

Before or after the safari

From which port does the liveaboard start?

The home port of Maluku Explorer is the town of Bitung in Lembeh Street. In order to offer trips for every taste and holiday length, our tours start or end in Bitung, Ternate or Labuha. While the duration for tours from Bitung usually is 9 - 11 nights, the shorter tours from Labuha are particularly well suited for combinations and those divers with less holidays. Depending on weather conditions and the arrival of our passengers, the Maluku Explorer will start on the day of arrival or the next day to the first dive sites.

All of the three ports are best reached via Manado in North Sulawesi. Here you can book one night or a pre-stay in one of the many dive resorts, e.g. Murex Lembeh or Murex Manado before coming onboard. A combination with Sali Bay Resort in Labuha is also a nice option.

To which airport do I have to travel?

Trips from Bitung (Manado): flight to Manado (North Sulawesi)

Trips from Ternate: flight via Manado or Jakarta and on to Ternate (e.g. on Garuda Indonesia)

Trips from Labuha: flight to Manado and connecting flight to Labuha on Wings Air (overnight in Manado required prior to the cruise.)

Singapore Airlines provides the most convenient and quickest service to Manado (via Singapore) while several other airlines offer flights via Jakarta as an alternative.

Ahead of the liveaboard trip, we suggest a stay in one of the many dive resorts in Manado area or on Lembeh Strait (e.g. Murex) with the Moluccas being another reasonable option. We recommend our partner agencies for both flight bookings and hotel stays following the liveaboard trip.

When is check-in or check-out on the ship?

Check-in is after the arrival of our guests from the airport or their hotel.

The Check-out depends on the departure flight time or connecting to a hotel/resort. Guests can stay onboard until that time.

When will the ship return to the port at the end of the safari?

Mostly we plan to arrive at the port the evening before departure day.

How am I received at the airport or do I come to the ship?

You will be picked up by the crew of the Maluku Explorer or a representative. Transfers from/to the airport are fully included.

When will my passport and flight details be needed?

Passport details are needed for the harbor clearance and flight details are needed so we can make sure you will be picked up on time or brought to the airport on time. Please send us all details together with the booking (latest two weeks before your arrival in the provided guest sheet).

Diving

Which dive training do I need?

You only need an Open Water or CMAS Bronze certificate. Important is that you can already dive safely, and so should have at least 50 dives under your belt. Since there may be strong currents in Indonesia, often times an untrained, anxious diver on a safari vessel is out of place. With Explorer tours and different itineraries, neither the dive guides nor oneself knows what awaits us under water, therefore some diving experience is required.

Is there a minimum number of dives required?

You should have at least 50 dives, in order to feel comfortable during the dives. Sometimes in Indonesia there are stronger currents.

Do I need a dive computer?

Yes, diving with a computer is mandatory. Please note that you should bring your own computer as there is no rental equipment on board.

How many dives are offered per day?

You have booked the Maluku Explorer for diving and we do this as often as it is possible. In General, 3 to 4 dives are offered per day (except for the first one last day of the trip).

Are night dives offered?

Yes, we have nice spots for night diving and will offer these quite often.

Is there nitrox on board?

Yes, each day of diving with nitrox costs € 10,- and includes 3-4 dives. The first and last diving day is calculated as 1 day of diving.

Nitrox must be ordered on the ship one evening prior and is bookable only on a daily base.

Is one accompanied by dive guides when diving?

Before each dive, a detailed briefing takes place, with a drawing of the diving area. For exploration dives this is not possible. A guide will accompany the diving groups but each buddy team has to be able to dive independently. There are 2 to 4 dive guides on board who are familiar with the area.

Are diving courses offered on board?

Yes. Nitrox specialty and other courses are available upon request. Please, inform us when booking, what courses you are interested in.

What is the max. depth and max. dive time?

30 meters, 60 minutes. Deco dives are not allowed for your own safety.

Is the diving done by boat or by zodiac?

Diving is done by our 2 fiberglass speedboats. Most of our divesites are maximum 10 minutes away from the Maluku Explorer.

Which tanks are on board?

12 liter aluminum tanks with DIN valves. Inserts are available for INT first stages. Please note that There is a limited number of 15 liter tanks available, reservation is advised (subject to actual need on spot). Fee per diving day € 8,- (to be paid on spot)

Do I need a dive insurance?

Yes. This needs to cover recreational diving in Indonesia. Please keep in mind we operate in a very remote area, so all divers are advised to make sure they are in good health and have sufficient health and diving insurance covering transport from remote locations as well.

Are there any special safety systems on board?

Yes, the Maluku Explorer is equipped with extensive safety systems.

- Medical oxygen with freeflow and demand valve on the divedeck.
- Fully equipped medical first aid box.
- AED (Automated External Defibrillator).
- 2 inflatable life rafts on the topdeck.
- Liferings.
- Lifejackets for each guest in the cabins.
- Smoke detectors in each cabin, restaurant and salon.
- Fire extinguishers in each cabin and on every deck.
- Flares for emergency signaling.
- GPS (Global Positioning System).
- Epirb (Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon).
- Sart (Search And Rescue Transponder).

What is the water temperature?

Mostly 28/29 degrees Celsius. But due to currents it can drop down to 25 degrees sometimes.

Are there strong currents?

Yes, sometimes these are present.

Diving equipment

Which diving equipment do I need?

Besides weights and tanks, everything else must be brought along. Our tanks are equipped with DIN valves, but connection is possible with DIN or INT first stages. There is no need for adapters, inserts for INT are present.

Compulsory – Equipment and documentation for each diver is:

- Diving certificate
- Logbook
- Diving medical examination (up to 40 years of age - valid for 24 months, over 40 years - valid for 12 months.). Alternatively, you can fill out a medical questionnaire.
- Complete diving equipment including dive computer
- Surface buoy with cord
- Distress flashing or emergency lamp for night dives
- Own lamp for night diving

Which diving suit do I need?

Since the water temperature is normally between 27-29° C, a 3mm Neoprene is sufficient. However, since the perception of cold is very different for human beings, and in some currents, the water temperature may drop to 25° C (or by a few degrees) at times, a 5 mm suit is recommended for more sensitive divers.

Is there rental equipment on board?

There is no rental equipment on board. Besides weights and tanks, everything else must be brought along.

Is sidemount diving possible?

Yes, but you need to bring your own rigging set for this.

Are double tanks offered?

No, they are not offered.

Which valves (DIN / INT) are available?

Both DIN and INT valves are available.

Are there storage options for my camera?

On the Maluku Explorer, you will find special facilities for maintenance of your camera on deck. There is safe storage for cameras. There is 1 large sink for rinsing with fresh water.

Ship

What happens when I arrive on board?

You will be greeted by the Cruise Director and the staff, stow your diving equipment and luggage and get familiar with the ship. After you settled in a boat briefing will follow.

Depending on the arrival time there will be time for your first dive(s) or chill out for the evening.

Which meals are offered?

We serve three meals during the day in form of buffets, plus snacks and fresh fruits. We strive to meet all tastes. The meals are mostly mixtures from Indonesian, Chinese and Western cuisine.

Which drinks are served?

We carry a selection of various drinks such as Coca Cola, Sprite, Fanta and several fruit juices. Also beer and wine are sold. The "refreshment corner" offers water, tea, coffee and cookies at any time.

Coffee, tea and water are free of charge. All other drinks are recorded on a list and will be billed at the end of the trip.

What should be noted in the cabin?

Cabins are used for sleeping and refreshing. All cabins have their own AC, bathroom and safety box.

What should be considered in the salon?

Here you'll find a library, lounge area, small board games, fish ID books, refrigerators with chilled drinks and a TV for the evening briefings and movies.

May I smoke on board?

Yes, but only outside on designated places.

Can I sleep on the deck of the ship?

Yes.

Which language is spoken on board?

English is the general language (currently our guides also speak German, Russian and Indonesian).

What is the voltage? Which sockets are available?

For charging batteries there is 110 V and 220 V. The standard voltage on the boat and in the cabins is 220 V. Outlets are European standard.

Are there towels on board?

Yes.

Are there bathrobes on board?

No.

Is there WIFI on board?

No. But connection to the net is possible in the harbors on a local sim card or on roaming.

Which windows have the cabins (portholes, etc.), can the windows be opened?

The standard and single cabins have portholes and these can be opened for fresh air. The premium and master cabins have windows, however these cannot be opened. Therefore the doors can be opened for fresh air.

Is there an air conditioner in the cabin, is this individually adjustable?

Yes.

What kind of beds are there in the cabins?

All the cabins have spring mattresses. Cabins 1 (premium) and 3 (master) have a double bed. All the other cabins have 2 single beds.

General

What does the dive safari include?

Airport transfers, full board, water, coffee, tea, diving (3-4 dives per day except first and last day).

What is not included in the price?

National park and harbor fee € 200,-

Nitrox € 10,- per dive day

Landbased trips

Beverages

- Soft drinks like Coke/Fanta/juices each are Rp35.000 (approx. €2,20).
- Beer Bintang per can Rp50.000 (approx. €3,20)
- Wine (white and red) per bottle Rp710.000 (approx. €45,-)

How can I pay on board?

The additional costs on board **cannot be paid by credit card**. Please pay cash in USD, EURO or RUPIAHS.

How much tip is appropriate?

We believe tips are a voluntary thing and should be based on the quality of the services. Once on board, you'll notice very quickly how hard the crew works and how your safety and satisfaction are the team's primary concern. Many of our guests give a gratuity in the amount of 5% of cruise cost, sometimes even more. But once again, we stress that this happens only on a voluntary basis! Tips are accepted only in the form of cash. If you should ever be dissatisfied with us, please let us know!

Are land excursions offered?

Yes.

Is there medication on board?

Yes, but only for minor injuries/sickness. If you need specific medication you need to bring this yourself.

Which clothes should I bring?

Light comfortable clothes. A hat against the sun. Sandals or flipflops for the land excursions. Maybe a warmer jacket for the evenings after the night dives.

Is it possible to extend the stay after the safari?

If there is a cabin available yes, but this needs also to be asked with your travel agency.

Can I book two safaris in a row?

Yes. Please talk to your travel agency.

Contact number for emergencies or for flight delays

Cruise Director onboard Robin & Natalia

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