



## **Bikini Atoll, Republic of the Marshall Islands**

### **Trip Information**

- Arrival airport: Kwajalein Airport (KWA)
- Departure airport: Kwajalein Airport (KWA)

### **Flights**

#### Advice on International Flights

We recommend that you book your international flight to and from Kwajalein Airport (KWA) from Honolulu, Hawaii (HNL), which is served by United Airlines 3 times per week and takes around 7 hours.

Our Bikini Atoll itineraries are scheduled around the HNL–MAJ–KWA flights which operate on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, departing from Honolulu very early in the morning.

Generally you will need to leave from Los Angeles (LAX) or San Francisco (SFO) the day before (Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday) and ideally you will arrive in Honolulu one day before your flight to Kwajalein to ensure that you make the connection. Bear in mind that you will be crossing the international date line when travelling from Hawaii to the Marshall Islands so will arrive in Kwajalein the day after departure from Honolulu.

There is also a flight from Guam to Kwajalein via Chuuk and Pohnpei which operates on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. However, as embarkation and disembarkation of our Bikini Atoll itineraries is based around the Honolulu flights, we generally do not recommend this route.

#### Visas and Passports

US citizens do not require a visa to enter the Marshall Islands. Visitors from the EU, UK, and Taiwan are exempt from visa requirements for stays up to 90 days. Most other nationalities will be granted a visa on arrival for a fee of \$100.

Please refer to [www.rmiocit.org/visa-requirements](http://www.rmiocit.org/visa-requirements) for further details of countries covered by visa exemption agreements or eligible for visa on arrival.

Nationalities not covered by visa waiver agreements, or eligible for a visa on arrival, must obtain a visa prior to travelling to the Marshall Islands. Processing time for visa applications is up to 14 days.

Passports must be valid for 6 months beyond the date of departure from the Marshall Islands. Guests travelling with medication should bring a copy of their physician's prescription with them.

#### ESTA

Non-US citizens need a US Visa or ESTA (Electronic System of Travel Authorization) to travel via the United States and Hawaii or Guam. An ESTA, or US visa, must be obtained prior to travel. Guests without either of these may be denied boarding of their flight.

Citizens of 37 countries, including most European nations, the UK, Australia, New Zealand and Japan are eligible for the ESTA under the visa waiver program and should apply online at least 72 hours prior to travel.

Please refer to the US Department of Homeland Security's ESTA information page for further details and application: [esta.cbp.dhs.gov/](http://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/).

### Arriving at Kwajalein Airport

As it is a US Military base, there are special procedures in place for entering Kwajalein. Please ensure you have a printed copy of the Master Liveboards Sponsor Letter on hand when arriving in Kwajalein as it is a declaration of the reason why you are travelling to / through Kwajalein.

Important information on arrival procedures is provided in our Kwajalein Arrival Procedure document linked. A shuttle bus will take you from the airport to the ferry terminal, from where an Army ferry departs on a short trip to Ebeye Island.

### Airport Tax

All passengers travelling out of the Marshall Islands are charged \$20 USD departure tax, to be paid in cash at the airport.

### Insurance

Insurance which covers scuba diving is mandatory. Your insurance must cover all of your scuba diving and snorkelling activities, including the costs for recompression chamber treatment and emergency air evacuation. We therefore strongly recommend purchasing diving-specific insurance to cover any diving related eventuality.

All guests are also required to carry full travel and cancellation insurance, as outlined in our Terms and Conditions.

We cannot be held liable for delays occurring during the cruise, nor any delays or cancellations of flights, accommodations or tours and transfers that we organise on your behalf.

Dirty Dozen act as a referrer for DiveAssure who offer dive and travel insurance including short term and multiple trip policies. Their comprehensive 'Dive & Travel Plus' plan has been specifically developed for diving liveaboard holidays and covers expenses in the event of missing your liveaboard departure due to flight delays or missed connections, and also provides cover 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.

### **Diving Information**

Diving in Bikini Atoll is only suitable for divers with technical diving certifications and deep, wreck diving experience.

The average dive depth of the wrecks in Bikini Atoll is 50 metres. Therefore Bikini itineraries are NOT SUITABLE FOR RECREATIONAL DIVERS.

All guests are responsible for planning and adhering to their own dive profiles. However, depth limits given by the Cruise Director must be followed and wreck penetration is not allowed without a dive guide.

A maximum of two dives will be scheduled per day, with a standard, minimum surface interval of 4 hours between dives in Bikini.

It is mandatory for guests to take an afternoon off from diving mid-trip. We will offer an optional land tour on Bikini Island and beach BBQ. No alternative shallow dive will be offered.

## Guests' Level of Diving

The minimum MANDATORY certification required for guests joining a Dirty Dozen Bikini Atoll itinerary is PADI Tec 50, or equivalent, with 100 logged dives and wreck diving experience. Closed Circuit Rebreather (CCR) divers must have normoxic trimix certification (TDI Mixed Gas CCR Diver, or equivalent).

All guests will be asked to show their certification card(s) and record of logged dives upon check-in onto the vessel as proof that they meet the mandatory dive qualifications and experience. Any guests who do not meet the minimum mandatory certification and experience requirements will not be able to dive.

PLEASE NOTE: We are not able to offer any certification courses on Bikini Atoll itineraries. Guests are responsible for obtaining suitable dive insurance for technical diving, which must include cover for emergency evacuation and recompression chamber costs.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the diving conditions and experience requirements please contact our reservations team directly.

## Deco / Tec Diving Facilities

For your convenience there is a "Deco Bar" installed under the dive platform of the main vessel and deco stage tanks available.

## Rebreather Diving

The boat is equipped with booster pumps to support rebreather divers and we have bailout tanks available to rent. We can also facilitate the purchase of CO<sub>2</sub> absorbent (Molecular Products 797 Sofnolime) which is charged per 20kg tub.

PLEASE NOTE:

- M26 valves / adaptors are NOT available on board.
- Guests who need cylinders with M26 valve threads or M26 adaptors for their rebreather are advised to bring their own.
- We do not carry spare oxygen cells or specialist rebreather tools. Therefore rebreather divers will need to bring their own.
- We are also unable to supply pre-packed scrubber cartridges for rebreather units such as Poseidon.

Pre-booking of all rebreather supplies well in advance is essential to ensure we have sufficient quantities on board.

## Oxygen

The oxygen on board comes from an Oxygen Generator, which does not produce 100% pure oxygen, but up to 93% purity, +/- 3%.

## Helium

While we can provide trimix for rebreather divers, due to the logistics of obtaining and storing helium, we are unable to cater for Open Circuit Trimix divers on Bikini Atoll itineraries.

IMPORTANT: Oxygen and Helium are paid for on board, and are charged per litre, per fill. We do not bank non-standard gases, so all gases supplied will be charged for in full, even if they are not fully used.

## Diving Equipment

Guests are advised to bring their own technical diving equipment. Please inspect and test all of your dive equipment before travelling. If your equipment has recently been serviced we still recommend that you test it thoroughly before coming to Bikini. There are no dive centres or facilities for repairing equipment in Kwajalein or Bikini Atoll.

There is a limited amount of equipment available to rent on board (pre-booking is required) for an additional fee.

Weight belts and weights are provided free of charge.

## Required Scuba Equipment

To dive in Bikini Atoll you will need the following items:

- Two methods of buoyancy. This can be achieved by using a wing with a redundant bladder, dry-suit or lift bag with a minimum of 20 kg/45lb of positive lift.
- Dive Computer - Multi-gas dive computer capable of switching between a minimum of 2 gases ideally more.
- Backup Computer or depth/bottom timer.
- 2 Surface Marker Buoys (SMB) - One red or orange SMB and one yellow SMB with a slate or wet notes attached for emergency use.
- 2 Reels or spools - One with a minimum 15m of line and one with a minimum of 60m of line.
- Dive Slate or Wet Notes - Additional dive slate in addition to the slate used with the emergency surface marker buoy or a set of wet notes.
- Minimum of two dive torches (primary and back-up) for guests planning on doing wreck penetration.

Recommended Equipment:

- Back-plate, harness and wing - capable of carrying manifolded twin aluminium 80 cu ft cylinders and one or two 40/80 cu ft aluminium stage cylinders. The wing should have a minimum of 20 kg/45lb of positive lift.
- Two DIN regulator sets: one with a long hose configured for twin cylinder operation.
- One or two DIN stage regulators for use with up to 95% oxygen.
- Protection – 3mm or 5mm full length wetsuit. Some divers also like to use a hood or helmet and gloves. Water temperature is between 27°-29°C all year round with no thermoclines.
- Spare Mask - Spare mask should be carried on all dives.

As rental equipment, cylinders and gases are subject to availability, please inform us of your requirements as soon as possible.

Gas prices, equipment, and Sofnolime costs will be advised in the WhatsApp chat prior to departure.

## Fit to Dive

All divers are responsible for ensuring that they are fit to dive, and are required to complete a medical statement to that effect. Guests who have any medical conditions or symptoms that could be restrictive to diving will need to obtain a doctor's note clearing them to dive, prior to travelling.

If you are unable to complete the statement as directed, or can not provide a current doctor's certificate (less than 1 year old) clearing you to dive, you accept that you may not be able to take part in certain aspects of the holiday you have booked with us.

## Diving Safety

Use of a dive computer and SMB are compulsory.

All guests are responsible for their own dive profiles and must stay within the limits of their training and experience, follow dive plans and computer guidelines, and complete all necessary decompression / safety stops on all dives. They must also follow any instruction given by the dive crew aboard the vessel.

Due to the remote nature of diving in Bikini we recommend that all divers plan and execute conservative dive profiles and, once all the necessary decompression obligations are met, spend an additional 10 minutes between 3 - 6m before surfacing.

As stated in our Terms & Conditions, dive insurance and travel insurance are mandatory.

## Flying after Diving

Current studies indicate that you should wait at least 24 hours after multiple days with repetitive diving before flying. Please keep this in mind when you book your onward international or domestic flights.

## Diving Emergencies

The Marshall Islands are an extremely remote diving destination without hyperbaric facilities. The nearest hyperbaric chamber is in either Hawaii or Australia and emergency air evacuation to one of these countries is required.

Kindly note, we do not support 'In Water Recompression'.

With the above in mind, it is mandatory that all guests purchase dive and liveaboard specific insurance according to their level of certification. This insurance needs to cover the maximum depths that you plan to dive to, as well as air evacuation costs. We strongly urge that all guests dive well within recognised limits and follow our Dive Guides' advice.

## **General Information**

### Advanced Passenger Information (API)

There are certain details that we require for administrative purposes prior to guests travelling. All guests are required to submit their information via our secure online portal at the link provided separately.

### Standard Forms

It is a requirement for all guests to complete a medical statement, liability releases, and standard safe diving practices statement prior to, or upon arrival.

To save some time, and to ensure that you have no pre-existing conditions which could affect your diving, you can download the forms from the above link, fill them in, and bring them with you. By completing and signing the forms, you are confirming that you have read, understood, and agree to the conditions outlined in the forms.

### Additional Technical Diving Forms

In addition to the standard liability release, safe diving practices and medical forms, guests joining a Bikini Atoll itinerary are required to complete the Technical Diving Liability Release and Bikini Atoll Liability Release.

If you are unable to complete any of the forms as instructed, you accept that you may not be able to take part in certain aspects of the liveaboard itinerary which you have booked with us.

## 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\$). There are no ATMs in Ebeye. Therefore we recommend bringing a sufficient amount of USD in cash, preferably in smaller denominations to cover any incidentals or local purchases.

## Health

Medical care in the Marshall Islands is very basic with the 'best' medical facility being 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. Please make sure you use insect repellent and cover exposed skin to minimise the risk of insect borne diseases.

Radioactive radiation to which divers are exposed from the shipwrecks in Bikini Atoll 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.

## Vaccinations

We strongly advise all guests to ensure that all routine vaccinations are up to date; these include MMR (measles-mumps-rubella), Tetanus, Diphtheria and Polio. Other recommended vaccinations for The Marshall Islands include Hepatitis A and Typhoid.

It is your responsibility to check your own country's travel advisories for the Marshall Islands, or with your nearest health care professional or travel clinic for the latest vaccination requirements and recommendations.

The use of insect repellent and covering exposed skin is highly recommended to prevent insect-borne diseases that are present in the Marshall Islands, such as Dengue Fever.

If you are travelling with medication, please bring your physician's prescription with you.

## Language and Religion

The official languages are English and Marshallese.

Safety and dive briefings on board will be provided in English. If you do not speak and understand English please let us know prior to arrival.

Approximately 98% of the population of the Marshall Islands is a mix of predominantly Christian religions: 54.8% United Church of Christ (Protestant), 25.8% Assemblies of God (Pentecostal), 8.4% Roman Catholic and 9% other Christian faiths.

## Climate and Weather

The climate of the Marshall Islands is tropical, hot all year round, with constant trade winds and little variation in temperatures, although the central and southern islands are more equatorial and rainy all year round.

Temperatures in the northern atolls average between 30° and 31°C (86°-88°F) from April to October cooling down to around 25°-26°C (76°-78°F) in the evenings. The wettest months in the north are July - October with an average of 185-250 mm (7-10 inches) and 21-22 days of rain.

## Water Temperature and Exposure Suits

Warm temperatures in Bikini Atoll are pretty consistent with very little variation from the norm of 28°-29°C (82°-84°F). A 5mm full length exposure suit is strongly recommended due to the nature of the dives in Bikini Atoll and to avoid injury from the wreckage, although we advise bringing appropriate additional exposure protection for prolonged deco-stops.

## Environmental considerations

Waste disposal in The Republic of the Marshall Islands is a constant challenge, with traditional disposal methods being neither ideal nor environmentally acceptable. Although the Marshall Islands Government has introduced a management strategy, the current challenges, which include a lack of recycling facilities, remain until the project is complete. We therefore kindly ask our guests to consider the following to help with our mission to reduce our environmental impact.

## Batteries

If your personal dive equipment may require a unique size, or a lot of replacement batteries during your trip, please bring extra batteries with you and take the spent ones home to be recycled or disposed of properly. Alternatively, consider using rechargeable batteries as there are plenty of sockets to plug in a charger on board.

## Water Bottles

We are dedicated to becoming single use plastic free across all of our trips. Plastic straws and stirrers have already been banned and we are removing single use plastic bottles from our vessels. If you own a sports bottle, we simply ask that you bring it with you, or you can purchase one on board. Alternatively, we have plenty of cups on board which you can use to ensure you remain well hydrated.

## Plastic bags and wrappers

We do not provide plastic bags for purchases made on board, although reusable canvas bags are available for sale. Please help us minimise plastic waste by removing plastic wrappers and packaging from items before travelling. If you bring plastic bags with you, please reuse them, and take them home.

## Toiletries

We kindly ask that guests consider the type of products which they are bringing with them and, where possible, to bring only environmentally friendly toiletries for use on board, and to take partially or unused products home with them.

## Life on Board

The main features of the vessel you have booked can be seen via the Bikini Atoll page of the Dirty Dozen website - Check Availability and Book <https://thedirtydozenexpeditions.com/book-now-bikini-atoll>.

Due to the layout of the boat, the vessel is not suitable for wheelchairs and may provide challenges, or be unsuitable for guests with limited mobility. Please contact us for further details if you have any concerns.

## Accommodation

Unless otherwise stated, accommodation on board is based on standard occupancy of each specific cabin type. Single occupancy of double/twin cabins may be available on request, and is subject to a supplemental charge.

All cabins are air-conditioned. Towels and shower gel are provided free of charge to all guests.

## Food and Drink

Meals are provided on a full board basis including breakfast, lunch and dinner served buffet style in the indoor dining area. A complimentary range of carbonated soft drinks, fruit juices and teas are available at all times as well as instant and fresh brewed coffee, snacks and fresh fruit. There is also a selection of beer, wine and spirits available for an additional charge.

We offer a choice of International and locally influenced cuisine and can cater to special dietary requirements with advance notice. Should you have any specific dietary needs, allergies, or special requests, please advise your sales consultant at the time of confirming your liveaboard trip to ensure we are able to make provisions for your needs.

Special dietary requirements: Please note that, while we always do our best to accommodate dietary requests, it is extremely difficult in The Marshall Islands to find low-fat, soya, and many other products that are common elsewhere. Please consider bringing some of your own foods if the lack thereof may constitute a health risk or seriously compromise your enjoyment of your holiday.

## Clothing and Footwear

Dress on board is very casual and most guests feel comfortable in little more than swimwear, shorts and t-shirts. A sweater is advised for cooler nights, particularly after extended dive times. We kindly request guests respect the wishes of others by wearing appropriate clothing for meal times.

Most guests prefer bare feet on board the vessel; however any land visits may require sturdy sandals or cross-trainers.

The boat is equipped with laundry facilities and our housekeeper is happy to launder your clothes during the trip for a nominal fee of 1.00 USD per item, irrespective of size/ weight.

## Electricity

Truk Master (Apr - Sept 2023 only)

Power outlets on Truk Master are 110V 60Hz US/European style; there are a limited number of 220V sockets provided at the camera tables in the dining area.

European, and most other non-US electrical equipment generally require 220V at 50 hz so guests are advised to bring power converters and plug adapters with them to avoid potential damage to their equipment and ensure it charges correctly.

There is a limited quantity of universal plug adapters available for guests to use although we advise bringing your own to ensure you have the amount and type necessary.

Pacific Master (from April 2023 onwards)

Power throughout Pacific Master is 220V / 50hz, using Australian style 3-prong outlets. We advise bringing a plug adapter and a multi socket power bar if you have many things to charge and just one Australian plug adapter. If your electrical items are not compatible with 220 V, please bring a voltage adapter with you to avoid equipment damage and ensure it charges correctly.

## Smoking

Smoking on board is permitted in designated outdoor areas.



## Underwater Photography and Videography

The vessel offers specialised features for underwater photographers and videographers which include, indoor and outdoor work stations for the preparation and maintenance of cameras, individual storage drawers for cameras and peripheral items and large rinsing tanks with frequently changed fresh water.

Our crew are thoroughly briefed in the handling of delicate camera equipment and will offer to assist you when entering or exiting the water. However, each diver bears the sole responsibility to look after and care for their own camera equipment and fully assumes the risk of any loss or damage to such equipment.

## Drones

Drone use is allowed in Marshall Islands, but there are several laws that need to be followed:

- Drones must not be flown in sensitive areas including government or military facilities, i.e. Kwajalein. Use of drones or camera drones in these areas are prohibited.
- Drones can not be flown over or near airports or in areas where aircraft are operating
- Drones should not be flown over people or large crowds
- Respect people's privacy; flying low over villages/settlements is not acceptable without their permission
- Drones must only be used during daylight hours and in good weather conditions

## Staying Connected

There is very limited general internet access throughout The Marshall Islands, and no mobile roaming data available at all.

We regret that we are currently unable to offer satellite internet packages or WiFi onboard either vessels.

## **Payments on Board**

### Marine, Park and Port Fees

Marine, Park and Port fees are dependent on the itinerary duration and will be added to your invoice to be paid on board before disembarkation.

Please refer to your booking and itinerary details for the amount applicable to your trip. The full amount of the Marine, Park and Port Fees is paid directly to the Bikini Council and cannot be fully or partially reimbursed if a trip is cut short for any reason.

We strongly recommend that guests have insurance which covers losses due to trip curtailment.

### On board extras and payments

We strongly recommend adding equipment rental to your liveaboard invoice to pay before the start of your trip.

Additional charges for gases and Sofnolime\*, as well as equipment and cylinders that have not been paid for in advance, and other items such as laundry, and alcoholic drinks, can be paid on board in cash or by credit card.

\*Sofnolime is charged per 20kg tub. No price reduction or buy-back will be offered for partially used tubs.

All prices are given in USD, but can be also paid in Euro, GBP, and AUD calculated using the applicable exchange rate on the last day of your liveaboard.

We accept Mastercard and Visa credit card payments onboard for which there is a 3% surcharge. Please note that we are unable to charge gratuities to credit or debit cards.

Guests are advised to bring from 1,500 - 2,000 USD to cover onboard extras that have not been paid in advance in case of credit card payment issues, as well as any gratuities you may wish to leave.

### Tipping

We believe that tipping is a matter of personal choice. Should you feel that your crew has made your holiday extra special then a tip is always appreciated; an envelope will be provided for your convenience by your cruise director and all gratuities are divided equally amongst all the crew, including the captain and dive guides. Please note that tips can only be accepted in cash.

### **Safety on Board**

#### Emergency Management

All of our crew members undergo rigorous training in emergency management procedures. A thorough boat safety briefing will be provided, in English, by your Cruise Director at the start of your trip during which all guests will be requested to participate in a life jacket drill. If you do not understand, or speak English, please let us know.

Further practice scenarios may be performed during your cruise to assist our crew in keeping their skills sharp.

#### Emergency Equipment & First Aid

The boat is equipped with modern safety features such as automated life rafts, EPIRB, satellite communication and emergency pumps.

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.

There is a fully stocked medical first aid kit for treating minor injuries and ailments as well as for assisting trained medical professionals in remote locations, including 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.

### **Contact Info**

Thailand Office - Master Liveaboards  
10/512 Moo 3, Tambon Vichit, Muang Phuket 83000, Thailand  
Open Monday - Friday 08:30 - 18:30 and Saturday 09:00 - 17:00 ICT (UTC+7)  
Web: [www.masterliveaboards.com](http://www.masterliveaboards.com) Email: [dive@masterliveaboards.com](mailto:dive@masterliveaboards.com) Thailand Office: +66 (0) 76 367 444 UK number: +44 (0) 208 099 2230 USA (Toll Free): +1 866 258 6398 WhatsApp: +66 (0) 62 668 7136

Marshall Islands contact number  
Operations Manager (Ferg): +692 458 5255 (in Ebeye only)  
Master Liveaboards 24hr emergency number:

Please, only use the Master Liveaboards 24 hr emergency number if you are unable to get a response from the numbers listed above.

UK Mobile: +44 7862 126398