

**Contacting Emperor Bilikiki:** Country Code is 0067. Emperor Bilikiki manager: +677 7800102.

In the event of an emergency, family and friends can contact our staff on the above number. Outside of office hours or signal range they can be contacted on +1 800 663 5363 (US & Canada)

**Passports & Visas:** All guests must have a passport valid for at least a further six months after arrival and must have at least 2 blank/unstamped pages in the passport. Guests are responsible for checking with the Solomon Islands embassy what visa is required for the passport they hold. All visitors must be in possession of a return/onward flight ticket.

**Insurance:** It is a condition of your contract with Emperor Divers that you purchase comprehensive dive **and** travel insurance specific to your booking. Emperor Divers will not be responsible for any financial loss incurred by issues beyond our control such as (but not limited to) weather, 'Act of God' or changes made by the local authorities. You are responsible to check that these include:

- a. Dive Injury Insurance: covering all risks, costs and expenses likely to be incurred as the result of a diving injury including (but not limited) to re-compression chamber treatments, air evacuation, loss of and damage to possessions. This insurance should cover all scuba diving or water sports activities you are likely to undertake during your trip.
- b. Medical Evacuation Insurance: covering all risks, costs and expenses likely to arise from a diving or non-diving injury requiring your evacuation to a place of specialist care including (but not limited to) low-altitude air evacuation and specialist treatment.
- c. Comprehensive Travel Insurance: valid at the time of booking to cover any pre-departure cancellations for reasons such as illness or serious accident; any changes or cancellation to your travel plans; loss of and damage to your luggage and its contents.

You must be satisfied your insurance fully covers all your personal requirements including pre-existing medical conditions, cancellation charges, medical expenses, diving injuries, medical evacuation and repatriation. Emperor Divers will not be liable for any losses you suffer should you choose to travel without adequate insurance cover.

Should diving insurance not be obtained prior to your departure, it can be arranged on arrival via our guest care team. Pricing information can be found on the relevant product price list or you can contact us at [reservations@emperordivers.com](mailto:reservations@emperordivers.com).

**On arrival:** Guests arriving at the airport on the check-in day will be met by a representative, wearing an Emperor Divers uniform and holding a sign representing the boat for your trip. The meeting point is at the main exit, after you have collected your luggage.

**Transfers to and from the liveboard:** Transfers to and from the boat will be arranged in accordance with your flight time, wherever possible. If your flight is earlier than the boarding time, we'll transfer you to a nearby hotel where you can relax until the boat is ready. We aim to have everyone on board by 4pm on arrival day and we will leave port as soon as all the clients are on board. Check out is at 8am on the day of departure.

**Diving in the Solomon Islands:** Emperor Divers recommends a maximum diving depth of 40 metres. Your maximum diving depth will be dependent on your level of training and experience. It is your responsibility to check what depths your insurance policy covers you for before your arrival. We recommend that you are certified to 30 metres and are comfortable with drift dives. Decompression diving, solo diving and technical diving is strictly prohibited.

**Diver Experience:** You don't need a minimum number of dives to join our trips, but you will need to be a qualified diver if you wish to dive. Please note we do not offer beginner courses on board. Please check our itinerary webpage for further information.

**Scuba Review & Check Dive:** Emperor Bilikiki advises divers to follow the agency safety recommendations. Most agencies recommend doing a Scuba Review if it has been longer than six months since your last dive. This should be completed prior to your arrival on board and be signed by an instructor in your diving logbook. Every diver, regardless of their qualification or experience, will be scheduled to do their first dive at a local/sheltered dive site. This dive allows you to orientate yourself with your diving environment and acquaint yourself with your equipment. In the interests of safety, Emperor Bilikiki reserves the right to restrict diving activities if the instructor has any concerns regarding diver safety.

**The Dive Guides:** For all sites visited, our dive guides will give you a detailed and comprehensive dive briefing before you enter the water. Emperor Bilikiki has a minimum of two guides on board. When the guide is in the water, they will remain with the group to navigate the site and to look out for any interesting marine life to show you. The guide will not provide any training during the dive and you and your buddy dive together at your own risk. The guides may decide, upon seeing each diver's ability, not to enter the water for every dive and remain on board providing surface support only.

**Diving for Qualified Divers:** As qualified divers you are expected to be able to dive to a standard as per the certification and experience requirements outlined. You are responsible for your own and your buddy's safety during the dive and you will plan your dive and dive your plan by using a personal dive computer. You must begin, execute and end the dive with your dive buddy. Should you be a single diver a buddy will be allocated on board. There will be no diving on arrival and departure day and all divers must ensure that they leave a minimum of 24 hours between their last dive and their flight departure.

**Courses:** Courses can be taken while on board, but these are arranged on a prior-request basis only. Please ensure you contact [reservations@emperordivers.com](mailto:reservations@emperordivers.com) in advance of your trip should you wish to take a course. They will be able to inform you if any courses are available and of the related cost. Courses will always be subject to availability, timing and conditions. Course paperwork needs to be signed by a parent or guardian for students under the age of 18.

If you are taking part in any course, you are required to sign a [PADI medical form](#) prior to starting the course. If you have, or think you have, any of the medical conditions listed you will need clearance from a doctor signed within 12 months of starting your course. Where doctor's clearance is needed, we ask you to arrange this before arrival where possible and to bring it with you to avoid any delays, additional costs or cancellation.

**Dive equipment:** We have ample storage space for your equipment and there is a spares box on board. We suggest that you bring the following:

- Mask, snorkel, fins, boots, wetsuit, regulator, BCD, SMB (with a minimum of 5 metres of line to deploy during the safety stop), a dive computer with spare batteries and torch for any night dives.
- The average water temperature is 29°C and we recommend a 3mm shortie or wetsuit.

Equipment (excluding wetsuits) is available for rent from Emperor Bilikiki and we ask that you order your equipment before you arrive on-board. We need to know normal sizes, height, weight and shoe sizes to prepare the correctly sized equipment for you.

All divers are required to use a dive computer and SMB for every dive and a torch each for night dives throughout their liveboard experience. Please bring your own or ask us what is available on-board.

**Nitrox:** Emperor Bilikiki is equipped to offer Nitrox and fills (normally 32%) are offered free of charge, subject to demand and availability. Please inform the dive guide in plenty of time to ensure that your tank is ready for your diving.

**Tanks & Adapters:** All tanks are fitted with 232 bar Din / Yoke convertible valves. We strongly advise divers with M26 regulators to bring adapters to fit 5/8s DIN tanks as we do not have any adapters on board.

**Photo & Video equipment:** Recharging facilities and rinse tanks are available on board. You are asked for safety reasons not to charge items while left unattended in your cabin or while you sleep.

**Snorkelling/Non-divers:** Both snorkelers and non-divers will be required to complete a liability form at the time of check-in. Snorkelling can only be taken from the tender when an Instructor/Guide is on board to observe unless the snorkeller is accompanied in the water by a certified diver. We ask all snorkellers to always wear a floatation aid. Whilst every effort will be made to help non-diving guests wishing to snorkel, some dive locations may not be permitted for safety reasons. It might be possible for a guest to do a 'try dive' but this will be restricted by location, conditions, timing, and the number of available instructors.

**The Captain:** An important man! He will decide, along with the dive guides, where you go and when. Often dive sites can look like a millpond on the surface and, to the uninitiated, seem perfectly acceptable to dive. However, if the captain and guides say no, please accept their decision. Safety is the foremost concern of our knowledgeable captain and dive guides. The sea is a dangerous place when not respected, so please accept the alternative plan.

**Cabins:** All the cabins accommodate two guests in twin-berth/double cabins. The double cabins also have a single bunk bed above the main bed. Cabins are pre-sold and allocated prior to arrival.

**Bathrooms:** All bathrooms are equipped with a shower, sink and toilet. Please take extra care in the bathrooms not to slip and always use the shower curtain/door. Placing toilet paper down any toilet on-board is not acceptable. This not only risks blocking the system, but it also finds its way into the delicate reef systems causing irreparable damage. Wastepaper bins are provided in all bathrooms and are emptied regularly. **Hot water:** Short showers are the order of the day on liveboards as hot water is in limited supply. We ask guests to shower at different times to ensure everyone enjoys hot water.

**Air-conditioning:** All cabins have air-conditioning which is controlled centrally.

**Housekeeping:** You will be provided with a bath, hand and face towel, plus an additional dive towel on deck. You may wish to bring an extra towel with you. The housekeeping crew will clean your cabin daily, generally after your first or second dive of the day. Towels and bed linen are changed once a week. For any additional cleaning required or change of towels please speak to the guides who will be able to assist you.

**Food & Drink:** The meals on-board are usually buffet style with a variety of local and international dishes to suit everyone. Water, tea and coffee are complimentary. Soft drinks, fresh juices and alcohol (cocktails, spirits, wine and beer) are chargeable. **For any special dietary requests or allergies, please inform us prior to arrival.** We source our supplies locally therefore items such as (but not limited to) wholemeal pastas or flour, gluten free products or soya substitutes are not always available.

**Alcohol:** Alcohol is available to purchase on board and guests are welcome to bring a moderate amount of their own alcohol on board. Guests will not be permitted to dive after consuming alcohol or under the influence of a hangover as this seriously impairs your judgment and increases your risk of decompression sickness. If the guides deem that you are unfit to dive you will be asked to sit out the dive. Your safety and wellbeing are paramount so this request by the dive guides will only be made to avoid accidents.

**Behaviour:** Anti-social or aggressive behaviour will not be tolerated and individuals who cause a disturbance to other guests may be removed from the trip.

**Entertainment:** There is a variety of nightly entertainment ranging from night dives, watching films, reading a book or simply relaxing on the sundeck comparing fish stories. We arrange a village visit at least once on every trip (subject to weather conditions). Before transferring you back to the airport on the day of disembarkation, there is normally time to look around town and to participate in one of the World War II tours of Honiara and Guadalcanal.

**Internet:** We have Starlink on board which offers reasonably fast and reliable internet during the whole trip. Bandwidth is somewhat limited though so please try to limit streaming and downloads to sensible amounts. There is no charge for using it.

**Luggage:** Whilst you may be advised where to store your luggage, you leave your belongings there at your own risk.

**Health:** Check with your local doctor for recommended vaccinations. And remember to bring any prescribed medicines.

**Time:** The Solomon Islands is on time zone SBT (Solomon Islands Time) which is GMT +11 hours.

**Electricity:** 240v 50Hz, Australian style 3-prong outlets throughout. Our dedicated charging room provides 110v 60Hz USA outlets for charging cameras, strobes, dive lights, etc.

**Language:** The official language of the Solomon Islands is English but various local dialects are commonly used.

**Taxes:** All fees, general taxes and surcharges are included in the price of your liveboard. Any equipment rental, special tank requests and any on board purchases are paid locally. On-board bar purchases will incur a 10% sales tax.

**Tips on board:** Emperor Bilikiki believe that tips should be on a voluntary basis depending on the quality of your service from the guides and the crew. You will find an envelope in your cabin and the general recommendation is 10% of the price paid. Please feel free to leave what you think is acceptable and it will be equally shared between the guides and crew.

**Currency accepted on board:** All prices are in US dollars when on board, but we accept cash in Euros, US Dollars and UK Sterling Pounds and Solomon Island Dollars. New and undamaged notes only, no coins. Mastercard and Visa are accepted on board and we process these payments in Solomon Island Dollars. We do not charge a credit card fee. Please check with your bank regarding any international charges and exchange rates.

**Packing; remember to bring:**

- Personal clothing & toiletries
- Small medical first aid box & prescription medicines
- Ear plugs are recommended if you are a light sleeper
- Water-proof bags to store electronic items (land camera, passports) in case of water damage whilst on board
- Note: Hard suitcases are hard to store on board so please use roll up/collapsible style bags where possible

**Essential paperwork; remember to bring:**

- Logbook with your most recent dives in
- Valid diving association certification proof
- Valid travel insurance
- A copy of valid diving insurance details per person (translated in English by your insurance company if not already) stating the start and ending date of the diving cover with the exact diving insurance covered by the policy. Without this document, you will be required to purchase diving insurance locally before you may begin diving.
- Booking voucher and holiday details (from your travel agency if not booked directly with Emperor Bilikiki).

**Nice to bring but not essential:** Media portable drives, tablet/laptop, mobile phone, video/photo camera and chargers.

**And finally:** If you have never been on a liveaboard before, then expect a few adjustments from normal life to enjoy your week. If you experience any problems during the week, please ensure that these are raised with the dive guides as soon as is practically possible. Most of the time guides and or boat manager can remedy problems on-board. However, if something remains unresolved make sure you raise it with the Fleet Manager at the end of your week. With all the will in the world, problems cannot be resolved unless you highlight them. If you have any concerns, please raise them. For more details about Emperor Bilikiki, please email [reservations@emperordivers.com](mailto:reservations@emperordivers.com)

**FORMS TO COMPLETE**

**Medicals:** All diving guests are required to sign a [medical form](#) before commencing any diving, snorkelling or swimming activities.

If you are taking part in any course, you are required to sign a PADI medical form prior to starting the course. If you have, or think you have, any of the medical conditions listed you will need clearance from a doctor signed within 12 months of starting your course. Where doctor's clearance is needed, we ask you to arrange this before arrival where possible and to bring it with you to avoid any delays, additional costs or cancellation.

**Liability Release:** All diving guests are required to produce a valid certification/qualification and sign a completed registration form/waiver prior to commencing diving activities. A sample can be sent on request.