

BUNAKEN, LEMBEH AND SANGIHE NORTHERN SULAWESI



SINCE MANY YEARS THE AREA OF BUNAKEN NATIONAL PARK IS FAMOUS FOR WORLD CLASS DIVING AS WELL AS LEMBEH STRAIT IS NEW "CRITTERS MECCA". TRIP TO SANGIHE-TALAUD ARCHIPELAGO BRING US TO A FANTASTIC UNTOUCHED ISLAND WORLD AND A REALLY TRADITIONAL CULTURE EXPERIENCE.


BUNAKEN ISLAND One of the world most beautiful coral environments, with an almost unbelievable variety of teeming sea life, superb visibility and spectacular scenery. Bunaken is the chief diving attraction of Northern Sulawesi, with much of the best coral and so many different kinds of fish.

Most dives are in light currents when the filter feeders open up and the reefs are at their best. Currents bring in schooling fishes and bigger animals like eagle rays, barracudas, Napoleon wrasses and sharks. The Park's best feature is its steep walls and coral gardens. Snorkelers can enjoy too the shallow reefs filled with clouds of colourful fishes. Schooling pyramid butterfly fish is common along the reef crest. Deeper walls are filled with black corals, sea fans and fantastic sponges. Nudibranchs are plentiful.

BANGKA ISLAND Bangka and Gangga islands are located in the northern tip of Sulawesi, between Bunaken Island and Lembah Strait. They look like chunks of the mainland broke off and fell into the sea. These islands are rugged and sparsely populated. Japanese pearl farms dot the sea between the islands. A large bay with lot of sea grass is near Likupang on the mainland. Spectacular underwater rocks look like pillars covered with colourful corals and many big and small fishes swimming around. Strong currents are common at these dive sites.

LEMBEH STRAIT Has already been established as mecca of muck diving. Professional photographers and film crews are regular visitors to The Strait, shooting award-winning images of the extraordinary inhabitants. Peacock mantis shrimp, bumblebee shrimp, harlequin shrimp, Tozeuma (stilleto) shrimp, xeno crab, candy crabs, squat lobster (crinoid crab), soft coral crab, solar-powered nudibranch, pygmy seahorses, mimic octopus, flamboyant cuttlefish, mandarin fish, hairy frogfish, ghost pipefish, rhinopias, pegasus seamoths, Banggai cardinal fish, stargazers, bobbit worms, bobtail squid, devilfish, snake eels... Sorry there is no more space left! The list seems endless, with every dive an opportunity to discover a species new to science. The array of nudibranchs and crustaceans is astounding. The number of cephalopod species on display is amazing. The assortment of eels and venomous fish species is limitless.

SANGIHE ARCHIPELAGO It lies to the north of Manado and is dominated by the 1.830m Karangetang volcano. This chain of around 40 steep and lush volcanic islands connects Indonesia with Philippines. It is regarded as one of the most scenic regions of all of Indonesia. Here deep oceanic trenches rise to form towering volcanic islands. Several of these are still active, such as spectacular Siau, a rainforest island which rises to over 1.800m above sea level and one volcanic peak locally know as Gunung Api Siau.

REEF BASICS 	
Diving season	April to November. But is possible to dive Bunaken, Lembah and Sangihe all year round without running into conditions that are less than acceptable.
Rainy season	December to mid March.
Water temperature	Warm, about 26-30 degrees.
Visibility	Excellent, 20-30 m or more.
Depth	5 -> 40m.
Currents	Usually gently but can be strong.
Surface conditions	Calm, but can be rough at Sangihe.
Experience level	Beginner-advanced.
Dive sites	~105.
Length of stay	Recommended 7-10 days on liveboard cruise.

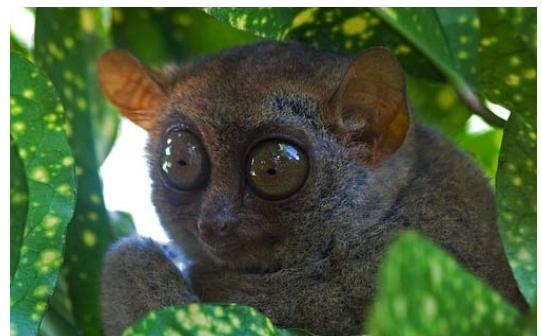
TRIP ADVISOR →	
Airport	Manado by international flights. As an alternative international flights reach Jakarta, the Indonesian capital, or Bali, and then domestic flight to Manado.
Weather	26-32 degrees. Indonesia has two seasons: wet and dry. In most of Indonesia the wet season is from October to April and the dry from May to September. North Sulawesi wet season is from December to mid March and dry season from April to November. July and August are sunny and windy.

All long Sangihe Talaud island the reef are described by international divers and snorkelers "remote, pristine and world class". The water surrounding the islands are frequented by numerous species of cetaceans such as sperm whales, pilot whales, melon headed whales and numerous species of dolphins are sighted travelling in enormous pods. In addition, pods of rare tropical killer whales or orcas are sighted here occasionally. These coral reef fringed island are among the most pristine in Indonesia and considered by experts as the pinnacle of marine biodiversity worldwide.

One of the most amazing geological features of this archipelago is Mahanghetang active underwater volcano, near Siau. Viewing the release of earth's interior gases one metre or two below of the surface of the ocean, while being surrounded by tropical reef life, it's a surreal experience.

BIARO ISLAND It's the Southern most of Sangihe Islands Group. The water is unbelievably clear full of spectacular fish life and untouched coral. Biaro has a number of white beaches, no roads and 5 small villages.

OTHERS ACTIVITIES 主	
Climbing:	Manado Tua Volcano in Bunaken National Marine Park.
Trekking:	Friendly Minahasan villages surrounded by volcanoes, lakes and rice fields.
Rafting:	White Water Rafting (class II and III).
Hiking:	Tangkoko Nature Reserve.
Tour:	Minhasa Highland.
-PLEASE INQUIRY FOR DETAILS IF INTERESTED- ✉	



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