

# COUSTEAU'S NIRVANA

BAU BAU - WAKATOBI - MAUMERE (10 NIGHTS)

## DAY 1 BAU BAU

After boarding Adelaar and your welcome drink, you will have time to settle in, get to know the boat, crew, and fellow passengers, relax and enjoy your first day of living aboard Adelaar.

## DAY 2 BUTON

Beneath the impressive cliffs of South East Buton, lie the first dive sites of the trip. Before falling steeply deep in the clear abyss, the underwater landscape spoils us with large overhangs and terraces. Due to its position facing the open Banda Sea, surprise encounters with migrating bigger denizens of the deep are always possible here. After lunch, we sail into Pasarwajo bay with its magnificent critter hunting spots. (3 day dives, 1 night dive)

## DAY 3 PASARWAJO

The big bay of Pasarwajo in the South East of Buton island is a gem in the treasure that is Indonesian muck or macro diving. Its gentle rubble slopes and seagrass meadows off beaches, and sites underneath pillars of old piers give shelter to weird and wonderful critters such as zebra crabs, harlequin shrimps, and thorny seahorses, flying gurnards, wonderpus, and other cephalopods, amongst others the very rare mototi octopus. At dusk, there is an opportunity to observe the mating ritual of bigger than average mandarin fish that are more photographer-friendly than in other places. (3 day dives, 1 dusk dive)

## DAY 4 WANGI-WANGI

Our first day in what Cousteau called a 'Diving Nirvana'! We start by exploring the 'WA' part of Wakatobi National Park - the best sites Wangi-Wangi Island has to offer. Splendid reefs bathed in a kaleidoscope of colorful fish are waiting for us. Topographically the spots vary between steep slopes, walls that plunge into the deep, clear abyss of the Banda Sea, and submerged seamounts. (4 day dives)

## DAY 5 KALEDUPA

We'll start with an iconic Wakatobi site on the North East of Karang Kaledupa (the 'KA' of WaKaTobi), a seemingly endless maze of submerged seamounts all interconnected by ridges, shallow enough to be completely covered in pristine corals. In the afternoon we do some gentle drift diving at the entrance of one of the typical Wakatobi atolls - usually very rich in fish life and there is also a chance to spot the odd eagle ray or shark in the clear blue water. In the late afternoon we head over to the world renowned Wakatobi resort for some coffee and their famous homemade gelato. (3 day dives)

## DAY 6 TOMIA

The island Tomia, the 'TO' part of WakaTObi, is the heart of the national park, and its reefs form the epicentre in terms of Wakatobi's celebrated marine biodiversity.



Born to explore

Today's dives take us on exposed seamounts surrounded by myriads of fish, great hard coral ridges that are studded with sea fans that are home to different species of pygmy seahorses and stunning walls. (3 day dives)

## DAY 7 KOMBA

Komba is a unique place. This island is actually the tip of Batu Tara, a volcano rising from the depth, piercing the blue waters of the Flores Sea. Diving the stark underwater landscape on the flanks of this occasionally still visibly and audibly active volcano is unique. The dark grey substrate gives a beautiful contrast to the colors of the hard and soft coral formations and big barrel sponges towering on top of the underwater ridges. Its remote location, alone in the middle of the sea, typically guarantees excellent visibility and may attract pelagic predators. (3 day dives, 1 night dive)

## DAY 8 PANTAR

Today's four dives in the scenically beautiful Pantar straight are distinctly different from one another: it starts with a first morning dive on a stunning wall that is covered so completely in soft corals that we might get a sensory overload. After breakfast, we dive a unique site that is covered in carpets of anemone - and is known for attracting mola molas and thresher sharks. In the afternoon and at night we may meet hairy frogfish, mimic octopus, rhinopias, Ambon scorpion fish, hairy octopus, thorny seahorse, hairy shrimp, Halimeda ghost pipe fish, and other critters on the rich dark sands of Beangabang Bay in the South of Pantar. Another highlight will be the enthusiastic welcome we will get by the village kids when we go on shore and let them guide us through their home. (3 day dives, 1 night dive)

## DAY 9 ALOR STRAIT

The weather this time of the year typically provides good conditions to dive the exposed sites of the barren, dry south of the Alor archipelago. Apart from iconic huge soft coral 'trees' growing on the seafloor and profuse coral growth all around, we can expect a lot of pelagics, clouds of anthias, and may even be lucky enough to meet mola molas or thresher sharks. After the afternoon dive, we will raise the sails to sail into the sunset in style. (3 day dives)

## DAY 10 SOLOR

The final two dives of the trip will be on a site in the Savu Sea that is known for attracting manta rays. After the dives Adelaar weighs anchor and starts heading toward our final destination of Maumere - via the scenically breathtaking Larantuka Narrows. We will have our farewell dinner before arriving in Maumere in the early hours of the next day. (2 day dives)

## Day 11: MAUMERE

After a last delicious breakfast, it is time to say goodbye and disembark - until the next time.

*(Itinerary may vary depending on weather and sea conditions)*

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