KATHARINA

Whale Sharks, Corals and Dragons aboard Katharina

Labuan Bajo to Labuan Bajo | Komodo National Park, Sangeang and Moyo

A snorkelling voyage that starts and ends in Komodo National Park, through the volcanic heart of Indonesia's Ring of Fire.

Swim with whale sharks beside the fishermen's floating platforms, drift over healthy reefs with sea turtles and manta rays, and trek in search of Komodo dragons.

Village visits, a coral restoration project and remote island beaches make it as much a journey through the land and its people as the water.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	HIGHLIGHTS
9 days / 8 nights	Labuan Bajo	Labuan Bajo	Whale sharks, dragons







Your route

STOP 1

Days 1 and 2

You will be met at the airport in Labuan Bajo by your tour leaders and taken straight to your boat.
After settling in, you head off for the first of many snorkelling expeditions.

STOP 1

Days 1 and 2 (continued)

Go ashore on Rinca Island in search of the fearsome Komodo dragons, found only in Komodo National Park.
This is the world's largest lizard, growing up to three metres long and weighing up to about 70 kilograms.
Another highlight comes when you anchor off a small island to watch thousands of flying foxes leave at dusk to feed on the mainland.
Enjoy a fantastic drift snorkel at Gili Lawa Darat, an island in the north of the park, then trek to the viewpoint to watch a majestic sunset across the park.

STOP 3

Days 3 and 4

Go ashore on Sangeang, an active volcano, to visit the local village and snorkel the colourful coral reef just offshore.
Enjoy one of the famous beach BBQs under a night sky filled with stars, with local delicacies prepared by the chef and live music from the crew.
Go ashore on forested Moyo Island and travel to the interior to a scenic waterfall in the rainforest, where you can bathe in the cool water.

STOP 5

Days 5 and 6

Prepare to swim with whale sharks, the gentle giants of the sea.
These massive but harmless animals have long gathered in this bay, and the traditional small floating fishing platforms of the local fishermen attract them.
Thanks to travellers like you, the fishermen and the sharks now share a mutually beneficial alliance.
Visit a local village and witness the age-old practice of buffalo racing, where the men ride their prized animals through a muddy rice paddy.
Visit a strange and mystical volcanic island with a sunken crater lake in its centre, and a small coastal community where pinisi ships are built on the beach.

STOP 7

Days 7 and 8

Enjoy a unique snorkel where volcanic gas escapes as bubbles from the sea floor among the corals, with black volcanic sand below that is home to many interesting invertebrates.
Back in Komodo National Park, drift snorkel one of the best and healthiest coral reefs in the park.
Take part in a hands-on coral conservation project on Hatamin Island, where you learn about the work and create your own coral rack to place in the sea.
Snorkel at a favourite hangout of sea turtles and swim with them as they cruise along the shallow reef.
Swim with manta rays as they feed in the current and circle the cleaning stations, where small fish remove parasites from their skin.

STOP 9

Day 9

After breakfast on the last day, take a scenic drive to Melo Village to watch the traditional Caci dance.
Local strongmen perform a ritual whip fight between two rivals, each armed with a rattan shield and a whip, dancing to the rhythm of traditional acoustic instruments.
Then say farewell to the crew and your fellow shipmates as you disembark and continue to your next destination.

HIGHLIGHTS

Voyage highlights

- Starting and ending in Komodo National Park, a journey through the volcanic epicentre of Indonesia's Ring of Fire, where shifting tectonic plates have shaped the landscapes, cultures and habitats on land and in the sea.
- Visit local villages to experience local customs and see how people make their living from fishing, farming and boat building.
- Visit a highly successful coral restoration project on Hatamin Island and get hands-on creating and placing coral racks in the sea.
- Walk on an active volcanic island and see a pinisi being built using the same traditions and techniques used to build your own ship.
- Trek the hills and forests of the park's prehistoric islands in search of Komodo dragons in the wild, with early morning birdsong as you hike through dry tropical and monsoon forest.
- Be in the water with whale sharks and learn how they live in harmony with the local fishermen, then swim with manta rays and sea turtles along the reefs and cleaning stations.
- Swim, kayak, paddle and play on remote island beaches and feel the soft pink sand between your toes.
- Snorkel kaleidoscopic coral reefs teeming with underwater life.
- Watch thousands of giant fruit bats fly high above the boat as they leave their forest roosts to feed.







SNORKELLING

Snorkelling on this voyage

Whether it is swimming with whale sharks and manta rays, or gliding along a tropical reef surrounded by fish and coral, snorkelling lies at the heart of this voyage.

You snorkel often, usually twice a day for an hour or more at a time.

Novice or seasoned, your tour leaders make sure you have everything you need for some of the best underwater experiences of your life.

FLEXIBILITY

Be prepared to be flexible

The aim is the best possible experience for guests given the conditions, and unexpected opportunities for adventure may appear along the route.

Weather, tides or other local factors sometimes mean a change to the published route, and at times there are special chances to explore and discover new places, events and activities.

These will always enhance the published itinerary and are decided after discussion with guests.

The captain and your tour leader make the final decisions for safety and your overall enjoyment, so please come prepared to be flexible.







THE MORE YOU KNOW, THE MORE YOU SEE

Your tour leaders know the regions you visit well and prepare you for each activity with talks and presentations on board.

They also act as your bridge to the people you meet along the way, so feel free to ask them to translate when talking to local Indonesian people.