

Komodo, Alor & Maumere

from: Labuanbajo, to: Maumere

Please note: this is a sample itinerary. Itineraries may change without further notice due to weather conditions or other unforeseen circumstances.



Diving in Komodo offers an exciting variety of dive sites and experiences. Komodo National Park is home to the world's largest lizard, the Komodo Dragon. This area is a World Heritage Site and one of the New 7 Wonders of the World.

Komodo has it all! Beautiful soft coral reefs, exhilarating drift dives, spectacular hard coral reefs, fishy pinnacles and black sand muck dives. Komodo is home to a large population of manta rays, large schools of fish, turtles, reef sharks and a myriad of weird and wonderful fish and critters!

Starting from Labuan bajo on the island of Flores, we will do an easy check dive before heading into the large channel between the islands of Komodo and Flores where there are colourful reefs and exhilarating drift dives.

At Karang Makassar you can drift along the bottom of the sea to look for manta rays. Tatawa Besar and Siaba Kecil have healthy reefs that are best viewed while floating along in the current. The corals and fish life at the pinnacle of Batu Bolong are beyond

belief! Batu Tengah lies exactly in the middle of the National Park and the healthy hard corals here attract reef sharks and turtles.

In the north of Komodo National Park there are pinnacles full of fish where you might also see reef sharks, eagle rays and turtles. The two most famous dive sites are Crystal and Castle Rock. You might also dive at the fishy reefs of Shotgun and The Passage.

A highlight of any visit to Komodo is to see the Dragons! There are several locations where you can see these magnificent animals. Any cruise on board Coralia will include a trek to look for Komodo Dragons. There are also a couple of viewpoints where you can take in breath-taking views across the National Park.

There are plenty of macro dives too. Wainilo and Loh Liang Bay are where your dive guides will look for critters that you never thought existed! Melibe nudibranchs, hairy frogfish, flamboyant cuttlefish, ghost pipefish, harlequin shrimps are some divers' favourites. Pink Beach and Torpedo Alley are both excellent dives that can be done during the day and at night.

Padar island has a wonderful viewpoint and long, empty beaches. There are several dive sites such as Three Sisters and Secret Garden in this area. Your dive guides will look for giant frogfish here and keep your eyes out into the open water for schools of mobula rays.

Around the fourth day we will start to head east towards Alor. On this day, we will do two dives in the north of the National Park at Sabolan before an overnight crossing to Pulau Raja, close to Maumere. This beautiful island with a fantastic fringing reef is the perfect stopover on our way to Alor.

We will then proceed to Waiwowan on the island of Adonara. This is a full day of muck diving where we will look for Rhinopias. Rare shrimp, mimic octopus, candy crabs, cuttlefish, leaf fish, frogfish, ghost pipefish have all been spotted here.

On to the Pantar Strait which is formed between the islands of Alor and Pantar. Here is the island of Pura, right in the middle of the channel. Anemone City is one of the highlights of this area, the reef is entirely covered in anemones, a rare phenomenon. Yan Village is where you will be greeted by ladies selling ikats, the traditional weaving of this area. The children on Pura make goggles out of wood and bottle tops and they love to greet divers on the surface and underwater.

Alor is also home to the holy grail of fish, Rhinopias. Something about the conditions here make this area one of the top places in the world to see this rare fish. There are several dive sites where there is a good chance to find them. Kalabahi Bay is one such place. This bay is where you will experience the fantastic muck diving of Alor. Alongside Rhinopias we will look for all types of octopus, frogfish, ghost pipefish, squid, cuttlefish, weird and wonderful shrimps and nudibranchs galore! Mucky Mosque, Rocky Church and Pertamina Jetty are the dive sites inside Kalabahi.

Alor is home to an ancient tribe called the Abui. During any cruise to Alor, Coralia will visit a traditional village to watch and take part in dances and ceremonies of these friendly people. An absolute highlight of any tour to Alor.

After two days in the Pantar Strait we will head to Bacatan which is encompassed in the large area known as Alor. At the entrance to this big bay, on the island of Kawula,

is a dive site called Bacatan Ledges. A drift dive will take you past a wall full of sea fans and sponges with a chance to see schooling jacks and pelagics such as eagle rays, tunas and sharks. Inside the bay is the sea mount of Takat Prau and the reef and sand of Padang Pasir. Takat Prau has a small wooden fishing boat on one side of the pinnacle and in the shallows, are resident leaf fish. During the day, the reef at Padang Pasir holds delights such as pyjama cardinal fish, juvenile barramundi cod and stonefish, and at night star gazers, crocodile flatfish and demon stingers emerge from the sand.

The last two dives of the cruise will be at Pulau Babi, close to Maumere. Here the walls are decorated with huge gorgonian sea fans and pygmy seahorses make these their home. Nudibranchs, moray eels, lionfish and a myriad of reef fish live at Babi. The topography at one dive site is fascinating, with a huge crack seemingly splitting one side of the island in two.

After the two dives, you can relax on board, have a massage and pack during our short crossing to Maumere. We will enjoy our goodbye dinner inside the harbour.