

The Southern Forgotten Islands

We start our cruise exploring the world-famous muck and the rich reefs of Alor, then will cross towards Saumlaki through the Banda Sea.

Itinerary

The following is a sample itinerary of dive sites we may visit during your liveaboard safari on board the S/Y Indo Siren. We wish to show you the very best diving possible, however, several factors can determine which sites we visit. Our Cruise Director and Diving Director, along with the Captain will take weather, tides, currents and many other factors into consideration to determine which route the yacht takes, and which sites are selected for diving. Whilst we attempt to ensure the number of dives we have scheduled is fulfilled; bad weather can hinder the yacht's ability to reach a specified dive site in good time. The safety of all on board is paramount and we always do our best in offering diving at alternate locations should we be unable to visit those sites listed below. This itinerary involves some long distance (overnight) travel.

The diving day on board the S/Y Indo Siren has a typical schedule as follows:

- Light Breakfast followed by a briefing & Dive 1
- Full Breakfast, relaxation followed by briefing & Dive 2
- Lunch, relaxation followed by briefing & Dive 3
- Snack, relaxation, followed by briefing & Dive 4
- Dinner

For your final day aboard, we schedule two morning dives to allow plenty of time for off-gassing before disembarkation and your flight home. Guests are responsible for their own dive profiles and for obtaining suitable dive insurance to cover all diving activities.

Depending on weather conditions and where we are, we will always try to offer a sunset, or night dive. Guests should bring along dive lamps, though of course we have rental lights for those that need them

Dive sites we visit may include but are not limited to:

Pantar Strait

The Pantar Strait is the second largest island in the Indonesian Alor Archipelago, located 45 miles north from Timor. The area is known for both critter diving and thriving reef walls where larger pelagic species roam. Some stronger currents are to be expected, but these currents bring nutrients that feed the reef and other inhabitants of the strait; enough to support the numerous villages dotted about the islands. The dive sites in this location are very diverse and the optimum sites are chosen depending on the diving conditions on the day. The water temperature is often colder compared to surrounding areas, around 22°C / 72°F, due the flow of water from the south. After the third dive on day 5, the siren will begin the long crossing to Wetar Island.

The French Man's Window – An incredible wall dive site situated in front of Alor's Divers Resort, which is covered in a vibrant array of soft corals. Look closely and you can find a wide variety of colourful nudibranchs. Swimming around, you can also spot a shark or two.

Pak Yan's Village – Situated on the north of Pura Island, it is one of the most iconic sites within the strait. It is a well-known critter hotspot, where divers can see Pegasus sea moths, dragonets, scorpion fish, ghost pipefish and Bargibanti seahorses.

Clown Valley – Hundreds, if not thousands, of anemones cover the shallow reef slope on the south side of Pulau, Pure, all hosting the Clark's anemone fish. A spectacular site, but beware of some very chilly water, as there are thermoclines that are to be expected in these waters.

The Arch – Famous for its overhangs and fissures providing stunning topography, as well as a home to schooling fusiliers and colorful Anthias. The waters are also home to larger pelagic fish, including black tip reef sharks.

Mucky Mosque – An iconic dive nestled at the entrance of Kalabahi bay. A fantastic muck dive where the attentive eye can find Paddle-Flap & Frondosa's Rhinopias, Ornate, Robust and even Halimeda & Velvet Ghost Pipefishes, Frogfishes, Bobtail squids, Long-arm Octopus and sometimes Wunderpus!

Wetar and Reong Islands

These tropical islands have walls that are covered with huge sponges and soft corals, along with colorful reefs teeming with marine life, including eagle rays and turtles. The currents can be fairly robust in the channel between Wetar and Reong, therefore all divers are advised to carry reef hooks and remain within close range of a dive buddy or their dive guide. Guests will have 3 dives in this location spread across one day to explore the area's varied diving sites.

Gunung Api Island

In a remote part of Indonesia's Band Sea, 120 miles away from its nearest land mass, lies the still active volcano Gunung Api or "Fire Mountain". Below its lava-encrusted shoreline the volcano is famous for its high population of Chinese Sea Snake. These volcanic islands offer dramatic topographies with sheer walls covered with vibrant Soft corals and huge Barrel Sponges. This oasis of life attracts large pelagic such as Dogtooth tunas, Rainbow Runners and sometimes Scalloped Hammerhead sharks or even Silvertip sharks cruising the deep waters.

Nyata and Terbang Islands

Further to the east of Wetar, the islands of Pulau Nyata and Terbang offer unspoiled reefs for a great diving experience. At Nyata, rainbow colored soft corals and a myriad of hard corals dominate the landscape, whilst at Terbang we find dramatic walls with soft corals reef top gardens and plenty of Bumphead parrotfish and schooling reef fish.

Nil Desperandum & Serua

Upwelling and currents around these islands bring nutrient rich waters and with them an abundance of marine life. We see many larger fish species in these little visited waters. Hammerhead sharks, tunas, napoleon wrasse and groupers are amongst the most common sightings. Schooling surgeon fish, bannerfish and barracuda give divers a spectacular display.

Dai & Dawera

On our last diving site, the Dal and Dawera islands have lots to offer from pristine shallow hard corals gardens, deep walls to rocky slopes covered with massive Sponges. The seamounts are swarming with curtains of Pyramid Butterflyfishes and the friendliest Longfin Batfishes we have ever encountered. Spiny Lobsters hide in the numerous cracks and overhangs in Dai, while shoals of Snappers, Unicornfishes and rivers of Fusiliers inhabit the pristine reefs.

Should you have any questions or queries concerning the dive sites or whether this itinerary is suitable for your experience level, please contact our reservations team info@sirenfleet.com who will be pleased to assist and advise you.