MERMAID I

# Lembeh and the Togian Islands with Whale Sharks

*Lembeh to Lembeh | Lembeh, Gorontalo and the Togian Islands*

Gorontalo is one of several places in Indonesia with regular encounters with whale sharks, with a research centre that tracks them and organises diving and snorkelling alongside them.

Walls covered in an amazing variety of soft corals sit beside Dali sponges sprouting from the rock.

A black sand volcano is one of the best places to see massive schools of blacktail barracuda, bigeye trevally and passing tuna.

The Togian Islands have a reef system about 165 km long, with walls, swim-throughs and a Second World War B-24 bomber lying on a sandy bottom.

It ends in Lembeh, the muck diving capital of the world, full of strange critters.

| LENGTH | DEPARTURE PORT | ARRIVAL PORT | EXPERIENCE |
|---|---|---|---|
| 11 nights | Lembeh | Lembeh | Certified divers |







# Your itinerary

DAY 1

## Lembeh Strait

Check in + extra dives

Check in on board Mermaid I.
Once all guests are on board there is a safety briefing.
If everyone is on board by 12 noon, you have the chance for 1 or 2 extra dives in the Lembeh Strait on some fabulous muck dives with critters galore.
Cruise overnight to Tanjung Flesko.

DAY 2

## Tanjung Flesko

3 dives

A day at Tanjung Flesko, the north-eastern cape of Tomini Bay, drifting with strong currents next to walls and steep slopes covered in an amazing variety of soft corals.
From Tanjung Flesko the boat calls the whale shark centre at Gorontalo to arrange diving or snorkelling with the whale sharks in two days' time.
Cruise overnight to Gorontalo.

DAY 3

## Olele

4 dives

The morning and afternoon are spent diving the small village of Olele, with walls and steep slopes with ridges covered in sponges and soft corals and beautiful hard coral gardens in the shallows.
The area is famous for the Dali sponges sprouting from the walls.
After the third dive Mermaid I cruises to Gorontalo for the night dive and sleeps in a protected bay.

DAY 4

## Gorontalo whale sharks

3 dives

Gorontalo is one of several places in Indonesia with regular encounters with whale sharks.
The whale shark centre does research and keeps track of the whale sharks that frequent the area, and organises the diving and snorkelling with them.
Usually you do 1 or 2 dives with the whale sharks, and then an afternoon dive on one of the many walls and reefs around Gorontalo.
After the third dive Mermaid I starts cruising towards the volcano of Una Una, the most eastern island of the Togian archipelago.

DAY 5

## Una Una volcano

4 dives

The fifth day is at the volcano of Una Una.
Unlike the rest of the Togian Islands it has no white sandy beaches, as the sand is black or grey.
The volcano rises 500 metres above sea level, with a caldera 2 km wide, and last erupted in 1983.
It has over 35 dive sites, and is one of the best places to see massive schools of blacktail barracuda, bigeye trevally and passing tuna.
Cruise overnight to Batudaka Island or Togian Island.

DAY 6-7

## Batudaka, Togian, Malingi and Kadidiri

8 dives

Two days in the north of the islands of Batudaka, Togian and Malingi and Kadidiri, where a reef system about 165 km long has plenty of dive sites such as Nursery Rock, Kota Wall, Gap, Crack, Shark Rock, Dominic Rock, Labyrinth, Taipi, Batu Gila, Lost Reef, Kadidiri House Reef and Malingi.
You also visit several atolls north of Batudaka, diving both inside the atoll and on the outside, next to walls with overhangs and swim-throughs, or dive the volcanic island of Tapuan, which is surrounded by a reef and deep drop-off walls.

DAY 8-9

## South and west Togian, B-24 bomber

6 dives

The next days are on the south and west coast of the Togian Islands, with deep pinnacles surrounded by schooling fish and a Second World War wreck, a B-24 bomber.
The Consolidated B-24 Liberator lies between 16 and 22 metres on a sandy bottom in fairly good condition, and you can still see the two barrels of the turret gun and the instruments in the cockpit.
You also spend some time around the islands of Walea, Puah and Dondola, which are surrounded by reef barriers with plenty of schooling fish and good macro life.
After the second dive on day 9 Mermaid I cruises back to Tanjung Flesko.

DAY 10

## Tanjung Flesko

3 dives

Back in the area of Tanjung Flesko, there are plenty of options for diving besides the reefs.
Pinnacles and rocks that break the surface can have tricky currents and surge, but pelagics and schooling fish can be seen passing by.
After the third dive Mermaid I heads back to Lembeh for the last day of diving.
Cruise overnight to Lembeh.

DAY 11

## Lembeh Strait

2 dives

The last day of diving is in Lembeh, the muck diving capital of the world, with black, white and grey sand full of strange critters: frogfish, all kinds of octopus, spiny devilfish, nudibranchs and much more.

DAY 12

## Disembark in Bitung

After breakfast there is a transfer to the airport or your hotel. Disembark is at 8 am.

GOOD TO KNOW

# On land and on the way

### Whale sharks

Gorontalo whale shark centre.

### Una Una

A volcano with over 35 dive sites.

### B-24 bomber

A wreck at 16 to 22 metres.

### Lembeh

The muck diving capital.

### Check in

Check in on board is on the day of departure. We recommend arriving the day before the cruise, so you can settle into your cabin and set up your equipment before the boat leaves.

### Check out

Disembark after breakfast at 8 am, with a transfer to the airport or your hotel.

### Last dive

Divers should wait at least 24 hours after their last dive before flying, so please keep to the no-flying rule when you book your flight home.







INCLUDED

# What your trip covers

## INCLUDED IN THE TRIP PRICE

- Transfers to and from the boat: anywhere in southern Bali on Komodo trips, and Sorong airport on Raja Ampat trips
- All meals and snacks, fruit, coffee, tea, hot chocolate, soft drinks and drinking water
- All dives, with tanks, weights and weight belts
- Diving with experienced divemasters and instructors
- Land visits to villages, beaches, viewpoints and wildlife where the plan includes them
- 3 GB of Starlink internet on board

## NOT INCLUDED

- Flights, including any domestic flight
- Nitrox fills
- Rental equipment and on board courses
- Alcoholic drinks
- Marine park fees, port and national park fees (subject to change with government regulation)
- Dive and travel insurance

BEFORE YOU GO

# What to bring

## ESSENTIALS

- Dive certification card and logbook
- Completed diver medical questionnaire
- Details of your dive and travel insurance
- Dive computer and surface marker buoy
- Torch for night dives

## AND ALSO

- Reef-safe sunscreen
- Swimwear, hat and sunglasses
- Light clothing and sandals
- Personal medication and toiletries
- Passport

WORTH KNOWING

# Key notes

### Good to know

Itineraries are a sample and can be changed because of the weather, tides, currents, season and other events beyond our control

### Good to know

There is no guarantee of seeing whale sharks