

MSY Aurora

Cruise 9 nights Komodo

(Bali – Labuan Bajo)

Day 1: Bali, Arrival & Boarding

The guests will be transferred from the hotel to the Bay of Serangan, Bali. Once everyone is on board, Aurora will lift the anchor and will go towards our first destination: The island of Moyo.

Day 2: Moyo and Satonda Island

In the morning we will drop the anchor in front of the small Moyo island. Moyo has great macro life and with some luck, we will find the legendary wonderpus octopus. On land, we will have a nice walk to see the waterfalls. After lunch, Aurora will sail to Satonda Island to enjoy its colorful reef. Coral potatoes harbor pipefish, pygmy seahorses and more. Take a look at the "magic lake" of Satonda, a famous retreat for locals to express their secret wishes. After the sunset dive, followed by a delicious dinner, we will sail to Sangeang Island.

Day 3: Sangeang Island

The ship will arrive early in the morning at one of the most beautiful islands of our trip. Depending on the conditions, we will dive either the South or North of Sangeang Island. Sangeang is a 2000 meter high active volcano that sits northwest of the Komodo National Park. The numerous black sand beaches and bays that surround the island provide us with multiple dive sites. Ghost pipefish, nudibranchs, fluorescent black coral bushes and frogfish hide along the reefs and walls that border the black sand slopes. The night dives here are not to be missed: frogfish, ghost pipefish, boxer crabs and an unbelievable amount of nudibranchs.

Day 4-5: Gili Lawah Laut & Gili Lawah Darat

Gili Lawa Laut, "Island Facing the Sea", is home to two of the best pinnacles in all of Indonesia, "Crystal Rock" and "Castle Rock". Huge schools of jacks, giant trevally, white tip and grey reef sharks, barracudas, dolphins and a whole host of smaller reef fish that float amongst the fields of staghorn coral. A challenging site, but certainly worth a couple of dives! Discover the famous dive known as "El Toro", kind of a pot, where the current attracts, sharks, giant trevallies, tuna and sometimes Mantas. Not to be missed! Go for an excursion on land, or on sea and meet the permanent family of dolphins in this area. The night dive named "Flamenco Show" with the Spanish dancer and lots of macro. Lighthouse Reef: a nice dive site with hard corals and lots of bushes of black coral.

Day 6: North Rinca / Loh Buaya Trekking

Stop near the "Second Ranger Station Loh Buaya", next to "Wainilu Island", the paradise of macro. Many different and rare kinds of nudibranchs, ghost pipefish and other surprises. After lunch, we will begin our magnificent walk on Rinca Island to see the infamous Komodo dragons and we will be back in the water by noon.

Day 7: Rinca

Horseshoe Bay is shaped like its namesake, with Rinca Island forming the outer arc and Nusa Kode forming the inner one. The colder plankton-rich waters of the Indian Ocean make this area a bit colder than the northern regions of the Park. The sea-life gets everyone into the water, even four times a day. Cannibal Rock, a small submarine ridge. The reef-top is littered with feather stars, brittle stars, sea cucumbers, anemones and all kinds of corals. The deeper rocks provide hiding places for nudibranchs, frogfish and even rhinopias. Torpedo Alley, named after the electrified rays, hosts also ghost pipefish and other extraordinary creatures. Yellow Wall: soft corals, sea sponges and large sea fans that hide several types of pygmy

seahorses. Sea apples, fire urchins, Coleman shrimps and zebra crabs are particularly easy to spot on this site.

Day 8: Padar

Unique species of nudibranchs. The coral pillars, which sit in a strange “W” shaped configuration, are literally alive with color. Holothurians cover almost every bare surface. Lionfish and Napoleons populate the tops of the pillars. Subject to strong currents and an almost permanent surge, this can be a challenging yet beautiful dive. A quick hike up the gentle slopes of Padar provides an outstanding view of both Komodo and Rinca. Three Sisters / Tiga Dara: rocks nicely covered with corals and just teeming with life. You will dive sheltered from the current and finish on the peaks that rise up to 8 meters.

Day 9: Komodo Channel

Tatawa Besar, one of the most colorful drift dives in all of Komodo. Look at the horizon while flying along endless coral gardens with sandy slopes. The Tatawa coastline alternates rocky landscapes and mangroves. Eagle rays and turtles are typical guests along this rich coral slope. The coastline is long enough so that the drift can last up to 40 minutes and cover almost 2 kilometers! Batu Bolong: plenty of sharks and excellent visibility. This dive is also called “Current City”, and can only be dived when the conditions are fine. Tatawa Besar: this drift is a Komodo classic. The site is covered with orange soft corals, schooling batfish and a beautiful shallow hard coral garden. Tatawa Kecil: a spectacular drop-off. Impressive coral reef, turtles, tuna, giant trevallies, sweet lips, groupers and countless fish you will take home as a great memory of your adventure. Takat Makassar, if currents allow: look out for manta rays at the cleaning station. You can go relatively close to observe them. Takat Makassar West (Komodo Channel) alternatively is a great night dive.

Day 10: Labuan Bajo

After a nice breakfast on board, our Aurora crew will organize, according to your flight schedules, your transfer to the airport of Labuan Bajo. Unfortunately our trip will arrive at an end and we have to say goodbye but we hope to see you again on board.

Please note that this itinerary is a diving program, and can be changed depending on many factors!

Number of dives: 26-29 dives including the night dives

Dive Experience: experienced Open Water Diver or level 2 (minimum 25 logged dives)

When to go: April to October