

FLORES AND ALOR



REMOTE AND UNTOUCHED THE 18 ISLANDS OF ALOR AND SOLOR GROUP ARE CONSIDERED ONE OF THE BEST DIVING DESTINATIONS IN ASIA. TOURISM DOES NOT EXISTENT AND ONLY FEW DIVERS HAVE EXPLORED THESE WATERS. ONE OF THE VERY LAST TRADITIONAL WHALE HUNTER COMMUNITIES ON THE PLANET STILL LIVES IN THIS MAGICAL ARCHIPELAGO. THE ISLANDS ARE FROM VOLCANIC ORIGIN, WHICH MAKE FOR STUNNING SCENERY. NOT TO BE MISSED THE INLAND EXCURSION TO KELIMUTU VOLCANO, WITH ITS CRATER FILLED WITH THREE LAKES EACH ONE OF DIFFERENT COLORS.

FLORES Cruises to Alor depart from the port of Maumere, in Flores Island, well connected by air with Bali. Maumere Bay is a great diving destination in its own, plenty hard and soft corals cover the reefs, big pelagics and beautiful critters could be seen in every dive. Maumere has recovered very well from September 1992 tsunami which hit and destroyed almost all reefs of the bay.

On the way to Alor the islands of Adonara and Kavula also offer good diving in a great variety of sceneries walls, drop offs, caves, pinnacles, beautiful corals, big fishes and critters.

ALOR The waters around the islands are known for their strong currents, particularly in the relatively narrow strait between Pantar and Alor and also between Lembata and Pantar. With each tide, large water masses are pushed through the straits causing strong upwelling. The straits in the area play an important role in the exchange of marine life between the Indian and Pacific Ocean. Each year whales and dolphins travel from the Pacific and Indian Ocean through the deep but narrow Nusa Tenggara island chain.



REEF BASICS	
Diving season	May to December. But is possible to dive Alor and Flores all year round.
Rainy season	Light rainy season from November to April.
Water temperature	25-29°C.
Visibility	8m-10m.
Depth	12- 40m.
Currents	Can be strong.
Surface conditions	Can be rough.
Experience level	Intermediate – advanced.
Dive sites	>40.
Length of stay	Recommended 7-10 days on liveaboard cruise.

TRIP ADVISOR →	
Airport	Maumere. International flights reach Bali or Jakarta, then domestic flight to Maumere.
Weather	27-32°C. Indonesia has two seasons: wet and dry. In most of Indonesia the wet season is from October to April and the dry from May to September. Nusa Tenggara's climate is relatively dry with a light rainy season from November to April.

WHALES, DOLPHINS, ORCAS AND SUNFISH

The four island passages between Flores and Alor seem to be some of the richest in large marine life of all of Nusa Tenggara, and are especially abundant in whales and dolphins. The area is renowned for its large marine mammal migration and the whale watching in particular is breathtaking. During the season, while cruising through the area, you can spot whales surfacing by their water spout. Because of this, coastal communities living along eastern Indonesia's marine migratory routes, especially in the villages of Lamalera and Lamakera have been hunting whales for centuries. Equipped with simple spears, they take only what their village needs to eat and barter just a bit in return for vegetables and rice. In every cruise is also possible to visit the traditional whale-hunters villages.

The area is famous for Orcas. Some diver had the once on a lifetime opportunity to dive with them. Also sunfish or Mola Mola are present in good numbers in these waters.

MUCK DIVING Alor is teeming with numerous dive sites that offer even the most seasoned of muck divers an experience they will never forget. So dust off those cameras and prepare to meet some weird creatures that in any other context could come from another planet: pegasus sea moths to mimic octopus; devil fish to ornate sea horses. Coral reefs are mostly found along the northern coast of the Solor and Alor island group with some coral reefs lining the channels in between major islands. The southern coastline of the islands, particularly on the island of Lembata, is lined with rocks and just little coral. The reefs also include rocky bottoms along the northwest tip of Alor starting in the strait between Alor and Pantar.

POPULATION AND ETHNIC FACTS The total population on the islands was estimated at 144.629 people or 29.000 households in 1990. There are 14 languages used in the island group, a majority of the people speak Solor and Ende Malay. At present, however, all people are also literate in Bahasa Indonesia. Alor inhabitants still live in a very traditional way and are an exceptional study case for sociologists.



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Photo Courtesy: Tommaso Caenazzo

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SIDETRIPS 主	
Trekking:	Inland excursion from Maumere to Kelimutu Volcano.
Touring:	Alor traditional villages.
Expedition:	Lamalera a very last traditional whaling community.
-PLEASE INQUIRY FOR DETAILS IF INTERESTED- ✉	



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