

# Tubbataha and More, Philippines

## 13 Nights Itinerary

### Puerto Princesa - Cebu

- **Meeting point for Puerto Princesa embarkation:** Hue Hotel at 12:30
- **Puerto Princesa embarkation:** Baywalk Pier, Puerto Princesa at 13:00\*
- **Cebu Disembarkation:** Marina Seaview Restaurant, Mactan Island at 10:00

**\*Puerto Princesa embarkation:** 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.**

**\*IMPORTANT - *It is imperative that all guests are ready to embark at 13:00***

- A mandatory check by the PPS coast guards and briefing by the Tubbataha Management Office must be conducted when ALL guests are on board.
- Philippine Siren will not be allowed to depart from Puerto Princesa until the briefing and coast guard check have been accomplished, and clearance given to leave.
- Crossing time from Puerto Princesa to Tubbataha is between 12-16 hours; any delays to departure due to late arrival of guests may result in Philippine Siren being refused permission to leave port or in dives being missed.

### Cebu - Puerto Princesa

- **Meeting point for Cebu embarkation:** Marina Seaview Restaurant, Mactan Island
- **Embarkation:** 13:00
- **Disembarkation:** Baywalk Pier, Puerto Princesa between 09:30 and 10:00\*\*

**\*\*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. We therefore kindly request guests **NOT** to book early morning flight departure as they pose many logistical and safety issues and therefore.

- 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.
- 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)

- 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.
- 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.

## Flights and Transfers

### Flight Advice

International flights may be booked into and out of Cebu or Manila depending on which is most convenient. Manila offers more domestic flight choices to/from Puerto Princesa whereas flights between Cebu and Puerto Princesa are very limited. There are numerous daily flights between Manila and Cebu making Manila the preferred international hub for most Tubbataha and More itinerary guests.

We recommend you plan to arrive in Manila, Cebu or Puerto Princesa at least one day before your liveboard embarkation date to allow for possible flight delays or schedule changes and to ensure you start your holiday well-rested.

Please allow plenty of time (at least 3 hours) between domestic and international flight times for luggage reclamation, transfer between terminals, check-in and immigration clearance.

### Transfer information

#### **Puerto Princesa embarkation / Cebu disembarkation**

Transfer from Puerto Princesa Airport and local hotels to Hue Hotel Puerto Princesa, and from Hue Hotel to Baywalk Pier are provided free of charge on embarkation day. Transfers from hotels and resorts outside of the Puerto Princesa city area can be arranged for an additional charge.

Transfer from Marina Seaview Restaurant to Mactan-Cebu International Airport or hotels within the Mactan Island / Cebu City area is provided free of charge upon disembarkation at 10:00.

#### **Cebu embarkation / Puerto Princesa disembarkation**

Transfer from Mactan-Cebu Airport and local hotels to Marina Seaview Restaurant is provided free of charge on embarkation day.

Transfer from Baywalk Pier to Puerto Princesa Airport or hotels within the Puerto Princesa city boundaries is provided free of charge upon disembarkation at 10:00. Transfers to hotels and resorts outside of the Puerto Princesa area can be arranged for an additional charge.

## 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.

## Diving Information

Diving conditions in and around Tubbataha are not suitable for entry-level or inexperienced divers due to strong currents, deep walls and surge. **Currents in Tubbataha are very variable and change all the time.** Some trips have mild currents while on other trips, especially around new or full moon phases, currents can be very strong.

Likewise, while we are happy for non-divers to join us on Tubbataha & More 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.

### Minimum dive certification and experience:

To be able to dive in Tubbataha Natural Reefs Park, divers **must have PADI Advanced\* Open Water** certification, or equivalent, with a **minimum of 50 logged dives** and **experience in strong currents.**

\*Guests on trips departing from Cebu who have 50 logged dives but are not Advanced Open Water divers may be able to complete the certification course dives while the boat is in the Visayas region. However, this is subject to several factors and must be requested and confirmed well in advance of the cruise departure.

**PLEASE NOTE: We can not conduct any training dives on trips departing from Puerto Princesa.**

*Any guests who do not meet the minimum requirements, or 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.*

All divers must have insurance which covers scuba diving and all costs which may be incurred as a result of a diving-related incident. We strongly recommend purchasing diving-specific insurance (e.g. [DiveAssure](#), [DAN](#), etc.) before your trip departure.

## Recompression Chambers

There is a hyperbaric chamber at Viscom Station Hospital in Cebu City which would be the closest should an incident occur while Philippine Siren is in the Visayas, and at Ospital ng Palawan in Puerto Princesa City which would be the closest for Tubbataha although evacuation could also be to Manila. In the unlikely event of an accident, *private emergency air evacuation may be needed* to access these facilities depending where we are in the itinerary. In such an event, *you will be liable for all evacuation costs.*

*It is your responsibility to ensure that your insurance will fully cover and reimburse all evacuation costs in addition to recompression chamber and/or hospital treatment.*

## 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).

**Marine Park & Port Fees:** 160 USD per person\* (payable on board only)

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

\*There is an additional fee of 30 USD per person, also payable on board, for optional diving with whale sharks at Oslob.

**Number of scheduled dives:** Up to 39

This itinerary involves some long-distance travel and, while we endeavour to ensure the maximum number of dives indicated above is fulfilled, this is only indicative and not guaranteed. Delayed departure, bad weather and sea conditions can affect the boat's ability to reach a specific area in good time and may impact 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 at 13:00 followed by lunch and briefings. There is no diving on embarkation day.

**Day 2-12:** Your Cruise Director will schedule up to 4 dives per day; 3 day dives and a sunset or night dive. A typical diving day is 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 Dive 4 (sunset dives only in Tubbataha)
- Dinner

**Day 13:** Usually 2 morning\* dives before Philippine Siren commences the cruise to port.

**Day 14:** Breakfast on board followed by disembarkation between 09:30 and 10:00.\*

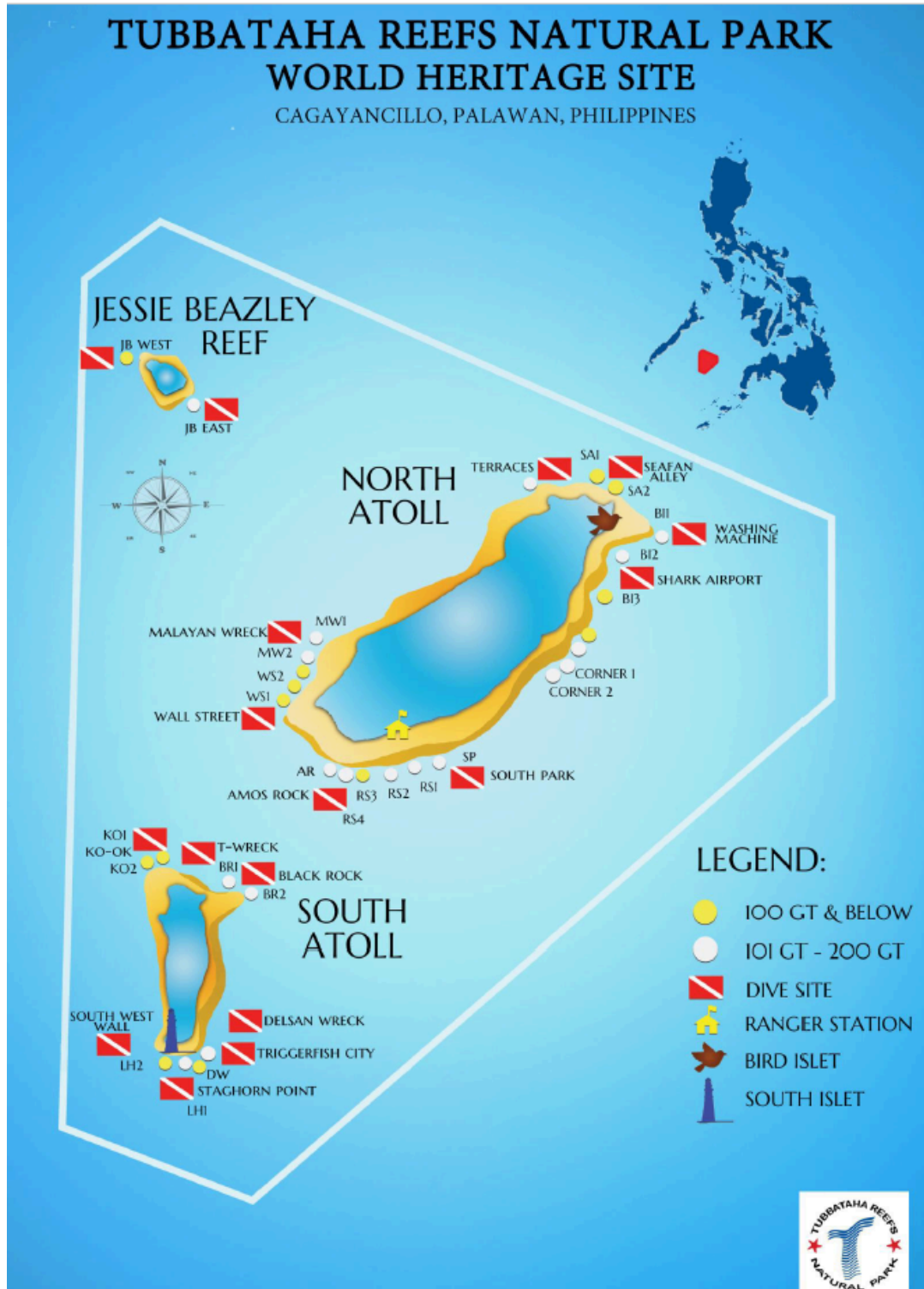
\*We kindly request that guests check their flight departure times to ensure that they leave a minimum of 24 hours between their final dive and the departure of their flight.

### PUERTO PRINCESA DISEMBARKATION

Guests intending to depart from Puerto Princesa on the day of disembarkation should avoid booking early morning **flight departures**.

## 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 in Tubbataha consist mainly of vertical walls or near drop-offs rising out of great depths, with shallow reef tops teeming with reef fish. Stingrays, marble rays, spiny lobsters and juvenile reef sharks are common sightings in many places and there are several species of turtle known to inhabit the waters of this gigantic natural park; the most commonly sighted being green and hawksbill.

Large trevally, tuna and barracuda as well as grey reef sharks and white tip reef sharks can be spotted patrolling the reefs on most dives, whilst manta and eagle rays are occasional visitors. Groupers and wrasse flourish here and sightings of hammerheads and silver-tip sharks have been among the large elasmobranchs spotted by Philippine Siren guests during our cruises.

In addition to breath-taking dives, you will have the opportunity to visit the ranger station on the North Atoll to learn more about the marine protection of the area.

Following is a sample of the dive sites which we may visit during your time aboard Philippine Siren. Guests are welcome to suggest preferred dive sites to the Cruise Director who will be happy to accommodate guests' wishes where possible and the schedule allows for it.

The safety of our guests is paramount and we always do our best to offer diving at alternate locations, should we be unable to visit those sites listed below.

## Tubbataha Reefs

### Delsan Wreck

One of the best dive sites in Tubbataha with big schools of big-eyed trevally, yellowtail barracuda, great barracuda, dogtooth tuna, giant trevally together with grey reef sharks and white tip reef sharks.

### Black Rock

There is so much to explore at this dive site that we will often spend the 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, box fish and leaf fish add to the colour and spectacle of the stunning reefs; a great site for spotting spiny lobster too!

### Washing Machine

A wide variety of colourful reef fish form schools here; from big-eye jacks to tiny orange & purple anthias, all creating a welcoming atmosphere. Spot the tiny creatures including cowries wedge themselves amidst the leather and whip corals. It is a great site for turtles, and whale sharks have also been spotted here.

### North East Wall

Adorned with stunning sea fans and colourful soft corals. This wall is super for wide-angle photography. Schools of bannerfish hover in the blue, turtles bumble along the wall and from the sandy bed garden eels and gobies emerge.

### Shark Airport

Many white-tip reef sharks resting at the shallow plateau are typically seen here; hence the name Shark Airport. Dog tooth tuna, schools of trevally, marble rays, eagle rays, nurse sharks and batfish all add drama to the stunning reef. Turtles and moray eels are a common sight but divers should watch out for the triggerfish.

### Amos Rock

Moorish idols, sweetlips and snappers all form large schools here, also commonly seen are white-tip reef sharks, great barracuda and giant trevally. When lucky, pygmy seahorses can be found in the gorgonians.

### Staghorn Point

Golden, pinnate and longfin spadefish all form schools along this fan-encrusted wall, meanwhile clouds of purple anthias hover over the fields of staghorn corals in the shallow reef top. Also, this is a good site to spy turtles, snowflake morays and spiny lobster.

### Jessie Beazley Reef

Huge schools of surgeon fish and unicorn fish hover over the reefs, where we commonly see numerous grey reef sharks and huge Napoleon wrasses.



## Malayan Wreck

This reef is the habitat for different trevallies, barracudas, bumphead parrotfish, and juvenile grey reef sharks with the usual suspects darting around. Marbled stingrays can sometimes hang out here.

## Cagayancillo

This scarcely dived destination with its healthy hard and soft corals along with massive sea fans and plenty of reef fish is a perfect pit stop in our long journey between Tubbataha Marine Park and The Visayas.

## The Visayas

### Apo Island

Apo Island Marine Reserve is one of the most successful marine sanctuaries established in the Philippines. Reef hooks and gloves are not allowed and night diving is unfortunately not permitted. The order of dives will be based on the currents and conditions of the day choosing from:

### Coconut Point

An often fast-paced drift brings divers over the sloping coral reef wall. Along the way, giant trevally, blackfin barracuda, big school of big-eyed trevally and plenty of sea snakes can be encountered.

### Rocky Point West

Just beyond the chapel opposite the marine park warden's office, Rocky Point West offers some of the most stunning hard corals to be found in the region with endless patches of leather corals on the top. The steep reef walls support numerous colourful reef species including pyramid butterflyfish and red-toothed triggerfish in their hundreds, frogfish, cuttlefish, banded sea snakes and hawksbill turtles are among the common sightings.

### Cogon

The colourful bottom divided by sand channels is the place to find a big school of big-eyed trevally, huge brown marbled groupers and sea snakes.

### Dauin, Negros

Dauin, with its black volcanic sand, is famous for muck diving. Depending on the season, different types and sizes of octopuses, sea horses, (baby) frogfish, a variety of ghost pipefish and flamboyant cuttlefish can be found.

### The Cars

Between 25-30m (80-100ft), car parts forming an artificial reef attract porcelain crabs and different kinds of shrimps among the many weird and wonderful creatures found at this site.



## Secret Corner

This sand and pebble dive site is the perfect habitat for the smallest weird and unexpected creatures such as cockatoo waspfish, short-fin lionfish and snake and garden eels.

## Ceres

Named after the local bus company that donated its tyres to create an artificial reef which attracts schools of reef fish. Different kinds of shrimps live on this reef together with a variety of juvenile reef fish.

## Mainit

A mix of black volcanic sand and coral boulders with soft corals. Due to the currents, all fish are very active which makes this dive very lively and exciting ending in an area with hot sand at the bottom, hence the name Mainit meaning 'hot'.

## San Miguel

A relatively shallow dive site with sandy slopes and seagrass beds, San Miguel is another critter wonderland! This is the place to find all your favourites including a variety of nudibranchs, ghost pipefish, tiny juvenile frogfish and even the possibility of finding Pygmy Squid.

## Balicasag Island

The small island of Balicasag, just off the tip of Panglao, is characterised by its many turtles, coral gardens and steep walls which provide overhangs, cracks & crevices in which to search for a variety of marine species. This area has become a marine protected area since July 2017 and allows two dives per day only with valid permits.

## Divers Heaven

The main attraction of this beautiful dive site are the green sea and hawksbill turtles in the shallow waters. The reef top's edge is a nice habitat for schools of colourful damselfish and anthias and when lucky also for giant frogfish.

## Black Forest

Once famed for its black coral, this is where we encounter schools of jacks, long-jawed mackerels, red-tooth triggerfish and different kinds of fusiliers.

## Cabilao Island

There are several interesting wall and coral garden dives around the island of Cabilao and we choose from the following:

## Gorgonian Wall

Provides a gentle drift along a fantastic coral reef with schooling fish and plenty of macro life in the shallow water, including the possibility of spotting a Denise's pygmy seahorse.

## Lighthouse

Sloping walls full of sponges and gorgonian fans. This is a great place to dive with large green turtles. Also being seen are giant frogfish which can be spotted resting on sponges and numerous cowries hiding amidst the stunning hard coral garden.

## Talisay Tree

A beautiful wall with gorgonians where bubble coral shrimps and orangutan crabs can be found in the bubble corals. The shallow grassy garden with its elephant ear sponges and barrel sponges is a perfect spot for wide-angle photography.

## Cambaquiz

A fantastic spot where we often make night dives. A gently sloping reef and sandy bottom to 20m – soft corals and sea pens can be found dotted over the sand; also a great site for sightings of bottom dwellers. The grassy top is a favourite crab hideout.

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@masterliveboards.com](mailto:dive@masterliveboards.com)