

MERMAID I

Alor

Maumere to Maumere | Kawula, Alor, Lamakera and Serbete

Alor is diving of incredible variety, from walls with huge overhangs and hard coral gardens to reefs covered in pristine hard and soft corals, surrounded by zillions of anthias and damsels.

Black sandy slopes are covered with thousands of anemones, and the muck turns up frogfish, ghost pipefish, octopus and nudibranchs.

Channels between the islands are for drifting in strong currents, with dogtooth tuna and giant trevallies passing by.

Above water, two volcanoes frame the bay at Kawula and locals perform a traditional dance in their village.

The finish is a set of spectacular walls covered in soft corals and sponges.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	EXPERIENCE
10 days / 9 nights	Maumere	Maumere	Open Water, 4 training dives







Your itinerary

DAY 1

Maumere

Check in

Check-in on board Mermaid I between 12:00-15:00 hours in Maumere Harbour, Flores.
After the boat and safety briefing, we'll set up equipment and you can settle into your cabin.
Dinner will be served at 19:00 hours as we cruise into the sunset on our overnight journey to Kawula Island, east of Flores.

DAY 2

Lewaling Bay, Kawula Island

4 dives + night dive

We will start the trip by spending the day at Lewaling Bay, in the north of Kawula Island.
The scenery of the bay is amazing since there are 2 volcanos in each side of the bay.
There we will do 4 dives.
The diving at Lewaling Bay is very diverse, consisting of walls, slopes and muck dives.
With a great combination of large and small critters, from schooling barracudas and lots of schooling fish to pygmy seahorses.
We will finish the day with a muck dive as a night dive in front of the village of Watu Warawutun, which stands at the bottom of one of the volcanos.
After dinner we will cruise overnight to the Alor Islands, which are about 7 to 8 hours away.

DAY 3-5

Pantar Strait, Alor

Dives

The next three days are spent diving around the Pantar Strait, which is the strait between the 2 major islands of Alor, Pantar Island and Alor Island.
There are 4 islands in the Pantar Strait, Ternate in the north, Reta and Pura in the middle and Treweg in the south.
Between these 4 islands plus the islands of Pantar and Alor, there are several dozen dive sites with an incredible variety of diving sceneries: walls with huge overhangs and hard coral gardens in the shallows, fringing reefs covered with pristine hard and soft corals and all kind of sponges surrounded by zillions of anthias and damsels, black sandy slopes covered with thousands of anemones, and muck dives where we can find rhinophias, fire sea urchins with coleman's shrimps and zebra crabs, channels between the islands where you just drift with some strong currents and look out for pelagic fish passing by.
The water temperature can vary greatly in this area.
In the northern and middle area, the temperature is usually around 27 C.
And in the south, it can vary from 21C to 25C.
Currents can be extremely strong in the Pantar Strait, which usually makes for 30 mts plus visibility.



DAY 6

Alor village visit

Dives + village visit

On the fifth day of the trip, we will skip the 2 morning dives in order to visit a traditional village at Alor Island, where the locals will perform a local dance and where the guests will be able to buy locally made handicrafts.
Then we will return to Mermaid I in order to have lunch and do 2 more dives at the Pantar Strait.

DAY 7

Treweg and Beanbagan

Dives

Today Mermaid I will start cruising early in the morning in order to get to a small bay at the south tip of the Pantar Strait called Beanbagan, where we will spend the whole day.
Or we will do 1 or 2 dives at Treweg Island and then move to Beanbagan.
The dive sites at Treweg island consist of rocky slopes covered in all kind of soft corals, and where one can just drift looking for all kind of pelagic fish such as dogtooth tunas and giant trevallies.
The diving at Beanbagan Bay and village is very different from the rest of Alor.
It consists mainly of blackish and grayish sand which is the perfect environment to find all kinds of different critters such as frogfish, ghost pipefish and different species of octopi.
There is also a jetty at the village which large schools of scads and batfish.
And it is also a great place to find more critters and all kind of nudis.
The water temperature in the south of the Alor Islands can vary from 21C to 25C.
After dinner we will cruise overnight to the village of Lamakera, in the south of Kawula Island

DAY 8

Lamakera and Suangi

Dives + night dive

We start the day doing a dive at a fringing reef in front of the whaling village of Lamakera.
And then we will move to the small island of Suangi, in the south of Kawula Island, to do 2 dives.
The waters surrounding Suangi and steaming with schooling fish, pelagic fish and it is also a place where sharks are usually spotted.
We will again move the boat after the 4th dive to finish the day in the Solar Strait, south of Adonara Island, in order to a muck dive as a night dive.



DAY 9

Serbete

Two dives

The last day of diving will be at the small island of Serbete, just northwest of Adonara island, where we will finish with 2 dives.
Spectacular walls covered in soft corals and sponges, where one can spend time looking for tiny critters among the soft corals and sponges, or just drift along the wall looking at the spectacular views of the walls.
Sadly, after the 2nd we will start heading back to Maumere, approximately 6 hours away.

DAY 10

Disembark in Maumere

After breakfast there is a transfer to the airport or your hotel. Disembark is at 8 am.

GOOD TO KNOW

On land and on the way

Pantar Strait

Walls, anemones and strong current channels.

Alor village

A traditional dance and local handicrafts.

Beanbagan

Frogfish, ghost pipefish and octopus.

Serbete

Walls covered in soft corals and sponges.

Check in

Check in on board is between 12 noon and 2 pm at Maumere Harbour in Flores. After the boat and safety briefing you set up your equipment and settle into your cabin.

Check out

Disembark after breakfast at 8 am, with a transfer to the airport or your hotel.

Last dive

Divers should wait at least 24 hours after their last dive before flying, so please keep to the no-flying rule when you book your flight home.





INCLUDED

What your trip covers

INCLUDED IN THE TRIP PRICE

- Transfers to and from the boat: anywhere in southern Bali on Komodo trips, and Sorong airport on Raja Ampat trips
- All meals and snacks, fruit, coffee, tea, hot chocolate, soft drinks and drinking water
- All dives, with tanks, weights and weight belts
- Diving with experienced divemasters and instructors
- Land visits to villages, beaches, viewpoints and wildlife where the plan includes them
- 3 GB of Starlink internet on board

NOT INCLUDED

- Flights, including any domestic flight
- Nitrox fills
- Rental equipment and on board courses
- Alcoholic drinks
- Marine park fees, port and national park fees (subject to change with government regulation)
- Dive and travel insurance

BEFORE YOU GO

What to bring

ESSENTIALS

- Dive certification card and logbook
- Completed diver medical questionnaire
- Details of your dive and travel insurance
- Dive computer and surface marker buoy
- Torch for night dives

AND ALSO

- Reef-safe sunscreen
- Swimwear, hat and sunglasses
- Light clothing and sandals
- Personal medication and toiletries
- Passport

WORTH KNOWING

Key notes

Good to know

Itineraries are a sample and can be changed because of the weather, tides, currents, season and other events beyond our control

Good to know

Divers should wait at least 24 hours after their last dive before flying

Insurance

Please arrange dive and travel insurance before you travel

Good to know

Water temperature varies a lot in this area: about 27 C in the north and middle, and from 21 to 25 C in the south of the Alor islands. Currents can be extremely strong in the Pantar Strait