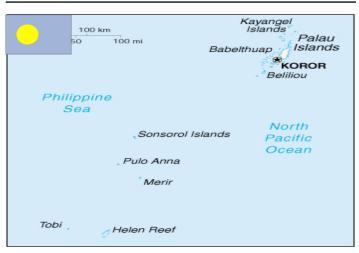
PALAU



Country Dialing Code (Tel/Fax): ++680

Palau Vistors Authority: PO Box 256, Koror, Palau 96940, Tel: 488 2793 or 488 1930, Fax: 488 1453 or 488 1725

Capital: Koror Time:

Background: After three decades as part of the UN Trust Territory of the Pacific under US administration, this westernmost cluster of the Caroline Islands opted for independent status in 1978 rather than join the Federated States of Micronesia. A Compact of Free Association with the US was approved in 1986, but not ratified until 1993. It entered into force the following year when the islands gained their independence.

Map References: Oceania

Area: total: 458 sq km, land: 458 sq km, water: 0 sq km Climate: wet season May to November; hot and humid

Terrain: varying geologically from the high, mountainous main island of Babelthuap

to low, coral islands usually fringed by large barrier reefs

Natural Resources: forests, minerals (especially gold), marine products, deep-

seabed minerals

Population: 18,766 (July 2000 est.)

Nationality: noun: Palauan(s) adjective: Palauan

Ethnic Groups: Palauans are Micronesian with Malayan and Melanesian

Religions: Christian (Catholics, Seventh-Day Adventists, Jehovah's Witnesses, the Assembly of God, the Liebenzell Mission, and Latter-Day Saints), Modekngei religion (one-third of the population observes this religion which is indigenous to Palau)

Economy: The economy consists primarily of subsistence agriculture and fishing. The government is the major employer of the work force, relying heavily on financial assistance from the US. The population enjoys a per capita income of more than twice that of the Philippines and much of Micronesia. Long-run prospects for the tourist sector have been greatly bolstered by the expansion of air travel in the Pacific and the rising prosperity of leading East Asian countries.

Industries: textiles, food processing, beverages, construction materials, clothing, paper products, shrimp **Currency:** 1 United States dollar (US\$) = 100 cents

Railways: 0 km

Highways: total: 61 km paved: 36 km unpaved: 25 km

Ports and Harbors: Koror

Airports: 3 (1999 est.) Airports - with paved runways: total: 1 1,524 to 2,437 m: 1 (1999 est.) Airports - with unpaved runways: total: 2 1,524 to 2,437 m: 2 (1999 est.)

Visa: Not required for visits of less than 30 days; Entry Permits are issued on arrival. For longer stays, permission must be granted from the Chief of Immigration.

Duty Free: The following goods may be imported into the Republic of Palau without incurring customs duty: 200 cigarettes or 454g of cigars or tobacco; one bottle of liquor. Alcohol for passengers over 21 years of age only.

Health: Vaccination certificates for yellow fever, cholera and smallpox are required from all travelers arriving from infected areas. Hepatitis B is endemic. Hepatitis A, typhid fever and dengue fever can occur.

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D.W. MOTEL, P.O. Box 738, Koror, Palau 96940, Telephone: (680) 488-2641, E-mail:palau7796768@yahoo.com 488-1725

GUEST LODGE MOTEL ,P.O. Box 833. Koror, Republic of Palau 96940. Telephone: (680) 488-6320/21/22. Fax: (680) 488-5616

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PALASIA HOTEL PALAU, Koror, Palau 96940, Phone: 680 680-488-8888, Fax: 680 680-488-8898 , Email: res.palasia@palaunet.com

PALAU PACIFIC RESORT, Ngerkebsang, Koror, Palau 96940, Phone: 680 488-2600, Email: info@ppr-palau.com, http://www.palauppr.com

PALAU PLANTATION RESORT, P.O.Box 1722, Koror, Republic of Palau 96940, TEL :680-488-7488 or 680-488-3631, FAX ;680-488-7425, plantation@palautelecoms.com, http://www.palau-resort.com

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