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# Tubbataha National Marine Park, Philippines

## Itinerary - 6 Nights

- Meeting point for embarkation: Hotel Centro, Puerto Princesa at 12:30
- Embarkation: Baywalk Pier, Puerto Princesa at 13:00\*
- Disembarkation: Baywalk Pier, Puerto Princesa at 10:00

Transfer from Puerto Princesa Airport and local hotels to Hotel Centro, and from Hotel Centro to Baywalk Pier are provided free of charge on embarkation day.

Transfer from Baywalk Pier to local hotels or Puerto Princesa Airport is provided free of charge upon disembarkation at 10:00.

Transfers from and to hotels and resorts outside of the Puerto Princesa area can be arranged for an additional charge.

### IMPORTANT

- It is imperative that all guests are ready to embark at 13:00
- Before Philippine Siren can depart from Puerto Princesa, a mandatory check by the coasts guards and briefing by the Tubbataha Management Office must be conducted when ALL guests are on board.
- If the briefing and coast guard check are not accomplished, the boat cannot leave the port.
- Crossing time from Puerto Princesa to Tubbataha is between 12 - 16 hours; any delays to departure due to late arrival of guests may result in Philippine Siren being refused permission to leave port or in dives being missed.

### Marine & Port Fees:

- 120 USD per person

Marine park fees can be paid in advance, or on board.

### Minimum dive certification and experience:

Diving conditions in and around Tubbataha are not suitable for entry level or inexperienced divers due to strong currents, deep walls and surge.

Divers wishing to join our Tubbataha itineraries are required to have Advanced Open Water certification\*, or equivalent, with a minimum of 30 logged dives and experience in strong currents.

\*Advanced Open Water course can be completed on board

Guests who do not fulfil the minimum certification and experience requirements may be denied participation in some or all dives.

It is a mandatory requirement for all divers to have insurance which covers scuba diving activities, including emergency evacuation and recompression chamber costs.

Participation in this liveboard itinerary is subject to acceptance of our Terms & Conditions as outlined here: [www.blueotwo.com/terms-and-conditions](http://www.blueotwo.com/terms-and-conditions).

#### Number of scheduled dives:

- Up to 19

This itinerary involves some long distance travel to and from Tubbataha National Marine Park and, whilst we attempt to ensure the number of dives we have scheduled is fulfilled, bad weather can affect cruising time and may impact on the number of dives that are possible.

**Safety and dive briefings are conducted in English. If you, or any of your group, do not speak or understand English, please contact us.**

The following is an example of the day-to-day itinerary.

Day 1: Embarkation from Baywalk Pier at 13:00

Once on board Philippine Siren, lunch will be served then there will be a mandatory briefing from the Tubbataha Management Office and a check conducted by the coast guard before the boat can leave port.

Crossing time from Puerto Princesa to Tubbataha is between 12 - 16 hours. There is no diving on embarkation day.

Day 2-5: Your Cruise Director will schedule up to 4 dives per day; 3 day dives and a sunset dive. A typical diving day is scheduled 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 dive (night dives are NOT permitted)
- Dinner

In accordance with Tubbataha Marine Park regulations, dive times are limited to a maximum of 60 minutes.

Day 6: Usually 2 morning\* dives are scheduled in Tubbataha before Philippine Siren commences the 12 - 16 hour crossing to Puerto Princesa.

Day 7: Following breakfast on board, disembarkation is scheduled for between 09:30 and 10:00.

\*We kindly request that guests check their flight departure times to ensure that they leave a minimum of 24 hours between their final dive and the departure of their flight from Puerto Princesa.

## Tubbataha

Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park comprises North Atoll, South Atoll and Jessie Beazley Reef and is often rated as one of the world's best diving destinations by those who have been fortunate to dive there.

Dive sites consist mainly of vertical walls or near drop offs rising out of great depths, with shallow reef tops teeming with local reef fish. The angelfish, butterfly fish, rainbow runners, moorish idols, fusiliers, jacks, snappers and sweetlips follow you around, while stingrays, marble rays, spiny lobsters and juvenile reef sharks are also common sightings in many places. There are several species of turtle known to inhabit the waters of this gigantic natural park; the most commonly sighted being green and hawksbill.

Large trevally, tuna and barracuda as well as grey reef sharks and white tip reef sharks can be spotted patrolling the reefs on the majority of the dive sites, whilst manta and eagle rays are occasional visitors. Groupers and wrasse flourish here and sightings of hammerheads and silver tip sharks have been amongst the large elasmobranchs spotted by guests of the Siren Fleet during our cruises.

In addition to breath-taking dives, you will have the opportunity to visit the ranger station on the North Atoll to learn more about the marine protection of the area.

The following are prohibited in Tubbataha:

- Single use plastics - operators are mandated to follow No-Single-Use Plastic which includes water and other drinks in plastic bottles, snacks in plastic wrappers, etc.
- Diving with gloves (unless for medical reasons)\*
- Use of reef hooks, tank bangers and nudi pointers

- Use of drones without a permit
- Dives longer than 60 minutes

\*guests who have medical issues and are advised to wear gloves for protection underwater must carry medical certificate for this purpose. There is no exception to this rule.

Following is a sample of the dive sites which we may visit during your time aboard Philippine Siren.

The safety of our guests is paramount and we always do our best to offer diving at alternate locations, should we be unable to visit those sites listed below.

Guests are welcome to suggest preferred dive sites to the Cruise Director. He/she will be happy to accommodate guests' wishes, providing it is possible and the schedule allows for it.

## **Tubbataha Reefs**

### **Delsan Wreck**

One of the best dive sites in Tubbataha with big schools of big-eyed trevally, yellowtail barracuda, great barracuda, dogtooth tuna, giant trevally together with grey reef sharks and white tip reef sharks.

### **Black Rock**

There is so much to explore at this dive site that we will often spend the whole day diving here. Schools of surgeonfish, rainbow runners and sweetlips are a common sight. White tip and nurse sharks are found resting under huge table corals and scribbled filefish, box fish and leaf fish add to the colour and spectacle of the stunning reefs; a great site for spotting spiny lobster too!

### **Washing Machine**

A wide variety of colourful reef fish form schools here; from big-eye jacks to tiny orange & purple anthias, all creating a welcoming atmosphere. Spot the tiny creatures including cowries wedge themselves amidst the leather and whip corals. It is a great site for turtles, and whale sharks have also been spotted here.

### **North East Wall**

Adorned with stunning sea fans and colourful soft corals. This wall is super for wide-angle photography. Schools of bannerfish hover in the blue, turtles bumble along the wall and from the sandy bed garden eels and gobies emerge.

### **Shark Airport**

Many white tip reef sharks resting at the shallow plateau are typically seen here; hence the name Shark Airport. Dog tooth tuna, schools of trevally, marble rays, eagle rays, nurse sharks and batfish all add drama to the stunning reef. Turtles and moray eels are a common sight but divers should watch out for the triggerfish.

### **Amos Rock**

Moorish idols, sweetlips and snappers all form large schools here, also commonly seen are white tip reef sharks, great barracuda and giant trevally. When lucky, pygmy seahorse can be found in the gorgonians.

### **Staghorn Point**

Golden, pinnate and longfin spadefish all form schools along this fan encrusted wall, meanwhile clouds of purple anthias hover over the fields of staghorn corals in the shallow reef top. Also this is a good site to spy turtles, snowflake morays and spiny lobster.

### **Jessie Beazley Reef**

Huge schools of surgeon fish and unicorn fish hover over the reefs, where we commonly see numerous grey reef sharks and huge Napoleon wrasses.

### **Malayan Wreck**

This reef is the habitat for different trevallies, barracudas, bump head parrotfish, juvenile grey reef sharks with the usual suspects darting around. Marbled stingrays can sometimes hang out here.