

SAMAMBAIA

East Flores and Alor

Maumere to Maumere | Lembata, Pantar and Alor

Alor and Solor are volcanic islands counted among the best diving destinations in Asia, with little tourism and few divers in the water.

Strong currents run through the narrow straits and every tide brings upwellings, with oceanic sunfish, big dogtooth tuna and thresher sharks spotted in the past.

The critter diving is just as good, with seahorses, rhinopias, frogfish, wonderpus and blue ring octopus, in a protected bay said to have better macro life than the famous Lembeh Strait.

Whales and dolphins pass through the channels, and an active volcano erupts every 15 to 20 minutes like free fireworks.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	HIGHLIGHTS
12 days / 11 nights	Maumere	Maumere	Rhinopias, seahorses, Alor







Your route

STOP 1

Embarkation

Arrival with plane to Maumere.
You will be picked up by crew members at the airport.
Embarkation in the port of Maumere.
A general orientation follows.

STOP 2

Serbete & Adonara

After an initial general dive briefing, check dive in the morning at a pretty, easygoing and protected dive site.
A wall south of the tiny island of Serbete.
We will offer two more macro focussed dives this day, at two of our secret spots south of the island of Adonara.

STOP 3

Lembata's Critters

Sandy critter diving par excellence.
One spot is at a pier, the other ones a bit further to the east.
Critter hunting at it's best: Seahorses, different species of Rhinopias, sometimes even side by side, frogfish, all sorts of cephalopods.
Truly a world class dive spot.

STOP 4

Lembata South

Time for some action packed diving in the morning.
We have two great dive sites here.
One of them is a secret cavern which is home to several White Tip Reef Sharks.
The other one, 'Pulau Suangi' is a rock, exposed to the open ocean.
Stunning coral growth on the reef, very good fish life, but don't forget to look out in the blue as we've often got pelagic fish passing by.
In the afternoon we offer a visit to the traditional whaling village of Lamalera.
The people of this village are fundamental animists and are living their ancient traditions until today in our modern world.
Alternatively we offer a dive for you, of course.
We finish this day with a night dive at an excellent secret spot of ours, 'The Corner Shop', we named it like that because it has a little something of everything.

STOP 5

Kambing & Pantar

Facing the Savu Sea the southern coast of Pantar and Pulau Kambing are exposed to strong upwellings and swells full of nutrition from the deep.
Hence the marine life here is mind boggling with potential for large pelagics.
Besides the known sites around Pulau Kambing our favourites here are our secret spots.

STOP 6

Beangabang

A protected bay which is said to have a better macro life than the famous Lembeh Strait.
Be prepared for some cold water upwellings which will not stop you from having extended bottom times if you are a critter lover.
No time limit here on the night dive.
An excerpt of the spotting list from 1 (one!) dive we recently did there: Wonderpus, Blue Ring Octopus, Coconut Octopus, Pegasus, Frogfish, Rhinopias, Ambon Scorpionfish, Robust Ghostpipefish, Roughsnout Ghostpipefish, Thorny Seahorse, Melibe.....

STOP 7

Pura & Alor

Time for some action packed current drift dives with potential for big stuff.
All our dives are going to be either slope or wall dives.
We have spotted here in the past: Oceanic Sunfish, Big Dogtooth Tuna and Thresher Sharks.
Popular dive sites here: School's Out, Anemone City, The Great Wall of Pantar

STOP 8

Kalabahi Bay

Today we spent all day hunting critters in the protected bay of Alor's capital Kalabahi.
With a little bit of luck our dive guides might show you the 'Holy Grail of Critter Hunters', the Rhinopias.
Other than that you can expect: Frogfish, Ghostpipefish, all sorts of cephalopods and Crustaceans as well as colourful Nudibranchs.
Popular dive sites here: Mucky Mosque, Black Rhino, Pertamina Pier

STOP 9

North Alor

Before we leave the area around Alor to head back west again, we will offer you three more dives here.
Either wide-angle wall and slope dives or some more macro dives.
Maybe a blend of both.
We make this depending on the preferences of our guests.

STOP 10

Lembata & Komba

We will do three dives in daytime.
Either at a spot we call 'The Shark Wall' or alternatively at a fantastic critter spot.
This depends on the preferences of the group.
In the afternoon we will head north towards the active vulcano of Komba, which erupts every 15 to 20 minutes.
A spectacular display of nature's power and free fireworks for us.

STOP 11

Maumere Bay

Our last day before disembarkation we will spend at a beautifully quiet and protected anchorage in the bay of Maumere.
In the morning we offer you a wreck dive ('Wodong Wreck') that turns in the shallows into a critter heaven: Pipehorses, Ghostpipefish, Nudibranchs.
A beautiful dive with no time limit to finish this cruise.
If your flight schedule permits our guides will happy take you on a second dive as well.
The afternoon we spend at this anchorage, filled with some in-water fun such as wake boarding and waterskiing and the famous Floating Bar.

STOP 12

Disembarkation in Maumere

Depending on your flight schedule, our crew will check your luggage in for you in advance so you can rest on board and let us shuttle you to the airport when your plane is ready to leave.

THE TRIP

How a Samambaia cruise works

This is a sample itinerary for a eleven night cruise from Maumere to Maumere. It is just to give you a general idea and is subject to change with the weather and other conditions. Popular dive sites are named, and the crew has secret spots as well, which you learn about during the cruise.

The decision on the itinerary is made by the Cruise Director as the boat cruises, and is based on the weather, the dive conditions, the requests of guests and the schedules of other liveaboards, which the boat tries to stay away from. There are some constants on every cruise:

- Three day dives of at least one hour each
- One sunset or night dive, unless the boat has a serious number of miles to cover overnight
- Scenic rides through lagoons and coves in the tenders
- Trekking to breathtaking viewpoints
- Visits to secluded beaches
- Excursions to traditional villages
- Whale watching
- Water action such as wake boarding and water skiing

THE DIVING

Diving and snorkelling

HOW THE DIVING WORKS

The Cruise Director leads the diving programme and four dive masters go with guests on the dives, usually with one guide to every four divers. All dives are no decompression dives within your certification level, and solo diving is not allowed. Nitrox is included.

Every diver carries a GPS marine rescue device for the whole trip, the dive staff are trained in Emergency First Response and oxygen is on board. Two tenders take the divers to the sites and the crew looks after the transfer of dive gear by speedboat.

THE AREA AND THE CONDITIONS

Alor and Solor are a group of 18 volcanic islands and one of the best diving destinations in Asia. Tourism is little developed and few divers have explored the waters. Whales and dolphins pass through the channels between Flores and Alor, and whales can be seen from the boat by their spouts in the season.

Strong currents run through the narrow straits between Pantar and Alor and between Lembata and Pantar, and every tide brings strong upwellings. The coral reefs are mostly on the northern coast of the Solor and Alor group, while the southern coast, especially around Lembata, is mostly rocky with little coral. The area has many muck diving sites with unusual creatures such as pegasus sea moths and devilfish, and cruises can visit the traditional whaling villages of Lamalera and Lamakera.

WATER TEMPERATURE

Water temperature across Indonesia is typically 26 to 30 C all year. During the monsoon, from December to February, it is about 27 to 29 C. A 3 or 5 mm wetsuit is usually enough, and a hood helps to avoid ear problems.

SNORKELLING

Indonesia's warm waters suit snorkelling, and the day by day notes point out the places where snorkelling is a good option.







ON BOARD

Food, service and the team

CUISINE

Meals blend continental, Indonesian and Italian dishes, cooked with fresh, locally sourced ingredients. Expect Indonesian favourites such as nasi goreng, satay and rendang alongside Italian pasta, pizza and tiramisu. The chef cooks for dietary needs, including vegan and gluten-free.

SERVICE AND THE TEAM

The Cruise Director and the instructors guide the diving, and the crew is made up of the captain, four dive masters, a chef engineer and a cook. Free Wi-Fi is available throughout the boat, although the mobile signal depends on the

itinerary. An inflatable kayak is included, and there is one free wakeboard trial.

DECK PLAN

The upper deck has the sun deck and the speedboat. On the main deck are the restaurant, the dive deck, the camera room and the wheelhouse.

INCLUDED

What is included

- Nitrox
- Weights and weight belts
- 12 litre tanks
- Inflatable kayak
- Beer, soft drinks, juices, Italian coffee, premium tea and snacks
- Transfers between the airport and the harbour in both directions
- Guided diving with the Cruise Director and dive masters

Not included are flights and hotels, wine and spirits, massages and laundry. The boat leaves before 1 pm on the first day, and on the last night it returns to the end harbour so guests can catch early domestic flights.





