MASTER
LIVEABOARDS

Derawan Islands, Indonesia

Indo Master - 7 Nights Itinerary

- **Embarkation**: Tanjung Batu Harbour, Berau between 13:00 and 13:30
- **Disembarkation**: Tanjung Batu Harbour, Berau at 10:00

We strongly advise arriving in Berau the day before embarkation and booking a hotel for that night.

Flights & Transfers

Domestic Airport

- Kalimarau Airport, Berau (BEJ)

Domestic flights to and from Berau are not included in the liveaboard price.

Transfers between Kalimarau Airport or local hotels and Tanjung Batu Harbour are provided free of charge on the day of embarkation and disembarkation only.

Transfer between Kalimarau Airport and Tanjung Batu Harbour takes approximately 2 hours.

Check-in time for domestic flights in Indonesia is usually 2 hours before departure. Please bear this and transfer times in mind when booking disembarkation day flights.

We strongly recommend arriving the day before and arranging a hotel for the night. (see domestic flight information)

International Arrival & Departure

We suggest booking your international flights into and out of Jakarta International Airport (CGK) for the easiest domestic connections to and from Berau. We advise spending at least one day in Jakarta on either side of your liveaboard dates to allow for possible changes to flight schedules and to ensure you are on time for your connections.

The Master Liveaboards reservations team can help to arrange hotel accommodations and domestic flight connections between your international arrival and departure and Indo Master's embarkation and disembarkation locations.

Domestic Flights

IMPORTANT: *Domestic flights in Indonesia are often subject to delays, schedule changes and cancellations, resulting in missed connections and arriving after the designated embarkation time or day.*

If your late arrival is after the vessel has departed, for any reason, you may be charged for the additional costs, including airport pick-up and arranging a speedboat transfer or additional fuel required for Indo Master to return to port. With this in mind, w*e strongly recommend booking flights to arrive the day before embarkation.*

Berau flights

There are direct flights operating between Jakarta and Berau, and between Surabaya and Berau.

Flights from Bali involve a connection in Surabaya, Balikpapan or Makassar.

Tanjung Batu Embarkation: Should you decide to fly into Berau on embarkation day, your flight arrival time must be *no later than 10:30 a.m.*

Tanjung Batu Disembarkation: As transfer to Kalimarau Airport takes approximately 2 hours, disembarkation will be approximately 4 hours before your flight departure time. Therefore, you should *book an afternoon departure from Berau* as flights departing before midday are not logistically viable.

Diving Information

All divers are required to have diving-specific insurance (e.g. DiveAssure, DAN, etc.) which covers all scuba diving activities, emergency evacuation and recompression chamber costs. Diving insurance will only cover accidents within the depth limit dictated by your certification level so you are required to remain well within those at all times.

Use of a dive computer, a 6-minute safety stop and an ascent rate of no more than 9 m (30 ft) per minute are mandatory on every dive.

Some of the diving on this itinerary is not suitable for inexperienced divers due to depths and *strong currents.*

Mandatory Minimum dive certification and experience:

Divers joining this itinerary must have **PADI Advanced Open Water certification,** or equivalent, with a **minimum of 50 logged dives.** It is also strongly recommended that divers have previous *experience diving in currents, and are comfortable doing so.*

Guests who do not fulfil the mandatory requirements, or who the crew feel have insufficient experience in certain conditions, may be denied participation in some or all dives during the liveaboard.

Diving Emergencies

The nearest recompression chamber is in Balikpapan; others are located in Manado, Bali, Makassar and Jakarta. In the event of a suspected DCI incident, depending on the boat's location, transfer from Indo Master to whichever chamber is available is likely to require a private speedboat, emergency air evacuation or both.

It is your responsibility to ensure that your insurance will fully cover and reimburse all evacuation costs, as well as recompression chamber and hospital treatment.

Water Temperatures & Exposure Suits

The Derawan Islands are located in the Sulawesi Sea, where there is very little variation in water temperatures, which are generally between 28°C and 30°C (82°F - 86°F).

Most divers find a 3mm wetsuit is sufficient, while others are comfortable diving in swimwear and a hooded vest or rashguard. However, those prone to feeling cold after prolonged or multiple dives may prefer a 5mm wetsuit or to use additional thermal layers.

Itinerary Details

Participation in this liveaboard itinerary is subject to acceptance of our Terms & Conditions as outlined here: www.masterliveaboards.com/terms-conditions.

Marine Park & Port Fees: 250 USD* per person (to be paid on board).

***Marine park fees are subject to change without notice**.* The applicable amount at the time of departure will be added to your onboard extras to be paid before disembarkation.

Marine park and port fees for this itinerary cover local fees and taxes for the areas visited during the liveaboard itinerary.

Number of scheduled dives: *Up to 22*

While we will endeavour to fulfil the number of scheduled dives, this number is indicative only and not guaranteed; weather and sea conditions can affect the schedule and may impact the number of possible dives.

Included land tours

Land visits depend on logistics, but there will usually be at least one during the course of the itinerary. These may include the jellyfish lake on Kakaban Island, where guests can snorkel among four species of harmless jellyfish, Sangalaki Island, one of the region's most important green turtle nesting beaches, where hatchlings can sometimes be seen making their way to the sea, and the village on Derawan Island.

The following is an example of the day-to-day itinerary.

Safety and dive briefings are conducted in English. If you or any of your group do not speak or fully understand English, please let us know in advance.

Day 1: Embarkation is followed by lunch, introductions, and boat and safety briefings. After this, guests can set up their equipment, settle into their cabins and relax before dinner is served. The vessel will usually leave port in the evening to be ready to dive first thing on day 2.

Day 2: Breakfast followed by a check dive, and up to 3 subsequent dives, as outlined below.

Days 3-6: Your Cruise Director will plan up to 4 dives per day; 3 day dives and either a sunset or a night dive, typically scheduled as follows:

- Light Breakfast followed by a briefing and dive 1
- Full Breakfast and relaxation
- Briefing and dive 2
- Lunch and relaxation period
- Briefing and dive 3
- Snacks and relaxation
- Briefing for Sunset or Night dive (where possible)
- Dinner

Day 7: For your last full day on board, we usually schedule 2 morning dives* before the boat cruises to port, where it will remain at anchor overnight.

Day 8: Breakfast on board, followed by disembarkation at 10:00.

*We kindly request that guests check their flight times to ensure they leave 24 hours between their final dive and their domestic flight departure.

The following is a sample of dive sites we may visit on the Derawan Islands itinerary. While we wish to show you the best diving possible, various factors determine the exact route the yacht follows and the dive sites we visit. *Weather, tides, currents, and sea conditions are just some of the considerations that play a part in the Cruise Director's decision of where Indo Master is heading, and which sites are chosen to dive*

Disclaimer: This information is only a general overview of the key areas this itinerary usually covers and some of the dive sites at each location. ***The inclusion of specifically named dive sites is not guaranteed,*** and the amount of time spent in each area will be determined by the factors noted above. Additionally, there may be dives at sites that are not listed below.

The safety and comfort of our guests are paramount, and we always do our best to offer diving at alternative locations should we be unable to visit or remain at any of the locations listed below.

Derawan Island

Derawan is a small, inhabited island close to the mainland whose reefs are mostly gentle slopes with little current where. Green turtles are commonly seen resting or feeding on the reefs here throughout the year.

Derawan Jetty

Derawan Jetty is an easy, shallow dive where the jetty pilings and surrounding rubble shelter a surprising variety of small marine life. Frogfish, ghost pipefish, seahorses, mantis shrimps

and nudibranchs are common finds, and blue-ringed octopus are occasionally seen. It is also a popular night dive, when bobbit worms emerge from the sand to hunt.

Blue Trigger Wall

Blue Trigger Wall is a short wall dropping to around 20 metres (66 ft), named after the red-tooth triggerfish that gather along the reef edge. Schools of fusiliers are common in the gentle current, turtles are frequently seen along the reef, and reef sharks are occasionally seen.

Sangalaki

Sangalaki is a small, uninhabited island and one of the most important green turtle nesting sites in the region. Its shallow reefs are home to a resident population of reef manta rays, and currents are usually strongest on incoming tides around the new and full moon.

Manta Avenue, Manta Parade & Manta Run

These three sites run together along the north and northwest side of the island and are usually dived as drifts over coral steps, low ridges and bommies scattered across the sand. Manta rays visit the cleaning stations and are often seen feeding near the surface, while schools of fusiliers and surgeonfish move across the reef and leopard sharks are occasionally found resting on the sand.

Turtle Town

Turtle Town is named for the green turtles that rest beneath ledges and feed along the reef top. Napoleon wrasse and cuttlefish are frequently encountered, and the site also makes a good choice for a night dive.

Coral Garden

Coral Garden is a gradual slope of stepped shelves covered in hard and soft corals, rising from a flat sandy bottom where goatfish forage. Anthias, snappers and triggerfish are common over the reef, with frogfish, crocodilefish, lizardfish and cuttlefish among the corals, and manta rays and green turtles sometimes pass overhead. It also makes a good night dive, when hermit crabs, lobsters, octopus and shrimps are out on the reef.

Sandy Ridge

Sandy Ridge, on the southwest side of the island, is sometimes dived as a drift continuing on from Turtle Town. The site is a good location for spotting blue ribbon eels, while schools of fusiliers, snappers, catfish and jacks gather over the ridge, and small reef sharks and eagle rays are sometimes seen.

Samama

Samama is an old atoll whose lagoon has silted up and filled with mangrove forest. The shallow reefs around it are sheltered, with little current, and sea snakes are frequently seen

around the mangroves. Ribbon eels, pipefish and pygmy seahorses are among the smaller residents of the reef.

Kakaban

Kakaban is a raised atoll whose limestone cliffs are covered in forest down to the waterline. Its seaward reefs drop steeply into deep water, and currents can be strong and changeable, with up- and down-currents around the points. Thresher sharks are occasionally seen around the island on early morning dives.

Barracuda Point

Barracuda Point lies on the southwest tip of the island, where a sheer wall wraps around the point and drops into deep water. Strong and variable currents around the point attract schools of chevron barracuda, jacks and tuna, along with grey and whitetip reef sharks.

The Wall

The Wall is a long, deep drop-off on the southwest tip of the island, close to Barracuda Point but generally sheltered from the current that sweeps the point. Kakaban's walls plunge to around 200 metres (656 ft) in places, and a large school of jacks is often seen here. Turtles and trevallies are common along the wall, and leaf scorpionfish are sometimes found.

Kelapa Dua

Kelapa Dua is a steep wall covered in colourful corals and sea fans, best known as a cleaning station where thresher sharks are often seen early in the morning. The sharks are sometimes found at depth, so this dive is suited to divers with deep diving experience.

Maratua

Maratua is the largest atoll in the group, a long, curved island enclosing a wide lagoon that fills and empties through a single channel on the north side. Its steep outer walls usually have better visibility than the reefs closer to the mainland.

The Channel (Big Fish Country)

The Channel is a drift along the outer reef towards the mouth of Maratua's lagoon, where divers usually hook in on the edge to watch the fish. Schooling chevron barracuda are the main attraction, often joined by jacks, grey reef sharks and eagle rays, and hammerheads are occasionally reported. Dives here are timed to suit the tide, and a reef hook is essential.

Turtle Traffic

Turtle Traffic is a sloping reef on the west coast, dropping to around 30 metres (98 ft), where green turtles rest in good numbers, especially at low tide. The current is usually gentle, and barracuda, jacks and stingrays are often seen, along with plenty of macro life.

East Wall

East Wall begins as a gentle slope before turning into an almost vertical drop-off covered in sea fans, black coral and large barrel sponges. Eagle rays are seen here often enough for the site to also be known as Eagle Ray Point.

Should you have any questions about the diving on this itinerary, or whether it is suitable for your experience level, please contact our team at dive@masterliveaboards.com