



# Komodo & Bima:

## HOME OF DRAGON DIVE

### 8 Days/7 Nights Labuan bajo – Labuan bajo

Quick Info :



ARRIVAL/ DEPARTURE: LABUAN BAJO

CURRENT gentle to Strong



DIVING DEPTH 5 - 30 mt

**123** NUMBER OF DIVE SITES + 40



SEA CONDITIONS generally calm



intermediate-advanced



VISIBILITY 10 - 40 mt



WATER TEMP. 20-29°C



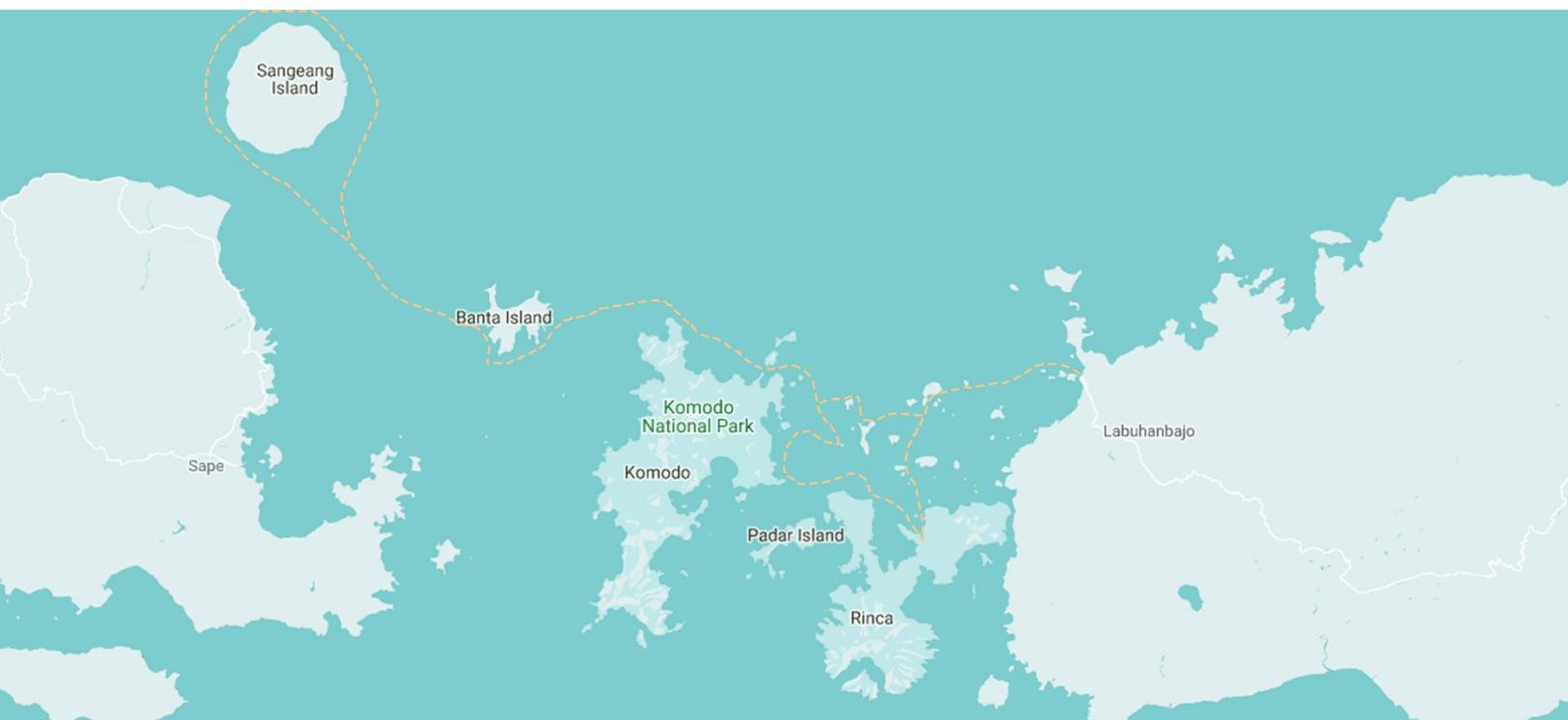
WETSUIT: 5mm Recommended



LAMP: recommended



CAMERA: Gopro, 60&100mm macro, 10mm & strobe/lamp





## Cruise Itinerary

### *Day 1 Embarkation in Labuan bajo from Dragon Dive Komodo Hotel (2 dives).*

We will start by doing some refresher dive on some easy dives for letting you be comfortable with your buddy, guides, and equipment.

#### Sebayur Kecil

This island at the east side of Komodo National Park is a perfect spot to do our check-out dive as currents tend to be very mild here. We start the dive on a white sand patch where we can look out for blue-spotted stingrays, garden eels and other sand inhabitants. Continuing to the east the reef gets into a beautiful hard coral wall. Leaf scorpionfishes, reef octopus and moray eels are only a few of the inhabitants of this site.

#### Loh Buaya (walk with dragons)

Your day will begin with an exciting visit to Komodo National Park where you will be able to take a stroll with the famous dragon! As you walk along the paths, also stay on the lookout for deer, wild boar, and birds in addition to the giant lizards. After the walk, we move to the middle area of Komodo National Park.

#### Waenilu/Kempling

This night dive is situated off the north of Rinca Island. In the shallows, the hard-coral reef is home to many different critters, including juvenile harlequin sweetlips and batfish. Away from the reef, the sandy slope is scattered with pulsing soft corals that hide demon stingers and starry night octopus. Different types of nudibranch, frogfishes, harlequin shrimps and even wheedy rhinophias have been seen here.



## *Day 2 Komodo-Flores Channel (4 dives)*

### Batu Pengah

This dive site is in the middle of the Komodo National Park, 12 nautical miles to the north and 12 nautical miles to the south. With a slope to the east of the site and a coral garden to the west, Batu Pengah is a beautiful site where we often get to see turtles, cuttlefish and juvenile white tip reef sharks that hide under the table corals among the hard coral garden. Napoleon wrasse and big groups of snapper swimming on the slope with all the colourful decoration of the soft coral make Batu Pengah a high-quality dive site.

### Mawan

First of all, Mawan is very famous for seeing manta rays on cleaning station.

Great for 'muck dives' this dive site is a veritable treasure trove of macro marine life and an underwater photographers dream! With virtually no current, Mawan is suitable for all levels of divers. Take the opportunity to see a wide variety of nudibranchs, mantis boxing shrimp, broadclub cuttlefish, frog fish, and if you are very lucky a wunderpus.

### Siaba Besar

Siaba Besar is great as a dive check location due to the lack of strong currents, but it does not mean it lacks in cool sights to see! There is something for every diver in store at this dive site, with remarkable reefs, turtle galore, and if you dive a little deeper are the elegant sharks. Don't miss out the sandy bits where shrimps expose their poisonous flesh, hidden in the tall sea grass along with the beautifully camouflaged Ghost Pipe fishes.

### Batu Bolong

Batu Bolong (which means "hollow rock") is, what appears to be a small rick in the middle of the Lintah Staits, between Tatawa Kecil and Komodo island itself. It's easy to overlook this site as you sail by...but don't! With experienced guides this site brings all the very best of "Komodo style" diving, massive schools of fish numbering tens of thousands, incredible color corals, sponges, soft corals, sharks, rays, tunas, trevallies and more. It's a mad house of fish life!

Due to the rock's topography and exposure to strong currents the reef has not been targeted by fishermen and is in superb condition. Hard corals and sponges cover the walls and slopes, but the main beneficiary here must be the fish life. The volume of fish here is awesome, right from the deeper water areas where Napoleon wrasse and whitetip reef sharks cruise, to the shallow where thousands of smaller reef fish battle it out for territorial and feeding rights. It's known to have more species in this dive site than all Caribbean sea!

Hawksbill turtles are frequent feeders on the sponges and tunicates, giant sweetlips lurk in the gullies and overhangs, palette surgeonfish dance across the current swept upper reaches of the rock. Fish mating, fish laying and guarding eggs, fish hunting, fish hiding, fish fighting, fish feeding – it's all here on display from dawn 'til dusk.



### *Day 3 North Komodo (4 dives)*

Two celebrated dive sites await you, just north of Gili Lawalaut Island. Crystal Rock and Castle Rock are both incredible locations, boasting the key elements for an impressive dive site: a wide variety of healthy corals covering the reef, plus tons of fish – both big and small and all sizes in between! There are more exhilarating dives in this area, Aquarium, Coral Garden, Gili Lawalaut Lighthouse, and a bit more to the northeast Batu Montjo, along with good night dives on healthy hard coral reefs off the island of Gili Lawa Darat. Between the dives, there is a chance to visit Gili Lawalaut Island and take a short trek to the top of the hill for a wonderful view over the Komodo-Flores channel.

#### Crystal Rock

The rock jutting out of the surrounding crystal clear waters explains how this site got its name. But what is truly memorable here are the large schools of fusiliers and anthias flitting over the gorgeous soft corals and impressive table corals. In the deep blue, you can also see at times large tuna, mackerel and other fish schooling around a small mound to the northwest. A lone eagle ray is often spotted here cruising in the currents.

#### Castle Rock

Castle Rock is a submerged pinnacle situated a kilometre further north from Crystal Rock. Its exposed location means strong currents but experienced divers will love the thrills to be had on this dive. The main action comes from watching the staggering amount of fish such as batfish, groupers, midnight snappers and impressive schools of fusiliers and surgeons whipping past. Of course, divers aren't the only ones interested in the huge amount of fish here, which explains the giant trevally as well as whitetips, blacktips and grey reef sharks hunting around for their next meal.

#### Aquarium

This beautiful shallow dive site on the southwest corner of Gili Lawalaut offers a good possibility to see manta rays passing by. Big coral formations surrounded by thousands of glassfish offer amazing wide-angle photography opportunities. Whitetip reef sharks can be found in the sandy bottom area and hawksbill and green turtles can be seen along the calm flower coral reef.

#### Coral Garden

We start the dive in a white sandy area with stunning coral heads and big barrel sponges. Watch out for leaf scorpionfishes, hairy squat lobsters, moray eels and different types of stingrays. The reef converts into a beautiful hard coral wall where thousands of fusiliers and dozens of trevallies and snappers can be seen.



### *Day 4 North Komodo (3 dives)*

#### Golden Passage

It's a surprising drift dive better to be done in rising tide when the current pushes east to west. This dive site is the channel that separates Gili Lawa Darat from Komodo Island. Once jumped into the water and followed the bottom that slowly degrades, you enter into the flow of the current and let yourself be carried away. The coral garden is beautiful and deeper you get more life you'll find there awaiting for you. You will cross the channel about 18m deep surrounded by amazing landscapes always changing.

Schools of sweetlips, humphead parrotfish, trevallies, white and black tip sharks. Lots of turtles. In few occasions we met giant manta ray and dolphins. The dive ends at the opposite side of the channel where divers can enjoy the bright corals during the Safety Stop. The dive site with is very suitable for snorkelers especially in the shallow waters of the bays.

#### Batu Montjo

In the northwest of Komodo Island, Batu Montjo is a perfect site to dive as a third dive with an amazing formation of hard corals in the shallows. Many boulders covered with gorgonian sea fans lie in between the white sandy slopes. This combination of hard corals and gorgonian sea fans with all the fish swimming in between the coral garden makes for a perfectly relaxing afternoon dive. Leaf fish, mantis shrimp, jaw fish and turtles are often seen at this site.

### *Day 5 Banta Island (4 dives)*

Just outside the National Park of Komodo this island makes you feel as if you were already inside the park. We will spend the whole day in a great variety of dive sites. 'Banta Wall' also known as 'The Rollercoaster' is a spectacular wall - however, the timing with the currents and the swell is key to a safe and satisfying dive. And we get our timing right. GPS point is a reef more than half a mile north of Banta. Very fishy with the potential for Grey Reef Sharks and other big boys passing by. Again the timing here is key. One of our favourite spots here is our secret spot which happens to be a Manta cleaning station.

For sunset we offer some trekking on a hill which will reward you with an epic view over the bay, the sun setting behind the volcano of Sangeang.

After Dinner we take you on a night dive on a sandy slope, where Stargazers will make an angry face at you.

### *Day 6 Sangjeang (4 dives)*

The island of Sangeang is located northeast of Sumbawa. It's a fairly small island but you'll notice it right away since most of its landscape consists of Gunung Api, an active volcano. This natural phenomenon has made for some amazing topography, such as steep ridges dripping with hardened lava. There are several excellent dive sites here, all with good visibility, allowing you to truly appreciate the healthy reefs of soft and hard corals as well as different types of anemones.



## Hot Rocks

Here the volcano has left its mark below the surface as well. In the shallows observe volcanic bubbles escaping from the seabed through air vents. Put your hands close to the 'hot rocks' and feel the heat from the sulphur-covered rocks. Besides the usual tropical reef species ribbon eels, cowries and Bargibanti pygmy seahorses can also be seen here.

## Lighthouse Reef

This site presents many contrasts in terms of natural features and marine life. Strong currents can prevail in the exposed areas but there are also sheltered spots. Down around 20 metres, macro lovers will be delighted, as the base of the wall and large black sand slope is excellent for spotting countless nudibranchs and other colourful critters. Black coral bushes hide ghost pipefish and saw blade shrimps.

## Black Diamond

The rocky formation up in the shallows with fingers of coral going to the deep are covered with black coral and crinoids in any colour you can imagine. The black sand acts as a background to all the colour of this dive site and the corals will stand out in a way that you've never seen before. Among the black coral we often get to see one of the most incredible masters of camouflage, the ornate ghost pipefish and as the name suggests any ghost pipefish are a plus for divers. Big reef octopus, peacock mantis shrimps and nudibranchs are also seen here.

## Bontoh Reef

Is in the west part of Sangeang volcano where we have incredible sunsets and for this reason, Bontoh Reef is a perfect place to dive as a third dive and night dive. With a very shallow area of black sand and small rocks covered with algae that gently slope down, Bontoh offers one of the biggest populations of spaghetti garden eels coming out from the sand. Among the small rocks is the perfect place for creatures to hide from predators and photographers. Critters spotted here include painted frogfish, juvenile angelfish, mantis shrimps and while we are swimming out in the sand we have the chance to see the wunderpus or mimic octopus.

In between the third dive and the night dive, there may be an opportunity to visit the small village of Bontoh. Here they are building a boat right there on the beach!

## *Day 7 North and Central Komodo (2 dives)*

### The Cauldron

It is the shape of this dive site that has given the dive site its name known as "The Cauldron". This dive site a channel in between Gili Lawa Darat and Gili Lawa Laut in the north area of Komodo National Park.

The dive site is split into 2 sides, one end has a bowl shape that is deep and round with a sandy bed inhabited with gorgonian fans and soft corals, almost like a cauldron. Once you're at the other side, it will transform into a world of channels with canyons that run parallel to each other. Enjoy the calm and



still atmosphere of the first layer of The Cauldron; glide along the walls and observe the fans and soft corals. Explore the north side of the dive site and discover an area where it is glowing with vibrant orange soft corals and if you've still got time, skim through the gorgonian fans that home a few pygmy seahorses.

Test yourself as a diver with The Cauldron's exhilarating and exciting second half by swimming with fast currents through the small underwater passages and the rocky ridges with churning waters, before revealing the sheltered beautiful reef. Regular sightings in this dive site include: giant manta rays, reef sharks, giant trevallies, and schools of midnight snappers and sweetlips.

### [Tatawa Besar](#)

This is a thrilling drift dive that starts off from the northwestern tip of Tatawa and continues down the western side towards 15 to 20 meters of depth. The surrounding fish life is profuse and you will see an endless field of stunning orange soft corals as you glide along. Swim past coral heads inhabited by schools of sweetlips and batfish and look out for turtles feeding on the reef. Mantas have been encountered here as well.

*[Day 8 Disembarkation in Labuan Bajo.](#)*