

SAMAMBAIA

Komodo and East Flores

Labuan Bajo to Maumere | Komodo National Park and Pulau Raja

Sharks, jacks and fish soup in the north of Komodo National Park, with action fuelled by current.

In the south, Horseshoe Bay has some of the lushest diving the park has to offer, with an overwhelming growth of soft and hard coral and critter galore, from rhinopias and frogfish to wonderpus and coconut octopus.

Night dives bring starry night octopus and rare nudibranchs, and easy drifts run over impeccable reefs.

A morning trek on Rinca puts you eye to eye with the last dragons on this planet.

The trip ends on a stunning wall off the north coast of Flores, with very good coral growth and overhangs.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	HIGHLIGHTS
8 days / 7 nights	Labuan Bajo	Maumere	Komodo dragons, Pulau Raja







Your route

STOP 1

Embarkation

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

STOP 2

Komodo Central

After an initial general dive briefing, we will do our check dive with you at an easy and protected dive site.
Check dive in the sense of you checking your gear and weights, making sure the camera housings are proper sealed and our guides checking your buoyancy.
No skill demonstrations are required.
Dive site: ‘Sebayur Kecil’.
Over the day we are heading south through the National Park and look into doing an easy drift dive over an impeccable reef, like ‘Tatawa Besar’.
To cap this first day of diving we offer a night dive at Wai Nilu, which ranks within the Top 5 favorite night dive spots allover Indonesia of our Cruise Director.

STOP 3

Rinca Trekking, then heading for Nusa Kode

Trekking with Komodo dragons in the morning before it gets too hot in the sun.
Expect to be eye in eye with the last dragons on this planet.
A must when coming here.
Local rangers take care of our safety.
After this adventure we will be heading to the south of Rinca, also known as Nusa Kode or Horseshoe Bay.
Some of the lushest diving Komodo National Park has to offer.
During the months of May until October however, the waters are quite cold (down to 23°C) and the visibility is rather poor.
You will be, however, rewarded with critter galore: Ambon Scorpionfish, Rhinopias, Frogfish, Wonderpus, Coconut Octopus paired with an overwhelming growth of soft and hard coral on the reefs.
A very common sight at the beach are Komodo Dragons, Deer, Wild Boar and up in the trees you might spot a sea eagle.

STOP 4

Nusa Kode

We offer three more day dives in the Horseshoe Bay.
Some of our favourite dive sites here include: ‘Cannibal Rock’, ‘The Yellow Wall of Texas’, ‘Devil’s Corner’ and ‘Torpedo Alley’.
In the afternoon we will leave this truly spectacular place and head back up north.
For a night dive we will pull into the island of Pantar.
Starry Night Octopus, Frogfish, rare Nudibranchs, this dive site never disappoints.

STOP 5

Komodo Central

Working our way back up north, we’ve got a few secret spots to offer or we may go instead for some of the popular highlights if the conditions allow us to do so.
Potential dive sites for the day: ‘Batu Bolong’, ‘Manta Point’, ‘Golden Passage’.

STOP 6

Komodo, The North

We arrive in the morning in the northern part of the famous Komodo National Park.
And straight away hit the signature dive sites ‘Crystal Rock’ and ‘Castle Rock’.
Sharks, Jacks, Fish Soup.
Action fuelled by current.
In the afternoon and at night two more world-class dives at famous site like ‘The Golden Passage’, ‘The Cauldron’ or ‘Lighthouse’.
Komodo National Park diving at it’s best.

STOP 7

Pulau Raja

In the morning we offer two dives to give your body time before flying out the next day.
We will be at the island of Pulau Raja, north of Flores.
On a stunning wall with very good coral growth and overhangs.
We will stay here until the afternoon and snorkelling is always a good option here.

STOP 8

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 seven night cruise from Labuan Bajo 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

This sample runs from Labuan Bajo to Maumere. The same waters are also cruised in the opposite direction, from Maumere to Labuan Bajo.

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

Komodo National Park was established in 1980, became a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and was named a World Heritage Site in 1991. It covers the two large islands of Komodo and Rinca and about 80 smaller islets, with coral reefs, mangroves, seagrass beds, seamounts and semi-enclosed bays. There are over 1,000 fish species, 260 reef-building coral species and 70 sponge species.

Komodo is best for experienced divers, with many sites that have strong and sometimes unpredictable currents. Sharks and other pelagics are most often found around rocks and reefs in the stronger currents. The water is often cooler than the 28 C typical elsewhere in Indonesia and can drop to about 21 C in the south, so a 5 mm wetsuit is recommended. In the south the visibility is generally better from December to April and lower in the dry season, when upwelling and plankton bring many invertebrates. The north generally has good visibility all year.

On land, giant lizards about 3 metres long live on Rinca, Nusa Kode and Komodo, in a volcanic landscape of savannah, some forest, blue lagoons and white, pink and red sand beaches.

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.





