



This past November I had the opportunity to join a select group of dive store owners, operators and personnel to experience the culture, lifestyle and diving of the worlds best destination I have been to yet!

If you ever get the chance to take that "Dream Vacation", make sure Micronesia and the islands of Yap & Palau are at the top of your list. I assure, you will not be disappointed.



If you do plan to travel for long distances on a plane, do yourself a favor and buy a pair of noise canceling headphones ~ best \$100 bucks I ever spent!

"Divers are given to superlatives, but Yaps Mantas are off the end of the scale"

The Rock Islands of Palau are covered with lush tropical jungle, exquisite waterfalls and pristine beaches surrounded by the clear, blue water of the Pacific Ocean.

Ulong Channel, Blue Corner & Siaes Tunnel are just a few of the many spectacular dive sites among the several hundred islands that make up Palau. Jellyfish Lake with its non-stinging jellies are also a main attraction!

Palau & Yap 2005



This was to be the trip of a lifetime. When I received the call back in late 2004 asking if I would like to make the trip I think it took me all of two seconds to say "Yes!" I had often marveled at the amazing photos and shows that described the area of Micronesia in the South Pacific. Hearing others talk about the large pelagics, beautiful underwater scenery and luscious top-side environment only fueled the desire to visit this part of the world.

We had to wait almost a year to hear these words from Mike Musto, owner/operator of Trip-n-Tour Pacific, "Hooray!!!!!! Continental has confirmed our flights for the Palau/Yap trip!" The day had finally arrived, we were going!

The six o'clock departure flight from Charlotte October 31st could not get here soon enough and before I knew it I was headed to Houston to meet the rest of my group for the journey from there to our final destination of the day - Guam. The departure gate in Houston was the "official" meeting place for our group, a father/son pair from Schreveport, husband/wife teams from N.C., New Mexico & Florida, then singles from Tennessee, Texas, Ohio, Ontario-Canada and myself from South Carolina. We finally arrived in Guam on

November 2 (remember the date line!)

The next morning found us up at 4:30 for our flight to Yap-the Island of Stone Money and Manta Ray Bay, our home for the next four days. Wow, arrive in Yap at 8 am and start diving by 10.

Yap is world re-known for its Mantas and we found out why, these graceful creatures cruise in to cleaning stations like stealth aircraft to have parasites picked off their backs and swim with mouths open to feed on the plankton they live on. The mantas are not the only attraction on Yap, the culture of the Yapese can be told by the dances they perform as children to learn about the ancient heritage of their people.



Palau & Yap for 2007?

If you have ever entertained the thought of travel to the Pacific, let us help! We are Dive/Travel experts for Micronesia and would love to show you how to experience it too!



Underwater Adventures 552 S. Pike West, Sumter SC 803-773-DIVE

Palau, Where do I start? We arrive late Nov. 5th as the arranged charter picks us up and takes the group to the Palau Pacific Resort, a 64 acre luxury resort on the beach overlooking the great Pacific Ocean. The next day starts early as we make our first of three days diving the wonderful waters around Palau. Our dive host, NECO Marine did an excellent job of getting us to the reefs, utilizing fast, comfortable boats and giving us thrilling tours thru some of the many rock islands that make up Palau. Sharks, Rays, Turtles and fish life so thick it will block out the sunlight!



One of the stops we made during our trips to the reef was Jellyfish Lake, this natural wonder departs radically from convention; for it is an enclosed body of water wherein over the course of a millennia resident jellyfish have completely lost their sting because they have not had to fight off predators. Instead, they spend their days in privileged leisure, pulsating gently from one side of the lake to the other while catching the sun's rays and feeding on the generous algae rich waters.

"The undisputed best in the world", Crystal clear waters offer visibility beyond anyone's imagination. The Ngemelis Wall, commonly known as the Big Drop-Off, and declared by diving's immortal icon Jacques Cousteau to be the best wall dive in the world is but one of the literally hundreds of illustrative examples of this purity. Others include Blue Corner, arguably one of the best in the world and the most famous of Palau's underwater attractions, shows off constantly cruising gray reef sharks, barracuda, giant Napoleon Wrasse (upwards of six feet long!), snapper and butterfly fish and multitudes of others so thick you could not see another diver if they were only a couple feet the other side.

Diving is year round in Palau with the busiest season from January to April, when spectacular sights such as migratory whale sharks passing by, sharks or mantas mating and large schools of fish spawning can be seen.

The island topside is just as intense with tropical foliage and spectacular sights such as the stone monoliths, waterfalls and traditional village ruins.

All of us hated to leave Palau and all of its natural beauty above and below the water but I know we all agree when I say "I shall return", if only for another week or possibly forever...

If you would like to see more pictures from Yap & Palau stop by and you too will know why this is, "The Dream Destination"

