



SIREN FLEET

Tubbataha & The Visayas, 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:

For trips to Tubbataha starting from Puerto Princesa, embarkation time is 13:00 from Hotel Centro. Once on board, lunch will be served then there will 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 is between 12 - 16 hours and any delays to departure due to late arrival of guests may result in dives being missed.

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

Your Cruise Director will schedule up to 4 dives per day; 3 day dives and either a sunset or a night 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 dive (no night dives in Tubbataha: due to strong currents!)
- Dinner



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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 Reef

The Tubbataha Reef consists 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, while manta and eagle rays are occasional visitors. There are several species of turtle known to inhabit the waters of the national park; the most commonly sighted being green and hawksbill. Groupers and wrasse flourish and sightings of hammerheads and silver tip sharks have been amongst the large elasmobranchs spotted by guests of the Philippine Siren during our cruises. This really is an amazing dive location and rated by those who have been fortunate to dive it as one of the world's best.

Dive sites include:

Delsan Wreck – This is a great place to spot sweetlips, midnight snapper, spotted eagle rays and grey reef sharks. Schools of jacks hang over the reef which is also home to smaller creatures and we see plenty of odd-shaped sea cucumbers too.

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. Big-eye jacks to tiny orange & purple anthias create a welcoming atmosphere, whilst 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.

Donato's Wall – Adorned with stunning sea fans and colourful soft corals, Donato's wall is super for wide-angle photography. Schools of bannerfish hove in the blue, turtles bumble along the wall and from the sandy bed garden eels and gobies emerge. Nurse sharks are also seen here and the hard coral formations are very impressive.

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.



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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.

Staghorn Point – Golden, Pinate 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 a good site to spy turtles, snow flake morays and spiny lobster.

Jessie Beazley Reefs – Huge schools of surgeon fish and unicorn fish hover over the reefs, where we commonly see numerous grey reef sharks and huge Napoleon wrasse. Hammerhead shark sightings have been consistent during the season also.

Malayan – A super site to focus on macro, numerous shrimps and crabs can be found amongst the corals, whilst many types of nudibranch and sea slug are also found on and around the wreckage. The reef wall is also stunning with colourful fans and corals and several species reef sharks can be seen during the dive. Ghost pipefish can be spotted, hovering around mysteriously.

You will also have the opportunity to visit the ranger station in the North Island to learn more about the marine protection of the area.

Cagayancillo

We break our journey to/from the Visayas at the picturesque island of Cagayancillo where the steep walls are adorned with healthy hard and soft corals along with huge sea fans in which the Denise pygmy seahorses can be found. Colourful reef fish, marbled groupers and Napoleon wrasse all entice divers to stay just a little longer.

Moalboal, Cebu

Kasai Wall – is where we see many turtles – both hawksbill and green turtles are attracted to the reef here. **Dolphin House Reef** – the shallow reef top hosts pipefish and many varieties of nudibranchs. Along the slope we see bannerfish and trevallies, trigger fish and snappers. Turtles are another common sighting.

Tongo Point - yellow tail barracuda, shrimp fish hovering in schools, and schools of big mouth mackerel make for an interesting dive. Add crocodile fish, scorpion fish, sea snakes & turtles for an awesome dive site.

Turtle Bay - makes for an awesome night dive with juvenile pinate batfish, white snout pipefish, soft coral crabs and so many species of nudibranch- far too many to list!

Serena House Reef - a superb spot for a sunset dive to see mandarin fish mating.

Pescador Island

The tiny offshore island of Pescador attracts large schools of sardines, just seeing the wall of fish is spectacular in itself but these sardines have also been known to bring some larger friends with them!



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Fortunate divers have been lucky enough to see whale sharks and thresher sharks here. Other large pelagic fish include dog tooth tuna, potato groupers & yellow-tail barracuda. Oceanic triggerfish, midnight snappers and bluelined fusiliers, as well as trumpet fish, box fish, turtles, angle fish and batfish are commonly seen. The walls themselves are adorned with gorgonian fans, soft and hard corals provide the perfect places for white-eyed morays to lurk.

Sumilon Island

Sumilon Island is where black tip and white tip reefs sharks are known to frequent the waters. The sanctuaries also support numerous fish species and healthy coral growth. Sightings of tuna, batfish, trevally & unicorn fish are common and there is also a wide variety of crustaceans. We typically make two dives here before crossing the strait to Balicasag Island or moving to Pescador Island.

Dependent on our guests' wishes we offer the option to substitute dives for whale shark snorkelling at Oslob, subject to additional fees payable at destination (snorkeling costs 20 Euro and diving 30 Euro).

Apo Island

Apo Island Marine Reserve is one of most successful marine sanctuaries to be established in the Philippines. Night diving is unfortunately not permitted however a sunset dive at The Chapel provides a superb opportunity to watch mandarin fish mating. The order of dives will be based on the currents and conditions of the day choosing from:

Coconut Point - An often fast paced drift brings divers over the sloping coral reef wall. Giant trevally, hump head parrotfish and marbled groupers are seen off the reef along with schools of banner fish. Turtles cruise effortlessly in the currents and nembrotha nudibranchs can be seen munching on tunicates.

Rock Point West - Just beyond the chapel opposite the marine park warden's office, Rock Point offers some of the most stunning hard corals to be found in the region. The steep reef walls support numerous colourful reef species – pyramid butterfly fish and red-toothed trigger fish are here in their hundreds, frogfish, cuttlefish, banded sea snakes and hawksbill turtles are amongst the common sightings.

Boluarte - Marbled groupers, batfish & snowflake morays are to be expected, perhaps attracted by the hot bubbles emerging from the dark sand from the active volcano.

Dauin, Negros

Your Cruise Director will choose sites based on where the most interesting critters are being seen, these sites include:

The Cars - Between 25-30m (80-100ft) 2 Volkswagen are sunk as an artificial reef and attracting schools of lionfish. Nudibranchs, porcelain crabs & ghost pipe fish are amongst the many weird and wonderful creatures found at this site.



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Dauin North - The sanctuary just to the left of The Cars, offers a shallow sloping reef, however it is the sand patches to the right of the sanctuary that really capture our attention. Seahorses, minute frogfish, ghost pipefish, flying gurnards, waspfish, devil scorpion fish, pipefish and octopus are all to be found scurrying over the sand. The sand itself appears to be moving as hundreds of skeleton shrimp bounce their way across. Tiny pygmy pipehorses can also be seen on the shallow shelf during a safety stop – expect to spend a long time here!

Ginama-An - A typical dark sand dive with small out-croppings in which to hunt for octopus, frog fish and scorpion fish, with the occasional turtle cruising by.

Ceres - provides a mix of marine life from schools of snapper, banner fish and fusiliers to tiny bubble coral shrimp and squat lobsters. An assortment of anemone fish can be seen including spine cheek and skunk varieties. Demon stingers and smashing mantis shrimp can be seen scurrying along the bottom and robust ghost pipefish can be spotted bobbing about.

Atlantis Sanctuary - offers a dark sandy slope with a collection of sunken tyres that provide an artificial reef in which seahorses and pipefish, moray eels, lion fish and nudibranchs can all be found. San Miguel another critter wonderland! Painted frogfish, varieties of ghost pipefish, cockatoo waspfish and flamboyant cuttlefish are just a few of the most commonly seen species. Occasionally, we see up to 4 flamboyants in one dive!! During night dives coconut octopus can be seen creeping about with their shells and bobtail squid quickly scurry under the sand.

Balicasag Island

The small island of Balicasag, just off the tip of Panglao, is characterised for its many turtles, coral gardens and steep walls which provide overhangs, cracks & crevices in which to search for a variety of marine species. Sanctuary a steep coral wall covered in soft corals and gorgonian fans. A great place to find frogfish & leaf fish and as you end the dive you can be surrounded by schooling jacks in the shallows.

Divers Heaven/ Cathedral – two dives in one along this stunning wall complete with crags and overhangs. Sponges, sea fans, soft corals and cup corals provide a haven for many tiny critters such as warty frogfish and porcelain crabs. Also seen are schools of pyramid butterfly fish and banner fish, titan triggerfish moray eel and clown anemones.

Rico's Wall - makes for an interesting dive with shallow swim throughs and gaps in the craggy wall, at sunset turtles can be spotted coming into the reef to rest.

Black Forest - once famed for its black coral is where we encounter schools of jacks, meanwhile leaf fish are often seen resting on the rough coral ledges. Turtles are a common sight in the shallow sea grass garden- a perfect place for your safety stop.



Cabilao Island

There are several interesting wall and coral garden dives around the island of Cabilao and we choose from the following:

Cambiquiz - a fantastic spot with a gentle sloping reef and sandy bottom to 20m – soft corals and seapens can be found dotted over the sand; also a great site for sightings of bent stick pipefish and Pegasus sea moths.

Paradise Wall - provides a gentle drift along a fantastic coral reef with schooling fish and plenty of macro life in the shallow water, including odd shaped plakobranks and leaf fish.

Lighthouse - sloping walls full of sponges and gorgonian fans. This is a great place to look for pygmy seahorses and to dive with large green turtles. Also being seen are giant frogfish which can be spotted resting on sponges and numerous cowries hiding amidst the stunning hard coral garden.

Talisay Tree - Pygmy seahorses hang on the huge gorgonian fans that adorn the steep wall. In the shallow coral gardens robust ghost pipe fish attempt to blend in, whilst bubble head shrimps and orangutan crabs are often seen resting on bubble anemones.

South Point - offers you the opportunity to look for white tip reef sharks that hang out in the caverns within the steep coral wall. Huge tube sponges support giant frogfish, whilst leaf fish and many scorpion fish can be found resting in the crevices.

Olango Island & Mactan

Talima Reef Wall - has soft and whip corals where small critters like to hide. The wreckage of a banca can also be found along the sandy reef shelf – a great place to find grouper and sweetlips; whilst jacks and batfish school above you.

Shangri-la House Reef - The topography is diverse with a wreck, white sand a mini wall, sea grasses and plenty of healthy coral. Schooling fish can be seen and a few treats such as, giant clam, jacks, and batfish put in an appearance.