

## Diving in Coron

Atlantis Azores latest exciting itinerary is to the sunken World War II wrecks of Coron Bay via Apo Reef. A typical charter starts with two days of exploring the 34 mile long reef system of Apo Reef, often referred to by many as a "mini-Tubbataha".

Twenty four Japanese ships were sunk in Coron Bay on September 24, 1944 by the US Navy; you will have an opportunity to dive the best of these during our time there taking in both the unique history of the area and the amazing amount of fish and coral life that now cover the wrecks.



## **Day 1 & 2 – Apo Reef and Tara Islands**

The UNESCO heritage site of Apo Reef will be our destination for the first day. Shark Ridge is a great place to see white tip and black tip reef sharks. Manta rays are sometimes spotted here as well as hawksbill turtles and bumphead parrot fish. Binangaan Drop Off is another fantastic location with huge schools of snappers and tuna. Look out for spotted eagle rays in the blue as well as other pelagic species. On the end of our second day, we'll offer an optional visit to Coron's hot springs.

## **Day 3 & 4 – Coron Wrecks**

Coron is a mecca for wreck divers. We begin to explore the Japanese ships wrecks from Second World War, including the Okikawa Maru, a 160 metre long ship which was sunk by a direct hit on the bow area. We also dive the Olympia Maru, a massive 120 metre vessel, the East Tangat Gunboat, a shallow dive on this 140 meter long submarine hunter that is ideal for exploration. The two main boilers are a big attraction where hard coral growth is extensive, and plenty scorpion fish on the decks. We also explore the Akitsusima, one of Coron's most famous dives a wreck of the sea plane tender, and Irako, a refrigeration ship for the Japanese Imperial Navy.

## **Day 5 – Nanshin Maru Dimipac Island**

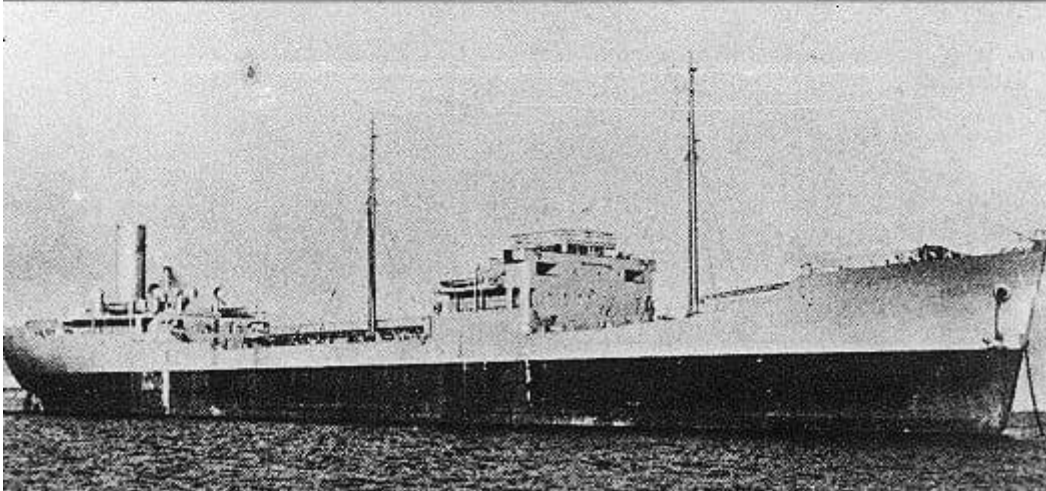
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## **Day 6 – Kyokuszan Maru**

We open our 6th day with two deep morning dives at Kyokuszan in Maricaban Bay off the island of Busuanga Island, Coron. Kyokuszan was an auxiliary supply ship of the Japanese Royal Navy sunken by a US carrier-based aircraft. She is approximately 140 meters long, with beautiful corals grown over car parts, tires and the body of the ship. We then cruise back to Puerto Galera.

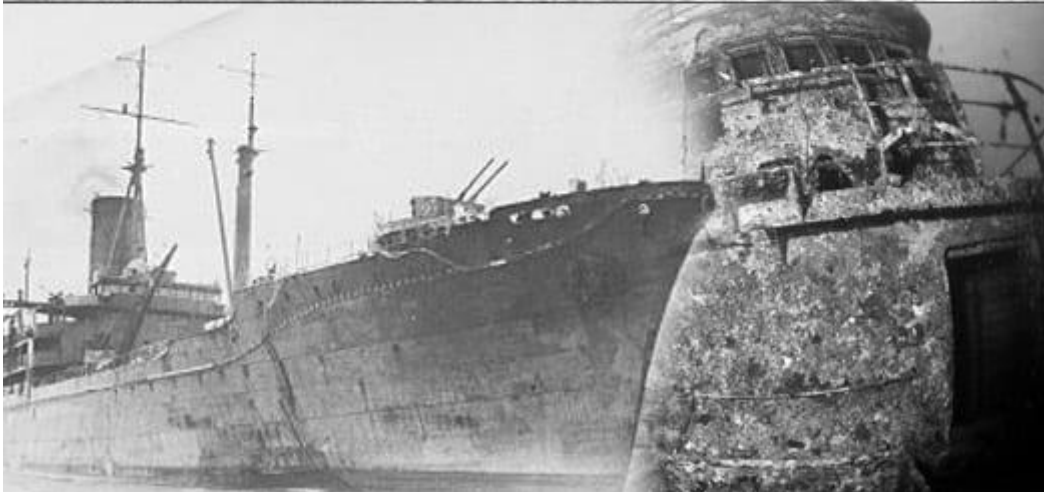
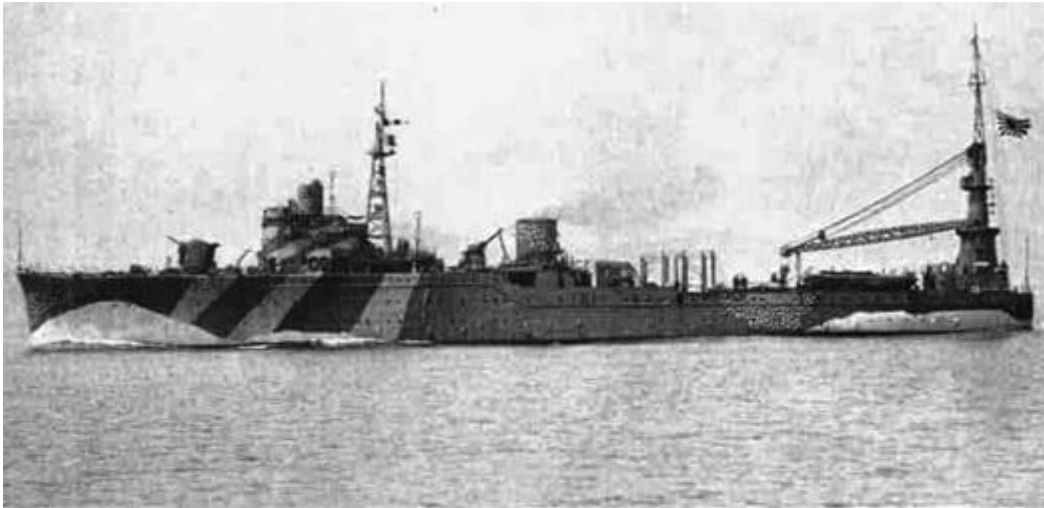
## Coron – Wrecks of Okikawa Maru & Olympia Maru

Coron is our destination as we begin to explore the Japanese shipwrecks from World War II. The largest of the shipwrecks is the Okikawa Maru, this ship is 160 meters. Another popular dive is on the Olympia Maru. Check out the cargo holds here and enjoy the schools of batfish and fusiliers that engulf divers.



## Coron – Wrecks of Akitsusima & Irako

The wreck of the sea plane tender Akitsusima is the highlight of the wreck diving in Coron. This ship took a direct hit on the stern and sunk immediately. At the stern of the ship, you can still see the gears of the crane that use to drop the sea planes into the water. The Irako is another awe-inspiring wreck. Explore the galley area where pots and pans are still visible. This 147 metre long vessel was a refrigeration ship for the Japanese Imperial Navy before she was sunk in September 1944.



## **Coron – Wrecks of Japanese Freighter & East Tangat Gunboat**

Our second day of wreck exploration typically begins with the Japanese freighter, another 140 metre long vessel that is ideal for exploration. The two main boilers are a big attraction. Hard coral growth is extensive and look out for scorpion fish on the decks. East Tangat Gunboat is also a great attraction; this submarine hunter is very shallow and ideal for divers of any experience.

