

Dewi Nusantana

CRUISING ITINERARY 09

INDONESIA OCEANIA: ROUTE I

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







Indonesia Oceania: Route I

Join Dewi Nusantara as she embarks on another voyage of discovery. This is a one-off exclusive cruise that starts from the West Papuan frontier town of Kaimana and finishes at the port town of Tual, the capital 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 selected expeditions during her busy cruising 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 - Route I

Cruise Route 🗢

Namatote & Mauwara 🗢

North Aiduma 🗢

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Namatote & Mauwara

If Namatote Island is known for one thing, it's the extraordinary, up-close encounters with majestic whale sharks. Separated from the West Papuan mainland by a narrow strait, this island is home to numerous traditional fishing platforms, or bagans, which are strategically positioned at both the northern and southern ends of the waterway. These intricate wooden structures, suspended with wire and rope, are used by local fishermen to attract vast schools of anchovies, sardines, and sprats. By illuminating the waters with powerful lights, they draw in the baitfish before hauling up their nets to secure the catch.

Over time, this practice has captivated the region's whale shark population, which now frequents the area in search of an easy meal. In a remarkable display of coexistence, the fishermen have embraced these gentle giants, considering them symbols of good fortune. Today, divers and snorkellers have the incredible opportunity to swim alongside these awe-inspiring creatures, witnessing their graceful movements first-hand.















As an added thrill, the surrounding waters teem with marine life drawn to the commotion - expect to spot pods of dolphins, schooling tuna, and even the occasional sailfish or marlin slicing through the currents. Whether you're diving beneath the surface or simply observing from above, Namatote Island offers an unforgettable marine spectacle unlike anywhere else.

Mauwara Island, located just two nautical miles east of the Namatote Strait and separated from the West Papua mainland by a narrow 30-meter channel, is a hidden paradise for divers and adventurers alike. This jungle-clad island rises nearly 200 meters at its highest point, boasting a rugged and intricate coastline with numerous inlets, points, and sheltered bays. A couple of sturdy wooden stairways lead explorers to breathtaking viewpoints, offering panoramic vistas of the surrounding islands, the Iris Strait, and Aiduma Island to the south.

Beneath the surface, Mauwara Island is a diver's paradise. The reefs and channels around the island are teeming with marine life and feature numerous excellent diving opportunities. Crystal-clear waters reveal an array of vibrant coral gardens, dramatic drop-offs, and deep walls that provide a sanctuary for everything from reef fish to pelagic species.

For topside adventurers, the island's sheltered bays are ideal for kayaking, while the shallow reefs extending from the pristine beaches offer excellent snorkelling opportunities. Whether descending into the depths or gliding along the coastline, Mauwara Island delivers an unforgettable experience for watersports enthusiasts of all kinds.







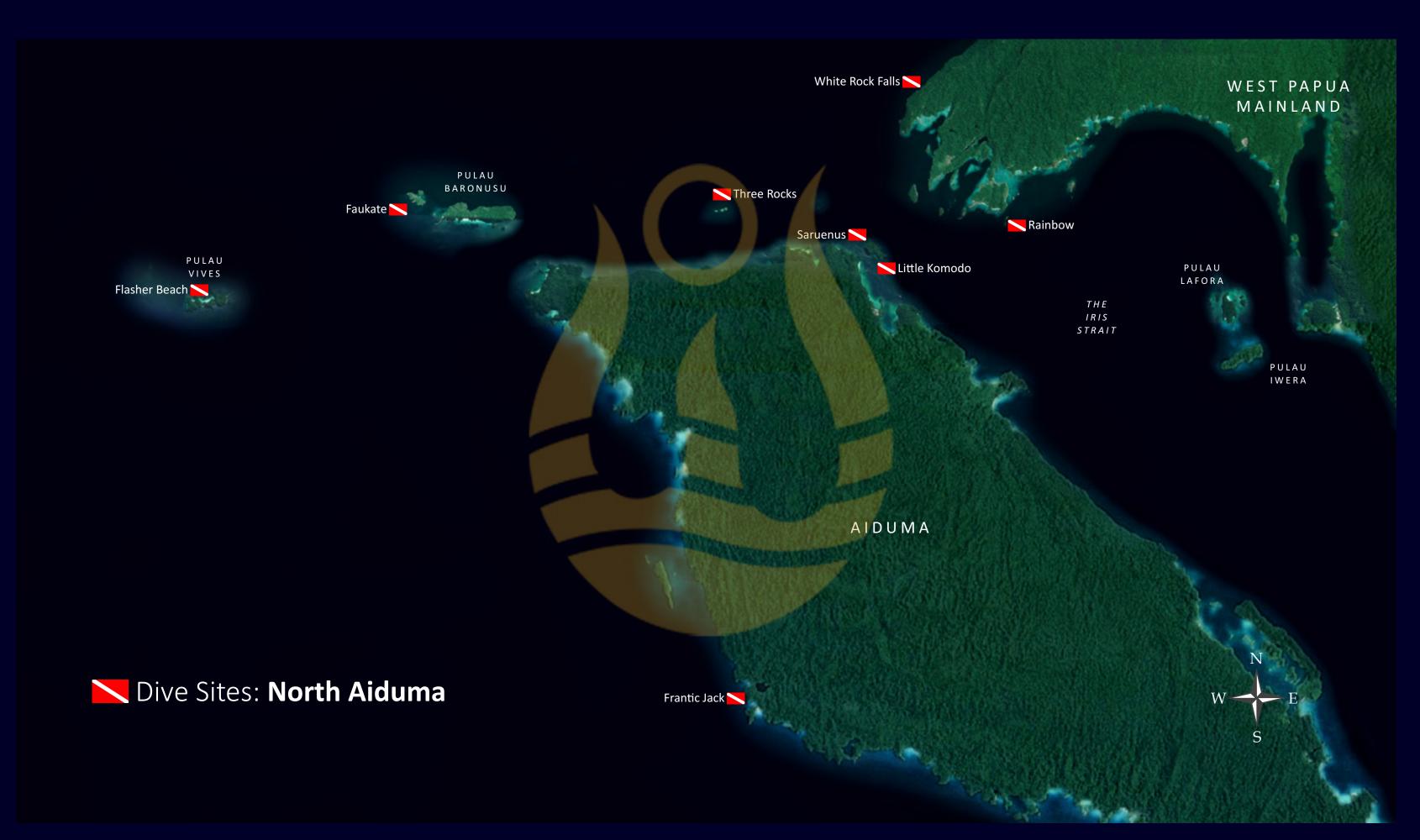




North Aiduma

Triton Bay carves into the breathtaking south-western coastline of West Papua, forming a dazzling underwater paradise at the neck of the Birdshead Peninsula. Just offshore, Aiduma Island runs parallel to the mainland, separated by the narrow Iris Strait - at its tightest point, less than a mile wide. This remote and pristine region is a gateway to one of Indonesia's most extraordinary marine ecosystems.

Long revered by adventurous scuba divers, the dive sites of Aiduma and the Iris Strait are loaded with astonishing underwater seascapes, where nutrient-rich currents fuel an explosion of marine biodiversity. The shores of Aiduma Island, along with the surrounding smaller islands and rocky coves, offer world-class dive and snorkel sites fringed by dazzling coral reefs. These waters form a unique micro-ecosystem, where natural channels and tidal bottlenecks create ideal conditions for thriving soft coral gardens, towering sea fans, and an incredible diversity of marine life.















Schools of fish swirl around dramatic pinnacles, while encounters with reef sharks and even elusive wobbegong sharks add to the thrill. For macro enthusiasts, the reefs reveal a treasure trove of pygmy seahorses, nudibranchs, and other rare critters.

The breathtaking topside landscape of features a labyrinth of limestone islands and islets, reminiscent of Raja Ampat's iconic karst formations. These jungle-clad rocks rise dramatically from crystal-clear waters, creating an otherworldly panorama of untouched beauty. Hidden lagoons, and lush rainforests invite exploration, offering an idyllic escape for nature enthusiasts.

The coastline boasts pristine white-sand beaches and secluded coves, with vibrant coral reefs fringing the coastline, teeming with marine life and providing exceptional opportunities for snorkelling, kayaking, and paddleboarding.

Whether you're a seasoned diver, an underwater photographer, or an avid snorkeller, every immersion in these waters promises an unforgettable adventure in one of the world's most biodiverse marine sanctuaries.











South Aiduma & Dramai

South Aiduma and the nearby Dramai Island, situated at the southern tip of the Iris Strait, offer a breathtaking seascape that is a paradise for scuba diving enthusiasts. This untouched marine haven boasts vibrant coral reefs teeming with diverse marine life, while its nutrient-rich waters nurture vibrant soft corals, extensive hard coral gardens, and towering seamounts, all densely packed with an astonishing variety of marine life, creating a dazzling underwater spectacle.

The rocky outcrops and reefs surrounding Dramai Island and South Aiduma are full of surprises, promising thrilling discoveries for adventurous divers. With so much left to explore, this hidden gem remains an exciting frontier for those eager to uncover its underwater wonders.

A small rock island called Pulau Maunus, better known as The Last Frontier, 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.

Another standout dive is Batu Jeruk, located at the southern tip of Aiduma Island. This site is renowned for its orange soft coral coverage, offering a unique and visually stunning diving experience. Divers can expect to encounter a variety of marine species, including schooling fish and macro life, making it a must-visit spot for underwater photography enthusiasts.

Exploring the waters around South Aiduma and Dramai Island provides a sense of discovery, as the region is remote and difficult to travel to, preserving its natural beauty and teeming reefs.











The Momon Headland

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

One such site, the spectacular Batu Cantik, is centred around a set of small rocky islands that run parallel with the mainland shore. As well as being a great site for critter spotters, Batu Cantik has also produced some wonderful, and rare, marine life sightings, such as guitar sharks and absolutely huge groupers.

For open water excitement, six nautical miles directly to the west, 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.



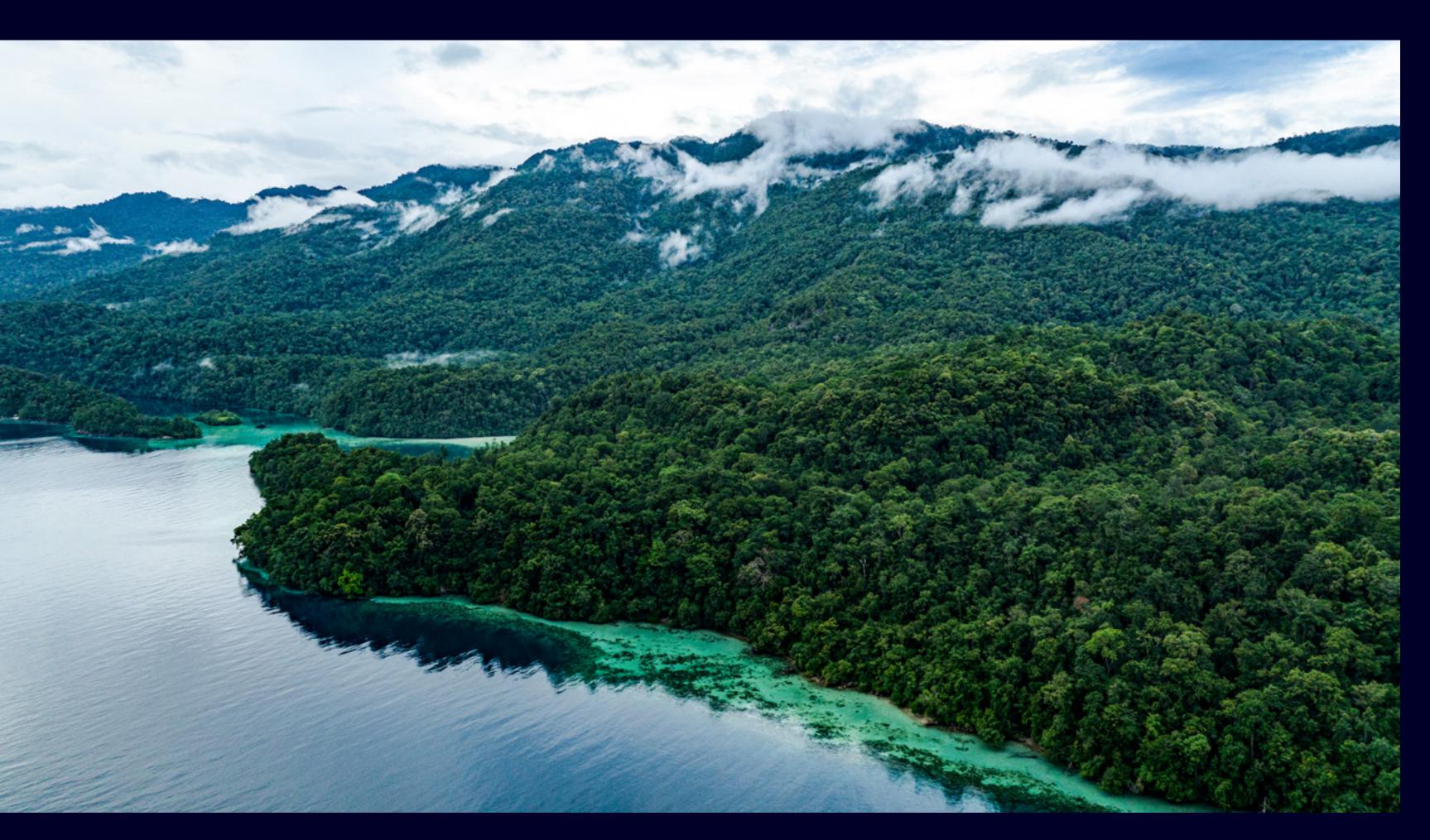












When it comes to scenic topside attractions, Momon is hard to beat. The star of the show is the spectacular Kiti Kiti waterfall that thunders directly into the sea from the high forest above. This natural wonder stems from a fast-flowing river that originates up in the Bomberai highlands before terminating in glorious fashion amongst towering trees and primordial rocks at the shoreline. Easily spotted from miles offshore, the falls can be approached with a tender. Explorers who are feeling adventurous can then jump into the ocean and swim to the plunge pool for a refreshing cold shower.

The water pouring over the edge creates a transparent curtain of fresh water. Tucked in behind is a small, protected rock ledge; swimmers can enter this space and take photographs through the screen of rushing water for an unusual image of the ocean beyond. Swimming out from behind the waterfall is like swimming down a white-water river. A word of warning though: the water plunging down from the falls is significantly cooler than the ocean it flows into.

The forest above the falls can be a little tricky to explore upriver as there are no trails to follow, but there are some spooky caves and tree-shrouded lakes. It is also possible to spot some unusual wildlife, such as endemic tree kangaroos and flightless cassowary birds.









Teluk Sebakor

Teluk Sebakor extends deep into the western coastline of the Bomberai Peninsula, framed by Tanjung Turkanggur to the north and Tanjung Tongerai to the south. This vast bay is a stunning mosaic of shallow reefs, winding waterways, and dense mangrove forests that transition into the untamed interior of Papua. Scattered within its waters, the islands of Karas, Taburuasa, and Faur hold immense potential for new dive site discoveries.

However, the standout sites at Sebakor lie offshore - its spectacular seamounts. Recently discovered, these underwater mountains rival Indonesia's most renowned dive sites. West of Karas Island, which acts as a natural barrier for the bay, two remarkable seamounts - Great Expectations and Lucky Thirteen - have quickly gained recognition. Towering from the depths, they attract massive schools of fish and frequent visits from larger pelagic species, offering breathtaking encounters for divers.



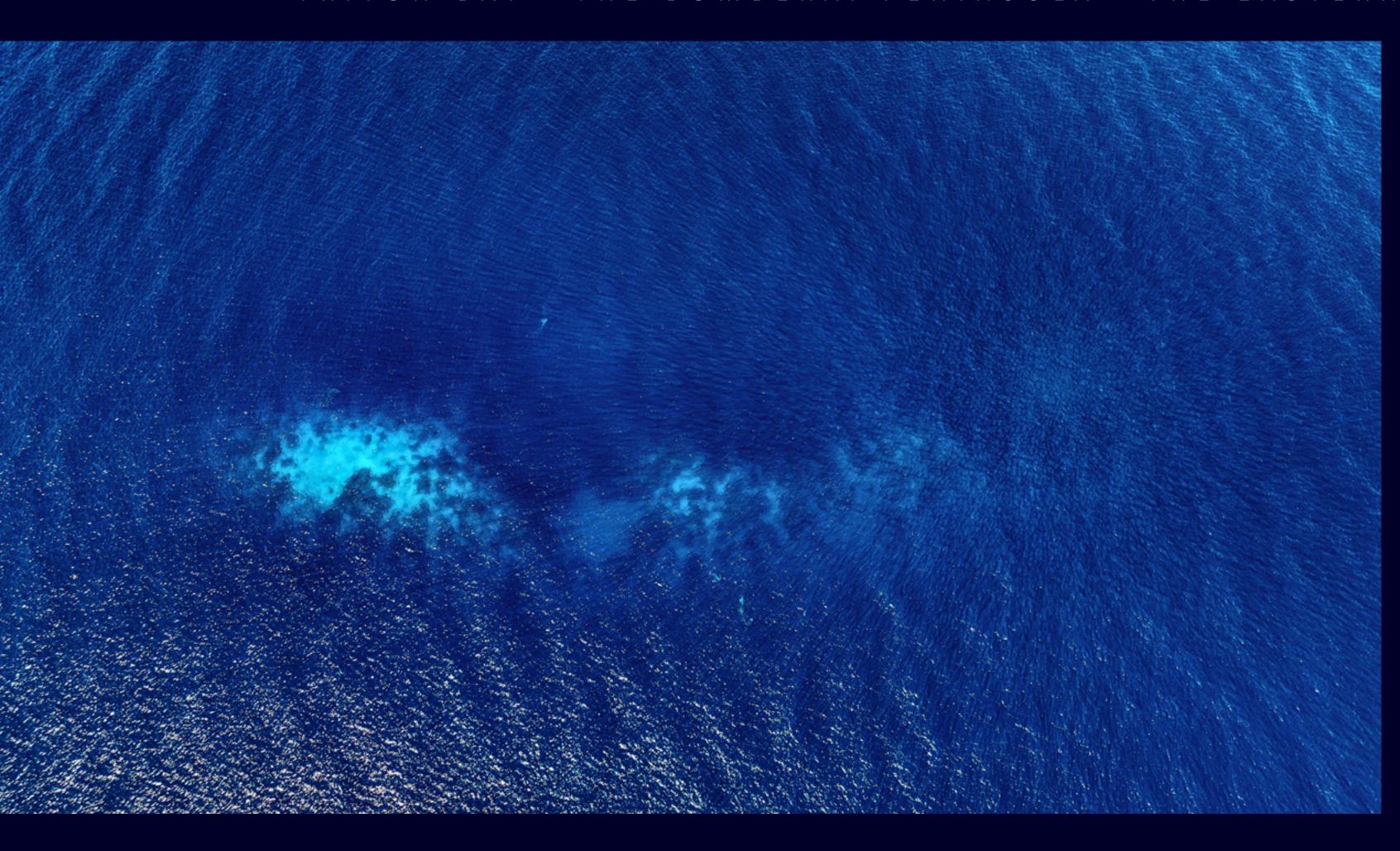












Closer to Karas Island's shoreline, Knucklehead delivers equally thrilling underwater experiences, featuring swirling columns of barracuda, impressive Napoleon wrasses, and an abundance of macro life for critter enthusiasts. Further south, the Tongerai headland reveals an uncharted diving frontier where oceanic manta rays, whale sharks, and even the elusive Omura whale have been spotted gliding above vibrant reefs. The surrounding karst islands create a maze of narrow waterways, concealing secluded sandy coves backed by lush rainforest - an unspoiled paradise both above and below the surface.

Back up in the northern reaches of the bay, inside the Turkanggur headland, a true topside highlight is the shoreline bat cave. Bordered by two fine white and beaches, this magnificent rocky cathedral offers easy access for tenders to glide over its shallow blue waters. Inside, a colony of screeching bats clings to the walls and ceiling, while at the cave's mouth, a striking blue hole plunges 50 metres into the rocky sea floor - a mesmerising sight for explorers above and below the surface.

With its pristine reefs, diverse marine life, unexplored dive sites, and exciting topside excursions, Teluk Sebakor stands as one of Indonesia's most exciting new frontiers for scuba divers seeking adventure in truly untouched waters.







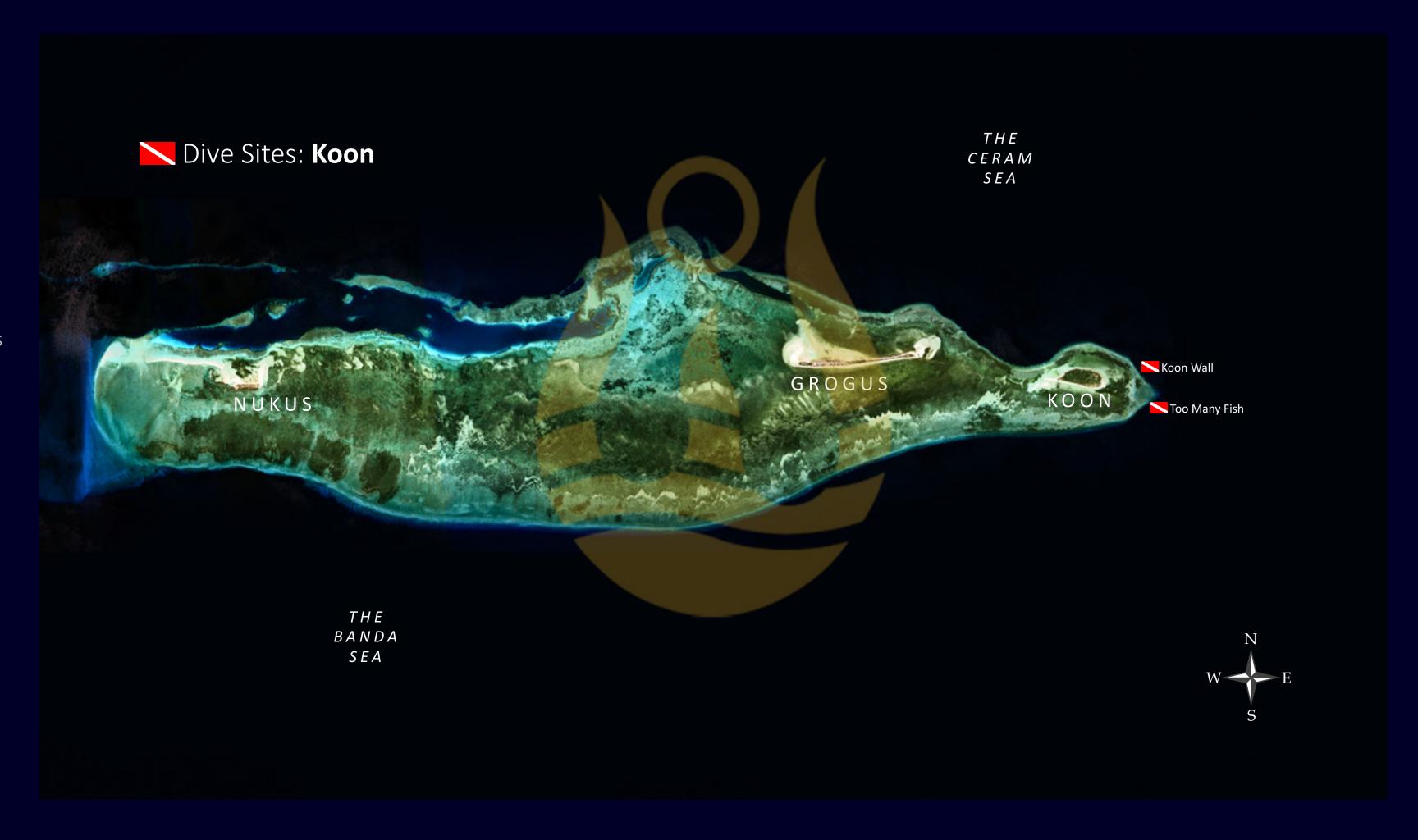




Koon

The remote, sandy isles of the Koon Archipelago are dotted with sparse vegetation and just a handful of small villages, offering a secluded and untouched paradise for nature lovers and adventure seekers alike.

Koon Island is the easternmost of a collection of three small, sandy coral cays - along with Nukus and Grogus - that stretch nearly eight nautical miles from west to east. Extending into the depths of the Ceram Sea, these islands boast an astonishing mix of shallow reefs, deep drop-offs, and sandy terra firma. The crystal-clear waters surrounding them create the perfect playground for snorkelling and swimming, with vibrant coral reefs teeming with marine life just beneath the surface. Kayakers and paddleboarders can glide through tranquil blue lagoons, exploring hidden coves and winding waterways. On land, the islands offer opportunities for beachcombing and birdwatching, with stretches of soft sand, swaying coconut palms, and flocks of seabirds soaring overhead.



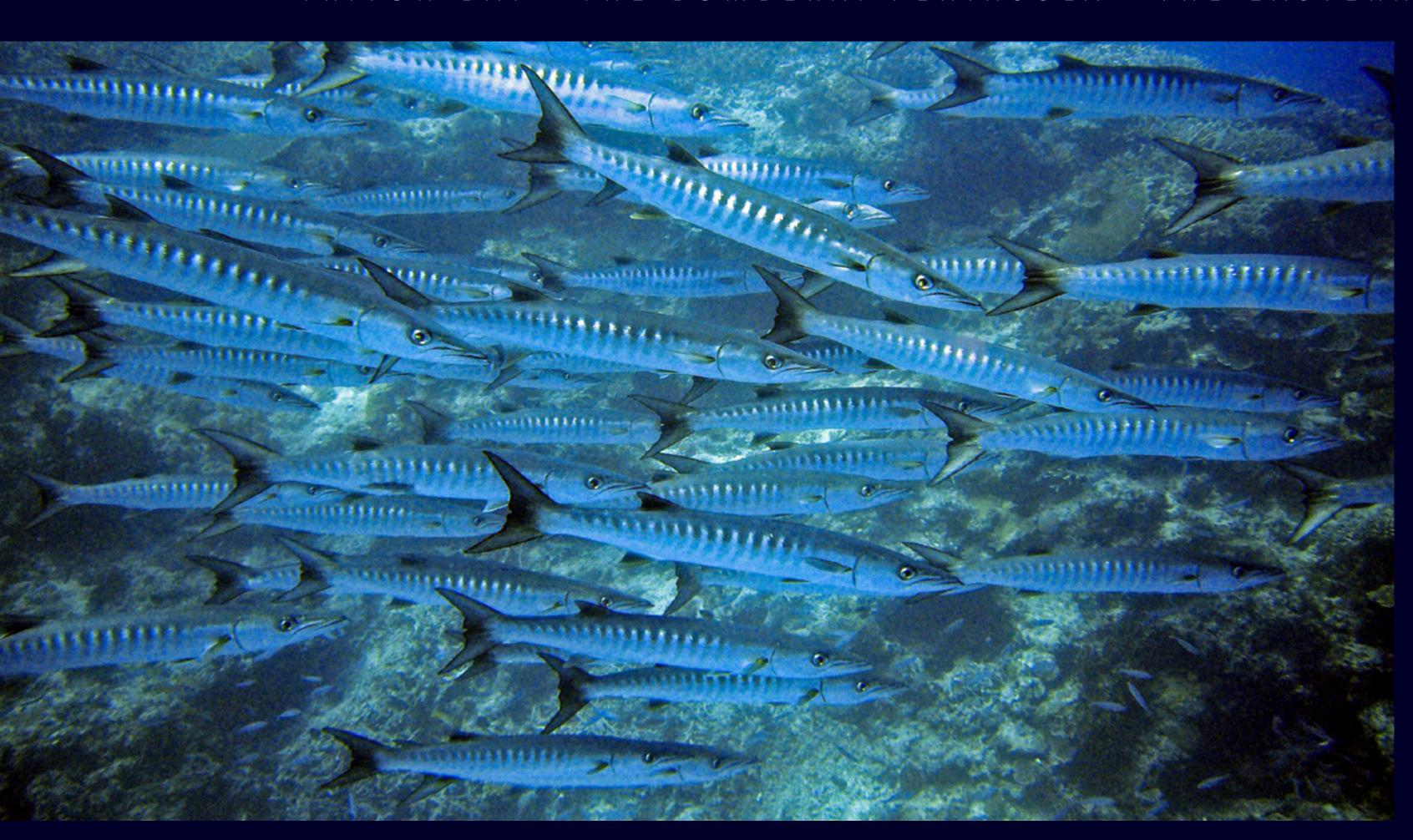












Although the entire group is ideal for various watersports, Koon is best known for scuba diving. The focal point is a site called "Too Many Fish" - a name that perfectly captures what awaits beneath the surface. Located at the eastern tip of the mini-archipelago, this site plunges into much deeper water. Centred around a ridge with a deep wall on the north side and a steeply sloping reef on the south, it offers multiple entry points for divers.

It is not uncommon to spot zebra and hammerhead sharks on the reef and along the north wall, along with the countless fish that give the site its name. Additionally, there is great potential for exploration along the deep-water drop-offs and sparkling reefs surrounding the three islands.

Whether above or below the waterline, the Koon Archipelago promises a serene and immersive escape into nature's untouched beauty.











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.











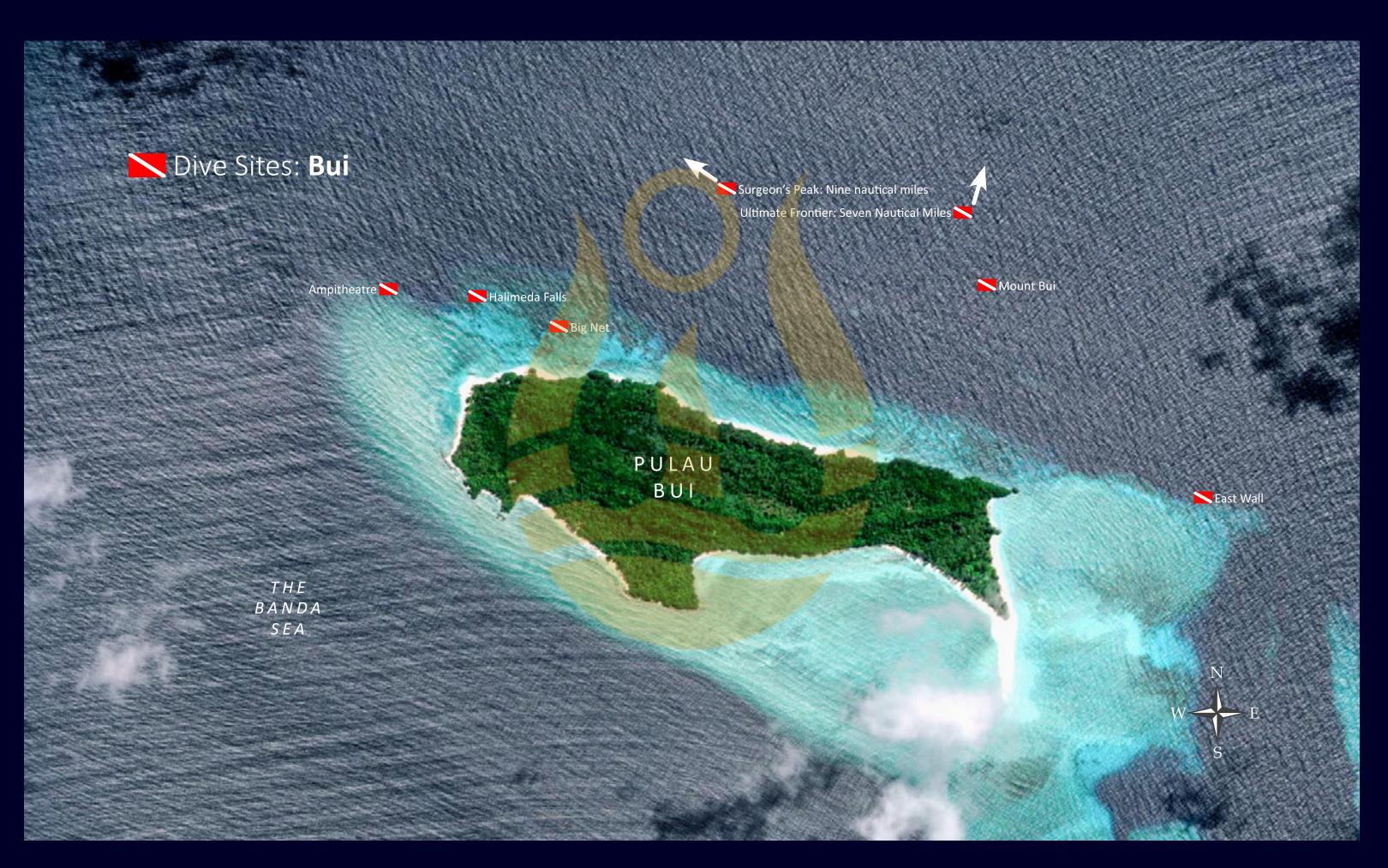


Bui

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

- **Flexible Itineraries:** Our cruise routes are intentionally adaptable. Throughout the journey, the captain and cruise director continuously assess sea conditions, weather, and tides to ensure the best possible experience. Guest preferences for specific dive sites are always considered whenever feasible.
- More Than Is Listed: The locations featured in these itineraries represent only a portion of what's possible. Numerous additional anchorages and activity options are available along the way, making each voyage truly unique.
- **Simplified for Clarity:** The destinations shown in our presentations are not necessarily listed in the order they will be visited. They are organized for clarity and to help guests visualize the overall routing.
- **Extended Stays:** If a particular anchorage offers exceptional experiences, guests may opt to linger a bit longer. The captain and cruise director have the flexibility to accommodate such preferences, provided they align with the overall cruise schedule.
- **Overnight Passages:** To maximize daylight hours at our most spectacular destinations, longer transits between anchorages are typically conducted overnight.
- **Escape the Crowds:** With the exception of embarkation and disembarkation points, our itineraries are carefully crafted to avoid congested areas and busy commercial ports, allowing for a more tranquil and immersive experience.
- **Beyond the Dive:** Many of our anchorages offer more than just diving and snorkelling. Guests can enjoy kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding, and occasional visits to local villages and cultural sites adding even more richness to the journey.











Dewi Vusantara

GODDESS OF THE ARCHIPELAGO

Indonesia Oceania: Route

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Designed, written and produced by Garry Bevan

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