

Lembah & Halmahera, Indonesia

Indo Master - 10 Nights Itinerary

- **Embarkation:** Bitung Harbour, North Sulawesi at 13:00*
- **Disembarkation:** Bitung Harbour, North Sulawesi at 10:00

Flights & Transfers

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

Domestic Airport

- Sam Ratulangi International Airport, Manado (MDC)

Domestic flights to and from Manado are not included in the liveboard price.

Transfer between Manado Airport and Bitung Harbour takes approximately 1hr 45 minutes.

Transfers between Manado Airport* or local hotels and Bitung Harbour are provided free of charge on the day of embarkation and disembarkation only.

*PLEASE NOTE: We are not able to pick guests up from the airport if their arrival is in the early hours of the morning. You will need to book a hotel and will be picked up from there around 11:00 a.m.

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.

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 Manado. We advise spending at least one day in Jakarta on either side of your liveboard dates to allow for possible changes to flight schedules and to ensure you are on time for your connections.

The Master Liveboards 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, we *strongly recommend booking flights to arrive the day before embarkation.*

Manado flights

There are several direct flights per day operating between Jakarta and Manado.

Bitung Embarkation: Should you decide to fly into Manado on embarkation day, your flight arrival time must be *no later than 11:00 a.m.*

Bitung Disembarkation: As transfer to Manado Airport takes approximately 1hr 45 minutes, disembarkation will be approximately 4 hours before your flight departure time. Therefore, you should *book an afternoon departure from Manado* 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.

The use of a dive computer, a 6-minute safety stop and an ascent rate of no more than 9 metres (30 ft) per minute are mandatory on all dives.

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 and are comfortable diving in currents.*

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 permanently manned recompression chamber is in Manado; others are located in 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

We dive on both sides of the Equator and cross two seas on this itinerary; The Halmahera Sea and the Molucca Sea. There is very little variation in water temperatures in both areas, which are generally between 28°C and 30°C (82°F - 86°F).

For most divers, a 3mm wetsuit will suffice, 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.masterliveboards.com/terms-conditions.

Marine Park & Port Fees: 150 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 32*

This itinerary involves some long-distance travel and, while we will endeavour to fulfil the number of scheduled dives, this number is indicative only and not guaranteed; bad weather and sea conditions can hinder the boat's ability to reach or remain at a specific area and may impact the number of possible dives.

Included land tours

Due to the distances covered between Lembeh and Halmahera, land visits depend on cruising times and logistics, as noted above. Generally, there will be 1 land visit offered, which will usually be Tangkoko Batu Angus Nature Reserve in North Sulawesi, where Tarsiers, Macaques and Cuscus can be observed in their natural habitats.

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 introductions, boat and safety briefings, and dinner. 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 3-9: 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 10: 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 11: Breakfast on board, followed by disembarkation between 6:00 and 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 across the Molucca Sea between North Sulawesi and Halmahera. 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.

Tifore Island

Rising midway between Halmahera and Sulawesi in the deep open waters of the Molucca Sea, Tifore is a remote volcanic island surrounded by clear blue water and typically excellent visibility. The dive sites here typically start as 10-20 metres deep, coral-covered plateaus that transition into steep slopes and sheer walls, dropping quickly into the deeper blue.

The current-swept reefs support healthy hard and soft corals, sponges and sea fans, with large schools of fusiliers and jacks often moving along the drop-offs. Barracuda frequently gather just off the reef edge, and grey reef sharks are occasionally seen patrolling the deeper slopes.

Sago Sago

Sago Sago is a large and varied dive site that can be explored from several entry points, depending on the direction of the current. Each section has its own distinct character, so we usually do two or three dives here, allowing divers to experience different aspects of this dynamic location.

The reef is beautifully adorned with an impressive mix of corals and large sponges, with ridges and small bommies scattered across the plateau at 15-20 metres. Schools of fusiliers and surgeonfish move almost continuously across the reef, and, in the right conditions, the blue water can fill with hunting jacks and barracuda.

Guraici and Tamo-Tamo Islands

These islands generally mark the point in the cruise where we cross the Equator, transitioning between the southern and northern hemispheres. The Guraici and Tamo-Tamo groups lie around 30 miles west of Halmahera and offer healthy reefs that see relatively little diving pressure.

Most dives begin on coral-covered slopes in the 12–18 metre range before continuing down gentle walls and terraces. Reef fish life is abundant, with fusiliers, snappers and surgeonfish forming large schools, and the channels between the islands occasionally attract larger pelagic visitors.

Renne's Rock

Renne's Rock is a massive pinnacle rising from deep water and surrounded by outstretched plateaus and large bommies at depths of around 10-15 metres. Currents often sweep across the top of the reef, which attracts plentiful fish life and pelagic visitors.

Grey reef sharks, blacktip and whitetip reef sharks are regularly seen patrolling the area, particularly along the edges of the plateau. In the shallower sections, bumphead parrotfish can sometimes be found grazing on the reef while large schools of fusiliers and snappers move across the pinnacle.

Ake Jojaru

Ake Jojaru begins as a wide coral plateau scattered with large bommies. The reef descends 60 metres down a steep slope and wall to a white sandy bottom, which reflects sunlight onto which reflects the sunlight onto the reef, giving the soft corals an almost glowing appearance.

Blacktip reef sharks are often seen along the edges of the reef, and larger reef residents such as Napoleon wrasse and bumphead parrotfish are also common sightings

Tamo-Tamo Pinnacle

Tamo-Tamo Pinnacle is a lively site where currents bring an explosion of colour and marine life to the reef. The wall and upper slopes are heavily decorated with colourful soft corals and small sea fans, where keen-eyed divers may find commensal inhabitants.

In the deeper sections of the wall, ribboned sweetlips often gather in loose groups while grey reef sharks patrol just beyond the reef edge. Dense schools of fusiliers and surgeonfish move constantly across the reef, often pursued by giant trevallies darting through them.

Adu Island

Adu offers a varied reef that transitions from colourful shallow coral gardens to deeper slopes with large sponges and sea fans. The shallow plateau supports healthy hard coral growth and is busy with reef fish.

The outer reef often attracts passing pelagic species. Schools of rainbow runners regularly sweep past, and blacktip reef sharks are commonly seen along the reef edge. Large tunas are also occasionally spotted in the blue water beyond the drop-off.

Bacan Island

Bacan lies just southwest of Halmahera and offers a mix of interesting reef structures and fish-rich currents. Two of the most notable dive sites in this area are:

Akiko's Never-neverland

This topographically diverse dive site features a wall that drops to around 40 metres, broken by cracks and ledges where spiny lobsters and other crustaceans take shelter. The reef top above the wall is covered with large leather corals and is a good place to encounter hawksbill turtles as they forage for food.

Schooling jacks are often seen moving along the wall while blacktip reef sharks cruise the reef edge.

Tanjung Maragarando

This is an exciting dive for pelagic action and schooling fish. The sloping reef is decorated with bright yellow soft corals and sponges at around 30 metres, creating a striking visual contrast against the darker areas of the reef and blue beyond.

With favourable conditions, the site can attract large schools of jacks, blackfin barracuda, golden batfish and fusiliers moving along the slope.

Patanti Strait

Located between Bacan and Halmahera Islands, the Patanti Strait is known for its nutrient-rich currents, which support dense soft corals and impressive gorgonian fan gardens. The exposed reefs often provide action-packed dives, while the sheltered bays nearby can offer excellent night diving.

These calmer areas are good places to look for smaller marine life such as bobtail squid, octopus and even epaulette sharks moving across the sand after dark.

Two sites we may visit here are:

Proco

Proco sits in the middle of the strait as a submerged reef rising from deeper water. The top of the reef forms a broad plateau at around 20–25 metres with coral bommies and ridges that create small current breaks.

The reef is blanketed with pastel yellow and orange soft corals, creating a golden colour contrast to the schools of fusiliers and surgeonfish that gather here.

Batu Jabu

Batu Jabu is a massive submerged reef where dives are usually enjoyed as a gentle drift along coral-covered slopes. Both hard and soft corals grow across the reef, supporting large numbers of reef fish.

Schools of unicornfish, fusiliers, snappers and surgeonfish are common here, while the shallower sections feature dense staghorn coral gardens filled with clouds of anthias.

Bangka Island

Located just off the northernmost tip of North Sulawesi, this small island offers stunningly beautiful pinnacles, sloping reefs and drop-offs. Whichever sites are selected for diving will be a sensory overload of colours and activity. Our favourites and most often dived sites are:

Batu Gosoh

Batu Gosoh, which translates to "Grinding Stone," features a series of dramatic pinnacles rising from the 60 metre deep sea bed to just below the surface. The nature of the dive here is dictated by the currents, which can be strong at some points, but bring added vitality to the area.

The dive usually begins along one of the outer pinnacles before weaving between the rock spires. The rock faces are covered in multi-coloured soft corals, sponges and gorgonian fans, creating a stunning underwater landscape, with narrow cracks, small caverns and swim-through gaps that provide shelter from the current. Bannerfish, snappers and fusiliers often gather around the formations, and it's not unusual to see turtles cruising past the pinnacles or reef sharks passing along the drop-offs.

Batu Sahuang

The site features a sandy bottom that slopes continuously downwards from just below the surface to about 35 metres. Two rocky pinnacles with boulders and ridges create steps that are covered in vibrant green cup corals and large soft corals in shades of pink, yellow, orange, and mauve. Large leather corals, elephant ear sponges, sea fans and table corals add to the site's beauty. This area is home to a wide variety of colourful fish, including surgeonfish, fusiliers, yellowstripe snapper, midnight and blue-striped snappers, red-tooth triggerfish, bannerfish, trevallies, and many others. If your eyes need a break from the swarms of reef fish, take a look around the corals, sponges, and sandy patches where less conspicuous creatures like frogfish, nudibranchs, orangutan crabs and mantis shrimps can be found.

Lembeh Strait

Welcome to the macro hotspot of North Sulawesi. Famed for its rare and bizarre macro life, Lembeh is where "muck diving" all began. The black volcanic sand slopes look barren and desolate at first glance, but with patient observation, the seabed starts to move. Mimic octopus shape shifting, flamboyant cuttlefish walking across the seafloor, tiny blue-ringed octopus, hairy frogfish, seamoths and bottom-dwelling fish, crabs, shrimps, eels, and a vast array of pipefish and nudibranchs — it's all here, and more!

An abundance of life hides among rubble and man-made debris, so these are slow, deliberate dives that require excellent buoyancy control to avoid disturbing the delicate substrate. The more patient you are, the more Lembeh gives back.

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@masterliveboards.com