

GUAM
100
YEARS
OF HISTORY

SMS CORMORAN II

FROM WWI

GUAM

Dive into Guam's History

THE ONLY DIVE SITE IN THE WORLD WHERE WRECKS
FROM BOTH WORLD WARS TOUCH AT THE SAME SITE

WORLD WAR I SMS CORMORAN II • WORLD WAR II TOKAI MARU

In Memoriam
Memoriás-ña
In Erinnerung

For the lives that have perished
on the German cruiser

SMS CORMORAN II

100th Year Commemoration

April 7, 1917 – April 7, 2017

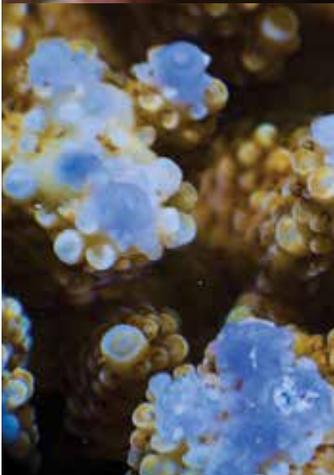
Rest in Peace

U Fañåga Gi Minahgong

Ruhe in Frieden

Dedicated by the People of Guam
Made Possible by the Guam Visitors Bureau





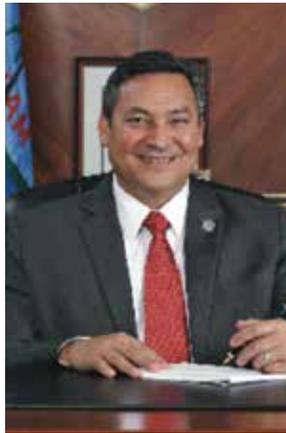
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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR OF GUAM



Celebrating 100 Years of History: Remembering the SMS Cormoran II

Buenas yan Håfa Adai! One hundred years ago, the German ship SMS Cormoran II was sunk into Apra Harbor at the hands of its captain, as the United States fired its first shot upon entering World War I. This event represented the only hostile encounter between American and German forces in the Pacific Ocean during the conflict, leaving us with a major piece of history just beyond our shores.

Today, the SMS Cormoran II remains a symbol of our island and nation's past, one that has been visited by divers from all over the world. As we commemorate a century of history for the SMS Cormoran II, we extend our warm Håfa Adai spirit and welcome our island's visitors who are joining us for this celebration. Thank you for being a part of this remarkable event, and we look forward to sharing our island's history with you, whether it's from our land or our waters.

On behalf of the administration, we also congratulate the Guam Visitors Bureau on the success of this memorial. Un dangkulu na Si Yu'os Ma'åse for keeping the history of Guam alive!



EDDIE BAZA CALVO



RAY TENORIO





MESSAGE FROM THE CONGRESSWOMAN **MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

Hafa Adai,

I write to welcome everyone to the Peace tribute and Peace Memorial Service in honor of the 100th anniversary of the scuttling of the SMS Cormoran II during World War I. The story of the SMS Cormoran II is not one commonly known, even to our local population. The Cormoran was part of the first shot fired upon the United States at the beginning of World War I and today we remember this commemorative event and those who lost their lives.

I commend the Guam Visitors Bureau for their diligent work to promote the rich history of the SMS Cormoran II and its connection to our island as a means of educating and attracting visitors. The site of the SMS Cormoran is also the site of the Tokai Maru, a Japanese freighter torpedoed by a U.S. submarine during shipwrecks from two world wars in one place. Additionally, GVB will further educate visitors through dive tours and historical lectures about the scuttling of the SMS Cormoran.

I thank Mr. Jon Nathan Denight, President and CEO of the Guam Visitors Bureau and his team for their leadership in organizing this fitting tribute and campaign to share this site with others. Again welcome to all taking part in these historic events and I look forward to GVB's continued contributions to the people of Guam. *Si Yu'os Ma'åse.*

Sincerely,


MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO
Member of Congress





A MESSAGE FROM THE SPEAKER **BENJAMIN J.F. CRUZ**

Buenas yan Hafa Adai! On behalf of *I Mina'Trentai Kuâtro Na Lehislatura Guåhan*, it is with honor and great pleasure to welcome all our guests at today's remarkable centennial event, the 100th Anniversary of all the scuttling of the *SMS Cormoran II (Cormoran)*.

While better known for its warm oceans, sandy beaches, and yearlong sunny weather, Guam is also the final resting place for the *SMS Cormoran II* and the *Tokai Maru*. And perhaps more popularly known in diving circles, an adventure that I've known and have had the opportunity to experience, Guam is home to the site where divers can dive two separate shipwrecks from two different World Wars at the same time.

Scuttled during World War I, the *Cormoran* rests on her port side, 110 feet below the surface in Apra Harbor and the *Tokai Maru*, torpedoed during World War II, leans up perpendicular against the *Cormoran*. Guam is one of the few places in the world where a diver can visit a sunken World War I vessel next to a sunken World War II vessel. It is an extraordinary experience, an almost impudent attempt, indeed, to encompass two World Wars - decades of rich history - fused into a single touch, into one single moment. And, yet, here the opportunity lies, nestled away in Guam's warm blue oceans.

I hope that you enjoy today's events. However, I also hope that you take the opportunity today to learn about some of Guam's rich history and of her people: such as the *Cormoran* being part of the first shot fired by the United States during World War I; crew members perishing in the scuttling of the *Cormoran*, some of whom are buried in Guam's Naval cemetery; and the *Cormoran's* connection to Guam prior to World War I.

Finally, thank you to Guam Visitors Bureau and the individuals in our community for your contributions and hard work. Your collective efforts contributed to make this a successful event and we are all extremely grateful. *Un Dangkolo Na Si Yu'os Ma'åse!*

Senseremente,



BENJAMIN J.F. CRUZ
Speaker, 34th Guam Legislature

Committee on Appropriations and Adjudication





MESSAGE FROM THE SENATOR **DENNIS G. RODRIGUEZ, JR.**

Celebrating 100 years of History: SMS Cormoran II

Buenas yan Hafa Adai! For thousands of years, the Pacific Ocean has been home to our island and the beautiful, resilient people who have made Guam their home. Over time, Guam has grown to be loved by people from all over the world.

The arrival of the SMS Cormoran II in December 1914, is no different. Arriving out of coal and anxious regarding World War I events in the Pacific, the German ship was not allowed to refuel but sailors were allowed to disembark and come ashore. This was the beginning of two and a half years of building friendships with Guam's people until the United States engaged in the conflict.

The remains of the SMS Cormoran II and 26 years later, the fate of the Tokai Maru in World War II produced an historical event like no other. Guam is home to the only place in the world where divers can experience history from two World Wars at the same time, in one place.

This is part of the rich history Guam has played in world events, setting the foundation for the work that the Guam Visitors Bureau has accomplished in promoting Guam's presence, contributing to the success of our visitor industry.

I welcome all divers, local and visiting, to a very sacred and historical dive and hope that you will share the rich history of the SMS Cormoran II and the Tokai Maru with all you meet. Hundreds of divers make their mark by being at two historical times making it an experience like no other.

As we commemorate this 100th Anniversary hallmark in Guam's history, may we remember the people who perished in the conflicts and the lives touched by all who set foot on our island during these times.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DR', written in a cursive style.

DENNIS G. RODRIGUEZ, JR.
*Senator, 34th Guam Legislature
Chairman, Committee on Health, Tourism,
Military Affairs & Senior Citizens*





MESSAGE FROM THE REAR ADMIRAL, U.S. NAVY **SHOSHANA S. CHATFIELD**

Hafa Adai,

We gather on April 7 to remember the 100th anniversary of the scuttling of the SMS Cormoran. Although we may know Cormoran's operational history was short-lived, commissioning in August 1914 and pulling into Guam that December, some may not realize that another SMS Cormoran had a long history before the ship that lies at the bottom of Apra Harbor.

The first SMS Cormoran was commissioned as a cruiser in 1893. After a 7-month stint in East Africa, she transferred to East Asia in 1895. For much of her life, she patrolled Germany's Pacific colonies from New Guinea all the way to Samoa, the center of German commerce in the area. At the end of the Spanish-American War, the German empire covered the Caroline Islands, Palau and the Marianas (except for Guam).

American influence in the region also grew at the end of the Spanish-American War and we know that Cormoran interacted with the U.S. Navy frequently. When Cormoran was permitted to enter Apra Harbor in September 1913, Guam looked nothing like it does today. The Seabees had not yet constructed Glass Breakwater or dredged inner Apra Harbor. Sumay was a bustling village and home to the Pan-American Clipper Hotel and landing site.

The crew of Cormoran enjoyed the Chamorro Inafa'maolek spirit and received a warm 5-day reception. When the ship left, she made her way north along the coast and fired a final salute as she reached Agana. The Marine battery on the waterfront answered with its field guns.

There was no way of knowing that Archduke Franz Ferdinand would be assassinated just nine months later and that the U.S. and Germany would take opposing sides in World War I. Or that a Japanese passenger-cargo ship named Tokai Maru would also visit Guam 30 years later during World War II and eventually be linked to the second SMS Cormoran for all of eternity.

The juxtaposition of the two ships draws a visible and tangible line between the World Wars by allowing us to somberly reflect on the loss of the Cormoran and the peace that should have endured after war termination. The objective of war termination is a lasting peace - a legacy bought by those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Yet the tragedy of the first World War failed to prevent the second. Tokai Maru resting adjacent to the Cormoran allows us to appreciate that a longer lasting peace, now more than 70 years, has brought unprecedented security and wealth for much of East Asia and Europe.

As we gather on April 7 to remember the SMS Cormoran II, let's think of the mutual values that were celebrated during the 5-day port call in 1913 and work to keep those foremost in our mind. The submerged wrecks are a memory of the inability of nations to resolve conflict peacefully whereas the many tourists and divers who come to visit them give us hope in our continued ability to find common ground as we work to keep the peace.

SHOSHANA S. CHATFIELD
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy
Commander, Joint Region Marianas





MESSAGE FROM THE AMBASSADOR
PETER WITTIG

It sounds unbelievable: Almost exactly 100 years ago to the day and virtually half way around the world – and not in the bloody trenches of Europe – the first confrontation between German and American troops took place.

It was here where the first German soldiers killed in action after the U.S. entered World War I found their final resting place. It was here where the first German ship sank. The history of the S.M.S. KORMORAN II thus marks a turning point- U.S. entry into the war, which ultimately ended in the defeat of the German Empire. The fate of the S.M.S. KORMORAN II therefore assumes a special place in the history of our two nations.

And while we pause today to remember this day and those who died, we feel all the more fortunate that, after 100 years and two horrific world wars, we do so together as friends and allies. We can be sincerely glad and rightly proud of that. The bond between Germany and the United States today springs from a long, mature friendship. Our two nations share common experiences, basic democratic values, and interests characterized by a wide array of economic, political, and cultural relationships. We want to continue to foster this strong partnership for liberty, security, and the economic success of our two countries.

PETER WITTIG
*Ambassador of the Federal
Republic of Germany*





MILTON MORINAGA
Chairman

MESSAGE FROM **GUAM VISITORS BUREAU**



JON NATHAN DENIGHT
President and CEO

Håfa Adai!

The Guam Visitors Bureau welcomes you to the 100th anniversary of the scuttling of the SMS Cormoran II. It's not everyday we get to look back in time and commemorate a unique piece of Guam's history that is not well known to our island residents and visitors.

Guam is considered one of the best diving spots in the world. For diving enthusiasts, we hope you get a chance to explore the site of the SMS Cormoran II and Tokai Maru. This is the only place in the world where you can touch two ships from two different world wars.

In addition to special dive tours, we invite everyone to visit the T. Shell Newman Information Center and learn more about the SMS Cormoran II. We also invite you to visit the U.S. Naval Cemetery in Hagåtña and pay tribute to the six sailors that died during the scuttling of the SMS Cormoran II.

Whatever you decide, take this opportunity to fully immerse yourself in something completely exclusive to our island paradise. We also encourage you to visit GVB's website at visitguam.com to learn more about what Guam has to offer. Thank you for choosing to commemorate this peace tribute with us.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse!


MILTON MORINAGA
Chairman


JON NATHAN DENIGHT
President and CEO



SMS CORMORAN

SMS Cormoran deck passageway

100TH ANNIVERSARY

HISTORY BENEATH GUAM'S SEA

One hundred years ago, on April 7, 1917, the German cruiser SMS Cormoran sunk beneath the waters of Guam's Apra Harbor. Its demise was the result of a defiant and violent act by the ship's captain and crew it brought WWI to bear on Guam and the Pacific. A century later, the ship sits on the ocean floor, part of Guam submerged cultural resources. Next to it lies the WWII Japanese freighter Tokai Maru. Now a World Heritage site, it is the only place in the world where ships of two world wars lie touching each other in silent memory of those conflicts. This booklet visits the storied past of the SMS Cormoran, the ship at present and takes a look at Guam's reef beauty and history under the waves.

HISTORY OF THE SMS CORMORAN



Cormoran German crew.
Below: Papua New Guinean crew members

SMS Cormoran crew. Photo Courtesy of MARC, UOG



SMS Cormoran. Photo Courtesy of Don Farrell

The Cormoran's amazing history starts far away from the tropical islands of Micronesia. The Cormoran's arrival on Guam starts in Qingdao (Tsingtao), China, where the original SMS Cormoran, a light cruiser, participated in the occupation of the harbor to establish a German colony in Asia. Built in 1893, the Cormoran was engaged in Samoa in 1900 and the suppression of rebellions in Pohnpei in 1910 and 1911.

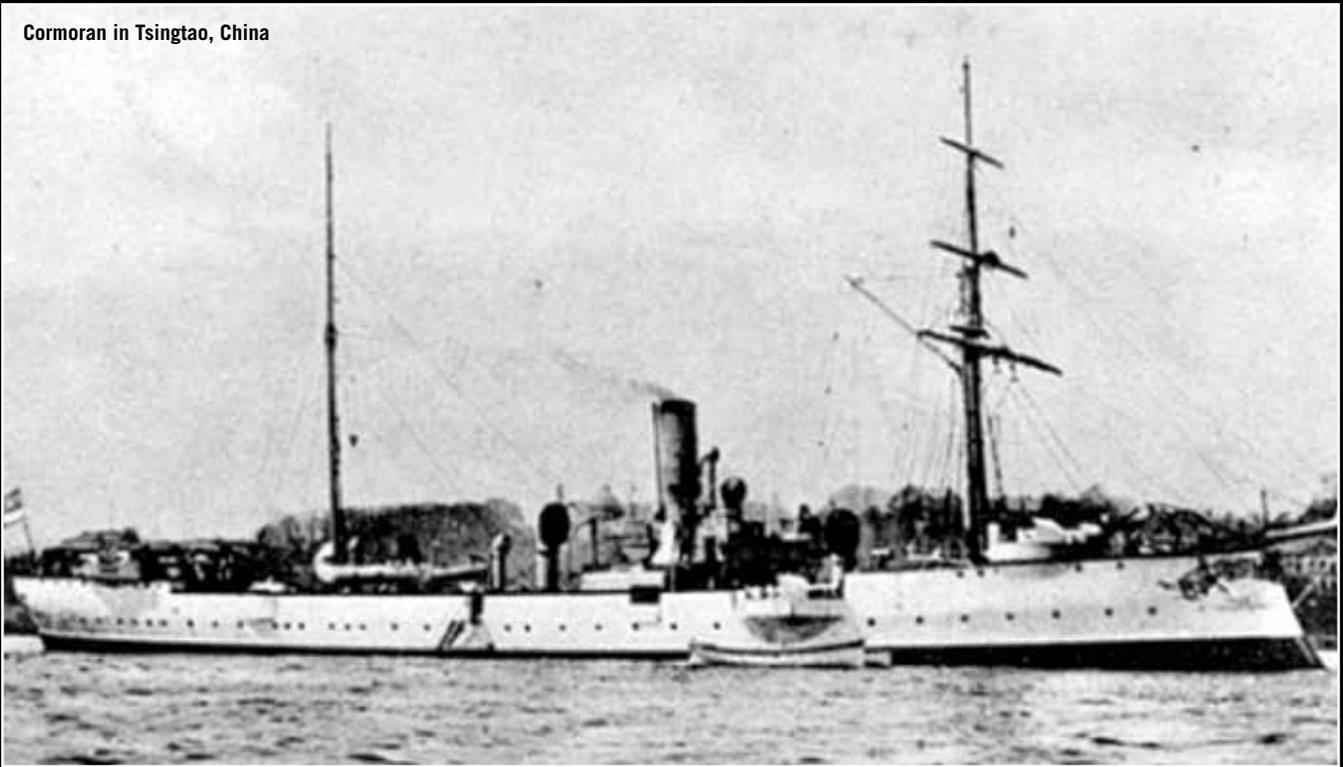
In 1912, the Cormoran was converted into a gunboat, and the vessel traveled from China to Sydney in 1913 captained by Adalbert Zuckschwerdt. Captain Zuckschwerdt oversaw its last voyage in September 1913 when the Cormoran stopped on Guam for a five-day stay, giving the crew the chance to relax and enjoy the hospitality of the island. Back at Tsingtao with the outbreak of World War I in August 1914, it became clear that the port would become a main target for allied Japanese and British navies in the Pacific.

As the Cormoran was hurriedly outfitted and prepared for war, the ship's engine was accidentally destroyed. Another German ship, the Emden, had captured



Jakob Runck
Oberheizer (Petty Officer)

Cormoran in Tsingtao, China



SMS Cormoran crew. Photo Courtesy of H.Ward Collection, MARC, UOG

a German-made, Russian-operated merchant ship Rjasan. The Cormoran was dismantled and its guns, supplies, crew and name were transferred to the captured vessel, now known as the SMS Cormoran II. Captain Zuckschwerdt took the helm and his hastily trained men, headed toward the Marshall Islands to join the German naval fleet under the command of Admiral Maximillian Von Spee.

The Cormoran, however, was not an effective warship, and its reliance on coal made it

vulnerable to running out of fuel. Soon, the hunter became the hunted and the Cormoran found itself in a race for cover. Finally, after two months of movement through the South Pacific, the Cormoran reached Guam in the evening hours of December 13, 1914.

Captain Zuckschwerdt, disregarding the expected military protocol and decorum, visited naval Governor William J. Maxwell to request enough coal to depart Guam and 30-days provisions for his crew. Maxwell, however, stated he could not provide the requested items, as the island's supply of coal was limited and the provisions would greatly cut into the needs of the local population. The governor instead gave the Cormoran captain the option of leaving Guam within 24 hours, or of interning the ship for the duration of the hostilities. When the 24-hour period had passed, the governor ordered the Cormoran and its crew interned on Guam. Captain Zuckschwerdt was unhappy about the situation but understood Maxwell's rationale. He hoped the internment would not be long. Maxwell's conditions included the disarmament

Cormoran sailors were interred in this camp in Asan, Guam.

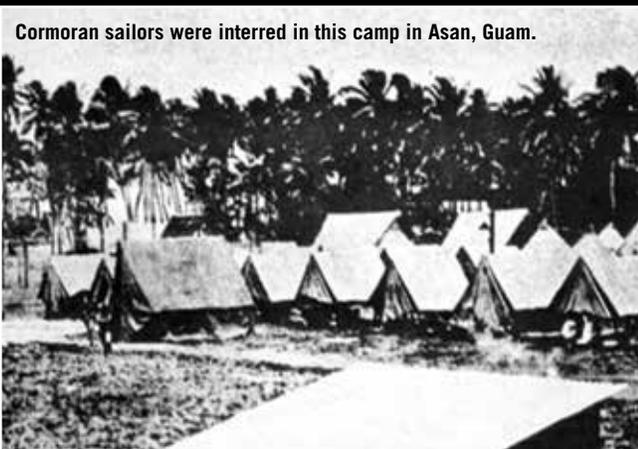


Photo Courtesy of Tony "Malia" Ramirez Exhibit

“He ordered the crew to abandon ship...”

of the ship and that the Cormoran crew would remain quartered. They would not go beyond a determined boundary line when on shore. Because of the unpredictable weather, Maxwell agreed the ship's machinery could remain operable. Two-hundred tons of coal would be kept on the ship in case it would have to be taken to open sea. Zuckschwerdt and Maxwell had a very tense relationship and had their own personal war over funds, supplies and control.

In 1916, Maxwell was replaced temporarily by Lt. Comdr. William O. Cronan of the USS Supply, who ordered the complete disarmament of the Cormoran, but also demanded that the Germans be treated as friendly guests and allowed for greater social interaction with the locals. The relationship between the Cormoran crew and the island residents became more pleasant easing the crew's stress of the long internment onboard.

However, while relations with the Germans on Guam were pleasant, elevating political tensions between the governments of the United States and Germany were of grave concern. By early 1917, both sides prepared for war. Zuckshwerdt, faced with the decision to attack the garrison on Guam, or scuttle the ship, chose the latter though less honorable wartime route, and therefore avoid the needless sacrifice of lives. With a demolition charge in place that had been concealed the entire time

on the Cormoran, the crew prepared to scuttle the vessel and practiced abandon ship drills. The code word for the scuttling of the ship would be “Cormoran”.

On April 7, Guam's governor received the cablegram that the US had declared war on Germany. Captain Zuckschwerdt was ordered to surrender the vessel to the Americans. He replied he would turn over the ship. He ordered the crew to abandon ship, with the sick and non-swimmers boarding the sole lifeboat. An explosion followed and within minutes, the Cormoran sank. The Americans hurriedly rescued the Germans, using the supply as a hospital boat. A marine sentry aimed his rifle to shoot at the Germans when another marine pushed the rifle so that the shot fired harmlessly into the air. This was the first and only hostile and violent encounter between German and US military forces in the Pacific for the duration of the World War I.

The US Navy reported seven Germans had been killed in the scuttling of the ship. They were buried with full military honors and a marker erected at the cemetery in Hagåtña. The rest of the crew were taken as prisoners of war and sent to various forts in the US until they were released at the end of the war in 1919. - *Much of this information is courtesy of Guampedia.com*

REMEMBERING THE LOST CREW

Under a spreading flame tree in a small beachside cemetery in East Hagåtña is a white obelisk. While Guam's WWII period of Japanese invasion, occupation and liberation is celebrated liberally around the island in the form of a National Park center and many monuments, this understated monument is one of the few mementos of the WWI period on the island. Six simple headstones mark the graves of the sailors who lost their lives when the captain of the SMS Cormoran decided to scuttle his ship rather than surrender to US military officers on April 7, 1917. This obelisk was built by survivors in 1917. In July 1974, the SMS Cormoran II was listed on the Guam Register of Historic Places. A year later, the vessel was listed on the National Park Service surveyed the site in 1983 as the submerged Cultural Resources team was sent to document the ship in images, sketches and writing. Today, the graves are well tended in this scenic little cemetery. The sunken Cormoran II has become a popular diving site.



Obelisk's inscription



Cormoran obelisk



Old Naval Cemetery in Hagåtña, Guam, holds graves of the sailors lost in the ship's scuttling

DIVING THE CORMORAN

Diving the Cormoran is a popular activity on Guam. Although a bit deep with the ship sitting on the sea floor at 120 feet (36m), it is a small ship and can be done as an overswim in one leisurely dive.

This is a boat dive. It is a short ride from the inner harbor where most Guam dive shops keep their boats. The site has a permanent buoy located on the sunken WWII Japanese freighter Tokai Maru. Divers descend the mooring line and often head aft to see where the Cormoran, a WWII victim, actually touches the Tokai Maru, a sunken vessel from WWII.

Divers can see where the huge SMS Cormoran propeller was once attached to the thick prop shaft prior to salvage.

The ship sits on its port side. After seeing the ship's underside, divers can ascend to 80-90 feet (27m) and swim the length of the Cormoran and look inside the open hatches of the steering deck house.

The midship section of the Cormoran is intact and the engine room is easily accessible through the skylights, which have been long ago propped open. This area is quite open and



The crumbled smokestack of the SMS Cormoran



Sketch courtesy of the National Parks Service Submerged Cultural Resources Team

the walkways leading down into the engine room can be seen here.

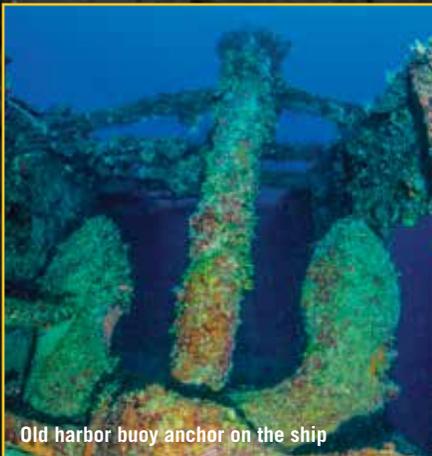
Divers with deep diver certification and wreck diving training can penetrate the wreck using proper equipment and caution as it is quite silty. Also, since it sits on its side, it can be disorienting so care and training are essential for penetrations.

Just behind the bridge there are two open cargo loading doors, and descending into this area leads to inner areas of the ship. When swimming over the ship look also for marine life. Though not heavily encrusted, the ship sports some hard corals, tunicates, sponges and a big, blue vase sponge on its side mid-starboard. Schooling jacks swim by closer to sea floor and dogtooth tuna often come by in blue water as it is near the shipping channel. Visibility averages 25-60', but can get much better.

This wreck is good for NITROX because the average dive depth between 80-110 ft.



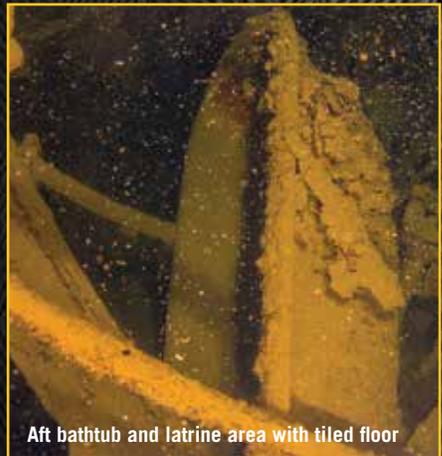
Divers do a deco stop at dive's end with a scrawled filefish



Old harbor buoy anchor on the ship



Engine room skylight



Aft bathtub and latrine area with tiled floor

“The only place in the world where casualties of two world wars lay submerged and touching.”

Schooling jacks swim by the Carmoran

Divers ascend to the Tokai Maru and do a safety stop on the buoy lines or on a deco bar on their dive boat. In all, this ship is amazingly intact after 100 years of submersions and is a true dive into the history of Guam, two world wars and the Micronesian past.



ONLY ON GUAM

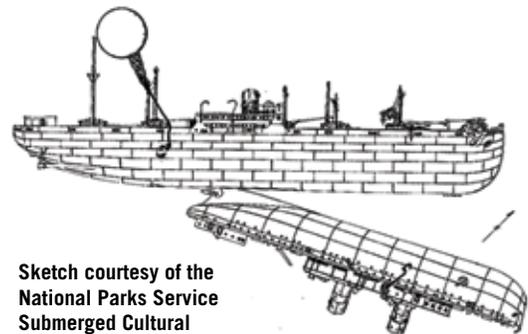
On Guam, there is a saying for something that is unique to the island - Only on Guam (OOG). Around the world, the international diving certification agencies offer some unique specialties but “Only on Guam” can divers get a PADI specialty as a SMS Cormoran diver. Instructor Mike Schuck, of LmgScuba on Guam, has developed a course the extensive of the ship, the basics of diving his wreck and two dives personally guided by Mike. He has also developed a commemorative coin showing the German and Japanese flags, representing the sunken ships’ countries. Divers can buy this at a small extra cost. It is a true “Only on Guam” specialty.



Divers descend to where the Tokai Maru and SMS Cormoran touch

TWO WORLD WARS

The Cormoran was sunk in 1917 and in 1943 an American submarine sunk the Tokai Maru in basically the same spot. The Tokai Maru now sits atop the Cormoran making the site the only place in the world where casualties of two world wars lay submerged and touching. Divers like to descend to this historic spot and simultaneously touch the ships. It is a special adventure divers can do nowhere else but Guam.



Sketch courtesy of the National Parks Service Submerged Cultural Resources Team

DIVING IN GUAM



Large coral head,
Agat Bay



Nurse shark,
Apra Harbor

GREAT PACIFIC DIVERSITY

Guam is located close to the Coral Triangle, the richest marine area on Earth. With over 1,000 fish species and over 500 coral species found in the waters of this relatively small but somewhat amazing tropical island, Guam has exceptional diversity that continues to thrill divers every time they go beneath the waves.

Few places can offer the ease of travel, hotel and restaurant variety, training opportunities

and daily diving schedules that are found here in the western Pacific. From the newest diver to the jaded pro, Guam has a bucket list of underwater attractions that can take many visits to take in. Guam's rare combination of marine life and development make diving here a simple and rewarding endeavor. Wall dives, wreck dives, shallow and deep reef dives, tech dives, beach dives, snorkeling tours and even daily dolphin watching fit the bill.



Heading to Apra Harbor



Gorgonian Sea Fan



Spinner dolphins frolic in the waves

Dive training on the island is also the most advanced and readily available of anywhere in the Pacific. Internationally recognized PADI is a very active certifying agency on Guam with training starting with new divers and ranging all the way up to instructor and technical diving levels. A huge array of specialty diving is taught.

For those infatuated with the ocean, Guam has many marine-related institutions and tours. A world famous Marine Lab at the University of Guam is in the forefront of worldwide coral reef research. A major walkthrough aquarium, an undersea observatory, dolphin watching, SeaWalker, snorkeling tours and SNUBA tours are all found here.



Guam's famous heart-shaped Blue Hole

DIVERSITY REIGNS

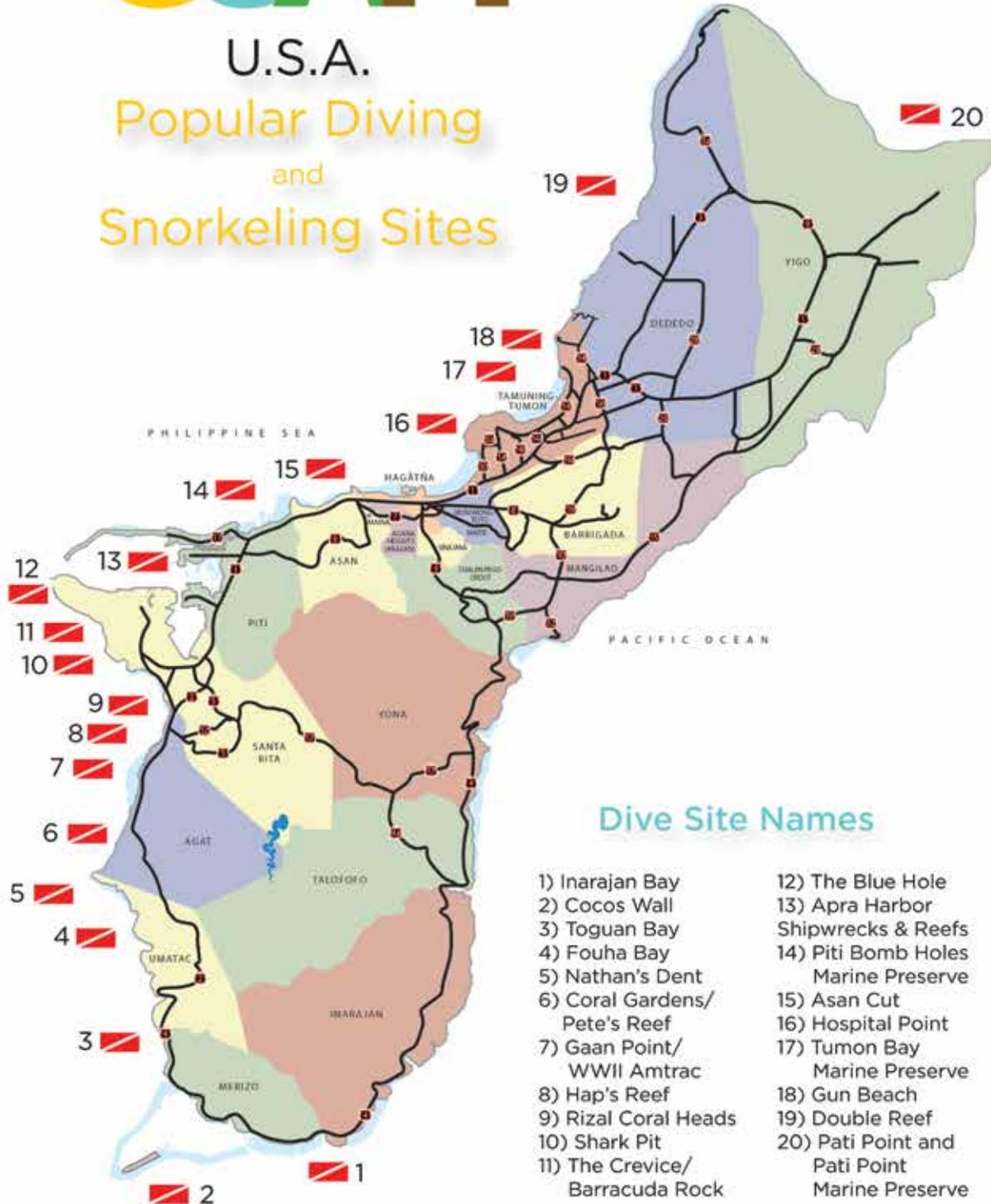
Guam's coral reef ecosystems:

- 4 seagrass species
- 306 marine macroalgae species
- 403 hard & 77 soft corals
- 1,000+ fish species
- 128 sponge species
- 295 foraminiferan species
- 53 flatworm species
- 1,673 mollusk species
- 104 polychaete species
- 840 arthropod species
- 194 echinoderm species
- 117 ascidian species
- 3 sea turtle species
- 13 marine mammal species

GUAM

U.S.A.

Popular Diving and Snorkeling Sites



Guam has over 100 dive sites on the island. These are among the most popular, most historic and most interesting.





WWII amtrac, Gaan Point



WWII Tokai Maru

WRECKS & REMNANTS

Guam was a major battle site during WWII and four war era shipwrecks, numerous planes, landing craft and lots of other related remnants sit beneath the waves in the harbor and in the bays. These have become artificial reefs in many cases, acting as refuge that attract schooling fish. They also become encrusted in corals and sessile marine life that harbor colorful invertebrates and sponges.

Guam was a major landing base for Manila galleons that brought raw goods from Spain to Manila to be made into luxury and religious items like jewelry and crucifixes. As many as five of these and their treasures may sit beneath the waves. In all, Guam has a fascinating maritime history that divers can visit firsthand.

BOAT DIVING

Diving on Guam's outer reefs and in the Apra Harbor offers a wide variety of undersea exploration. Boats go out daily and even in poor weather, there are usually good places to dive on Guam due to the protection of the harbor's Glass Breakwater and the long Orote Peninsula cliffline.

Beautiful deeper dives along the peninsula in south-central Guam produce clear waters and lots of marine life at sites like The Shark Pit, The Crevice and The Blue Hole. Tumon Bay and

Alupang Cut offer the chance to see reef sharks and manta rays. Technical dives can be done on the deep wrecks like Kitsugawa Maru. And there are even ancient lava tubes to explore south of Facpi Island.

Beautiful sites like Blue & White north of the harbor and Pati Point to the far north are exciting with the chance of seeing most anything swim by, including whale sharks. Guam boat dives are always fun.



BEACH DIVING



Shore dive at Gun Beach

Many islands in the Pacific have wonderful dive sites but few are as accessible as some of Guam's favorite spots. Guam has many areas where the barrier reef is quite close to shore. When it is calm, divers can park and walk down the beach and swim out through natural reef cuts to visit the corals and fishes of the island. Gun Beach, Ypao Beach, Piti Bomb Holes, Outhouse Beach, Gaan Point and Bile Bay are

just some of the spots on Guam where, when conditions are right, no boat is required. Piti Channel and Gun Beach are also very popular walk-in night dives that hold some very odd and rare invertebrate life. Guam's MDA dive shop even offers a PADI certified Guam beach diving specialty course and free instructor-led beach dives are often offered by Guam dive shops.



Bream School at Gun Beach



SNORKELING

The beauty of a visit to Guam is that the whole family can enjoy the waters here, thanks to the many beaches and protected bays accessible to snorkelers. The main hotel area of Tumon Bay is a marine preserve with mostly shallow waters. The south end has a park and swimming area that is popular with locals and tourists alike. Guam's water is normally very clear, especially at high, incoming tide. It is also quite warm and most snorkelers need only a rashguard, mostly for sun protection and to prevent coral scrapes. Inside the bay and also Piti's Tepungan Bay at the Bomb Holes site are over 200 fish species and numerous hard and soft corals.

Free diving is also becoming quite popular and with the night training free divers can see reefs and wrecks at many sites. Snorkeling is good exercise as well. With proper sun protection the reefs and fishes of Guam can be enjoyed for hours. Guam's many beaches also offer parking, restroom facilities and even barbeque pits. The day can be spent by the sea enjoying the sun, sand and sea.



MARINE PRESERVES

Farsighted Guam policy-makers, environmental conservationists and the Guam Visitors Bureau had concerns in the last two decades about the health, welfare and legacy of Guam's coral reefs and created five marine preserves. One is Piti Point Preserve to the far north. Then along the west-central coast are the Tumon Bay Preserve, Piti Bay or Piti Bomb Holes Preserve and the mangrove-laden Sasa Bay

Preserve. And in the south near Merizo Village is the Achang Reef Flat Preserve. These have been created to protect coral reef habitats and aquatic animals, as well as help restore reef fish stocks for future generations.

Tumon Bay and Piti Bay are especially popular and accessible, hosting hundreds of divers and snorkelers daily.



Chromis & halfbleaks
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GUAM, IT'S TO DIVE FOR

Give Guam Diving A Try

Guam has plenty to offer in terms of diving and snorkeling. Come see our historic wrecks and also visit our amazing reefs.

Guam is also the hub for arrival into the vast and diverse Micronesian region. It is a simple matter to include Guam in plans for diving in other Micronesian destinations. All have shipwrecks, amazing reefs and relaxing atmospheres combined with comfy accommodations.

Here are some practicalities:

Clothing. Guam is tropical and almost always sunny. Bring protective clothing like a long sleeved T-shirt and brimmed hat. Sunscreen is a necessity.

Getting There. Guam is daily served by dozens of flights from all over Asia and the Pacific. It is a main hub for United. There are numerous direct flights from Japan, Korea and Manila everyday.

Visas. Everyone entering Guam must have a valid passport and an onward air ticket. Full information: <http://travel.state.gov/visa/>

Money. Guam is a U.S. Territory and uses the U.S. dollar. Major credit cards are accepted.

Electricity. Guam has 110v with the standard U.S. two-prong flat pin plug.

Stay. Guam has a large selection of hotels for every class of traveller.

Eat. A huge selection of restaurants and cuisines can be found on Guam.

For more information, contact:

Guam Visitors Bureau

Tel. (671) 646-5278

www.visitguam.org



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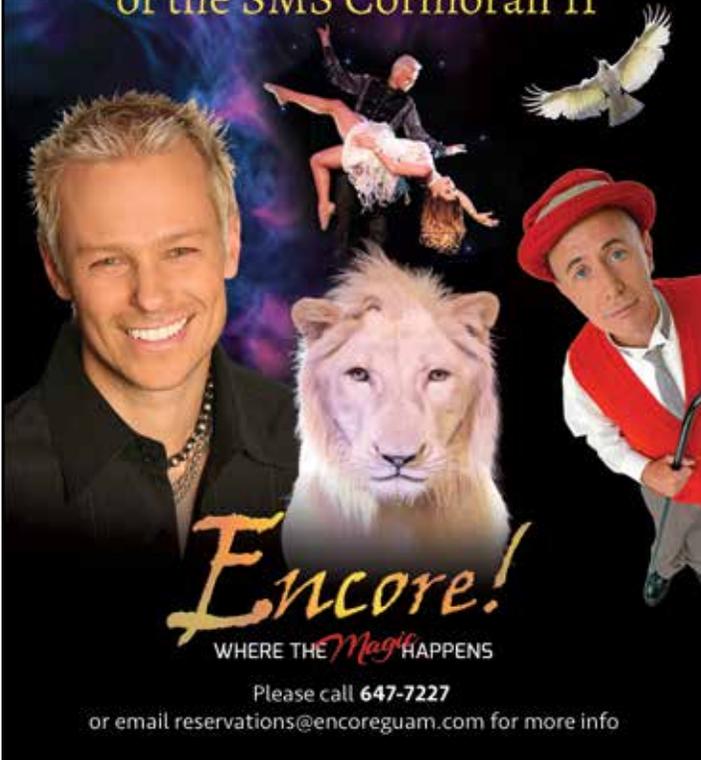


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