

KOMODO SULAWESI, BAJAU AND BUGIS



THIS CRUISE LINKS TWO OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL ISLANDS OF INDONESIA, FLORES AND SULAWESI. IN BETWEEN, DRAGONS, MONSHAPED LANDSCAPES, HIDDEN ATOLLS, THE 'VANILLA ISLAND' AND INFINITY OF PRISTINE WHITE SAND BEACHES. VISITING TORAJA HIGHLANDS OR RUNNING IN THE TRANS FLORES HIGHWAY WILL BE POSSIBLE AS AN EXTENSION OF THIS JOURNEY.

Opportunity to catch a glimpse over the last representative of the Jurassic Park on earth, the infamous Komodo dragon. But **Komodo** is not only dragons. The red beaches are red-colored by pulverized red coral. In **Gili Lawa** to hike the local summit and enjoy a splendid panorama over the moonscape islands of the Komodo Archipelago and the mainland of Flores.

Rinca Island, the second biggest in the Komodo archipelago, is also the richest in terms of fauna. We will go trekking and looking for wild horses, water buffalo, wild boar, monkeys, and of course the famous 'Komodo dragons' in spectacular scenery of savannah and emerald coves. Sabolon is a famous reef with a huge variety of live coral and beautiful fish. Full snorkeling and beach-exploration.

The islands of **Taka Bonerate** are cut off from the modern world and have not been influenced by western materialism. There is no electricity and none of the luxuries which urban dwellers take for granted. Time in the villages of the **Kalaotoa**, **Karompa** and **Madu islands** seems to have stood still. Most of the villagers are direct descendants of the **Bajao** (sea nomads) and their dialect has a lyrical nature, characterized by frequent tongue clicks. These islands are also a real 'land of smiles'. The villagers are very friendly and also very curious, which indicates that you are possibly the first tourist from your country to visit them. Curious villagers will besiege you, observe you with astonished eyes and try to touch you. Some of the children will try to imitate your language, while the shier ones will pluck at your clothes or touch your skin before running away to hide behind a tree.

The water of the **Taka Bonerate atoll** is so crystal-clear that it could be the water of an aquarium. The visibility of up to 50m on good days makes the area ideal for snorkeling and diving. The water depth is about six meters over the reef but this can suddenly drop to a 1.000m or more. These drop-offs make it an excellent place for wall dives. Such a terrain is simply the dream of every diver.



TRIP ADVISOR	
Airport	Arrival airport Bima. Departure airport Makassar. International flights reach Bali, then domestic flight to Bima. The cruise starts in Bima harbor and ends in Bira harbor. From Bira to Makassar on private minibus, 200 km, 4 hours. From Makassar domestic flight to Bali and connecting international flight.
Best season	March-April and October-December.
Rainy season	January-February and June-August.
Temperature	27°-32°C
Water temperature	25°-30°C
Recommended length of stay	7 nights liveaboard cruise
Highlights	Komodo National Park. Snorkeling in Takabonerate. Bajau stilts villages. Bugis boat builder villages.
Supplementary Tours	Visit Tanah Toraja and discover Torajan people, the animist highlanders of Sulawesi, a distinct ethnic group with ancestral traditions. Inland excursion Trans Flores. Trekking in Kelimutu. Bali, island of gods.

THE LIVEBOARDS FROM KOMODO TO SULAWESI, BAJAU AND BUGIS

Click on the boat's name to see or download the boat's fact sheet



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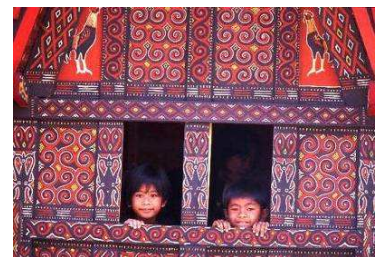
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Selayar Island is a secluded island far away from mass tourism. Myths have been kept alive in this island which once lay in the Chinese trade route. The west side of the island is mainly inhabited by fishermen, who live in small villages that continue to follow their traditions, largely unaffected by western influences. Besides the traditional fishing, the growing of vanilla and tangerine are the main income of the island. The east side of the island is wild, covered in jungle, whit waterfalls and pristine palm fringed beaches.

The small village of **Bira**, on the southern tip of Sulawesi, is home of the ethnic Bugis and Konjo, famous boat builders and seafarers. The traditional Indonesian schooners called Pinisi are built here. Interesting will be a visit at the works to see the process of building, done almost entirely by hands, in order to discover how was made the liveaboard to host us.

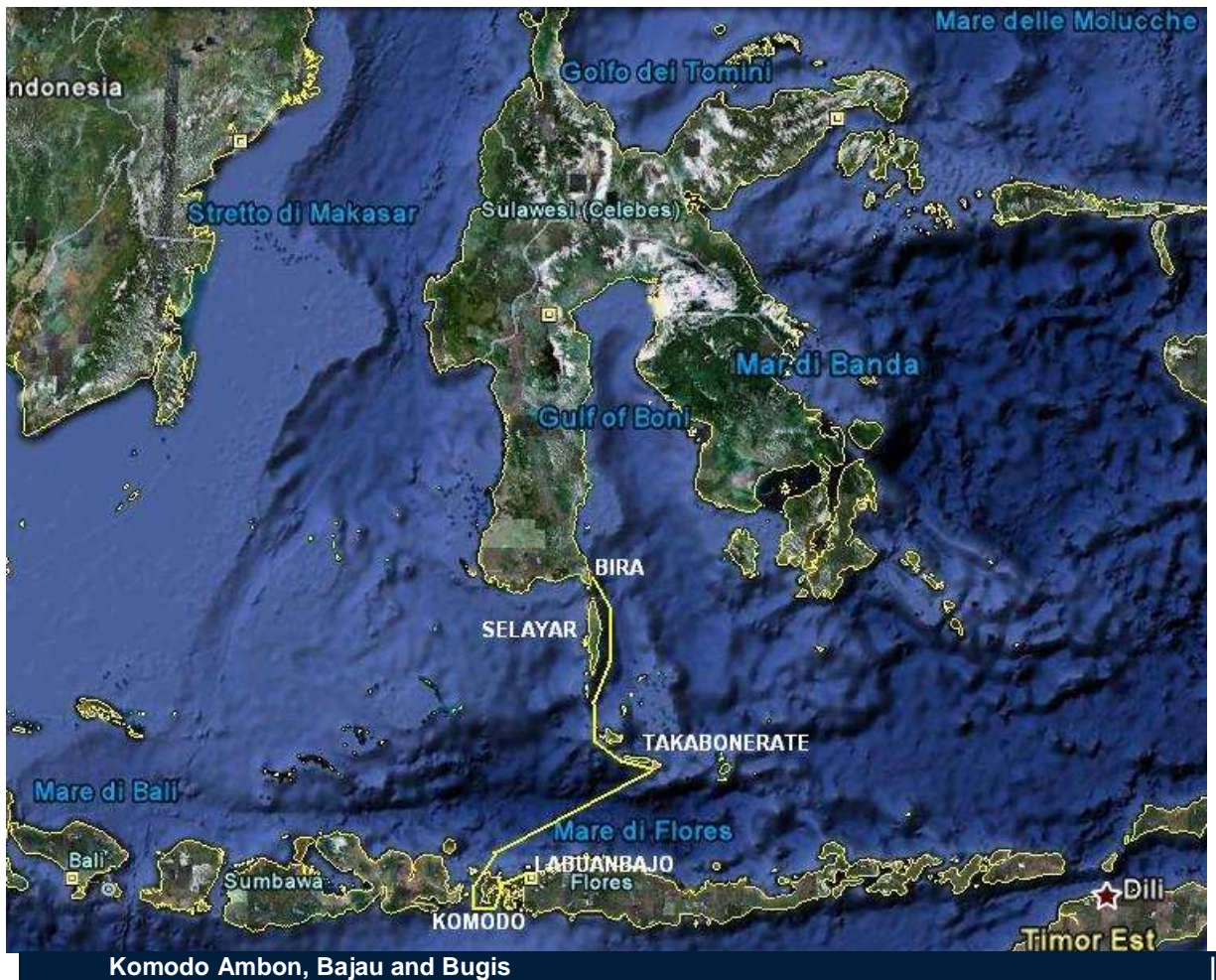


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