

Flores to Raja Ampat - Indonesia

Itinerary

The following is a sample itinerary of dive sites we may visit during your liveboard safari aboard Indo Siren in Indonesia. We wish to show you the very best diving possible but a number of factors can determine where we visit. Weather, tides, currents and how busy a site is with other dive vessels all play a part in the Cruise Director's decision of which route the yacht takes. This itinerary involves some long distance travel. Whilst we attempt to ensure the number of dives we have scheduled is fulfilled, bad weather can hinder the yacht's ability to reach a specified dive site in good time. The safety of all on board is paramount and we always do our best in offering diving at alternate locations should we be unable to visit those sites listed below.

Your Cruise Director will schedule up to 4 dives per day; 3 day dives and either a sunset or a night dive. The diving day has a typical schedule as follows:

- Light breakfast followed by a briefing & dive 1
- Full breakfast, relaxation followed by briefing & dive 2
- Lunch, relaxation followed by briefing & dive 3
- Snack
- Briefing for sunset or night dive
- Dinner

For your final day aboard we schedule two morning dives to allow plenty of time for off-gassing before disembarkation and your flight home. The Cruise Director is happy to listen to requests from guests to visit or remain at certain sites and providing it is possible and the schedule allows, then guests' requests are respected.

Dive sites we visit include but are not limited to:

Tanjung Gedong, Serbete & Adonara

We spend our first day of diving cruising along the northern stretches of the islands close to Flores. We overnight at anchorage in Adonara and depart in the early hours of day three for Pulau Lembata.

Tanjung Gedong - a superb check dive site encompassing a hard coral sloping reef wall and sandy areas dotted with coral bommies. The creatures we see here fall into the macro category with a variety of crustaceans, mollusks and benthic reef fish.

Serbete Wall - a shallow reef sloping down to a wall, which drops to approximately 30m (100ft) dotted with barrel sponges and elephant ear sponges. Along the wall are many overhangs and crevices to explore. Bluefin trevally can be seen hunting and batfish casually hang about. The shallow reef shows healthy corals and abundance of smaller reef fish.

Magic Log /Adunara Reef - features a shallow slope with large coral heads adorned with a myriad of feather stars which open in the night time to feed, also a superb spot for critter hunting with sightings of warty frogfish, ornate ghost pipefish, cuttlefish and octopus. The majority of your dive is spent at 10m (35ft).

Pulau Lembata

The bay on the west coast of this island is home to some great critter dive sites. We will spend a full day of diving and exploring these amazing sites.

Sizzler - This is a sandy slope, superb for a couple of critter dives and has proven to be a great day dive, as well as a wonderful night dive. We can expect the whole lot, from different species of frogfish to ornate ghost pipefish and gorgeous fingered dragonets.

The Jetty - Currents sweep across the big ferry jetty and bring in lots of nutrients for the underwater life. The slope and underwater structures under the jetty create a good habitat for lots of different kinds of nudibranchs, giant frogfish, ribbon eels and spiny devil fish. It's another one of these dives that you just don't want to end.

Rhino City - This dive site has a very gentle sloping sandy bottom filled with small soft corals. We will try to dive this site with slack tide, because currents can be quite challenging for this critter dive. Expect to find cuttlefish, Strapweed file fish, pipefish, and if you're lucky the illustrious Rhinopia.

Pantar Strait

The Pantar Strait is known for both critter diving and stunning reef walls where larger pelagic species can be spotted. Some stronger currents are to be expected but the currents bring the nutrients which feed the reef and the inhabitants of the strait. There are a variety of dive sites here and we chose the optimum sites based on the conditions of the day. The water temperature experienced is often colder than other regions due to the flow of water from the south, expect temperatures of 22°C / 72°F. After our third dive on trip day five we begin our long crossing to Wetar Island.

The French Man's Window - A wall dive site in front of Alor's Divers Resort covered in a fantastic array of soft corals. Look closely to find a wide variety of nudibranchs; remember to watch in the blue as well as something big might swim past

Pak Yan's Village - An excellent muck diving spot to find Pegasus sea moths, dragonets, scorpion fish, ghost pipefish and bargibanti seahorses too.

Clown Valley - Hundreds, if not thousands of anemones cover the shallow reef slope on the south side of Pulau Pura, all hosting the Clark's anemone fish. A stunning site but thermoclines can be expected so be prepared for some chilly water! The Arch, on Pulau Reta, is famous for its overhangs and fissures providing stunning topography, as well as a home to schooling fusiliers and colourful anthias. Larger pelagic fish, including black tip reef sharks have been spotted here too.

Wetar and Reong Islands

We will make 3 dives here and spend the day exploring a variety of sites that the islands offer. The walls are covered with huge sponges and soft corals. Drop offs and colourful reefs with healthy marine life including sightings of eagle rays and turtles. However, currents can be fairly robust, particularly in the channel between Reong & Wetar, therefore divers are advised to carry reef hooks and stay within close range of their buddy and/or the dive guide.

Days 7-9 will be spent in exploration of the “Forgotten Islands” dotted along the east of Wetar before we cruise northwards to Banda Neira and make a visit to the Spice Islands.

Nyata and Terbang Islands

Further to the east of Wetar the islands of Pulau Nyata and Terbang offer unspoiled reefs for a great diving experience. At Nyata, rainbow coloured soft corals and a myriad of hard corals dominate the landscape, whilst at Terbang we find dramatic walls with soft corals reef top gardens and plenty of bumphead parrotfish and schooling reef fish.

Nil Desperandum & Serua

Upwelling and currents around these islands bring the nutrient rich waters and with them an abundance of marine life. We see many larger fish species in these little visited waters. Hammerhead sharks, tunas, napoleon wrasse and groupers are amongst the most common sightings. Schooling surgeon fish, bannerfish and barracuda give divers a spectacular display. We spend three dives exploring these rich reefs before moving northwards to Manuk.

Pulau Manuk

This tiny island in the middle of the Banda Sea offers a wide variety of dive topography including walls, coral slopes and sandy areas. Famed as being a home to a multitude of sea snakes- and where we can witness the snakes hunting together. Larger fish pass by on the outer walls including tunas and jacks and smaller creatures can be found amidst the pristine corals.

Banda Neira & Pulau Hatta

At Banda Neira the lava flow underwater has over the years transformed into a beautiful coral garden. The amount of schooling fish and pelagic encounters can be jaw dropping and sea fans some of the largest and most pristine to be found in Indonesia.

There is also time to go ashore to visit the Belgica Fort and the museum as well as stop off at the local market. Currents can be strong around these small islands in the north of the Banda Sea, therefore sites will be chosen on the best daily conditions from the following options:

Batu Kepal - pinnacle rises up from 40m (130ft) adorned with sea fans and attracts schooling pelagics, big groupers and cute leaf fish can also be spotted camouflaging themselves amidst the corals.

Karang Hatta - a sloping reef starting at around 15m (50ft) sloping down to 40, (130ft) filled with hard corals. In the blue look out for dog tooth tuna, jacks, black tip reef sharks, eagle rays and the possibility of a hammerhead or two.

Banda Neira Pier - otherwise known as the Maolana Jetty is a superb site for a sunset dive to spot mandarin fish mating in the shallows- just 1m below the surface! Other critters can be found in deeper water include cockatoo waspfish, & crocodile fish.

Pohon Miring - a sloping reef wall dotted with sea fans and sponges is home to bumphead parrotfish, Napoleon wrasse, turtles and numerous puffers.

Hole in the Wall - an impressive formation with the hole cutting through the reef between 5-12m (15-40ft). Huge sea fans, sponges, schools of batfish, fusiliers and snappers – expect a very fishy dive!

Koon

This is a day for the explorer in you, as only a few sites have been recorded and frequently dived. We have named one site: “Too Many Fish” as that is literally what you can expect here. Batfish, jacks, snappers & grouper are all seen in abundance.

Misool

There are numerous small islands surrounding the second of the Four Kings, Misool, including Daram, Farondi, Boo, Wayilbatan, Kalig and Warakaraket to name just a few. Each offers some of the most dramatic underwater scenery of the region, from steep walls with huge gorgonian fans to gentler slopes with hard and soft corals.

Boo Windows – Always a favourite site, Boo’s scenery is on the wish list of most underwater photographers. Close to the surface currents and tides have eroded holes in the rocks creating the “window” effect. Batfish, Napoleon wrasse, black tip and white tip reef sharks are all to be seen here along with potato grouper and schools of snapper.

Whale Rock – in the Fiabacet chain is where we hunt for interesting critters including tiger cowries, fire gobies, hawkfish and mushroom coral shrimp.

Nudi Rock – Marine life from big to small can all be seen at this stunning site. Black tip, white tips, grey reef sharks and dog tooth tuna can all be seen cruising by whilst hiding amongst the corals are cowries, nudibranchs, porcelain crabs and mushroom coral pipefish.

Magic Mountain – This site by Warakaraket Island provides a very fishy dive with sightings of yellow fin & chevron barracuda, batfish, jacks, Spanish mackerel, sweetlips, midnight snappers and blue-fin trevally. Wobbegong sharks and bearded scorpion fish are amongst the camouflaged benthic fish that can be seen here also.