



CHEESEMANS' ECOLOGY SAFARIS

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Palau Snorkeling *Micronesia's Underwater Serengeti* May 24 to June 4, 2024



Green Sea Turtle
© Richard Barnden

SAFARI OVERVIEW

Partake of unspoiled paradise as you paddle and snorkel this Eden-like archipelago adorning the Pacific waters of Micronesia. You will be astounded by the pristine beauty preserved partially by natural elements like towering limestone islands but also through Palau's designation of its 193,000 square miles of ocean territory as a fully protected marine reserve. The unusual combination of people and nature working together sustains this wonderland and provides you the opportunity to explore a world of incredibly diverse, flourishing coral with thriving fish and shark populations. Though the ocean is what draws you to Palau, in your time above the water, you will be awestruck by the landscape created by over 300 coral and volcanic islands. Beauty will envelope you above and below the surface.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Seek out 500 species of coral and 1,300 species of reef fish.
- Explore the “Underwater Serengeti,” superschools of fish along with many sharks and manta rays.
- Swim among a myriad of stingless jelly fish.
- “Adopt a Clam” by naming and replanting them in secret locations.
- Discover the Blue Hole and the underwater canyons of Ngercheu.

LEADER: Scott Davis and Macstyl Sasao.

DAYS: 12, including estimated travel time.

GROUP SIZE: 12.

COST: \$8,200 per person, double occupancy, not including airfare, singles extra. See the Costs section on page 4.

ate	Description	Accommodation	Meals
May 24–25	Travel to Koror, Palau.		
May 26	Arrive in Koror or join the group from our Palau Diving trip.	Palau Pacific Resort, Koror	—
May 27	Kayak and snorkel Nikko Bay.		B, L, D
May 28	Kayak and snorkel Risong Bay.		B, L
May 29	Kayak and snorkel Long Lake.		B, L, D
May 30	Fantasy Island.		B, L
May 31	Ulong Archaeology and Moana.		B, L, D
Jun 1	Jellyfish Lake.		B, L
Jun 2	Ngemelis.		B, L, D
Jun 3	Turtle Cove.		B, L
Jun 4	Fly home.		B

OPTIONS

- Begin your journey early on our Palau Diving trip from May 15 to 26, 2024. Spend seven nights aboard the *Palau Siren* with multiple dives per day, during the day and night, exploring Palau’s best sites. See full itinerary at <https://cheesemans.com/trips/palau-dive-may2024>.

LEADERS

Scott Davis

Scott is a professional photographer specializing in wildlife, nature, and travel. Originally trained as a wildlife and marine biologist, his research and photo assignments have taken him to the far corners of the globe and all seven continents. National Geographic, BBC, Animal Planet, NY Times, and renowned magazines have used his photography. His patience for teaching and love of capturing the essence of his subjects make him one of our most popular tour leaders.





Macstyl 'Macs' Sasao

Macs grew up in Palau and the Pacific Northwest of the US. His relatives taught him the advanced arts of Micronesian hunting and fishing. Macs quickly adapted to a lifestyle which revolved around the moon and the tides, requiring an intimate knowledge of fish behavior and the ability to free dive under the full moon to find masses of spawning fish. As ecotourism developed in Palau, Macs traded his spear gun for an underwater camera, finding that his knowledge translated well into photography. He now shares his passion for Palau's environment as a guide and photographer.

DETAILED ITINERARY

May 24–25 ~ Travel to Koror, Palau

May 26 ~ Arrive in Koror or join the group from our Palau Diving trip

Arrive in Palau from our Palau Diving trip (<https://cheesemans.com/trips/palau-dive-may2024>) or from home. Our local agent will transfer you from the airport to the hotel. If you would like to arrive earlier, we can arrange divergent airport transfers and extra nights.

May 27 ~ Kayak and snorkel Nikko Bay

Join an optional pre-breakfast bird walk today and possibly other mornings.



Kayaking
© Ron Leidich

Depart after breakfast on your 15 to 20min boat ride to Nikko Bay, located in the heart of a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Snorkel over Nikko Bay, home to some of the most diverse coral reefs on Earth, which have been protected for millennia from surf, surge, and storm by spiraling limestone walls. Explore caves, tunnels, and marine lakes in the quiet ambience of a paddler’s paradise.



Black-tip Sharks
© Ron Leidich

May 28 ~ Kayak and snorkel Risong Bay

Depart after breakfast on your 15 to 20min boat ride to Risong Bay. Search for baby sharks and rays within a tranquil lagoon while fruit doves and tropicbirds soar overhead. Paddle to a saltwater fall where crystal-clear artisan water spills from the porous limestone.

May 29 ~ Kayak and snorkel Long Lake

Depart after breakfast on your 30 to 50min boat ride to Long Lake. Enjoy a gentle tidal current beneath a canopy of luscious mangrove trees. Search for baby eagle rays and nesting birds within a private sanctuary. Snorkel the multi-colored brain corals at Einstein’s Gardens.

May 30 ~ Fantasy Island

Depart after breakfast on your 30 to 50min boat ride to Fantasy Island. Snorkel over some of our favorite inner lagoon “patch reefs” to include Rainbow Gardens, Fantasy Island, and the Reef Fish Apartment House.

May 31 ~ Ulong Archaeology and Moana

Depart after breakfast on your 30 to 50min boat ride to Ulong and Moana. Step back in time along an idyllic tropical beach and explore the 500-year-old treasures from a lost society. Snorkel over protected reefs and help our conservation efforts as we replant populations of giant clams. Enjoy a stunning photo opportunity of our traditional “Moana” canoe, made exclusively of Micronesian plants and fibers.



Jellyfish Lake
© Ocean Productions

Jun 1 ~ Jellyfish Lake

Depart after breakfast on your 30 to 50min boat ride to Jellyfish Lake. Bask among 20 million non-stinging medusas within a World Heritage protected park. Hike into the forest to witness the world’s largest active currency, the Yapese Stone Money. Snorkel with black tip reef sharks and mega-mollusks at Giant Clam Beach.

Jun 2 ~ Ngemelis

Depart after breakfast on your 30 to 50min boat ride to Ngemelis for outer reef dramatic snorkeling. Drift amongst sharks, turtles, rays, and schools of fish within the “Under Water Serengeti” of planet earth.

Jun 3 ~ Turtle Cove

Depart after breakfast on your 30 to 50min boat ride to Turtle Cove for outer reef dramatic snorkeling. Your grand finale adventures will include the stunning underwater canyons of Ngercheu as well as Turtle Cove’s famous Blue Hole.

Jul 4 ~ Fly home

COSTS (ALL COSTS ARE IN US DOLLARS)

Cost

Type	Cost per Person
Trip Cost, double occupancy	\$8,200
Single Supplement	\$4,040

Costs are per person, double occupancy, not including airfare, singles extra. See *Included* and *Not Included* sections for more details.

If you are a single traveler, we will find a roommate for you, but if we cannot find you a roommate, we may charge you a single supplement. Single rooms cost extra and are subject to availability.

Payment Schedule

Payment	Due Date	Amount per Person
Deposit	Due now to reserve your space	\$1,500
Final	December 16, 2023	Remaining Balance

Payments are due based on the schedule above. All reservations require a deposit to confirm reservation of your space.

Cancellations

Until the Final Payment due date, deposits are refundable except for a cancellation fee of \$150 per person, which can be applied toward another trip if reserved within six months of the cancelled trip's departure date. Cancellations are non-transferrable. No refunds are given after the Final Payment due date.

Included

- All leaders, transport, park entry fees, and permits for all activities unless described as optional.
- Permits for Peleliu, Rock Islands, and Jellyfish Lake.
- Accommodations for the nights of May 26 through June 3.
- Meals from breakfast on May 27 through breakfast on June 4, except meals listed in *Not Included* section.
- Transfers on May 26 and June 4 between the Palau Pacific Resort and the Koror Airport.
- Trip Planning Materials – information about flights, packing, entry and departure requirements, airport transfers, gratuities, etc.

Not Included

- All airfare, airport and departure taxes, and excess baggage fees. Round-trip airfare is approximately \$1,700 to \$2,000 between the US and Koror, Palau, depending on origin.
- Passport and visa fees.
- COVID tests.
- We can arrange divergent airport transfers and extra hotel nights for an extra cost.
- Dinners in Koror on May 28, May 30, June 1, and June 3.
- Gratuities – tipping is always discretionary. However, we will give you suggested amount in our Trip Planning Materials.
- Snorkeling equipment (mask, snorkel, and snorkel fins) and wetsuit.
- Emergency evacuation insurance and trip cancellation insurance. For more information see www.cheesemans.com/travel-insurance.
- Items of a personal nature such as laundry, telephone calls, medical costs or hospitalization, room service, alcoholic and other beverages, items not on the regular menu, etc. If you have special dietary needs, please indicate them on your Reservation Form.

SIGN UP

Please contact us first to check availability, reserve your space, and obtain a Reservation Form. To confirm your reservation, we require a deposit and signed form from each participant.

Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris

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OTHER DETAILS

Climate

In May, average temperatures range from the mid- to upper-70s°F (24 to 26°C) at night up to the mid- to upper-80s°F (29 to 32°C) during the day, with high humidity and about a 50% chance of rain showers.

Fitness Level

We recommend at least some kayaking and snorkeling experience before you arrive in Palau. You should also be fit enough to get into and out of the boat as well as spend all day in and out of the water. Please contact us if you have any health concerns that may make this trip challenging.

Transportation

We will transport you from the lodge to your snorkel sites via a speedboat.

Seasickness

Don't let a fear of seasickness scare you away! It's a good idea to bring medication if you get seasick or are unsure, but you may find that you do not need it after a couple days once you have your "sea legs." Even those who have experienced seasickness reported that the incredible wildlife and overall experience were well worth the temporary discomfort. Read our suggestions for coping with seasickness at www.cheesemans.com/seasickness and contact us if you have any concerns.

Flights

Airfare is not included in trip costs. Detailed logistical information and the contact information for our recommended flight-ticketing agent are included in the Trip Materials we will send you. Please let us know if you are arriving earlier or staying later, as we are happy to assist you with any extra overnights that you might want to arrange.

Flights you (or a travel agent) book: Arrive in Koror, Palau (ROR) by 11:59pm on May 26. **If you are arriving from our Palau Diving trip**, see the *Flights* section in its itinerary for arrival information (<https://cheesemans.com/trips/palau-dive-may2024>). Depart from Koror, Palau (ROR) after 12:00am on June 4.

Terms and Conditions

Read our current Terms and Conditions at <https://cheesemans.com/terms-and-conditions>.

Conservation

Our company ethos has always regarded conservation as inseparable from responsible tourism. We struggle with the dilemma that traveling worldwide expends climate-changing carbon. However, we wholeheartedly believe that traveling with us will cultivate your passion for conserving our beautiful world while stimulating each destination's local economy. We encourage you to explore the various ways in which Cheesemans' operates within this context:

- **Ecotourism and Conservation for Palau** (<https://cheesemans.com/ecotourism-and-conservation-in-Palau>).
- **Cheesemans' Trips are Carbon Neutral:** As of June 1, 2022, our trips are carbon neutral (<https://cheesemans.com/carbon-neutral>).
- **Offsetting your Travel to/from our Trip:** We ask you to pledge to offset the carbon emissions for your travel to and from our trips. Use this tool to calculate your emissions and purchase your carbon offset today through Sustainable Travel International, or through your favorite carbon offsetting organization (<https://cheesemans.com/carbon-calculator>).