

Truk Lagoon

Truk is best known for its world-class **wreck diving** and with over 60 wrecks, from supply vessels (Maru) to planes and a submarine, tightly packed into a coral reef lagoon. It is easy to appreciate why divers travel to this area time and time again. During WWII, the Japanese fleet used Truk as one of their main staging points for attacks on the allied forces but in 1944 the American led “*Operation Hailstone*” surprised the fleet resulting in the plethora of dive sites which we can see there today.

Many historical artifacts such as medicine bottles and newspapers along with articles of war, which include aircraft wings for the Zero Fighter planes, tanks, guns, gas masks and ammunition, can still be found at many of the sites. Whilst the wrecks themselves are encrusted with corals, you can still clearly see telegraphs, steering columns and mounted guns. There is also the opportunity to explore engine rooms and holds. Surrounded by a coral reef, there are many excellent coral pinnacles and deep channels with schooling pelagics too!

Experience the Wreck Diving Capital of the World with Truk Master and dive deeper into history!

Truk Liveaboard

Built of steel, the Truk Master is the newest liveaboard yacht to ply the waters of this lagoon, welcoming aboard 16 guests for 7 or 10 night Truk Lagoon dive safaris, whilst on the Bikini itineraries availability is limited as the Truk Master carries 11 divers only. Our 4 decks provide ample space for relaxation, dive equipment and camera preparation, whilst our experienced crew ensures you receive only the highest quality service on your diving vacation.

Truk Lagoon Itinerary

On a typical day we offer up to 4 day dives, however the 4th day dive may be substituted for a night dive when the boat is anchored within the lagoon. A 7 night itinerary provides for between 18-20 dives, whilst during our 10 night itineraries, up to 30 dives will be possible. The diving day aboard the Truk Master is scheduled as follows:

Light Breakfast followed by a briefing and Dive 1

Full Breakfast, relaxation period, briefing and Dive 2

Lunch, relaxation period, briefing and Dive 3

Snack relaxation period, briefing and Dive 4, where possible

Dinner

Many of the wrecks lie within recreational diving depths, however Truk Master also offers **Tec diving facilities** for those wishing to delve deeper in the wrecks and take a closer look at history.

Dive the superb wrecks of the Japanese Imperial Navy WWII fleet that are scattered around Truk Lagoon in a variety of depths. Our 7-night or 10-night itineraries allow you to explore not only many of the famous wrecks but to experience some superb reef diving also. There are numerous channels that cut through the reef which serve as hunting grounds for reef sharks and schooling pelagics which all add to the wonder of diving Truk.

Departing from Weno, our 7-night and 10-night liveaboard dive trips on Truk Master take you directly to the main concentration of wrecks located within the bay. Truk Master will moor over the deeper wrecks allowing an easy descent down the line directly on to the wreck. Technical divers will benefit from the support of the “mother ship”, whilst our 2 skiffs are able to shuttle less experienced divers to the shallower sites and offer reef diving as an alternative to the wrecks.

Many of the wrecks are “Maru” or merchant vessels that had been left at anchor, some had been fortified with anti-aircraft weapons and many carried important army supplies including Zero Fighter aircraft parts, tanks, torpedo shells, trucks and road supplies. Bottles, cooking utensils, items from everyday life and personal artifacts can be found in several of the wrecks, serving as a reminder to the visiting divers of those who lost their lives during the battle. The more gruesome reminders of the conflict, such as human skulls, have since been removed and may now only be seldom seen in the deeper reaches of the wrecks.

Dive Site Description

Fujikawa Maru – The armed cargo ship rests upright on the sandy bottom at 34m (110ft), rising up to 5m (15ft). She is one of the largest vessels at over 130m (430ft) in length giving plenty to explore. Decks are encrusted with corals as are her guns on the aft deck, whilst 6 holds contain a plethora of artifacts from the war, including Mitsubishi aircraft wings and Zero fighter propeller blades.

Fumitsuki – The Japanese destroyer sits upright in 38m (130ft) of water and is covered with corals attracting a wide variety of marine life. Her upper deck is at 21m (80ft) allowing recreational divers of advanced level plenty of opportunity to explore the wreckage.

Shinkoku Maru – A large oil tanker, now rests upright on the bottom encrusted with corals, sponges & hydroids. From the bridge you can see into the engine room whilst the galley still holds many utensils on the large stove. Small guns, mounted fore and aft are also covered with corals making this one of the most colourful and spectacular wrecks to be found in Truk.

Nippo Maru – With a depth range of 24m – 42m (78ft-137ft) the Nippo is an intriguing dive site for recreational divers and tec divers alike. With a tank and howitzer guns on deck, and 5-inch guns in the holds, the Nippo is not to be missed.

Heian Maru – The largest ship in the lagoon, the Heian, originally used as a cargo ship, is 165m (510ft) in length and lies on her port side in 34m (150ft) of water. Within her holds divers may find torpedoes, shells and even the occasional periscope.

San Francisco Maru – The passenger & cargo ship, weighing 5,831 tons, lays upright at a depth of 63m (195ft). Here divers can see the remains of many well preserved war-relics including three large tanks which rest on the deck at between 46-55m (150-175ft).

Rio de Janeiro Maru – lies on her port side at a depth of 34m (110ft) with holds containing numerous artifacts from bottles to guns. Once a luxury passenger vessel she was converted to a cargo carrier for wartime and now provides divers with an easy exploration both inside and out.

Yacht Information

The Astral Star, a long range cruiser built by Codecasa and designed by Camper Nicholson, has joined the Master Liveboards brand and has undergone a full refit prior to her re-launch as the Truk Master. The refit was overseen by the experienced yacht building team of Worldwide Dive and Sail, Jan & Frank Van Der Linde.

Guests may choose between lower, middle and upper deck cabins, each of which are en-suite and have individual air conditioning units. Communal relaxation areas are split between the middle and upper decks comprising of a spacious indoor dining area, camera set up station and guest storage drawers, lounge bar with comfortable bench seating and plasma screen, shaded outdoor seating area and a sundeck.

Dive equipment is set up and stored on the rear of the middle deck. All guests are allocated an individual set up station, with under bench storage for masks, fins and other personal items. A central camera table can be used to store prepared equipment ahead of the dive, with dedicated rinse tanks provided. Divers can take advantage of the on deck shower hoses or use the starboard side deck head to rinse off between dives. The Captain welcomes you to join him at the fly-bridge, from where you can soak up the stunning views of the islands of Truk Lagoon.

Tech divers will find on board all the latest tec diving facilities and equipment to fully enable them to explore those ultimate wrecks:

- Deco bar for stage/deco stops under M/V Truk Master
- Booster pump for gas blending & rebreather tank fills
- Manifold twin-tanks (DIN & Intl. available)
- MKVI filters (upon request)
- Sofno lime for rebreathers – Dependent on Use
- Rebreather tanks
- 12l Deco stage tanks (band, sling & clips) – 40cuft/80cuft stage/bailout cylinders
- Oxygen
- Helium