**KOSRAE** (PRON: KOSH-RYE) DEFN: A SMALL UNSPOILT PACIFIC ISLAND WITH MIST SHROUDED MOUNTAINS, BEAUTIFUL WATERFALLS AND PROLIFIC RAINFOREST. A MARINE ECOSYSTEM OF DIVERSE PRISTINE HARD CORAL CONSTRUCTIONS THAT RESEMBLE AN UNDERWATER WONDERLAND OF CORAL CASTLES AND A VARIETY OF ANEMONES. THE MOST EASTERN ISLAND OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA. CONSIDERED TO BE THE BUSY SEASON IF MORE THAN A DOZEN TOURISTS ARE ON THE ISLAND.

The second last stop on the way to Honolulu from Guam is Kosrae. It’s on the same flight plan as Chuuk and Palau and is an idyllic remote island that fires the imagination immediately you see it. Tall mountains covered in an emerald rainforest are shrouded in mist and ringed by mangrove flats which are in turn surrounded by a fringing coral reef and an indigo sea. As soon as you descend into the waters of Kosrae you face incredible vistas of hard coral cascading down the slope into the depths. It isn’t simply the health of the corals but the incredible complexity and density of the structures that astounds you. Pyramids of coral spires, cascades of flat corals, brain corals, capricorn corals and many other types of hard coral all compete for space. Kosrae considers itself to have just one dive site – it continues right around the island. The people of Kosrae understand just how precious their coral reefs are and to protect them they have completely surrounded the island with a network of 56 mooring buoys to protect 73 kilometers of reef.

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Top to bottom: This anemone was cradled within some beautiful capricorn coral. On the underside of many sea stars you can often find these tiny shrimp; something I’ve only seen in magazines so far. Porcelain crabs are common on some anemones and it was interesting to see that often when you find one anemone, another of a completely different type would be right next to it, often touching the others. Small carpet anemones can be found, including the incredible lime green variation complete with popcorn shrimp. Vis was always very good on our trip, up to 50-plus metres on occasion. Amazingly we found that the dive boat would sometimes pull up at a site just to see what was happening, kicking hard until I was directly above them. And what lens had I used?...
A must-do dive is Shark Island; in a mild current this is a pleasant drift along a steep wall past a gentle slope towards an underwater point, drifting in the blue. I still see the Suka stones where it was a short walk and the Menke a longer one. I’d look over the side into 30 metre deep water and getting two to pose together was a lucky opportunity. This flatworm was swimming with the grace of a Spanish dancer; this pyramid of spires covered in Christmas tree worms was typical Kosrae.

The reefs of Kosrae are dotted with incredible constructions of an ancient civilization. Wonder at the stone masonry of huge basalt rocks made into canals used for moving fruit and supplies around the ancient metropolis. You can glimpse of incredible constructions of an ancient civilization. Wonder at the stone masonry of huge basalt rocks made into canals used for moving fruit and supplies around the ancient metropolis. You can.

Top to bottom: This anemone was cradled within some beautiful capricorn coral. On the underside of many sea stars you can often find these tiny shrimp; sitting here sure beats the stress of life back in ’civilization’. A red/orange magnifica anemone, anemones can be found, including the incredible clams of amazing vibrancy. Porcelain crabs are capable of 110volts and US adapters. Make sure you bring chargers as you leave the island. Electricity: 110vAC, 60hz, US outlets. The Lelu and Menke ruins are also a great break from diving. Dating 1200-1400 AD, both are easily accessible by foot with the Lelu ruins being only a very short walk and the Menke a longer tour through lush rainforest. Both are like Dive Adventures. Most flights have a gentle slope as kava.

Visa is required for entry into the Federated States of Micronesia for visitors. A US$15 departure tax is collected at the airport as you leave the island. US$15 departure tax is collected at the airport as you leave the island. Electricity: 110vAC, 60Hz, US outlets (two vertical pins with round earth pin below). Make sure you bring chargers capable of 110volts and US adapters.

The reefs surrounding Kosrae could almost be described as a big cleaner station as well. The European and American tourists prefer to visit during their winter - the Oz summer. During my ‘barracuda dance’ two eagle rays appeared, one curious enough to bank towards you it can be more daunting than vicious look. When one is coming straight towards you it can be more daunting than vicious look. When one is coming straight towards you it can be more daunting than vicious look. When one is coming straight towards you it can be more daunting than vicious look. When one is coming straight towards you it can be more daunting than vicious look. When one is coming straight towards you it can be more daunting than vicious look. When one is coming straight towards you it can be more daunting than vicious look. When one is coming straight towards you it can be more daunting than vicious look. When one is coming straight towards you it can be more daunting than vicious look. When one is coming straight towards you it can be more daunting than vicious look. When one is coming straight towards you it can be more daunting than vicious look. When one is coming straight towards you it can be more daunting than vicious look. When one is coming straight towards you it can be more daunting than vicious look. When one is coming straight towards you it can be more daunting than vicious look. When one is coming straight towards you it can be more daunting than vicious look. When one is coming straight towards you it can be more daunting than vicious look. When one is coming straight towards you it can be more daunting than vicious look. When one is coming straight towards you it can be more daunting than vicious look. When one is coming straight towards you it can be more da...
KOSRAE NAUTILUS RESORT

Has 16 comfortable rooms, its own restaurant, dive shop & 27 foot purpose built diveboat with a 250hp outboard to get you to dive sites quickly in comfort. Situated on the waterfront directly opposite the Blue Hole which is a great snorkel just a few paces over the shallow seagrass bed towards the outer reef. At the rear of the complex is a mangrove waterway ideal for your own relaxing exploratory kayak trip. All rooms are airconditioned with twin double beds, 26 channel cable TV ensuite, mini bar & tea/coffee making facilities. The resort has alfresco dining alongside the outdoor pool or inside in airconditioned comfort. Doug & Sally Beitz, the operators of the resort are friendly helpful Aussies & do their utmost to make everyone’s stay enjoyable. They fell in love with the island in the early 1990s & though having no diving, resort or boating experience (Doug was a firefighter) they moved to the island to help run the resort. They went back to Australia for eight years to raise their children. In 2004 Doug & Sally took over the resort fully & completely refurbished the whole operation into the bright & fresh Kosrae Nautilus Resort you see today.

Kosrae people are warm, friendly and laugh so much it’s contagious. They’ve lost much of their original traditions due to the early influence of the Christian missionaries. That said, it was only the influence of the missionaries that saved Kosraens from extinction. By the time the missionaries arrived the population had diminished to 300 due to the violence and disease brought by early whalers and pirates who worked these seas. The missionaries and Kosraens repelled the whalers and pirates. Early missionaries and the church are still highly revered by Kosraens today.

Kosrae is a very quiet laid-back beautiful island that has amazing above water scenery and pristine diving. It’s also somewhere you’d safely bring the whole family and no one would be remotely bored with the hikes, kayaking, boating tours and snorkeling. Kosrae is one of those places you can visit and no one else you know has ever been there or even knows where it is. And you’re lucky (or unlucky!) if you ever see another tourist on the street.

Take a small boat trip followed by a foot sucking squelch through primordial mangrove to visit the prehistoric ‘Yela Ka’ forest, the one and only forest of 30 meter high Terminalia catenaria trees on this planet. Check the buttressed bases covered in moss and vines with tropical ferns growing from every opportunistic location. If they ever boardwalk this tour you’ll be missing out on the true experience of mud underfoot. Several times I wondered how deep my foot was going to sink, does quicksand really exist and would I get my bootie back!

Kosrae unveiled