

WAKATOBI



THE WAKATOBI NATIONAL PARK IN TUKANGBESI ARCHIPELAGO, A SMALL ISLAND GROUP IN THE SOUTH-EAST OF SULAWESI, HOST SOME OF THE HEALTHIEST CORAL FIELDS YOU ARE LIKELY TO SEE. IT IS A TROPICAL PARADISE WITH BEAUTIFUL BEACHES AND PRISTINE REEFS. SOME OF THE BEST PLACES CAN ONLY BE REACHED BY LIVEABOARD. THE SOUTHEASTERN ATOLLS HAVE BEEN VISITED BY VERY FEW DIVERS, AND STILL OFFER THE REMOTE PIONEER-DIVING FEELING.

DIVING IN WAKATOBI


The coral cover though is just excellent -no damage from fishing, boating or diving at any place-. There are huge boulders of hard corals everywhere, sponges the size of a man and sea fans 2 to 3 meter across not much soft corals though. In some places you can find whole fields of whip corals. Being a national park, the local fishing communities obtain a fair share of the income generated by dive tourism in exchange for adopting sustainable practices, which have permitted leaving large stretches of reef completely untouched. Wakatobi's reefs are unlike others in the region because of dry climate and uplifted limestone –what's means fossilized reefs-. Due to the lack of soil erosion there is an exceptionally clean environment here. Many dive sites are not very well known, which are waiting to be discovered, particularly in the outer atolls which are virtually untouched.

March to December is the season for scuba diving in Wakatobi. July and August bring rich plankton blooms and their attendant big marine animals, but also cooler water and lower visibility. The water temperature varies quite a bit. November until May the temperature averages is 28°C, June, July and September are between 26 to 27°C. October registered the maximum of 30°C and August the minimum of 25°C. For 99% of the year, the temperature ranges between 26-29°C.

PASARWAJO This place offers excellent muck diving especially during night dive. Stone fishes, wasp fishes, octopus, Spanish dancer and other large sea slugs and rare nudibranchs, as well as poisonous sea urchins and lionfish.

HOGA It is the base for the Operation Wallacea which has a research program here. They want to develop a comprehensive management plan to preserve the ecological balance of these islands with its coral reefs and animal life. There are several dive sites, walls with a lot of islets, caves and overhangs, and pinnacles on top of which there are many trevallies, Jack fishes, eagle rays and barracudas. It is also a great place for a night dive.



REEF BASICS 	
Diving season	From March to April and from October to December. The months of March and April, and mid/late-September to early/mid-December are the best times for diving in the Banda Sea, based upon surface conditions.
Rainy season	From January to February and from June to August. From January to February and from June to August.
Water temperature	25-30°C
Visibility	15-80m.
Depth	5 -> 50m.
Currents	Gentle.
Surface conditions	Calm.
Experience level	Beginner – advanced.
Dive sites	>50
Length of stay	Recommended 7-11 days on liveaboard cruise.

TRIP ADVISOR →	
Airport	Kendari. International flight to Bali and then domestic flight to Kendari.
Weather	27-30°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. Southern Sulawesi rainy season runs from December to March. Best time to visit this area is April to November.

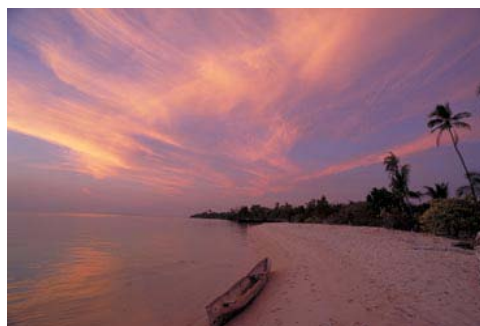
TOMIA Just in front of the resort is the best diving in the island, a long beautiful wall very rich in corals and fish life. With well protected schooling fishes and the jetty full of resident fish, the snorkelers find here plenty of attractions without the need for taking a boat. Highlights include a great variety of fishes, invertebrates, macro subjects, beautiful soft corals, gorgonians, tunicates, whips, sponges, overhangs-all totalling a spectacular rainbow of colour. Frequently there are strong and changing currents.

BINONGKO The inhabitants of Binongko are skill iron-workers. It is possible to see them making traditional Indonesian “kriss”, the curved blades knives.

NDA This small island south of Binongko offers fantastic walls covered in soft and hard corals. Sea life includes turtles, Jack fishes, scorpion fishes, bat fishes and rays.

KARANG KOKA The atoll has two natural entrances, one in the south and the other one on the northeastern side. Coral growth is very dense everywhere and in some places you see gorgonians of enormous size and many black coral. Fish life includes big schools of fish, jacks, dogtooth tuna, napoleons and eagle rays. On some spot could be fierce changing currents

MOROMAH It's a small island covered with palm trees. It rises sharply from the sea bottom out of 400m. The flat, large reef top ends abruptly at a more than 60m deep wall dives in front of the island western side are all extremely good, many and big schools of fish, mostly jacks and fusiliers. The walls have many entrances and overhangs. Everywhere there are big gorgonians, black coral and huge barrel sponges. Currents and down currents could be strong.



SIDETRIPS 五	ADD AN AMAZING "ING" TO YOUR LIVEABOARD EXPERIENCE:
Trekking:	Excursion to Moramo Waterfalls.
Visitig:	Tanah Toraja and discovering Torajan people, the animist highlanders of Sulawesi, a distinct ethnic group with ancestral traditions.
PLEASE INQUIRY FOR DETAILS IF INTERESTED TO: info@cruisingindonesia.com	

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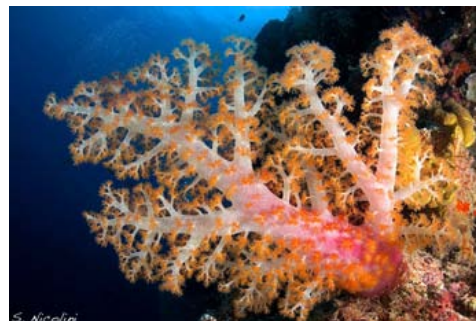


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