

Palau

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Palau Latest News

Seabirds have returned to Palau's Ulong Island, helping nearby coral reefs recover just one year after invasive rats were removed.

About Palau

- It is an **island nation** located in the **western Pacific Ocean**.
- It consists of a tightly **clustered archipelago** of approximately 300 islands with a total land area of 458 sq.km.
- It is geographically positioned in both the **Northern and Eastern hemispheres** of the Earth.
- Palau shares **maritime borders** with the **Federated States of Micronesia** to the east, with **Indonesia** to the south, with the **Philippines** to the west, and with the international waters to the north.
- A **huge barrier reef system**, continuous on the west and broken on the east, **encircles** most of the archipelago.
- Its major populated islands are Babeldaob, Koror, Malakal, Arakabesan, and Peleliu.

- **Located on Babeldaob** (the **largest island of Palau**) is **Ngerulmud**, the **capital of Palau**. It is the **world's least populous capital city**.
- **Koror** is the **largest and the most populous city** of Palau. It acts as the main commercial center of Palau.
- **Languages: Palauan**, English, plus Japanese, Sonsorolese, and Tobian.
- Palau became **independent in 1994**, after being part of a United Nations trust territory administered by the US.
- It **relies on financial aid from the US**, provided under a **Compact of Free Association**, which gives the **US responsibility for Palau's defence** and the **right to maintain military bases there**.

News: TOI

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