



Dewi Nusantara

CRUISING ITINERARY 25

AMBON - HISTORIC BANDA - THE FORGOTTEN ISLANDS - ALOR
LAHA - NUSA LAUT - THE BANDA ISLANDS - THE DAMAR RIDGE - TELANG - NYATA - REONG - ALOR
(AMBON TO KALABAHI)



LAHA - NUSA LAUT - THE BANDA ISLANDS - THE DAMAR RIDGE - TELANG - NYATA - REONG - ALOR

DEWI NUSANTARA ITINERARIES

AMBON, HISTORIC BANDA, THE FORGOTTEN ISLANDS & ALOR

LAHA - NUSA LAUT - THE BANDA ISLANDS - THE DAMAR RIDGE - TELANG - NYATA - REONG - ALOR

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PHILIPPINES

MALAYSIA

LAHA - NUSA LAUT - THE BANDA ISLANDS - THE DAMAR RIDGE - TELANG - NYATA - REONG - ALOR

The Indonesian Archipelago

PACIFIC OCEAN

SINGAPORE

KALIMANTAN

MANADO

HALMAHERA

SUMATRA

SORONG

MANOKWARI

SULAWESI

AMBON, HISTORIC BANDA,
THE FORGOTTEN ISLANDS
& ALOR

CERAM

WEST PAPUA

BALI SEA

MAKASSAR

AMBON

KAIMANA

JAKARTA

BANDA SEA

TUAL

ARU

JAVA

KALABAHI

SAUMLAKI

INDIAN OCEAN

BALI

DENPASAR

SUMBAWA

LABUAN BAJO

MAUMERE

EAST TIMOR

SUMBA

FLORES

WEST TIMOR

SAVU SEA

KUPANG

ARAFURA SEA

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AUSTRALIA





LAHA - NUSA LAUT - THE BANDA ISLANDS - THE DAMAR RIDGE - TELANG - NYATA - REONG - ALOR

Ambon, Historic Banda, The Forgotten Islands & Alor

Embark on an exclusive, one-of-a-kind expedition during Dewi Nusantara's cruising year - an odyssey through some of Indonesia's most breathtaking and storied destinations, all within a single unforgettable journey.

This once-in-a-lifetime adventure takes you deep into the heart of the Coral Triangle, where natural beauty and rich history collide. Begin in Ambon and the enchanting Lease Islands, a gateway to vibrant marine life and cultural heritage. Then, journey to the legendary Banda Islands, where the echoes of the historical spice trade blend with the remarkable topside scenery, dazzling coral reefs, and outstanding marine life.

Venture further into the remote and enigmatic Forgotten Islands, a vast and untouched archipelago that few have had the privilege to explore. Finally, your voyage culminates in the eastern reaches of the Nusa Tenggara island chain, where Alor's pristine dive sites offer unparalleled visibility and access to some of the world's most extraordinary macro marine life.

This is more than a diving trip - it's an expedition into the unknown, a chance to witness Indonesia's most iconic and hidden treasures in one seamless voyage.



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LAHA - NUSA LAUT - THE BANDA ISLANDS - THE DAMAR RIDGE - TELANG - NYATA - REONG - ALOR



Ambon & The Lease Islands

Sitting below the vast landmass of Ceram, in the deep waters of the Banda Sea, the Lease Islands - Haruku, Saparua, Nusa Laut, and Molana - offer a spectacular and diverse scuba diving experience. Located in Indonesia's Central Maluku province, these islands are known for their stunning coral gardens, dramatic underwater topography, and thriving marine ecosystems, making them a top destination for divers seeking adventure and beauty beneath the waves.

These islands feature an array of dive sites with breathtaking coral gardens, steep drop-offs, and vibrant marine biodiversity. Schools of colourful reef fish, turtles, and even reef sharks can often be spotted gliding through the crystal-clear waters. The reefs here are adorned with impressive steep slopes lined with cup corals, soft corals, giant sea fans, and towering sponges. The sheer diversity of coral formations creates a dazzling marine seascape.

One favourite site is the reef at Ameth, on the north-east tip of Nusa Laut, considered one of the finest dive spots in the area. Its pristine condition and extraordinary biodiversity make it a must-visit for serious divers.

When combined with the stellar critter or muck diving at Laha, diving in the Lease Islands promises an exciting array of marine life encounters. Divers can expect to see reef sharks patrolling the depths, graceful sea turtles drifting through the currents, and a whole host of smaller critters hiding among the corals and rubble. The nutrient-rich waters also support an incredible variety of reef fish, adding to the vibrancy of this underwater paradise.





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Historic Banda

Rising majestically from the depths of the Banda Sea, the legendary Banda Islands exude an irresistible allure, unmatched by any other destination in the Indonesian archipelago. While their rich and tumultuous history as the epicentre of the global spice trade is well known, it is their extraordinary marine environment that is now taking centre stage.

The Banda Sea plunges to staggering depths, and within this vast expanse lies a secluded chain of islands perched atop an underwater mountain range. At the heart of this cluster are Banda Neira, Lontar, and the awe-inspiring Gunung Api volcano. These three islands form the core of the Bandas, offering world-class critter diving, particularly for those eager to spot the elusive and dazzling Mandarin fish.

Venturing beyond lie the islands of Run, Ai, Hatta, and the stunning Skaru Reef. Further still, the remote outcrop of Suangi stands as a beacon for marine life. Here, dramatic drop-offs, sheer walls, and vibrant coral gardens flourish in crystal-clear waters, teeming with a kaleidoscope of reef fish and frequented by larger pelagic species, including majestic hammerhead sharks.

Diving in the Banda Islands is nothing short of spectacular, offering a rare blend of macro and pelagic encounters. Beneath the waves, every dive promises a discovery - whether it's the intricate beauty of a tiny nudibranch or the exhilarating presence of schooling barracuda. Above the surface, the islands' historical charm adds yet another layer of magic to the experience, making every moment in this remote paradise truly unforgettable.





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The Forgotten Islands

After departing Saumlaki, Dewi Nusantara navigates towards the our first destinations in the Forgotten Islands. Spreading across the southern borders of the deep blue Banda Sea, the Forgotten Islands form an extensive chain stretching over 1,000 kilometres between Timor and West Papua

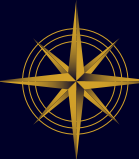
Officially known as Maluku Tenggara (the south-east Maluku), this remote and largely uncharted region remains one of the country's most pristine natural frontiers. Isolated from major settlements and untouched by mainstream tourism, these islands offer a rare glimpse into a world where nature and tradition thrive undisturbed.

The geography of this vast archipelago is strikingly diverse. Towering volcanic peaks, dense rainforests, and rugged limestone terraces define the Inner and Outer Banda Arcs, while the distant Aru and Kei islands feature sprawling savannah, mangrove forests, and flat, open landscapes. The interplay of land and sea has shaped a breathtaking environment where each island tells its own geological story.

As part of the Wallacea biogeographical region, this area serves as a bridge between Asia and Australia-New Guinea, fostering an extraordinary mix of wildlife. The easternmost islands, in particular, share remarkable ecological similarities with New Guinea, making them a haven for unique species found nowhere else on Earth.

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Culturally, the people of Maluku Tenggara are deeply connected to their Austronesian heritage. Across the islands, ancient traditions endure through masterful wood carvings, striking ikat textiles, and woven bamboo crafts. Mythology, ancestral worship, and storytelling remain integral to local communities, preserving a rich and enduring legacy.

Beneath the waves, the Forgotten Islands boast some of the most spectacular diving in the Indonesian archipelago. The marine environment is a paradise for explorers, featuring sheer coral walls, vibrant reef systems, and deep ocean drop-offs teeming with life. Divers have encountered vast schools of bumphead parrotfish, swirling clouds of big-eye trevallies, powerful giant trevallies, sleek Spanish mackerel, and formidable barracudas. In these waters, even hammerhead and whale sharks make their ghostly appearances, adding to the sense of unspoiled wonder.

For divers seeking adventure in its purest form, the Forgotten Islands offer an unparalleled journey into Indonesia's last great wilderness - where land, sea, and culture remain as they have for centuries.

Alor

Sitting at the far eastern end of the Nusa Tenggara archipelago, Alor is a land of striking contrasts and raw natural beauty. Towering peaks rise from the deep blue sea, their rugged slopes draped in lush forests surrounded by wild and wonderful current-swept waterways. This breathtaking destination offers an untamed paradise for explorers and nature enthusiasts alike.





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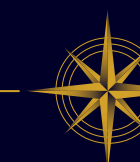


For avid divers, Alor is an underwater sanctuary unlike any other. This secluded corner of Indonesia remains refreshingly untouched compared to more famous diving destinations, offering an exclusive and exhilarating experience. The crystal-clear waters boast extraordinary visibility - sometimes exceeding 40 meters - providing a window into a vibrant marine world teeming with life. From delicate macro critters to awe-inspiring pelagics such as thresher sharks, mola mola (sunfish), and even migrating blue whales, Alor's biodiversity is truly exceptional.

One of Alor's defining underwater features is its powerful currents, which channel nutrient-rich waters through the region, sustaining thriving coral reefs and vast schools of fish. Dive sites like "The Dream" and "Cathedral" offer dramatic underwater topography and heart-pounding drift dives. The famed Alor-Pantar Strait is a diver's playground, home to vibrant coral gardens, mesmerising walls, and world-class muck diving, where elusive creatures like frogfish, rhinopias, and mimic octopuses await discovery.

Beyond its world-class diving, Alor is a living tapestry of cultures and traditions, shaped by centuries of seafaring trade and ancestral heritage. The island is home to a diverse mix of ethnic groups, each with its own distinct language, customs, and rituals. Visitors can immerse themselves in this rich cultural landscape - witnessing time-honoured ceremonies, tasting authentic local cuisine, and engaging

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with the island's warm, welcoming communities. Traditional fishing villages dot the coastline, offering glimpses into a way of life that has remained largely unchanged for generations.

Whether you're plunging into the depths of Alor's pristine waters, trekking through verdant rainforests, or simply savouring the island's tranquil beauty, this hidden paradise promises an experience unlike any other. Alor is more than just a destination - its a journey into the heart of Indonesia's most spectacular natural and cultural wonders.

Get On-Board with Dewi Nusantara

The team that conceived and constructed Dewi Nusantara in 2007 was among the original group of early pioneers that purpose-built liveaboard yachts to explore the seas of the Indonesian archipelago in the mid-90s. With thousands of miles already under her keel, the Goddess of the Archipelago continues to gracefully glide over the azure water that makes this country so unique.

Begin your next scuba adventure on board the Indonesian archipelago's premier liveaboard and experience the very best that Indonesia has to offer, along with Dewi Nusantara's outstanding service, exceptional facilities, and her highly experienced crew.



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About this Itinerary

Our journey takes us from the city of Ambon, the capital of the Central Maluku region, all the way to Kalabahi, the principal town of the Alor Regency. Along the way, we will visit the Banda Islands, the Forgotten Islands of the Damar Ridge on the south side of the Banda Sea, before finishing at Alor, at the eastern end of the Nusa Tenggara archipelago. The total distance is over 650 nautical miles, covering a large amount of open sea. This is further than we would usually cover during a cruise. We may lose some dives if sea and weather conditions become difficult, and as a consequence, our transits take longer than expected.

Weather & Sea Conditions

On any trip out at sea, whether it is close or far, captains and crews always have to take into consideration the prevailing weather and sea conditions. We will try and keep to this published itinerary; however, should this not be possible, it may be necessary to modify this routing.



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Destinations: Ambon, Historic Banda, The Forgotten Islands & Alor

[Cruise Route ↗](#)

[Laha \(Ambon\) ↗](#)

[Nusa Laut ↗](#)

[The Historic Banda Islands ↗](#)

[Run & Suanggi \(Outer Banda Islands\) ↗](#)

[Banda Neira \(Central Banda Islands\) ↗](#)

[Hatta & Skaru Reef \(Outer Banda Islands\) ↗](#)

[Manuk Volcano ↗](#)

[Serua & Kekeh ↗](#)

[Nila Island & Offshore Reefs ↗](#)

[The Damar Group ↗](#)

[The Telang Island Group ↗](#)

[Nyata ↗](#)

[Reong ↗](#)

[The Alor-Pantar Strait ↗](#)

[The Kalabahi Inlet ↗](#)

[Cruise Notes ↗](#)

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Cruise Route: Ambon, Historic Banda, The Forgotten Islands & Alor



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Laha (Ambon)

Not far from Ambon airport, along the northern shore of the Ambon Inlet, the village of Laha is renowned for hosting some of the most extraordinary muck diving sites in the world. Most of the dive points are clustered fairly close together, with names such as Middle Point, Mandarin City, Rhino City, and the one that started it all, the aptly named Twilight Zone. This legendary dive site, located close to as well as underneath the fishing boat piers, is a haven for macro photographers and critter enthusiasts seeking rare and unusual marine life.

What makes The Twilight Zone so exceptional is the unique interplay of natural and human elements. Over time, local fishing activities have contributed organic debris to the sandy, silty, and gravel-strewn seabed, inadvertently creating an ideal microhabitat for an astonishing variety of marine species. Divers venturing into these waters are rewarded with encounters with some of the ocean's most bizarre and





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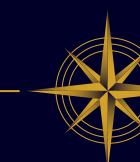


captivating creatures, making every expedition a true treasure hunt for the weird and wonderful.

In recent years, the discovery of additional dive sites a little further afield along this thriving stretch of shoreline has further cemented Ambon's reputation as a world-class muck diving destination. Notably, it was here that the psychedelic frogfish, one of the rarest and most visually striking marine species, was first documented - an extraordinary testament to the area's biodiversity. With ongoing exploration, there is no doubt that more ground breaking discoveries await.

For those seeking a contrasting yet equally thrilling dive experience, the Duke of Sparta shipwreck offers an entirely different underwater adventure. Resting in deeper waters further into the bay, closer to the city, this massive and remarkably intact wreck invites divers to explore its hauntingly beautiful remains - a striking juxtaposition to the critter-filled world of The Twilight Zone.

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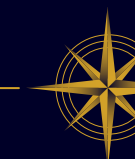


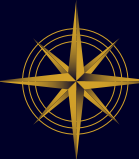
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Nusa Laut

Nusa Laut, the easternmost jewel in the Lease Islands archipelago - which also includes Saparua, Haruku, and Ambon - offers an unspoiled paradise both above and below the sea's surface. The island's landscape is lush with a high-rising interior, fringed by picturesque bays and dotted with small fishing villages that exude charm and tranquillity. The northern bays, in particular, provide a sanctuary for dugongs - the elusive Southeast Asian relatives of the manatee - adding to the island's natural allure.

A testament to the power of community-led conservation, the villages of Ameth and Akon on Nusa Laut's northeast coast stand as shining examples of grassroots environmental stewardship. Captains of visiting yachts are required to report to the village head in Ameth, a minor formality in exchange for experiencing one of the region's most well-protected marine environments. The vigilant efforts of the local community in safeguarding their coastline from





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illegal fishing have resulted in thriving fish populations and pristine coral reefs, making the waters of Nusa Laut a paradise for visiting divers.

Beneath the surface, the island boasts spectacular wall and reef dives, but the true highlight lies in the vibrant reef on its north-western coast. Here, stunning coral formations and abundant marine life create a mesmerising underwater landscape. Adding to the thrill, divers sometimes encounter schools of majestic hammerhead sharks in the deep blue beyond the reef - an unforgettable sight for any underwater explorer. For those seeking even more adventure, a breathtaking underwater arch at Akon on the island's eastern side awaits, just beneath the surface, offering a glimpse into the raw beauty of Nusa Laut's marine wonders.

With its thriving ecosystems, dedicated local guardians, and world-class diving opportunities, Nusa Laut is a hidden treasure in the heart of Indonesia's Maluku region, inviting travellers to experience nature at its most pristine.

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The Historic Banda Islands: *A Timeless Treasure in the Banda Sea*

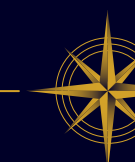
Far out in the remote reaches of the vast Banda Sea, south of the huge landmass of Ceram, lies a small island group steeped in history and natural wonder - the Banda Islands. These islands, once the epicentre of the global spice trade, still whisper stories of their storied past, offering a rare blend of cultural intrigue and breathtaking landscapes.

A Window into a Distant Past

The principal island, Banda Neira, transports visitors back in time to an era when these islands were among the most significant in the world. European remnants of this bygone age still grace the streets - quaint churches, a charming post office, a rustic museum, and street lamps (though no longer in operation) stand as echoes of colonial influence. Towering above it all is Fort Belgica, an imposing 17th-century stronghold that offers panoramic views and a fascinating glimpse into the region's tumultuous history. Wandering through Banda Neira's narrow streets and alleyways is nothing short of spellbinding.

A Land of Contrasts

Just across from Banda Neira's bustling harbour, the striking 600-meter-high volcano island, Banda Api, looms over the seascape. Though its last eruption was in May 1988, the rugged terrain continues to captivate





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adventurers who take on the demanding trek to its summit, guided by seasoned locals. For those seeking a more leisurely experience, a tranquil stroll through the fragrant nutmeg groves of Lontar Island offers a peaceful alternative.

Adventures on Land and Sea

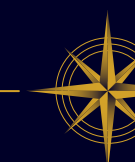
While the inner islands boast pleasant snorkelling spots, the real thrill for visiting yachts comes in the form of a friendly yet fierce rowing competition between islanders and crew members. Racing in traditional kora-kora longboats, the islanders almost always claim victory, leaving visitors with an unforgettable experience and their rowing crews exhausted.

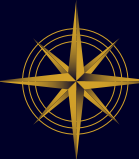
Beneath the waves, the Banda Sea reveals its true magic. These islands, the peaks of an immense underwater mountain range, are surrounded by deep, pristine blue waters teeming with marine life. From vibrant coral walls to rare critter dives, the Banda Islands offer some of the most exhilarating scuba diving experiences in the world, making them a dream destination for underwater explorers.

Safe Haven in a Remote Paradise

For visiting yachts, the most favoured anchorage lies in the sheltered waterway between Banda Neira harbour and the towering Banda Api volcano. Here, amidst the serene beauty

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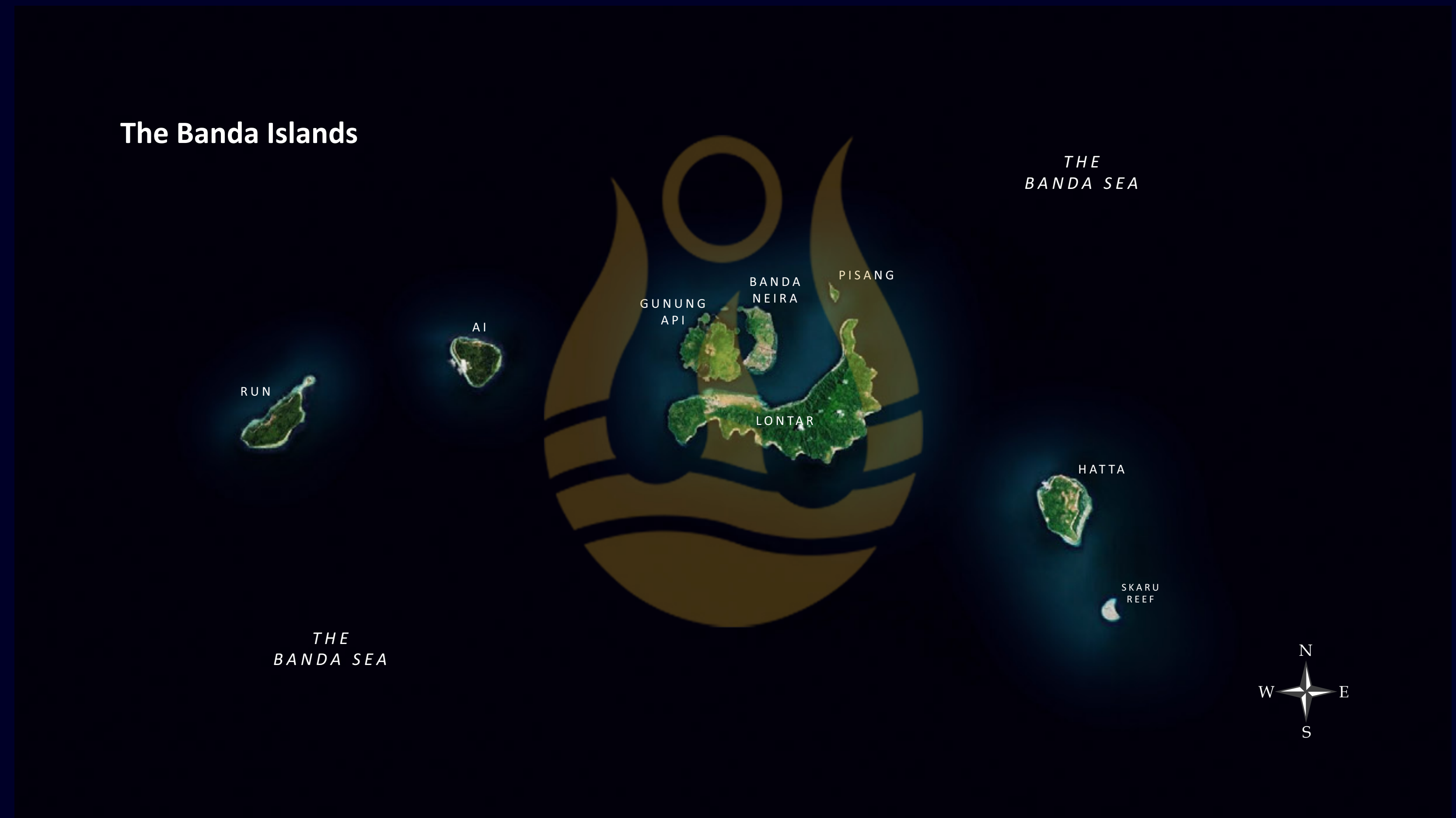




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of the islands, sailors find a perfect haven to rest, explore, and immerse themselves in the extraordinary blend of history, adventure, and natural splendour that defines the Banda Islands.

Whether you're a history enthusiast, an adventurer, or a diver seeking untouched underwater realms, the Banda Islands promise an experience unlike any other - an enchanting journey through time and nature in one of the world's most remote and captivating destinations.



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Run & Suanggi

Diving around the breathtaking island of Run and its smaller, remote neighbour, Suanggi, offers an extraordinary underwater adventure that seamlessly blends history, natural beauty, and exhilarating marine encounters.

Located in the northern reaches of the Banda Sea over 100 nautical miles south-east of Ambon, Suanggi is a rugged, rocky outpost that stands as a gateway to the Banda Islands. Despite its small size and isolated position, this hidden gem is rapidly making a name for itself as one of the Indonesian archipelago's top diving destinations. It is one of the few places where divers have the thrilling opportunity to witness the awe-inspiring spectacle of schooling hammerhead sharks - a bucket-list experience for any underwater enthusiast.

Meanwhile, the dive sites surrounding Run Island boast an astonishing variety of marine life and topographical wonders. Vibrant coral gardens flourish alongside sheer, dramatic drop-offs, creating an awe-inspiring seascape teeming with





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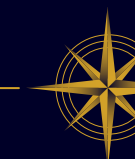


biodiversity. Schools of brilliantly coloured reef fish dart through the reefs, while graceful pelagic species glide effortlessly through the crystal-clear waters. And, just like Suanggi, Run offers divers the exhilarating chance to encounter the elusive hammerhead sharks in their natural habitat.

With visibility often exceeding 40 metres, the waters surrounding Run and Suanggi provide an exceptional environment for underwater photography, allowing divers to capture the rich marine life in stunning detail. Adding to the allure of this extraordinary diving destination is Run Island's fascinating history. Once a crucial hub in the global spice trade, the island's past is intertwined with tales of explorers, merchants, and colonial powers, lending an intriguing cultural dimension to every dive.

Whether you are a seasoned diver seeking new thrills or a beginner eager to explore an untouched marine paradise, the waters of Run and Suanggi promise an unforgettable experience - one where history, adventure, and the wonders of the deep come together in perfect harmony.

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Banda Neira

During our time in the Banda Islands, Dewi Nusantara has explored the outer island of Hatta and the magnificent reef plateau of Skaru. Now, it's time to venture into the heart of this stunning archipelago. A variety of diverse dive sites await, beginning with the remarkable critter dive at Mandarin Hotel.

At first glance, this stretch of rocks and sand - nestled along the border of the colonial Molana Hotel's picturesque gardens - may seem unassuming. However, beneath the surface, it reveals an extraordinary spectacle. In the shallow waters, a vibrant population of mandarin fish, some impressively large, engage in their intricate mating displays at dusk. Unlike in coral-rich environments, these mesmerising creatures must perform their ritual in the open, making them exceptionally photogenic for underwater photographers.

Towering 600 meters above the surrounding waters, the volcanic Gunung Api dominates





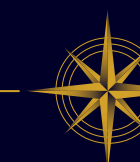
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the skyline of Banda Neira, the principal island. Its most recent eruption in 1988 sent a dramatic lava flow cascading into the sea on the mountain's northeast side. In the years since, this once-barren expanse has transformed into a thriving coral garden, a breathtaking testament to nature's resilience and the rapid regrowth of marine ecosystems. This dive site is a must-visit, offering a rare opportunity to witness the astonishing speed at which coral reefs can recover after a volcanic eruption.

Beyond the protective embrace of Banda's natural harbour, even more exhilarating dive sites beckon. One standout is Batu Kapal, an offshore seamount teeming with marine life. Here, honeycomb moray eels weave through the reef, while immense schools of fish move in perfect synchronicity - a truly unforgettable underwater experience.

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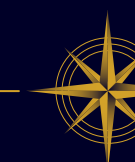
Hatta & Skaru Reef

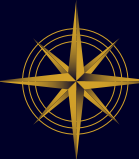
Located just over 10 nautical miles south-east of the central harbour of the Banda Islands at Banda Neira, Hatta Island offers scuba divers an unparalleled underwater adventure. With its crystal-clear waters and an abundance of marine life, the island is a haven for divers seeking both beauty and biodiversity beneath the surface.

From dramatic drop-offs and thriving coral gardens to arches and mysterious underwater caves, Hatta Island's seascape is as diverse as it is stunning.

The vibrant ecosystem teems with colourful tropical fish, graceful turtles, reef sharks, and even occasional encounters with majestic manta rays and playful dolphins. For those seeking a truly exhilarating experience, the deeper waters around the island are known to attract schools of hammerhead sharks, offering an unforgettable and rare diving spectacle.

Just two nautical miles south, the awe-inspiring Skaru Reef (Karang Hatta) awaits. This towering marine mountain, that barely breaks the ocean's





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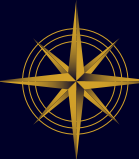


surface at low tide, features a network of shimmering shallows that plunge into the deep, creating thrilling big fish dive sites. The reef's unique topography and nutrient-rich waters attract pelagic species, making it a must-visit for those hoping to encounter sharks, barracudas, and other ocean giants in their natural habitat.

Whether you're an adventurous diver chasing adrenaline-fuelled drift dives or a nature enthusiast eager to witness marine life in its pristine habitat, Hatta Island promises an extraordinary diving experience like no other.

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Manuk Volcano

The BBC wildlife documentary *“Island of the Snakes”* brought global attention to Manuk’s mysterious volcanic island, a place as captivating as it is remote. As dawn breaks and a yacht approaches its rugged shores, the air grows thick with the unmistakable scent of sulphur, a tell-tale sign of the island’s ongoing geothermal activity. Though modest in height - rising just under 300 meters - Manuk plays host to an extraordinary array of seabirds. Frigates and boobies dominate the skies, creating a breathtaking spectacle of avian life.

Encircled by a jagged, rocky coastline devoid of beaches, Manuk presents a strikingly raw and untamed landscape. The sparse vegetation struggles to cling to life above the short tree line, leaving much of the terrain exposed in its stark volcanic glory. Scattered across the island, sulphur-encrusted fumaroles vent wisps of steam, adding an ethereal quality to the scenery. For those with an adventurous spirit, a handful of





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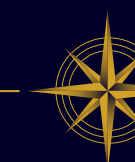
rugged entry points may offer the chance to step ashore for an exploratory trek, though the island remains largely untouched and inhospitable.

Beneath the waves, Manuk offers one of the most unique diving experiences in the region. Its geothermal activity is believed to attract a thriving population of sea snakes, with the olive sea snake being the most prevalent. Divers exploring the island's waters are often treated to close encounters with these sleek, enigmatic creatures.

Manuk Ridge, the island's signature dive site on the southeastern corner, is a favourite among underwater explorers - and, on occasion, schooling hammerhead sharks. Meanwhile, the island's western side features gently sloping reefs adorned with vibrant coral gardens, creating a haven for marine life. Here, sea snakes gather in such remarkable numbers that even the most seasoned divers may find the experience both exhilarating and somewhat unnerving.

From its dramatic volcanic landscapes to its teeming underwater world, Manuk is a destination that few will ever visit - but those who do will never forget.

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Serua & Kekeh

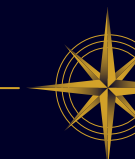
Serua Island, sometimes marked as Legatala on maritime charts, rises dramatically from the depths of the Banda Sea near the eastern tip of the Damar Ridge. This remote volcanic island, standing over 600 meters tall, is a captivating fusion of rugged terrain, verdant forests, and deep sapphire waters. With its steep slopes cloaked in lush greenery and its shores kissed by the waves of the open sea, Serua exudes an air of both mystery and raw, untamed beauty.

A scattering of small villages and seasonal fishing camps dot the island's coastline, where the rhythms of life remain deeply intertwined with nature. Dominated by its towering active volcano, Serua's dramatic landscape tells a story of fire and water, past eruptions having shaped its jagged cliffs and black-sand shores. Steam vents and hot springs dot the island, hinting at the geothermal forces simmering beneath its surface.

Just off Serua's north-western coast, the satellite islands of Kekeh and Kekeh Kecil rise from the



 Dive Sites: **Serua & Kekeh**





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ocean like emerald jewels set in a sea of blue. These secluded isles, blanketed in dense tropical foliage, are surrounded by coral reefs bursting with life. Beneath the waves, an astonishing underwater world awaits - where sprawling coral gardens, steep drop-offs, and intricate reef systems create an aquatic paradise. The Kekeh Islands offer a blank canvas for marine explorers, promising a kaleidoscope of colours and an ecosystem teeming with biodiversity.

For those who venture deeper into the sea, Serua's waters unveil a realm of extraordinary beauty. Pristine coral formations slope to the ocean floor, while towering underwater cliffs plummet into the abyss, providing shelter for an astonishing array of marine life. The island's nutrient-rich currents attract huge schools of barracuda and jackfish and, for the fortunate few, the awe-inspiring spectacle of hammerhead sharks moving in synchronised formation. Renowned among divers for its untouched reefs and thrilling encounters, Serua's submerged landscapes are a marine explorer's dream.

Remote, untouched, and brimming with natural wonders, Serua Island remains a destination for those who seek the extraordinary, a place where adventure and discovery go hand in hand. For those willing to journey beyond the familiar, this isolated paradise offers a rare and unforgettable escape into the wild.

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Nila Island & Offshore Reefs

Perched majestically atop the Damar Ridge, Nila is a breathtaking volcanic island in the heart of the Forgotten Islands. Its rugged picturesque coastline is a haven for adventure-seekers, offering pristine shallow coral reefs perfect for snorkelling and diving. These vibrant reefs teem with marine life, providing an underwater spectacle of dazzling corals and tropical fish. On the island's southern side, an inviting lagoon awaits, ideal for exploration by kayak or paddleboard, allowing visitors to immerse themselves in the island's tranquil beauty.

Just a short journey to the north-west of Nila, the stunning Dusborgh Reef emerges from the depths - a vast, surface-breaking atoll ringed by an explosion of colourful corals, dramatic walls, and sloping reefs. This remote reef boasts multiple dive sites, each offering unique encounters with the region's diverse marine life. Known as a hotspot for big fish action, Dusborgh is one of those rare places in the Forgotten Islands where anything can





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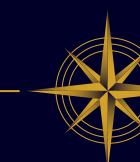


appear at any moment - from large pelagic species to elusive deep-sea dwellers.

Further to the northeast, the legendary Griffin Reef rises from the depths of the Banda Sea, mirroring the striking features of Dusborgh. At its heart lies the intriguingly named Nil Desperandum - Latin for Do Not Despair - a site that captivates even the most seasoned divers. Here, the north-western drop-off and sloping reef showcase some of Indonesia's most spectacular coral growth, forming a thriving marine metropolis. Swirling schools of pelagic fish roam the blue, and, for those with patience and a keen eye, hammerhead sharks frequently grace the site, making it one of Indonesia's premier locations for encounters with these awe-inspiring predators.

Exploring these remote reefs is the very definition of frontier diving - venturing into uncharted waters where few have ever descended. Each dive promises thrill, mystery, and discovery, set against the backdrop of one of the world's last true underwater wildernesses.

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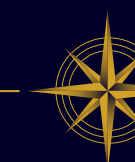
The surrounding islands of Nusleur, Terbang Utara, and Terbang Selatan are premier locations for underwater exploration, each offering distinct underwater landscapes and exceptional biodiversity. Due to the region's remoteness and limited diving activity, marine species here tend to be more curious and less accustomed to human presence, allowing for closer, more intimate encounters.

Located about eight nautical miles west of Damar, Nusleur is an atoll surrounded by coral reefs, while the Terbang Islands, positioned to the south, are nearly identical in size, fringed by vibrant reefs and dramatic drop-offs. Terbang Selatan also features a secluded inner lagoon, which can be explored by kayak when tidal conditions allow.

These dive sites are characterised by sprawling hard coral reefs that extend from the shoreline before plunging into the depths. Towering sea fans cling to the reef walls, offering shelter to an extraordinary array of marine life, including elusive pygmy seahorses and the rare leopard anemone shrimp—both prized discoveries for macro enthusiasts.

Beyond the intricate coral formations, these remote islands also attract an abundance of pelagic species. Schools of fish swirl in the open water, while powerful dogtooth tunas patrol the depths. Nusleur, in particular, is renowned for its exhilarating encounters with hammerhead sharks, making it a must-visit destination for divers seeking awe-inspiring marine life.

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The Telang Island Group

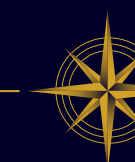
Just east of Romang lies a stunning cluster of islands known as the Telang Group, a wonderfully scenic stop along Dewi Nusantara's navigation of the Forgotten Islands. This picturesque archipelago - comprising Telang, Pulau Laut, Limtutu, and Kital - encircles a serene anchorage seascape, offering a perfect blend of watersports, astonishing white-sand beaches, and world-class scuba diving. The diverse marine landscapes here cater to divers of all skill levels, from gentle reef explorations to exhilarating drift dives through current-swept channels.

The coral reefs surrounding Kital and Telang Islands are a diver's paradise, boasting vibrant, unspoiled marine ecosystems teeming with life. These sites provide a first-class diving experience, where explorers can immerse themselves in dazzling coral gardens and discover an abundance of marine species. For those seeking more dynamic encounters, the channels weaving between the islands present an entirely different

Dive Sites: The Telang Island Group



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spectacle. Stronger currents here attract a wide range of pelagic life, adding an element of excitement to the dives.

One particular site close to the sandbanks on the south side of Pulau Laut has become a hotspot for shark enthusiasts. On several occasions, divers drifting along its sandy slopes have encountered juvenile silver-tip sharks - an exceptionally rare sight in most parts of Indonesia. These agile young predators exhibit playful, acrobatic movements, curiously buzzing past divers before vanishing into the vast blue as they mature into open-ocean hunters.

Shark sightings don't end there. The reefs and channels around Telang are also a favoured resting ground for nurse sharks, with some truly impressive specimens spotted nestled beneath massive coral formations or resting on the sandy seabed of the breathtaking Kital Beach Reef. This pristine marine environment, rich in biodiversity and dramatic underwater topography, makes the Telang Group a must-visit destination for adventurous divers looking to experience Indonesia's wild and untouched underwater world.

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Nyata

The relatively small island of Nyata, situated just under four nautical miles from the north-west coastline of the much larger Romang Island, is one of the most exhilarating diving destinations in the region. Offering some spectacular scuba diving experiences, this hidden gem rises nearly 300 metres above sea level. Its coastline is a striking blend of rocky points and pristine white sand beaches that give way to thriving coral reefs teeming with marine life. Beyond the reefs, the true adventure begins - sheer, current-washed walls, swimthroughs, and ledges terrace down into the deep blue depths of the Banda Sea, providing an unforgettable underwater playground for divers.

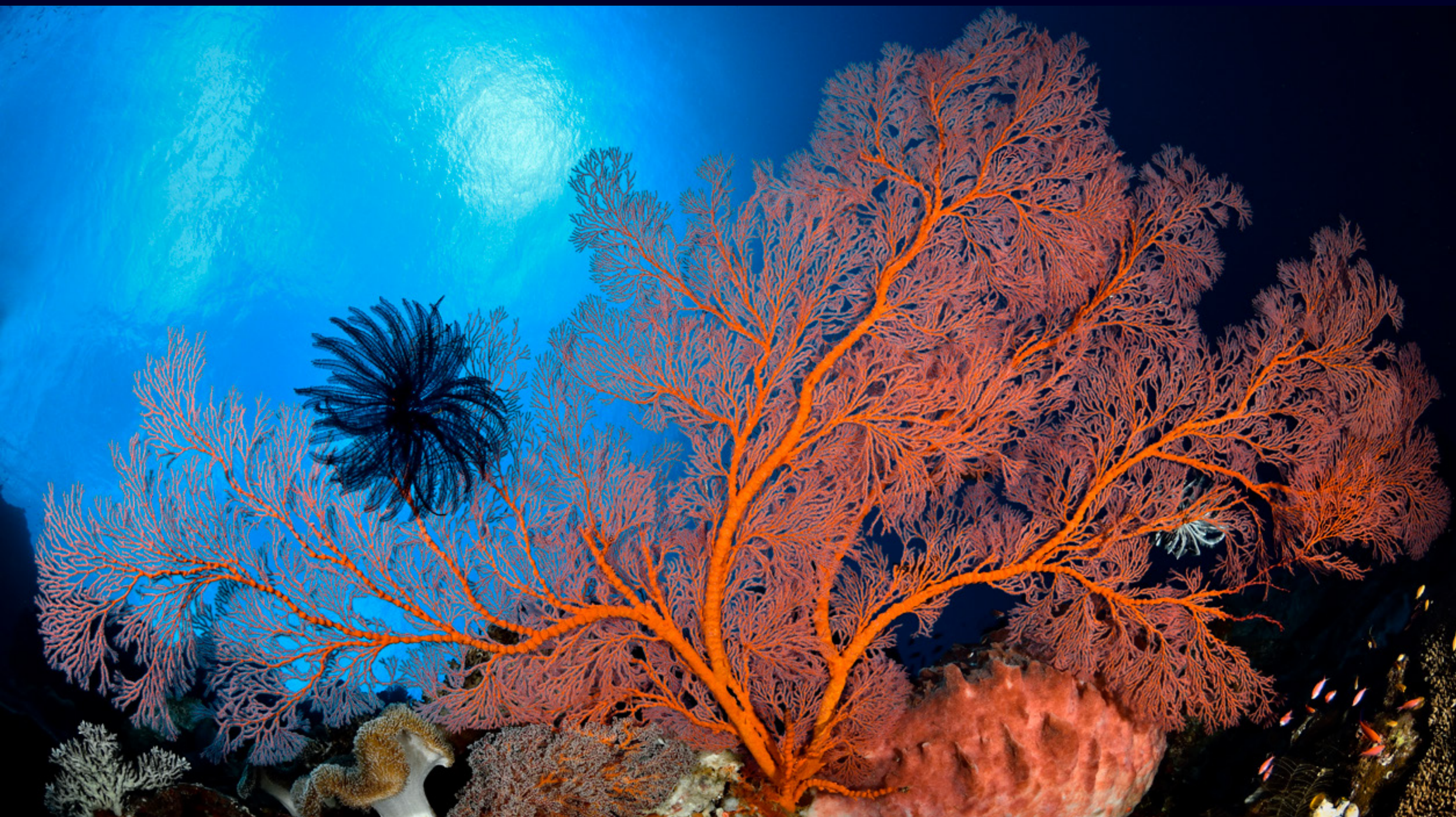
Nyata's dive sites feature an extraordinary mix of vibrant coral gardens, dramatic drop-offs, and intriguing caves. The crystal-clear waters, with visibility often exceeding 30 meters, offer breathtaking views of the island's diverse marine ecosystem. Towering barrel sponges and enormous, vividly coloured gorgonian sea fans cling to the

Dive Sites: Nyata





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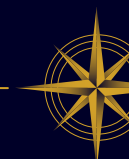


island's dramatic underwater landscape, creating a visually stunning backdrop. Larger marine species are frequently spotted patrolling these waters, including Napoleon wrasses, huge groupers, and numerous tuna species. Occasionally, the unmistakable silhouette of a hammerhead shark gliding through the blue injects an extra dose of excitement into the dive.

One of Nyata Island's greatest draws is its incredible biodiversity. Schools of brightly coloured reef fish dart among the corals, while turtles and graceful rays move effortlessly through the currents. The island's surrounding waters also support healthy populations of blacktip and whitetip reef sharks, adding to the thrill of every dive. The nutrient-rich currents attract various pelagic species, making Nyata a premier location for drift diving. As night falls, the underwater world transforms - bioluminescent plankton twinkle like underwater stars, octopuses emerge to hunt, and an array of nocturnal marine life creates a mesmerising spectacle.

Due to its remote location, Nyata Island remains relatively unknown among diving enthusiasts. Its untouched beauty and abundant marine life offer an unparalleled sense of adventure, making it a popular and exciting stop during Dewi Nusantara's cruises in the region.

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Reong

The majestic island of Reong rises dramatically from the sea, positioned just across a current-swept channel off the north-west corner of Wetar Island. Enveloped by breathtaking coral reefs that plunge into deep waters mere meters from the shoreline, its northern cliffs soar over 200 meters, creating a striking natural spectacle. Reong's dive sites are defined by spectacular wall and reef formations, offering everything from serene drift dives to exhilarating current-swept descents. With an abundance of vibrant coral gardens and thriving sponge formations, the island presents exceptional opportunities for wide-angle underwater photography, capturing its rich and diverse marine landscapes.

Reong's most iconic dive site, Crack Cove, wraps around the island's northern tip, unveiling an awe-inspiring underwater topography. The dive begins along a sheer wall adorned with enormous sea fans before transitioning to a dynamic, current-washed ridge. When the





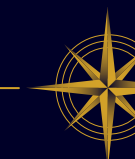
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tide flows south, currents split at the ridge's peak, surging along the island's eastern and western flanks. This natural pressure point attracts astonishing congregations of schooling fish, creating a mesmerising underwater spectacle. As with many sites in the Forgotten Islands, divers may encounter an array of pelagic species, from sleek sharks and powerful dogtooth tunas to vast schools of bumphead parrotfish and barracuda, ensuring each dive is both unpredictable and unforgettable.

Beyond this adrenaline-fuelled experience, Reong offers many more varied dive opportunities, including exhilarating drift dives along its northeast-facing shores and tranquil reef and wall dives that showcase the island's pristine underwater beauty. Macro enthusiasts will find Reong particularly rewarding, as its thriving reefs are home to a dazzling array of marine life, including elusive pygmy seahorses and other rare critters, making it a paradise for underwater photographers and macro lovers alike. Thanks to its remote location and untouched marine ecosystem, divers can explore these exceptional sites in solitude, free from the crowds of more frequented destinations. This unparalleled combination of biodiversity, unspoiled environments, and world-class diving makes Reong Island an essential stop on any Forgotten Islands itinerary.

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The Alor-Pantar Strait

The strait between Alor and Pantar, the final two islands along the East Nusa Tenggara chain, is a premier destination for experienced scuba divers seeking unspoiled marine biodiversity. This remote and ecologically rich region is home to some of the most pristine dive sites in the world, featuring vibrant coral reefs, dramatic underwater topography, and an exceptional variety of marine life. The powerful currents that course through the strait carry nutrient-dense waters from the deep, attracting large pelagic species and sustaining a thriving marine ecosystem.

Enhancing the region's dynamic underwater environment, the waterway is interspersed with several smaller islands - Buaya, Ternate, Pura, Kumba, and Treweg further south. These landforms influence tidal movements, creating a complex interplay of currents that give rise to a diverse range of dive conditions, from tranquil coral gardens to exhilarating drift dives.





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One of the most remarkable aspects of diving in the Alor-Pantar Strait is the extraordinary health and diversity of its coral reefs. These ecosystems host an abundance of marine species, including schools of barracuda, trevallies, and reef sharks. Macro enthusiasts can observe rare and elusive creatures such as frogfish, pygmy seahorses, and rhinopias scorpionfish, all thriving within this biologically rich environment.

Beyond its exceptional reef systems, the strait offers unparalleled opportunities for encounters with larger marine species. Divers frequently witness pods of dolphins, while seasonal migrations bring sightings of orcas and even blue whales, further underscoring the region's significance as a marine biodiversity hotspot.

The Alor-Pantar Strait is also home to a number of renowned dive sites. Locations such as The Cathedral, Kelatetek, Crucifixion Point, Babylon, Cave Point, and Tanjung Muna attract oceanic sunfish, eagle rays, hammerhead sharks, and thresher sharks, providing a world-class diving experience. Among the most unique sites is Clown Valley on Pura Island, where divers can observe an expansive seabed entirely covered by swaying anemones - a rare and mesmerising sight.

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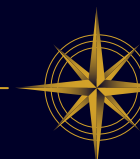
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In addition to its ecological wonders, the Alor-Pantar region offers a rich cultural experience. Local communities, particularly those on Pura Island, have maintained traditional fishing and boat-building practices for generations. Visitors may have the opportunity to observe skilled freedivers utilising handcrafted wooden goggles, a testament to the enduring maritime traditions of the region.

Combining breathtaking underwater biodiversity with cultural heritage and unspoiled natural beauty, the Alor-Pantar Strait presents an exceptional diving experience. Its remote location and dynamic marine environment make it a truly unparalleled destination for divers seeking adventure beyond conventional dive sites.



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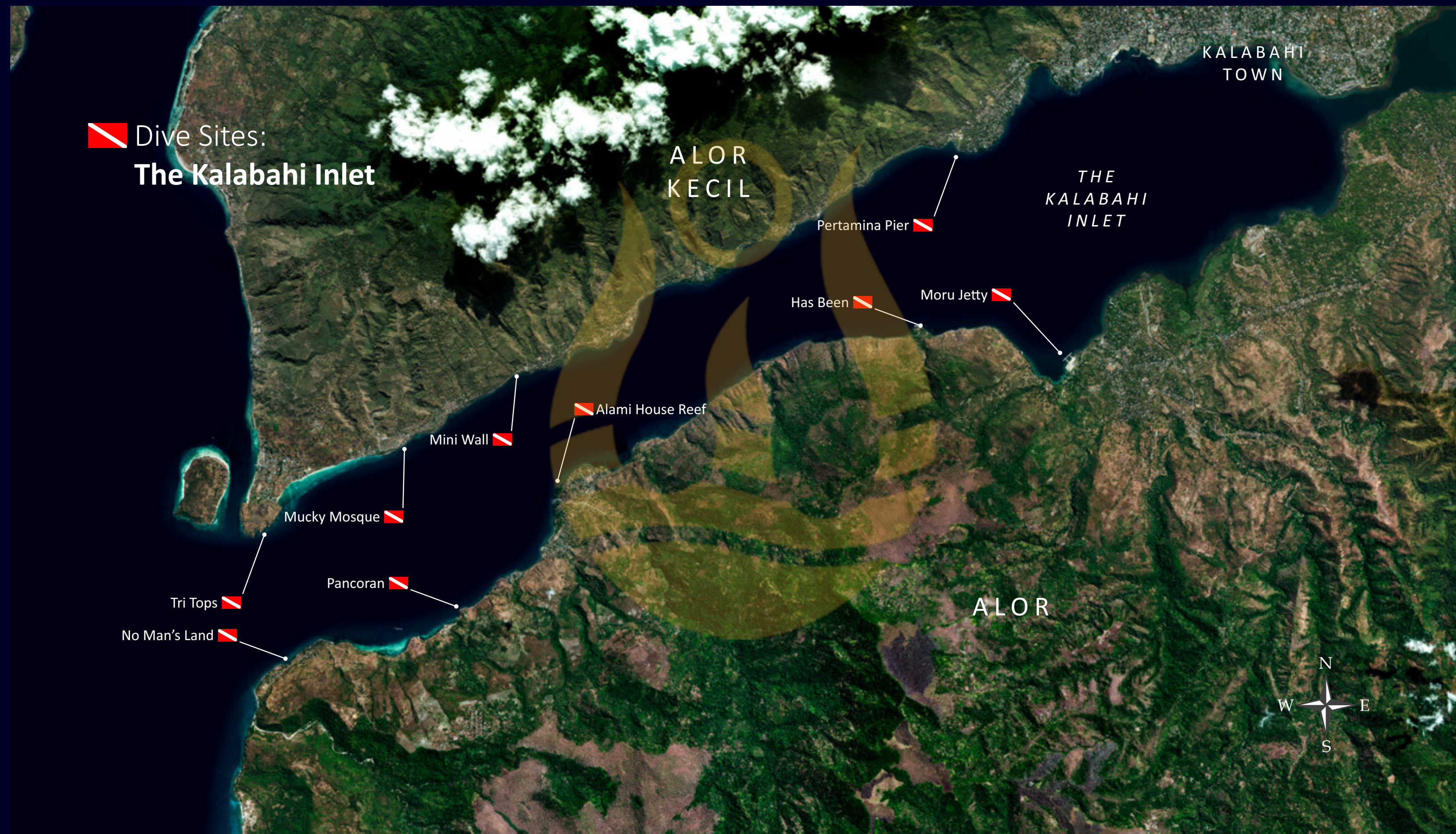


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The Kalabahi Inlet

Indonesia is home to some of the world's most extraordinary muck and critter diving destinations, making it a must-visit for enthusiasts of bizarre and fascinating marine life. While the Lembeh Strait is where muck diving first gained fame, this unique style of diving has since spread across Indonesia, the Philippines, and Papua New Guinea. Among the top locations to encounter the weird and wonderful creatures of the seabed, Alor - and more specifically the Kalabahi Inlet - stands out as one of the very best waiting to be explored.

Stretching over nine nautical miles from the Alor-Pantar Strait to Kalabahi Town, the Kalabahi Inlet is a long, winding waterway that separates the Alor mainland from the northern headland known as Alor Kecil. Along its shores, divers will find an impressive collection of critter-filled dive sites, each offering incredible biodiversity. While visibility tends to decrease deeper into the inlet, the reward is well worth it, as these nutrient-rich waters are teeming with marine life.





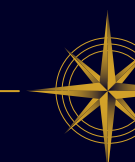
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The sites here share many of the same characteristics as legendary muck diving spots like Lembeh in Sulawesi and Laha in Ambon - gently sloping gravel or sand bottoms dotted with coral heads, small habitats, a touch of current, and the occasional influx of freshwater from springs, streams, or rivers. These conditions create the perfect environment for an astonishing array of marine life, from the beautiful to the bizarre. Underwater photographers and critter enthusiasts will be thrilled to find an incredible selection of species, and with the help of Dewi's eagle-eyed dive guides - world renowned for their ability to spot even the most elusive creatures - checking off a wish list of must-see critters can happen in just a few dives.

While the well-known sites in Kalabahi Inlet are packed with marine treasures, the adventure doesn't end there. Many more dive spots remain unexplored, offering endless opportunities for discovery. Whether you're a seasoned macro photographer or a curious diver eager to encounter nature's strangest underwater inhabitants, Kalabahi Inlet promises an unforgettable muck diving experience.

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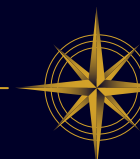
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Cruise Notes

- 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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G O D D E S S O F T H E A R C H I P E L A G O

AMBON, HISTORIC BANDA, THE FORGOTTEN ISLANDS & ALOR

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Designed, written and produced by Garry Bevan

Dewi Nusantara: Ambon, Historic Banda, The Forgotten Islands & Alor. March 2025. (Ambon to Kalabahi)

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25/03/25

