

Lembah & Sangihe Archipelago, Indonesia

Indo Master - 10 Nights Itinerary

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

Flights & Transfers

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.

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 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 liveboard.

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

The Sangihe Archipelago is located between the Celebes and Molucca Seas, where there is very little variation in water temperatures, 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

Land visits depend on cruising times and logistics, as noted above. Generally, there will be 2 land visits offered on each itinerary, one of which is a volcanic hot spring by the shore, which is always popular. The second land tour 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 on the Lembeh and Sangihe archipelago 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.

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.

Tifore Island

Rising from the depths of the Molucca Sea between North Sulawesi and Halmahera, Tifore is a remote volcanic island surrounded by clear blue water with typically excellent visibility. The island's 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.

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 senses need a break from the swarms of 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.

Biaro & Tagulandang Islands

Located in the southern part of the **Sangihe Archipelago**, Biaro Island and Tagulandang Island rise dramatically from deep water and offer a mixture of steep walls, coral-covered slopes and sheltered harbour dives. Currents moving through the channels often bring lively fish activity, while man-made structures support a surprising diversity of marine life.

Zaccharias Rock

Zaccharias Rock is an exposed pinnacle that features a sloping reef with large table corals, sponges and patches of colourful soft coral. Schools of fusiliers and surgeonfish move steadily across the reef while bumphead parrotfish and Napoleon wrasse are often seen grazing along the slope. Currents can attract larger predators, such as dogtooth tuna and trevallies making this an exciting and lively dive.

Tagulandang Jetty

A very different dive experience, the jetty at Tagulandang forms an atmospheric underwater scene where pillars are draped in gorgonians, soft corals and sponges. Beneath the jetty, the seabed slopes away into sand and rubble where nudibranchs and other small critters can often be found. Nearby lies the wreck of the Bunga Melati XV, a cargo ship that sank in 2016 after striking a reef while carrying cement. Now resting in relatively shallow water, the wreck provides an impressive structure that attracts reef fish and invertebrates.

Ruang Island

Just off the southwestern shores of Tagulandang, the dramatic Ruang Island rises steeply from deep water and is dominated by an active stratovolcano that last erupted in 2024. Past eruptions have sent rivers of lava down the island's slopes and into the sea, creating dramatic underwater landscapes of black volcanic rock where corals and sponges have spawned and become established.

Ruang Island's recent and older eruptions have created two lava paths that extend beneath the surface, forming some of the most unusual dive sites in the Sangihe Archipelago.

Lava Flow Baru

This dive follows one of the more recent lava flows where dark volcanic rock forms a sloping reef that drops into deeper water. Large sponges and colourful soft corals have colonised the rock formations, creating a striking contrast against the black basalt. Schools of surgeonfish, pyramid butterflyfish and fusiliers are commonly seen moving across the reef, while bumphead parrotfish and other larger reef species occasionally appear in the blue.

Lava Flow Tua

Older volcanic formations create a maze of ridges and canyon-like structures that descend along a gentle slope covered with sponges and coral growth. Mid-depth sections can be lively with fusiliers and trevallies moving through the current, sometimes accompanied by tuna or Napoleon wrasse. The dive often finishes over darker sand and a shallow plateau where nudibranchs, ribbon eels, juvenile rockmover wrasse and mantis shrimps may be found.

Siau & Nenung Islands

The waters around Siau Island and nearby Nenung Island feature rugged underwater topography with pinnacles, steep slopes and coral-covered ridges. These sites often host dense schools of reef fish, with schooling species gathering along current-exposed reefs.

Petrus Ridge

A rocky ridge rising from deeper water leads to a colourful reef where yellow and orange soft corals grow densely along the slope. The ridge opens onto a plateau of healthy hard corals where schools of fusiliers and surgeonfish gather in large numbers. Barracuda are frequently seen here; eagle rays and whitetip reef sharks occasionally glide past along the edge of the reef.

Nenung

This small rocky islet drops away into steep walls decorated with soft corals and sponges. Fish life is typically abundant, with schools of fusiliers and pyramid butterflyfish moving along the reef while barracuda, tuna and trevallies patrol the blue. Napoleon wrasse and batfish are also regularly encountered around the reef slope.

Bowondeke

A gently sloping reef with healthy hard coral formations and scattered sponges gradually gives way to areas covered in small soft corals. Large schools of bigeye trevallies and black snappers are often present while rainbow runners and surgeonfish swirl above the reef. This can be a very lively dive, particularly when the currents increase.

Para & Mahangetang Islands

Further north, the remote Para Island and Mahangetang Island offer a unique backdrop for healthy coral growth and abundant marine life. Volcanic activity has created a dramatic underwater terrain of submerged ridges, lava formations and underwater vents, where strong currents often attract dense schools of reef fish and roaming pelagic species.

Mahangetang

A remarkable dive on the slopes of an underwater volcano where a shallow-topped pinnacle drops into steep ridges, small walls and volcanic gullies. Hard corals and lettuce corals thrive along the slopes while large schools of fusiliers and trevallies gather in the blue. In some areas volcanic activity is still evident, with streams of gas bubbles rising from the seabed and patches of warm sand adding a fascinating geological element to the dive.

Big Face

A shallow pinnacle split by two large rock formations that create a scenic canyon covered in colourful soft corals and sea fans. Fish life can be impressive, with trevallies, barracuda and reef sharks occasionally cruising through the current while dense schools of fusiliers and surgeonfish gather above the reef.

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