Dragons and Volcanoes - Komodo and East Sumbawa

Labuan Bajo to Labuan Bajo | Batu Moncho, Sangeang Volcano, Gili Banta and more

Komodo and the Nusa Tenggara region offer an astonishing variety of drift dives, walls, seamounts and critter sites, with dazzling coral reefs buzzing with marine life, both large and small.

Sangeang is a black sand macro enthusiast's dream, an island that is one big active volcano, with bubbles rising from the geothermal activity and intensely colourful reefs against the dark sand.

Manta, mobula and eagle rays, and even whale sharks and zebra sharks, are spotted there fairly regularly.

In a sheltered bay that acts as a natural food trap, manta rays glide in at dawn with mouths agape through the plankton.

On land, ferocious Komodo dragons complete the picture.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	EXPERIENCE
10 days / 9 nights	Labuan Bajo	Labuan Bajo	Certified divers







Your route

THE ROUTE

Your route, anchorage by anchorage

Areas are shown in the order visited. Sites and dives change with weather, sea conditions and the captain’s decisions.

BATU MONCHO

The picturesque anchorage at Batu Moncho boasts an impressive variety of dive sites, each offering its own unique underwater experience. From dramatic vertical walls and massive coral-encrusted boulders to gently sloping sandy bottoms and vibrant coral gardens, the area supports an extraordinary abundance of marine life. Divers can encounter everything from graceful manta rays gliding effortlessly through the water to the elusive and delicate pygmy seahorses hidden among the corals.

The dive sites within and around the bay are generally easy to access and navigate, with calm conditions prevailing for most of the year thanks to the bay’s sheltered geography. This makes Batu Moncho an ideal anchorage for beginners

and novice divers looking for a safe and scenic underwater adventure. While the majority of dives are relaxed, occasional currents and thermoclines - particularly around the outer reefs - can add a touch of excitement.

One of Batu Moncho's most captivating sights is the frequent appearance of manta rays within the bay itself. Acting as a natural food trap, the bay often sees a morning bloom of plankton drifting across the surface of the shallow reefs. It's during these calm early hours that manta rays glide in, mouths agape, sweeping through the water in search of their plankton-rich breakfast - a mesmerising spectacle for divers and snorkellers alike.

Yet, Batu Moncho still holds secrets waiting to be discovered. Scattered beyond the more commonly visited sites are hidden reefs and submerged seamounts teeming with life. One such spot is famously patrolled by giant Napoleon wrasses and regularly visited by squadrons of mobula rays making graceful flybys, offering rare and unforgettable encounters for those who venture a little farther afield.

Dive sites: Big Nose, Ten Foot Reef, Sidecar Seamount, Moncho Rocks.

SANGEANG VOLCANO

Scuba diving at the imposing Sangeang Volcano has a completely different vibe when compared to the sites at Komodo and the surrounding area. As the whole island is an active volcano, the sandy substrate that surrounds it is dark; some call it black. This dark colouration, combined with the geothermal activity that is constantly going on beneath the island, forms another of Indonesia's unique diving locations. The black sand and bubbles that dominate the Sangeang marinescape provide the perfect backdrop for the intensely colourful reefs that thrive around the island, making it a magnet for underwater photographers and critter spotters alike.

Looking at a chart, the island appears almost circular; however, there are numerous geophysical irregularities around the coastline. Rocky points act as current-catching or disruption points, as well as forming calm bays. Think of the shape as more of a sprocket for a motorcycle chain rather than a circle. These formations act as nutrient traps,

diverting the sometimes strong currents every which way, and are one of the main reasons that Sangeang has such prolific corals and interesting marine life.

Although the island is famous for its sublime critter dives and corals, don't be surprised if you come across some of the ocean's larger animals here too. Manta, mobular, and eagle rays, and even whale sharks and zebra sharks are spotted here fairly regularly. On a good day with good conditions, Sangeang is one of the very best dive locations in the Komodo region and a great favourite with divers from all over the world.

Dive sites: Black Magyk, Hot Rocks, Teckno Reef, Deep Purple, Bonto Reef, Mentjeng Wall.





GILI BANTA

Gili Banta's major dive sites are situated in and around the island's huge north-facing bay. This expansive seascape stretches almost two and a half nautical miles from west to east and is located under the shadow of what is almost certainly the caldera of a massive but long extinct volcano. There are two points on the eastern and western extremities of the bay, and both feature two excellent dive sites; one of them, a picturesque coral reef teeming with life that lies below the rocky Oiungke peninsula, is known as Starwars; the other, centred around the western tip, a current-blasted rock promontory with breathtaking marine architecture, is the deep and mysterious Rollercoaster, also known as Tandokrasa.

For divers wanting a less energetic experience, Gili Banta features some pretty sand and coral reef sites such as K2 and

The Circus. These two dives are found inside the bay and regularly come up with cryptic and unusual marine critters. Their sheltered position and calm conditions make them

ideal for novice divers and underwater photographers. They also provide two of the island's best night diving sites. The Circus at night is a particularly good place to seek out the grumpy looking stargazer fish.

The main attraction at Gili Banta, however, is the infamous GPS Point, a high-voltage, coral-covered underwater mountain, probably an extension of the island's caldera, and one of the most unpredictable and demanding dives in the Komodo region, if not Indonesia. A pelagic playground subject to strong currents, GPS Point is located close to one nautical mile offshore and can be difficult to plan; however, when current and weather conditions are right, there are not many dives that beat the adrenaline rush of this electrifying site.

Dive sites: GPS Point, Rollercoaster, Starwars, The Circus, Ghally Rocks.

TANJUNG MERIAM

The eastern coastline of Sumbawa is still a relatively unknown quantity amongst the Indonesian scuba diving fraternity, but this great marine secret is set to be uncovered in the new Dewi Nusantara itineraries for 2027.

There are some stunning dive sites to be explored along the huge island's rugged shoreline, and even more out into the Sape Strait. Many of these easily match the famous iconic locations in Komodo, without the crowds.

Tanjung Meriam sticks out from the south-east corner of the huge island of Sumbawa, and is at the very centre of all of this exciting action. Sheer rock walls, electrifying seamounts, and quiet coves combine to provide our guests with wide range of brand new marine experiences.

The complex shoreline of the Meriam peninsula provides some excellent anchorages combined with numerous scenic treks and wonderful deserted sandy beaches.

Dive sites: Easter Island, Lapponia, Roget Reef, K Kanyon, Pink Bay, Habbibi Falls, Mount Meriam, Mangroves, Third Time Lucky, Kelapa Mudah, Disco Doris, Fortress Kelapa, Fish Soup.

LANGKOI AND LEHOKSERA

Langkoi and Lehoksera are close neighbours located around the wild and wonderful coastline of south Komodo.

Langkoi Bay features several stunning dives, with an impressive list of several of the ocean's larger marine species. However, the major attraction is undoubtedly the semi-resident group of manta rays. Whether these majestic creatures are feeding in the current-swept channels, getting a wash and brush-up at the numerous cleaning stations, or just flapping around on the surface in the late afternoon sun, they are always one of the most exciting sights a diver can see in the ocean.

The mantas, however, are not the only stars of the show. Oceanic sunfish (mola mola) and marlin have been reported in the area; blacktip, whitetip, and nurse sharks are fairly common; and on one occasion, an hour was spent in the company of two orcas that were splashing around close to Tala. Other sea monsters that dwell in the deep and sometimes cold water down here include

huge potato cod and Queensland groupers, which are often sighted at dive sites around Tala Island.

All in all, Langkoi Bay can be one of the best diving experiences you have ever had; on its day, it's marine wonderland is very hard to beat.

Just around the corner from Langkoi, there is more diving around the pretty and well sheltered anchorage at Lehoksera. Currents don't much affect the sites inside the bay, and there is a small shipwreck that is a great favourite, especially as a night dive due to the nocturnal marine life that it attracts. There are also some good coral reefs running along the north side of the Lehoksera peninsula before it reaches its eastern point.

Dive sites: Manta Alley, Lehoksera Ridge, German Flag, Shark Fin Rock, The Bat Boat, The Needle, End of the World, Colleen's Corner.

NUSA KODE

Featured in dive magazines, books, and journals all over the world, Nusa Kode, or Horseshoe Bay, as it is also known, features its own microcosm of dive site variety and is one of the most popular destinations for visiting dive yachts and other adventurous vessels. This is down to the sheer quality of the underwater experience inside and outside the bay and the fact that the formation of the waterway and topside topography make it easy to operate here.

Under the surface, temperatures are sometimes cold, caused by upwellings from the depths of the Savu Sea. This can make visibility in the plankton-rich water fairly murky at times. However, what awaits divers is nothing short of astonishing: vibrant rocky reefs, sheer walls, and dramatic seamounts pulsate with marine life. There is even a site over the shallow sand, deep inside the bay, to match any of the stellar list of Indonesian critter dives that put the country at the top of the list for marine photographers and explorers.

One of the dives here, Cannibal Rock, has been described as being one of the finest on the planet, and on a good day, it is hard to argue with that. That said, Cannibal Rock is certainly not Nusa Kode's only marine attraction. All the sites inside and outside the bay feature a jaw-dropping array of colourful corals inhabited by an endless list of marine species. The topography of these sites is interrupted by plenty of holes, cracks, ledges, and current-catching points, providing a perfect environment for the breathtaking underwater scenery and impressive marine life to thrive.

Although Horseshoe Bay is known primarily for its impressive array of smaller animals, there is no shortage of larger species on show. Outside the bay, sites such as the current-blasted Rodeo Rock attract huge groups of schooling fish, which in turn pull in some of the ocean's larger predators. There is still, even today, a lot of scope for exploration too, especially on and around the rarely visited surface-breaking rocks underneath the south-facing cliffs of Nusa Kode Island. A visit to Horseshoe Bay for a couple of days of very special diving is an experience not to be missed during a Komodo cruise.

Dive sites: Torpedo Alley/Rhino Rocks, Banana Island, Cannibal Rock, Boulders, Sashimi, Yellow Wall, Kode Korner, Crinoid Canyon, Pelican Head, Rodeo Rock.

PADAR

Nearly all the dive sites at Padar are found on the east side of the island. The most popular are located on the seaward side of a small grassy island known as Padar Kecil East, which is separated from mainland Padar by a narrow but navigable channel. These exciting sites include vast, coral-covered, submerged seamounts; vertical walls; boulders; cracks; swim-throughs; caverns; and critter-crowded reefs and ledges. This side of the island is often subject to heavy ocean swells at times, but the sites are diveable for most of the year.

On the opposite side of Padar Kecil East, sheltered inside the bay, are more exceptional sites. These are better options for diving if easier conditions are required, especially at Pasir Putih and Secret Garden. Both are first-rate sites for spotting small critters. Pasir Putih now features the added attraction of a small shipwreck and is an excellent site to dive at night.

Dive sites: Secret Garden, Pasir Pu! h, Payung, W Reef, Padar Arch, Pillarsteen.

THE LINTA STRAIT

The Linta Strait, often referred to as Current City, bisects the national park and is the location of some of Komodo's most thrilling and iconic dive sites.

Tatawa Besar features high-speed drift dives over dazzling coral reefs, often guided by friendly turtles. Several spectacular current-washed rock island and seamount sites in the central channel rank among some of the very best in the world. The slopes, walls, ledges, pinnacles, and caverns of these dramatic dives are covered with colourful coral and swarm with all kinds of marine life.

In addition to all of this fast-flowing excitement, there are a few exceptional locations well known for encounters with manta rays, with feeding and cleaning stations in relatively shallow water. Hair-raising, up-close-and-personal experiences with these gentle giants of the sea are frequent.

The Linta Strait does not have the easiest diving conditions in the national park. Many of the sites are really only suitable for advanced divers, but they are certainly some of the most rewarding.

Dive sites: Tatawa Besar West, Tatawa Besar East, Tatawa Kecil, Batu Bolong, Karang Makassar, Siaba Kecil, Turtle Town, The Arena, Batu Neptunus (Batu Sabun).

ROUTE MAP

Cruise route



CRUISE NOTES

Cruise notes

- Flexible Itineraries: Our cruise routes are intentionally adaptable. Throughout the journey, the captain and cruise director continuously assess sea conditions, weather, and tides to ensure the best possible experience. Guest preferences for specific dive sites are always considered whenever feasible.
- More Than Is Listed: The locations featured in these itineraries represent only a portion of what's possible. Numerous additional anchorages and activity options are available along the way, making each voyage truly unique.
- Simplified for Clarity: The destinations shown in our presentations are not necessarily listed in the order they will be visited. They are organized for clarity and to help guests visualize the overall routing.
- Extended Stays: If a particular anchorage offers exceptional experiences, guests may opt to linger a bit longer. The captain and cruise director have the flexibility to accommodate such preferences, provided they align with the overall cruise schedule.
- Overnight Passages: To maximize daylight hours at our most spectacular destinations, longer transits between anchorages are typically conducted overnight.
- Escape the Crowds: With the exception of embarkation and disembarkation points, our itineraries are carefully crafted to avoid congested areas and busy commercial ports, allowing for a more tranquil and immersive experience.
- Beyond the Dive: Many of our anchorages offer more than just diving and snorkelling. Guests can enjoy kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding, and occasional visits to local villages and cultural sites — adding even more richness to the journey.