

Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park, Philippines

6 Nights Itinerary

- **Arrival/departure airport:** Puerto Princesa International Airport (PPS)
- **Meeting point for embarkation:** Hue Hotel, Puerto Princesa at 12:30*
- **Embarkation Point:** Baywalk Pier, Puerto Princesa at 13:00
- **Disembarkation Point:** Baywalk Pier, Puerto Princesa between 09:30-10:00 only

**It is imperative that all guests arrive at the meeting point before 12:30 to avoid unnecessary delays to the boat's departure from Puerto Princesa.*

Due to local regulations, and 12-16 hours crossing time from Puerto Princesa to Tubbataha, **all guests need to embark at the designated time.** The Tubbataha Management Office needs to do a mandatory briefing for ALL guests, followed by a check conducted by the coast guards before Philippine Siren can leave Puerto Princesa. If the briefing and Coast Guard checks are not accomplished in good time, the boat will not be able to leave the port, subsequently delaying arrival in Tubbataha and the diving schedule.

We cannot be held responsible for delayed departure from Puerto Princesa, or missed dives caused by guests arriving late.

Tubbataha Visitor Entry Permits

All guests must complete a Visitor Entry Permit application before Philippine Siren will be issued with a permit by TMO to enter Tubbataha. When completing the form, which can be accessed here - <https://bit.ly/TubbatahaGuest> - you will need to select the liveaboard vessel name which is officially listed as Philippine Siren 2.

Flights & Transfers

Transfer from Puerto Princesa Airport or hotels within Puerto Princesa city boundaries to Hue Hotel, and from Hue Hotel to Philippine Siren on embarkation day is included in the liveaboard price. Shared transfer from Philippine Siren to Puerto Princesa Airport or local hotels on the day of disembarkation is also included in the liveaboard price. Transfers from and to hotels and resorts outside Puerto Princesa city boundaries can be arranged for an additional charge.

Advice on Flights

Flights to and from Puerto Princesa are not included in the liveaboard price.

International flights may be booked into and out of Manila or Cebu, although Manila offers a greater choice of flights to Puerto Princesa. We recommend making arrangements to arrive in Manila, Cebu or Puerto Princesa at least one day before your liveaboard departure date to allow for possible flight delays or schedule changes and to ensure you start your holiday well-rested.

If transiting between international and domestic flights on the same day, please allow plenty of time for transfer between terminals, check-in and security clearance.

Embarkation Day Arrival in Puerto Princesa

If you intend to arrive in Puerto Princesa on the day of embarkation please **book a flight which arrives in PPS no later than 12.00, noon**. The airport is a short taxi ride from our embarkation meeting point at Hue Hotel

Disembarkation Day Departure from Puerto Princesa

Disembarkation is between 09:30 and 10:00. We kindly request guests *NOT* to book early morning flight departures.

IMPORTANT:

Disembarkation involves transfer from Philippine Siren to the jetty on the tenders.

Flight check-in time is at least 2 hours before departure so, disembarkation needs to be 3 hours before. Early morning flight departures pose many logistical and safety issues and therefore should not be booked.

1. Arrival time in Puerto Princesa from Tubbataha depends on the weather conditions and we can not guarantee that the boat will be back at port in time for early departures.
2. The disembarkation point is slippery and wet, and there are no street lights in the area, which makes it dangerous to disembark in the dark. (Sunrise is around 06:00)
3. At low tide (between midnight and 5 am), the dinghy can not reach the lowest step of the jetty so the crew have to drag the tender closer to the steps, which is hazardous for them and can cause a lot of damage to the RHIB or prop.
4. Our crew needs their rest! - They work extremely hard to make your holiday as enjoyable as possible and there are limits set by the International Labour Organisation's Maritime Convention for the maximum number of work hours and minimum hours of rest for all seafarers. Early disembarkation deprives our crew of the rest they are entitled to and deserve.

Diving Information

While we are happy for non-divers to join us on Tubbataha itineraries, for safety reasons we regret that we can not organise **snorkelling** or swimming activities in Tubbataha, and it is not permitted to go ashore on any of the islands.

Mandatory minimum dive certification and experience:

Diving conditions in and around Tubbataha are not suitable for entry-level or inexperienced divers due to the exposed location and challenging conditions, including strong currents, deep wall dives and surge.

All divers joining a Tubbataha itinerary **must have PADI Advanced Open Water** certification, or equivalent, with **a minimum of 50 logged dives and experience in strong currents.**

Currents can be unpredictable, varying from moderate to very strong, and change from one trip to the next. Some trips have mild currents while on other trips, especially around new or full moon phases, currents can be very strong. Similarly, some dive sites are sheltered from currents, while other most are exposed and therefore generally dived as a drift.

Any guests who our crew feel have insufficient experience or skills to dive safely in certain conditions may be denied participation in some or all dives during the liveaboard.

We can not offer Advanced Open Water certification on Tubbataha itineraries. Open Water divers with at least 50 logged dives are advised to complete Advanced training before the start of their liveaboard itinerary.

It is a mandatory requirement for all divers to have insurance which covers scuba diving activities and accidents, including emergency evacuation costs. We strongly recommend purchasing diving-specific insurance (e.g. [DiveAssure](#), [DAN](#), etc.) before your trip departure.

The use of a dive computer is compulsory on all dives.

Diving Emergencies

There are numerous recompression facilities throughout the Philippines; the most accessible are located in Manila, Cebu and Batangas. There is also a hyperbaric chamber at Ospital ng Palawan in Puerto Princesa City. Private emergency air evacuation may be needed to access these facilities from Tubbataha National Park in the unlikely event of an accident.

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

Water temperatures are broadly similar throughout the Philippines with temperatures around Tubbataha ranging from 26°-29°C (79°-84°F). Most guests find that a 3mm or 5mm wetsuit is suitable for the expected water temperatures. 3 mm shorty wetsuits are available to rent on board. However, we recommend that those who feel the cold easily, especially with repeated diving, bring a full-length wetsuit or an extra vest/hood with them.

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: 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 19

This itinerary involves some long-distance cruising to and from Tubbataha National Marine Park and, while we endeavour to ensure the number of scheduled dives is fulfilled, bad weather and other factors can affect cruising time and the number of dives that are possible.

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

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

Day 1: Embarkation from Baywalk Pier at 13:00. Once on board, lunch will be served followed by a mandatory briefing from the Tubbataha Management Office and a check conducted by the Coast Guard before the boat can leave port.

There is no diving on embarkation day.

Days 2-5: Your Cruise Director will schedule up to 4 dives per day; 3 day dives and a sunset dive, typically 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 dive (no night dives)
- Dinner

In accordance with Tubbataha Marine Park regulations, dive times are limited to a maximum of 60 minutes.

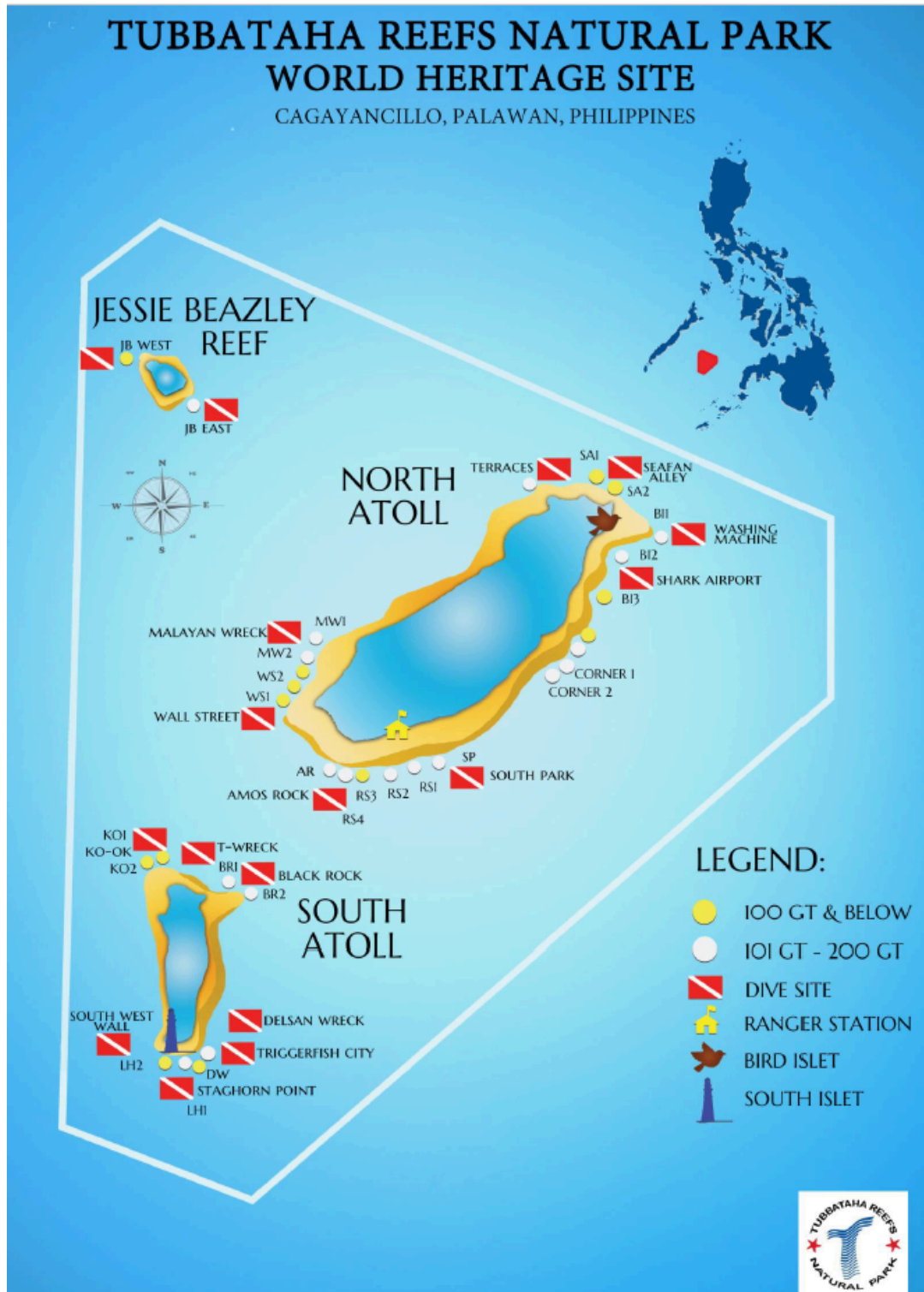
Day 6: Two morning dives* in Tubbataha National Park before Philippine Siren commences the 12-16 hour crossing back to Puerto Princesa.

Day 7: Following breakfast on board, disembarkation between 09:30 and 10:00.

*We kindly request that guests check their flight departure times to ensure that they leave a minimum of 24 hours between their final dive and the departure of their flight from Puerto Princesa.

Tubbataha Reefs Information

Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park comprises North Atoll, South Atoll and Jessie Beazley Reef and is often rated as one of the world's best diving destinations by those who have been fortunate to dive there.



Tubbataha - Ban on Single-Use Plastics

Regulations against single-use plastics in the Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park have been in place since 2019. The ban applies to all diving vessel operators and visitors, with the Tubbataha Management Office (TMO) and park rangers having the authority to ensure compliance. The ban specifically refers to plastic water/ drinks bottles, plastic cutlery, plastic cups and plates, plastic straws and stirrers and styrofoam/ polystyrene food and drinks containers.

In 2023, stricter checks were implemented by the TMO to enforce this dictate, with the park authorities announcing they will board vessels and impose fines if prohibited items are found.

However, as single-use plastics generally refer to any item which is intended to be used once and then thrown away or recycled, they also include packaging and wrappers, carrier bags, and a variety of other products. With this in mind, and to help the initiative to reduce plastic pollution throughout the Philippines, we respectfully ask guests joining a Tubbataha itinerary on Philippine Siren to try to avoid bringing any single-use plastic items with them

PLEASE NOTE: The following are also prohibited in Tubbataha

- Diving with gloves (unless for medical reasons)*
- Use of reef hooks, tank bangers and nudi-pointers
- Use of drones without a permit
- Dives longer than 60 minutes
- Night dives

*Guests who have medical issues and are advised to wear gloves for protection underwater must carry a physician's certificate for this purpose. There is no exception to this rule.

Further details of the Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park Rules & Regulations can be downloaded here: [Tubbataha Park Rules & Regulations](#)

Dive sites primarily feature deep, vertical walls or steep drop-offs topped with shallow reefs teeming with fish. Angelfish, butterflyfish, rainbow runners, Moorish idols, fusiliers, jacks, snappers, and sweetlips often accompany divers, while stingrays, marble rays, spiny lobsters, and juvenile reef sharks are commonly seen in many areas. Tubbataha serves as an important nesting and feeding ground for green and Hawksbill turtles, which can often be seen grazing on the reefs.

Large trevally, tuna, and barracuda, as well as grey reef sharks and white tip reef sharks, can often be spotted patrolling the reefs at various dive sites, while manta rays and eagle rays may occasionally make appearances. Groupers and wrasses thrive in these waters, and some Siren Fleet guests have reported sightings of hammerhead and silver-tip sharks among the larger species of elasmobranchs during their cruises.

In addition to breathtaking dives, you will also have the opportunity to visit the ranger station on the North Atoll to learn more about the marine protection efforts in the area.

Following is an overview of some of the dive sites we usually visit in Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park, although we may not include all of them on every trip. The safety of our guests is paramount, and we always do our best to offer diving at alternative locations within the National Park should we be unable to visit any of the sites listed below for any reason.

North Atoll

Gorgonian Wall

This breathtaking dive site is known for its steep coral-covered walls and thriving marine biodiversity. The site features large gorgonian sea fans, whip corals, and barrel sponges, creating a stunning underwater landscape with visibility typically ranging from 15 to 30 metres, providing clear views of the vibrant reef. Starting at around 10 metres, the wall drops off into the deep, offering a dramatic vertical dive. Moderate to strong currents attract pelagic species, making it an exciting drift dive. Expect to see schools of trevally, barracuda, and snapper patrolling the reef along with whitetip reef sharks, grey reef sharks, and manta rays. Green sea turtles also often visit the reef to feed.

Washing Machine

Famous for its changeable currents, Washing Machine is one of the most exhilarating dive sites in Tubbataha with countercurrents converging around the exposed northeastern tip of North Atoll, creating a temporary washing machine-like vortex. While this may sound intimidating, we normally try to dive here when there is minimal current, but conditions can still be unpredictable. Our dive guides have plenty of experience leading divers through this area, making it safe and fun for those comfortable in stronger currents. Once past the swirling zone, the drift becomes smoother, and divers are treated to spectacular reefsides teeming with life and opportunities for action-packed encounters.

The nutrient-rich currents support a wide variety of marine life, and bring plankton and baitfish, attracting larger predators. Common sightings include schooling jacks, snappers and barracuda, Manta rays, eagle rays, grey reef sharks, white-tip reef sharks, and sometimes even hammerhead sharks.

Shark Airport

A signature dive of Tubbataha itineraries, the star attraction of Shark Airport is its shark population. Featuring a wide, coral-covered plateau at around 15 metres, which drops off to a shelf at 25 metres, this exciting dive site is so called because whitetip reef sharks are often seen resting on the sandy bottom, resembling planes parked on a runway. Grey reef sharks are also common here, often patrolling the reef wall in groups. Other marine life includes dog-tooth tuna, schools of trevally, marble rays, eagle rays, nurse sharks, Napoleon Wrasse and groupers.

North East Wall

The North East Wall offers a thrilling combination of spectacular vertical drops, rich coral growth, and encounters with large pelagics, and is a true showcase of Tubbataha's legendary beauty; a place where you can feel the raw energy of the open sea while being surrounded by pristine reef life. As its name suggests, the wall runs along the northeast side of the atoll, directly facing the open Sulu Sea, meaning it's exposed to nutrient-rich currents that fuel an incredibly diverse and abundant marine ecosystem. The top of the reef offers a colourful coral garden, but most divers soon venture over the edge, where the wall plunges dramatically into the blue. Adorned with stunning sea fans, sponges and colourful coral bushes, this site is a favourite among photographers and big-fish enthusiasts due to the frequent sightings of sharks, rays, turtles, and schooling fish, all against a backdrop of an epic underwater cliff face.

South Park

South Park is usually one of the more relaxed dive sites on the North Atoll compared to some of Tubbataha's high-adrenaline walls and drift sites. Featuring a shallow coral plateau that gently slopes downward, transitioning to a wall, vibrant coral gardens, and excellent marine biodiversity, currents here are generally manageable but can sometimes pick up, providing a gentle drift along the slope or wall. The reef structure is rich and varied, with sandy patches, coral bommies, and mini walls adorned with hard and soft corals.

The mix of macro life with mid-size predators makes it an exciting dive for both wide-angle and macro enthusiasts. Green turtles and hawksbill turtles are commonly seen grazing or resting while schooling fusiliers, snappers, and rainbow runners swarm over the reef. Other regular encounters include grey and whitetip reef sharks, Napoleon Wrasse and a variety of stingrays.

Amos Rock

Also known as Southwest Rock, Amos Rock is arguably one of the most iconic and celebrated dive sites in the Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park. Located off the northwestern tip of the North Atoll, the dive site offers a breathtaking combination of dramatic wall topography, nutrient-rich currents, lush coral coverage, and outstanding marine life.

Named after a local ranger, this site is famous for thrilling drifts along vertical walls, massive schools of fish, frequent shark sightings, and pristine hard and soft coral gardens. Known for its stunning coral formations, huge gorgonian fans, massive barrel sponges and black coral bushes, currents are a major part of the Amos Rock experience. Typically flowing along the wall, the current can vary from a gentle drift to a strong ride, turning the dive into an exhilarating underwater 'flight'. Every few meters, the scenery changes from vibrant coral overhangs to dramatic crevices, and all the while, the blue water around you is teeming with action.

Malayan Wreck

The Malayan Wreck dive site is a vibrant fusion of natural and artificial reefs, often described as one of the more "mystical" sites in Tubbataha due to the moody silhouette of the wreck and the abundance of life sheltering in and around it. Starting between 5-10 metres, the reef features a gentle coral slope that transitions into a steep vertical wall beyond 20 metres, with the remains of the Malayan partially embedded into the slope between 15 and 25 metres.

It's a great site for macro and wide-angle photography with moray eels tucked into crevices within the wreck, nudibranchs, shrimps, crabs, pipefish and seahorses amongst the corals and sponges, Schooling bannerfish, fusiliers, and anthias along the reefs and plenty of pelagic action.

Adjacent to the wreck, the **Malayan Wall** is a deep drop-off where white-tip and grey reef sharks are regularly spotted along with giant trevallies, dogtooth tuna, blackfin, yellowfin and bigeye barracuda. Occasionally, schools of hammerhead sharks can also be spotted.

Wall Street

Wall Street is a beautiful and serene dive that offers everything from dramatic topography to thrilling wildlife encounters. Typically dived as a drift, it's one of the classic Tubbataha sites that showcases the health and beauty of this remote marine sanctuary.

Depending on the current, there are many opportunities to pause and observe the small details or just hang midwater and take in the scenery. The drop-off here is breathtaking and offers a sense of flying along a cliff face underwater. As you glide along the wall, you'll encounter a tapestry of colourful corals, ledges, and overhangs, many of which hide moray eels, lionfish, and crustaceans. You'll often spot schools of reef fish hugging the wall while your peripheral vision catches movement in the deep blue — reef sharks, barracuda, and sometimes manta rays or whale sharks passing by.

South Atoll

Black Rock

While Black Rock may not boast the most extensive coral coverage compared to other sites in Tubbataha, its appeal lies in the abundance and diversity of marine life. The combination of a sloping plateau and steep walls provides an ideal setting for observing both reef dwellers and pelagic visitors. The site's location and conditions make it a favourite among divers seeking encounters with larger marine species in a relatively tranquil environment. Currents can be strong and changeable, which fuels an environment bursting with large schools of fish, shark activity, and occasional pelagic visitors.

There is so much to explore at this dive site that we will often spend a whole day diving here. Schools of surgeonfish, rainbow runners and sweetlips are a common sight. White tip and nurse sharks are found resting under huge table corals, and scribbled filefish, boxfish, and leaf fish add to the colour and spectacle of the stunning reef; a great site for spotting spiny lobster too!

Delsan Wreck

Named after the remnants of a small fishing vessel that sank during a storm, Delsan Wreck offers a dynamic diving experience, combining the intrigue of a shipwreck with the allure of vibrant marine ecosystems. The site's topography includes sloping reefs and coral formations that provide habitats for a multitude of species. "The Cut," a 30-metre deep by 20-metre wide crevasse in the coral, serves as a natural channel where predators often hunt, offering thrilling encounters for divers. Currents can vary from mild to strong, often enhancing the presence of pelagic species.

Grey reef sharks and white tip reef sharks, schools of rainbow runners and different species of barracuda, trevallies, snappers, groupers, fusiliers and sweetlips are just a few examples of the marine life that fill this amazing dive site with colour and vitality.

Triggerfish City

Triggerfish City offers a high-energy, visually rich dive with constant activity. True to its name, the site is famous for its large populations of triggerfish with prolific numbers of red-toothed triggerfish swirling above the reef in large, synchronised schools. Yellowmargin and clown

triggerfish are also common, as well as territorial Titan triggerfish, especially during nesting season when they aggressively guard their conical nests on the seafloor.

The reef begins at a depth of 5 metres and is adorned with sparse staghorn corals, providing a habitat for an array of colourful reef fish. From the reef top, the underwater landscape transitions into a wall that gradually leads down to a sandy bottom, reaching depths of 12- 14 metres and adorned with barrel sponges and sea fans. On the eastern side, the wall steepens, plunging to an impressive depth of 50 meters.

This dive offers an exhilarating drift experience, where divers may witness schooling juvenile grey reef sharks, whitetip sharks, barracudas, turtles, oriental sweetlips, and various grouper and snapper species residing on the rocky reef ledges.

Staghorn Point

Staghorn Point offers a serene and visually stunning diving experience. As its name suggests, this dive site is characterised by its vast expanses of staghorn coral, which create a complex and intricate reef structure with a rich mix of reef-associated species, occasional pelagics, and vibrant coral dwellers. These coral fields provide shelter and breeding grounds for a multitude of reef fish, including anthias, chromis and damselfish, creating a vibrant and dynamic underwater scene. As the reef extends seaward, it transitions into a steep wall adorned with various coral formations, sponges, and sea fans. Green turtles are often seen feeding on soft corals and resting on the reef, and Whitetip reef sharks can be seen cruising along the deeper wall sections.

South West Wall

Southwest Wall is a spectacular dive site known for its dramatic drop-off, vibrant reef life, and regular pelagic sightings. A narrow coral plateau leads abruptly to a sheer, vertical wall, richly decorated with gorgonian sea fans, barrel sponges, and soft corals. As divers descend along the wall, they'll find overhangs, small caves, and crevices, which provide shelter for resting whitetip reef sharks, a whole host of reef and cryptic species.

As with many of Tubbataha's dive sites, grey reef sharks are a common sight here, along with schools of Big Eye barracuda, trevallies and dogtooth tuna. The reef is densely populated by anthias, butterflyfish, and wrasses weaving through the coral structures and abundant Parrotfish, Moorish idols, and angelfish along the upper slope. Look closer and you'll find nudibranchs, shrimp, leaf scorpionfish, and blennies tucked into coral crevices.

Ko-Ok

Ko-Ok is a stunning diving site featuring a broad, sandy-terraced reef top that starts at depths of about 3-8 metres and slopes to 18 metres before dropping into a steep wall. The reef features a flat coral plateau interspersed with sandy patches and scattered bommies on the shallow slope, transitioning to a wall adorned with large sponges and gorgonian fans. Ko-Ok is famous for its massive fish shoals, including swirling schools of bigeye trevally and fusiliers.

Other regular encounters include Big Eye barracuda, Dogtooth Tuna, reef sharks, Bumphead parrotfish, giant moray eels and Hawksbill turtles. and occasionally hammerhead sharks. Currents at Ko-Ok are usually moderate but can become strong during swells.

Jessie Beazley Reef

Jessie Beazley Reef is a spectacular microcosm of everything that makes Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park so extraordinary: wild, beautiful, and untouched. Located about 20 kilometres north of Tubbataha's North Atoll, this small, isolated seamount is capped by a sandy cay with impressive walls plunging to abyssal depths. Because of its remote location and strong surrounding currents, it enjoys some of the healthiest coral coverage in the entire area.

The reef is famous for its pristine coral gardens, exquisite marine biodiversity, huge schools of pelagic fish, and the occasional big pelagic visitor. Rich in various coral species, including enormous table corals, brain corals, and fields of staghorn corals, marine life includes White tip reef sharks, black tips, whale sharks, hammerheads, bull sharks, manta rays, and a variety of reef fish.

We mostly dive around and between the corners along the east side of Jessie Beazley Reef, which boasts a perfect blend of lush reefsides, exciting drifts, stunning macro life, and big animal encounters. The choice of where we dive on each trip is determined by the currents, and each section offers a slightly different flavour of diving, from colourful coral gardens to fast-paced shark-filled expressways.

Should you have any questions regarding the dive sites or whether this itinerary is suitable for your experience level, please contact our reservations team dive@masterliveaboards.com.