

# Dive Truk Lagoon aboard the Odyssey

## Trip Overview

Tech Asia has organized another week of diving for 2017 aboard the Liveaboard Odyssey 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 will fully support during the trip.

## Trip Schedule and Itinerary

The charters start on August 13<sup>th</sup> , running Sunday to Sunday with seven nights aboard the boat. Travel for most guests 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 five dives a day, including 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.



## 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.



## 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. Ships such as San Francisco Maru and Aikoku Maru are excellent dives though deeper than 50m. Helium is now available on request and while Odyssey can

visit those sites our previous experiences have shown that maximizing your diving is best done by exploring the shallower shipwrecks.

We will be diving from the mothership Odyssey, whose crew will conduct an overview and briefing at each dive site, and then allow divers to dive 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.



## **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 on their website : <http://www.trukodyssey.com/>

## **Payments and Costs**

The 2017 charter rate is US\$3,195.00 plus 5% sales tax and a \$50 Chuuk Permit to be prepaid to us. Total US\$3,404.75 This rate covers diving including tanks and weights, accommodation, meals except for dinner on the final Saturday night, drinks including beer and wine, and airport transfers on arrival and departure. Standard nitrox mixes are provided free.

Not included in the charter fee are non standard nitrox mixes for decompression which are US\$2.00/cubic foot, crew gratuities, flights and airport taxes.

Required deposit is US\$1,000, with a further payment of \$1,000 12 months before the trip, and the balance of the cost being payable three months before departure. Please contact [dave@techasia.ph](mailto:dave@techasia.ph) for payment details.