

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 liveaboard 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 the TMO to enter Tubbataha. When completing the form, which can be accessed here - <https://bit.ly/TubbatahaGuest> - you will need to select the liveboard 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 liveboard.

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 on 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 liveboard itinerary is subject to acceptance of our Terms & Conditions as outlined here: www.masterliveboards.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, briefings, relaxation and dinner. 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 and relaxation, followed by briefing & Dive 2
- Lunch and relaxation followed by briefing & Dive 3
- Snacks and relaxation
- Briefing for Dive 4 (sunset dives only in Tubbataha)
- Dinner

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

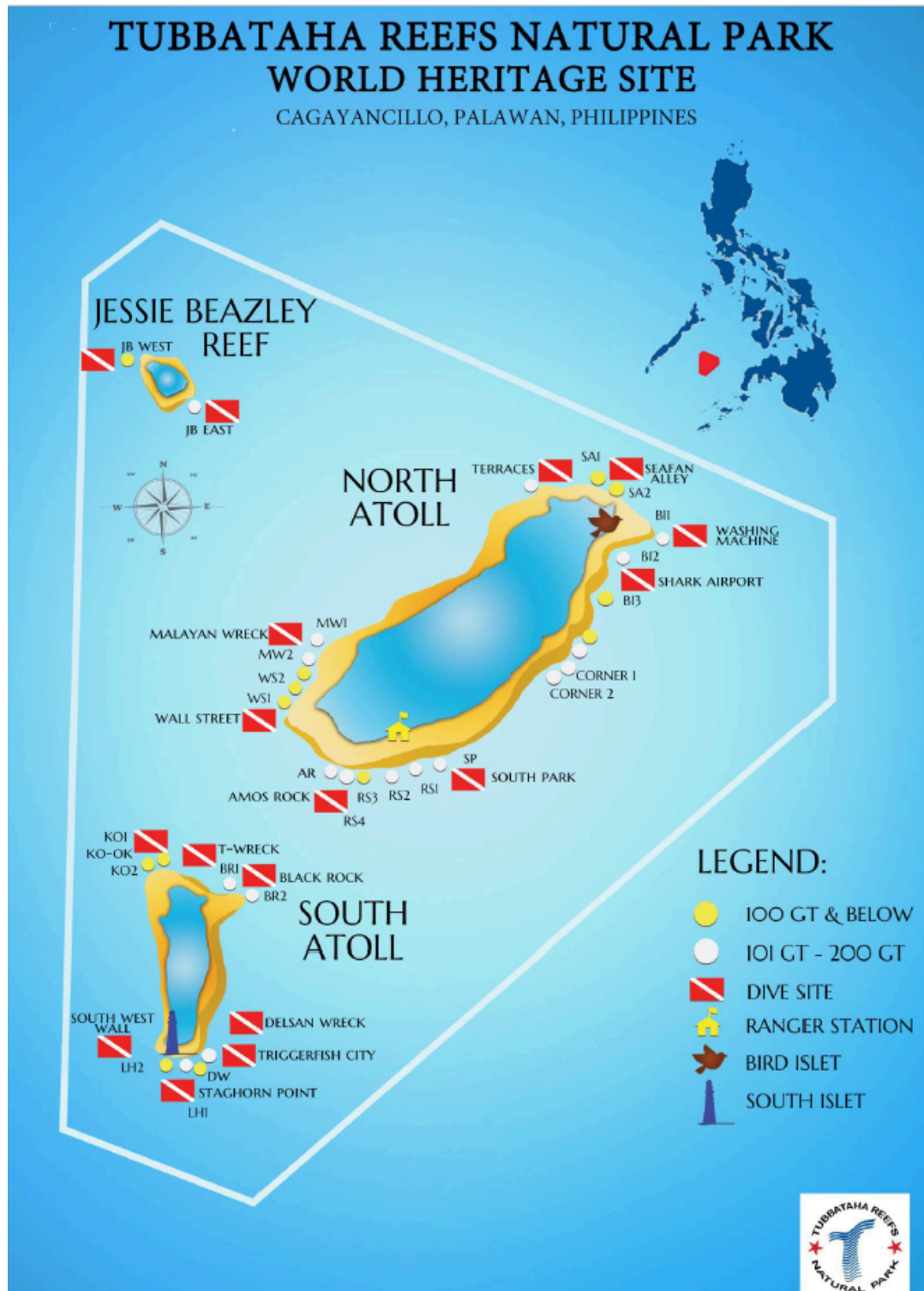
Day 14: Breakfast on board followed by disembarkation between 09:30 and 10:00.*

*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 breathtaking 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 alternative locations, should we be unable to visit those sites listed below.

Tubbataha Reefs

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 reefscape 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 plummets 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 occasional big pelagic visitors. Rich in 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 reefs, exciting drifts, stunning macro life, and big animal encounters. Where we dive on each trip is determined by currents, and each section offers a slightly different flavour of diving, from colourful coral gardens to fast-paced shark-filled expressways.

Cagayancillo

This isolated and scarcely dived area boasts healthy hard and soft corals, massive sea fans, and abundant marine life, making a perfect pit stop on our long journey between Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park and The Visayas.

Cagayancillo is a municipality of Palawan Province comprising 31 islands located in the heart of the Sulu Sea, approximately 168 km northeast of Tubbataha Reefs. The islands are part of the Cagayan Ridge, an undersea mountain chain of volcanic origins that extends over 500 km through the Sulu Sea between Mindoro and Borneo.

Much like the Tubbataha Reefs, which are also part of the Cagayan Ridge, the Cagayancillo Islands are a marine protected area rich in vibrant coral reefs, seagrass beds, mangroves, and small atoll-like formations, which serve as a biological corridor and buffer zone for Tubbataha.

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 not permitted. The order of dives will be based on the currents and conditions of the day, choosing from:

Coconut Point

Situated on the northwestern tip of Apo Island, strong currents make for an exhilarating and sometimes challenging dive. Also referred to as 'The Washing Machine', this fast-paced drift takes divers over the sloping coral reef to a rock wall; a sandy channel between two cliffs provides an opportunity to take a breather and look out for passing pelagics. Along the way, large schools of trevallies, blackfin barracuda, snappers, sweetlips, potato groupers and plenty of sea snakes can be encountered.

Cogon

On the eastern side of Apo, this is another site that often experiences strong currents and therefore dived as a drift. Starting as a sandy slope that evolves into a coral reef leading to a steep wall, there is plenty of coral and marine life activity to catch your eye as you are carried along by the current. A large school of big-eyed trevally are commonly seen here as well as reef sharks, blue-spotted stingrays and turtles.

The Chapel

On the west side of the island, the reef starts as a gentle sandy slope with scatterings of coral bommies becoming progressively steeper as you get nearer to the wall section, which drops off to more than 40 metres. The wall is dotted with small crevices and caverns adorned with soft and hard corals, sponges, sea fans and anemones hosting an abundance of small aquatic creatures. Electric clams, a wide variety of nudibranchs, eels and crustaceans are just some of the delights that await the inquisitive diver. Hawksbill and green turtles can also be found munching on the corals while large predatory fish pass by in the blue.

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 reef top. The steep walls support numerous colourful reef species; pyramid butterflyfish and red-toothed triggerfish can usually be seen here in their hundreds. Frogfish, cuttlefish, banded sea snakes and hawksbill turtles are also common sightings.

Dauin, Negros

Dauin, with its black volcanic sand, is famous for its muck diving and fabulous macro creatures. Depending on the season, different types and sizes of octopuses, seahorses, frogfish from minuscule babies to full-grown adults, a variety of ghost pipefish, and flamboyant cuttlefish can be found.

The Cars

Perhaps rather unimaginatively named, the main attraction of this dive site is the artificial reef created from the chassis of two cars that host an amazing amount of marine life. Surrounded by sand at a depth of 24-29 metres, you will usually find groups of snappers, angelfish, lionfish and sweetlips hanging around the wrecks, which, if you take a closer look inside, have also created a perfect environment for an array of crustaceans. On the sandy slope that leads to the wrecks, the keen-eyed are likely to discover no end of macro delights including juvenile frogfish, robust, ornate and velvet ghost pipefish, sand divers, dragonets, flamboyant cuttlefish and much, much more.

Secret Corner

It's no secret that this sandy, rubble-strewn slope is potentially a cephalopod lover's nirvana. Blue-ringed, mimic and coconut octopus, wunderpus and flamboyant cuttlefish are just some of the species that can be found here. Other delights include snake and garden eels, waspfish, spiny devilfish, hairy frogfish and seahorses.

Ceres

This is another fantastic macro site featuring a sandy slope and artificial reef made up of tyres and concrete mooring blocks. Named after the local bus company that donated the tyres, marine life that can be found here includes stargazers, seahorses, a variety of frogfish species, flamboyant and pygmy cuttlefish and ambon scorpionfish.

Mainit

Currents at this location are often strong, so it is usually dived as a one-way drift. Featuring a mix of black volcanic sand with patches of hard and soft corals, fish life is prolific and varied. This lively and exhilarating dive ends in an area with yellow, sulphur-rich, hot sand, hence the name Mainit, meaning 'hot' in Visayan.

San Miguel

A relatively shallow dive site with sandy slopes, seagrass beds and a small reef full of fish, 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, mimic octopus, or newly hatched flamboyant cuttlefish.

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 been a marine protected area since July 2017 and allows two dives per day only with valid permits.

Divers Heaven

One of the big attractions of this aptly named, beautiful dive site is the hawksbill and green sea turtles that can often be seen here. The shallows comprise a sandy area covered with seagrass which the turtles come to graze on, and also have plentiful coral formations, reef fish and macro species. The coral coverage becomes denser and more extensive as you progress further down the steeply sloping reef, which reaches depths of 40+ metres and features many ledges and overhangs with lots of soft corals, gorgonians and sponges. Goldband fusiliers, Big-Mouth mackerel, Midnight snappers, Redtooth Triggerfish, Angelfish, Barracuda, Bluefin trevally and Bigeye trevally are just some of the fish that you are likely to see in large numbers along the reef. Leaf scorpionfish are another delight that can be found in this aquarium-like environment, as well as numerous nudibranchs, eels and anemone fish.

Black Forest

Named for the proliferation of black corals that can be found at depths that extend beyond recreational limits, Black Forest is well known for its biodiversity and beauty.

Often dived as a drift, the reef forms a steep slope with a wide variety of corals and marine life. Damsel fish, anthias, chromis, scorpionfish, wrasses, turtles and more can be found going about their business in and around the corals; in the blue, schools of jacks, blue-dash fusiliers and barracuda are common sightings as well as Titan triggerfish and Napoleon Wrasse.

Cabilao Island

There are many interesting and colourful walls and coral gardens around the island of Cabilao; we usually choose from the following:

Gorgonian Wall

Starting at 5 metres and extending to a depth of 60 metres, this 100-metre-long wall is awash with giant gorgonians, corals and sponges. Also featuring many overhangs and small caves, fish activity is plentiful and hidden wonders are waiting for the eagle-eyed to find, including pygmy seahorses, frogfish and rare nudibranch specimens.

Lighthouse

So named because the site is in front of the lighthouse on the northwest tip of Cabilao Island, this is a sloping wall covered with seagrass and corals, which is often frequented by green turtles. Amongst the corals and sponges, you are also likely to find frogfish, cowrie snails, ghost pipefish, stargazers, Pegasus seamoths, various crustaceans, and electric file clams.

Talisay Tree

Along the northern shore of Cabilao, Talisay Tree is another gorgonian-covered wall with a shallow seagrass garden interspersed with elephant ear and barrel sponges. The site offers some fantastic wide-angle and macro photo opportunities with bubble corals playing host to their commensal shrimps and orangutan crabs.

Cambaquiz

Cambaquiz is a favourite location for a sunset or night dive. Comprising a gentle sandy slope dotted with clusters of soft corals, sea pens and seagrass, there is an abundance of delights to be discovered here by torchlight. Stargazers lie camouflaged in the sand while an array of crabs and shrimps can be found hiding in the corals and grassy patches along with seahorses, pipefish and wunderpus, to name just a few.

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