

Useful Information for Photographers & Videographers



Every country has its own specific rules and regulations regarding (underwater) photography and the use of drones, which we have listed below. Please take notice of these rules and regulations. We strive to ensure all information on this page is accurate and up to date. However, this information is naturally subject to change so we cannot guarantee the accuracy of all contents. We recommend that you always check with the local authorities directly to avoid disappointment.

Always speak with your Cruise Director and Captain before flying your drone.

Bahamas

- Drones are only allowed with permission obtained in advance
- Do not attach your camera to your body in case of curious sharks
- GoPro sticks should not be longer than 50cm and need to be dark-coloured
- If diving close to a shark, avoid use of a constant flash near to their eyes

French Polynesia

- No drones are allowed near the airport
- Flying low over villages/settlements and invading people's privacy is not acceptable without their permission
- Drones should be declared at customs for a temporary importation

Galapagos

- Drones in Galapagos are not permitted for use by tourists. The use of drones is only permitted under strict regulations for research and monitoring
- No strobes or flashlights allowed near mola molas (sunfish/moonfish)
- Underwater scooters are not allowed in the Galapagos

Indonesia

- Use of strobes and flashlights around the manta cleaning stations is not allowed in both Raja Ampat and Komodo
- Drones can be used, but not near the airport

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Maldives

- Drones can be used but it is prohibited to film private resorts, islands or private & cargo vessels
- No strobes or flashlights are allowed when diving or snorkeling with whale sharks
- Be aware that photographers and videographers need to enter the water with their camera **in hand** and proceed to a quick descent afterwards. Reasons for this are: the strong surface currents, the need for negative entries on most dives, together with not having a tender and the high entry from the dhoni. This all makes it very hard to jump in without camera and get the crew to hand over the camera to you.
- GoPro cameras are to rent on board **M/Y Blue Voyager**

Palau

- Drones can be used, but not near the airport
- No gloves are allowed when diving in Palau
- No jet powered vehicles are allowed

Philippines

Drones are permitted in Tubbataha but a permit needs to be obtained from Tubbataha Management at least 2 weeks in advance via: tubbatahareefs.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Pro-Forma-Drone-Permit.pdf

Rules and regulations in the Philippines prohibit the following:

- Diving with gloves
- Use of reef hooks and nudi pointers in Tubbataha
- Use of drones in Oslob
- Diving for longer than 60 minutes in Tubbataha
- Use of gloves, sticks/reef hooks, flashlights and/or strobes in **Monad Shoal** (thresher shark dive) and **Oslob** (whale shark dive) - both on the Visayas itinerary

Red Sea/Egypt

- Drones are not allowed in Egypt; we dive in areas where there is a military presence and drones are therefore prohibited
- Reef hooks, muck sticks and gloves are not necessary and are frowned upon. We actively discourage using these items for conservation purposes. Gloves are only permitted for wreck diving and for medical necessity

Solomons & Papua New Guinea

- No drones are allowed near the airport
- Flying low over villages/settlements and invading people's privacy is not acceptable without their permission
- Guests should always speak with the Captain and obtain permission before launching a drone

Thailand & Myanmar

- Drones have to be registered upon arrival in Thailand & Myanmar and advance permission is required to fly a drone. More info for drone regulations in [Thailand](#) and [Myanmar](#).

Truk Lagoon/Bikini Atoll

- Strictly no drones allowed on Kwajalein as it is an active US military base; this includes Ebeye, for its proximity to Kwajalein
- No drones allowed near Chuuk airport
- Flying low over villages/settlements and invading people's privacy is not acceptable without their permission
- Wide-angle is recommended due to the nature of diving (big wrecks)
- Guests should always speak with the Captain and obtain permission before launching a drone