

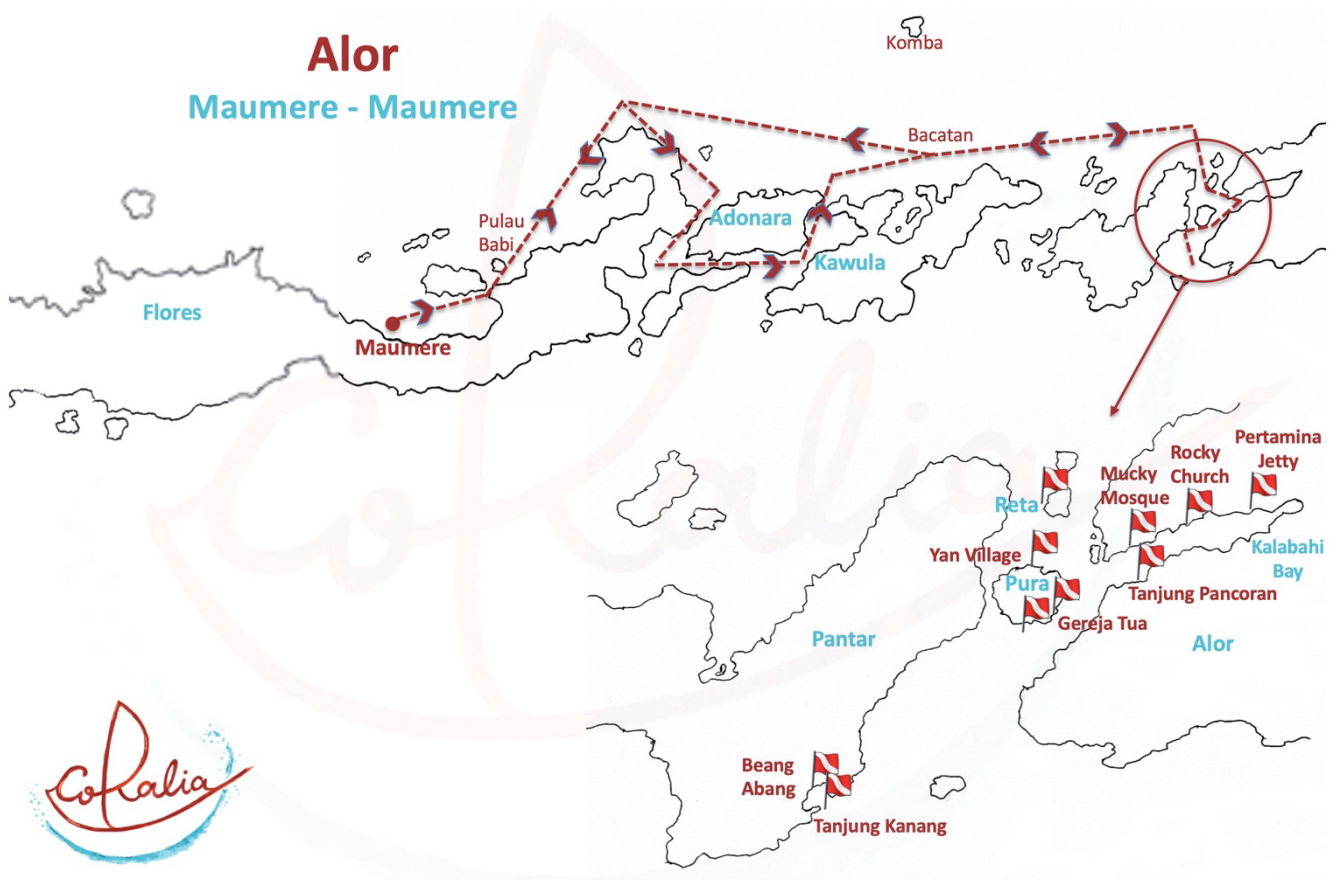
Sample Itinerary: Alor

from: Maumere, to: Maumere

9 nights: approximately 25-27 dives

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.



Maumere – Adonara – Kawula

Starting from Maumere on the island of Flores, we will do our first dive at Tanjung Gedong on the northeast corner of Flores. The reef slopes down into sandy areas with large coral heads. The deep sections are beautiful with soft corals and large table corals decorating the reef. Reef sharks and groupers can be seen here. After our second dive at Sarbete Reef, we will travel to Adonara Island for a night dive at Tanjung Wotang. We have two days of muck diving ahead of us. After a day at the southeast corner of Adonara, we will move to Kawula Island. Here we will look for rhinopias, also known as the Holy Grail of fish, rare shrimps, mimic octopus, candy crabs, cuttlefish, leaf fish, frogfish and ghost pipefish have all been spotted here.



Alor

We'll move on to the Pantar Strait, which is formed between the islands of Alor and Pantar. Alor is home to several species of rhinopias. Something about the conditions here make this area one of the top places in the world to see this rare fish. There are several dive sites where there is a good chance to find them.

The island of Pura lies right in the middle of the channel in the Pantar Strait. Drift dives here are a lot of fun. We will look out for passing sharks, wobbegong sharks hiding in the big coral heads and maybe even get lucky and see a mola. In Yan Village you will be greeted by ladies selling ikats, the traditional weaving of this area. The children on Pura make goggles out of wood and bottle tops and they love to greet divers on the surface and underwater – playing with the children is worth a single dive just in itself! We can also dive the sandy slopes in front of the village to look for rhinopias, enjoy the coral-covered wall and look for mandarin fish in the shallow hard coral reefs.

Reta is another island in the Pantar Strait. Here there are deep walls covered in stunning corals. There are huge barrel sponges and giant frogfish have been spotted here.

Kalabahi Bay is on the island of Alor. This bay is where you will experience the fantastic muck diving of Alor. Alongside rhinopias we will look for all types of octopus, frogfish, ghost pipefish, squid, cuttlefish, weird and wonderful shrimps and nudibranchs galore! Mucky Mosque, Rocky Church, Tanjung Pancoran and the Pertamina Jetty are some of the dive sites inside Kalabahi.

We will also spend a day at Beang Abang. This bay is on the island of Pantar. At the front of the village is a huge expanse of sand where we will look for the weird and wonderful critters who make this kind of environment their home. We have seen mimic and wunderpus octopus, Ambon scorpionfish, hairy frogfish, rhinopias – all sorts of amazing things. There is a jetty here which was quiet when first built, but it now attracts all sorts of fish to shelter under the posts. At the west corner of the bay is a rocky dive site called Tanjung Kanang, where you can see amazing corals, including sea apples, a colourful round sea cucumber.

Alor is also a fascinating place above water – it is home to an ancient tribe called the Abui. During any cruise to Alor, Coralia will take a half day off from diving to visit a traditional village to watch and take part in dances and ceremonies of these friendly people. This is an absolute highlight of any tour to Alor. There's a chance to buy some locally made souvenirs too.

Alor – Kawula – Maumere

On our last day in the region of Alor, we will do three dives before we start heading back west towards Kawula Island again. This time we will do three dives in an area called Bacatan. At the entrance to this big bay is a dive site called Tanjung Bacatan. A drift dive will take you past a wall full of sea fans and sponges with a chance to see schooling jacks and pelagics such as eagle rays, tunas and sharks. Inside the bay is the sea mount of Takat Prau and the reef and sand of Padang Pasir. Takat Prau used to have a small wooden fishing boat on one side of the pinnacle. Now there are only a couple of wooden planks covered in sponges and corals left. Up in the shallows, we look for the resident scorpion leaf fish. After the third dive, we will start crossing back to the island of Flores.



Coralia Liveaboard



The last two dives of the cruise will be at Pulau Babi, close to Maumere. Here the walls are decorated with huge gorgonian sea fans and pygmy seahorses make these their home. Nudibranchs, moray eels, lionfish and a myriad of reef fish live at Babi. The topography at one dive site is fascinating, with a huge crack seemingly splitting one side of the island in two.

On the last afternoon, you can relax on board, have a massage and pack during our short crossing back to Maumere. We will 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.