

# Komodo - Indonesia

## Itinerary

The following is a sample itinerary of dive sites we may visit during your liveboard safari aboard Indo Siren in Indonesia. We wish to show you the very best diving possible but a number of factors can determine where we visit. Weather, tides, currents and how busy a site is with other dive vessels all play a part in the Cruise Director's decision of which route the yacht takes. Currents can be strong, but bring with them all the delights of diving in Komodo. This itinerary involves some long distance travel. 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.

Your Cruise Director will schedule up to 4 dives per day; 3 day dives and either a sunset or a night dive. The diving day 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
- Briefing for sunset or night dive
- 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. The Cruise Director is happy to listen to requests from guests to visit or remain at certain sites and providing it is possible and the schedule allows, then guests' requests are respected.

Dive sites we visit include but are not limited to:

## Bima Bay

**Unusual Suspects** is a superb site for a check out dive with the possibility to find numerous small critters. Frogfish, thorny seahorses, mimic octopus, zebra crabs and harlequin shrimp are just a few of the tiny creatures spotted on the sandy sloping reef and amongst the coral bommies.

## Sangeang Island

**Hot Rocks!** - A mix of sloping sand and coral formations. At depth, we find gorgonian fans with pygmy seahorses and black coral bushes. There is also a small cave where lobsters can be found. In the shallows brightly coloured neon anemones "pop" against the dark sand and provide a superb subject for underwater photographers. Bubbles coming from these and in the shallow waters provide a distraction during safety stops.

**The Estuary** - Pygmy seahorses can be found clinging to the polyps of sea fans along the reef slope and a stunning hard coral garden is great for finding scorpion fish and leaf fish, whilst the sandy patches in between the reefs are a fantastic place to spot sawblade shrimp and a wide variety of nudibranchs.

**Techno Reef** - The dark volcanic sand is dotted with green, orange and yellow “black” coral bushes and enormous red barrel sponges, home to ghost pipefish, long nose hawkfish and pink squat lobsters.

## **Gili Lawa Laut**

**Castle Rock** - Currents sweep by this offshore pinnacle in Gili Lawa Laut and white tip reef sharks and trevally can be seen corralling the neon fusiliers. Schools of surgeon fish swarm over the corals and large barrel sponges, whilst huge Napoleon wrasses take an inquisitive look at the divers.

**Crystal Rock** - Next to Castle Rock in the bay, this site has 2 pinnacles both offering superb shark action. Eagle rays are frequent visitors and dolphins have been known to make an appearance. White tip reef sharks are often found resting under table corals and common octopus put on superb displays allowing the cautious diver to approach. Currents are to be expected.

**Shot Gun!** - Typically a fast-paced drift dive, we spend time in the coral garden with soft corals & sponges, before reaching a deep ravine in the reef seeing schools of snapper moving in ever tighter formations. After which you can descend into the fish bowl, where manta rays like to hang out, before the “shotgun” currents push you over the reef and through the channel to the waiting dinghies. Stay close to your buddy and enjoy the ride!

## **Current City**

**Tattawa Besar & Tattawa Kecil** - Currents drift divers along at a steady pace as we look out for manta rays, white tip reef sharks, turtles, bumphead parrotfish, schools of snapper and barracuda.

## **Rinca Island (Padar Bay)**

**Dragon Besar/ Wainilu** - Hidden amongst the rubble at this shallow site, divers can find mandarin fish and picturesque dragonets as well as frogfish, pipefish and pygmy cuttlefish. We dive at sunset to observe the mandarin fish as they “flutter” up from their rubble home to mate.

**Tiga Dara / Three Sisters** - This site is formed of 3 pinnacles rising up very close to one another. Covered with soft corals each pinnacle is a haven for macro creatures including frogfish and nudibranchs. The shallowest point is at 3m and ideal for resting during safety stops.

**Secret Garden** - this sloping reef is another superb night dive spot with plenty of crustaceans, mollusks and benthic fish to be found.

## Komodo Island (East)

**Manta Alley** - Channels form in the rocky reef wall and it is here we can hook in and watch graceful manta rays gliding about in the current, being cleaned. They make it look so easy, however strong currents can persist at this site and guests are advised to bring reef hooks. Surgeon and trigger fish as well as schools of jacks can all be seen here as well. Certainly, the mantas steal the show when they are in town, with up to 30 being seen, though groups of 5 or 6 are more common.

**Pink Beach** - A shallow sheltered reef that is perfect for a night dive with superb macro sightings from flamboyant cuttlefish, hairy frogfish, octopus and bobtail squid to the barely there skeleton shrimp, Pegasus sea moths, crocodile fish and snake eels.

Guests will have the opportunity to venture ashore on Komodo Island to take a guided walk with the rangers through “Komodo Dragon Territory”.

## Nusa Kode

For those taking a 10-night or 12-night trip we also have the option of diving at Nusa Kode (Horseshoe Bay), in the South of Rinca Island, where the water temperature can drop to a chilly 21°C (70°F).

**Cannibal Rock** - This large pinnacle provides some of the most diverse marine life in the region and is a site that is likely to be repeated during any liveboard safari. Frog fish, pygmy seahorses, mantis shrimp, epaulette sharks, turtles, a plethora of nudibranchs and microscopic “lady bugs” can all be seen at this site.

**Torpedo Alley** - Also in Nusa Kode, the dark sandy slope is littered with torpedo rays that give the site its name. Pygmy seahorses can be spotted in the gorgonian fans in deeper water and many nudibranchs and crustaceans are found all over the sloping reef.

**Yellow Wall** - The steep reef wall at the very edge of the channel is covered with yellow soft corals, where “lady bugs” can be spotted, along with nudibranchs, orangutan crabs, turtles and octopus.

**The Boulders** - Boulders covered in colorful chrinoid, soft corals and sponges. This is the place to hunt for nudibranchs and crustaceans.