

THE
LUXURY
Voyage

EASTERN INDONESIA · CRUISING GROUNDS

Alor Archipelago

Alor to Komodo

14 NIGHTS · ALOR → LABUAN BAJO

Three opening days in the Alor Channel, then west along the whole north coast of Flores — Komba's smoking cone, Maumere, Paloe, Kelimutu, Riung — to a full week in Komodo National Park.



Eight

LANGUAGES IN ONE SMALL
ARCHIPELAGO

17

PROTECTED ISLETS AT
RIUNG

Three

CRATER LAKES AT KELIMUTU

THE REGION

Beyond Komodo

The Alor archipelago comprises a series of rugged volcanic islands, the final link in the chain stretching east of Bali, Sumbawa and Flores. It is perhaps most notable for its staggering cultural diversity: a small archipelago home to many distinct tribes, eight languages and dozens of dialects.

Nusa Tenggara Timur is a province of more than 500 islands and an eco-region high in biodiversity, with rich marine fauna and smoking volcanoes. The region is best known for the islands of Komodo National Park, but these routes venture beyond the park: from the crater lakes of Kelimutu and the terraced rice fields of Detusoko to the picturesque villages and pristine nature of Ngada.

You voyage through fjords and relax on deserted beaches, encounter scenery that ranges from arid steppe to gushing waterfalls, experience ikat traditions and local cultural practice, and enjoy warm welcomes in rarely visited places. These are islands lost in time, where centuries-old ancestral cultures can still be experienced today.

Villages sit on hilltops because hilltops are easier to defend. Whale hunting is remembered in preserved skeletons kept as sacred icons, and ikat weaving remains emblematic of the traditional way of life, showcasing sophisticated techniques in both weaving and dyeing.

Highlights at a glance

The Abui people — hilltop villages living by ancient tradition and animist belief, who welcome visitors with dances in traditional attire.

Mawar the dugong — a local celebrity in the fjords of Alor, visited with the village dugong whisperer.

Volcano Lewotolo — a forest path to the ancestors' village and its sacred elephant tusk, high above the bay.

Kelimutu — three crater lakes at 1,600 metres that change colour with the minerals dissolved in them.

Riung — the Seventeen Islands marine park off north Flores, and a bat cave that empties at dusk.

Alor Channel diving — Clown Valley, Sharks Galore, Mandarin House and The Boardroom.

When to go

SEASON	CONDITIONS
Apr – Nov	Prime cruising. Dry, clear, and the season for inland excursions on Flores.
Jul – Sep	Best visibility in the Alor Channel; strongest wind and coolest upwellings.
Dec – Mar	Wet season. Mountain roads become difficult and crossings less comfortable.

Village visits and ceremonies depend on the local calendar; the harvest, or bean, festival falls in the dry season and can sometimes be witnessed.

Diving & snorkelling notes

The Alor and Pantar channels funnel cold, nutrient-rich water between the Flores and Savu Seas. That makes for exceptional density — enormous shoals of fish, colourful reef and drifting pelagics at Sharks Galore — and for cool thermoclines, so a thicker suit is worth packing. Currents here are best judged by the crew.

Komba — an active volcano seen spewing smoke into the sky, weather permitting.

Beangabang — a remote bay in the south Pantar Strait where the black sand steams underfoot.

Getting there

Embark at Alor (ARD)
Mali Airport, Kalabahi, connecting through Kupang from Bali or Jakarta.

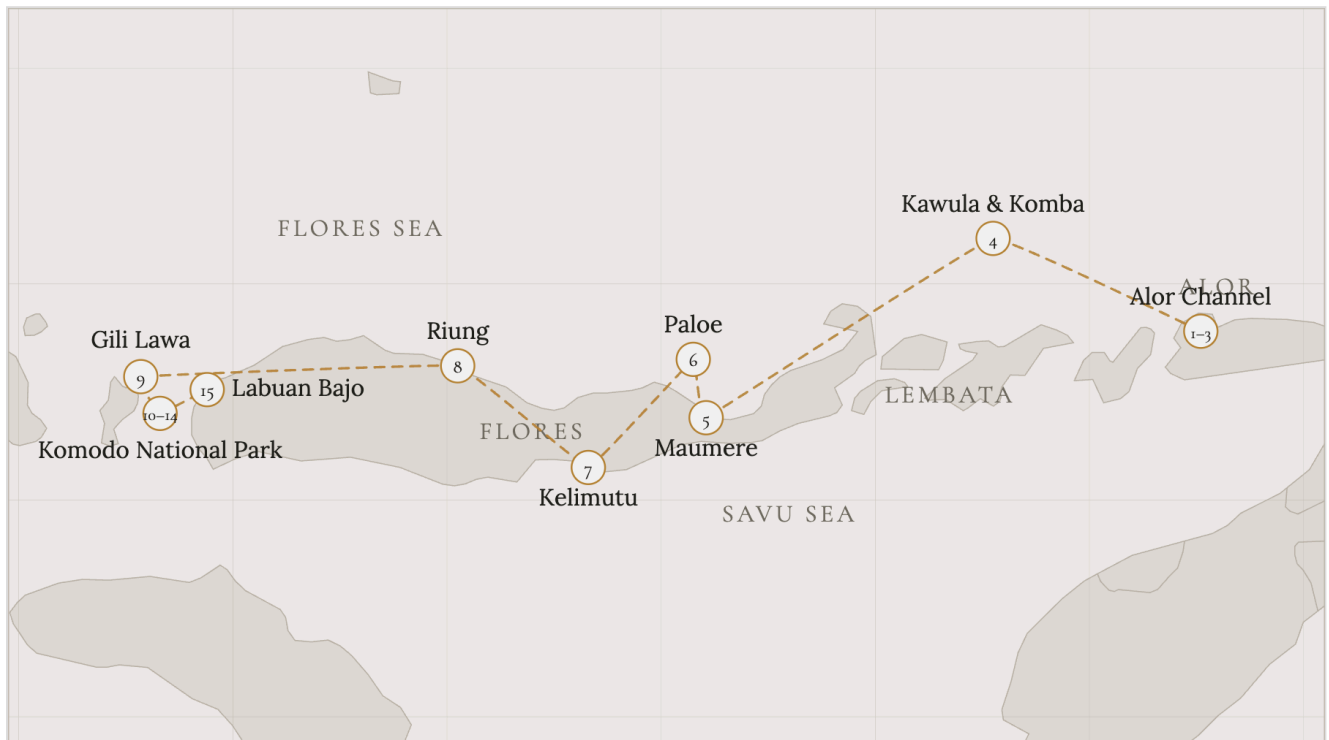
Disembark at Labuan Bajo (LBJ)
Komodo Airport, west Flores, with direct flights to Bali and Jakarta.

One-way route
This itinerary is point-to-point; allow a night either side for the domestic connection.

Kalabahi Bay is the other half of the story: sheltered muck and macro diving where Mandarin House and Clown Valley’s anemone fields sit in easy, shallow water. Along the north coast of Flores and around Riung, reefs are gentle and shallow enough that snorkellers and divers can share the same site.

Alor to Komodo

The long crossing, east. Three opening days in the Alor Channel, then west along the whole north coast of Flores — Komba's smoking cone, Maumere, Paloe, Kelimutu, Riung — to a full week in Komodo National Park.



DAYS TEN TO FOURTEEN ARE SPENT INSIDE KOMODO NATIONAL PARK. COASTLINES FROM NATURAL EARTH.

DAY 1

Alor

You are met at Alor airport by the yacht's crew and transferred to the harbour. Once you have settled in onboard, the yacht departs into the fjords of Alor while you enjoy lunch on deck. If time allows, go snorkelling or take a check dive before watching the sun go down with a cocktail.

DAYS 2-3

Alor Channel

The next two days may be spent exploring underwater sites along the coast of the Alor and Pantar islands, such as Clown Valley, Sharks Galore, Mandarin House and The Boardroom, gliding through enormous shoals of fish, colourful coral reefs and drifting pelagic life. In the very south of the Pantar Strait lies the small remote village of Beangabang, hours by boat from the nearest town, nestled on a beautiful bay that curves between two out-flung headlands. A large lava flow on one side shows the island's fiery past; parts of the beach are so hot that they are painful to walk on, and the black sand steams. Even by local standards this is a very simple village, with the most welcoming of people, and one of the most wonderful places to get a sense of local culture.

DAY 4

Kawula & Komba

This morning offers the chance to dive the north coast of Kawula, where schools of reef fish cluster around tiers of hard coral in the shadow of Ile Ape volcano. You can also head ashore to Ionata village to see the skeletal remains of a blue whale, which remains a sacred icon to the villagers. Subject to weather, the crossing may be made by way of Komba, where an active volcano can be seen spewing smoke into the skies.



ALOR CHANNEL · BEANGABANG · KAWULA & KOMBA

DAY 5

Maumere

This morning you are collected at Maumere harbour by a local guide. Maumere, the capital of the Sikka district, is a main entry point for visiting Flores. The tour begins at Sikka village, known for its ancient church and for ikat textiles enthusiastically sold by the local people. You also stop at Ledalero Museum before visiting the local market and Wuring fishing village.

DAY 6

Paloe

Today the yacht approaches the small volcanic island of Paloe. There is a fascinating village built on the volcanic slope, as though the smoking crater above were no real threat, and you can head ashore to see traditional ikat textiles in the making. After lunch onboard, spend the afternoon snorkelling and diving in crystal-clear water.

DAY 7

Mount Kelimutu

Early this morning you are driven from Ende harbour to Moni, where a short walk reaches Kelimutu. Mount Kelimutu means Mountain of the Spirits, and its main draw is the famed three lakes set within the surreal summit of the craters. The trio comprises Tiwu Ata Mbupu, the Lake of Old People, usually blue and the westernmost; then Tiwu Nuwa Muri Koo Fai, the Lake of Young Men and Maidens, and Tiwu Ata Polo, the Bewitched or Enchanted Lake, usually green and red respectively and separated only by a crater wall. While it is dissolved minerals that give the lakes their changing colours, local legend and the ethereal landscape lend the area a mythical feeling. On the way back to Ende you can stop at the traditional village of Saga and visit Ende local market and Soekarno House, the residence of the first Indonesian president.



MAUMERE · PALOE · MOUNT KELIMUTU

DAY 8

Riung Marine National Park

As the yacht cruises into Riung Marine National Park, also known as Seventeen Islands in honour of Indonesia's Independence Day, you spend the day exploring this chain of protected isles off the north coast of Flores. Aside from incredible marine life, the park is home to interesting wildlife on land in the forests, and five fishing villages inhabited by a mixture of Islamic Buginese and Catholics from the hinterland. There is an interesting cave nearby where dusk brings a spectacle: thousands of bats taking off for their nightly jaunt.

DAY 9

Gili Lawa Laut

The yacht anchors on the northwestern edge of Komodo, near the Gili Lawa islands, home to Komodo's most famous underwater sites including Castle Rock, Shotgun, The Passage and Lighthouse. Pitch up on a stretch of golden sand between underwater pursuits. A steep trek rewards you with stunning vistas over the surrounding islands.

DAY 10

Sebayor

The yacht arrives at Sebayor Island, a great spot for a relaxing castaway day. At Sebayor Kecil you can snorkel with black-tip reef sharks, groups of tuna, and green turtles diving from the surface. The afternoon is for watersports in quiet bays or a deserted sandy beach backed by the Komodo hills.



RIUNG MARINE NATIONAL PARK · GILI LAWALAUT · SEBAYOR

DAY 11

South Rinca

South Rinca is home to Horse Shoe Bay, Nusa Kode, where fierce dragons patrol a beach backed by thick forest inhabited by monkeys, deer, wild boar and fish eagles. The landscape here is markedly different to that of central Komodo, with sheer peaks rising into whirls of cloud. Underwater spots include macro-heaven Cannibal Rock. An exciting area for a tender cruise along the dramatic rock formations.

DAY 12

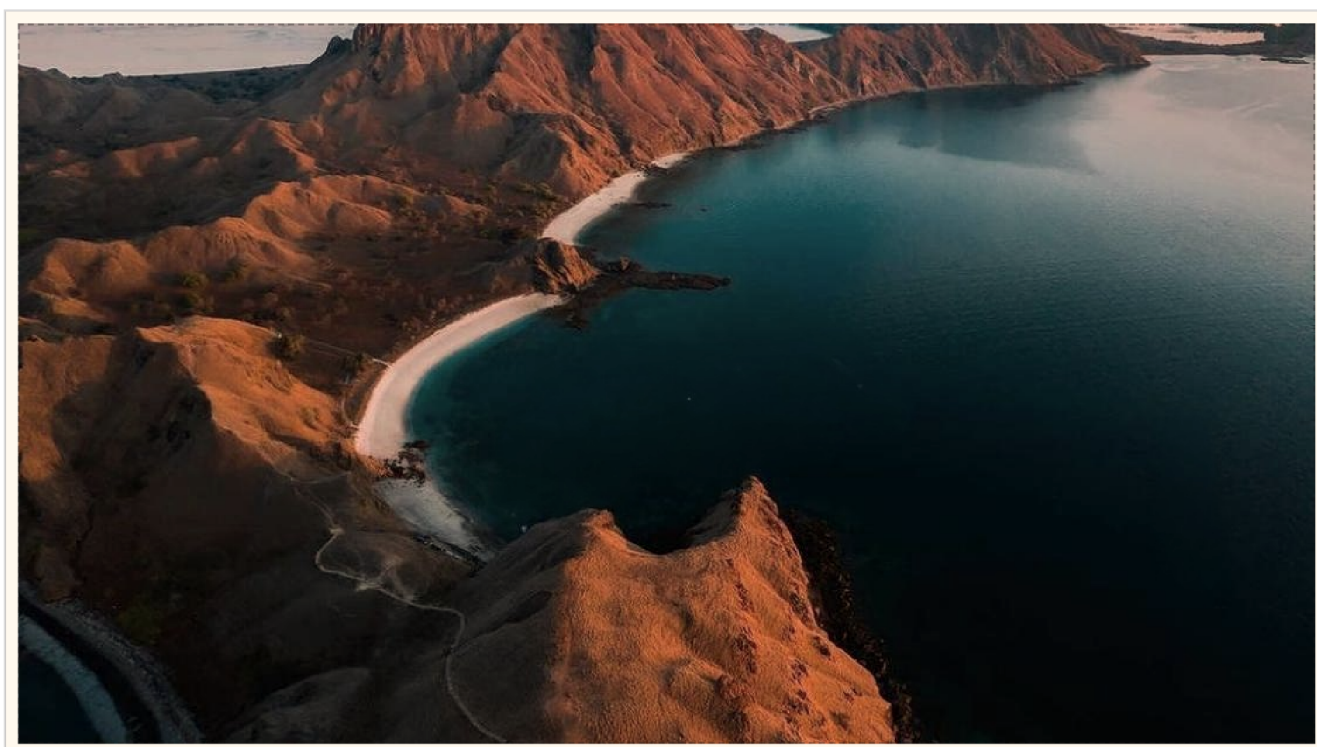
Padar Island

Set between Rinca and Komodo in the central region of the park lies the picturesque island of Padar. A sheltered bay on the southeast side makes for a beautiful anchorage in the shadow of dramatic craggy peaks. Central Komodo's nutrient-rich waters attract shoals of schooling fish on current-swept walls renowned as some of the best reefs in Indonesia. A wonderful spot for watersports, beach time, or a tender cruise in the mangroves.

DAY 13

Manta Point

Visit a manta cleaning station and swim surrounded by rays as they circle in an underwater ballet. This area offers one of the most active underwater landscapes in Komodo, with vibrant coral gardens home to large numbers of fish. After lunch onboard, spend the afternoon beach combing, cruising mangroves and hidden coves on the tender, or relaxing onboard.



SOUTH RINCA · PADAR ISLAND · MANTA POINT

DAY 14

Rinca Island

Lesser known than neighbouring Komodo Island, Rinca is an excellent place to observe Komodo dragons, as well as the monkey population and an array of birdlife. Stroll through the park with a ranger, then submerge at sites in the channel between Komodo and Flores, such as Tatawa Besar and Kecil, relax on a sandy beach flecked with shells, or explore nearby coves.

DAY 15

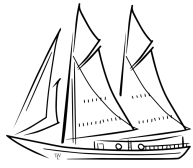
Labuan Bajo · disembarkation

This morning the yacht approaches Labuan Bajo. After a final breakfast on deck, your crew assist you in disembarking and transfer you to the airport for your flight.



RINCA ISLAND · LABUAN BAJO

This is a sample itinerary and can be adjusted to your preferences. Routes may also change on the day due to weather, tide or other conditions; inland excursions on Flores depend on road conditions and are confirmed locally.



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