

Tubbataha, Philippines

Itinerary

The following is a sample itinerary of dive sites we may visit during your liveaboard cruise with the Philippine Siren. We wish to show you the very best diving possible, however, a number of factors determine which route the yacht takes and which dive sites we visit. Weather, tides, currents and the number of other dive vessels at a particular site all play a part in the Cruise Director's decision of where the Philippine Siren is heading to. 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 specific dive site in good time. The safety of our guests on board is paramount and we always do our best to offer diving at alternate locations, should we be unable to visit those sites listed below.

Please note the following:

In Tubbataha, diving conditions are not suitable for beginners: strong currents, wall dives, etc. Therefore, we recommend all divers to have logged a minimum of 20 dives.

It is not allowed to bring or fly drones in the Tubbataha Natural Park.

Pick up time is 12.30 PM at Hotel Centro. Latest embarkation time is 13:00 PM due to departure to reach Tubbataha on time to dive the first dive next morning. Once on board Philippine Siren, lunch will be served then there will be a mandatory briefing from the Tubbataha Management Office and a check conducted by the coastguard. Guests are advised that the briefings and checks can only be conducted once all guests are on board, and the Philippine Siren will not be allowed to leave port until these have been carried out. Crossing time from Puerto Princesa to Tubbataha is between 12 - 16 hours and any delays to departure due to late arrival of guests may result in dives being missed.

Your Cruise Director will schedule up to 4 dives per day; 3 day dives and a sunset dive. A typical diving day is scheduled 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 (no night dives in Tubbataha: due to strong currents!)
- Dinner

Generally, we schedule 2 dives on your final dive day in order to allow enough time for off-gassing. To remain on the safe side, we kindly request our guests to check their own flight times and ensure that they leave a minimum of 24 hours between their final dive and their return flight. Guests are welcome to suggest preferred dive sites to the Cruise Director. He/she will be happy to accommodate guests' wishes, providing it is possible and the schedule allows for it.

Tubbataha

Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park comprises North Atoll, South Atoll and Jessie Beazley Reef. Dive sites consist mainly of vertical walls or near drop offs rising out of great depths. The shallow reef tops are teeming with local reef fish; in many places stingrays, marble rays, spiny lobsters and juvenile reef sharks are common. The angelfish, butterfly fish, rainbow runners, moorish idols, fusiliers, jacks, snappers and sweetlips follow you around. Large trevally, tuna and barracuda as well as grey reef sharks and white tip reef sharks can be spotted patrolling the reefs on the majority of the dive sites, whilst manta and eagle rays are occasional visitors.

There are several species of turtle known to inhabit the waters of this gigantic natural park; the most commonly sighted being green and hawksbill. Groupers and wrasse flourish here and sightings of hammerheads and silver tip sharks have been amongst the large elasmobranchs spotted by guests of the Siren Fleet during our cruises. This really is an amazing dive destination and rated by those who have been fortunate to dive it as one of the world's best.

Dive sites include:

Delsan Wreck - One of the best dive sites in Tubbataha with big schools of big-eyed trevally, yellowtail barracuda, great barracuda, dogtooth tuna, giant trevally together with grey reef sharks and white tip reef sharks.

Black Rock - There is so much to explore at this dive site that we will often spend the whole day diving here. Schools of surgeon fish, rainbow runners and sweetlips are a common sight. White tip and nurse sharks are found resting under huge table corals and scribbled filefish, box fish and leaf fish add to the colour and spectacle of the stunning reefs; a great site for spotting spiny lobster too!

Washing Machine - All manner of colourful reef fish form schools here. From big-eye jacks to tiny orange & purple anthias all creating a welcoming atmosphere. Spot the tiny creatures including cowries wedge themselves amidst the leather corals. It is a great site for turtles, and whale sharks have also been spotted here.

North East Wall - Adorned with stunning sea fans and colourful soft corals. This wall is super for wide-angle photography. Schools of bannerfish hover in the blue, turtles bumble along the wall and from the sandy bed garden eels and gobies emerge.

Shark Airport - Many white tip reef sharks resting at the shallow plateau form a typical sighting; hence the name Shark Airport. Dog tooth tuna, schools of trevally, marble rays, eagle rays, nurse sharks and batfish all add drama to the stunning reef. Turtles and moray eels are a common sight but divers should watch out for the triggerfish.

Amos Rock - Moorish idols, sweetlips and snappers all form large schools here, also commonly seen are white tip reef sharks, great barracuda and giant trevally. When lucky, pygmy seahorse can be found in the gorgonians.

Staghorn Point - Golden, pinnate and longfin spade fish all form schools along this fan encrusted wall, meanwhile clouds of purple anthias hover over the fields of staghorn

corals in the shallow reef top. Also this is a good site to spy turtles, snow flake morays and spiny lobster.

Jessie Beazley Reef - Huge schools of surgeon fish and unicorn fish hover over the reefs, where we commonly see numerous grey reef sharks and huge Napoleon wrasses.

Malayan Wreck - This reef is the habitat for different trevallies, barracudas, bump head parrotfish, juvenile grey reef sharks with the usual suspects darting around. Marbled stingrays can sometimes hang out here.

Moreover, you will have the opportunity to visit the ranger station on the North Atoll to learn more about the marine protection of the area.