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NORTH SULAWESI 7 NIGHTS ECO DIVERS COMBO INDONESIA

The following is a sample itinerary of where you might dive during your holiday with us. We wish to show you the very best diving but a number of factors can determine where we visit. Weather, tides, how busy a site is with other dive vessels all play a part in the Cruise Director's decision of which route the yacht takes. The safety of all on board is paramount and we always do our best in offering diving at alternate locations. The Cruise Director is happy to listen to requests from guests to visit or remain at certain sites and providing it is possible and the schedule allows, then guest's requests are respected.

North Sulawesi 7 Nights - Lembeh - Lembeh 22 Dives including up to 4 night dives

• Day 1 - Arrive Lembeh

Meet a member of the Worldwide Dive and Sail crew at the Manado Airport at 1.30pm and transfer to the Lembeh Strait to board the SY Mandarin Siren at around 3pm. After boarding settle into your cabin and assemble your equipment with help from our friendly crew. The boat briefing is followed by dinner and you are then able to enjoy the rest of the evening at leisure. Depart for Bangka Island.

• Day 2 - Bangka Island – 4 dives

Dive 1 – Sahaong East's huge plateau with boulders and a wall is a great spot to get our first dive of the trip. Soft corals adorn the walls and are a great place to hunt for orang-utan crabs & stonefish whilst the large table corals shelter resting white tip reef sharks.

Dive 2 - Sahaong West – a deeper dive with the top of the pinnacle 12m/ 40ft from the surface dropping to 30m /100ft. Seafans and soft corals are the place for the keen eyed tospot pygmy seahorses and you can see a variety of cowries here. The pinnacle also attracts bumphead parrotfish and schools of colourful reef fish species.

Dive 3 – Batu Gambing – roughly translated as Goat Rock from the Bahasa, is a fantastic white sand slope where robust ghost pipefish, mimic octopus, tiny frogfish & Ambon scorpion fish can be spotted along with the occasional dugong that like to shuffle along feeding in the sand.

Dive 4 – Night dive at Sepia Point for Cuttlefish, octopus, pleurobranchs and many other molluscs. Giant frogfish and ghost pipefish are also amongst the common sightings.

• Day 3 - Pulau Ruang – 3 dives

We make an early start across the sea for Pulau Ruang. The 6 hour journey leaves enough time for 3 dives today but we will make long dives to get the most out of the reefs.

Dives 1 & 2 – Ruang Slope, with its crystal clear visibility is where we make our first dives at this volcanic island. The site is developed from a sloping reef of black sand and lava pebbles from which spring huge elephant ear sponges & giant barrel sponges. Lacey Scorpionfish (Rhinopias) have made this area their home and are one of the main intrigues of the dives. False stonefish, ghost pipefish, clown snake eels and a plethora of nudibranchs can

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all be found creeping, crawling or buried in the sand slope. Algae and grass patches in the shallow water are where we find juvenile crocodile fish and leaf fish, as well as ornate juvenile batfish and patches of tomato anemones that host spine cheek anemone fish. Dive 3 – The Opera House, or Tahulandang Jetty, is where we make our night dive. The shallow water, just 6m / 20ft, with its rocky bottom is the perfect playground for all manner of critters. Spiny black urchins crawl over the seafloor and lion fish shelter amongst the pier supports. Blue ringed octopus, sponge crabs, devilfish and pipefish are just some of the creatures that are seen here lurking amongst the pier's industrial waste.

● **Day 4 & 5 - Pulau Siau – 8 dives**

The island of Siau is predominantly the active volcano Karangetang. This is one of Indonesia most active volcanoes and at night time you are able to see the red lava glow in the darkness. We will make 8 dives around the volcanoes choosing from the following sites for our day dives:-

Ifor Point – provides a mix of reef slope and walls; a true macro lovers delight. Barrel sponges, algae & bubble corals hide orang-utan crabs, pygmy seahorses, flat worms, pipefish & leaf fish.

Ifor Point Slope – is where we see schools of snappers & surgeon fish. Blue spotted rays source out their prey along the sandy slope and pygmy sea horses may be spotted in the sea fans.

Eric's Coral Garden – a fantastic hard coral garden that drops away to algae filled slopes where we look for halmeida ghost pipe fish; octopus and juvenile oriental sweetlips can be seen dancing about manically.

Bandil Jetty night dive – the white sandy slope drops to around 20m / 80ft running away from the jetty and is dotted with large coral blocks and algae. Blue ringed octopus, ornate ghost pipefish & nudibranchs are all found at this critter haven, along with cowries, decorator crabs and numerous shrimps.

Needle Point – a series of exposed pinnacles with frequent strong currents attract schools of jacks, fusiliers and banner fish.

Ren's Rocks – large coral boulders with huge sea fans & sponges provide ample shelter for schools of sweetlips and surgeon fish. Currents can be a little 'confused' here as they move between the boulders. We surface in the blue watching for passing pelagics. SMBs are a must at this dive site!

Tao's Corner – the reef slopes down away from the shallow rocks and forms a wall as we continue along with our dive. The wall has soft corals & green tree corals sheltering many unusual critters and a whole host of the red tooth trigger fish, butterfly fish, sweetlips and banner fish dart about and rest within the corals.

● **Day 6 - Pulau Mahoro & Pulau Ruang – 4 dives**

Dive 1 – Mahoro Rocks at the tip of Mahoro Island has an archway eroded in the rock from currents sweeping the area. We dive to a maximum of 20m / 80ft searching amongst the rubble for lobsters, crabs, huge triton shells, shrimps and nudibranchs. Whip corals, jutting out from the fallen boulders, hide Xeno crabs and gobies.

We return to Pulau Ruang for our final dives at the Ruang Slope and Opera House.

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● **Day 7 – Bangka Island & North Sulawesi – 3 dives**

Departing early from Pulau Ruang we journey back to Bangka Island for one more dive here and another 2 dives along the north Sulawesi coast.

Dive 1 – Batu Tiga – A deep pinnacles reaching up to 14m is where we begin our dive, looking amongst the rocky rubble for marble rays & blue spotted sting rays. There are plenty of critters & benthic fishes including nudibranchs & crustaceans, dragonets stingers along with many lionfish. We spend up to 40 minutes at the pinnacle before ascending to the rubble slope where ghost pipefish are likely to be found as we make our stop under the mooring.

Dive 2 – Machico - A mini wall and black sand slope is where we find giant & harlequin frogfish nestling amidst the sponges, giant scorpion fish, morays, snappers & “friendly” titan triggerfish.

In the shallows the soft corals are fantastic and vary in colour look for pipefish & nudibranchs.

Dive 3 – Efratta – a wall which is covered in soft orange corals, hydrozoans & algae we keep a look out for the tiny pontohi seahorses, leaf fish, basket stars and a wide variety of crustaceans.

A final 3 course meal is prepared by our on board chef and you can spend the evening relaxing in the anticipation of the dives to come in Lembeh and begin planning your next adventure with Worldwide Dive and Sail & the Siren Fleet.

● **Day 8 - Disembark in Lembeh Strait – 4 dives (continue diving with Eco Divers Resort)**

Enjoy a final breakfast on board as our crew transfer your dive equipment to the Eco Divers Resort yacht; Nautica. There is time to say your farewells to the crew before you disembark the SY Mandarin Siren at approximately 8.30am. The dinghies will transfer you to the Nautica to continue your dive adventure; meanwhile your personal effects will be taken directly to the Eco Divers Resort, Lembeh.

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