



EASTERN INDONESIA · CRUISING GROUNDS

Alor Archipelago

Alor to Maumere

8 DAYS & 7 NIGHTS · ALOR → MAUMERE

One hundred tribes, eight languages and fifty-two dialects — the final link in the chain stretching east of Bali, Sumbawa and Flores.



100

TRIBES IN ONE SMALL
ARCHIPELAGO

52

DIALECTS ACROSS EIGHT
LANGUAGES

30 m

BLUE WHALE SKELETON AT
IONATA

THE REGION

Volcano-pocked and lost in time

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 — the small archipelago is home to no less than 100 tribes speaking eight languages and 52 dialects.

The entire archipelago harbours a population of 200,000, of which roughly 60,000 people reside on the main island of Alor. Dutch settlers fixed local rajas in the coastal areas after 1908 but were unable to penetrate the interior with its notoriously fierce head-hunters up until as late as the 1950s.

This area, with its striking volcano-pocked landscapes, remains known for its enduring indigenous animist traditions and the highland villages with their Moko kettledrums, where visitors are warmly welcomed.

These waters are known for powerful currents, particularly in the narrow straits between Pantar, Alor and Lembata, attracting pelagics such as hammerhead sharks from the deep. Conditions here are also excellent for fishing for the likes of Spanish mackerel, dogtooth and yellow fin tuna among other deep-sea game fish.

Highlights at a glance

Takpala & Mombang — Abui villages of stilted fala huts on a hill above the Flores Sea.

The lego-lego dance — used to mark first harvest, marriage, death and war.

Ionata village — the 30-metre skeleton of a blue whale, still a sacred icon to the villagers.

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

Paloe — a village built on a volcanic slope, and ikat weaving in the making.

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

Mucky Mosque, Kalabahi — one of the best critter night dives in the region.

Beangabang — a remote bay where the black sand steams and the beach is too hot to walk.

When to go

SEASON	CONDITIONS
Apr – Nov	Prime cruising. Dry, clear, and the season for village visits ashore.
Jul – Sep	Best visibility in the Alor and Pantar straits; strongest wind and coolest upwellings.
Dec – Mar	Wet season. Crossings less comfortable and shore excursions harder.

Village ceremonies follow the local calendar; the lego-lego dance and first-harvest rites cannot be scheduled but are often witnessed in the dry season.

Getting there

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

Disembark at Maumere (MOF)
Frans Seda Airport, Flores, connecting onward through Bali or Kupang.

One-way route
Open-jaw flights are needed; allow a night either side for the domestic connection.

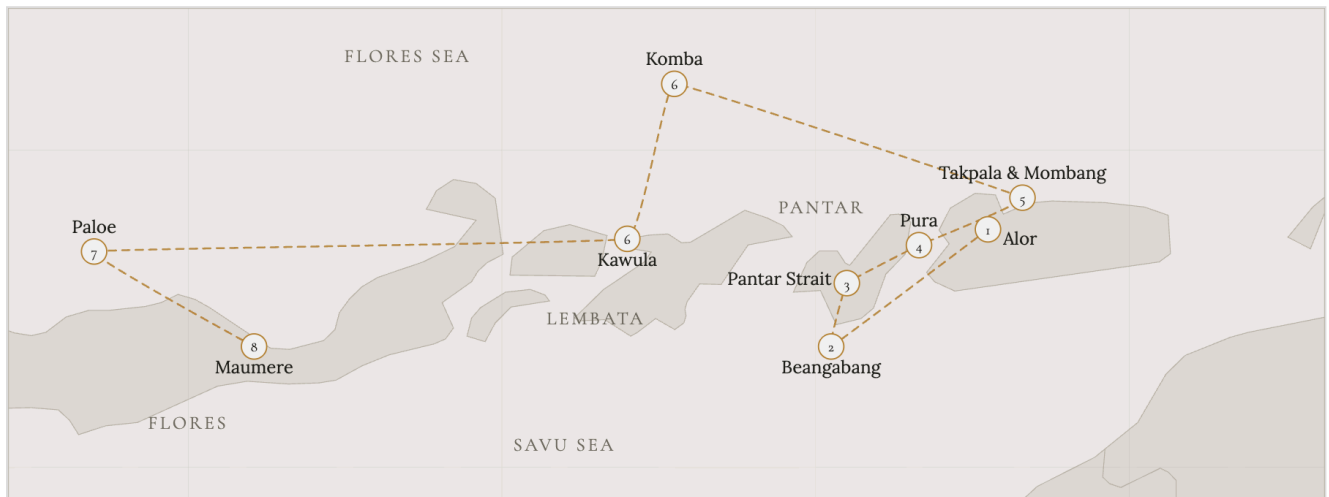
Diving & snorkelling notes

From fascinating macro diving to colourful reefs and schooling pelagic fish, Alor has plenty to offer. The narrow straits between Pantar, Alor and Lembata funnel powerful currents that bring hammerheads and other pelagics up from the deep, so the crew read the tide before setting a plan. Cool thermoclines are common — a thicker suit is worth packing.

Pura Island sits in the middle of the Alor Strait, within reach of Clown Valley, Sharks Galore, Mandarin House and The Boardroom. Kalabahi Bay is the sheltered counterpoint, where Mucky Mosque ranks among the best critter night dives in the region.

Alor to Maumere

West along the chain from Alor: the steaming sands of Beangabang, four days of current diving in the Pantar and Alor straits and the Abui villages above them, then Komba's smoking cone, the whale bones of Kawula and the volcanic slope of Paloe.



NUMBERED ANCHORAGES FOLLOW THE DAY-BY-DAY BELOW. COASTLINES FROM NATURAL EARTH.

DAY 1

Alor

You will be met at Alor airport by the yacht's crew and transferred to the harbour. Once you have settled in onboard, the yacht will depart into the fjords of Alor. You can spend a leisurely afternoon getting your first taste of Alor's underwater vistas with a check dive or snorkel before you watch the sun go down with a cocktail.

DAY 2

Beangabang

In the very south of the Pantar Strait lies the remote village of Beangabang, set on a beautiful bay that curves gracefully between two out-flung headlands. A large lava flow on one side shows the island's fiery past, and parts of the beach are so hot that they are painful to walk on and the black sand of the beach is steaming. Even by local standards, this is a very simple village with the most welcoming of people, and a wonderful place to get a sense of local culture.

DAY 3

Pantar Strait

A day of exhilarating underwater pursuits awaits in the Pantar Strait, one of the few gaps between Suatra and Timor, where Pacific waters flow south to the Indian Ocean. The currents attract prolific marine life and large pelagics. In the evening, the yacht will anchor in the entrance to the bay at Kalabahi, home to Mucky Mosque, one of the best critter night dives in the region.



ALOR · BEANGABANG · PANTAR STRAIT

DAY 4

Pura

Pura Island is home to a small isolated village in the middle of the Alor Strait, which is also a perfect point from which to reach some of the area's most spectacular diving and snorkelling sites, such as Clown Valley, Sharks Galore, Mandarin House and The Boardroom. Spend the day exploring some of these sensational underwater landscapes.

DAY 5

Takpala & Mombang

Today, you will head ashore to Takpala and Mombang, traditional Abui tribe villages located on a hill with spectacular views of the Flores Sea. The villagers here inhabit stilted fala huts, built from timber and bamboo thatching, and you may have a chance to see the lego-lego dance, used to mark first harvest, marriage, death and war, and watch the local women crafting clothing from tree bark using traditional methods.

DAY 6

Kawula & Komba

Subject to weather, we may make the crossing by way of Komba, where an active volcano can be seen spewing smoke into the skies. Later there is 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 30-metre skeletal remains of a blue whale, which remains a sacred icon to the villagers.



PURA · TAKPALA & MOMBANG · KAWULA & KOMBA

DAY 7

Paloe

Today we will approach the small volcanic island of Paloe. There's a fascinating village built on the volcanic slope, as though the smoking crater above was no real threat, and you can head ashore to see the traditional ikat weave textiles in the making. After lunch onboard, spend the afternoon snorkelling and diving in crystal clear waters. The yacht will depart early this evening for the overnight crossing to Maumere.

DAY 8

Maumere · disembarkation

This morning, the yacht will approach Maumere. After a final decadent breakfast on deck, your crew will assist you in disembarking the yacht and transfer you back to the airport to catch your flight home.



PALOE · MAUMERE

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; your captain and cruise director will always choose the best available anchorage.



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