

# KOMODO & THE ALOR ARCHIPELAGO

11-night itinerary





KOMBA

EAST NUSA TENGARRA

MAUMERE

ALOR CHANNEL

ALOR

KOMODO NATIONAL PARK

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## ALOR ARCHIPELAGO

THE ALOR ARCHIPELAGO COMPRISES A SERIES OF RUGGED, VOLCANIC ISLANDS, THE FINAL LINK IN THE CHAIN STRETCHING EAST OF BALI, SUMBAWA AND FLORES. IT IS PERHAPS MOST NOTABLE FOR ITS STAGGERING CULTURAL DIVERSITY – THE SMALL ARCHIPELAGO IS HOME TO NO LESS THAN 100 TRIBES SPEAKING EIGHT LANGUAGES AND 52 DIALECTS.

The entire archipelago harbours a population of 200,000, of which roughly 60,000 people reside on the main island of Alor. Dutch settlers fixed local rajas in the coastal areas after 1908 but were unable to penetrate the interior with its notorious fierce head-hunters up until as late as the 1950s.

This area, with its striking volcano-pocked landscapes, remains known for its enduring indigenous animist traditions and the highland villages with their Moko kettledrums, where visitors are warmly welcomed.

These waters are known for powerful currents, particularly in the narrow straits between Pantar, Alor and Lembata, attracting pelagics such as hammerhead sharks from the deep. From fascinating macro diving to colourful reefs and schooling pelagic fish, Alor has plenty to offer. Conditions here are also excellent for fishing for the likes of Spanish mackerel, dogtooth and yellow fin tuna among other deep-sea game fish.

# KOMODO NATIONAL PARK

LOCATED TO THE EAST OF BALI AND LOMBOK, KOMODO NATIONAL PARK IS A UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE, HOME TO THE LEGENDARY ENDEMIC KOMODO DRAGON AND ONE OF THE MOST SOUGHT-AFTER CRUISING GROUNDS IN INDONESIA.

Stretching east from Bali lies Lombok, Sumbawa, Moyo and Flores – these isles host a wealth of interesting sights above land. The famed islands of Komodo National Park are known for the endemic Komodo dragons, respected by locals who believe they descend from one born to a dragon princess, centuries ago.

Rolling hills and mangroves in the north give way to craggy mountainous terrain in the central region, while in the south, Horseshoe Bay is about as close as you can get to Jurassic Park with cliffs shrouded in cloud and the force of the Pacific Ocean pounding the coast outside the cove.

With an official count of more than 1,000 types of fish and 260 types of corals, the warm tropical waters of Komodo National Park are one of the most species-rich underwater environments on earth. One of the wonderful things about this underwater playground is that around 60% of its dive sites are also suitable for snorkelling with their shallow, fringing reefs. Surfers can explore the surrounding islands of Lombok, Sumbawa, Sumba and Rote for perfect waves.









#### DAY 1: LABUAN BAJO

You will be met at Labuan Bajo airport by the yacht's crew and transferred to the harbour, a 15-minute drive. Once you have settled in onboard, the yacht will depart Labuan Bajo and cruise to the outskirts of the National Park while you enjoy lunch on deck. If time allows, go snorkelling or try a check dive before you watch the sun go down with a cocktail. Dinner will be served under the stars.

#### DAY 2: RINCA ISLAND

Lesser known than neighboring Komodo Island, Rinca is an excellent place to observe Komodo dragons, as well as the monkey population and an array of birdlife. This morning, stroll through the park with a ranger and catch sight of the famed Komodo dragons. This afternoon, submerge at underwater sites in the channel between Komodo and Flores, such as Tatawa Besar and Kecil, relax on a sandy beach flecked with shells or explore nearby coves and try some watersports.

#### DAY 3: MANTA POINT

Today, you will have a chance to visit a Manta cleaning station. Swim surrounded by Manta rays as they circle you in an underwater ballet. This area offers one of the most active underwater landscapes in Komodo with vibrant soft and hard coral gardens home to large numbers of fish. After lunch onboard, spend the afternoon beach combing or cruising mangroves and hidden coves on the tender, or relax onboard in the sunshine.

### DAY 4: PADAR ISLAND

Set between Rinca and Komodo in the central region of the national park lies the picturesque island of Padar. A sheltered bay on the southeast side of the island makes for a beautiful anchorage in the shadow of dramatic craggy peaks. Central Komodo's nutrient-rich waters attract shoals of schooling fish on current swept walls renowned as some of the best coral reefs in Indonesia. This bay is a wonderful spot to try watersports, relax on the beach or take a tender cruise into the mangroves to spot birdlife.

# 11-night Komodo to Alor itinerary

#### DAY 5: GILI LAWA LAUT

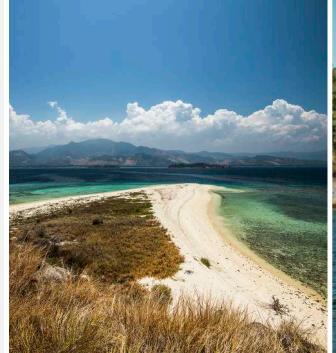
Today the yacht will anchor on the northwestern edge of Komodo, near the Gili Lawa islands. These two islands are home to Komodo's most famous underwater sites including Castle Rock, Shotgun, The Passage and Lighthouse. Pitch up on a stretch of golden sand between underwater pursuits. A steep trek will reward you with stunning vistas over the surrounding islands, stretching into the distance.

#### DAY 6: RIUNG MARINE NATIONAL PARK

As the yacht cruises into Riung Marine National Park, also known as 'Seventeen Islands' in honour of Indonesia's Independence Day, you will spend the day exploring this chain of 24 protected isles off the north coast of Flores. Aside from incredible marine life, the park is home to interesting wildlife on land in the forests, and five fishing villages inhabited by a mixture of Islamic Buginese and Catholics from the hinterland. There's an interesting cave nearby where dusk brings a mighty spectacle - thousands of bats taking off for their nightly jaunt.

## DAY 7: MOUNT KELIMUTU

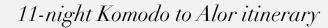
Early this morning, you will be driven from Ende harbour to Moni, where a short walk (30 minutes) reaches Kelimutu. Mount Kelimutu means Mountain of the Spirits, and its main draw is the famed three lakes set within the surreal summit of the craters at 1690m. The trio of lakes comprises Tiwu ata Mbupu (Lake of Old People), which is usually blue and the westernmost of the three lakes. Then there's Tiwu Nuwa Muri Koo Fai (Lake of Young Men and Maidens) and Tiwu Ata Polo (Bewitched or Enchanted Lake), usually green or red respectively and separated only by a crater wall. While it is the make up of dissolved minerals that give the lakes their different, changing colours, local legend and ethereal landscapes mean this area takes on a mythical feeling. On the way back to Ende, you can stop at the traditional village of Saga Lio Tribe and visit Ende Local Market and Soekarno House, the residence of the first Indonesian president.













Today we will approach the small volcanic island of Paloe. There's a fascinating village built on the volcanic slope, as though the smoking crater above was no real threat, and you can head ashore to see the traditional ikat weave textiles in the making. After lunch onboard, spend the afternoon snorkelling and diving in crystal clear waters. The yacht will depart early this evening for the overnight crossing to Kawula.

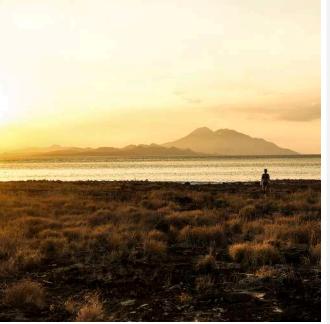
## DAY 9: MAUMERE

This morning, you will be collected at Maumere harbour by a local guide. Maumere, the capital city of the Sikka district, is a main entry point for visiting Flores. Your tour will begin at Sikka village, which is known for its ancient church dating from 1899 and ikat textiles, which are enthusiastically sold by the local people. You'll also stop in at Ledalero Museum before visiting the local market and Wuring fishing village. In the afternoon, you'll return to your private yacht in the harbour of Maumere for a relaxed evening onboard, taking in your first magnificent sunset across the Alor archipelago.

#### DAY 10: KAWULA & KOMBA

This morning offers the chance to dive the north coast of Kawula, where schools of reef fish cluster around 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. Subject to weather, we may make the crossing to Komba, where one of the active volcano can be seen spewing smoke into the skies.









# 11-night Komodo to Alor itinerary

#### DAY 11: ALOR CHANNEL

This morning may be spent exploring underwater sites along the coast of Alor & Pantar islands, such as Clown Valley, Sharks Galore, Mandarin House and The Boardroom, where you can glide through enormous shoals of fish, stunning colorful coral reefs and drifting pelagic marine life. In the very south of the Pantar Strait lies the small, remote village of Beangabang, 3 hours by boat to the nearest town. The village 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.

#### DAY 8: ALOR

This morning, the yacht will approach Alor port. After a final decadent breakfast on deck, your crew will assist you in disembarking the yacht and transfer you back to the airport to catch your flight home.









BALL

LOMBOK





TOGEAN ISLANDS

MALUKU

AMEON

CENDRAWASIR BAY

EATMANA

THE FORGOTTEN

NATIONAL PARK

SUMBA

TIMOR LESTE

IMOR

NATIONAL PARK

2 RAJA AMPAT

1 KOMODO

5 WEST PAPUA

INDONESIA

DESTINATIONS

- 3 ALOR ARCHIPELAGO
- 6 NORTH MALUKU

4 THE SPICE

ISLANDS





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