

KOMODO & NORTH FLORES

September | Labuan Bajo to Maumere or Maumere to Labuan Bajo

9 nights | Gili Lawa, Tatawa, Sebayor, Makassar Reef, Wainilu, Batu Bolong, Padar, Nusa Kode, Manta Alley, Pomana Kecil Island, Raja Island, Pulau Besar

ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS

- Komodo National Park is world renowned for the excellent quality and variety of diving.
- Flores, the mountainous result of volcanic activity, which makes for stunning scenery above and below the water.
- Chance to see rare critters like frogfish, mimic octopus, fire sea urchin and the elusive rhinopias.
- Maumere Bay, an extensive and beautiful bay home to over 1200 species of corals, sponges, crustaceans and molluscs. Excellent muck diving.

This itinerary offers the unique opportunity to dive and combine the best dives sites of Flores including Komodo and Maumere. The trip will start in either Labuan Bajo, the port of departure for the Komodo National Park and will end in Maumere, or vice versa. This itinerary offers guests the opportunity to enjoy some the most exciting dives sites Indonesia has to offer, across Komodo, and North Flores.

The **Komodo National Park** is world renowned for the excellent quality and variety of diving. Water temperatures change between the north and south of the Park and provide varied encounters. In the north we have the black sands of the Sangeang Volcano with its critters and bubble flows and the reefs around Gili Banta. The south provides cooler temperatures with manta action and nutrient rich reefs with ocean flow from the Indian Ocean. The central section provides reefs and small islands teeming with life fed by the currents running between the islands of Komodo and Rinca. Add to this the chance to see the famous Komodo Dragon in its natural habitat, beautiful beaches, look-outs to climb and you have a paradise both below and above the water.

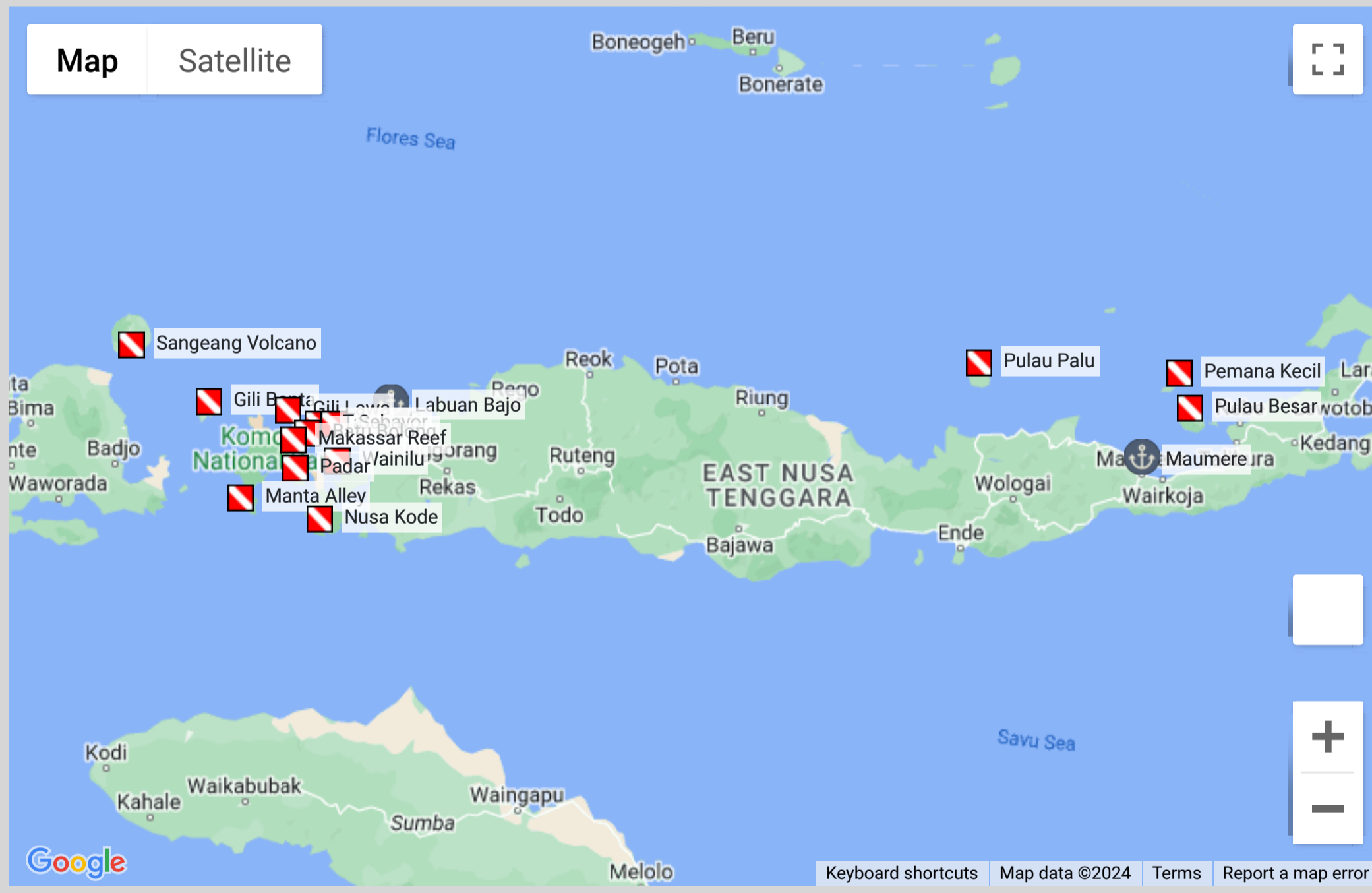
Further east of the famous Komodo National Park lays the island of **Flores**, the mountainous result of volcanic activity, which makes for stunning scenery above and below the water. Well off the beaten track and away from the crowds, there are plenty of opportunities to find those rare critters like frogfish, mimic octopus, fire sea urchin and even rare rhinopias. Diving will mainly be in the area of Maumere Bay which is an extensive, beautiful bay surrounded by volcanoes, gentle hills and rimmed by islands. In 1992 the area was hit by an earthquake with a tsunami following. Damage on land was extensive, but underwater only a few dive sites suffered and the corals have since grown back. There are more than 1200 species of fish living in the bay and the variety of corals, sponges, crustaceans and molluscs is immense. The area has around 30 dive sites to choose from, including some excellent muck sites.

Land visits: See the famous Komodo Dragon in its natural habitat, beautiful beaches, look-outs to climb and a paradise both below and above the water. Visit to the traditional village of Bonto on Sangeang Island.

Please note: In South Komodo the water temperatures can drop from 28°C to around 20°C. A 5mm wetsuit and hood is highly recommended for this region. Water temperatures in the central and northern section of the park average 27-28°C. Please be aware the dive sites and areas mentioned in our itineraries are not guaranteed. They are subject to change based on weather conditions and are at the discretion of our cruise director/captain. This is to ensure we provide the best sightings and activities possible during your dive experience while also prioritising your safety.

DIVE SITES

Dive sites & areas that we may visit are subject to weather conditions.



ALSO IMPORTANT

Check Dive & Depart Labuan Bajo/Maumere

Once onboard there will be a safety briefing, crew introduction, complete and check dive paperwork, cabin allocation and boat orientation. The first dive is a check dive.

Disembarkation Labuan Bajo/Maumere

On the last diving day, 1 dive is available in the morning whilst observing the rule of no diving within 24 hours of reaching altitude. Evening-time pack up diving equipment and settle any outstanding bills ready to depart for the airport or hotel the following morning.



ITINERARY EXPERIENCE

Advanced, 50 dives

This itinerary is not for beginners with many dives below 18m and currents can vary from medium to extremely strong. We recommend that you have 50 logged dives and require that you are a Deep Diver/Advanced Open Water Diver or equivalent to join this trip. Divers may find many dives challenging and may be asked by the Cruise Director to skip dives that are not suitable for their diving experience. Diving is from zodiacs to give precise entry and exit points.