree - pygmy seahorses hang on the huge gorgonian fans that adorn the steep wall. In the shallow coral gardens robust ghost pipe fish attempt to blend in, whilst bubble head shrimps and orangutan crabs are often seen resting on bubble anemones.

South Point - offers you the opportunity to look for white tip reef sharks that hang out in the caverns within the steep coral wall. Huge tube sponges support giant frogfish, whilst leaf fish and many scorpion fish can be found resting in the crevices.

Olango Island & Mactan

Talima Reef wall - features soft and whip corals where small critters like to hide. The wreckage of a banca can also be found along the sandy reef shelf - a great place to find grouper and sweetlips; whilst jacks and batfish school above you.

Shangri-la House Reef - The topography is diverse with a wreck, white sand a mini wall, sea grasses and plenty of healthy coral. Schooling fish can be seen and a few treats such as, giant clam, jacks, and batfish put in an appearance.

Palau Dive Sites

Ulong Island

Ulong Channel - is often considered the best dive in Palau! This exhilarating drift dive has it all; hard & soft coral encrusted walls, schools of sharks and other pelagic action, a beautiful stand of lettuce coral as you drift through the channel, giant clams and plenty of grouper just to name a few. Keep your eyes open, seeing just about anything is possible on this dive!

Siaes Corner - schools of grey reef sharks, jacks and barracuda can be seen off the Corner's edge while butterfly fish, Moorish idols, anthias and fusiliers are abundant throughout the reef. Hawksbill and green sea turtles are also found feeding here.

Siaes Tunnel - offers divers an awesome experience as they dive through a large naturally-lit tunnel. Cup corals, soft corals, reef fish and invertebrates inhabit the walls and ceilings of the tunnel. Near the bottom dart fish, long nose hawk fish, gobies and frog fish can be found. White tip reef sharks sleep on the bottom near the tunnel's exit, while big eye trevally circle around.

Shark City - southwest of Ulong Island, a wall dive where currents attract many large pelagic fish from grey reef sharks to the occasional sighting of a bull shark or hammerhead. The wall drops to 50m (150ft) and is dotted with gorgonian fans whilst in the shallow waters huge lettuce corals host colourful anthias and Moorish idols. Bump head parrotfish are regularly seen here and eagle rays are known to cruise the reef wall.



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Sand Bar - a shallow sloping reef with garden eels and sting rays, is also the place where hundred upon thousands of bumphead parrot fish have been known to congregate for spawning; this stunning spectacle may only be witnessed at certain times of the month during the right moon phase. Night diving here turns up many interesting species including pleurobranchs.

Malakal Harbour

Chandelier Cave - is a fantastic cave system made up of five separate chambers with stalactites and stalagmites creating a 'chandelier' effect. The opening is wide and provides plenty of natural light however moving through to the inner section a torch is necessary. Stay close to your dive guide!

Teshio Maru - was sunk north of the harbour as it tried to escape the inner lagoon on March 30, 1944 during "Operation Desecrate". The Teshio - a Japanese army cargo ship - now lays in 25m (80ft) of water on her starboard side. She is 100m (330ft) in length and one of the best wreck dives in Palau.

Iro Maru - this Japanese oil supply ship, sunk during 'Operation Desecrate One', lays upright in 20m (75ft) of clear blue water. Descend the mooring line to the bow and gun mount then explore this coral encrusted wreckage. Schools of batfish hover above the wreckage and large groupers are also to be seen.

Chuyo Maru - located just west of Malakal Island, is a medium sized Japanese coastal freighter that was sunk during World War II. She lies upright on the seabed at a depth of 40m (120ft) with her deck at 30m (90ft). The guns on her stern deck are clearly visible and inside the bridge is what remains of the ship's brass compass. The Chuyo is also host to a variety of crustaceans, molluscs, lionfish and well camouflaged stone fish.

Jake Sea Plane - was a reconnaissance float plane that is believed to have crashed during take-off. The plane is still in one piece and makes for amazing photographs. There is little current and visibility is usually very good. Numerous molluscs have made it their home and we frequently see octopus, cuttlefish and nudibranchs, whilst the surrounding patch reef provides shelter for many juvenile reef fish.

Ngemelis Island & the German Channel

Blue Corner is the most famous dive site in Palau and has been voted #1 dive site of the world! Known for its strong currents, as well as consistent and abundant shark action, World class diving does not get much better than Blue Corner! Each dive here is action packed where anything can happen! Schools of snapper, barracuda and jacks are regularly seen and Napoleon wrasse can be very inquisitive, coming close to divers for a perfect photo opportunity! Reef hooks are needed for this dive. Smaller creatures including pipefish and leaf fish can be found in the channels.

Blue Holes - just along the reef from Blue Corner, is a large cavern with four "blue holes" at the top allowing natural light in from above. These rays of light make diving in the cavern a unique and amazing experience. White tips can be seen on the sandy bottom and there are numerous critters including dart fish and the flaming scallop lining the cavern walls.



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New Drop Off - is located south of Blue Corner on a shallow plateau. The walls are filled with a medley of colourful reef fish including butterfly fish, angel fish, wrasse and triggers. Soft corals, large anemones and sea fans cover the wall while grey reef sharks cruise the blue water. Large Spanish mackerel commonly cruise on by with the sharks and turtles amble about feeding on the soft corals.

Big Drop Off - is one of Palau's most famous wall dives. This vertical wall is covered with colourful soft corals, sponges, smaller reef fish and sea fans. Sharks patrol along the reef edge but this is also a fantastic site to see filefish, longnose hawk fish, fairy basslets and schools of surgeon fish, parrot fish and angel fish. Turtles are often found feeding along the wall as well.

German Channel - was created during the German occupation (1899 - 1914) to enable easier transportation of the phosphates they were mining. Today the mouth of the channel is best known for encounters with mantas which feed on plankton and visit the cleaning station bommies. White tip & black tip sharks can also be seen along with schools of snapper. We will visit this site several times during your trip.

Virgin Blue Holes - just south of Blue Corner, offers divers swim throughs and caverns to explore, before exciting onto the reef wall.

Ngebus Corner - features dense populations of sea fans, soft corals and sea whips. Grey reef sharks patrol the corner while butterfly fish and fusiliers congregate near the wall's cuts. The shallow coral garden is where turtles and scorpion fish are commonly seen.

Dexter's Wall - is a wonderful wall dive filled with soft corals, sea fans, nudibranchs, anemones and sea turtles. The area is well known for leopard shark sightings but also teeming with groupers, snappers, sweetlips and other reef fish.

Peleliu Island

Peleliu Cut - is where we can experience some of the strongest currents of our trip due to converging ocean currents that flow around the archipelago. The cut is full of life; we will see plenty of pelagic fish, sharks, jacks, barracuda, rainbow runners, snappers, tuna and sweetlips. Reef hooks are a must for this dive!

Turtle Cove - begins by plunging into a small blue hole on top of the shallow reef. Upon exiting at the bottom divers drift through schools of surgeonfish, butterfly fish and red-tooth triggerfish. Large schools of black snapper enjoy coming right up to divers along the wall. The plateau at near the end of the dive is filled with beautiful anemones, reef fish, sharks and turtles to finish off the dive. On occasion a leopard shark or ray will cruise by for all to see.

Barnum's Wall - a favourite spot for night dives. Turtles, groupers, sweetlips and a variety of sharks can all be seen here as well as a myriad of nudibranchs, flatworms, sea whips and crinoids.

Peleliu Wall - covered with black corals & large sea fans allows for an easy drift dive, whilst observing reef sharks, jacks & barracuda. On occasion bull sharks and tiger sharks have been seen here.



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Rock Islands Tour

During the cruise guests can take a speedboat tour through the Rock Islands, stopping at "the Arch" for the classic photo opportunity. You can also see islands shaped like an elephant or whale or just relax and enjoy the beauty of these Palauan islands.

Optional activity during your liveaboard safari

Peleliu Island WWII Land Excursion (additional charges apply)

A local tour guide will escort you around the historic remnants of WWII battles which took place on the island. The tour is approximately 2 hours in duration. Please ask your cruise director to organize this tour for you.