

Sample Itinerary: Komodo & Sumbawa

from: Labuanbajo, to: Labuanbajo

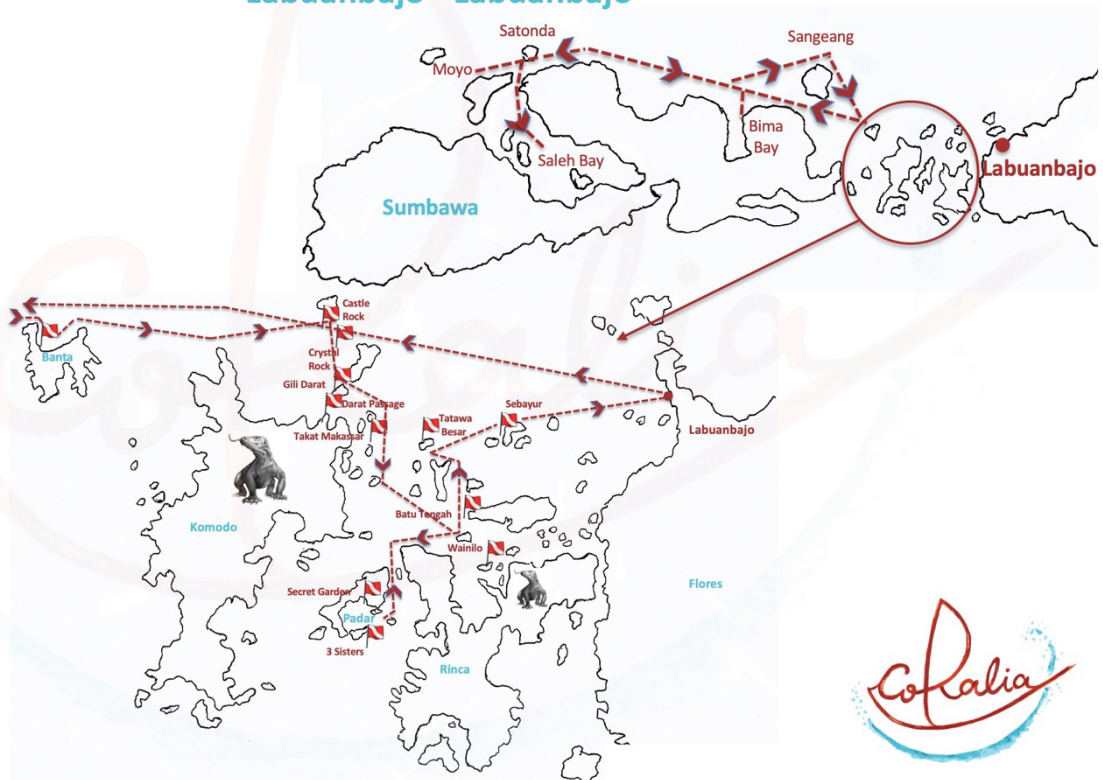
10 nights: approximately 30-32 dives

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. Added to this cruise is a visit to some areas outside Komodo and to Sumbawa, with a chance to see whale sharks!

Komodo & Sumbawa

Labuanbajo - Labuanbajo





Komodo – Moyo

Starting from Labuanbajo on the island of Flores, we will travel overnight to our first destination of the island of Moyo. On the first diving day, we will do three dives. The dive sites here are called Angel Reef, Little Angel or Panjang Reef. These reefs all have the protection of the village on Moyo Island, so they are full of fish!

Saleh Bay, Sumbawa & Satonda

We will then cruise into Saleh Bay on Sumbawa Island for the chance to snorkel with whale sharks the next morning. 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.

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.

After the snorkel session in the morning, we'll head out of Saleh Bay and do two to three dives at the islands of Sumbawa and Satonda. On Sumbawa Island, we'll stop to see what we can find in the sand at Sumbawa Surprise. It is always a surprise what critters are around! At Satonda, there is a healthy reef where we can look for nudibranchs, pygmy seahorses and cuttlefish. We'll do a night dive here before travelling overnight to Bima.

Bima Bay

Bima lies on the island of Sumbawa and is our final stop before heading back to Komodo. Bima Bay has some of the best muck diving in Indonesia, with chances to see wunderpus, mimic and blue-ringed octopus, seahorses, frogfish, bumblebee shrimps, tiger shrimps and a long list of other amazing critters.

Sangeang & Gili Banta

The next day will start at Sangeang Volcano. This 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.

We'll move on to Gili Banta, which lies just on the outside of Komodo National Park. The main dive sites here are Tanduk Rusa and Gazor Beach. At Gazor Beach, we do a night dive to look for stargazers, octopus and coral catsharks.



Komodo National Park

We will spend the rest of the trip diving in Komodo National Park. 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!

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.

In the large channel between the islands of Komodo and Flores, there are colourful reefs and thrilling 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.

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.