

Tubbataha National Marine Park and More, The Philippines

Trip Information

Puerto Princesa - Cebu

- **Arrival airport:** Puerto Princesa (PPS)
- **Departure airport:** Mactan-Cebu International (CEB)
- **Meeting point for embarkation:** Hotel Centro, Puerto Princesa at 12:30

It is imperative that all guests are ready to embark at the designated time.

Transfer between Puerto Princesa Airport and Hotel Centro, and from other hotels within Puerto Princesa city boundaries on embarkation day is included in the liveboard price.

Transfer from Philippine Siren to Puerto Princesa Airport or local hotels is also included in the liveboard price

PLEASE NOTE: It is imperative that all guests arrive before 12:30 to avoid unnecessary delays to the boat's departure from Puerto Princesa.

Due to local regulations, and 12-16 hours crossing time from Puerto Princesa to Tubbataha, it is imperative that all guests are ready to embark at the designated time. We cannot be held responsible for delayed departure from Puerto Princesa caused by guests arriving late, or for missed dives.

The Tubbataha Management Office needs to do a mandatory briefing for ALL guests which is followed by a check conducted by the coast guards before Philippine Siren can leave Puerto Princesa. If the brief and coast guard check are not accomplished in good time, the boat will not be able to the port.

Disembarkation at the end of the cruise will be just before 10:00, so flight departure from Cebu should ideally be no earlier than 13:30.

Earlier departures are problematic and must be confirmed with our office before flights are booked.

If traveling onwards on the same day, please allow plenty of time for check-in and transfer domestic to international terminals.

Cebu - Puerto Princesa

- **Arrival airport:** Mactan-Cebu International (CEB)
- **Departure airport:** Puerto Princesa (PPS)
- **Meeting point for embarkation:** Marina Seaview Restaurant, Mactan Island at 13:00

Transfer from Mactan-Cebu International Airport or local hotels to Philippine Siren on embarkation day is included in the liveboard price.

Shared transfer from Philippine Siren to Puerto Princesa Airport or local hotels is also included in the liveboard price.

Transfers to hotels or resorts outside of the Puerto Princesa City limits can be arranged for an additional charge.

Disembarkation at Baywalk Pier in Puerto Princesa will be just before 10:00.

Guests intending to depart from Puerto Princesa on the day of disembarkation are kindly asked to book a flight departing no earlier than 13:30.

Flights

Advice on International Flights

International flights may be booked into and out of Manila or Cebu. We recommend that you plan to arrive in Manila, Cebu or Puerto Princesa at least 1 day before their liveboard departure date to allow for possible flight delays or schedule changes and to ensure you start your holiday well rested.

IMPORTANT: Guests who are planning to arrive in Puerto Princesa on the day of embarkation are kindly requested to book a flight which arrives into no later than 12.00 noon. The airport is a short taxi ride from our departure point of Hotel Centro.

Disembarkation at the end of the cruise will be just before 10:00, so flight departure from Puerto Princesa should ideally be no earlier than 13:30. Earlier departures are logistically problematic and therefore not recommended.

If traveling onwards on the same day, please allow plenty of time for transfer to international terminals and check-in.

Scuba Diving Equipment

The Philippines Office for Transportation Security includes 'scuba equipment' on a list of blunt instruments that are not to be carried in hand luggage on flights originating within the Philippines. We advise that Siren Fleet guests pack all dive related equipment in their check-in luggage rather than their carry-on as there have been cases of guests being prohibited from carrying their regulators in their hand luggage. If you are unsure we would advise that you contact your airline for clarification.

Airport Fees

Passengers travelling within and from the Philippines are required to pay airport terminal fees. Please ensure that you retain a sufficient amount of PHP to pay these fees upon departure: it can only be paid in cash.

- Domestic departure: 200PHP
- International departure: 850PHP

Visa and Passports

Passport holders of most other Western countries obtain a 30 day tourist visa on arrival at no extra charge. They may ask to see your confirmed return/onward flight ticket. Please make sure your passport is valid for at least 6 months from the date of entry into the Philippines. Visa and passport regulations differ per country; therefore, we do advise our guests to check for any updates or changes of visa procedures with their nearest Philippines embassy/consulate.

Insurance

Insurance which covers scuba diving is mandatory aboard all of our vessels. All guests are also required to carry full travel and cancellation insurance, in accordance with 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.

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.

Master Liveboards act as a referrer for DiveAssure who offer dive and travel insurance policies, 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.

Please consult our webpage for details and direct link to DiveAssure's booking portal: www.masterliveboards.com/insurance.

Diving Information

Although we are happy to welcome divers of all levels on S/Y Philippine Siren, diving conditions in Tubbataha are not suitable for beginners or inexperienced divers due to its exposed location and challenging conditions including strong currents and deep wall dives.

Guests' Level of Diving

It is recommended that guests wishing to scuba dive in Tubbataha have PADI **Advanced Open Water** certification*, or equivalent, with a minimum of 30 logged dives, and experience diving in currents.

You will be asked to show certification cards and a record of your logged dives when you board as proof of experience, so please be sure to bring them with you.

*For guests who have the minimum number of required dives but are not certified as Advanced Open Water divers, we can offer the course on board.

Any guests who our crew feel have insufficient skills or experience in certain conditions may be denied participation in some or all dives during the liveboard.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the diving conditions please contact our reservations team.

Fit to Dive

All divers are responsible for ensuring that they are fit to dive, and are required to complete a medical statement upon arrival in resort. Guests who have any symptoms that could be restrictive to diving will need to obtain a doctor's note clearing them to dive, prior to arriving in resort. The medical statement can be found on our website at www.masterliveboards.com/forms.

If you are unable to complete the statement as directed, or provide a current doctor's certificate (less 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

Guests are responsible for their own dive profiles and must stay within the limits of their certification.

For your safety, we ask all guests to always remain well within the limits of their dive computer, follow the instructions of the cruise director and guides and make a safety stop at the end of each dive.

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

There are numerous recompression facilities throughout the Philippines; the most accessible are located in Manila, Cebu, Batangas and Subic. There is also a hyperbaric chamber at Ospital ng Palawan in Puerto Princesa City. Private emergency air evacuation may be needed to

access these facilities from Tubbataha National Park in the unlikely event of an accident. We strongly urge all guests to dive well within their dive limits and to follow the advice of our dive guides when making repetitive dives throughout their liveaboard trip. Above all, diving specific insurance should be purchased before their trip departure and must cover all costs which may be incurred as a result of a diving related incident, including emergency air evacuation and recompression chamber charges.

As per our [Terms & Conditions](#) adequate dive insurance and travel insurance are mandatory.

Water Temperature and Exposure Suits

Water temperatures are broadly similar throughout the entire Philippines region with averages of around 26° - 28°C (78° - 82°F). Most guests find that a 3mm or 5mm wetsuit and possibly a rash vest are suitable for the expected water temperatures. However, we recommend that those who feel the cold easily, especially with repeated diving, bring an extra vest / hood or full-length wetsuit with them. Keep in mind that 3 mm shorty rental wetsuits are available for rental on board.

Diving Equipment

Diving equipment is available to rent for an additional charge but is subject to availability and should be pre-ordered.

11 litre (80 cu ft) tanks, weight belts and weights are provided free of charge.

There are a limited number of 13 litre (100cuft) aluminium tanks which are available, at an additional cost, by special request only and must be pre-booked

Equipment rental and Nitrox costs can be viewed under 'Extras' on the Philippine Siren page of our website: www.masterliveboards.com/boats/philippine-siren.

Please note that the use of a dive computer is compulsory on our yachts. For your safety, Master Liveboards ask all guests to always dive well within the limits of their dive computer and make a safety stop at the end of each dive.

Please pre-book rental equipment and cylinders at the time of confirming your liveaboard holiday, as they are subject to availability.

Gloves*, nudi pointers, reef hooks and tank bangers are not allowed in Tubbataha.

*Guests who have medical issues and are advised to wear gloves for protection underwater must carry a medical certificate for this purpose. There is no exception to this. No medical certificate, no diving.

Underwater Photography and Videography

Philippine Siren offers specialised features for underwater photographers and videographers, which include:

- Indoor work stations for the preparation and maintenance of cameras
- Individual storage drawers for cameras and peripheral items
- Large rinsing tanks with fresh water; changed frequently

Our crews are thoroughly trained in the handling of delicate camera equipment and will bring your cameras to/from the tenders for you.

Please note that **drones are not permitted in the Tubbataha Marine Park**, unless a permit has been obtained from the TMO at least 2 weeks in advance.

The use of strobes and/or flash light is not allowed in Oslob when snorkelling or diving with whale sharks.

General Information

Advanced Passenger Information (API)

There are certain details that we require for the airlines and our own administrative purposes prior to travel. Guests are required to submit the required information via our secure online portal at www.masterliveboards.com/portal.

Forms

It is a requirement for all guests to complete the following forms prior to or upon arrival in resort - medical statement, liability releases, and safe standard practice statement, which can be found at www.masterliveboards.com/forms.

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

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

Time Zone

The local time in the Philippines is +8 hours UMC (GMT).

Money Matters

The local currency is the Philippine Peso (PHP). The vast majority of hotels, resorts, shops and restaurants will accept a wide range of credit and debit cards. Please note that in some cases, away from the major cities, a service charge for credit card handling may be added which can range from 3.5% – 6.0% of your purchase total. ATMs are easy to find in most cities and airports throughout the Philippines. Guests should ensure they have small denominations of Philippine Peso for departure taxes and any excess baggage charges prior to departing from Manila or Cebu. There are also money changers at airports and in the cities.

Health

Health standards vary throughout the country depending on location. In some areas they do not meet Western standards but in others they exceed them. Manila and Cebu have

international class hospitals whilst the hospitals in other parts of the country will ensure that you receive more than adequate care. All major towns have hospitals and doctors available.

It is a requirement for all guests to have travel and diving Insurance which covers medical treatment and expenses. It is your responsibility to ensure your insurance fully covers all of your personal requirements, including pre-existing medical conditions, medical expenses and repatriation in the event of accident or illness, diving injuries and medical evacuation.

We advise all guests to ensure that their vaccinations are up to date. Please make sure you use insect repellent and cover exposed skin to prevent any insect borne diseases.

Please consult your doctor or nearest health authorities for up-to-date medical travel advice and vaccination recommendations well before departure.

We recommend that travellers take normal precautions with food in order to prevent stomach upsets, and be sure to drink either boiled or bottled water only.

Language and Religion

There are over 170 different languages and dialects spoken in the Philippines although Tagalog (also known as Filipino) is the most widely spoken. Nearly all Filipinos who work in the tourism industry speak good English and English road and street signs are found nationwide.

Almost 90% of the population is Christian with over 80% being Roman Catholic. The largest religious minority is Muslim, which makes up about 5% of the population.

Climate and Weather

The Philippines is a tropical country and the weather is fairly even all year round. The year is roughly divided into two seasons; 'rainy' and 'dry'. The rainy season generally begins in early June and can extend through to November.

The dry season runs from November through to May but there is always the chance of light rainfall during this period. The warmest months are usually March through to May Year round coastal and inland temperatures range from 27° - 28°C (81° - 82°F) up to 33° - 34°C (91° - 93°F) with an average of approximately 31°C (87°F). Evenings are marginally cooler.

Life on Board

The main features of the vessel can be seen here:
www.masterliveboards.com/boats/philippine-siren.

Accessibility

Due to the layout of the boat, Philippine Siren may provide challenges, or be unsuitable for guests with limited mobility. Please contact us for further details if you have any concerns.

Accommodation

All cabins on board Philippine Siren are twin or double occupancy. Single occupancy may be available on request, and is subject to a supplemental charge.

Cabin Facilities

All cabins have individually controllable air-conditioning and private en-suite bathrooms with centrally heated hot water. Other facilities include hair dryer, towels, bathrobes and lockable safety box.

Food and Drink

Meals are provided on a full board basis including a light breakfast, full breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks with unlimited drinking water, tea, coffee, fruit juices and soft drinks.

Local lager (beer), wine, and spirits are available from our cocktail bar for an additional fee.

We offer a choice of International and locally inspired 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.

Please note: It can be very difficult to find low-fat or soya products that are common elsewhere. While we always do our best to accommodate dietary requests, 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 multiple dives. Philippine Siren is equipped with laundry facilities and our housekeeper is more than happy to launder your clothes during the trip for a small charge.

We do request that guests respect the wishes of others by donning clothing for meal times. Most guests prefer to walk barefoot on board of our vessel; however, island visits may require sturdy sandals or cross-trainers.

Electricity

Both 220V and 110V with 2 round pin sockets, European style, are available and we have some universal adapters on board. Nevertheless, we do advise guests to bring their own to ensure you have the amount necessary.

Guests whose electrical items are rated as 220v are advised to bring power adapters with them to ensure their equipment charges correctly.

Staying Connected

Unfortunately, due to the remote location, there is no cell phone or internet coverage en route to, from or around Tubbataha National Park. However, there is limited coverage in many areas of the Visayas region. Guests with roaming packages on their phones will be able

to use them when the boat is close to Cebu and other areas of the Visayas, or can purchase a local sim card with a 3GB data package on board.

We do have satellite phone communication on board which can be used by guests for a small charge in the event of an emergency.

In case your family needs to contact you during the cruise, emergency contact details for Philippine Siren can be found below.

Smoking

Smoking on board is permitted in designated outdoor areas.

Environmental considerations

Although there are recycling programs and facilities in place in the Philippines, they are very limited and are only able to process a small amount of recyclable plastic materials. We therefore ask our guests to consider the following to help with our mission to reduce our environmental impact.

All Tubbataha operators are mandated to follow No-Single-Use Plastic anytime in the season which includes snacks in plastic wrappers, etc.

Batteries

While some batteries may be available to purchase on board, please bring extras if your personal dive equipment may require a unique size, or need a lot of replacement batteries during your trip. We kindly request that you take spent batteries home so that they can 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 fleets. Plastic straws and stirrers have been banned on all of our boats and we do not provide single use plastic bottles on board.

If you own a sports bottle, we simply ask that you bring it with you, or you can purchase one on board. If you don't have one and you don't want to purchase one, 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 use 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 environmentally friendly toiletries for use on board, and to take partially or unused products home with them.

Underwater

- Nudi Pointers, Reef Hooks and tank bangers are prohibited.
- Diving with gloves is not allowed. If guests have been advised to wear gloves for protection underwater for medical reasons, they **MUST** carry a doctor's certificate for this purpose.

Payments on Board

Marine and Port Fees

Marine park and port fees can be added to your invoice to pay prior to departure, or they can be paid on board; please refer to your itinerary details for further information.

Optional Extras

Philippine Siren offers a range of services and optional extras to make your stay on board even more enjoyable. We offer the use of kayaks and land excursions throughout your cruise free of charge.

The following services are also available for an additional fee:

- 1 Hour Relaxation Massage
- Wine (750ml bottle)
- Selection of Spirits and Cocktails
- Laundry
- Dive Courses
- Exclusive Siren Fleet Merchandise: T-shirts, polo shirts, rash guards, caps, nudi pointers, cargo shorts, etc.

All prices on board are quoted in USD although we are also happy to accept cash payment in GBP, Euro, and AUD. We can accept payment by credit card as well (Mastercard or Visa) for which there is a 3% surcharge.

Guests are advised to bring 250-400 USD cash with them for any incidental costs additional to Marine Park & port fees, in case of credit card issues.

There are many banking & money changing facilities in Cebu, Manila and Puerto Princesa, although more favourable exchange rates may apply in your home country.

Tipping

We believe that tipping is a matter of personal choice. Should you feel that your crew has made your holiday extra special, they would certainly appreciate a tip. Please note we are only

able to accept tips in cash. For this purpose, you can use the envelope provided by the cruise director. He/she will make sure the tips are divided equally amongst all crew members, including the captain and dive guides.

Safety on Board

Emergency Management & Equipment

All Philippine Siren crew members have been extensively trained in emergency management procedures. A thorough boat safety briefing will be provided by your cruise director at the start of your trip, during which all guests will be requested to participate in a life jacket drill. Further practice scenarios may be performed during your cruise to assist our crew in keeping their skills sharp.

Philippine Siren is equipped with many modern safety features including automated life rafts, EPIRB, satellite communication and emergency pumps.

First Aid

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

There is also a full complement of medical grade oxygen on board which can be administered to divers through DAN kits or unit specific attachments.

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.

Extending your holiday

Travelling within the Philippines is exceptionally easy when you book with Master Liveaboards. We offer a range of domestic flights, hotels, transfers and short excursions that can be arranged for before or after your trip.

Should you require any assistance, please contact our reservations team who will be more than happy to make reservations on your behalf.

Optional Puerto Princesa / Cebu Extensions

To extend your liveaboard experience and ensure you are fully relaxed, we can offer you the following package:

- 1 night pre-cruise and 1 night post-cruise in a hotel of your choice.
- Domestic flights between Puerto Princesa and Cebu or Manila
- All domestic transfers

Furthermore, we are happy to assist with your holiday extension, either pre- or post-cruise in Palawan, Cebu, or elsewhere in the Philippines. Just let our Reservations Department know of your wishes and we can tailor packages to suit your needs.

Palawan Experience - Underground River Tour

This full day trip takes you to the Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park which is a protected area of the Philippines located some 80 kilometres (50 mi) north of the city of Puerto Princesa. The area represents a habitat for biodiversity conservation and contains a full mountain-to-the-sea ecosystem and has some of the most important forests in Asia. It was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1999 and selected in the group of UN New 7 Wonders of Nature. The 8.2-kilometer river, said to be one of the longest navigable underground rivers in the world, winds its way underneath a mountain range, through the St. Paul Underground River Cave, flowing into the West Philippine Sea.

Malapascua – Thresher Shark Dives

Visit Malapascua Island, the only place in the world where you can experience daily thresher sharks action. Malapascua Island is a small island just off the northern coast of Cebu in the Visayan Sea.

As thresher sharks' numbers are diminishing, a marine park was established in the Monad Shoal area in order to protect and rehabilitate these magnificent sea creatures. Apart from thresher sharks, there is a good chance to encounter manta rays, and for the macro lovers: the beautiful mandarin fish.

These are just some of the many domestic travel options to choose from when you book a Philippine Siren liveaboard with Master Liveaboards.

Prices for these add-ons vary depending on the time of booking, please contact our bookings team for further details and prices, dive@masterliveaboards.com or consult your agent for more information.

FAQs

If there are any questions that have not been answered, please visit our website at www.masterliveaboards.com or email us at dive@masterliveaboards.com.

Contact Information

Thailand Office - Master Liveboards

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.masterliveboards.com

Email: dive@masterliveboards.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) 93 574 4529

Philippines Office

Worldwide Dive and Sail Philippines
Marina Seaview
F. Martir Street., Brgy. Ibo, MEPZ 1
Mactan Cebu, Philippines

Tel: +63 9173773217 (Emergency)

Tel: + 63 32 4943051 (Office)

Tel: + 63 91 76313211 (Boat)

Tel: + 66 80702600 (Destination Manager – Whatsapp)

What to Bring

The following is a check list of items that you should ensure to bring with you for your trip aboard a Master Liveboards vessel.

Passport

6 month validity & at least 2 empty pages for visa stickers and stamps

Travel Documents

Flight tickets - International & Domestic; hotel booking; excursions

Cash & Credit Card for emergencies

Recommended amount (additional to park & port fees): 250 - 500 USD

Diving Certification & Logbook

Including Nitrox Card if certified & intending to use Nitrox

Travel and Diving Insurance Documents

To include emergency medical evacuation

Essential Diving Items

Dive computer with full battery

Toiletries & Medications

Including sunscreen & insect repellent
Inform booking team of medical conditions

Essential Clothing Items

Swimwear, hat and lightweight jacket

Guests are strongly advised to carry essential items in hand luggage in case of lost or delayed luggage through International or Domestic Flights.