

MSY Aurora

Cruise 6 nights Komodo

(Labuan Bajo – Labuan Bajo)

Day 1: Labuan Bajo, Arrival & Boarding

After a one-hour flight from Denpasar (Bali) you will arrive in the small port town of Labuan Bajo, Flores. Our Aurora staff will pick you up at the airport for immediate boarding and departure to our first dive site. Only a few miles from Labuan Bajo's harbor lies the small island of Sebayur with a nice dive including marbled hatchetfish, lionfish, eels and possibly the resident ghost pipefish. The perfect "warm-up dive". On the neighboring reef, nudibranchs, pipefish, sea fans, sponges and scorpion fish. During the night dive you might see carpet sharks, nudis and crustaceans.

Day 2: Gili Lawah Laut

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!

Day 3: Gili Lawah Darat

Discover the famous dive known as "El Toro", kind of a pot, where the current attracts pelagic, sharks, trevally, tuna and sometimes Mantas. Do not miss! 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", the Spanish dancer and macro. Lighthouse Reef: a nice dive site with hard corals and lots of bushes of black coral.

Days 4: 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 5: South Rinca / Horseshoe Bay & Nusa Kode

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 the 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.

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: 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 arrived 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: 18-20 dives including the night dives

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

When to go: April to October