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Accredited by



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VALOR TOURS, LTD.
focussed expeditions



*Beach, Blue Lagoon Hotel, Truk (photo by Andy Giles)
Pohnpei (photo Dennis Covert)*



**CENTRAL PACIFIC
TOUR** with John Shively
June 1 to 15, 2024



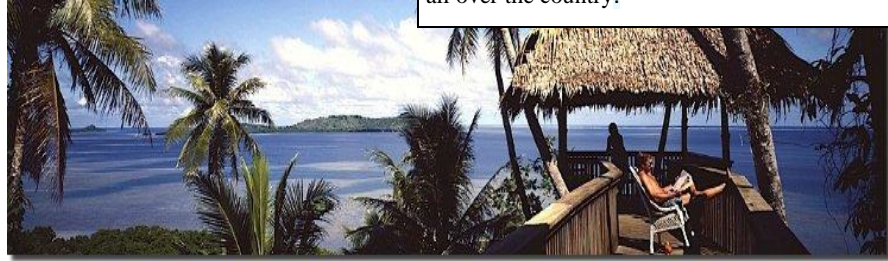
Pohnpei – Truk – Palau –
with optional extension to
Saipan & Tinian



America's Oldest and Most Experienced Military History Tour Operator



John Shively is a retired physician who has studied the Pacific War for seventeen years. He is a world traveller, amateur historian, and author. He joined the Valor Tours family as a tourist in 2003 when he went on his first Ghost Soldier tour. Since then he has travelled with Valor Tours to nearly every island battlefield in the Pacific. In 2010 he began escorting tours to the Pacific including Guadalcanal, Philippines, Okinawa and Saipan. He is the author of *The Last Lieutenant (Iwo Jima)* and *Profiles in Survival (Philippines)*. His father-in-law, Malcolm Amos, was a survivor of the Bataan Death March. He met his wife, Blythe, in Manila on tour in 2006. When he is not studying the war or travelling, he participates in triathlons all over the country.



As World War II in the Pacific raged on after the Solomon and Gilbert Islands battles, allied forces began the arduous task of capturing or neutralizing important islands in the central Pacific, the Marianas, and Palau. After capturing important islands in the Marshalls, plans were laid to eliminate the supposedly indestructible Japanese bastion of **Truk**. Truk was Yamamoto's major base of operations for the Japanese combined fleet and boasted numerous airfields, shore installations, almost 50,000 personnel, and a huge lagoon constantly filled with merchant shipping. Due to the prohibitive difficulties involved in a direct invasion, it was decided to neutralize Truk with air strikes and let it wither on the vine as part of the allied island hopping campaign. "Operation Hailstone" on February 17-18, 1944, sank over 40 ships and devastated shore installations. Today, impressive remnants of Japanese installations give a fascinating glimpse into the past of the "Gibraltar" of the Pacific. Installations, such as Eten Island, which was cut down to form an unsinkable aircraft carrier, are unique to the Pacific. Truk's main claim to fame has been its fabulous diving, while the impressive shore installations have been largely overlooked. **Pohnpei** was an important island, which featured many Japanese military and civilian installations, in addition to the incredible pre-historic Nan Madol ruins. It was bombed from the air and shelled from the sea periodically, but never invaded. Its rich agriculture and fishing industries help supply many of the important Japanese bases in the Pacific. Sokeh Rock, which overlooks the harbor, is one of the most impressive geologic formations in the Pacific. Pohnpei is a garden island with lush rainforest, waterfalls, and idyllic coastline. After the Marianas' campaign, it was decided that **Peleliu**, with its valuable airfield had to be seized to support McArthur's invasion of the Philippines. What was supposed to be a 4-day operation turned into a two-month nightmare, which saw the Japanese force of 10,000 men almost wiped out while the 1st Marine Division was shattered as a fighting unit. Today the Island features numerous caves, gun emplacements, major Japanese structures, aircraft wreckage, and much U. S. war equipment. It is a must see for any student of the Pacific War.

APPLICATION FORM

Central Pacific tour with John Shively – June 2024

Mail to: Valor Tours, Ltd., 10 Liberty Ship Way, Sausalito, CA 94965

Name _____

Name _____
(as they appear on passports or proof of citizenship papers)

Name _____

Name _____
(as you would like them to appear on ID badge and passenger list)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone number daytime _____

Email (if any): _____

I/we wish to reserve _____ places on the tour. Enclosed is my/our deposit check in the amount of \$_____ (\$800 per person), or charge my credit card account _____

Expiration date _____ for \$ _____

I am traveling alone and wish to: ___ share with another tour participant, or ___ pay the single occupancy for my own room.

___ Smoking ___ Non-smoking

Dietary requirements _____

___ I/we need assistance with airfare from hometown to Honolulu.

___ I/we will arrange our own airfare to/from Honolulu.

___ Please reserve a room at the Pacific Marina Inn, Honolulu Int'l Airport for the nights of _____

@ your special rate of \$150 per night incl. tax.

___ I/we prefer to leave tour at Guam to Honolulu, skipping Peleliu.

___ I/we are interested in the post-tour Saipan/Tinian extension

___ I do not have any physical disabilities and am fully able to climb on and off vehicles without any assistance.

___ I do have certain physical disabilities but I am traveling with _____ who will be fully responsible for my needs.

I/we have read and understand the terms and conditions set forth in this tour brochure. _____

Signature

Date

General Terms and Conditions

Reservations and Final Payment

Reservations can only be held with a deposit of \$800 per person accompanied by the application form. Deposits can be made by sending check Valor Tours, Ltd., or with your credit card information. Final payment is due 90 days prior to tour departure. Reservations deadline is 30 days prior to departure or first come, first served. Space limited. Due to limited space at some of the hotels we will be using, it is recommended to book early. First come – first served. Valor Tours, Ltd. does not recommend that children under the age of 12 participate on this tour. Passport required. Visas and/or inoculations are not necessary or required.

Cancellations and Changes

If Valor Tours, Ltd. receives cancellation more than 90 days prior to departure your deposit is fully refundable. Cancellations received between 90 and 60 prior to departure will result in the loss of deposit. Cancellations received within 30 days of departure or “no shows” non refundable. Refunds may take up to 30 days to process. Cancellation charges also apply to additional travel arrangements made prior to and after the tour such as domestic airfare. If flight changes are requested after airline tickets are issued, revision fees will apply. Cancellation insurance for medical reasons is not included in tour cost but is available upon request.

Airline services and seating

Tour cost includes round trip economy class air travel via United Airlines from Honolulu. United Airlines flies 737-jet on the Honolulu to Koror flights, and 767-jet on the non-stop Guam to Honolulu flight. Business First upgrade is available for additional cost. Call for quote. Frequent flyer awards cannot be used toward the purchase of the air segment of this tour, but can be earned. You can sign up for Continental Airlines One Pass or United Mileage Plus frequent flyer programs at the counter upon check in. Every attempt will be made to accommodate your seating requests aboard the aircraft. However, Valor Tours, Ltd. cannot guarantee seating assignments made by the airlines or airport staff. If you handle your own air fare, credit of \$3000.00 per person. Not including Saipan/Tinian extension.

Baggage allowance

We recommend one suitcase and one carry-on bag per person, please. Porterage is not included in the tour cost and everyone will be responsible for his or her own luggage, so travel light. Passengers are responsible for carry-on bags, purses, camera bags, briefcases, etc. No responsibility is accepted for loss or damage to baggage, or any of the passenger's belongings. Limited baggage insurance is included in the tour cost.

Disabilities

Any personal disability requiring special attention should be reported to Valor Tours at the time of reservation. Valor Tours will make reasonable attempts to accommodate the special needs of disabled tour participants, but is not responsible for any denial of services by carriers, hotels, restaurants and other independent suppliers. Motor coaches and hotels used in this tour do not offer handicapped facilities or conveyances. Local tours guides and our passengers are not physically responsible for lifting participants or assisting them on or off conveyances. A qualified companion must accompany persons requiring such assistance.

Itinerary subject to change. Valor Tours reserves the right to substitute any hotel with a hotel of similar quality, if available. Visas and inoculations are not required; however proof of Covid vaccine will most likely be the norm now.

Itinerary in brief – subject to change

Saturday June 1

Meet at the Pacific Marina Inn, Honolulu airport for overnight. Not a fancy hotel but will facilitate a very early morning flight departure tomorrow.

Sunday June 2

7:25am Depart HNL via United Airlines #132 with stops at Majuro and Kwajalein in the Marshall Islands (good opportunity for aerial sightseeing).

Monday June 3

12:55pm Arrive Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia.

Four night's accommodations at Ocean View Plaza Hotel or similar, Pohnpei.

Tuesday and Wednesday June 4 and 5

It's time to slow down to island life. Explore the ancient ruins of Nan Madol, called the Venice of the Pacific, remains of Japanese settlements occupied until the surrender in 1945 and Japanese WWII installations.

Thursday June 6

3:10pm Depart Pohnpei via UA 132

3:30pm Arrive Chuuk Atoll (Truk).

Three nights at the Blue Lagoon hotel.

Friday and Saturday June 7, 8 and 9

Life here is close to nature and lived in conjunction with the land and the sea. The historical aspect of Truk Lagoon is not totally hidden under water or by the jungles. Japanese lighthouses, perched high atop the lagoon's finest overlooks - old runways, command centers, gun emplacement, cave networks, hospitals and Japanese naval base ruins. Here the pace of life slows and tropical beauty is spectacular. If you are a bird watcher, head for the hills to view rare and migratory birds.

Monday June 10

3:15pm Depart Chuuk UA 132. 4:55pm Arrive Guam...connect to UA 157 at 11:45pm, arriving Koror (Palau) 12:50am June 11. Overnight Koror.

Tuesday June 11

By boat to Peleliu through the Rock Islands.

Explore the invasion sites and memorials of Peleliu: Bloody Nose Ridge, the 81st Infantry monument, Japanese HQ's bunkers, site of the temporary military Cemetery, WWII Memorial Museum, invasion beaches, caves and the airfield, which was the strategic objective of the Peleliu campaign. Island Terrace and/or Adventures Inn.

Tuesday and Wednesday June 11 and 12

Continue with touring of Peleliu as well as Ngesebus Island, site of Japanese Airfield assaulted by U.S. forces as part of the invasion, but today relatively unexplored and untouched. *(if the Army is still on Peleliu, we will stay Koror hotel and boat back and forth)*



Thursday June 13

Boat back to Koror using a different route through the Rock Islands (see Japanese gun emplacements). Koror hotel.

Friday June 14

While Koror offers shopping and Museums, Babeldaob is full of cultural/historic treasures, from the famous Badrulchau, or Stone Monoliths, to ancient terraces and Stone Faces. Hear the legends and history of these sites from a local guide and wonder about times past.

Saturday June 15

3:10am depart Koror UA 192 via Guam arriving Honolulu June 14 6:10pm.



**Tour Cost \$6250.00 per person, twin share
Single supplement \$1250.00 – subject to space
availability**

Includes round trip economy class airfare from Honolulu to Pohnpei, Truk, Koror, and back to Honolulu via Guam on non-stop; U.S. Departure taxes; services of John Shively as tour director; 13 nights hotel accommodations at hotels indicated or similar; breakfast daily; all ground transportation, coaches, boats; local guides; entrance and land access fees; local taxes.

*Components of tour cannot be purchased separately. Itinerary subject to change.
Tour cost based on a minimum & maximum of 10 participants. Additional passengers may have to use lesser accommodations on Peleliu. We recommend all our passengers purchase travel insurance. We will provide information on this.*

**Tour cost without Koror/Peleliu – return to Honolulu from
Guam 1 - \$4590.00 per person. Single supplement \$700. (Includes
one night at the Dusit Hotel, Guam.)**



Left: Truk's Eten Island, carved by the Japanese to look like an aircraft carrier.
Right: 2013 group at Nan Madol, Pohnpei. Above: Rock Islands from Koror to Peleliu.

Comments from previous tour members:

"It is difficult for me to adequately express my satisfaction with this tour. It was just great. We were all treated like kings."

"It was a journey into my own past. My uncle was stationed there in 1945. His letters and memories helped make the journey come alive. What a marvelous trip!"

"Thank you for all you do in organizing these trips. You have made one old man very happy. The trip has given him a new enthusiasm for life!"

"This trip was a never-to-be-forgotten experience for me and my family. My family was awed by the history.... a memorable trip."

*Invasion beaches of Peleliu,
then and now.*



Truk, Pohnpei and Koror are known for their snorkeling and scuba diving, and although this is not the purpose of our trip, one is welcomed to take advantage these opportunities by visiting one of many dive shops in or near our hotels. Any diving or snorkeling expense such as rental of equipment is to the account of the passenger.

June 15 to 19

Optional Saipan, Tinian, Guam extension

Two full days on Saipan and 1 full day on Tinian and one day Guam \$1450.00 per person, twin share, including round trip air fare from Guam, hotels, tours and transport, and services of John Shively escorting. Single \$300 supplement.