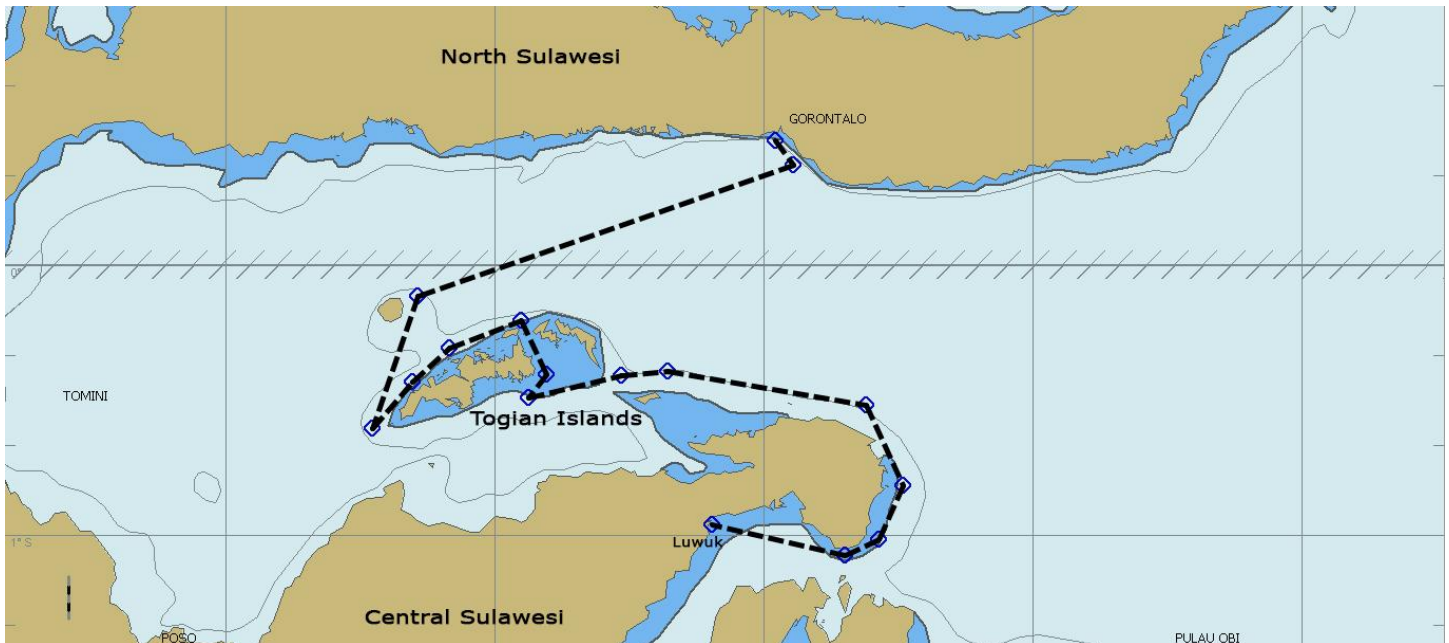


## **Togian Islands Adventure (Gorontalo-Luwuk)**

**7 nights/8 days**

**9 nights/10 days**



### **Togian Islands**

is an archipelago located in the transition zone of Wallace and Weber lines across the central Gulf of Tomini. It consists of around 66 large and small islands, scattered at the gulf between the large island of Sulawesi.

They are like islands lost in between the midst of everything in Northern Sulawesi thus coining it as an almost a secret dive destinations. With this, it invokes thoughts of real independent traveling there and diving in unexplored areas.

One thing for sure is the water is pristine and you would not see many other divers around. As one of the top diving sites in Indonesia, this is definitely the place that you have to try scuba diving. There are hundreds of species of corals here, many still unclassified, and the diversity of marine life here is staggering.





The walls around Gorontalo are spectacular with lots of bends and twists, crannies, small caves and see-throughs. The marine life is rich and varied with several endemic species which are found only here in the Bay of Tomini. Spectacular large sponges and seafans abound and in the upper reaches there are beautiful hard coral fields. Most of the dives are on steep slopes and deep walls, the muck diving is done on sandy areas and shallower depths. Visibility is around 20 meters, sometimes up to 30m or down to 10m.



## Una-Una island



### Jack's point

is a corner where the reef forms a small edge around 30 meters and then continues down much deeper. A few large sponges protrude and there is often some current here, so jacks, mackerels and big eye snappers converge here. This is a place you should stay as long as possible at the corner, because, although there are nice walls on both sides. Although the depths beckon - mackerels are visible forming spirals and vertexes, it is better to stay further up, so you can stay longer. The wall is quite steep with several cracks, overhangs and crannies. Look in some of the caves where the bottom is sandy and you can find the elusive Randall's shrimpgoby (*Amblyeleotris randalli*) and even the small whitecap goby (*Lotilia graciliosa*).

### Menara

is great a dive site with beautiful Gorgonians fans of amazing proportions. Parts of the wall are covered with them, nearly like a forest. Huge sponges jut out and fishes are everywhere. Just at the beginning a eagle ray passed us only a couple meters away and hunting jackfish flittered passed. There were several Napoleon wrasses as well as large groups of big eyed snappers.

### The Pinnacle

This dive site is known for the large schools of fish that gather here. Usually this is a shallow dive, max. 15m, the place is not that large and on the top there are some areas with rubble. A special experience provided a turtle which had its head stuck under a coral block eating a tasty sponge and who didn't seem to be bothered by us divers at all.

### Kololio sore

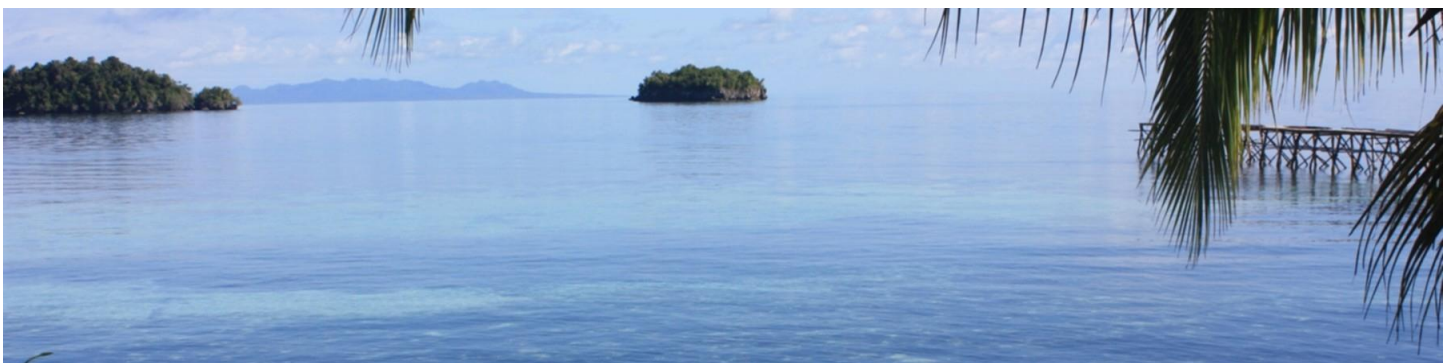
is a gentle slope, large coral bonnies interspersed with sand and huge sponges. The sheer amount of fish is just amazing! A great dive for the afternoon.

### Apollo

is a reef which starts on about 22m depth and gently slopes down to 45m and more. The main attraction is a school of large blacktail barracudas which is often found here.

Although if there are no barracudas is is also nice to just watch the number of yellow snappers which seem to cover the reef like a moving carpet. If you see the barracudas - when we dived there they gathered around 35m - just stay put, they will come to you. Then you can slowly rise until you are in the middle of a revolving spiral.

This is a site, where you dive relatively deep, spend as much time as possible there and then either go up straight away for a safety stop which is either done just above the reef in the open water or you dive back towards the beach. From 22m up there is a sandy slope with some submerged palm tree trunks - look underneath, there are often lionfish and groupers hiding and up at the sandbank look for small nudibranchs.and have a look at the garden eels close by.





## **Batudaka**

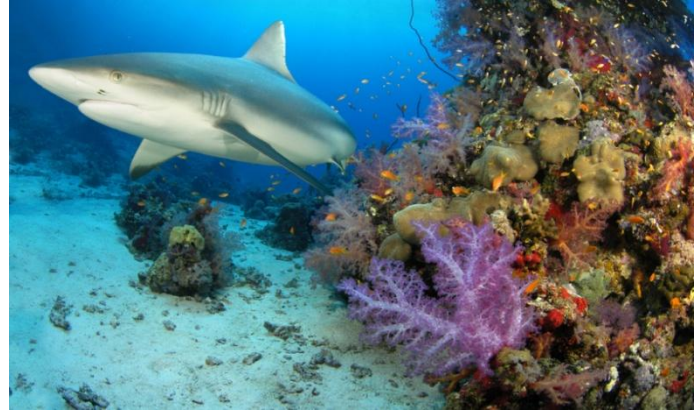
### Pasir Tengah

Here you dive on an absolutely steep wall which reaches up to just under the surface. At some places the wall is overhanging and you can't see, where the bottom might be, just the dark waters underneath. Everywhere are caves, overhangs, deep incisions and swim throughs. The wall is mostly covered with tube corals, small sponges and hydroids but in the cracks and overhangs there are huge bushes of black corals. At one of the corners there is a large double overhang, very impressive.

### Goagoa

This atoll is similar to Pasir Tengah but the walls are not so steep. Again there are a lot of large caves with black coral bushes, look here for the elusive longnose hawkfish, it likes to hide - mostly in pairs - inside the coral bushes.





## **Togian**

In the north of Batudaka, the Togian island and Malingi a large barrier reef stretches over 165km, complete with a shallow lagoon which is up to 100m deep. Just in the north of Kadidiri island (also written as Kadidi island in some publications) are several very good dive sites, all on the outer edge of the barrier reef. The dive sites lie quite close together (Nursery Rock, Kota Wall, Gap, Crack, Shark Rock, Dominic Rock, Labyrinth, Taipi, Batu Gila, Lost Reef), we didn't visit them all. The Crack, Labyrinth and Dominic Rock are deep dives more suitable for experienced divers, the other dive sites are shallower.

### Batu Gila

is a ridge, about 20m wide which lies at a depth of 30 to 40 meters. This seems to be the best place in Togian Islands to see schooling scalloped hammerhead sharks.

### Dominic Rock

This dive site lies more to the east and should be done as your first dive, because you go very deep. The top of Domenic rock lies on 37m but if you want to take a good look like we did, you dive down to 45 meters or more. Actually you sweep down from Taipi wall, circle over some huge boulders which jut out from a lower lying sandy shelf, then Dominic Rock looms out of the dark, just behind it the plateau falls down sharply to an abyss of I don't know what depth. The Rock is covered with gorgonians and whip corals, some large sponges and soft corals, very nice. In the deep waters here sharks, eagle rays and big eyed trevally are found.

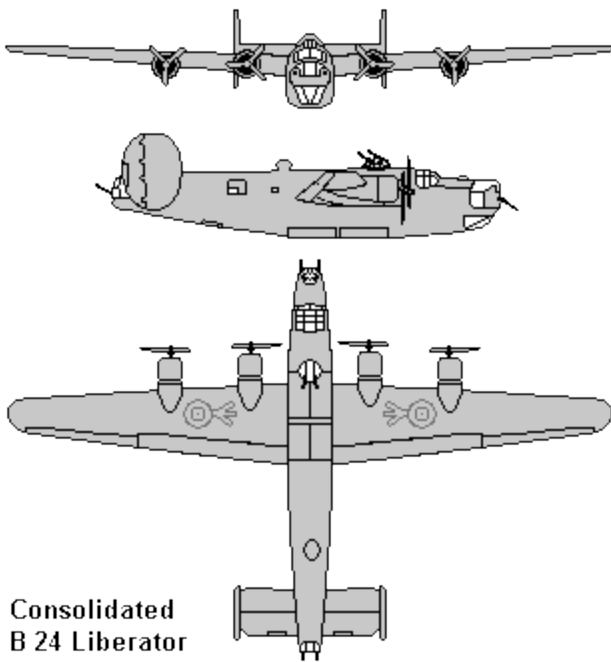
### The Gap

The outer reef is very beautiful, lots of lettuce corals, huge sponges, large gorgonian fans and other hard corals. Two Napoleon wrasses were accompanying us the whole dive and a large group of barracudas gathered over the shallow part.

## Kadidiri House Reef

This reef is nice for night dives. I heard you can find ghost pipe fishes here and other small critters. I think it is best to go there with one of the dive operators on Kadidiri island, since they know this place very well. Otherwise the beaches here are quite nice, seems like a good place to relax, also if you do snorkeling.

### World war II bomber plane wreck



The Consolidated B 24 Liberator rests, slightly tilted to the right on sandy bottom in 16 to 22 meters of water. It is 17 m long and 22 m wide. The plane is in good condition, the wings with one propeller and the tail still intact and the two barrels of the turret gun on top are still in place. You can swim round and actually look into the cockpit where you still see the instruments and seats. You can dive underneath the left wing and look at the wheel there which is totally bent with the large tyres resting flat on the ground. The tail is very impressive with the large side flange.



## Malingi and Waleabahi

### Malingi

A wall with many low growing hard corals and a few small gorgonian fans, we saw some flatworms, nudibranchs and more eels. A nice easy dive.

### Milli's Reef

At this dive site we found an amazing amount of nudibranchs and slugs. At the top of the reef are huge fields of staghorn corals and on the steep wall are nicely covered with hard corals.



## **Between Pulau and the mainland**

### Pulau Puah

This island lies southeast of the Togians on the tongue of relatively shallow water that reaches from the mainland towards the group of islands. The reef is quite flat with sandy areas between the beautiful coral gardens consisting mainly of huge table corals. Large sponges are typical of the Togian islands, but at this dive site they are even bigger than usual.

### Pulau Dondola

Out in the middle of the ocean is a small isolated sandy island with a couple trees on top and with a fringing reef around it. There are lots of overhang and cracks where black coral bushes, gorgonians and some large sponges grow.

### Pompelon

You dive along a wall covered with hard corals and large sponges and some small caves. Schools of fish congregate out in the blue and we saw two turtles.

### Sendiri

is a small sand island surrounded by a nice reef forming a wall with several caves and overhangs. Nice safety stop on top of the reef.



### **Day-7 or Day-9**

Final day of diving – in the late evening our trip ends at Luwuk, the capital of Banggai Regency.

### **Day-8 or Day 10**

Check-out after breakfast or lunch time – depends on your 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.

