

Sample Itinerary: Maumere, Alor & Komodo

from: Maumere, to: Labuanbajo

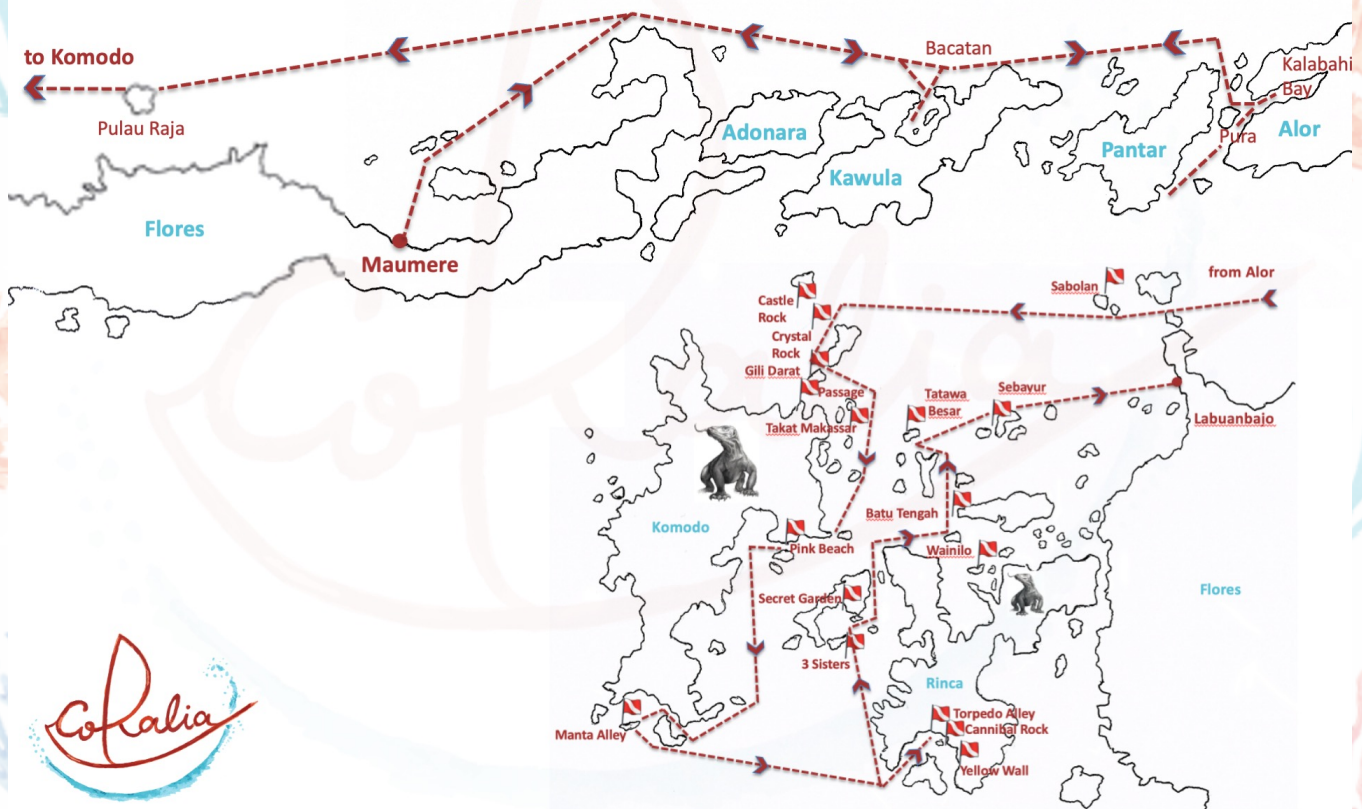
10 nights: approximately 27-29 dives

12 nights: approximately 35-37 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, Alor & Komodo

Maumere – Labuanbajo



Maumere – Alor

Starting from Maumere on the island of Flores, we will head straight to our first stop with an overnight crossing to the island of Kawula. Inside the big bay of Kawula Island are 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 have good chances to find some resident scorpion leaf fish. During the day, the reef at Padang Pasir holds delights such as pyjama cardinal fish, juvenile barramundi cod and stonefish, and at night star gazers, crocodile fish and demon stingers emerge from the sand.



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 might 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, Coralialia 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 – Komodo

After a couple of days in the Pantar Strait, we will head back west to the island of Kawula. At the entrance to the 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.

After two dives, we continue to cruise west and stop at Pulau Raja, close to Maumere. This beautiful island with a fantastic fringing reef is the perfect stopover for two dives on our way to Komodo. On the next day, we will enter Komodo National Park.



Komodo

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!

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.

The large channel between the islands of Komodo and Flores has 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.

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, feed and get cleaned.

There are plenty of macro dives 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.

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.