

SEVEN SEAS

Komodo National Park and East of Flores

Labuan Bajo to Maumere | Komodo National Park and East of Flores and Alor

Two of Indonesia's great dive regions in one trip, Komodo and the remote islands east of Flores.

Komodo brings seamounts swirling with sharks and pelagic species, and underwater canyons with feeding mantas.

Further east the walls are covered in hard and soft corals, rocky pinnacles bring schools of tuna, and the muck dives hold frogfish, octopus and the rare Rhinopias, the holy grail of underwater photography.

The deep channels between the islands are an important migration route for whales and dolphins.

Above it all, the peaks of rugged volcanoes punctuate an endless horizon.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	EXPERIENCE
11 days / 10 nights	Labuan Bajo	Maumere	Certified divers







Your route

STOP 1

Komodo National Park

Jurassic Park revisited.
Komodo National Park is recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage site for its stunning diversity of natural beauty, and is without a doubt one of the best places on earth to explore on a liveaboard boat trip.

STOP 2

East of Flores and Alor

Unspoiled and remote.
Recognised as one of Asia's top 10 dive destinations, the archipelago east of Flores is one of the favourite areas to explore on a Seven Seas dive adventure.

JURASSIC PARK REVISITED

Komodo National Park

From trekking the savannah for an up-close encounter with the legendary dragons to exploring an unbelievable variety of dive sites, Komodo offers an unforgettable experience for every guest aboard the Seven Seas. Komodo was the first destination of the Seven Seas.

Komodo National Park was created in 1980 to protect the dragons and other rare and unusual wildlife here, was recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1991, and was named one of the World's Top Ten Destinations by National Geographic Magazine in July 2017. The park includes a trio of large islands (Komodo, Rinca and Padar), interspersed with an archipelago of smaller islands and seamounts.

Located at the boundary between the Indian and Pacific oceans, Komodo is driven by the confluence of two completely different marine environments. Powerful tidal currents draw nutrient-rich Indian Ocean seawater to the northern reaches of the park, producing a stunning diversity of habitats and species in a relatively small area, with minimal travel time between dives.







ABOVE THE WATER

Padar Island, one of the park's most iconic landscapes, is a spectacular afternoon or early morning hike, with panoramic views of craggy mountains towering above a crescent of white sand beach. On most nights guests venture ashore to a secluded beach for drinks and hors d'oeuvres, often accompanied by acoustic guitar music from the crew.

Beyond the diving there are secluded beaches and shallow coral gardens to explore by sea kayak or stand up paddleboard, and the famed Pink Sand Beach, one of only seven such beaches known anywhere on earth. Komodo is miles from any large city, so the full crescent of the Milky Way can be seen on a moonless night.

THE DIVING

Home to more than 1,000 species of fish and 260 species of coral, and with the chance to glimpse rare marine mammals such as the dugong and sperm whale, Komodo is a trip of a lifetime for divers of all experience levels. Dive sites range from high-adrenaline seamounts swirling with sharks and pelagic species, to underwater canyons with feeding mantas, classic walls, gently sloping coral gardens and cave swim-throughs.

Komodo icons include Manta Alley, Manta Point, Tatawa Besar, Batu Bolong (Hollowed Rock), Castle Rock and Crystal Rock, along with favourites discovered over the years such as the Seven Seas Secret Spot, where dugong have sometimes been spotted cruising the shallows.

Underwater photographers and naturalists can look for pygmy seahorses, nudibranchs, blue-ringed octopus, false pipefish and frogfish, while wide-angle and blue-water enthusiasts can catch a glimpse of mantas, three species of sea turtle, reef and blue-water sharks, dolphins and several varieties of whale. Seldom-seen species such as ocean sunfish (mola mola), eagle rays, whale sharks and mako sharks have also been spotted.

Most dive sites depend on the tide, moon and other conditions, so your cruise director and dive masters work to have you diving the right place at the right time.

THE WILDLIFE

Komodo is best known as the home of its dragons, the world's largest lizard species, reaching three metres or more in length and weighing more than 70 kilograms. The park is believed to be home to more than 5,000 of them. Other mammals include local varieties of water buffalo, wild boar and crab-eating macaque, and twelve species of snake live in the park.

Guests can join an early morning hike across the golden savannah as the sun rises, the perfect time for spotting wildlife. The ranger station on Komodo Island offers several treks with a near-guaranteed view of the Komodo dragon. At twilight, enormous groups of fruit bats careen across the darkening sky.

CLIMATE AND CONDITIONS

- Southeast monsoon: May to October
- Northwest monsoon: December to March
- Change-over months: April and November
- Air temperature: 27 to 32°C
- Water temperature: Generally 24 to 30°C, warmest in the north and coolest in the south during the southeast monsoon
- Best time to dive: Year round, with the best diving in the north during the southeast monsoon and in the south during the northwest monsoon

Dive conditions vary with the tides throughout the day, so it is important to dive with the tide tables. Northern waters generally provide better visibility year round, with higher water temperatures. Southern waters generally provide better visibility from December through April.

UNSPOILED AND REMOTE

East of Flores and Alor

Recognised as one of Asia's top 10 dive destinations, the archipelago east of Flores is one of the favourite areas to explore on a Seven Seas dive adventure. With an endless horizon punctuated by the peaks of rugged volcanoes, ancient animist villages to visit, and dive sites ranging from macro and muck diving all the way up to the chance to glimpse the world's largest mammal, the voyage offers one of the most unique scuba diving and adventure travel experiences anywhere on earth.

Adunara, Solor, Lembata and Pantar, to the island of Alor in the east of Nusa Tenggara: the islands east of Flores and Komodo are some of the least explored in the entire Indonesian archipelago. The difficulty of reaching these islands by land means the chance to experience some of the world's top dive sites in relative solitude.

You wake up in a new, jaw-dropping destination every morning, spend the day diving, visiting villages or sea kayaking, then take in each new panorama from the upper lounge before sunset drinks and dinner under the stars.





ABOVE THE WATER

The archipelago is home to some of the most stunning landscapes on any liveaboard dive trip, with ancient volcanoes towering above villages inhabited by tribal cultures since the earliest days of recorded history. At certain times, weather permitting, the itinerary has ventured as far as Wetar, the next island east of Alor, where the legendary Forgotten Islands begin.

On the island of Alor you can join one of Indonesia's indigenous animist tribes in their ancient ceremonial dance and watch traditional weavers create their iconic ikat sarongs and fabrics. Coastal communities such as Lamalera and Lamakera have hunted whales with handmade spears for centuries, taking only what the village needs to eat and barter. Optional land tours include ikat weaving at Watubelapi on Flores, the three-coloured crater lakes of Kelimutu, and the Aboi hill tribe on Alor, with the Museum of a Thousand Mokos in Kalabahi.

THE DIVING

New dives are discovered on nearly every voyage here, from classic wall dives and panoramic gardens of hard and soft corals to newly discovered muck dives in Lembata and Pantar. Experienced divers can drift rocky corners, islets and pinnacles along the southern shores and in the straits between the islands, with the chance to see large pelagic species and schools of tuna.

Underwater naturalists can explore hard coral reefs, pinnacles and walls covered in hard and soft corals, sandy habitats, sea grass beds and even a few blue-water mangrove forests. At a fantastic muck dive in Lembata the rare Rhinopias, the weedy scorpionfish and the holy grail of underwater photography, has been found on every visit, along with frogfish and various octopus. Other critter sites include Maumere, the Brewery at Lembata, Beang Abeng at Pantar, Clownfish Alley at Pura and Ghost Town at Alor.

Deep channels between the islands are believed to play an essential role in the exchange of marine life between the Indian and Pacific oceans, and scientists have identified the area as an important migration route for whales, dolphins and enormous schools of tuna. Guests often spend a day watching whales and dolphins, with chances to see blue whales and sperm whales, and pods of playful dolphins.

CLIMATE AND CONDITIONS

- Dry season: May to November
- Rainy season: December to April
- Air temperature: 27 to 32°C
- Water temperature: 27°C on average but often colder in the south
- Best time to dive: All year round, with site selection based on the seasons