



## Manta Mae Charter

### Komodo 6 days /5 nights

#### **Day 1. Sebayor island**

Mantamae staff will pick you up at Labuan Bajo airport in Flores and accompany you to the dock for immediate boarding and departure. During a light lunch you will be briefed on Manta Mae and, depending on the time of your arrival, will also be briefed on the "check dive". The small island of Sebayur offers nice diving just a few miles from Labuan Bajo's harbour. Sebayur Kecil and Mini Wall are perfect for warm-up dives and you are likely to see bronze sweepers, lion-fish, eels, and possibly the resident ghost pipefish. The staggered tiers of the neighbouring patch reef are home to many different species of nudibranchs, pipefish, sea fans, sponges and even a few twin-spot lion-fish. In addition to diving day-time, we'll offer a night

dive every day if conditions are favourable.

## **Day 2. Gili Lawa Laut – Gili Lawa darat**

Two celebrated dive sites await you just north of Gili Lawa Laut Island. Crystal Rock and Castle Rock are both incredible locations, boasting the key elements for any impressive dive site: a wide variety of healthy corals covering the reef, plus tons of fish both big and small and all sizes in between! Cauldron is another exhilarating dive site, and the healthy hard coral reefs off the island of Gili Lawa Darat offer good night diving. Between dives, we may visit Gili Lawa Laut Island for a short trek to the top of the hill for a wonderful view over the Komodo-Flores channel.

**Crystal Rock:** The rock jutting out of the surrounding crystal-clear waters explains how this site got its name. But what is truly memorable here are the large schools of fusilliers and anthias flitting over the gorgeous soft corals and impressive table corals. In the deep blue, you may also see large tuna, mackerel and other fish schooling around a small mound to the northwest. A lone eagle ray is often spotted here cruising in the currents. **Castle Rock:** Castle Rock is a submerged pinnacle situated a kilometre north of Crystal Rock. Its exposed location means strong currents but experienced divers will love the thrills to be had on this dive. The main action comes from watching the staggering amount of fish such as batfish, groupers, midnight snappers and impressive schools of barracuda and surgeons whipping past. Of course, divers aren't the only ones interested in the huge amount of fish here, which explains the giant trevally as well as white-tips, black-tips and grey reef sharks hunting around for their next meal.

**Cauldron:** The channel between Gili Lawa Laut and Gili Lawa Darat forms a dive site with interesting topography. The dive starts with a drift along a sloping reef and sandy bottom. The shallows are extremely rich with fish. Bumphead parrots are common, and aggregate here to spawn every year around April. Sharks and schools of batfish also stay in the passage. Crocodile fish and lion-fish hunt in the small schools of glass-fish, and pygmies and frogfish live here as well eagle rays and reef sharks. The dive site then shallows out with the 'bull ring' circle opening out and ending in a flat rock plateau and offers a chance to see manta rays.

## **Day 3. Makassar strait**

Following a light breakfast, you will dive at Batu Bolong (Hollow Rock), a world-class dive site in the north of the Komodo Strait. The dramatic underwater landscape with its great walls is home to an incredible variety of sea life and corals. Sharks, giant trevallies, unicorns, rainbow runners, turtles,

barracudas and napoleon wrasse are spotted here frequently. Later in the day, you will enjoy Tatawa Besar, a thrilling drift dive that starts off from the northwestern tip of Tatawa and continues down the western side at a depth of 15 to 20 meters. The surrounding fish life is profuse and you will see an endless field of stunning orange soft corals as you glide along. Swim past coral heads inhabited by schools of sweetlips and batfish and look out for turtles feeding on the reef. Mantas have been encountered here as well. At Makassar Strait we can see mantas at their cleaning station. This is an exhilarating drift dive along the shallow flat bottom interspersed with patches of coral reef, where there's a chance to see manta rays, turtles, eagle rays and white tip and black tip reef sharks/ It's also a great site for snorkeling.

#### **Day 4. Tetawa Besar – Tetawa Kecil – Siaba Island**

After one more dive at Tatawa Besar we'll sail to Tatawa Kecil, where we'll dive in a beautiful coral garden with brisk currents, an unspoiled reef and unsurpassed topography comprising boulders, walls, overhangs and caves. This site is home to vast numbers of groupers, snappers and trevallies. The west side of this small rocky outcrop presents a fantastic underwater terrain with enormous slabs of rock that have been worn down to form channels, canyons, caves and swim-throughs. On the north plateau crocodile fish lie on the scenic reef alongside a host of reef fish and schooling barracuda.

After the dive, we'll cruise to Siaba Besar and moor offshore for the night. The white beach of Mauan is the perfect place for a sunset barbecue.

#### **Day 5. Pantai Merah – Batu Tiga – Rinca**

Pantai Merah, or Pinky Beach, is the most frequently visited site in the park. Snorkelling from the beach is excellent, and there is a good dive around a rock that breaks the surface but is completely covered at high tide. There is a great variety of tame fish life here, and a good selection of critters including leaf scorpionfish, blue-ribbon eels, crocodile fish, and nudibranchs. This site is also good for night dives.

The next dive site is Batu Tiga lying southeast of Tanjung Kuning in the Linta Strait. An excellent big fish dive and without doubt one of the most current-affected sites in Komodo, this dive is for more advanced and experienced

divers. It's crucial to hit the site at the perfect time, preferably at the northwestern side of the three rocks (Batu Tiga is three rocks in Bahasa



Indonesia). The rewards are many! A rocky reef extends below the surface out towards Komodo; most of the coral growth here is stunted due to the strong prevailing currents. Down in the deeper water to the west and below the reef, big boulders offer excellent habitat for grouper and other creatures.

Large grouper, mantas, giant trivalves and other pelagic are frequently seen here.

In the afternoon we'll arrive to one of Komodo's main non-diving jumping points, Rinca Island. Here, we'll hike for up to two and a half hours to see the legendary prehistoric lizard Komodo Dragons.

After that excursion we'll drop anchor at Bat Island, where thousands of flying foxes make their home in the mangrove forest. The sight of these magnificent bats taking off from the trees at sunset is truly amazing.

### **Day 6. Departure day**

We'll sail back to Sebayor Island where we'll enjoy yet another amazing snorkelling site before reaching the harbour of Labuan Bajo.

