

Tubbataha, The Philippines

Trip Information

Embarkation: Hotel Centro, Puerto Princesa

Disembarkation: Pier in Puerto Princesa

Arrival Airport: Puerto Princesa (PPS)

Departure Airport: Puerto Princesa (PPS)

Flights, Hotels, Transfers and Excursions

Traveling within the Philippines is exceptionally easy when you book with Siren Fleet. We offer a range of domestic flights, hotels, transfers and short excursions that can be arranged before or after your trip. Transfers between Puerto Princesa airport/local hotel and the Philippine Siren on the day of embarkation and day of disembarkation are included in the price of your cruise.

Please note that the Philippines Office for Transportation Security includes 'scuba equipment' on a list of blunt instruments that are not to be carried in hand luggage on flights originating in the Philippines. We advise that Siren guests carry all dive related equipment in their check in rather than their carry-on luggage as we have had guests prohibited from carrying their regulators in their hand luggage. If you are unsure we would advise that you contact your airline for clarification.

Advice on International Flights

International flights may be booked into and out of Manila or Cebu. We recommend you to plan your arrival in Cebu or Puerto Princesa at least 1 day before the cruise departs, to ensure you start your holiday well rested. Embarkation time is at 1.00 pm.

Guests who are planning to arrive in Puerto Princesa on the day of embarkation are kindly requested to book flights arriving **no later than 12.00 noon**. Due to local regulations, and crossing time from Puerto Princesa to Tubbataha, it is imperative that the all guests embark at the same time to avoid unnecessary delays to departure from Puerto Princesa, and potentially missing dives as a result of such delays. The airport is a short taxi ride from our departure point of Hotel Centro.

Disembarkation at the end of the cruise will be just before 10:00am, though you may be able to disembark earlier depending on your return flight arrangements. Please note this may affect the number of dives you can make on your final cruise day. Any early departures must be confirmed with our office prior to booking your flights. If traveling onwards on the same day, please allow plenty of time to for transfer to international terminals and check-in.

Optional Puerto Princesa Extension

To extend your luxury feeling and pamper you a little extra, we can offer you the following package:

- 1 Night pre-cruise and 1 night post-cruise in a hotel of your choice
- All domestic transfers
- Domestic flight between Puerto Princesa and Cebu

Furthermore, we are delighted to assist with your holiday extension, either pre- or post-cruise, in Palawan, Cebu, Malapascua or elsewhere in the Philippines. Send our Reservations Department your wishes and we can tailor packages to suit your needs,

Excursions

Palawan Experience - Underground River Tour

This full day trip takes you to the Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park which is a protected area of the Philippines located some 80 kilometres (50 mi) north of the city of Puerto Princesa. The area represents a habitat for biodiversity conservation and contains a full mountain-to-the-sea ecosystem and has some of the most important forests in Asia. It was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1999 and selected in the group of UN New 7 Wonders of Nature. The 8.2-kilometer river, said to be one of the longest navigable underground rivers in the world, winds its way underneath a mountain range, through the St. Paul Underground River Cave, flowing into the West Philippine Sea.

El Nido and Bacuit Bay

This kayaking safari takes you for 6 days-5 nights into the one of the most beautiful parts of Asia, where sheer karst rock formations drop down into the deep blue surrounding waters. Stunning white beaches and coves compete with mangroves, jungle and spectacular reefs and corals for attention. The best way to explore these gorgeous islands is in small group kayaking tours where guests spend their days kayaking, snorkeling, photographing and learning more about the environment. This is a fantastic opportunity to visit the area and check out the bio-diversity, including rare and unusual marine life, flora and fauna.

These are just some of the many domestic travel options to choose from when you book with Siren Fleet. Prices for these add-ons vary dependent on the time of booking, please contact our bookings team for further details and prices, info@sirenfleet.com or consult your agent for more information.

Travel & Diving Insurance

Siren Fleet strongly recommends that all guests carry full travel and cancellation insurance, as we cannot be held liable for delays occurring during the cruise, any delays or cancellations of the flights, accommodations, or tours & transfers we organise on your behalf. Please note that diving insurance is mandatory aboard all Siren Fleet yachts, irrespective of your destination.

Your insurance must cover all of your scuba diving and snorkeling activities, including the costs for recompression chamber treatment and emergency air evacuation. Siren Fleet works 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 liveaboard holidays. This insurance covers your trip expenses in the event of missing your liveaboard 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: <http://www.sirenfleet.com/insurance> or contact our reservations team at: info@sirenfleet.com for more information.

General Information

Visa and Passports

Passport holders of most other Western countries obtain a 30 day tourist visa on arrival at no extra charge. They may ask to see your confirmed return/onward flight ticket. Please make sure your passport is valid for at least 6 months from date of entry into the Philippines. Visa and passport regulations differ per country; therefore, we do advise our guests to check for any updates or changes of visa procedures with their nearest Philippines embassy/consulate.

Time Zone

The local time in the Philippines is +8 hours UMC (GMT).

Money Matters

The local currency is the Philippine Peso (PHP). The vast majority of all hotels, resorts, shops and restaurants will accept a wide range of credit and debit cards. Please note that in some cases, away from the major cities, you may be charged a service charge for credit card handling. This can range from 3.5 – 6.0%. ATMs are easy to come across in the Philippines, in most cities and airports. Guests should ensure they have small denominations of Philippine Peso for departure tax and any excess baggage charges prior to departing Manila. There are also money changers at airports and in the cities.

Airport Fees

Passengers travelling to the Philippines are required to pay airport terminal fees. Please ensure that you retain a sufficient amount of PHP to pay these fees upon departure: it can only be paid in cash.

- Domestic departure: 200PHP
- International departure: 850PHP

Health

Health standards vary throughout the country depending on location. In some cases they do not meet Western standards but in some cases they exceed them. Manila and Cebu have international class hospitals whilst the hospitals in other parts of the country will ensure that you receive more than adequate care. All major towns have hospitals and doctors available.

However, it is advisable to obtain Travel Insurance in addition to Health Insurance before you travel. We advise all guests to ensure that their vaccinations are up to date. Please make sure you use insect repellent and cover exposed skin to prevent any insect borne diseases. We recommend that travelers take normal precautions with food in order to prevent stomach upsets, and be sure to drink either boiled or bottled water only. Please consult your doctor or nearest health authorities for up-to-date medical travel information well before departure.

Language and Religion

There are over 170 different languages and dialects spoken in the Philippines, however, Tagalog (also known as Filipino) is the most widely spoken language in the archipelago. Nearly all Filipinos who work in the tourism industry speak good English and English road and street signs are found nationwide. Almost 90% of the population is Christian. The largest religious minority is Muslim, and they make up about 5% of the population.

Climate and Weather

The Philippines is a tropical country and the weather is fairly even all year round. The year is roughly divided into two seasons; 'rainy' and 'dry'. The rainy season generally begins in early June and can extend through to November. In general, the months with greatest rainfall tend to be July and August. The rainy season often brings days of uninterrupted sunshine punctuated by occasional thunderstorms and rain. The dry season runs from November through to May but there is always the chance of light rainfall during this period. The warmest months are usually March through to May and the highest humidity is in June, July and August. Year round coastal and inland temperatures range from 27 - 28°C (81 - 82°F) up to 33 - 34°C (91 - 93°F) with an average of approximately 31°C (87°F). Evenings are marginally cooler.

Water Temperature and Exposure Suits

Water temperatures are broadly similar throughout the entire Philippines region with averages of approximately 26 - 28°C (78 - 82 °F). The coolest period is January - March with an average temperature of approximately 24 - 26°C (75 - 78°F). Most guests find that a 3mm or 5mm wetsuit and possibly a rash vest are suitable for the water temperature. However, for guests who feel the cold easily, especially with repeated diving, then we recommend to bring an extra vest / hood or full wetsuit. In short, bring what you feel most comfortable in. Keep in mind that a 3 mm shorty is always available for rent on board free of charge.

Life on Board

Food and Drink

All Siren Fleet yachts provide their guests with a choice of international and Asian cuisine served buffet style in the outdoor dining area. We are happy to cater to special dietary requirements to the best of our abilities, as the availability of goods can be limited in the remote locations we operate in. Please inform our reservations team about your requirements well in advance of your trip. A well-selected range of carbonated soft drinks, fruit juices, black, green and herbal teas are available at all times, as well as instant and fresh brewed coffee. Moreover, a selection of fresh fruit and some tasty treats are available, should you feel peckish in between meal times. Local lager (beer) is provided free of charge but guests may also select wine or spirits from our cocktail bar for an additional fee.

Clothing and Footwear

Dress on board our yachts is very casual and most guests feel comfortable in little more than swim wear, shorts and t-shirts. A sweater is advised for cooler nights, particularly after multiple dives. Each Siren Fleet yacht is equipped with laundry facilities and our housekeeper is more than happy to launder your clothes during the trip. A nominal fee of 0.75 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 walking bare feet on board the yacht; however island visits may require sturdy sandals or cross-trainers.

Electricity

Both 220V and 110V with 2 round pin sockets, European style, are available and we have some universal adapters on board. Nevertheless, 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 & Equipment

All Siren Fleet crew members have been extensively trained 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. Each yacht is equipped with modern safety features such as automated life rafts, EPIRB, satellite communication and emergency pumps.

First Aid

Siren Fleet yachts 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), which 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

In the Visayas, we can provide you with local sim cards (max. 3 GB) at an extra charge. In Tubbataha, unfortunately, there is no phone or internet signal. We do have satellite phone communication which can be used by guests in the event of an emergency. Our out of office contact numbers can be found below, should your family need to contact you during the cruise. As previously mentioned however, this number is reserved for emergencies only.

Payments on Board

Marine and Port Fees

The marine park and port fees are dependent on trip and the applicable amount will be added to your final cruise invoice in advance of your cruise. Alternatively, it can be paid on board the Philippine Siren. For this itinerary, the fees are 120 USD per person.

Please note that **drones** are not permitted in the Tubbataha Marine Park.

IMPORTANT: please be advised that the authorities in the Philippines who operate the permits on Balicasag Island, which forms a small part of our Southern Visayas itinerary, require dive certificates/license of ALL divers booked on this cruise at least 14 days prior to trip. Please do ensure that copies of these are sent to us so that our team can apply for the required permit to dive in that area.

Optional Extras

Siren Fleet yachts offer a range of services to make your stay on board even more enjoyable. We offer the use of kayaks and land excursions throughout your cruise free of charge. The following services are also available for an additional fee:

- 1 Hour Relaxation Massage
- Wine (750ml bottle)
- Selection of Spirits and Cocktails
- Laundry
- Dive Courses
- Torch & Dive Computer Rental
- Snorkeling and Diving with whale sharks in Oslob (snorkeling: 25 USD, diving: 30 USD) **Please note** that it is not allowed to use strobes and/or flash light on this dive site.
- Exclusive Siren Fleet Merchandise: T-shirts, polo shirts, rash guards, caps, nudi pointers, cargo shorts, etc.

All prices are given on board in USD, however we also accept cash payment in EUR, GBP, AUD & PHP. We are pleased to accept payment by credit card (Mastercard and Visa) for which there is a 3% surcharge. There are many banking & money change facilities, however, guests are advised to bring the amount of 250-400 USD in case of credit card issues, additional to Marine Park & port fees, for any incidentals.

Tipping

At Siren Fleet we believe that tipping is a matter of personal choice. Should you feel that your crew has made your holiday extra special, they would certainly appreciate a tip. Please note we are only able to accept tips in cash. For this purpose, you can use the envelope provided by the cruise director. He/she will make sure the tips are divided equally amongst all crew members, including the captain and dive guides.

Diving Information

Guests' Level of Diving

Siren Fleet welcomes everyone on board; from non-divers to seasoned divers. Each destination has different diving conditions based on the season and time of the trip. In Tubbataha, diving conditions are not suitable for beginners: strong currents, wall dives, etc. Therefore, we recommend all divers to have logged a minimum of 20 dives. Your cruise director will be able to advise you whilst on board. However, if you have any questions or concerns regarding the conditions of the destination you are planning to visit; please contact your agent or the Siren Fleet reservations team directly.

Diving Equipment

Since some of the domestic airline carriers in the countries of our destinations have strict check-in luggage limits, all Siren Fleet liveaboard yachts provide most rental equipment free of charge. Please pre-book rental equipment upon booking your cruise, as it is subject to availability. All trips include:

- Aqua Lung Wave BCD – not weight-integrated
- Aqua Lung Calypso Regulator - complete with alternate air source and depth/pressure gauge console
- Wetsuits - 3mm shorty
- Mask
- Fins - full foot or open heel and boots depending on destination
- 12 litre tanks (15 litre tanks by special request and depending on availability)
- Weight belt and weights
- SMB

The following equipment is available for rent at an extra charge:

- Underwater torch/flashlight
- Dive computer*

* Please note that the use of a dive computer is compulsory on our yachts. For your safety, Siren Fleet asks all guests to always dive well within the limits of their dive computer and make a safety stop at the end of each dive.

Underwater Photography and Videography

Our yachts offer specialised features for underwater photographers and videographers. These include:

- Indoor work stations for the preparation and maintenance of cameras
- Individual storage drawers for cameras and peripheral items
- Large rinsing tanks with fresh water; changed frequently
- Our crews are 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 days with repetitive diving before flying. Please keep this in mind before you book your onward international or domestic flights.

Diving Insurance

Please note that diving insurance is mandatory aboard all Siren Fleet yachts, irrespective of your destination. Your insurance must cover all of your scuba diving and snorkeling activities, including the costs for recompression chamber treatment and emergency air evacuation.

Siren Fleet works 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 liveaboard holidays. This insurance covers your trip expenses in the event of missing your liveaboard 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, weather conditions, etc. Please consult our webpage at <https://sirenfleet.com/insurance/> or contact our reservations team at info@sirenfleet.com for more information.

Siren Fleet can offer short-term diving insurance coverage (1-4 weeks) though we advise that requests must be made to our reservations team at least 1 week prior to your cruise departure date to ensure adequate time for arrangements.

Diving Emergencies

There are numerous recompression facilities throughout the Philippines, the most accessible are located in Manila, Cebu, Batangas and Subic. Private emergency air evacuation may be needed to access these facilities in the unlikely event of an accident. We strongly urge that all guests dive well within their dive limits and follow the advice of our dive guides when making repetitive dives throughout a liveaboard trip and, above all, buy dive specific insurance before their trip.

FAQ's

If you have any additional questions, please visit our website at: <https://sirenfleet.com/about-us/faqs/> or email us at info@sirenfleet.com and our team will be happy to assist you.

Contact Info

Head Office

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What to Bring

The following is a check list of items that you should ensure to bring with you for your liveaboard trip aboard one of our vessels.

Passport

3-6 month validity depending on the nationality & 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): 250-400 USD
Airport Departure Tax in local currency - 200 or 850 PHP

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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

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