DEWI NUSANTARA

# West Halmahera - Teluk Loloda and the Spice Islands

*Ternate to Ternate | Teluk Jailolo, Teluk Loloda, The Halmahera Spice Islands and more*

West Halmahera is pristine and untouched, with reefs largely free of mass tourism.

Jailolo Bay is shaped by volcanoes, with black sand slopes and geothermal vents, ghost pipefish by day, and bobtail squid, frogfish and hunting octopuses at night.

Teluk Loloda has swim-throughs and current-swept channels, with barracuda, trevally and reef sharks patrolling.

Around the Spice Islands, drift dives bring reef sharks and manta rays, with World War II shipwrecks.

At the Goraici Archipelago, walls and seamounts bring manta cleaning stations and swirling schools of tuna, wahoo and fusiliers.

| LENGTH | DEPARTURE PORT | ARRIVAL PORT | EXPERIENCE |
|---|---|---|---|
| 11 days / 10 nights | Ternate | Ternate | Certified divers |







## Your route

THE TRIP

## About this trip

coral formations in the world, with healthy reefs that have remained largely untouched by mass tourism. Divers can also explore unique underwater landscapes shaped by volcanic activity, including black sand sites that are ideal for macro photography and spotting rare critters.

Beyond the breathtaking marine biodiversity, West Halmahera offers an off-the-beaten-path adventure, far from the crowded dive spots of more well-known locations. When you're not exploring beneath the waves, you can experience pristine white-sand beaches, visit traditional villages, or embark on scenic hikes through lush tropical forests. For those looking for a truly exceptional diving destination that combines world-class marine life with the charm of an

untouched paradise, West Halmahera is the perfect place to dive in and explore the wonders of the deep.

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.

## TELUK JAILOLO

Jailolo Bay, nestled along the western coast of North Halmahera, is an emerging hotspot for scuba diving, offering a blend of vibrant coral reefs, volcanic seascapes, and diverse marine life. This lesser-explored region boasts pristine underwater ecosystems, making it an enticing destination for divers seeking unspoiled beauty and unique encounters beneath the waves.

One of the bay's standout features is its volcanic influence, which has shaped dramatic underwater topography, including black sand slopes, geothermal vents, and rugged reef structures. These volcanic landscapes create ideal conditions for both reef and muck diving, attracting a wide array of marine species. The reefs are alive with healthy coral formations, schooling fish, and pelagic visitors, while the nutrient-rich black sands provide the perfect habitat for rare and fascinating macro life, such as ghost pipefish, nudibranchs, and a wide range of crustaceans and cephalopods.

Dive sites: Gorport, Unauna Pelabuhan, Babua Seamount, Babua Rock, Gueira Slope.

## TELUK LOLODA

Teluk Loloda, located along the western coastline of North Halmahera, is a breathtaking bay dotted with islands and intricate waterways, offering exceptional anchorages for scuba diving and exploration.

The region's premier dive sites are concentrated around Kahatola, the bay's largest island, where divers can experience exhilarating swim-throughs, current-swept channels, and vibrant coral reefs teeming with an astonishing diversity of marine life.

For macro photography enthusiasts and critter hunters, the intricate shoreline near the Halmahera mainland is a treasure trove of hidden coves and inlets, promising exciting discoveries in some of the area's finest muck diving spots.

Above the water, Teluk Loloda's lush, forested islands are a spectacle of rugged beauty. From the striking beehive-shaped rock formation at Poroco to the mesmerising waterfall cascading down the eastern cliffs of Kahatola, the bay's dramatic landscapes are just as captivating as its underwater wonders.

Jailolo Bay is also known for its thriving marine biodiversity, with dive sites ranging from gentle coral gardens to steep drop-offs and current-swept channels. Schools of barracuda, trevally, and reef sharks patrol the deeper waters, while vibrant reef fish and mesmerising critters populate the shallows. Night diving in Jailolo is particularly rewarding, revealing elusive nocturnal creatures like bobtail squid, frogfish, and hunting octopuses.

Beyond the underwater wonders, the bay's surface scenery is equally captivating. Lush green hills frame the coastline, and traditional fishing villages dot the shore, offering a glimpse into the local way of life. With its combination of breathtaking landscapes, rich marine diversity, and untouched dive sites, Jailolo Bay is a true hidden gem for adventurous divers looking to explore the unexplored.

Dive sites: Tutu Drive-Thru, Poroco Beehive, Liga Liga, Hole In The Rock, Kahatola Channel, Sidanga Flyer, Lighthouse!





## THE HALMAHERA SPICE ISLANDS

Scuba diving around the original Spice Islands of Halmahera, Indonesia, offers an exceptional experience in one of the world's most biodiverse marine ecosystems. Located within the Coral Triangle, these waters are home to pristine coral reefs, abundant marine life, and unique volcanic underwater landscapes. Strong ocean currents sustain a thriving ecosystem, where divers can encounter everything from colorful nudibranchs to reef sharks and manta rays.

The island anchorages provide easy access to the remarkable dive sites at the islands of Hiri, Ternate, Maitara, and Tidore, featuring vibrant coral gardens, schooling fish, and World War II shipwrecks that add historical intrigue. Unlike Indonesia's more popular dive destinations, this region remains relatively unexplored, making it ideal for underwater photographers and adventurous divers seeking pristine waters.

Beyond diving, volcanic scenery, tropical forests, and rich cultural heritage of the island group offers much to explore. Visitors can discover historic forts, spice plantations, and bustling markets. Whether you're after thrilling drift dives or serene coral reefs, The Halmahera Spice Islands promise an unforgettable underwater adventure in one of the last untouched marine frontiers.

Dive sites: Tomajiko, Ternate Lava Flow, Takome, Maitara Sand Bank, Pulau Pilongga, North-West Mare.

## THE GORAICI ARCHIPELAGO

The Goraici Archipelago, a secluded island group 30 nautical miles west of Halmahera, boasts crystal-clear waters, pristine beaches, and vibrant coral reefs. Straddling the equator, this remote diver's paradise offers an unparalleled mix of adventure, conservation, and biodiversity.

The islands stand as a model for sustainable marine stewardship. Local communities have successfully safeguarded their reefs, creating a thriving ecosystem untouched by destructive fishing practices. Divers can explore vibrant coral gardens teeming with marine life, from colourful reef fish to majestic pelagics.

The diverse sites offer world-class diving, from stunning wall dives to manta ray cleaning stations. Whether by day or night, these sites reveal an astonishing underwater world, promising encounters with everything from vibrant macro critters to thrilling pelagic encounters.

can spot pygmy seahorses, colourful shrimp, and elusive crabs hidden among coral formations. After sunset, the reef transforms into a mesmerising nocturnal spectacle.

Beyond macro life, Goraici's coral-covered walls provide dramatic settings for encounters with schooling barracuda, jacks, and reef fish. Whitetip and blacktip sharks cruise the depths, while manta rays occasionally visit as they glide through their natural cleaning stations.

Goraici's seamounts offer thrilling drift dives, where reef sharks patrol and vast schools of tuna, wahoo, snapper, and fusiliers swirl in the currents. Hooking into the reef, divers can watch this high-energy spectacle unfold in a constantly shifting marine ballet.

The Goraici Archipelago offers more than just world-class diving - they provide an escape to an unspoiled marine sanctuary. Whether you seek thrilling underwater encounters or a tranquil retreat, this hidden gem of the Coral Triangle promises an unforgettable experience.

From stunning coral formations and abundant marine life to exhilarating drift dives, every descent unveils something extraordinary.

Dive sites: Pulau Adu, Goweba Pinnacle Siko Ridge, Kayoa Point, Tamo Tamo, Gumergo Rock Crystal Ball, Blue Flash, Talimao, Talimao Mantas, Geript, Lelai Pier, Pulau Defo, Tanjung Pagi.





## WEST BACAN

Located in the Halmahera region of North Maluku, Indonesia, Bacan Island offers world-class diving in a pristine and remote setting. Its crystal-clear waters, thriving coral reefs, and diverse marine life make it an ideal destination for divers seeking an off-the-beaten-path adventure. Most dive sites are found around the smaller islands to the west, where untouched reefs and minimal tourism create an exceptional underwater experience.

• Marine Life: Encounter reef sharks, barracudas, and large schools of fusiliers, along with fascinating macro creatures such as nudibranchs, pygmy seahorses, and ghost pipefish.

• Underwater Topography: Explore a variety of dive sites featuring steep walls, sloping reefs, and coral-covered pinnacles.

• Diving Conditions: Enjoy excellent visibility, vibrant coral ecosystems, and both drift dives in strong currents and calm sites perfect for photography.

• Unspoiled Environment: With fewer visitors than Raja Ampat and Bunaken, Bacan offers an exclusive and undisturbed diving experience.

• Drift Diving Hotspots: Ride nutrient-rich currents that attract pelagic species, providing thrilling encounters for advanced divers.

• Macro Paradise: Discover shallow reefs teeming with intricate marine life, perfect for underwater photography.

• Remote and Untouched Reefs: Experience the beauty of coral gardens and hidden dive spots that remain largely unexplored.

Bacan is not just about the underwater world - its rich history and culture add depth to your journey. Explore remnants of colonial-era architecture, visit traditional Malukan villages, and take in the natural beauty of this remote paradise. Whether above or below the surface, Bacan offers a truly unforgettable adventure for divers and travellers alike.

Dive sites: Amba! n, Samo, Kasiruta, Pasir Karo, North-East Mandiolie, Obit Reef, What to Expect, Penambuhan, Tanjung Maregarango, Highlight Dive Sites, Beyond Diving.

## ORANG KAYA

Scuba diving at the Orang Kaya island collection, is a rare and exhilarating experience for divers looking to explore untouched waters filled with vibrant marine life. Located close to the southeastern corner of Halmahera, this group of islands and reefs remain largely undiscovered, making it an ideal destination for those seeking pristine underwater environments. The island’s surrounding waters boast excellent visibility, healthy coral reefs, and a diverse range of marine species, making it a dream destination for underwater adventurers.

The dive sites around Orang Kaya feature a mix of dramatic drop-offs, coral-covered slopes, and sandy seabeds rich with macro life. The thriving reefs are home to an abundance of tropical fish, including schools of fusiliers, sweetlips, and angelfish. Larger pelagic species such as reef sharks, barracudas, and eagle rays are also commonly sighted, while macro enthusiasts can find nudibranchs, seahorses, and cuttlefish

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hiding among the corals. The island’s nutrient-rich currents attract migratory species, offering divers a chance to

encounter rare marine life in its natural habitat.

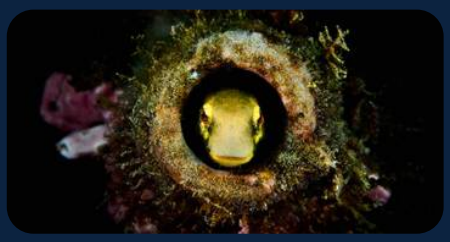
For divers interested in adventure and exploration, a short distance to the south-east of Orang Kaya is Karang Batu Anyer. At first glance this looks much like any other remote offshore reef in the seas of Indonesia. However, on closer inspection of satellite imagery, it becomes quite apparent that the elongated, surface-breaking, curved reef is in fact part of the caldera of a long-extinct volcano. Completely circular, and with a diameter of 600 metres, this looks to be a location that definitely warrants further attention.

The Orang Kaya region's isolation means fewer divers and a more exclusive experience, allowing for uninterrupted exploration of its underwater treasures. Whether you are a seasoned diver looking for thrilling drift dives or a photographer in search of stunning reefscapes, Orang Kaya offers an unparalleled diving adventure in one of Indonesia's most untouched marine environments.

Dive sites: Damoromatodo Wall, Tadoku, Telor Point, Jikula Point, Karang Batu Anyer.







## GANONE

The tiny island of Ganone lies on the north-west side of the Orang Kaya group of islands and waterways, close to the south-eastern tip of Halmahera. Surrounded by deep water, the dive sites around the island feature a mix of coral gardens, steep walls, and sandy slopes teeming with marine biodiversity. Schools of fusiliers, snapper, and batfish swirl around the reefs, while moray eels, cuttlefish, and colourful nudibranchs inhabit the sandy slopes and corals

Larger marine species such as reef sharks, eagle rays, and even the occasional manta ray can be spotted gliding through the deeper waters. The island's underwater terrain also makes it a great location for both macro photography and wide-angle shots, capturing everything from tiny critters to expansive coral landscapes.

Dive sites: Loleojaha Besar, Pulau Tapa, Joronga Nine, Ganone, Joronga Seven.

## THE PANTINTI STRAIT

Diving in the Pantinti Strait, Indonesia, is an extraordinary experience for those seeking vibrant marine biodiversity, strong currents, and dramatic underwater landscapes. Located in North Maluku, the strait separates the islands of Halmahera and Bacan, creating a dynamic marine environment shaped by the powerful flow of nutrient-rich waters. These currents bring an abundance of marine life, making the Pantinti Strait an exciting destination for divers who enjoy high-voltage dives and pelagic encounters. With a collection of islands blocking and confusing the currents in the middle, the strait is always going to produce absolutely stellar dive sites, much like a mini Komodo or Alor.

The underwater topography at Pantinti is incredible, featuring steep walls, coral-covered pinnacles, canyons, passages, and sloping reefs teeming with marine life. Divers can expect to see large schools of barracuda, tuna, and trevallies patrolling the deep blue, while reef

sharks and rays glide effortlessly through the currents. There are also quiet coves and corners around the complex coastline of the islands featuring healthy and vibrant coral formations. These support an array of smaller creatures such as nudibranchs, ghost pipefish, and pygmy seahorses.

The remoteness of the region means fewer divers, providing an exclusive and pristine underwater experience. Whether you are seeking adrenaline-filled drift dives or mesmerising marine encounters, the Pantinti Strait offers some of the best diving in Indonesia.

Dive sites: Semola Bay, Batu Mangga, Proco, Pulau Nanas, Proco Pinnacle, Saleh Kecil, Lighthouse!

### MAKIAN VOLCANO

Critter diving at Makian Island, located on the western seaboard of Halmahera Island, offers an incredible experience for macro photography enthusiasts and underwater explorers. Unlike traditional coral reef diving, critter (or muck) diving focuses on the sandy, silty, or rubble-strewn seabed, where bizarre and cryptic marine creatures thrive.

The island is actually a volcano, and along with it's nutrient-rich waters, a little current, and some patchy habitat, creates an ideal environment for rare critters to flourish. Divers exploring Makian's muck sites can expect to encounter a stunning variety of macro life, including flamboyant cuttlefish, mimic octopuses, hairy frogfish, and an array of colourful nudibranchs.

The island's dark volcanic sand provides the perfect backdrop for spotting these elusive creatures, many of which rely on camouflage to blend into their surroundings. Pipefish, mantis

shrimp, and ghost pipefish are also commonly sighted, making every dive a treasure hunt for marine oddities.

What makes muck diving at Makian Island even more special is its relatively untouched and less-visited dive sites. Unlike more famous muck diving destinations such as the Lembeh Strait and Ambon, Makian remains under the radar. With the keen eyes of Dewi Nusantara's expert critter spotters, divers can uncover some of the ocean's most fascinating and peculiar inhabitants, making every dive an adventure filled with unexpected discoveries.

Dive sites: Hot Spring Slope, New Beginning, Mailoa Rhino.

### 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.