

BABELDAOB REPUBLIC of PALAU

Palau Archipelago



BADRULCHAU STONE MONOLITHS

Palau's largest, and probably, most ancient, megalithic site. Although there are sites which contain a larger volume of stones, none equals the number or size of the shaped stones found here. Without a doubt, Badrulchau is the foundation for a large structure, presumably a bai. The most puzzling features are the lack of a stone platform and the lack of an explanation for the center row of stones found within the stone support formation.



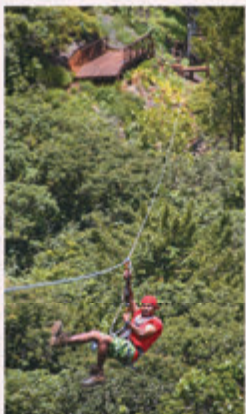
Legend says that Badrulchau was built by eight men, presumed to be gods. Three of these were said to have been the leaders and initially the only builders. Another, Ichademgel, sometimes assisted the first three. The remaining four helped in the building through magic. The story goes on to say that one day the primary builders and the magicians ate lunch forgetting to invite Ichademgel. Using a bit of magic, Ichademgel made a rooster crow. Since gods only work by night or under the sea, all work was halted at the rooster's seventh crow. Upon finding out the trick that had been played on them, the gods never returned to work on the site. It is said that scattered materials can be found throughout Babeldaob, waiting for the call of the master builders.

TRADITIONAL VILLAGES AND ANCIENT PATHWAYS

More than two dozen traditional village sites are located in the state of Ngaraard. These traditional villages represent important symbols identifying families, clans and regions. Numerous stone features with historical and traditional importance can be found in each village. Many of the stone features or odesongel serve as clan cemeteries while others serve as shrines.

The best preserved system of pathways and stone features in Ngaraard extends from Ulimang through Ngebuked and Chelab to Ngesang. In many places along the paths there are stone cap bridges across small streams. Taro patches, garden plots and terraced hillsides often surround the villages.

Considered one of the best preserved in Palau, the traditional village of Chelab was known as a traditional center of pottery manufacturing thus rich deposits of clay can be found on the lower hillsides around the site.



NGARDMAU ECO TOUR PARK

This is Palau's premier waterfall. The path leading to the waterfall is well maintained and takes approximately 20 minutes to reach the bottom.

For those visitors needing a bit more excitement, a zip line provides a wonderful opportunity to see the area from above the canopy. For those less adventurous, a cable car is also available.

While some may feel that these additional enhancements take away from Ngardmau Waterfall's pristine beauty, all agree that it is still very much worth a visit.

On the way down, off the main path, a secondary trail leads to an old bauxite mining car. Don't forget to bring your swimsuit!

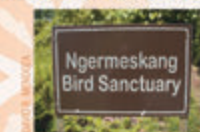
NGAREMLENGUI'S ULUANG TERRACES

Across the road from the Ngaremlengui State office building, in the distance, one can see the Uluang Terraces. Also visit the large summerhouse across the road, on the right, the site of an ancient traditional village.



NGERMESKANG BIRD SANCTUARY

The Ngermeskang bird sanctuary is located directly off the Compact Road just past mile marker 13.



NGATPANG WATERFALL

One of the main attractions to this waterfall is its proximity to Koror and the Compact Road.



The side roads are not very well maintained nor is it any easy site to find as much of the area has become overgrown. Thus we recommend that you visit this site with a local guide or, at the very least, someone who has been there before.

The waterfall is only a few minutes walk down and provides a good sound backdrop to the visual serenity of the area.



MALSOL'S TOMB

Direngulbal, the highest ranking woman in Aimeliik was married to the Paramount Chief Reklai from Melekeok. One day, Malsol, a brave and feared warrior in Palau, and Direngulbal's son were helping build a bai. Arguing who would lay the last section, Malsol pushed Direngulbal's son to his death.

Direngulbal's son swore revenge convincing her husband Reklai to help. Reklai sent Bekeulbechab, another brave warrior. Bekeulbechab found Malsol fishing in Ngaremlengui. Malsol managed to avoid the spears thrown his way but wasn't able to avoid the dagger hidden in Bekeulbechab's loincloth when they were fighting. The badly hurt Malsol was taken back to Elechui where Direngulbal had gathered all the women together each carrying a stone. The women stoned Malsol to death. The stones becoming his tomb.

AIMELIK BAI

The original bai of Old Ngerkai Village was in ruins on its platform in the early 1900s, was reconstructed using traditional methods in 1980.

Traditional, or stonework, villages were used by Palauans between 150-700 years ago. Complexes made from massive stone architecture included platforms for burials, bai foundations, cooking and resting areas, bathing places, docks, bathhouses, shrines, wells and stone paths to connect the buildings and villages.



MAP LEGEND

- State Office
- Sites and Landmarks
- Restaurants
- Gift Shops & Stores
- Accommodations
- Gas Stations
- Mile Marker
- Wi-Fi Hotspots
- Cell Site
- PAN Site
- Compact Road
- Secondary Roads
- Rivers/Streams
- Ocean

Ehili Conservation Area

Tet El Bad Stone Coffin

Oilei Port & Rest House

Impact Oilei Gas Station

Kabekel (war canoe)

Ngarchelong State

Badrulchau Stone Monoliths

Euelat Taach ra Ngerbau

Bengali Market

Bai Ra Mengelaki

Mengelang

Ngirli

Oketol Dock

Choi

Ungel Conservation Area

Unung Dock

Ngaraard State Office

Ngaraard Mangrove Conservation Area

Diong er a Ngerchok Conservation Area

Ngaraard Lake and Metmelasch River Conservation Area

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NGIWAID DOCK

Although there are several ways to get to Ngiwal, the best way to get there is through Melekeok. From Odalmelch Stone Faces, continuing north on the main road, take the first left and go up the hill, stay left on the first fork, and straight thereafter. Straight through cross-roads at 2.8 km and stay right on fork at 4.3 km. The old dock is at 10.7 km. The State Office is the large building across the street.



NGARDOK LAKE

Located in the state of Melekeok, Ngardok Lake is Micronesia's largest natural freshwater lake. The entire watershed draining into the Lake is protected as part of the Lake Ngardok Nature Reserve. The unique nature of the lake makes it popular for visitors (tourists and locals alike). Visitor facilities include a well-maintained trail, signs and informational materials, visitor center and nursery were designed to improve the visitor experience and reduce threats from visitation.

MELEKEOK BAI

Although not as old as the Ailrai bai, the bai and the surrounding area stone paths and forest, are well worth the visit.



ODALMELECH STONE FACES

The Odalmelch Stone Monoliths, carbon dated as far back as 895 A.D., are one of Palau's most important and ancient sites.



NGCHESAR WAR CANOE

The 43' canoe on display is a replica of the original Bisechuch Kabekel (war canoe) and was built using traditional methods and tools. In 1980, she sailed with a full complement of warriors on board.

The original Bisechuch, belonged to the warriors of the men's group Ngara-Bitelao. It was well known and popular as it was used by Ngchesar's Bekeul Bechab, a well-known, strong, smart and fierce warrior hero during Palau's combined campaign to defeat Peleliu, more than a hundred years ago. The original Bisechuch gained even more fame and popularity when it was again used by Bekeul Bechab to defeat Direngulbal's enemy from Ngaremlengui by the name of Malsol.



JUNGLE RIVER TOUR

Explore Palau's tropical jungle on a relaxing cruise down the Ngerdorch River to the ocean. Many of Palau's endemic birds, fruit bats, and sometimes even a saltwater crocodile can be spotted.

Tours are offered daily. Reservations are required.



AIRAI BAI

Bai ra Airai, one of a few traditional men's meeting houses remaining in Palau, is said to be over 200 years old. On the site are several stone pathways, platforms and two interpretive signs that give the visitor an insight into traditional Airai Village, and the role and significance of the Bai.



YAPSE STONE MONEY QUARRY

The quarry, located on Metuker ra Bisech Island, off the south coast of Airai, can only be reached by boat. It is an improved and well maintained site, with trails and three interpretive signs that give the visitor an account of ancient Yapese stone money quarrying in Palau. Since most boat travel through the rock islands is dependent on the ocean tides, make your travel arrangements as early as possible.

