

Diving

Bunaken Island National Marine Park

The Manado dive area and Bunaken Island are among the highlights of Indonesia scuba diving and have earned plaudits throughout the world.

To dive in the deep waters of the Bunaken National Marine Park in Manado is to be among some of the highest levels of biodiversity in the world, with outstanding fish variety and world-class wall diving. The clear, warm waters contain astonishingly high numbers of species, whether corals, sponges or fish. When you're scuba diving in Bunaken you can see 7 times more genera of coral than Hawaii, 33 species of butterflyfish and over 70% of all fish species known to the Indo-western Pacific.

Oceanic currents sweep into Bunaken bringing a steady supply of nutrients. It's a sure certainty that where there is plenty of food in the sea, there will be an abundance of marine life, and you can be here to witness this rich harvest too. From the smallest commensal shrimp to black tip reef sharks and eagle rays, there is something for everyone in this very special destination.

Bunaken diving is very popular with fun divers and marine biologists both of whom can take great pleasure from the diversity of coral and fish found here. You will surely encounter marine life here that you have not come across elsewhere.

The most notable recent find within the park was in 1997, when the coelacanth was discovered living in the lava tubes of Manado Tua. This, 'living fossil' fish brought international attention to Bunaken. Unusual mammals that can be seen include dugongs, which feed on the sea grass beds in the south of the park, and sperm whales, which travel through the area on their way to calve in the Sangihe Archipelago.

The park is located just out of Manado Bay in the Sulawesi Sea, off the northern tip of Sulawesi, and features some 2 dozen diving sites spread across an area of 75,000 hectares and the 5 islands of Bunaken, Siladen, Manado Tua, Montehage and Nain.

Highlights

Lekuan 1, 2 and 3

Often referred to as 3 different dives sites, this area is one of those sites that typify why diving in Bunaken is such a dream for many divers. Excellent as a day or night dive, this site has some of the superb, healthy and varied coral that makes Manado famous and against this pristine backdrop you can see turtles, Napoleon wrasse, tuna and plenty more.

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Diving Season

You can dive in Bunaken and Manado all year round but, overall, the best season for diving conditions is from April to November. January to March sometimes seawinds and rain, so surface conditions can be occasionally rough then with 1 or 2 meter swells, but the is almost the same the all year round.

Reef Summary

Great for: Small animals, wall dives, underwater photography, drift diving, reef life and health, dive value-for-money and advanced divers

Not so great for:

Wrecks and non-diving activities

Depth	5 > 40 m
Visibility	20 – 35m
Currents	Normally gentle, but can be strong
Surface conditions	Calm
Water temperature	27 - 30°C
Experience level	Beginner – advanced
Number of dive sites	> 25
Distance:	18 km north of Manado Bay (40 min.)
Access	Manado dive resorts and liveaboards
Recommended length of stay	7 – 10 days

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