



KOROR STATE GOVERNMENT

Tour Guide Training and Certification Program

Course Study Guide



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*Contents of this study guide may be updated and modified from time to time by the Koror State Division of Conservation Law Enforcement (CLE).

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Message from the Koror State Governor

Welcome to Koror State. The people of Koror State are very proud of our state’s inspiring history and rich culture as well as our renowned pristine environment. Our communities are dedicated to maintaining the integrity of our unique culture and environment while developing a thriving tourism industry. We have established the Rock Islands Southern Lagoon as a managed area, which became an internationally recognized World Heritage Site in 2012. The dossier for the inclusion of the Rock Islands Southern Lagoon (RISL) in the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites includes the following Statement of Outstanding Universal value:



Governor Yositaka Adachi

“The RISL has superlative natural and cultural features. The RISL is an outstanding example of human interaction with a precarious environment.”

Thank you for your interest in being a part of our tourism industry. Your commitment is extremely valuable to us. As a member of the tourism community in Koror State, you are our invaluable partner, sharing the responsibility for upholding our cultural values and ensuring adherence to state and national rules, and regulations for all users of the RISL. Your commitment will work to promote and enhance sustainability of this valuable resource for future generations. We are extremely pleased to be able to work with you in partnership to help ensure that our guests have an enriching and high-value experience during their stay with us.

Tourism is extremely important to Palau and the Koror State economy. Your certification as a Tour Guide for Koror State will complete the cycle of accurate information, smart practices and safe conduct that will provide our visitors and all users of the RISL a rich, safe, and memorable experience. It is our pleasure to warmly welcome you to our Koror State family and we look forward to our continued partnership. Our successful partnership depends upon your commitment to ensure practices by our guests respect our cultural values and help us keep our islands clean, healthy, and safe, while we share the wonders of the breathtaking beauty and rich culture of the RISL and all of Koror State with them.

Thank you for your partnership. We look forward to working with you as a Koror State certified tour guide.

Good luck and best regards,

Governor Yositaka Adachi

Study Guide

INTRODUCTION

Palau is an archipelago stretching between 8 and 3 degrees latitude from north to south and 134 to 132 longitude from east to west longitude. There are 586 high and low islands with the low islands mostly situated near the extreme ends of the archipelago. In an area of the Pacific Islands region known as Micronesia, Palau is made up of a variety of island types, including:

1. volcanic islands (such as Babeldaob);
2. atolls (such as Kayangel and Helen Reef); and,
3. raised limestone islands (such as the Rock Islands of Koror State).



Made up of 16 states, Palau is governed by traditional and democratically elected leadership at state and national levels. In 1994, Palau became a sovereign and independent nation, freely associated with the United States. Tourism based on a pristine and healthy marine environment is essential to attaining Palau's vision for sustainability. In 2009, Palau established the world's first Shark Sanctuary. In 2010, the number of visitors to Palau surpassed 100,000 for the first time. The majority of visitors to Palau stay in Koror State and visit the Rock Island Southern Lagoon.

Koror State is home to the Rock Island Southern Lagoon (RISL). In 2012, the RISL was inscribed unto the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) List of World Heritage Sites. The RISL is listed with UNESCO as a World Heritage "Mixed Site" (natural and cultural site). Tour guides play an important role in sustainably managing the RISL. Before becoming a tour guide in the RISL and Koror State, tour guide certification is required.

How to use this guide

This study guide as well as the training manual are valuable tools when preparing for the Koror State Tour Guide Certification Exam. Use this guide after you have studied the Koror State Tour Guide Certification Manual to help guide and focus your review. Like the training manual, there are three key components that make up this study guide. They are:

- Unit 1: History and Culture
- Unit 2: Marine and Terrestrial Environment
- Unit 3: Safety and Regulations

Each unit contains a list of study questions, similar to those in the blue column on the right side of this page. Use these questions to guide your study after you have read each unit. The answers to study questions are found at the end of this guide, after the index. Koror State may update certification test questions from time to time.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What types of islands are found in Palau?
2. How many islands are there in Palau?
3. What kind of World Heritage site does UNESCO list the RISL?
4. How is the present Palauan government associated with the United States?
5. When was Palau declared the World's First Shark Sanctuary?
6. In which year did the number of visitors to Palau reach over 100,000 for the first time?
7. When was the RISL inscribed unto the World Heritage List of United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)?
8. Is Palau north or south of the equator?

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UNIT 1: HISTORY AND CULTURE

Koror State is blessed with a rich cultural heritage and fascinating history that dates back to at least 1000 BC. The earliest European contact to Palau was with occasional Spanish ships. The first significant interaction took place in 1783 when a British ship captain, Henry Wilson, wrecked his ship, the *Antelope*, on Ulong Reef. After the High Chief of Koror, Ibedul, helped Wilson to repair his ship that same year, Ibedul's son, Lebuu, left Palau with Captain Wilson to England. Lebuu passed away of smallpox and was laid to rest approximately nine months after his arrival in England.

Natural History



The Rock Island Southern Lagoon (RISL) is made up of islands made from uplifted limestone from coral reefs. The RISL contains 52 marine lakes, more than any other site in the world. The famous mushroom shape (left photo) of the Rock Islands is the result of chemical erosion, grazing mollusks, and

wave action. Covered with lush vegetation, the Rock Islands are home to many endemic species (species found nowhere else in the world) that have evolved in isolation over thousands of years.

Cultural History, Sites and Artifacts

When visiting the RISL, many artifacts can be found. Commonly found historical artifacts include pottery shards, modified rocks and clam shells. Pictographs (rock art) can be viewed at Ulong, Ngeremdiu, and Ngermalk. Removing artifacts is strictly taboo and prohibited by law.

Any cultural or historical site where visitation is allowed must be entered into and treated with respect. Some areas in the RISL have cultural sites and also serve as tourist activity areas. Ngeanges is an example of an area in the RISL with a cultural site and is also a tourist activity area. Historical and cultural sites can also be found throughout Koror's hamlets. Bad ra Ngermelei is found in Ngermid hamlet. For more information contact the Koror State Department of State and Cultural Affairs.

Other historical and cultural artifacts that visitors will commonly experience include meeting houses for traditional chiefs, traditional canoes, and artifacts from WWII. In Palau, a "bai" (traditional chief's meeting house) is a beautiful example of traditional Palauan culture.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. When did Captain Wilson wreck his ship, the *Antelope*, on Ulong Reef?
2. When did Ibedul's son Lebuu go to England with Captain Wilson?
3. How many marine lakes are in the RISL?
4. What causes the rock islands to get their mushroom shape?
5. What are some examples of historical artifacts?
6. In which hamlet is Bad ra Ngermelei located?
7. Where can pictographs/rock art in the RISL be viewed?
8. How must any cultural or historical site be entered into (if allowed) and treated?
9. Is Ngeanges a tourist activity area?
10. What were traditional canoes once used for in Palau?
11. Are any World War II historic sites found in Palau?
12. What is a *bai*?

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Traditional canoeing (right photo) is also an interesting Palauan cultural art. Historically, traditional canoes were used for sailing, transporting cargo, and conducting warfare. Today, canoes are used for sailing, fishing, racing, and cultural festivals.

After contact with Spanish explorers and the Antelope, Spain claimed Palau as one of its territories and “sold” Palau to Germany after the Spanish/American war in the 19th century.

The League of Nations “gave” administrative authority over Palau to Japan after World War I (1920). As the center for the Japanese government in the Micronesia region (1920 to 1945), Koror became a thriving economic hub during the Japan Administration in Palau. During World War II, many battles were fought in Palau, including the battle for Peleliu (the bloodiest battle in the Western Pacific), just south of the RISL border.

After some of the bloodiest battles fought during WWII (1939-1945), responsibility for Palau was delegated by the United Nations to the United States of America. The United States administered Palau as a United Nations Trustee until Palau became an independent and sovereign nation on October 1, 1994. Today, Palau remains close partners with the United States and Japan.

With some of WWII’s bloodiest battles fought in Palau, WWII historic sites are found throughout Palau. Many tourists visit Palau and RISL to view and experience important sites and artifacts from WWII. WWII artifacts should be treated with respect. Removal of WWII artifacts from the RISL without permission is strictly forbidden. Use caution when visiting a WWII historical site (or any historical site) and refrain from handling a WWII artifact, (as well as any historical artifact), in the RISL.



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UNIT 2: MARINE AND TERRESTRIAL ENVIRONMENT

The RISL has exceptionally high biological and marine habitat diversity that includes over 746 species of fish with at least 13 species of sharks and rays. At least 13 species of marine mammals, including dugong, whales and dolphins can also be found in the RISL. The forests and beaches of the RISL are important to many native species, including nesting turtles, birds, and rare plants.

Marine

The marine environment in Palau is considered one of the richest and most diverse in the world. In Micronesia, dugongs are found only in Palau. Coral reefs in the RISL are pristine. Corals are animals that are very fragile and die when broken or touched. Responsible diving is essential to a sustainable marine environment as well as a continued tourism industry in Koror State. Responsible tour guides and divers must never:

1. bring animals closer so visitors can take photos;
2. disturb nests (birds, turtles, etc.); and,
3. use reef hooks or fingertips on live corals.



Photo Tiare H.

Jellyfish Lake in the RISL is a world famous snorkeling site. The lake is especially interesting because it is home to the densest population of jellyfish per unit areas in the world. Although these species of Jelly Fish sting, the sting is very mild and cannot be felt by humans. They

also manufacture their own food – algae. This lake (left photo) is the only lake in the RISL to which visitors are allowed.

Some areas in the RISL are conservation areas. Tourist activities are NOT allowed in the Ngemelis, Ngederrak and Ngkisaol conservation areas as well as in the Ngerukeuid Wildlife Preserve. Ngerumkaol, Ngarkebesang and Ngermalk are conservation areas in the RISL where tourist activities (diving and snorkeling) are allowed. Ngerumekaol and Ngerukeuid are also established Palau Protected Areas Network (PAN) sites.

It is important to discourage visitors from feeding fish and other wildlife in the RISL. Feeding fish can alter fish behavior. It can make them become pests and even aggressive toward divers. Feeding fish can also harm delicate coral reefs.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. How many species of sharks and rays are found in the RISL?
2. How many species of fish are found in the RISL?
3. Which conservation area in the RISL allows tourist activity?
4. What general rules apply when diving and snorkeling with sharks/
5. Are corals plants, rocks or animals?
6. What is interesting about Jellyfish Lake?
7. How does feeding fish affect fish behaviors and coral reefs?
8. Are holders of fishing permits allowed to fish on any docks?
9. How many marine lakes are visitors allowed to visit?
10. Are dugong found anywhere else in Micronesia?
11. What are some bad examples of diving etiquette?
12. During which months is it illegal to take green turtles (*Melob*)?

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Fishing in Koror State (right photo: local catch on ice) is an important cultural practice. Sustainable fishing is essential to Koror State's economy as well as a viable source of food supply. Fishing in Koror State is permitted for non-Palauan citizens, only with a Koror State fishing permit. Fishing permits do NOT allow holders of permits to fish on docks (any area where boats arrive or depart) in Koror State. Fishing is strictly forbidden in conservation areas. National laws apply regarding which species may be caught and which species are forbidden for harvesting. For more information on state and national fishing regulations, refer to the Koror State Tour Guide Training Manual, or contact the Koror State Department of Conservation Law Enforcement, the Palau Bureau of Marine Resources and/or the Division of Fish & Wildlife Protection.



In the RISL, encountering sharks can be common (as shown in the left photo below). Many species can be viewed in the RISL. Sharks are protected from hunting, capture and harassment by Palau national law. Sharks are also very important to Palau and Koror State's marine ecosystems and economy. Sharks in the RISL are generally not interested in humans because of Palau's healthy marine ecosystem. Sharks in the RISL usually do not recognize humans as food. Nevertheless, caution must be used when encountering sharks in the RISL. Feeding sharks in Palau is extremely dangerous and prohibited by national and state law. The rules that apply when diving and snorkeling with sharks include:



1. Do NOT corner sharks;
2. Do NOT feed sharks; and,
3. Do NOT hang on sharks.

Many marine species are very important to Palau and Koror State's culture and economy. Some species are strictly regulated. For example, hunting, harassing, or capturing dugong in Palau is strictly prohibited and punishable by prison as well as high monetary fines.

Turtle conservation is also an important part of sustainability in Palau. Turtles (such as the hawksbill turtle in the right photo) can be commonly viewed while diving, snorkeling and boating, and are a special part of the visitor's experience in the RISL. Turtles are also very important to Palauan culture and economy. While turtles can be used for traditional purposes, it is illegal to take green turtles (Melob) in May, June, July, August, December and January. Taking turtle eggs from the RISL or any beach in Palau is strictly prohibited by Palau national law.



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Terrestrial

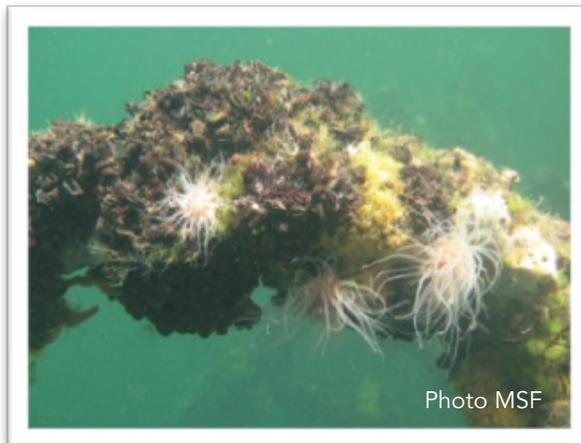
The RISL is home to some of the richest and rarest terrestrial environment in the world. All of Palau's endemic birds can be found in the RISL. Many visitors are interested to see the rare forest birds and many seabirds of the RISL. While bird watching, keep as quiet as possible. Never disturb a bird's nest if you come across one. If you are lucky, you will come across the nest of a Micronesian Megapode (Bekai), considered a rare and globally threatened bird. The Micronesian Megapode lays its eggs in a large mound. While walking along trails in the RISL, do not pick or break plants and stay on the trail. Collecting samples and harvesting trees in the RISL is not allowed unless a permit from the Koror State Government is obtained.



Beaches in the RISL (like the beach in the photo below) are important for female nesting turtles. In Palau, it is illegal to take any female turtles while she is on land. The RISL are fragile and important for nesting turtles as well as many other species. Not all beaches in the RISL allow visitors. Only nine (9) beaches in the RISL are tourist activity areas (refer to the training manual). Building fires in the RISL is ONLY allowed at Koror State sanctioned fire-pits.

Visitors may unknowingly bring invasive species to the RISL. Invasive species include species of rats, insects, anemones, and weeds.

Invasive species are a serious threat to the fragile environment in Palau and the RISL. Rats feed on native birds and other wildlife, while invasive insects and weeds can overwhelm native vegetation. The white anemone in this picture is an invasive marine species that was introduced to the fragile environment of Jellyfish Lake by visitors.



STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What should you do if you are bird watching?
2. Should you disturb a bird's nest if you see a nest?
3. Is it illegal to take any female turtle while she is on land?
4. Are invasive species a threat to the RISL?
5. Where do Micronesian Megapode (*Bekai*) lay its eggs?
6. Should you pick or break plants while hiking on trails?
7. Should you go off the trail to take photos?
8. How many tourist activity areas in the RISL have beaches?
9. Is cutting and harvesting trees from the islands in the RISL allowed without a permit?

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UNIT 3: SAFETY AND REGULATIONS

Sustainable tourism is essential to Koror State's economic growth and stability. Tour guides play an important role, including:

- Ensuring the safety of guests;
- Educating guests on water safety; and,
- Explaining the dos and don'ts.

Tour guides are responsible to provide accurate information for guests. A good tour guide needs to be able to find information from credible sources for a visitor if they don't know the answers to their guests' questions.

Safety

Prevention is the first rule of safety. The Koror State tourism community works together to avoid or prevent problems in the first place, and this begins with you! Tour guides must be properly trained, mentally and physically in order to understand the dangers and safety precautions necessary for the overall safety of our guests and themselves. Know your limits. In order to serve others, you must first serve yourself and then the additional responsibility required for other people. You must be able to evaluate their ability and limitations through questioning, observance and their actions.

Be mindful of the weather conditions and comply with all advisory warnings. In the event of a boat accident where rescue is needed, assess the situation first, before taking action. Exercise caution when approaching a dive site. Red flags with a diagonal slash (such as the flag in the right photo) signals that there are divers in the water. It is best practice to drop anchor in a sandy area when anchoring in the Koror State waters.



Regulations and permitting

All boats for hire in Koror State are required to register annually with the Koror State Government and the national government. The Bureau of Tourism in the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment, and Tourism has been established by the National Government to regulate tourism-related activities in Palau.

It is cultural taboo and illegal to remove historical artifacts, plants, animals and seashells from the RISL, as well as anywhere within

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What roles do tour guides play in the RISL?
2. What should a good tour guide do for visitors if they don't know the answers to their questions?
3. What is the first rule of safety?
4. What should you do when approaching a dive site?
5. What is best practice when anchoring in Koror State waters?
6. What do red flags with a diagonal slash signal?
7. In the event of a boat accident and rescue is needed, what should you do first?
8. Where can authorization and permit to bring, carry, or send cultured clam shells out of Palau be obtained?
9. Where and when is it required for boats for hire in Koror to register?
10. What does the Bureau of Tourism in the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment, and Tourism in the National Government regulate?

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Koror State's jurisdiction, without a permit from Koror State. Authorization and permits to bring, carry, or send cultured clam shells out of Palau is obtained from the Bureau of Marine Resources.

For more information about regulations in the RISL contact the Koror State Department of Conservation and Law Enforcement at:

Telephone: (680) 488-4001 or 488-8738 from Mondays thru Fridays during business hours (between 7:30 am to 4:30 pm). You may also contact the Koror State Rangers Malakal Field Office at 488-2150 after normal business hours and on weekends.

Email Address: rangers@kororstategov.com or koror.rangers@gmail.com

Website: www.kororstategov.com

STUDY NOTES (USE THE SPACE BELOW TO WRITE YOUR OWN STUDY NOTES)



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ANSWERS TO STUDY QUESTIONS

Introduction

1. Types of islands: volcanic islands, atolls, and raised limestone islands
2. 586
3. World Heritage “Mixed” Site (natural and cultural site)
4. Free Association
5. 2009
6. 2010
7. 2012
8. North

Unit 1: History and Culture

1. 1783
2. 1783
3. 52
4. Chemical erosion, grazing mollusks, and wave action
5. Pottery shards, modified rocks and clam shells
6. Ngermid
7. Ulong, Ngermdiu, and Ngermalk
8. With respect
9. Yes
10. sailing, transporting cargo, and conducting warfare
11. Yes
12. Traditional chief’s meeting house

Unit 2: Marine and Terrestrial Environment

1. 13
2. 746
3. Ngerumkaol
4.
 - a. Do NOT corner sharks;
 - b. Do NOT feed sharks; and,
 - c. Do NOT hang onto sharks.
5. Animals
6. It is home to the most dense population of jellyfish per unit areas in the world; they sting but very mild so you can’t feel it, and they get food from algae.
7. Makes fish pests and harms fragile coral reefs
8. No
9. One
10. No
11.
 - a. bring animals closer so visitors can take photos;
 - b. kick up sand to joke around with tourists; and,
 - c. use reef hooks or fingertips on live corals
12. May, June, July, August, December, and January

Unit 3: Safety and Regulations

1.
 - a. Ensuring the safety of guests;
 - b. Educating guests on water safety; and,
 - c. Explaining the do’s and don’ts
2. Find the information
3. Prevention
4. Use caution
5. Anchor in sandy areas
6. Divers in the water
7. Assess the situation
8. Bureau of Marine Resources
9. With both Koror State Government and the Palau national government, annually.
10. All tourism related activities.



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