The Nan Madol Archaeological Site of Pohnpei
(Federated States of Micronesia)

Nan Madol – the Ancient Sea

In the middle of the Pacific Ocean lies the ruins of an ancient city off the shores of the island of Pohnpei in the Federated States of Micronesia. It is Nan Madol, a city that is often called the “Venice of the Pacific” and whose unexplained antiquity, mystery, and magnificence has continued to intrigue many people.

City of the Pacific
Description of Nan Madol

Nan Madol, also known as Saipan of the Pacific

Nan Madol is the site of a neolithic civilization comprised of 99 islands and large artificial stone walls made of rock. The site is centered on a network of lakes, covering roughly 1,500 acres off the shore of Pohnpei Island. The islands are connected by a series of stone bridges and causeways, forming a series of interconnected basins. The site is estimated to have been occupied between 1200 AD and 1350 AD. Nan Madol is believed to be the remains of a city that once supported a significant population. The ruins are thought to have been abandoned due to the onset of a drought in the late 14th century. The site is recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

State of Conservation at the Nan Madol Site

Nan Madol is in a state of health, with little evidence of human interference or damage. The site is maintained by a local group of caretakers, ensuring its preservation. The site is open to visitors, who are encouraged to explore the ruins and learn about the history and culture of the Nan Madol civilization.

A visit to Nan Madol is a must-do for any tourist visiting Pohnpei Island. The site offers a unique glimpse into the past and serves as a reminder of the ingenuity of the ancient Nan Madol people.

Another feature of Nan Madol is the presence of a network of stone bridges and causeways, connecting the islands and allowing for the movement of people and goods. These structures are still in good condition, with some minor repairs performed over the years to ensure their stability.

The site is also home to a variety of wildlife, including birds, fish, and other marine life. The surrounding waters are teeming with life, with many species of fish and coral reefs. The area is considered a prime location for diving and snorkeling, with several dive sites accessible from the Nan Madol site.