VIRGIN COCOA

tropical Hideaway Island

Fact Sheet Virgin Cocoa Resort

Where is Virgin Cocoa Resort?

- We are located on our own private island at the outer reef of Maratua Atoll approxiemately 90 km east of the Indonesian state East-Kalimantan in the middle of the Celebes Sea.
- The approximately 8 hectares big island was built in 2016 with great view of its lush island vegetation and the buildings are carefully inserted into the nature.

How do you get to Virgin Cocoa?

- Through Singapore or Jakarta. There are flights with Scoot (Singapore Airlines) from Singapore to Balikpapan 3 times a week.
- From Balikpapan there is another 1hr flight on the top of the jungle to the town of Berau where our boat is leaving to the island.
- Then continue with the domestic flight from Balikpapan to Berau with Super-Air-Jet.
- From Jakarta is a good daily direct flight with Batik Air in the morning for arrival and departure with Batik Air in the afternoon over Surabaya to Jakarta.
- The boat transfer from Berau takes about 2.5-3.5 hours, depending on the weather. Our shuttle boat departs from Berau every Wednesday and Saturday (the boat leaves Berau around midday, but no later than 15:00. If all guests have already arrived on site, it can also leave earlier. As the flight schedule is constantly being adjusted, we recommend that you contact us in advance 😊 Unfortunately, we cannot take flight delays into consideration.
- Departure from Virgin Cocoa by shuttle boat to Berau always takes place on Tuesdays and Fridays. Departure from the island is after breakfast between 08.00-10.00 hrs.

How can you book the domestic flight?

- If you book with a tour operator your flight ticket should already be included.
- If you want to organize flights to and from Berau on your own please do not forget to inform us about times and flight numbers.

When is the best time for holidays on Virgin Cocoa Resort?

- Virgin Cocoa Resort is open 10 months a year and closed in January until End of February. (Please inquire for exact dates)

What is included in the price?

- You can book your stay with half or full board.
- **Half board** includes breakfast with a choose of menu and a 3-course dinner in the evening
- **Full board** includes breakfast, 3-course lunch (light menu) and a 3-course dinner in the evening with choices for starter, main course and dinner.
- You can book a 10 or 20 dive packages (House reef dives) in advance or you simply decide on spot how many dives you like to do. The boat on the house reef, weights, tanks and guide are included.
- Internet, WIFI is free of charge (Starlink). Connection in the Deluxe Rooms, Restaurant, Pool and Office Area.
- Yoga (a Yoga Teacher is providing morning and afternoon sessions). As sometimes to handover of the Yogateachers, please inform the Resort in advance, if you require Yoga-lessons every day to ensure that the Yogatacher is available.

What is not included in the price?

- Equipment rental. To avoid disappointment, please let us know some time in advance if you require any rentals.
- Boat surcharges for Halfday- and Fulldaytrips.
- Excursions, activities as snorkeling in the Jellyfish-lake of Maratua, jungle trekking, a visit to local village, massage, etc.
- All Drinks in the restaurant/bar or from the mini bar. Drinking water free of charge.
- Laundry
- Tips are not included in the price. If you are happy with the service you get, we would it be pleased to share the tip fairly to all our staff. Recommended tip, € 50.- per week/person.

Which currency is accepted?

- All our prices are listed in Rupiah. All extra costs (drinks, tips, extra dives and so on) can be paid in Euro, USD & Rupiah cash only or you can transfer the open amount with bank transfer upon check-out.
- Foreign banknotes have to be in perfect conditions, US-Dollar notes are only accepted if they are from 2013 or younger and with absolutely no damages.
- Sorry, unfortunately we **cannot** accept any credit card payments

What is expecting you on Virgin Cocoa

What happens when I arrived in Jakarta or *Balikpapa*n? (from International flight)

- After you have passed the passport control and get your Visa-on-arrival (500´000 Rupiah \ approx. 35 Euro) please proceed to the domestic departure terminal or hall for your flight to Berau or downstairs to the taxi counter if you having a overnight stay. Please note, Taxi fee and excess baggage fees are payable in Indonesian Rupiah only.

How is it continuing from Berau?

- After arriving in Berau our local employee will welcome you and drive you by car to the jetty, where the speedboat awaits you.

What should I bring with me?

Everything you will need for the duration of your stay – we are very far from the next dive shop, supermarket or pharmacy.

- Please bring a copy of your diving insurance and your certification card with you.
- Your complete dive-equipment incl. dive torch, surface marker buoy, dive computer, wetsuit and all other well-maintained equipment.
- Your passport must be valid for 6 months after your entry date and has to have at least one empty page for the visa. Nationals of most countries will be granted a 30 day Visa on arrival or you can buy the E-Visa already in advance online: www.evisa.imigrasi.co.id
- A light sweater or jacket. Evenings can be chilly.
- Hat and sunglasses
- Insect repellent – we provide Moskito spray here as well
- Light colored clothing. For some reason, light colors are generally less appealing to mosquitoes then dark ones.
- Please bring also all your hygienic articles with you, such as sun lotion, shaver, tampons, toothbrush, toothpaste, medications, etc. (shower and hand soap, shampoo, conditioner, body lotion and mosquito rebel will be provided in the bathroom)

Not to bring with you?

- Please plan carefully to minimize your rubbish. Whenever possible choose rechargeable batteries and avoid bringing things like disposable razors, excessive plastic bags, plastic water bottles, etc. We are operating in a pristine environment and we would like to keep it like that. We provide aluminum bottles to refill and those bottles are a great souvenir as our logo is printed on and can also be purchased in our shop.

What is the baggage allowance for the domestic flight between Balikpapan and Berau?

- Excess baggage fees can only be paid in local currency.
- Garuda Indonesia is in general very easy-going with excess baggage and dive equipment will be transported free of charge mostly if mentioned. Also Batik Air now allows diving luggage as supplement.

- For the flight Balikpapan – Berau a baggage allowance of 10kg applies (depending on the airline).
- Be careful with some airlines as they charge every single kilogram.

What sort of power do you have?

- We have 24h electricity and 220 Volt. The power socket is standard German, Type F.

How do I get accommodated at Virgin Cocoa resort?

- We can accommodate 32 people, in 16 individual bungalows.
- The bungalows are built with natural, local materials.
- All of the rooms have sea view and are equipped with AC, fan, mini bar, safety box, veranda and of course a shower (hot & cold water) and a toilet. We provide handsoap, shower soap, shampoo, conditioner, mosquito rebel, body lotion. We provide shower towels and beach towels.

What sort of food can I expect?

- Our Indonesian kitchen team is famous for its delicious fusions of International and Indonesian cuisine.
- You can choose between half and full board.
- The day starts with a great breakfast including coffee & tea, fresh home made bread, fruits, fresh fruit juice and different dishes, which you can choose a la carte.
- If you booked full board, we would serve you a 2-course lunch. For whose who booked half board, there is a little a-la-carte menu you can choose your as salads, sandwiches, soup, pasta and local dishes.
- Every evening our team will create a freshly mouthwatering 3-course dinner with various choices for our guests.
- Please let us know in advance if you have any food allergies or if you need any kind of dietary menus. We can easily accommodate vegetarians and vegans.
- For dinner, you can always choose between 5 different main courses.
- Different coffee, tea, soft drinks, juice and alcoholic drinks as beer, wine and cocktails are for sale in our restaurant and pool-bar.

How and where will I dive?

- Our dive center is located at the island just at the beginning of the main jetty.
- We offer 3 dives a day as well as half day trips (2 dives) and daytrips (3 dives). As we are diving at the outer reef (on our house reef) it takes as only a couple of minutes to reach the different dive sites. Early morning and night dives on request.
- In our small remote diving paradise, you can see not only small stuff (such as pygmy seahorses, nudy branches, leave fishes, etc). Also quite often we see big creatures (such as sharks, rays, barracudas, jack fish and many turtles) as well.
- The dive sites around Maratua atoll are remarkable for their colorful walls and channels.
- About 25 min. by boat from Virgin Cocoa is „Big Fish Country“. A channel where you can see eagle rays, sharks and a huge school of barracudas.
- But the big highlights are for sure Muaras with huge rays, leopard shark, white tip sharks and much more. Kakaban with th unique jelly fish lake (snorkeling) and beautiful walls and the chance to see Thresher Shark or even a Hammerhead-Shark. Sangalaki Island with a beautiful coral garden will be visited during Manta-season (October – November), or on guests request.

Which kind of equipment is used by the diving center?

- 60 x 12l aluminum Tanks with DIN Valves (INT adapters available)
- 4x 15l aluminum Tanks with DIN Valves (INT adapters available)
- 2 x 10l aluminum tanks
- BCD, regulator from Aqua Lung
- masks & fins
- Cressi dive computer
- 3mm suits – some of them Shorty
- Emergency oxygen, radio and GPS on dive boats

Does Virgin Cocoa also provide NITROX

- If you like to dive with Nitrox please let us know in advance. It is free of charge for all certified Nitrox divers.

What can I do at Virgin Cocoa, if I do not dive?

- An amazing adventure will be a trip to the jellyfish lake at Kakaban. After a small jungle trekking you can snorkel with the non-stingy jellies in the brackish water.
- Snorkeling on the outside reef of the Maratua Atoll, as well around the island (when we have high tide) and especially snorkeling trips with the dive boat at the house reef are highly recommended.
- Enjoy the swimming pool
- During high season we offer Yoga lessons (free of charge) – please contact the Resort to ensure the Yogateacher is available during your stay
- Beach volleyball
- Badmington
- Going for a walk and visiting Nunukan Island during low tide
- Visiting a local village (min 2 pax, extracharge)
- Traditional Massage
- Indonesian cooking course with our kitchen team who will teach you some secrets about the Indonesian cuisine.
- You can find a variety of books and magazines in our library at our Mini Shop.

What animals are living on Virgin Cocoa?

- Virgin Cocoa is a small paradise also for unique animals. With a bit of luck, you can see eagles, king fisher, monitor lizards, flying foxes and the coconut crab. Occasionally, sea turtles coming on land to put their eggs.

What, if I get sick or hurt while I am there?

- The next hospital or decompression chamber is fare away. The next decompression chamber is located at Tanjung Batu, a 2.5 hour boat drive from Virgin Cocoa.
- On Maratua Island there is a little hospital where small injuries can get fixed.
- we have a little pharmacy.
- On every diving boat we have oxygen, as well at the diving center and on the island.
- In the event of a general medical emergency, you will be immediately evacuated to the nearest hospital in Berau.
- In case of a dive emergency, your dive insurance provider will advise us on the appropriate course of action.
- You should have a health insurance as well as dive insurance, if you plan on diving. We recommend DAN or AquaMed insurance as they cover emergency evacuation.

Should I take precautions against malaria?

- Until now there is no malaria known at Maratua Atoll. We recommend that wear light colored clothing, cover up during evening and early morning hours and use a repellent if needed.
- If you are planning a trip through the jungle of Kalimantan, please consult your doctor.

How I can stay in touch with my family while I am at Virgin Cocoa Resort?

- We provide good WIFI (Starlink).
- If you do not like to open your e-mail account during your holidays, your friends and family can send a message to virgincocoa@extradivers.org, we will make sure that you get it.
- Phone signal is available but not everywhere.

How about paying and settling of my invoice at Virgin Cocoa Resort?

The full payment has to be done to our account 4 weeks prior your arrival: All Bank fees have to be paid by the costumer.
Our Bank name: PT. Mandiri Bank Indonesia Location: Tanjung Redeb Branch, Berau District East Kalimantan, Indonesia
Our Account Name: PT. INTERNATIONAL NABUCCO RESORT Account No.: 149 00 2655 9999 Swift Code: BMRIIDJA
All extras can be settled upon departure on cash (Euro, Rupiah or in USD) or bank transfer.

For further enquiries please send us an email. We are looking forward to your visit!
We hope to see you soon on our small paradise!

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