

# The Southern Forgotten Islands, Indonesia

## 12 Nights Itinerary

- **Embarkation:** Kalabahi Harbour, Alor Island between 12:30 and 13:00\*
- **Disembarkation:** Saumlaki Harbour, Yamdena Island at 10:00

### Flights and Transfers

#### Domestic Airports

- **Arrival Airport:** Alor Island Airport, also known as Mali Airport (ARD)\*
- **Departure Airport:** Mathilda Batlayeri Airport, Saumlaki (SXX)

*\*We strongly recommend making arrangements to arrive in Alor the day before embarkation and arranging a hotel for the night.* (Please refer to the [Domestic flight information](#) below).

A complimentary transfer will be provided to the harbour from your hotel, or the domestic airport on embarkation day, and from the harbour to the local airport, or hotel on the day of disembarkation.

Pick-up time from local hotels is usually around 12:00-12:30 and will be confirmed by the local operations team the night before embarkation.

- Transfer from Alor Island Airport to Kalabahi Harbour takes approximately 20 minutes.
- Transfer from Saumlaki Harbour to Saumlaki Airport is approximately 10 minutes.

### International Arrival & Departure

You can book international flights into and out of Jakarta (CGK) or Bali (DPS) International Airport for this itinerary, although we suggest Jakarta for the easiest domestic connections. We strongly advise you to spend at least one day/night in Jakarta or Bali either side of your liveaboard dates to allow for possible changes to flight schedules and to ensure you are on time for your connections.

Our team can help to arrange hotel accommodations and domestic flight connections between your international arrival and departure and the embarkation and disembarkation locations.

## Domestic flights

Check-in time for domestic flights in Indonesia is usually 2 hours before departure.

**IMPORTANT:** As domestic flight schedule changes, delays and cancellations are common occurrences in Indonesia and can result in missed connections, we strongly recommend making allowances for this when arranging domestic flights.

### Inbound to Alor

There are no direct flights from Jakarta or Bali to Alor Island. Both routes involve a flight change in Kupang (KOE).

- From Jakarta, connection time in Kupang is usually 2 hours
- From Bali, an overnight stop is required in Kupang

*There are only two flights per day from Jakarta and Bali to Kupang and only one per day between Kupang and Alor.*

We are unable to delay the liveboard's departure for individual late arrivals as this disrupts other guests and impacts the itinerary schedule and diving possibilities. Please be advised that, if your delayed arrival is after the liveboard has departed, you may be charged the cost of arranging a speed boat transfer, or for additional fuel consumption related to Indo Master having to return to port.

### Outbound from Saumlaki

There are no direct flights to Jakarta or Bali from Saumlaki. Both routes involve flying to Ambon (AMQ) for onward travel.

- There are several direct flights per day from Ambon to Jakarta.
- From Ambon to Bali requires an additional flight connection, either in Makassar (UPG), Surabaya (SUB) or Jakarta.

There is only one flight per day from Saumlaki to Ambon and, due to the flight arrival time from Saumlaki, connection with onward flights may involve a 4-5 hour layover or an overnight stay in Ambon.

## Diving Information

*It is mandatory for all divers 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 is mandatory on all dives.***

Due to the exposed nature of many of the areas covered on this itinerary, some of the diving is not suitable for inexperienced divers due to depths and strong currents.

## Minimum dive certification and experience

Divers joining a Southern Forgotten Islands itinerary are **required** to have **PADI Advanced Open Water**, or equivalent certification, and 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 minimum certification and experience requirements, or who our crew feel have insufficient skills for certain conditions may be denied participation in some or all dives.*

## Diving Emergencies

The route on this itinerary covers many remote and isolated diving locations. In the event of a diving accident or suspected DCI, transfer from Indo Master to a hospital or recompression chamber is likely to require a private speedboat, emergency air evacuation or both. While diving around Alor, the nearest recompression chamber is in Labuan Bajo (Komodo); Others are located in Manado (North Sulawesi), Makassar (South Sulawesi), Bali and Jakarta.

*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 Temperature and Exposure Suits

The majority of our Southern Forgotten Islands dive sites are spread across the Banda Sea with temperatures ranging from 26°C (79°F) to 29°C (84°F). However, some of the dives around Alor are in the Suva Sea which is slightly cooler at 24°C - 28°C (75° to 82°F)

For most divers, a 3mm wetsuit will suffice for the warmer water dives while others find they are comfortable diving with just swimwear and a hooded vest or rashguard. For the dives in cooler water, and for those prone to feeling cold after prolonged or multiple dives, we suggest bringing additional thermal layers or a 5mm wetsuit.

## Itinerary Details

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

This itinerary entails long-distance cruising, some of which may include motoring overnight.

**Marine Park & Port Fees:** 120 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.

**Number of scheduled dives:** Up to 36

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 vessel's ability to reach or remain at a specific area and may impact the number of possible dives.

## Included land visits

Due to the distances and area covered on the Southern Forgotten Islands itinerary, land visits depend on cruising times and logistics, as noted above. Usually, you will have the opportunity to visit Lativui Village in Alor and to go ashore on Dai Island towards the end of the itinerary.

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

**Day 1:** Embarkation is followed by introductions and boat and safety briefings. After these, you can assemble your equipment with help from the friendly crew and settle into your cabin. The vessel will depart while you relax and enjoy snacks and dinner.

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

**Days 3-11:** Your Cruise Manager will schedule 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 & Dive 1
- Full Breakfast, relaxation followed by briefing & Dive 2
- Lunch, relaxation followed by briefing & Dive 3
- Snack
- Briefing for Sunset or Night dive
- Dinner

**Day 12:** For your last full day on board, we usually schedule 2 dives\* before the boat cruises back to the harbour, where it will remain at anchor overnight.

**Day 13:** Breakfast on board followed by disembarkation between 08:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

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

While we wish to show you the very best diving possible, various factors determine which route the boat takes and the dive sites we visit. *Weather, tides, currents and sea conditions all play a part in the Cruise Manager's decision of where the Indo Master is heading, and which sites are chosen to dive.*

Following is a sample of some of the dive sites we may visit during your time aboard Indo Master. ***The safety of our guests is paramount and we always do our best to offer diving at alternative locations, should we be unable to visit any of the sites listed below.***

## Pantar Strait

The Pantar Strait is equally known for critter diving and stunning reef walls where larger pelagic species can often be spotted. Strong currents are to be expected but these bring the nutrients which feed the reef and the inhabitants of the strait. There are a variety of dive sites and we chose the optimum sites based on the conditions. The water is often colder than other areas due to the flow of water from the south; expect temperatures of 22°C / 72°F.

## The French Man's Window

A wall dive site in front of Alor's Divers Resort, covered in a fantastic array of soft corals. Look closely to find a wide variety of nudibranchs; remember to watch in the blue as well as something big might swim past.

## Clown Valley

Hundreds of anemones hosting the Clark's anemonefish cover the shallow reef slope on the south side of Pulau Pura. A stunning site but thermoclines can be expected so be prepared for some chilly water that may attract thresher sharks.

## The Arch

Located at Pulau Reta, The Arch is famous for its overhangs and fissures providing stunning topography, as well as a home to schooling fusiliers and colourful anthias. Larger pelagic fish, including black-tip reef sharks, have been spotted here too.

## Mucky Mosque

An iconic muck dive at the entrance of Kalabahi Bay where the attentive eye can find paddle-flap & frondosa's rhinopias, as well as ornate, robust and even Halimeda and velvet ghost pipefish, frogfish, bobtail squid, long-arm octopus and for the lucky ones: wunderpus.

## Wetar and Reong Islands

These tropical islands have walls covered with huge sponges and soft corals along with colourful reefs teeming with marine life, including eagle rays and turtles. The currents can be fairly robust in the channel between Wetar and Reong, therefore all divers are advised to carry reef hooks and remain within close range of a dive buddy or their dive guide. We usually schedule 3 dives around Wetar and Reong spread across one day to explore the area's varied diving sites.

## Gunung Api Island

In a remote part of Indonesia's Banda Sea, almost 200 kilometres from the nearest land mass, sits the still-active volcano Gunung Api or "Fire Mountain". Below its lava-encrusted shoreline, the volcano is famous for its high population of banded and olive [sea snakes](#). This volcanic island offers dramatic topographies with sheer walls covered with vibrant soft corals and huge barrel sponges. This oasis of life attracts large pelagics such as dogtooth tunas, rainbow runners and, sometimes, hammerhead sharks or even silvertip sharks can be spotted cruising the surrounding waters.

## Nyata and Terbang Islands

Further to the east of Wetar, the islands of Pulau Nyata and Terbang offer unspoiled reefs for a great diving experience.

At Nyata, rainbow-coloured soft corals and a myriad of hard corals dominate the landscape, whilst at Terbang we find dramatic walls with soft coral reef top gardens and plenty of bumphead parrotfish and schooling reef fish.

## Nil Desperandum & Serua

Upwelling and currents around these islands bring nutrient-rich waters and with them an abundance of marine life. We see many larger fish species in these little visited waters. Tunas, Napoleon wrasse and groupers are among the most common sightings while hammerhead sharks are also known to make an occasional appearance. Schooling surgeonfish, bannerfish and barracuda give divers a spectacular display.

## Dai & Dawera

On our way to Saumlaki, these islands have plenty to offer from gorgeous shallow hard coral gardens to deep walls and rocky slopes covered with massive sponges. The seamounts are swarming with curtains of pyramid butterflyfishes and the friendliest longfin batfishes we have ever encountered. Spiny lobsters hide in the numerous cracks and overhangs in Dai, while shoals of snappers, unicorn fishes and rivers of fusiliers inhabit the pristine reefs.

Should you have any questions concerning the dive sites or whether this itinerary is suitable for your experience level, please contact our reservations team [dive@masterliveboards.com](mailto:dive@masterliveboards.com) who will be pleased to assist and advise you.