

Tubbataha and More, Philippines

13 Nights Itinerary

Puerto Princesa - Cebu

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

Transfer from Puerto Princesa Airport and local hotels to Hotel Centro, and from Hotel Centro 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.

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

- Before Philippine Siren can depart from Puerto Princesa, a mandatory check by the coast guards and briefing by the Tubbataha Management Office must be conducted when ALL guests are on board.
- If the briefing and coast guard check are not accomplished, the boat cannot leave the port.
- 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 only**

****Disembarkation earlier than 09:30 is NOT possible. Please, *do not book flights that departure from PPS before 12:30pm***

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.

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 extras to be paid prior to disembarkation.

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

Minimum dive certification and experience:

Diving conditions in and around Tubbataha are not suitable for entry level or inexperienced divers due to strong currents, deep walls and surge.

Divers wishing to join our Tubbataha itineraries are required to have **Advanced Open Water certification***, or equivalent, with a **minimum of 30 logged dives and experience in strong currents**.

***Advanced Open Water certification can usually be completed on board on itineraries starting from Cebu**, but requires pre-booking and confirmation. Please contact our reservations team for further details.

We are unable to offer the Advanced Open Water training on itineraries that commence from Puerto Princesa.

Guests who do not fulfil the minimum certification and experience requirements may be denied participation in some or all dives.

It is a mandatory requirement for all divers to have insurance which covers scuba diving activities, including emergency evacuation and recompression chamber costs.

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

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.

The following are prohibited in Tubbataha:

- All Single use plastics - Dive operators are mandated to follow the No-Single-Use Plastics which includes all drinks in plastic bottles, snacks in plastic wrappers, etc.
- 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 been medically advised to wear gloves for protection underwater must carry medical certificate for this purpose. There is no exception to this rule.

Dive sites in Tubbataha consist mainly of vertical walls or near drop offs rising out of great depths, with shallow reef tops teeming with local reef fish. The angelfish, butterfly fish, rainbow runners, moorish idols, fusiliers, jacks, snappers and sweetlips follow you around, while stingrays, marble rays, spiny lobsters and juvenile reef sharks are also common sightings in many places. 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 the majority of the dive sites, whilst manta and eagle rays are occasional visitors. Groupers and wrasse flourish here and sightings of hammerheads and silver tip sharks have been amongst the large elasmobranchs spotted by guests of the Siren Fleet 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.

Itinerary Details

This itinerary involves some long distance travel and, whilst we attempt to ensure the number of planned dives is fulfilled, bad weather and sea conditions can affect the boat's ability to reach a specific dive site in good time and may impact on the number of dives that are possible.

Number of scheduled dives: Up to 39

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

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

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

Day 14: Following breakfast on board, disembarkation is scheduled for 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.

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 seahorse 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, bump head parrotfish, 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 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 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 amongst 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 amongst 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 is the green sea and hawksbill turtles in the shallow waters. The reeftop 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

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 or queries concerning the dive sites or whether this itinerary is suitable for your experience level, please contact our reservations team dive@masterliveboards.com who will be pleased to assist and advise you.