



Ultimate Indonesian Yachts

## 7-DAY / 6-NIGHT ITINERARY: MAUMERE TO ALOR



Embark on a 7-day sailing sojourn in the mysterious Alor archipelago. This journey begins in Maumere and ends in Alor.

### ALOR ARCHIPELAGO

The Alor archipelago is a series of rugged, volcanic islands stretching east of Bali, Sumbawa and Flores. It is perhaps most notable for its cultural diversity – the small archipelago is home to no less than 100 communities speaking 8 languages and 52 dialects. Dutch settlers fixed local rajas in the coastal areas after 1908, but were unable to penetrate the interior with its notorious fierce headhunters up until as late as the 1950s. This little-visited area remains known for its enduring indigenous animist traditions and the highland villages with their Moko drums. The many small villages in the vicinity are home to a welcoming and curious people, and visitors may also come across local spear fishermen sporting wooden framed goggles, setting traditional woven fish traps on the reefs. Among the islands surrounding Alor, deep channels make up part of the migratory route for many types of whales and the underwater landscape features breathtaking walls and coral gardens occupied by large schools of fish. These waters are notorious for powerful currents, particularly in the narrow straits between Pantar, Alor and Lembata, attracting predators from the deep. Off the Alor coast, Komba Island is home to the very active Batu Tara volcano, which billows smoke every half hour.





## SAMPLE ITINERARY

### DAY 1: MAUMERE

Upon arrival at the airport, you will be collected by your crew and transferred to your private yacht. Once you have settled in, the yacht will depart the harbour. You can spend a leisurely afternoon exploring the beaches of Maumere Bay and getting your first taste of the Alor archipelago's underwater vistas with a check dive. As the sun sets on your first day, you'll be served cocktails out on deck and a decadent dinner under the stars. The yacht will sail to Kawula overnight.



### DAY 2: NORTHERN KAWULA & KOMBA ISLAND

This morning offers the chance to dive the reefs off the north coast of Kawula, where large schools of brightly colored reef fish cluster around stunning tiers of hard coral in the shadow of Ile Ape volcano. You can also head ashore to Ionata village to see the 30m skeletal remains of a blue whale, which remains a sacred icon to the villagers. From this village, you will be driven to Kampung Lama at the base of le

Ape volcano, where you can see the remains of old artefacts and houses. The afternoon can be spent visiting one of the most active volcanic peaks in the ring of fire, miles out to sea, off the northern coast of Flores. Here lies Komba Island, where you can dive a reef blooming with soft corals on one side of the isle, and enjoy dinner out on deck on the other side, perhaps catching sight of a lava spill as Batu Tara volcano spews smoke into the skies at dusk.



### DAY 3: LEMBATA ISLAND

Today, you will have the opportunity to visit one of the most fascinating communities on the planet - the whaling village of Lamalera on Lembata Island - famous for its adherence to traditional methods of fishing. Here, guests can see traditional village life and observe the manner in which the community utilises every single part of their catch as sustenance. Lamalera is one of only two villages in Indonesia that have been allowed to continue sustaining themselves in this way, because it has been embedded in their way of life for many years.

### DAY 4: TAKPALA, MOMBANG & PURA ISLAND

Today, you will head ashore to Takala and Mombang, traditional Abui tribe villages located on a hill with spectacular views of the Flores Sea. The villagers here inhabit stilted *fala* huts, built from timber and bamboo thatching, and you may have a chance to see the *lego-lego* dance, used to mark first harvest, marriage, death and war, and watch the local women crafting clothing from tree bark using traditional methods. This afternoon, the yacht will



set sail for Pura Island, home to a small village in the middle of the Alor strait, which is a perfect point from which to reach some of the area's most spectacular diving and snorkelling sites, such as *Clown Valley*, *Sharks Galore*, *Mandarin House* and *The Boardroom*.



## DAY 5: PANTAR STRAIT

A day of exhilarating underwater pursuits awaits in the Pantar Strait, one of the few gaps between Suatra and Timor, where Pacific waters flow south to the Indian Ocean. The currents attract prolific marine life and large pelagics such as thresher and hammerhead sharks, dolphins, sunfish and rays are among the creatures that travel through. There's a plethora of dive sites suiting all desires, including *Kal's Dream* with its pinnacles and huge schools of predatory fish such as barracuda and trevally, *The Cathedral* with its sheer walls and boulders coated in corals home to seahorses and frogfish, and *Malal* with its unusual anemones-covered gardens. In the evening, the yacht will anchor in the entrance to the bay at Kalabahi, home to *Mucky Mosque*, one of the best critter night dives in the region.



## DAY 6: BEANGABANG

In the very south of the Pantar Strait lies the small, remote village of Beangabang, three hours by boat to the nearest town. This morning, you can dive at the fascinating *Twilight Zone*, a black sand shore dive where lava flows and underwater hot springs meet, producing nutrient rich water that attracts a weird and wonderful array of critter life, including blue ring octopus, mimic octopus, mantis shrimps and Spanish dancers. In the afternoon you can head ashore to the village, which is nestled on a beautiful bay that curves

gracefully between two out flung headlands. A large lava flow on one side shows the islands fiery past, and parts of the beach are so hot that they are painful to walk on and the black sand of the beach is steaming. Even by local standards, this is a very simple village with the most welcoming of people, and one of the most wonderful places to get a sense of local culture.



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## DAY 7: ALOR

This morning, the yacht will return to the harbour of Alor. After a final decadent breakfast onboard, you will be transferred to the airport to catch your flight home.

*Please note that all itineraries are subject to change, depending on weather conditions, progressing harbor clearances, changes to domestic flights and other deciding factors. Please contact Ultimate Indonesian Yachts to discuss your requirements. [info@u-i-y.com](mailto:info@u-i-y.com)*

