

# Peter Hughes Sun Dancer II

## A New Dancer for Palau



With the new *Sun Dancer II* and its two tenders, Peter Hughes has again raised his own high standards for live-aboard diving in the #1 dive destination in the world.

### PALAU: A STRING OF PEARLS FOR DIVERS

Palau (officially called the Republic of Belau) is a chain of 328 exquisite islands and islets that stretches some 400 miles through Micronesia. There are nine different island groups, each with its own lagoon and atoll system—and world-class diving. Thriving barrier reefs ring and shelter the waters inside the lagoons. The outside of the barrier reef is fringed with stunning drop-offs that plunge to 1,000 feet. The walls offer 100 to 150 feet of underwater visibility and thrilling current dives. Palau waters teem with a bewildering array of life, from tiny creatures to massive fish schools, turtles and sharks. It's Palau's ever-changing currents, waves, tides and parade of sea creatures that make the diving exciting.

It's no surprise that Palau is hailed as one of the Seven Wonders of the Underwater World. In 1996, Palau swept the *Rodale's Scuba Diving Readers' Choice* awards and received the highest score of any dive destination worldwide. Readers also ranked Palau number two in the Indo-Pacific in best fish life and healthiest reefs, and number three in most big animals, best walls and wrecks.

### SUN DANCER, THE SEQUEL

Peter Hughes' live-aboard *Sun Dancer* has garnered raves from *RSD* readers since it began cruising Palau three years ago. In 1996, the vessel scored number six worldwide in best live-aboards.

In January 1997, Peter Hughes will raise the bar on his own high standards for live-aboard diving in Micronesia. The new *Sun Dancer II* is replacing *SunDancer*, which is heading to Papua New Guinea. The *Sun Dancer II* is the only live-aboard with the government permits and special exploratory trips for cruising the range of Palau, including remote dive areas.

The new 138-foot vessel will carry 20 divers in classic Peter Hughes concern for style, comfort, diving convenience and food. Roomy air-conditioned staterooms feature private bath and choice of real beds—twin, queen or king size—not bunks. Gaze out on Palau's dazzling scenery through large picture windows.

### TWICE AS TENDER, TWICE AS NICE

Peter Hughes is adding another "Safe Boat" dive tender to the Palau

operation. Divers affectionately dubbed the first \$150,000 tender "The Magic Bus." With the addition of "The Magic Tram," two 400-horsepower jet-drive Safe Boats will speed 10 passengers each to reefs and walls. Two tenders mean small, separate groups on the reefs and maximum safety, comfort, convenience and flexibility for divers.

**BOOK IT** ▶ Seven-day cruises range from \$1,895 to \$2,095. Ten-day cruises run \$2,795 to \$2,995. In 1997, packages have been expanded to include use of a day room at Palau Pacific Resort on arrival and a room on the final night. *Sun Dancer II* offers IANTD nitrox certification courses, and nitrox fills are free of charge for qualified divers.

The Peter Hughes reservations office is a full-service travel agency for lowest-cost flights and add-on trips to other destinations (Yap). Contact Peter Hughes Diving at 1-800-9-DANCER (1-800-932-6237) or (305) 669-9391. Fax (305) 669-9475. E-mail: [dancer@winnet.net](mailto:dancer@winnet.net) Web: <http://www.winnet.net/dancer/>

—Text by Rob Curran