

KOMODO



ESTABLISHED IN 1980, KOMODO NATIONAL PARK WAS DESIGNATED BIOSPHERE RESERVE UNDER THE UNESCO MAN & BIOSPHERE PROGRAM IN 1977 AND OBTAINING THE STATUS OF WORLD HERITAGE SITE IN 1991. THE PARK HOSTS ONE OF THE RICHEST MARINE ENVIRONMENTS INCLUDING CORAL REEFS, MANGROVES, SEAGRASS BEDS, SEAMOUNTS AND SEMI-ENCLOSED BAYS WHERE HAS BEEN REGISTERED MORE THAN 1.000 SPECIES OF FISH, 260 SPECIES OF REEF-BUILDING CORAL AND 70 SPECIES OF SPONGES. SEA TURTLES AND MARINE MAMMALS LIVE IN THIS WATERS, AND SOMETIMES WHALES ARE SPOTTED. AND OF COURSE, THE 3 METERS LONG LIZARD, COMING STRAIGHT FROM DINOSAUR AGE. FOR MANY DIVERS IT'S THE BEST DIVING IN INDONESIA AND ONE OF THE FIRST IN THE WORLD.

The Komodo National Park is composed by the two bigger island of Komodo and Rinca and about 80 smaller ones.

Swept by fierce currents rich in nutrients, the waters of Komodo are a unique sanctuary of marine life offering fantastic underwater experiences for divers. There is nearly a guarantee to see big pelagics (manta rays, sharks). Komodo offers really world class diving with an amazing variety of sites; pinnacles, caves, walls, coral gardens, and quiet bays ideals for macro photographers looking for rare critters.


The islands host large amount of wild animals; buffaloes, deers, wild pigs, flying lizards, tropical birds, sea eagles and of course the famous Komodo dragon (*varanus Komodensis*), the bigger lizard existing, reaching 3 meters in length and 200 kilos in weight and coming straight from dinosaurs age. Modern world discovered them only in 1912. This voracious carnivore eats rats, goats, wild pigs, deers, and even buffaloes. All cruises include a short trek inland to spot the dragons.

DIVING IN KOMODO

Komodo has the reputation for being a diving area for experienced divers. This is true, especially if you want to go there on board of a liveaboard. There are many dive sites with strong and sometimes unpredictable currents. Also water temperatures change often and are sometimes far below the usual 28°C you will find in other areas of Indonesia. Especially in the south of The Park may occur temperatures as low as 19°C. It is indeed not a waste of money to buy a 5-mm wetsuit before diving Komodo!

The 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. Highest temperatures in the south are during the rainy season. The Northern waters generally provide better visibility year round. 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.



REEF BASICS 	
Diving season	From April to November. But is possible to dive Komodo all year round.
Rainy season	November to April.
Water temperature	19 - 28°C
Visibility	5-30m.
Depth	5- >40m.
Currents	Can be very strong - up to 8 knots
Surface conditions	Can be rough. Dive conditions vary with the tides, throughout the day.
Experience level	Intermediate – advanced.
Dive sites	>40.
Length of stay	Recommended 7-11 days on liveaboard cruise.

TRIP ADVISOR →	
Airport	Labuan Bajo. International flights reach Bali, then domestic flight to Labuan Bajo.
Weather	27-32°C. 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. Nusa Tenggara's climate is relatively dry with a light rainy season from November to April.

KOMODO DIVE SITES

BATU BOLONG The top of the reef is covered with colorful corals, invertebrate life and thousand of reef fishes. Along the step walls many large fishes like giant trevallies, sharks, napoleon wrasses, dogtooth tunas and large schools of rainbow runners can be observed in almost every dive. Very strong currents. For many the best spot in Komodo.

LANGKOI ROCK This site can be a real adrenalin rush at the right time. Many sharks such as grey reefs, whitetip reef sharks, hammerhead and bronze whalers aggregate around this site from July to September.

THE ALLEY This area is marked with very large giant trevallies, sharks, beautiful corals and a high diversity of other invertebrate life in relatively shallow water between 5-20m depth. Sometimes lots of manta rays may be seen feeding between September and January each year.

GERMAN FLAG From September to January high densities of plankton attract many large manta rays that can normally be seen swimming on the surface along the shores and rocks in Southern Komodo Island. The nearshore water is quite shallow (5-20m depth) and is composed of large rocks and boulders that shelter huge grouper, potato cod, napoleon wrasse, schools of surgeon fishes and red snappers.

YELLOW WALL A very good place to see invertebrate diversity, especially during night dives. Walls are packed with a mind boggling array of marine life and colors including colorful sea urchins, bright red sea apples, beautiful soft corals, Spanish dancer nudibranchs and a great variety of tunicates. Crevices in the walls reveal sleeping fishes, spiny and slipper lobsters, cleaner shrimps and decorator crabs. Nighttime fish life includes sleeping corals trout, cat sharks, all kind of cardinal fishes and parrot fishes in their mucus cocoon.

CANNIBAL ROCK The site is famous for its variety and colorful invertebrates. Rich soft corals abound as well as sea apples and others sea cucumbers species. Among any surprise are fire urchins with Coleman shrimps. Fish life can also be quite good at times with an array of scorpion fishes, schools of red snappers and surgeon fishes. Unusual fishes as pigmy seahorse and frogfishes can also be spotted.

PILLARSTEEN Very interesting reefs. Large schools of fusiliers can be found here along the reef slope, which is covered with an interesting variety of soft corals. Sharks and the odd turtle are often spotted.

BATU TIGA An excellent "big fish" dive. Large boulders in deeper water to the west offer habitat for grouper and other creatures, mantas, giant trevally and other pelagics. Most of the coral is stunted as a result of strong prevailing currents.

KARANG MAKASSAR This site is for snorkeling only, please don't dive here to not disturb manta rays. The reef does not have much in the way of corals or fish life, this location is manta rays aggregation site. The best way to find mantas is to cruise along reef eastern face until you see them on surface. Best time is during rising tide. Sometimes there can be until 40-50 mantas together.



OTHERS ACTIVITIES 主	
Tour:	Trans Flores from Labuanbajo to Maumere. Inland excursion discovering volcanoes, traditional villages and distinct ethnic groups, as the Manggarai and the Ngada people, whose still practice ancestral traditions: syncretism of animistic beliefs and Christianity.
-PLEASE INQUIRY FOR DETAILS IF INTERESTED- ☒	

Contact us:
info@cruisingindonesia.com
WWW.CRUISEINDONESIA.COM
 ☒ Mail us for a tailor-made diving cruise



Komodo

GO TO THE HOME PAGE OF:
WWW.CRUISINGINDONESIA.COM

TO SEE ANOTHER INDONESIA DIVE SITES

Contact us:

info@cruisingindonesia.com

WWW.CRUISINGINDONESIA.COM

✉ Mail us for a tailor-made diving cruise