

STATE OF KOROR

ISLANDS of KOROR, MALAKAL and NGEREKABESANG

PALAUAN MADE HANDICRAFTS

While there are many stores and gift shops selling quality Palauan-made products, there are a few places that offer a little extra—a chance to watch artists create their handicrafts.

The Palau Pacific Resort employs a Palauan weaver who demonstrates the traditional art of weaving.

At the Senior Citizens Center, you will find a variety of locally made products from hand-woven items to carved storyboards.

Watch artisans carve storyboards at Tabang Woodcarving or visit their gift shop to pick up a souvenir. The Koror Jail is another great place to find locally-made storyboards.



MEYUNS SEAPLANE RAMP

Meyuns Sea Plane Ramp, home to the JAKE seaplanes, was one of two Japanese seaplane bases used by the Japanese during WWII. There is a JAKE seaplane wreck that can be snorkeled from this ramp.



Ngarkebesang Island

Meyuns Hamlet



WWII SEAPLANE BASE

Before WWII, the Japanese built two seaplane bases on Palau. The Palau Pacific Resort was built on the foundation of the largest base which serviced the Kawanishi flying boats (Allied code name: EMILY). In fact, SPLASH dive shop is erected on top of this seaplane taxiway. The metal tie-down rings still exist where those large seaplanes were moored on the southeast side of the hotel and under the lookout hut.



FIRST CHILD BIRTH (NGASECH) CEREMONY

If you are fortunate enough to be invited to a First Child Birth Ceremony, you won't want to miss it. The Ngasech is a celebration of a woman's rite of passage into motherhood. It serves many purposes, but most importantly it helps heal the mother after childbirth. For a number of days (dependent on the status of the mother's clan), the new mother will sit in a steam house where she will be bathed with special herbs to clean and heal the womb. She is then painted with a mixture of turmeric and coconut oil, adorned with a traditional skirt in the colors of her clan and presented to her husband's family.



PALAU NIGHT MARKET

The night market showcases traditional arts, entertainment, and local foods while providing a venue for visitors to purchase handicrafts and other products made in Palau in an open venue.

Held at Bethlehem Park (on the map), in the center of downtown Koror, twice a month on Friday evenings (payday week) from 5-9pm.



ETIPSON MUSEUM

The 3-story building houses two floors of Palauan and Micronesian artifacts, displays, photographs and information. The top floor has more displays and a large gift shop selling art, jewelry, books and souvenirs.

Elvie, a Palauan Sulfur-crested cockatoo abducted from the rock islands by Palauan hunters and eventually adopted by the Etipson Museum, is always available to greet museum visitors.



Museum Hours: Monday-Saturday 9am-5pm; Closed on Sundays.

REGISTERED SITES:

As of 2010, 23 sites are registered with the Palau National Register of Historic Places. Sites are: Rois Rendu (lighthouse); Bili a child; a Siabal, Ngesechdel a Skoki; a Siabal, Rois; a Siabal/Roisrenku Todai, and Japanese water pump station (historic remains); Bod a Ngermelei (Mother and Child Monolith); Belau a Rois, Belau a Ulong, Maris, Belau a a Metekok, Belau a a Ngeremdel, Belau a a Ngeremdel, and Belau a a Ngeremdel (rock island traditional village); I a Rois and I a a Omas/Omas Rock Island (cave); I a Ulong/Uchekel Orachel (picograph cave); Ouballang a a Roisabesang (terrace); Dong a a Ngeremdel (bathing pool); Belau Belodel/Kilim a a Belau Belodel, Ceseengel a a Ngeremdel, Kngel a a Slang/Uchul a a Rois Melachel, and Tekok-Inid (stone platforms); Bili a Boes a a mekemed (WWII bunker).

SITES WHICH MAY BE OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO VISITORS: Belau National Museum, Etipson Museum, Palau Aquarium, and, of course, the famous Rock Islands of Palau.

FOR INFORMATION & FEES, CONTACT KOROR STATE:

Tel: (680) 488-2439/8738

www.kororstate.gov

coastalmanagement@kororstate.org



JAPAN PALAU FRIENDSHIP BRIDGE

The first bridge, K-B (Koror-Babeldaob) Bridge, collapsed on September 16, 1996, severing water and power to the island of Koror. The only connection to the airport located on Babeldaob was via ferry service across the channel until a temporary floating bridge, donated by the US, was installed in 1995.

With grant aid from Japan, a new bridge was built by the Kajima Corporation in 2002. The Japan-Palau Friendship Bridge is a reinforced concrete, portal frame, cable-stayed bridge with a total length of 413 meters.



MOTHER AND CHILD MONOLITH

The trail to the monolith is on the left side of the road, about 20 meters after making the right turn on to the road to the old Nikko Hotel. According to traditional oral history, the monolith is a woman and child turned into stone by a shaman after the woman disobeyed repeated warnings to "leave the area and not look into a traditional men's house" once located on the site.



Koror Island

Downtown Koror



PALAU AQUARIUM (PALAU INTERNATIONAL CORAL REEF CENTER)

The goal of the Palau Aquarium is to stimulate interest, increase knowledge and promote stewardship of our coral reefs and, in turn, the world's ocean environment.

The aquarium showcases the coral reef ecosystem found in Palau through ten sub-themed aquariums conveying details on 17 different habitats imitated with breathtakingly beautiful marine animals in their unique environments.

A gift shop with marine related apparel and specialty items, books and collectibles is also located on site.

Hours of Operation: Daily 9am-5pm



ICE BOX PARK

Located on the west end of Malakal, Ice Box Park, with its large, shady trees and picnic tables, is a great spot to relax with family and friends.

BELAU NATIONAL MUSEUM AND THE MUSEUM BAI

The road at the intersection of Palau Community College, Blue Bay Gas Station and NECO Shopping Plaza leads directly to the National Museum and the Museum Bai.

Opened in 1955, the Belau National Museum is the oldest museum in Micronesia. Its many indoor and outdoor exhibits, including a botanical garden, include a wealth of historical and cultural information on Palau and is well worth a morning or afternoon visit. A gift shop and cafe can also be found at the museum building.

The Bai, a replica of a traditional men's meeting house, was rebuilt in 1991 after the original structure built in 1969 was destroyed by fire. An interpretive sign is on site.

Museum, Gift Shop and Cafe Hours: Monday-Friday 9am-5pm, Saturday 10am-5pm and Sunday 1-5pm.



UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE

In 2012, the Rock Islands Southern Lagoon (RISL) in Palau was inscribed on the World Heritage List, becoming the country's first World Heritage Site. Within the RISL are two PAN (PAN) sites: Ngerukewid Island Wildlife Preserve and Ngerumekaoi Spawning Area.

This vast marine site was recognized for its exceptional ecological diversity, coral reefs, lagoon and limestone islands, and marine lakes. As a result of their isolation from each other, all 52 marine lakes offer a diversity of different marine ecosystems. The site is home to over 746 species of fish, over 365 corals, 13 species of sharks and manta rays, 7 species of giant clams and all the endemic birds and over half the endemic plants of Palau.

