

Forgotten Islands & South Banda Sea

13 nights/14 days



Cruise Summary

The "Forgotten Islands" are a chain of small islands from north-east Timor until west Papua and were discovered by the Portuguese. The inhabitants live extremely isolated – mostly even by Indonesian standards. The area is known for its crystal-clear water with unbelievable visibility. This underwater region of Indonesia is still relatively unexplored. The Forgotten Islands represent some of the most pristine reefs of Indonesia – truly one of the "last of the wild" seascapes on earth.

Our journey begins in East Flores in Maumere, the largest town in Flores, and leads us eastward. We are sailing on this remote chain from volcanic islands until Saumlaki, the capital of the west-southeast Maluku district.

These volcanic islands offer some of the best and still largely unexplored dive sites in the Indonesian waters.



Day-1

Your flight will arrive in Maumere, the largest town in Flores. We organize the transport from Maumere airport or your hotel to our vessel "MARI". After a welcome drink and a brief introduction of your new home for the next days, we will sail you to our first near idyllic destination for our checkup dive.

Day 2-13

If possible we offer 3-4 dives daily. When crossing only 1-2 dives a day can be scheduled. We reserve the right to change the itinerary or specific agreed services, if force majeure, unforeseen or unavoidable circumstances require us to do so.

Some of the destinations on our journey:

Maumere

The largest town in [Flores](#), East Nusa Tenggara of Indonesia, Maumere is probably not the most popular travel place but it is normally an accidental drop by due to it being an alternative port to fly in to explore the rest of Flores.



Pulau Romana kecil

A island with tourist charm that is still original, unspoiled nature's secrets.



Pulau Komba

Komba Island, also known as Gunung Batu Tara (or Batutara) on the map, is located approximately 70 km from Lembata island to the northeast. Actually, Batu Tara is an active volcano located on the island of Komba, a small island not inhabited.



Alor

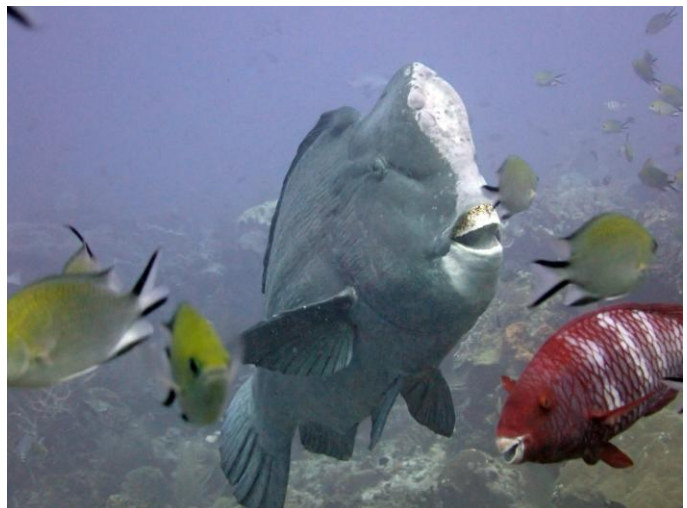
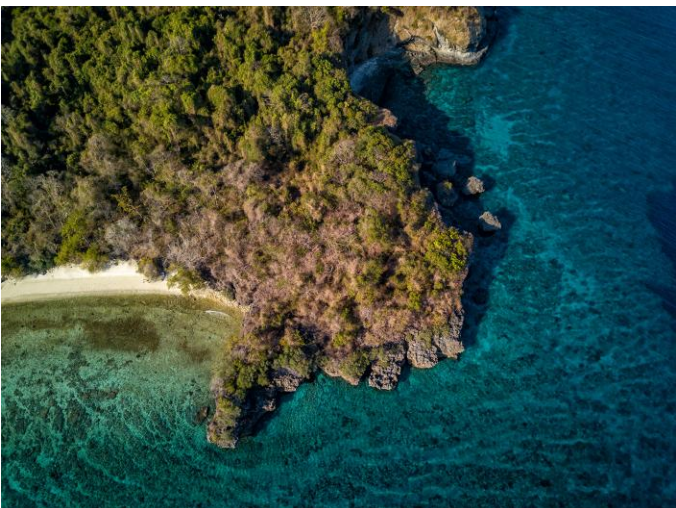
Alor (Indonesian: Pulau Alor) is the largest island in the Alor Archipelago and is one of the 92 officially listed outlying islands of Indonesia. It is located at the eastern Lesser Sunda Islands that runs through southeastern Indonesia, which from the west include such islands as Bali, Lombok, Sumbawa, Komodo, and Flores.



Pulau Wetar (whale Island) is the outer island of Indonesia, located in the Banda Sea and borders the country of Timor Leste. Wetar is a huge island, measuring 100 km in length, and is registered under the Maluku province. It's one of the many bordering islands of the country and it has a vague relation to the Timor Leste which can be seen in the south coast. At Wetar Island, there is a good chance of seeing blue whales migrating from the Pacific Ocean to the Indian Ocean this year.



Pulau Romang is an island, part of Barat Daya Islands, located east of Wetar Island. Alternate names in use are **Roma**, **Romonu** and **Fataluku**.



Nus Leur / Terbang is the only atoll in the area of the Indonesian Damar Islands in the Banda Sea, at the western end of the archipelago.



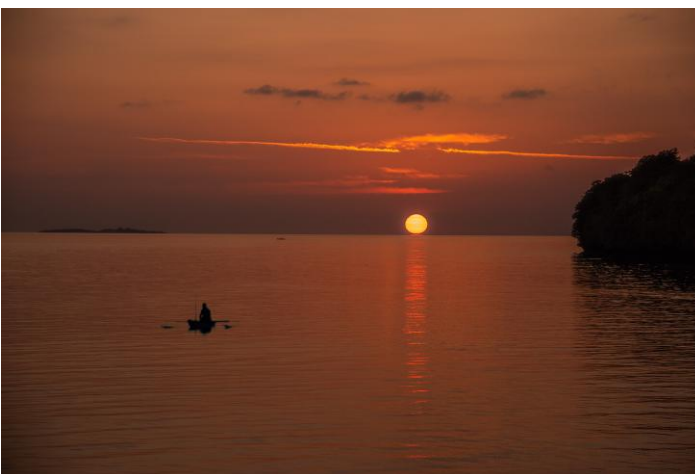
Teun, Nila & Nil Desperandum Reef

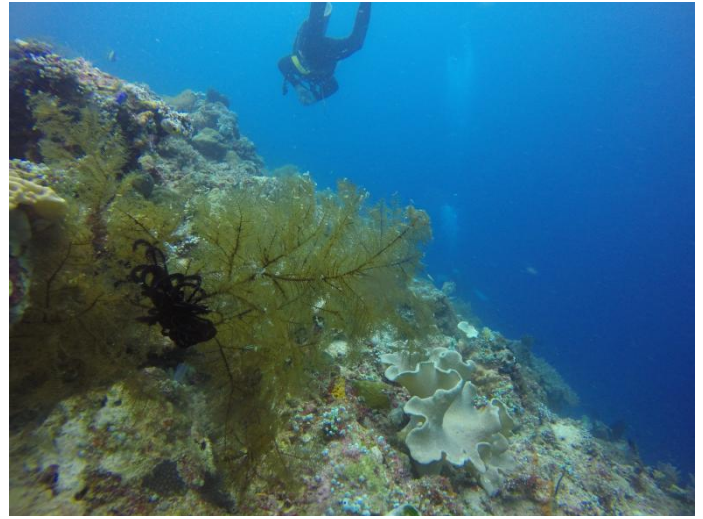
Teun is the northernmost and easternmost of the Damar Islands and lies 49 kilometers east-northeast their main island Damar. It has an area of 14.18 km². [1] Although Teun belongs geographically to the Damar Islands, but is administratively part of the district (Kecamatan) Teun Nila Serua, together with the islands of Nila and Serua. The district belongs to the government district (Kabupaten) Maluku Tengah, Maluku province. Damar Islands and the eastern islands of Nila and Serua belong to the inner Banda Arc, an island chain of volcanic origin.



Nila volcano forms completely an isolated 5 × 6 km wide of island with the same name in the Barat Daya Islands of the Banda Sea. The volcano comprises a low caldera with its rims breach into the sea surface on the south and the east side. The dominantly andesitic volcano contains a young forested cone at the elevation of 781 m height. Mount Nila is a stratovolcano, and caused the abandonment of a Rumadai village when it erupted in 1968.

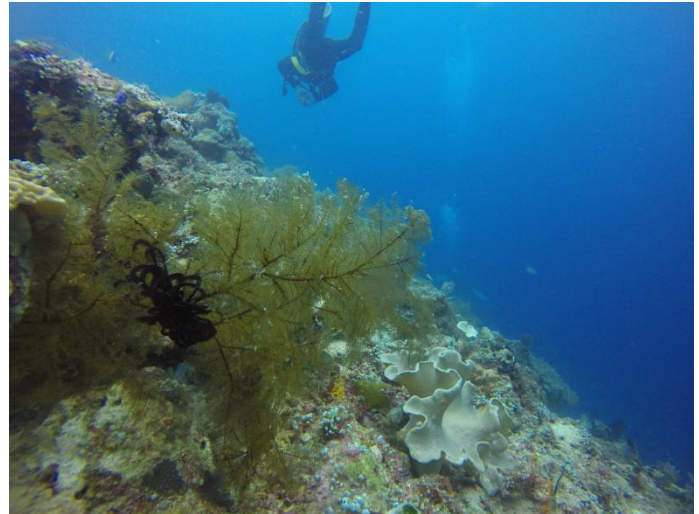
Teun, Nila and Serua, often referred to as TNS, are all small, very remote volcanic islands only accessible by liveaboard, located just east of Damar. You will feel as if you have reached the ends of the earth and that may be why there is a growing interest in diving in this zone. Although the sites here remain relatively unexplored, experiences so far have revealed tremendous diving potential and splendid coral reefs. Close to the small island of Nila are two atolls Dusborgh and Nil Desperandum. Nil Desperandum means "don't despair" possibly referring to a ship wrecked here centuries ago. It is a big atoll with very deep drop offs. Schooling sharks have been spotted in the deep here with a chance to see hammerhead, silky and grey reef sharks.





Saumlaki

is the capital city of Maluku Tenggara Barat Regency. It is located in Kelurahan Saumlaki, of Tanimbar Selatan District. Saumlaki has abundant marine natural potential, but the city does not have any industry so that all items must be purchased from Surabaya.



Day-14

Check-out after breakfast or lunch, depending on your return flight time. We say good-bye to our guests and wish them farewell. The MARI crew will organize the transfer to the Airport and assist at check-in for onward flights.

