

Dewi Nusantana

CRUISING ITINERARY 08

INDONESIA OCEANIA

TRITON BAY - THE BOMBERAI PENINSULA - THE EASTERN FORGOTTEN ISLANDS (KAIMANA TO TUAL)







Indonesia Oceania

Join Dewi Nusantara as she embarks on yet another voyage of discovery. This is a one-off exclusive cruise that starts from the West Papuan frontier town of Kaimana in early March and finishes at Tual, the capital town of the Kei Islands. The scuba diving highlights along the route include Triton Bay, with the added attraction of the Namatote whale sharks. Moving northward along the West Papuan coastline, there are many spectacular offshore seamounts to discover before heading west to the remote outpost of Koon. Dewi will then head south and take in the wonderful dive sites and topside scenery of the Watubela and Kei Islands.

Triton Bay

At the beginning of this custom cruise, we explore the hidden gems of Triton Bay, Indonesia's latest must-see destination. Triton Bay boasts abundant soft corals, literally light-blocking schools of fish, and a plethora of magnificent macrolife. In addition to these wonders, Triton Bay is home to one of the most spectacular whale shark experiences anywhere on the planet.

The Bomberai Peninsula

After leaving Triton Bay, Dewi heads north-west to visit the spectacular destinations of the Bomberai Peninsula, where a wealth of brand new marine adventures await. Offshore, there are numerous newly discovered seamounts literally buzzing with marine life. Closer to the peninsula's dramatic coastline, there is plenty more to see, along with some very intriguing surprises.













The Eastern Forgotten Islands

After sampling Koon's marine adventures on the south-east corner of Ceram, Dewi turns south to explore the Eastern Forgotten Islands. This stunning archipelago features some wonderful dive sites where the resident marine life has rarely seen scuba divers. These islands also offer idyllic topside scenery to go along with their underwater treasures.

The Kei Islands

Diving in the Kei Islands is a remarkable adventure, offering a combination of stunning underwater scenery, rich marine life, and cultural experiences. Whether you're a seasoned diver or a beginner, the Kei Islands provide an unforgettable diving destination.

Get On-Board with Dewi Nusantara

For a single cruise in the month of March, during her season, Dewi Nusantara will depart on this ground-breaking new itinerary. Begin your next scuba adventure on board the Indonesian archipelago's premier liveaboard and experience the best that Indonesia has to offer, along with Dewi Nusantara's outstanding service, exceptional facilities, and her highly experienced crew.









Destinations: Indonesia Oceania

Cruise Route 🗢

Namatote & Mauwara 🗢

North Aiduma 🗢

Dramai & South Aiduma 🗢

Momon 🗢

Teluk Sebakor 🗢

Koon 🗢

The Watubela Islands 🗢

Bui 🗢

The Kei Islands 🗢

Cruise Notes 🗢















Namatote & Mauwara

If Namatote Island is famous for one thing, it must be for the incredible close-up whale shark interactions. A narrow strait separates this island from the West Papuan mainland, and there are numerous traditional fishing plaforms located at the north and south ends of this narrow waterway. The local fishermen use these complex wood, wire, and rope constructions, known as bagans, to lure huge schools of tiny anchovies, sardines, and sprats into the nets suspended underneath using strong lights. They then lift the nets, trapping their bounty.

What has happened at Namatote is that this fishing activity has gained the attention of the local whaleshark population, who view the baitfish as an important food source. Surprisingly, the fishermen have struck up a symbiotic relationship with these massive animals and regard them as good luck charms, and nowadays it is possible to dive and snorkel with these magnificent creatures. As an added bonus, there is the opportunity to spot plenty of other marine life attracted to the commotion, including pods of dolphins, schooling tunas, and even sailfish and marlin.











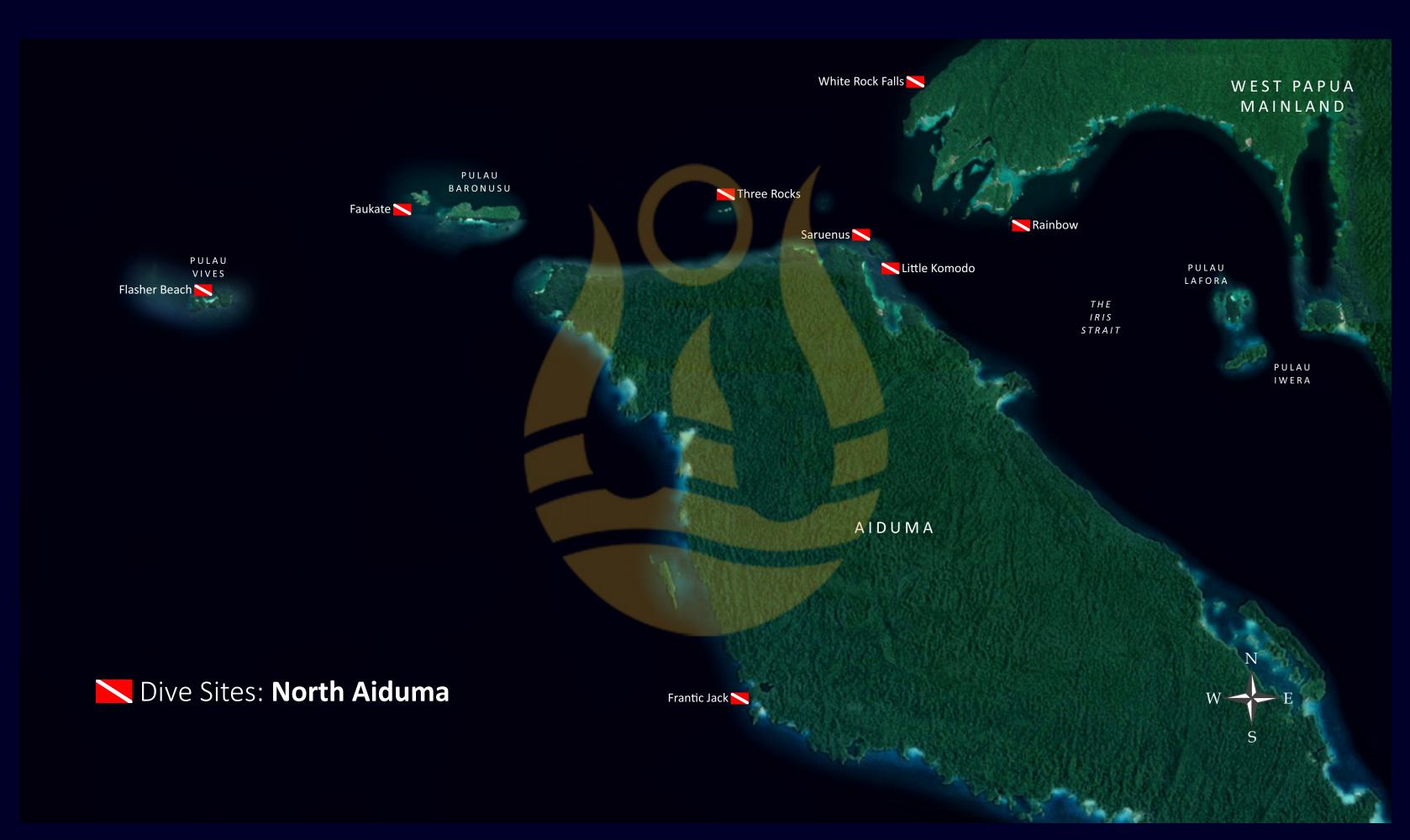


North Aiduma

The untouched marine scenery of Triton Bay has been high on the wish lists of adventurous scuba diving enthusiasts for some time now. In some ways, the protected bay forms a unique microecosystem, and at its centre is the northern section of Aiduma Island, which features many of the region's wonderful diving and snorkelling sites.

Separated by the Iris Strait, Aiduma lies parallel to the mainland of West Papua. There are plenty of great places for scuba divers to explore, including some pretty smaller islands and rocky coves around the shoreline, all surrounded by dazzling coral reefs.

Due to the islands' proximity to the mainland, the passages between the islands form bottlenecks, which concentrate the nutrient-rich tidal currents that flow up and down the Iris Strait, creating a wide range of diverse and easily accessible marine environments, all bursting with technicolour soft corals and a wild mix of marine life.













Dramai & South Aiduma

The rocks and reefs around the island of Dramai and the southern end of Aiduma are full of surprises, and it certainly looks like there is still lots more to uncover for inquisitive divers.

The sites down here are full of vibrant soft corals, extensive hard coral gardens, and seamounts, all densely packed with an astonishing variety of marine life. Pulau Maunus is one of the area's typical sites. This is a magnificent dive that rivals the very best at Komodo and Raja Ampat. The underwater architecture is mind-blowing; it even features a swimthrough, and the reef fish are strangely unafraid of divers.

Excellent soft and hard corals cover the rocky sides of the island, giving way to scattered fields of house-sized boulders and rocky ledges. The action usually takes place on the ridges that extend from each end, where schools of baitfish are often under the furious attack of the huge giant trevallies that patrol the site.













Momon

Scuba diving along the rarely explored coastline of the Bomberai Peninsula is legendary, and the sites at Momon are no exception. The reefs surrounding the small islands on the seaward side of the headland are proving to hide some prolific dive sites, as well as some very unusual marine life sightings.

Six nautical miles directly west of the waterfall lies a vast marine mountain that rises up to within 10 metres of the ocean's surface. Stretching for hundreds of metres before sloping off into the depths, it is possible to encounter several different species of shark, manta rays, and huge schools of fish over the dense, undulating coral fields that cover the northern edges of the seamount.

Above the waterline, the focal point of this incredible anchorage is the spectacular Kiti Kiti waterfall, which thunders directly into the ocean. Stemming from a turbulent, clear water stream that originates in the highlands of the Papuan jungle, the cool, fresh water terminates in spectacular fashion amongst the beautiful primordial jungle at the shoreline.











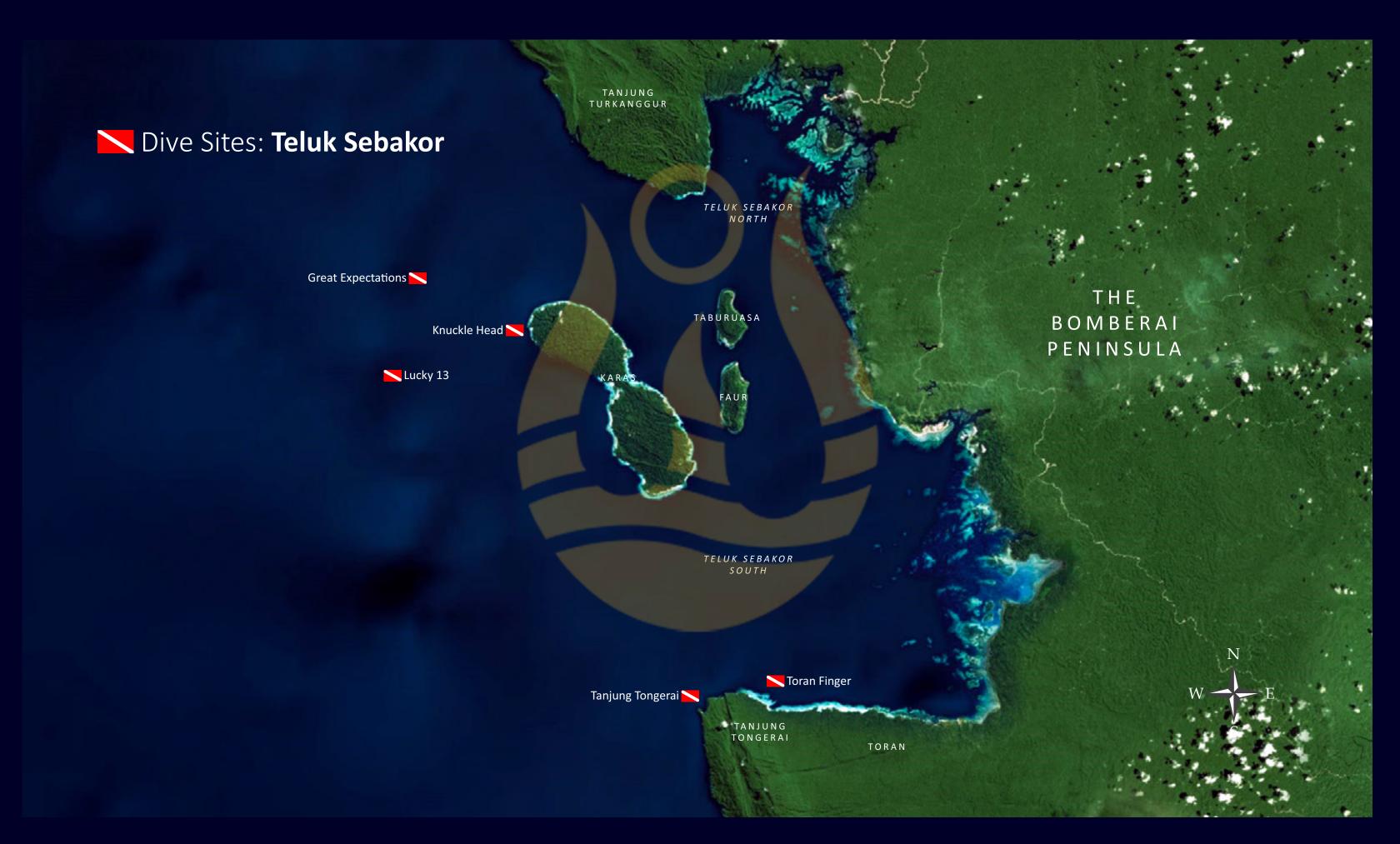
Teluk Sebakor

Teluk Sebakor bites deep into the western coastline of the Bomberai Peninsula, with Tanjung Turkanggur forming the northern boundary and Tanjung Tongerai to the south.

The seascape inside the bay is a sprawling mass of shallow reefs and waterways that back onto huge mangrove forests and rivers that snake into the interior of the Papuan mainland.

Karas, Taburuasa, and Faur islands populate the bay, and these are all ripe for new dive site exploration. However, the main points of interest here at Sebakor are the spectacular offshore seamounts. Only recently discovered, they easily equal many of Indonesia's similar but more well-known dive sites.

The north-facing Tongerai headland has also been explored, and some worthwhile spots have been found. Oceanic manta rays and whalesharks have been spotted gliding over the reefs close to a shoreline that boasts a maze of narrow waterways between karst islands that hide a collection of small, secluded sandy coves backed by thick green forest.











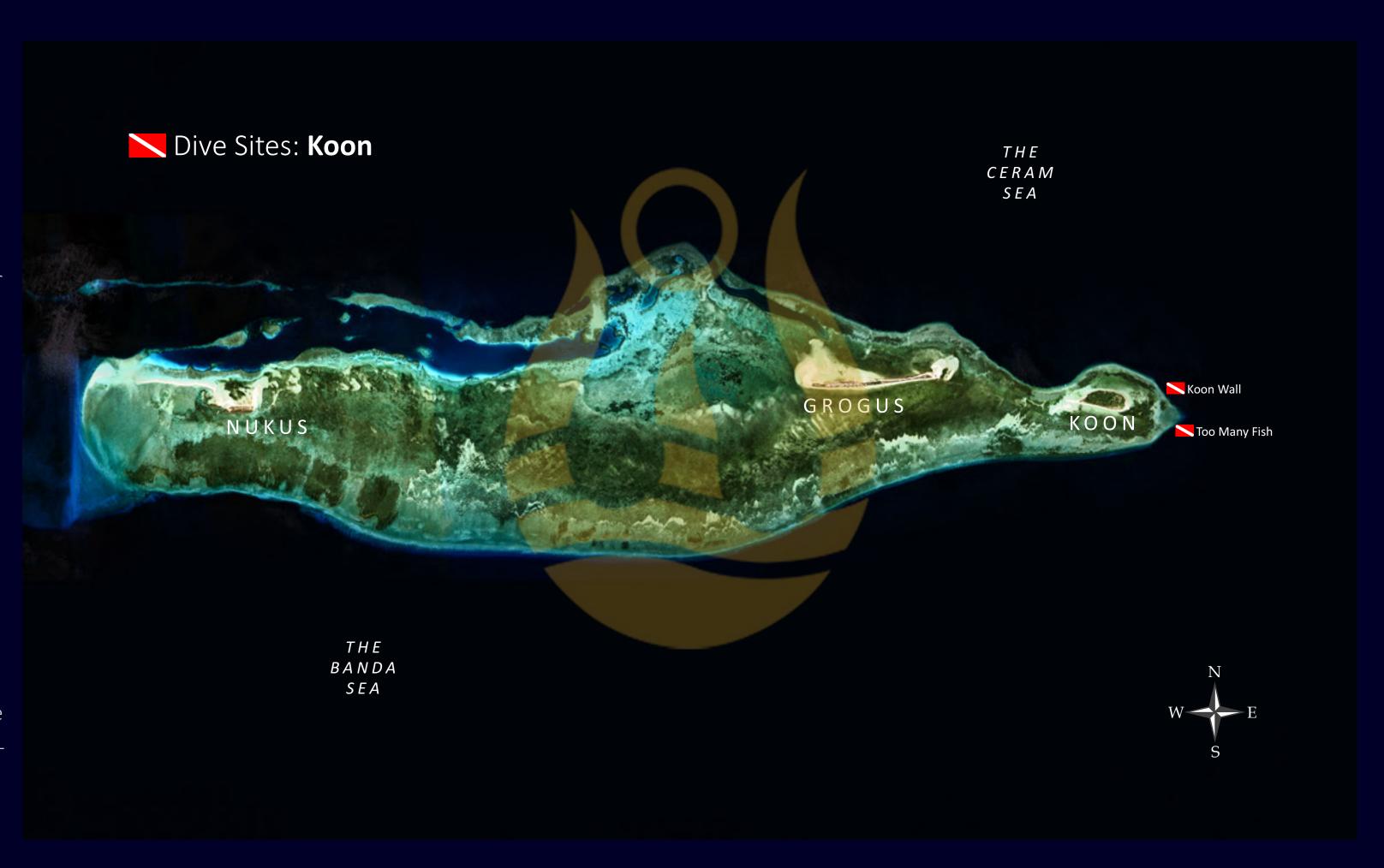


Koon

Koon is the furthest east of a collection of three small sandy coral cays, which also include Nukus and Grogus. Extending out into the depths of the Ceram Sea, they cover just eight nautical miles of shallow reefs, deep drop-offs, and sandy terra firma. The whole group is fantastic for snorkelling, swimming, and kayaking in the numerous blue pools and over sparkling corals, but it is scuba diving that Koon is most well-known for.

The focal point of Koon diving is a site called "Too Many Fish," and this title gives you a good idea of what can be seen under the surface. It is located at the eastern tip of the mini-archipelago, where it drops off into much deeper water. Located around a ridge that has a deep wall on the north side and a steeply sloping reef on the south, this is an excellent site that can be dived from numerous entry points.

It is not uncommon to see zebra and hammerhead sharks on the reef and the north wall, along with the "too many fish" that school around this incredible seascape. In addition, there is a lot of potential for exploration along the deep water dropoffs and sparkling reefs that surround the three islands.













The Watubela Islands

Stretching for 30 nautical miles from north to south, the Watubela Islands, an enchanting archipelago in Indonesia's Maluku Province, offer an unparalleled diving experience for adventurers and marine enthusiasts. This remote group of islands boasts pristine waters teeming with vibrant marine life and stunning underwater landscapes.

The coral reefs feature a kaleidoscope of colours and intricate formations, providing a habitat for an array of marine species, from tiny, delicate nudibranchs to larger creatures such as reef sharks and manta rays. The biodiversity is astounding.

The remoteness of the Watubela Islands has ensured that the dive sites are unspoiled, far from the crowds found at more popular destinations. This tranquility, combined with the rich marine diversity and stunning underwater vistas, makes diving in the Watubela Islands and Uran an excellent waypoint along this new itinerary for Dewi's guests to discover.











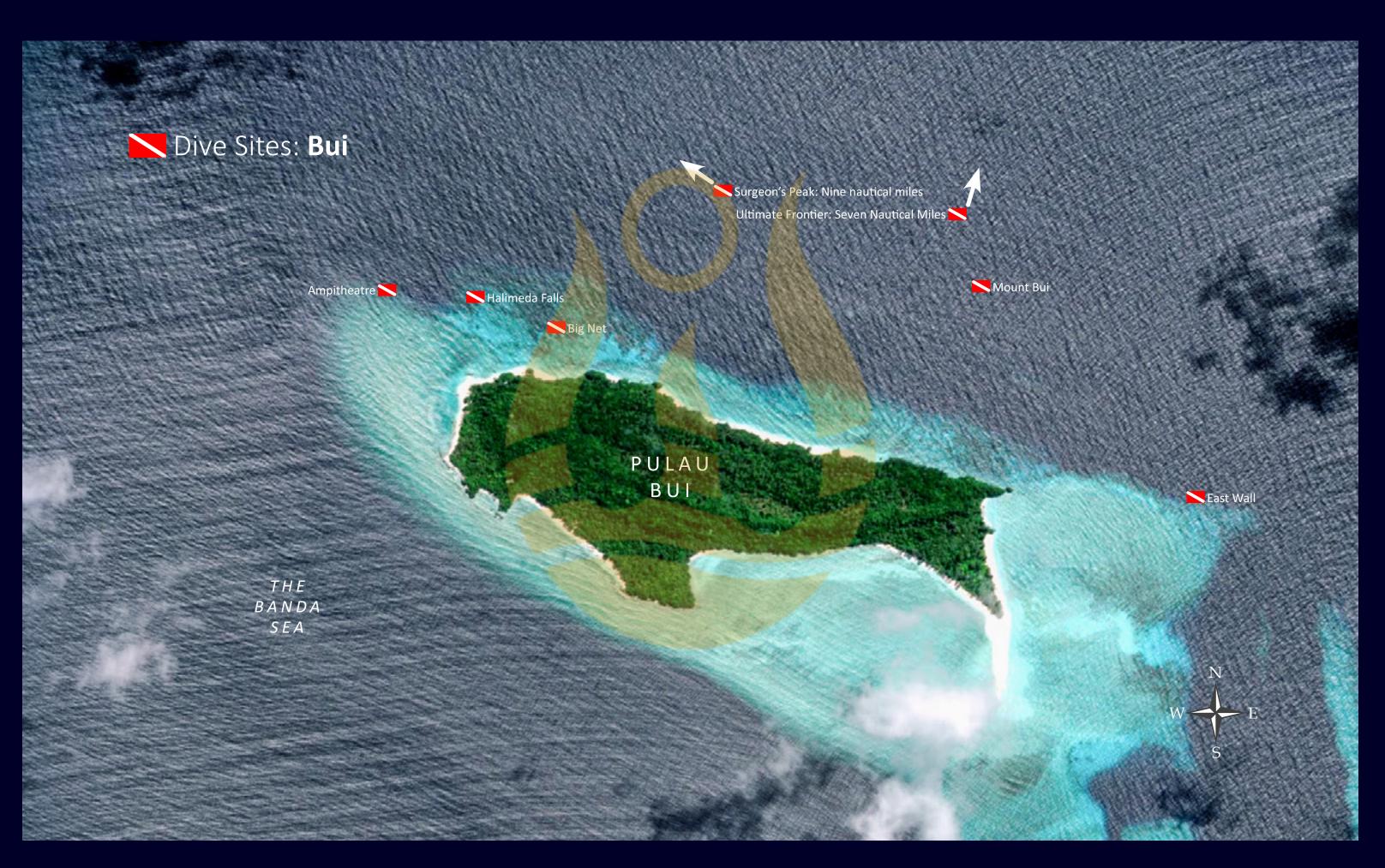


Bui

Bui is the name of a small outpost island at the northern end of the stunning Kei Island collection. This palmfringed group of flat sandy islands boasts some of the best beaches in Indonesia, and Bui is no exception.

Most of the dive sites are located on the north side of the island and feature an intriguing collection of reefs, slopes, and deep walls, along with plenty of critters, both large and small. To add to the excitement, just a few nautical miles further north, there are two huge seamounts that rise from the depths of the Banda Sea. These are both magnificent sites to dive. Just a few metres under the surface, huge schools of pelagic fish drift in the crystal-clear water, and both seamounts are generously populated with pretty coral heads.

The currents that flow over the tops of these marine mountains also attract some of the sea's larger animals. There are manta ray cleaning stations over the reefs, and huge marlin have been spotted while divers are hanging out on an SMB line while completing safety stops.











The Kei Islands

Diving in the remote and spectacularly pretty Kei Islands offers an unparalleled underwater experience with their pristine coral reefs, crystal-clear waters, and diverse marine life. The islands' sites include vibrant coral gardens, walls, slopes, and pinnacles.

With exceptional visibility and rich biodiversity, the Kei Islands are a diver's paradise.

Some of the southerly sandy islands in the group are used by leatherback turtles as nesting sites. Although these are very rare occurences, being able to witness the females coming ashore on the white sand is humbling experience.

Additionally, the cultural richness of the local communities and some of the best beaches on the planet enhance the overall experience.













Cruise Notes

- The suggested itinerary is not fixed. During the cruise, the captain and cruise director assess the prevailing sea, weather, and tide conditions. Where possible, our guest's preferences for certain dive sites will be taken into account.
- The locations included in this itinerary are by no means the only points of interest along the route. There are many more anchorage and activity options available.
- The destinations and anchorages in this presentation are not necessarily in the order the cruise might follow. They are there solely to make the routing easier to understand.
- At times, guests may wish to stay longer at certain anchorages to fully take advantage of what is on offer in that area. The captain and cruise director have discretion over this as long as it fits within the cruise timeline.
- Between anchorages, there can be longer passages, mostly undertaken during the night.
- Aside from the arrival and departure destinations, our itineraries avoid densely populated areas and busy ports.
- Some of these anchorages offer a variety of activities besides scuba diving and snorkelling, such as kayaking or SUP/paddle boarding. Occasionally, we offer village and cultural visits along with other wonderful topside attractions.











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GODDESS OF THE ARCHIPELAGO

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