

Sample Itinerary: Komodo & Sumbawa

from: Bali, to: Labuanbajo

10 nights: approximately 29-31 dives

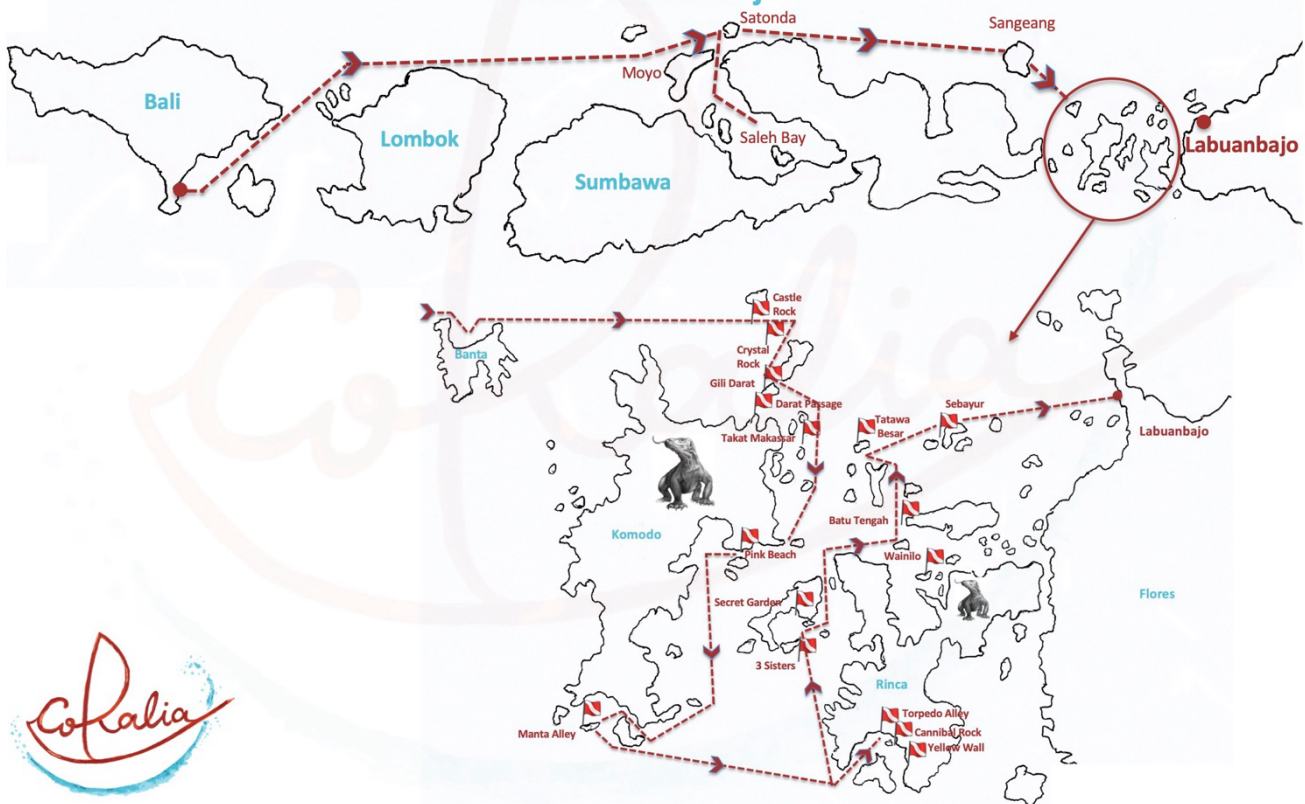
Please note: this is a sample itinerary that might change without further notice. Our Cruise Directors may adapt the itinerary to guarantee the best possible experience according to weather conditions or other unforeseen circumstances.

Diving in Komodo offers an exciting variety of dive sites and experiences. Komodo National Park is home to the world's largest lizard, the Komodo Dragon. This area is a World Heritage Site and one of the New 7 Wonders of Nature.

Komodo has it all! Beautiful soft coral reefs, exhilarating drift dives, spectacular hard coral reefs, fishy pinnacles and black sand muck dives. Komodo is home to a large population of manta rays, large schools of fish, turtles, reef sharks and a myriad of weird and wonderful fish and critters. Added to this cruise is a visit to some areas outside Komodo and to Sumbawa, with a chance to see whale sharks!

Komodo & Sumbawa

Bali - Labuanbajo





Bali – Moyo

Embarkation time is before midday. Relax on board as we travel overnight to our first destination of the island of Moyo. On the first diving day, we will do three dives. Either Angel Reef, Little Angel or Panjang Reef will be our first dive of the trip. These reefs all have the protection of the village on Moyo Island, so they are full of fish!

Saleh Bay

We then move into the Saleh Bay for a chance to snorkel with whale sharks. The whale sharks come to feed at the bagans (fishing platforms) here. This is a natural behaviour, the whale sharks have learnt that if they suck on the fishing nets, the fishermen's catch comes out of the holes! The fishermen believe these huge fish bring them good luck. They throw handfuls of fish to the whale sharks to keep them close to their bagan.

We will arrive in the area in the late afternoon to ask the fishermen who's seen whale sharks that day. We can then arrange to visit early the next morning. If we get lucky, we might see more than one whale shark, and they have been known to stay with us for hours! Having close-up encounters as the whale sharks circle round and round, opening their mouths wide and sucking in the fish, is one of the most incredible experiences you can have.

Satonda

After the snorkelling in Saleh Bay in the morning, we will do dives at Sumbawa Surprise and in front of Satonda, where we look for nudibranchs, pygmy seahorses and cuttlefish. Satonda is an old volcano where we can visit the crater lake. We will do a late afternoon dive here, and before we head off to our next destination, we will enjoy the spectacle of thousands of fruit bats leaving Satonda to fly over to their night-time feeding grounds on Sumbawa Island.

Sangeang – Gili Banta

The next day will be spent at Sangeang Volcano. It is an active volcano with a dive site called Hot Rocks, where there is a phenomenon of bubbles coming out of the reef, creating a natural jacuzzi! The black sands are home to all sorts of mystical creatures. After two dives around Sangeang, we will move to Banta Island for an afternoon and night dive. At Gazor Beach, we will try to find stargazers buried in the sand. We will then travel overnight to Komodo National Park.



Komodo National Park

In the north of Komodo National Park, there are pinnacles full of fish, where you can also see reef sharks, eagle rays and turtles. The two most famous dive sites are Crystal and Castle Rock. You might also dive at the fishy reefs of Shotgun and Darat Passage.

We will spend some time in the large channel between the islands of Komodo and Flores, where there are colourful reefs and exhilarating drift dives. At Takat Makassar, you can drift along the bottom of the sea to look for manta rays. Tatawa Besar and Siaba Kecil have healthy reefs that are best viewed while floating along in the current. Batu Tengah lies exactly in the middle of the National Park and the healthy corals here attract all the reef fish in big numbers. For the macro lovers, we might find the very special ladybugs here.

A highlight of any visit to Komodo is to see the Dragons! There are several locations where you can see these magnificent animals. Any cruise on board Coralia will include a trek to look for Komodo Dragons. There are also a couple of viewpoints where you can take in breath-taking views across the National Park. On the day we do the Dragon trek, we will offer three dives.

There are plenty of macro dives in Komodo too. Wainilo and Lasa are where your dive guides will look for critters that you never thought existed! Melibe nudibranchs, hairy frogfish, flamboyant cuttlefish, ghost pipefish and harlequin shrimps are some divers' favourites. Pink Beach and Torpedo Alley are both excellent dives that can be done during the day and at night.

Padar Island has a wonderful viewpoint and long, empty beaches. There are several dive sites such as Three Sisters and Secret Garden in this area. Your dive guides will look for giant frogfish here. Keep your eyes out into the open water for schools of mobula rays.

In the south of Komodo are some world-renowned dive sites. Inside Horseshoe Bay on the south of Rinca Island, at Cannibal Rock and Yellow Wall of Texas, you will see a very different coral landscape. Crinoids and sea squirts host cute ladybugs, colourful walls are home to giant frogfish and hiding inside fire sea urchins are zebra crabs and Coleman shrimps. The Holy Grail of fish, rhinopias, have also been found in this area. Manta Alley is on the south of Komodo island. This is another popular spot for manta rays to hang out to feed and get cleaned.

On the last full day on board, we will do two dives before heading back into Labuanbajo to enjoy our special goodbye dinner inside the harbour. The next morning, our tenders will take you back ashore to catch your flights.

For booking inquiries, please contact us at info@coralia-liveaboard.com.