

Forgotten Islands 11 Nights

Saumlaki to Tual or Tual to Saumlaki or Saumlaki to Maumere or Maumere to Saumlaki

Length of trip - 12 Days / 11 Nights

Dives - Approximately 32 dives in total

Experience - Open Water - No minimum logged dives required.

Sample Itinerary for Maumere to Saumlaki

Day 1: Arrival and boarding Indo Aggressor
Maumere

Day 2: Sizzling Critters Giant Bats
Lewoleba Ipet Island

Day 3: Dramatic Walls and Thundering Fireworks
Teluk Waiyinga Komba Volcano

Day 4: Mythical Alor
The Alor Strait

Day 5: A Submarine Wonderland
Wetar

Day 6: Hard Coral Ridges
Romang

Day 7: Along The Circle of Fire
Damar

Day 8: Reefs Of Discovery
The Leti Islands

Day 9: Picture Perfect Atolls
The Sermata Reef Complex

Day 10: More Islands To Explore
Babar

Day 11: The Tanimbar Islands
West Yamdena

Day 12: Disembarkation
Saumlaki

Please note: This itinerary is only an example and may at times vary and visit different areas than the above.

All is dependent on weather, sea conditions and marine life expectations.

Where are the The Forgotten Islands?

Adventure, unknown dive sites, spectacular scenery off the beaten track... this is The Forgotten Islands.

The Forgotten Islands are part of Indonesia's south Maluku province, a region located at the extreme south eastern boundary of the country and less than 200 nautical miles from the northern tip of Australia.

These cruises concentrate on the most unexplored regions of the country and will start or finish in either Maumere, on the north coastline of east Flores or at Saumlaki on Jamdena, the largest island of the Tanimbar group.

These itineraries will give guests the opportunity to dive some of the fabulous sites of East Nusa Tenggara around Lembata, Pantar and Alor during the cruise as well as exploring the fascinating reefs, walls and topside scenery of the islands further east, the mysterious and rarely visited Forgotten Islands.

East Nusa Tenggara.

For cruises that start from Maumere, the Indo Aggressor will initially be covering areas that we have been visiting for many years, the line of islands that include Lembata, Pantar and Alor.

These areas were part of our initial eastern explorations many years ago when the Indo Aggressor was brand new and features incredible clear water wall and reef dives.

Alor, located at the very end of the Nusa Tenggara archipelago is the last large landmass you will see before we move further east and enter the region known as The Forgotten Islands, the most southerly part of Indonesia's Maluku province.

These smaller island groups mark the southern boundary of the immense Banda Sea to the north.

The Banda Sea is a huge expanse of open ocean approximately 200 nautical miles from north to south and 450 nautical miles from west to east and in certain parts over 5,000 metres deep. Around the south-east edge there are two distinct lines or arcs of islands that appear as the sea gets shallower, the inner line and the outer line, these are The Forgotten Islands.

The Damar Ridge

The most northern or inner line of islands guests will visit are located along the top of a marine mountain range known as the Damar Ridge and take in the islands of Wetar, Romang, Damar, Nila, Serua and finally Manuk as well as their numerous satellite islands and associated shallow reefs and atolls.

Composed of a chain of high jungle clad volcanoes and surface breaking coral reefs that run up in a curve from south-west to north-east, the Damar Ridge is a mini "Ring of Fire" and their close location to the extremely deep waters of the Banda Sea makes them a magnet for all manner of marine life.

The southern arc of islands, which extend eastwards from the island of Timor are in shallower water and are larger with the topside consisting of barren limestone hills and mangrove forests.

The coastlines are fringed by white sandy beaches shaded by swaying palm trees before the sea begins to run over extensive reefs and atolls.

South to Saumlaki

This southerly line starts in the west at the Leti island group and continues to the atolls and island of Sermata, Barbar, and the Tanimbar Islands before finishing at the Kei and Aru island groups, made famous as the final destination of the "Ring of Fire" television documentary.

The diving and anchorages across this southern line are for the most part more sedate than those on in the north, although they are certainly not lacking in vibrant reef life and incredible topside scenery.

Getting There

The embarkation port for many of these special trips is Maumere, north Flores. This is easily accessible from Bali, sometimes with a non-stop flight.

The other ports of embarkation or disembarkation will be Saumlaki or Tual, the capital of the Kei Islands for the rest. Both Saumlaki and Tual require transiting through Makassar airport on Sulawesi and Ambon.

Airports

All itineraries will start and end at the following locations.

The airports you will fly in and out of are:

Maumere Airport (MOF)

Tual Airport (LUV)

Saumlaki Airport (SXX); on the island of Saumlaki-Yamdena Island, Indonesia

Ambon (AMQ)

Cuisine

Komodo diving can be hungry work so on a Indo Aggressor dive cruise there is always plenty of great food to be enjoyed on our cool decks or air conditioned lounge.

After an early morning beverage, delivered to your cabin, breakfast is cooked to order and is always accompanied by fresh fruit and cereals.

Lunch is buffet style and is generally varied and interesting Indonesian cuisine with other additions.

In between times snacks are provided throughout the day to keep your diving strength up.

When the diving day is over it's time to sit down for dinner around the main deck table to recount your underwater adventures and enjoy our head chefs range of international dishes and maybe have a glass or two of wine - all fully inclusive of course.

Photo and video

Komodo diving provides a myriad of photo opportunities and the Indo Aggressor is comprehensively set up for the underwater imagemakers with dual voltage charging stations, large camera set-up and storage areas, digital download and burn facilities and even film-making capabilities.

Large tables in the lounge make working on cameras and housings a breeze and we have a large tool kit if things start to get serious. Laptop power points are situated at these tables too for easy downloading and editing.

Transporting your imaging equipment to the dive sites is worry free too, our tenders are camera safe with sprung rubber flooring for protection.

When the diving is over there is a huge wide-screen TV in the lounge for video and image viewing or presentation and our on-board experts are always on hand to give you advice and guidance to help you capture your own exciting pictures.

Rental

Want to try your hand at underwater imaging? Diving in Komodo gives our guests such a huge range of subjects, large and small, that it is a great place to learn to get pictures of your own.

The Indo Aggressor has on board underwater camera and video rental equipment to get you

started. High quality digital and still video can be shot, downloaded and edited, with the guidance of our experienced dive crew, so that when you get back home you can enjoy your Komodo experience with family and friends.

Nitrox

Diving with nitrox has become the rule rather than the exception these days on Komodo liveaboards. When submerging up to five times a day to depths of 20 metres or more the elevated levels of oxygen in our mix keeps us safe and out of the dreaded decompression zone.

The Indo Aggressor was the first vessel in the region to offer nitrox and runs a Nitrox Technologies membrane system to produce EANx. This is the latest method of production and is very safe and accurate.

We have five separate O₂ analysers on board to enable our divers to analyse and log their own cylinder (32%) with every new fill.

The NT system differs from other production methods in that we subtract nitrogen from the mix rather than adding oxygen - so no heavy cylinders on board. Production limit is 40% for SCUBA or rebreather use.

Tenders

The two twin tenders were made in Bali by Bali Fibreglass close to our home port of Benoa to our own design. They are 6 metres long and 2.5 metres wide and are each powered by two 40 hp Yamaha outboards. They have electric starters and are driven from the front leaving most of the interior free for divers. Each craft has its own Oxygen Unit, VHF Radio, Camera Area, Shot Line, Stern Line and Electric Bilge Pumps. They are each crewed by at least one Divemaster as well as a driver and an assistant.

The divers sit either facing forwards or backwards with their scuba units secured in special slots in the seats.

This enables us to re-fill your cylinders in position so there is no need to carrying your equipment up and down the tender entry staircase.

Dive safety equipment

Diving in Komodo can sometimes mean diving in currents and there are certain pieces of equipment that are needed for safe operations. The Indo Aggressor carries SMB's (safety sausages) and Dive Alerts for our guests use though it is recommended that they bring their own.

Guests will be also issued with an EPIRB (Electronic Positioning Device), if desired, and shown it's correct method of operation.

The main vessel and both tenders carry O₂ units. If there are guests on board who have training in O₂ administration they are shown the location and correct operation of these units.

The Indo Aggressor also carries a comprehensive first aid kit for any cuts, scrapes and headaches.

The yacht offers 3 to 4 dives per day depending on itinerary including night dives.

Depth Range: 30 – 100 ft (9m – 30m)

Water temperatures: 84F/29C in the northern region.

3mm wetsuit is recommended year round.

Guests are also suggested to bring reef hooks for use at some dive spots

All diving is done from two 20' x 8' tenders.

