



KOMODO - DEEP SOUTH

Dive Komodo like you have never done it before!

Diving the Southern sites of Komodo National Park, and surrounding islands, has always been very exciting and unusual. Rocky canyons and pinnacles are heavily encrusted with marine invertebrate life, with lots of colour and plenty of fish. Night diving without a doubt is one of the highlights here, lots of critters and far superior to any of the sites in the north. The only problem, during the "traditional" Komodo season from May through September, was that most of the time the water has been cold and murky and when you got back to the boat, your towel had been blown off the deck by the South easterlies.

But we are now going to show you the south side as you have never seen it before, and during the time that you should be there, during the Northwest Monsoon! From October to May, this is the time of the year when it's all different and this is when the South is the Best! During the Northwest season, everything gets turned around and upside down in Komodo. The waters in the South are clear and warm, and a new underwater world opens up with many of our favourite sites now accessible, in the right conditions and with new sites waiting to be explored!

"Never have I started to cry underwater from being overwhelmed by the beauty of all that was around me. Wonderful, wonderful experience!" **Chris**

Komodo - Deep South

This is why we will be staying in Komodo when the South is Best, while the rest of the fleet heads for Raja Ampat. And this will not be the first time we do this, as we have done it many times in the past, by ourselves and with guests, starting when we operated the Evening Star in the Komodo area all year round from 1997 till 2002, and while we monitored all the sites around Komodo National Park, with The Nature Conservancy during the same years. So we definitely know what we're doing here!

What many people don't know is that during the North West Monsoon, between October and May, The south side of the island group completely changes. Conditions in the south improve dramatically as crystal clear currents move into the southern regions of the park, and while the prevailing wind moves from the South East to the

North West, the Southern swell calms down, and the cold and murky southern upwelling ceases. This is giving us a great opportunity to focus on a wide variety of southern sites that would hardly be accessible during the other months of the year.

During our Deep South voyages we will be visiting all our currently known high class sites down South, but on top of that you're invited to join in the further exploration of new and promising areas that have already produced mind blowing dives for us over the years. We will visit all the well-known world class sites such as Manta Alley, Cannibal Rock, Torpedo Point, The Three Sisters, Lankoi, etc. – plus many new and exciting sites all across the Southern territory and halfway up into the straits (such as Rainbow Reef, Indihiang Island, Batu Tiga and the mantas at Karang Makassar which aggregate there during this time of year). We will not be surrounded by many other boats on these cruises, and that is something which is probably as important to us as it is for you.

Our itineraries in the Deep South of Komodo are exploring the Southern Sape Strait and all around South Komodo, South Rinca, South West Flores, Gili Mota and the Southern part of Selat Molo. Without a doubt some of the world's most unusual tropical diving. We have discovered some very pristine and never visited world class sites in this area and are looking forward to continuing the exploration of the south side with you in the next couple of years. Come and see the south as you've never seen it before!

The right conditions await us on our new itineraries down South. This is where we have filmed everything from the largest living animal in the world, the elusive Blue Whale, all the way down the food chain, via great fish life and vibrantly coloured reefs created by orange and green cup corals, to soft coral heavens and the most unusual critters hidden in the black sand of volcanic islands that continue to re-create Indonesia's Ring of fire.

The Wildlife

Best known as the home of its eponymous dragons, these fearsome animals are the world's largest lizard species – reaching three meters or more in length and weighing more than 70 kilograms. Komodo Park is believed to be home to more than 5,000 of these cousins to long-extinct dinosaurs. Feeding primarily on the fleet-footed Timor rusa deer, Komodo dragons are opportunistic feeders which ambush their prey in the

arid underbrush – sometimes swimming long distances between the islands in search of new hunting grounds.

Other mammals found within the park are local varieties of water buffalo, wild boar, and crab-eating macaque. Twelve species of snake live within Komodo National Park as well as many varieties of lizards and frogs.

From our anchorages in the South of the Park, sharp-eyed guests have the chance to spot the incredibly rare Flores hawk-eagle, as well as the charismatic white-bellied sea eagle. Other bird species seen flying Komodo’s skies include the great-billed parrot, green imperial pigeon, lemon-bellied white-eye, as well as the critically endangered lesser Sulphur crested cockatoo.

Seven Seas guests can choose to join an early morning hike, trekking the golden landscape of the savannah as the sun rises – a perfect time for spotting wildlife. The ranger station on Komodo Island itself offers several nature / wildlife treks that offer a near-guaranteed view of the Komodo dragon as well as other land species. At twilight, we’ve found enormous groups of fruit bats careening across the darkening sky as they begin their night of searching for food. Other wildlife land trips include a caving expedition where more varieties of bat can be seen.

Climate information

Southeast Monsoon Season:	May through October
North West Monsoon Season:	December through March
Change-over Months:	April and November
Air temperature:	27 - 32°C

Water temperature:	Generally ranging from 24 to 30°C. Warmest in the North and coolest in the South during the Southeast Monsoon season while patterns are reversed during the North West Monsoon season.
Best time to dive:	Year Round with best diving in the North during South East Monsoon and best diving in the South during North West Monsoon.
Other interesting info:	Dive conditions vary with the tides, throughout the day. Therefore, it is important to dive with the tide tables to hit every site at the optimal time. This is where your Seven Seas crew and dive guides excel!

Southern waters: Generally, provide better visibility from December through April. Lower visibility in the dry season – in the south – is due to oceanic up-welling and plankton richness, which makes this area very rich in marine life, especially invertebrates. An underwater photographer dream! Highest temperatures in the south are during the rainy season. [Click here for our Deep South Komodo cruises.](#)

Northern waters: Generally, provide better visibility year round. Water temperature is usually higher. Fish are abundant everywhere but the rocks and reefs in 'current' areas provide the best chances for spotting the bigger fish, especially the sharks and pelagics.

Activities

- Superb for diving and snorkeling
- Hikes of 45 mins to 2.5 hrs to see the Komodo dragons, wild deer, horses and buffaloes
- Deserted beaches and surrounding hills are ideal for your sunset drinks on the beach
- Bays where the boat will anchor are perfect for afternoon water-skiing
- Slow tours with one of the tenders or kayaks to explore the coastline from the water
- Fishing is allowed in the pelagic fishing zone and outside the National Park

- Near Sangean Island, troll for tuna, Spanish mackerel, sail fish and giant trevally

Attractive alternatives:

Board The Seven Seas in Benoa Harbour, Bali, and sail to Komodo National Park in 5 days. You get to enjoy the beautiful landscape of Lombok, Sumbawa and Sangean Volcano. Delight in some excellent dives on the way and don't forget to catch a tuna at Sangean! This cruise is also offered in reverse direction, from Komodo to Bali.