

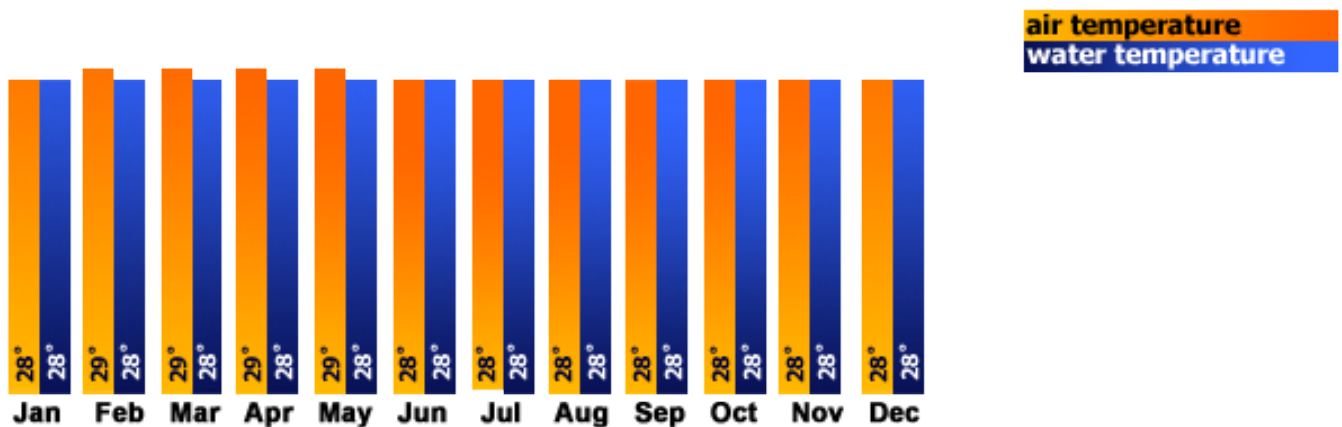
Location: Located between Guam, The Philippines and Papua New Guinea, Palau is a 640km- (400-mile) long archipelago that harbours one of the world's greatest concentrations of corals, fish and other marine life. The Palau islands include more than 200 islands, of which only eight are inhabited. Having emerged from the United Nations trusteeship in 1994 it is one of the worlds youngest and smallest sovereign states.

Languages: The official languages are English and Palauan.

Religion: Roman Catholicism is the dominant religion in Palau; approximately 65% of the population.

Time: GMT + 9 (GMT + 8 from the last Friday in April to last Thursday in September.)

Weather & Water Temperature: Palau enjoys a tropical climate all year round with an annual mean temperature of 28 °C. Rainfall can occur throughout the year, averaging a total of 150 inches (3,800 mm). The average humidity over the course of the year is 82%, and although rain falls more frequently between July and October, there is still much sunshine. Typhoons are rare, as Palau is outside the main typhoon zone.



Electricity: 115/230 volts AC, 60 Hz, North American 2 pin plugs. It is advisable to take an adaptor as these are hard to pick up. We also highly recommend that you take a surge adaptor with you if using expensive and valuable appliances. If you have a specific electrical requirement please contact one of the Scuba Team who can discuss this with you and advise you accordingly.

Currency: The official currency in Palau is the sioukang, called "Bachel". However the US \$ is used by the majority of the population and commonly used on daily exchange of goods and services.

Tipping: Visitors to the country are seen as guests and hospitality is an honor in the culture. Therefore tips are neither encouraged nor expected. If you are unsure what to give please do hesitate to contact us or speak to your dive guide.

Visas: Visas are not required for British nationals visiting for periods up to 30 days. Extensions of stay are not automatically granted and cost \$100, so on arrival ask for entry to be granted for all the time you believe you will need. Other nationals should contact the Palau embassy on 001 202-452-6814

Food & Drink: The biggest form of health problems with divers and tourists alike is being dehydrated. Please drink plenty of water before and after a dive. We also advise that you don't drink the local water and only drink bottle water and wash all fruit beforehand.

Foreign & Commonwealth Office Travel Advice: For up to date advice on foreign travel please visit <http://www.fco.gov.uk>.

Health & Vaccinations: Requirements vary from country to country, your own GP is the best person to speak to regarding relevant requirements. Make your GP aware that you will be scuba diving, as some medication is not recommended for Scuba divers.

Clothing: Lightweight cottons and linens most of the year, warmer clothes for cooler evenings. Light rainwear advisable all year round.

Passports: Passports must be valid for at least 6 months on your return to the UK.

Please note that although we maintain and revise this information frequently, the information contained within these documents is subject to change without notice. Please check with one of our travel consultants for the latest information.