



Bikini atoll Trips with Pete Mesleys “Lust For Rust” Dive Excursions

FAQ Trip Details

How do we get to Kwajalein?

The best thing to do is do a google search for Kwajalein and find exactly where it is. There are 2 ways to get to Kwaj. One is through Guam heading East and the other is heading west from Honalulu. Normally if you are coming from the US then you will probably want to come via Honalulu. If you are coming from Ozz, and most of Europe then the Guam option might work best for you. Continental Airlines is the only flight operator that works the Marshal Island routes.

Flying in via Guam

If you are coming from England, Ireland, Europe then probably the best route would be Heathrow - Narita in Japan - GUAM and onto Kwaj. The only problem here is that from Guam to Kwajalein (7:15hrs) you will stop three times (Guam-Truk-Pohnpei-Kosrae-kwaj) Flights will come in on a Friday before the official trip starts, this is ok and we have planned for this. If you come from this end you will get into Kwaj at 18:45. Continental are great with luggage allowance at 2 x 23kg bags with an additonal 23kg for \$30us!!!! Not bad hah!!

Flying in via Honalulu

Flying from Honalulu has its advantages as there are only 1 stop (Majuro) taking 6:55hrs to Kwaj. It is just too far to go across the entire US coming from the UK, but great if you are coming from Continental US. Your flight will only come in on the Saturday at 10:25 (Continental may change the flight times at any time). So once you clear customs and board the boat we will head off. The guys who came via Guam will already be onboard from the day before. I think either way its going to be a long trip so just embrace it, enjoy the plane food and dream of soon being in Bikini!!!

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What sort of Visas do I need?

PLEASE ensure that you have all the appropriate visa requirements. We take no responsibility for any omission of appropriate documentation for travel through the respective countries to get to Bikini Atoll. If you get caught at the airport for any reason, be it passport, visa or other problems we will not be able to hold the boat for any length of time as there are 9 other people onboard so it will pay to ensure that you have all the right requirements.

What medical support is on the vessel?

There is a twin lock large chamber onboard which will be activated in the event of a suspected DCI incident. Now this chamber has not been authorized (yet) by DAN so they will not be able to recommend being treated in the chamber, any only recommendation would be being air lifted for treatment offshore. It is for this reason that we, here at Pete Mesleys Lust for Rust Diving Excursions, bring our own Hyperbaric Physician on ALL our trips. It is totally your decision what you want to do if you find yourself in a DCI incident. You will have to complete and agree with the terms of being treated onboard. Air retrieval from Bikini is a difficult and often time consuming procedure.

What are the risks on a trip like this?

The problem is that most of the best dive sites in the world are also the most isolated! Bikini, is probably THE most isolated place on the planet. Once we steam out of Kwaj and hit Bikini, we will be a minimum of 25-30 hours steam time back to "civilization" This is why I have chosen to bring a Hyperbaric Physician with me on all my trips, its not just Diving emergencies but also medical ones too! We will have a comprehensive medical emergency kit (we cant take your appendix out but will have the gear to attend to fairly large medical emergencies or the smaller ones that can easily become large problems if unattended) So with this in mind you really need to pay special attention to looking after yourself. If you have any question about your health or need special attention with your health needs, this trip is probably not for you.

Some planes (propeller driven) can land on the airstrip in Bikini. This is still, pretty much, the only way of getting a critically sick person back to civilization so your DAN master insurance is mandatory! You must also realise that the dive boat will not necessarily return to Kwaj if someone needs evac. Having a chamber onboard does not issue us all with a "get out of jail" free card! We are still awaiting authorization from DAN for them to officially recognise the chamber. So it will be totally your decision to get treated onsite or we can arrange for an evac if you are not

happy with being treated onboard.

The dive trip leader has the ultimate decision whether people dive or not and taken in the interests of safety of oneself and others onboard. We are all out for a great, safe time and as long as people don't abuse safe diving practices and the rules set forth for such trips we will have a great time!

Skill assessment and check out dive

If we just steamed directly to Bikini we would arrive late afternoon the next day so what we normally do is stop along the way at some virginial reef for a dive to break up the trip. This is where everyone will need to do a check out dive. This will give us an opportunity to check any gear needs, fine-tune kit and also give us a chance to assess everyone's skills etc. Please don't be offended by having to be assessed on your dive skills. It is not our intention to question your skill set. It is for your safety and the wellbeing of everyone onboard. I also understand that one cannot assess a persons entire skill set by one dive alone. If anyone shows signs of unsafe diving practices which puts them or others at risk they will be allowed to get into the water. It is really imperative to ensure that you are ready for such a trip before you come so if you have any questions regarding your level of skills and training please contact us. That way when everyone comes on these trips they are all well prepared thus having a great, safe time onboard. We will get into Bikini in the small hours of the morning - ready for business the next day!! Then we will get up early, have breakfast and head out diving! This is without a shadow of a doubt the trip of a lifetime. But it does come with a massive warning. This is not a small trip, we are onboard a boat out at sea for 14 days travelling at least 250 miles to and from Bikini each way. We will be in some of the most isolated waters on the planet. Satellite phones and sat internet so please think very hard before committing to this trip. So you will need to be comfortable on boats.

Life onboard a boat for 13 days

The Winward is comfortable and spacious with lots of space for gear, relaxing etc. Accommodation is one large shared sleeping space in the foreword section of the ship. There are 12 beds in bunk style. Unfortunately there are no cabin style quarters. All very clean and tidy shared shower and toilet facilities. Even with the shared sleeping quarters there is lots of places for you to have your own privacy for changing etc etc. (might be a good idea to bring ear plugs or sound proof earphones!!!!)

Dive stations will be allocated to everyone and this is where they will keep dive gear for the duration of the trip. There will also be facilities for cameras etc etc.

Is there internet or phone access onboard?

In Bikini we couldn't be more isolated so everything that you take for granted at home is a major when we are out to sea. The only access to internet and phone is via Satellite. Satellite telephone and data calls. There is Inmarsat for telephone-\$3.50 per minute or part thereof. Thutaya i/P for Data. \$10 per megabyte log on log off. Not sure that you will be wanting to spend hours on the phone but at least you have access to the outside world (if you want to!!!)

Where do we leave from?

All trips will leave from Kwajalein in the Marshall Islands. The vessel we will be using will meet us in Kwaj. Seeing that Kwaj is a US missile testing base prepare to go through an intensive customs clearance. The flight will normally get into Kwaj late afternoon. We will clear customs, then get escorted in vans a short distance away to the ferry terminal to take us to Ebeye island a short boat ride away. We are planning to get permission for the boat to pick us up at this terminal but if this does not happen then we will get that short ferry ride to Ebeye island.

Once we load up the boat, we will immediately start steaming towards Bikini. After safety briefings, procedures and protocol, we will have a presentation on the history and diving the wrecks of Bikini with stunning pictures to get you even more excited about what is in store for you! The trip to Bikini is 240 nautical miles so it will take 26-30 hours to get there. With conditions normally calm you will have time to get your gear all assembled and checked prepared for diving. If we just steamed directly to Bikini we would arrive late afternoon the next day so what we might do is stop along the way at some virginal reef dropoffs and go for a dive to break up the trip. We will also be dragging lures and if you like susumi then you are in for a massive treat!!!!

Then we will steam overnight to Bikini to get into the mooring in the small hours of the morning - ready for business the next day!! Then we will get up early, have breakfast and head out diving.

Proposed Itinerary

Day 0 (Friday) Guam flight arrives in Kwaj, board the vessel

Day 1 (Sat) Honolulu flight arrives in Kwaj morning, load boat, steam for Bikini

Day 2 Stop along the way, check dive, gear on reef. Arr Bikini late in evening

Day 3 DAY 1 FOR DIVING in BIKINI

Day 4 DAY 2 FOR DIVING in BIKINI

Day 5 DAY 3 FOR DIVING in BIKINI

Day 6 DAY 4 FOR DIVING in BIKINI

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Day 7 DAY 5 FOR DIVING in BIKINI
Day 8 DAY 6 FOR DIVING in BIKINI
Day 9 DAY 7 FOR DIVING in BIKINI
Day 10 DAY 8 FOR DIVING in BIKINI
Day 11 DAY 9 FOR DIVING in BIKINI leave in the late afternoon
Day 12 Travel back to Kwaj getting back late in the evening
Day 13 (thur) Fly out of Kwaj for Guam flight Day 14 (fri) Honolulu flight leaves in the afternoon

How much is the trip going to cost me?

Ex Kwajalein sailing to Bikini onboard the liveaboard, for 13 days (9 full days diving) \$6500.00us

What is included on the trip?

ALL diving
ALL food and accommodation on board the Winward
Free beer and soft drinks
Bottled water
ALL air fills,
ALL use of deco stage tanks (with stage clips etc)
Rebreather tanks (we have 12 sets - 6 x 3l and 6 x 2l fabre steels)

What are gas costs and consumables going to cost me?

O2 will cost \$0.06us a litre
Helium will cost \$0.20us a litre
797 8-12mesh sorb (thin stuff) \$15us/kg
797 4-8 mesh sorb (thick stuff) \$15us/kg
All this needs to be sorted onboard so it is advisable to bring enough cash for this.

Are there any additional costs?

SCOOTER HIRE – I will be bringing a new Halcyon R14 scooter with an additional battery. If you wish to hire this out, a cost of \$50us per dive.

The best thing is to give me an idea of how many days or dives you would like to hire the scooter out for. That way we can work a plan out. If everyone wants to use it all the time I will try and get another one!

Gratuities - This is totally up to you on the trip, there will be a "tip box" for crew. Everyone is dedicated to ensuring that you have the best experience possible!!

Whats the boat like?

The vessel that we will be using is the Indies Trader "Windward". A 25 meter long 200 ton vessel built for the ocean. Your

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accommodation will be a shared massive single cabin layout of 12 bunks with full aircon. Each bunk has a curtain for privacy, perfect to just lay your head at night. The ship is spacious comfortable and stable, with plenty of room for gear, camera gear etc etc. It has 2 toilets and showers, washing machine and drier. All linen and towels are supplied. Unlimited water, soft drinks food. You won't go hungry!!

How many dives will we do?

We will be diving for 9 whole days the vessel will be moored over the wrecks during the day so we can get into the water whenever you want. Most places will say - "Unlimited Diving" but in reality the majority of the diving will be 50-60m stuff so realistically you will only probably manage a max of 2 a day. Remember absolute care must be taken to ensure your health and safety in such a remote place.

What about runtimes on dives?

If you want to do 3 hour runtimes, then we will simply plan for it! There are no restrictions in run times (within reason!!). The thing that we take very seriously is safety so when considering your extended dive times, safety of yourself and others needs to be of the highest priority. Remember that we are so isolated. So we aim to find a balance between having a great extended dive and a safe one!

Will there be opportunity to land on the island to have a good walk around?

Absolutely! The island is rich with historical bunkers, pristine beaches and you will really enjoy a good walk around. This will normally occur in the afternoons after diving operations.

What about Dive Insurance and safety onboard?

Safety is our highest priority and with this in mind we are taking steps to increase diver safety in this isolated area. As with any trip DAN insurance is so important. Even though there is a chamber onboard, DAN can't recommend anyone to be treated in the chamber until it has been authorised by them and basically at divers own risk. So obviously we are working tirelessly to get this done. We are in the process of getting a doctor for our trips.

How do I secure my spot?

Because of the nature of liveaboards if one person cries off then this puts a huge amount of pressure financially on us. With that said, a \$1500us deposit will only secure your spot once monies have been

received. Unfortunately we cant hold spots for people, a deposit will secure your spot. The remainder of the monies is needed 6 months before the departure dates to secure your spot. If you book within 6 months then full monies are needed. Please read our cancelation policy before you book on and if you have any questions PLEASE don't hesitate to contact me.

What training and experience do I need?

90% of the wrecks are all deep wrecks in the 45-60m range so therefore minimum level of training is Extended Range diver (max depth 50m) or normoxic trimix diver (60m). For CCR divers you will need the rating on the unit that you will be diving with plus an up to date log book detailing your experience in these depth areas. With taking into regards industry standard max depth on AIR diluent is 50 meters. Because of the nature of these trips, we will need the contact details of your instructor who took you for your highest diver rating. Please note that we are not out to judge people, just try and get a good idea of where you are at. I am sure that you understand how awkward it will be if someone comes on a trip who dont posses the training, skills and experience to undergo such diving activities. It will certainly put everyone at risk reducing enjoyment and increase stresses onboard. So I really appreciate your understanding with this matter.

What is the food going to be like?

We have a chef onboard so I am sure noone will go hungry. I also understand that some people are pretty particular about their eating habits. We will try as hard as we can to accommodate you but please, again, bear in mind there are limited resources onboard as it is a liveaboard. We can only do the best we can!!! If anyone has any allergies or allergic reactions to certain dishes let me know!

Note from Pete...

This place is without a shadow of a doubt the best wreck diving you will do in your diving career. A ballsy statement, I know!! All the hoopla ever spoken about Bikini is all true! Every word of it. BUT just don't get caught in the wave of excitement. You have to consider this trip very carefully. I would really recommend doing a liveaboard for a week or so in the open sea to see how you do. If you have no experience with time on liveaboards then I would recommend you get some. This will really extend your enjoyment. I want everyone to have a great, fun and safe time. If you have any questions please contact me.

Kind regards Pete Mesley

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