

# Dive Truk Lagoon - The Odyssey and Truk Stop Hotel

## Trip Overview

Tech Asia and Asia Divers have organized a week of diving aboard the Liveaboard Odyssey, to be followed by a further week of land based diving from the Truk Stop Hotel in Truk ( Chuuk ) Lagoon, Micronesia. This former Japanese WWII supply base was the scene of the American carrier strike, Operation Hailstone, which in February 1944 sank over forty vessels and destroyed countless aircraft in a thirty six hour period.



Untouched for decades, and always protected by local laws, this now constitutes by far the largest, and most pristine concentration of shipwrecks anywhere in the world. The dive sites and depth ranges lend themselves equally well to either recreational or technical dives, both

of which Odyssey and the Truk Stop will fully support during the trips.

## Trip Schedule and Itinerary

The charter starts on August 29<sup>th</sup> 2010, running Sunday to Sunday with seven nights aboard the boat. Travel is best via Manila, with typical schedules having us fly Manila-Guam on the Saturday night, arriving early morning Sunday and spending a day in Guam before flying on to Chuuk that evening to board the boat. Up to four dives a day, plus night dives, are available Monday to Saturday, with Saturday afternoon or evening seeing a return to port. Divers disembark Sunday morning and generally fly late night to Guam to make their onward connections.



The second part of our trip commences Sunday September 5<sup>th</sup> with check in to the Truk Stop Hotel and diving being facilitated by former Asia Divers and Tech Asia instructor, now a Chuuk Dive Center manager, Kelvin Davidson, and his wife Anabel. We have several packages available to which extra diving ( such as outer reef dives, night dives, trimix dives etc ), can be added as you see fit at the time. The Truk Stop is currently the only dive center providing mixed gas fills in Truk Lagoon.

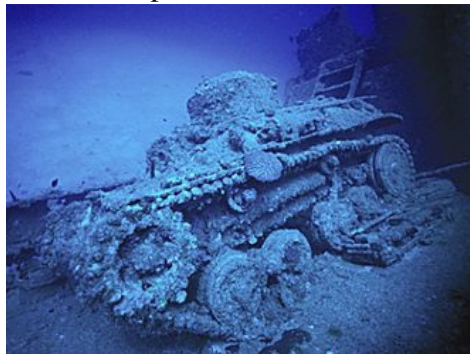
## Diving Conditions



The lagoon is relatively sheltered and free from current. Water is normally 28c/82°F or above, and with very good visibility. The anchorages where most ships sank range from bottom depths as shallow as 15m, to a little over 60m. A number of the biggest and most interesting wrecks to explore are in the 30m range. Inhabiting the wrecks you will find significant large marine life including Grey Reef Sharks, Silvertips, Eagle Rays, Barracuda and large Napoleons. Some of the most famous of the deeper wrecks are the San Francisco Maru, sunk fully laden with munitions and deck cargoes of light tanks in 62m, and the Aikoku Maru, final resting place of more than 700 Japanese marines lost with the awful explosion which sank her. Both make exceptional trimix dives.

## Dive Sites and Diving Practices

The wrecks range from Japanese destroyers and aircraft, to a Fleet Submarine, to a number of very large tankers and supply ships. Most of these were still loaded with fascinating arrays of war time supplies when sunk. Famous are such as the Fujikawa Maru, or Shinkoku Maru, both upright with easy access to large engine rooms, cargo holds bearing Zero fighter aircraft and identifiable rooms like the Shinkoku sick bay where medicine bottles and operating tables are still seen. Dusk dives on Shinkoku have in the past been as alive with activity as the best of dives in



Puerto Galera's Canyons. Other 'must see' wrecks would include the huge Heian Maru, Yamagiri Maru, Nippo Maru and Rio de Janeiro Maru, bearing cargoes as diverse as Long Lance torpedoes, 14" shells destined for Japanese battleships, deck cargoes of Japanese tanks, coastal defense guns and...hundreds of beer and saki bottles...

With these dives being in the 30m +/- depth range the possibilities for penetration using double tanks are endless. Besides the above and many more significant dive sites in recreational depths, the ships sunk in the Fourth Fleet anchorage west of Dublon Island lie in much deeper water. Some of the most well known of these wrecks are the San Francisco Maru, sunk fully laden with munitions and

deck cargoes of light tanks in 62m, and the Aikoku Maru, final resting place of more than 700 Japanese marines lost with the awful explosion which sank her. Both make exceptional trimix dives.

On the Odyssey we dive from the mothership itself, the crew will conduct an overview and briefing at each dive site, and then allow divers to be guided by them, or chose their own buddies or groups and dive their own plans. Scheduling is determined by the individual divers so it is very easy to avoid all being in the water at once and crowding the wreck. Nitrox is provided free to those certified to use it.

From the Truk Stop we are land based and using speedboats, typically 20-30 minutes at most to the wrecks. Again the majority of the best diving would be on the large medium depth wrecks but those with the urge to visit the likes of Aikoku ( having come all this way...why not? ) can do so. Site orientations will be provided and in water supervision as required by Kelvin or Sam, or dive teams allowed to run their own show.

## **Facilities**

The 132ft/40m vessel Odyssey comfortably accommodates 16 guests in nine luxury staterooms. All carpeted, air conditioned and with private en suite bathrooms. A spacious, well equipped Lounge, Galley and Sun Deck areas allow you to relax between dives. The boat will accommodate special dietary requests with advance notice.

The dive deck provides easy entry and exit via a platform at the stern, individual dive lockers, freshwater showers and warm deck towels. There are dedicated camera tables and a slide viewing table. Photo and video pros conduct training on board. Twin Aluminium DIN fitted double tanks and 30 cu ft.( 4 liter ) decompression tanks are provided and there is a fixed decompression/safety stop bar at 5m under the boat. Photographs and information about the boat can be found at <http://www.trukodyssey.com/>

The Truk Stop has well appointed Standard, Oceanview and Executive rooms, spacious, with private balcony, air conditioned, with refrigerators, TV and DVD players. The hotel bar and restaurant areas, besides excellent food, provide free broadband internet access. Amongst the extra touches are the now famous Bakery, and the Body Shop for an après dive massage.

The dive center is well set up to support our needs – manifolded doubles, decompression and stage tanks, full mixed gas blending, again all under the watchful eye of our former colleague Kelvin. All details at <http://www.trukstop.com/> .

## **Payments and Costs**

Odyssey charter rates for 2010 are US\$2,995.00 per person. This rate covers diving including tanks and weights, accommodation, meals, drinks including beer and wine, and airport transfers on arrival and departure. Standard nitrox mixes are provided free.

Not included in the charter fee is a local Government Tax of approximately US\$30.00, non standard nitrox mixes for decompression which are US\$2.00/cubic foot, and crew

gratuities. Required deposit is US\$1,000.00 with the balance of the trip cost being payable at least six months before departure.

For the Truk Stop we have three package options which include two technical dives a day with additional being added at the individuals discretion. These packages are set according to current best fit with inward and outbound flights from Truk to Guam.

- **Package A** – Diving Sunday Sept 5<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> – Depart Thursday 9<sup>th</sup>. Ideal for those continuing to dive after the liveaboard trip. Four nights/Four days diving ( eight prepaid technical dives ).
- **Package B** – Diving Monday 6<sup>th</sup> to Friday 10<sup>th</sup> – Depart Saturday 11<sup>th</sup>. Six nights, five diving days ( ten prepaid technical dives ). Good for those joining us on the inbound Sunday flight after the liveaboard is completed.
- **Package C** – Diving Monday 6<sup>th</sup> to Monday 13<sup>th</sup> – Depart Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup>. Nine nights, eight diving days ( sixteen prepaid technical dives ). As above for those wanting longer stays.

Rates depend on room type and are as below.

Room	Package A		Package B		Package C	
	Twin Share	Single	Twin Share	Single	Twin Share	Single
Standard	\$959.80	\$1,155.60	\$1,259.70	\$1,553.20	\$1,979.55	\$2,420.10
Ocean View	\$979.60	\$1,195.20	\$1,289.40	\$1,612.80	\$2,024.10	\$2,509.20
Executive	\$1,017.00	\$1,270.00	\$1,345.50	\$1,725.00	\$2,108.25	\$2,677.50

The above prices include :

- Accommodation as specified
- Airport transfers
- Two technical dives per day including Nitrox 30
- Technical dive surcharge applied by the resort ( covers tanks, support etc )

Prices do not include :

- Annual Dive Permit ( US\$30.00)
- Meals and beverages
- Oxygen for decompression gas ( \$0.03 per liter )
- Helium ( currently \$0.069 per liter )
- Sofnolime ( POA )
- Flights, airport taxes etc

Note : Additional dives may be arranged and paid for in Truk. These are costed as follows –

- Night Dive ( Min. two divers ) - US\$60.00
- Shark Dive - US\$60.00
- Outer Reef Dive ( Min. two ) - US\$75.00
- Two Tank Outer Reef - US\$120.00
- Additional Technical Dive - US\$60.00

If you require additional diving days to any package or adjusted schedules, or wish to bring a recreational diving partner, please contact us for rates that apply.

Please contact [info@tehasia.ph](mailto:info@tehasia.ph) for booking and payment details.