MARINE MEGAFAUNA FOUNDATION

Photo: Coralia Liveaboard

Liveaboard expedition with MMF scientists

Komodo

Ultimate Komodo 22 May – 4 June 2027

From **US$9,100** per person · Full, join the waitlist

Komodo · Liveaboard expedition with MMF scientists

The trip at a glance

A fully customized 13-night itinerary around Komodo National Park and Sumbawa, built around manta rays and whale sharks. If you have wanted to do Komodo properly, this is the trip.

Komodo has it all: beautiful soft coral reefs, exhilarating drift dives, fishy pinnacles, black-sand muck dives, and a large population of manta rays.

Komodo National Park is a World Heritage Site and home to the world's largest lizard, the Komodo dragon. Day boats only scratch the surface here; our extended liveaboard itinerary reaches the park's far south and the rarely visited waters of Sumbawa, where we'll look for whale sharks, with ample time at the sites most trips have to skip.

Manta ray from below, Komodo

Komodo dragon in the national park

Ultimate Komodo 22 May – 4 June 2027 Labuan Bajo return **Full, join the waitlist**

From
US$9,100
per person

13 nights
Labuan Bajo return, May to June 2027

Coralia
#1 for crew in Scuba Diving Readers Choice 2026

Up to four dives a day
free Nitrox, tanks, and weights

Hosted by MMF scientists
evening science talks and photo tips

Mantas and dragons
plus Rhinopias and frogfish

14 guests
seven guest cabins, 20 crew

Your hosts

Dr Simon Pierce
Executive Director

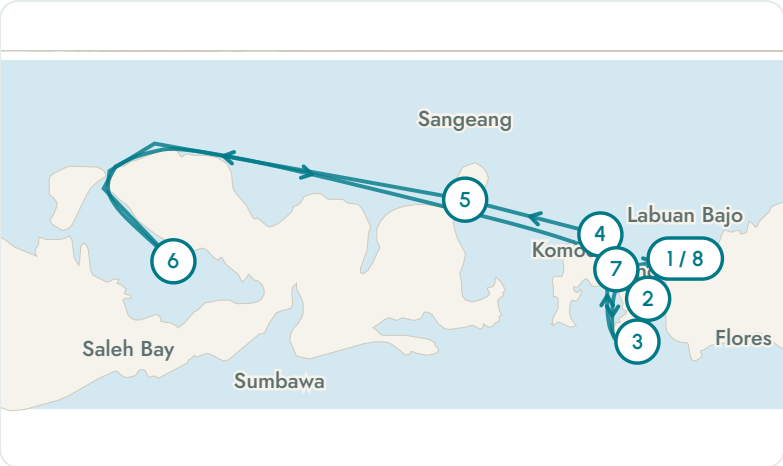
Janis Argeswara
Indonesia Country Manager

Highlights

- Large numbers of manta rays at aggregation sites such as Karang Makassar and Manta Alley.
- A search for whale sharks in Sumbawa's waters with one of the world's leading whale shark scientists.
- A guided trek to see Komodo dragons in the wild.
- World-class critter diving: Rhinopias, frogfish, flamboyant cuttlefish, and the muck sites of Bima Bay.
- Evening science talks and photography tips from MMF co-founder Dr. Simon Pierce.

Photos: Coralia Liveaboard

The itinerary



The 13-night route starts in the cooler south of the park, works round to the northern pinnacles, then heads west along Sumbawa to the whale sharks of Saleh Bay before returning to the park's central channel for the final dives.

Approximate route. Numbers match the stops.

This is a sample itinerary, not a fixed plan: the cruise directors change the route day by day for weather, currents and wildlife.

National park and port fees are paid on board.

1

Board in Labuan Bajo · Start

Fly into Labuan Bajo on Flores from Bali or Jakarta. Airport transfers are included, then a short boat ride out to Coralia.

2

Komodo dragons on Rinca

On the way south, a guided walk with park rangers to see the world's largest lizard in the wild. The walk is usually on Rinca, which has a good visitor centre, or on Komodo Island if the day's plan suits it better.

3

South Komodo and Rinca

The cooler, plankton-rich south is where the long itinerary earns its keep. Horseshoe Bay holds a completely different reef: crinoids, sea squirts, giant frogfish, and zebra crabs, with Rhinopias found here too. Manta Alley is a favorite feeding and cleaning spot.

Dive sites Cannibal Rock · Yellow Wall of Texas · Manta Alley **Look for** Manta rays · Giant frogfish · Rhinopias

4

North Komodo pinnacles

Up the west side of Komodo to the fish-filled pinnacles at the northern edge of the park, with good chances of reef sharks, eagle rays, and turtles.

Dive sites Crystal Rock · Castle Rock · Shotgun · The Passage **Look for** Reef sharks · Eagle rays · Schooling fish

5

Sumbawa's north coast

Heading west beyond the park: the Sangeang volcano, where gas bubbles rise through black-sand reefs, and Bima Bay, home to some of the best muck diving in Indonesia. Coralia may stop at Gili Banta on the way.

Dive sites Gili Banta · Sangeang (Hot Rocks) · Bima Bay **Look for** Mimic and wunderpus octopus · Seahorses · Frogfish

6

Saleh Bay: whale sharks

Further west along Sumbawa, whale sharks gather around the lift-net fishing platforms (bagans) of Saleh Bay, and we'll look for them in the water.

Look for Whale sharks

7

Back to the Komodo–Flores channel

Back into the park for the final days: current-swept drift dives and pinnacles in the channel between Komodo and Flores. Reef manta rays feed and visit cleaning stations along the bottom at Karang Makassar, and the pinnacle at Batu Bolong is dense with coral and fish.

Dive sites Karang Makassar · Batu Bolong · Batu Tengah · Siaba Kecil · Tatawa Besar **Look for** Reef manta rays · Turtles · Reef sharks

8

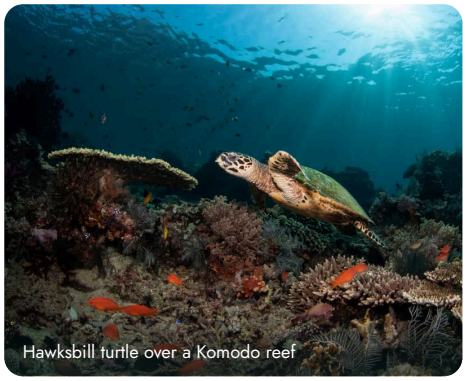
Back to Labuan Bajo · Finish

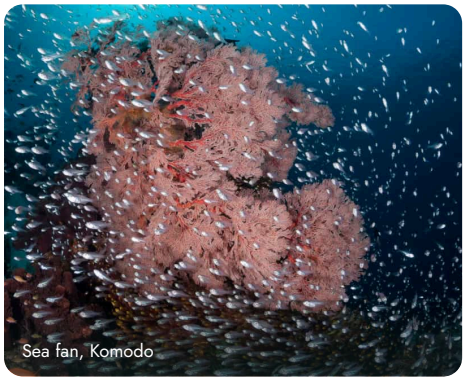
Two morning dives on the last full day, finishing around 1 pm to allow safe flying. Plan a spare day either side for international flights.

In pictures

Komodo dragon in the national park

Rhinopias, Komodo


Hawksbill turtle over a Komodo reef

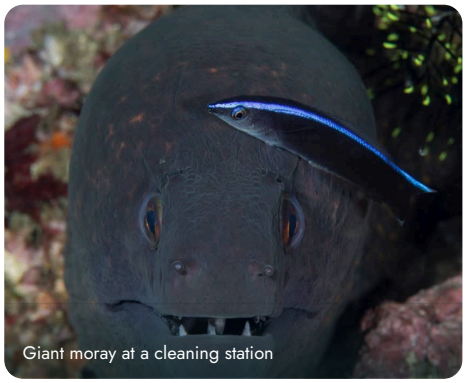

Sea fan, Komodo

Manta ray from below

Komodo islands

Komodo dragon

Broadclub cuttlefish


Giant moray at a cleaning station

Photos: Coralia Liveaboard

The boat

Coralia

Coralia

Operated by Coralia Liveaboard

Readers Choice Awards 2026
Scuba Diving Magazine · #1 for crew, safety, value, and luxury

A classic wooden phinisi built for diving and run by cruise directors Debbie and Jerry Arriaga. At 48 meters (157 feet), she has eight cabins, each named after a coral species, one of them kept for the MMF host, so our trips carry 14 guests, with 20 crew: more than one crew member for every guest. The main deck holds an air-conditioned lounge and restaurant and a dedicated camera room, with a large sun deck above, and satellite WiFi is free when coverage allows.

Sun deck

Main deck dining

Indoor lounge

Dive deck

Cabins and prices

Master cabin

Four cabins, 30 m² (323 sq ft), on the main and upper decks, each with a private balcony

US$10,400 per person

Lower deck double

Two cabins, 24 m² (258 sq ft), with a double bed; each converts to sleep three

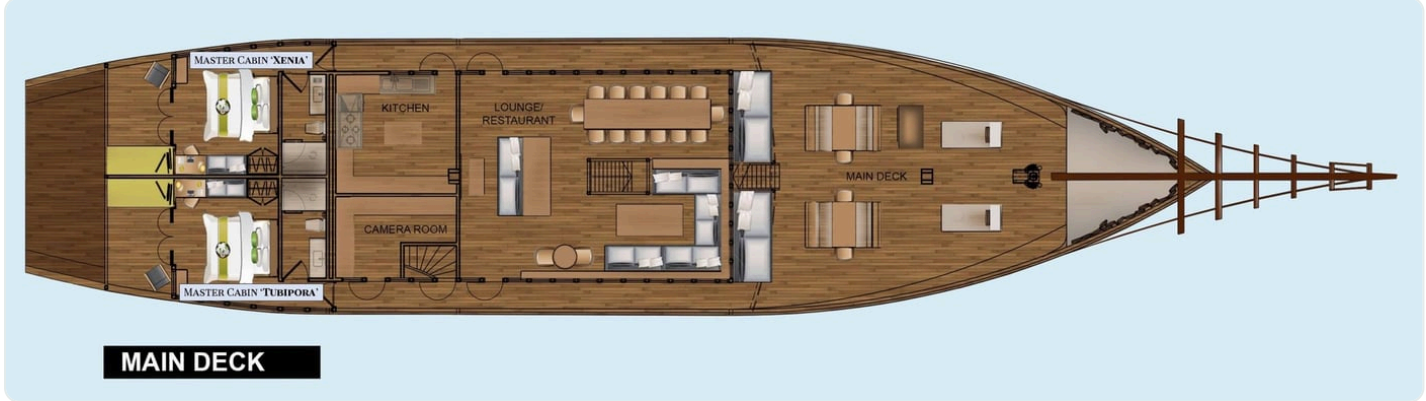
US$9,100 per person

Lower deck twin

Two cabins, 22 m² (237 sq ft), two single beds, suited to friends or solo travelers sharing a cabin

US$9,100 per person

Deck plan · Main deck



Photos: Coralia Liveaboard

Who you travel with, and what your trip supports

The Marine Megafauna Foundation is a globally recognized marine conservation non-profit, protecting the most endangered ocean giants and the habitats they call home since 2009.

Our vision is a future where marine megafauna are treasured and protected. Our mission is to protect marine megafauna and their key habitats through research, education, and conservation.

Our work began in 2003, when Dr. Andrea Marshall started her doctoral research on manta rays in Mozambique. Dr. Simon Pierce joined her at Tofo in 2005 to establish a whale shark research program, and Tofo remains our long-term base. MMF was registered as a nonprofit organization in the United States in 2012.

In the years since, our team has authored more than 200 scientific publications on marine megafauna, and that research has been put to use. It has contributed to the national protection of manta rays and whale sharks in several countries, including Indonesia, Mozambique, and Tanzania. MMF scientists also led the technical work that placed the reef manta ray, the oceanic manta ray, and the whale shark on Appendix I of the UN Convention on Migratory Species.

In Indonesia, where we have worked since 2012, more than 2,300 individual reef manta rays have been identified across our sites, principally at Nusa Penida and in Komodo National Park.

National staff lead our programs, and locally registered organizations carry the work: Associação Megafauna Marinha in Mozambique, Yayasan Megafauna Laut in Indonesia, and an independent partner organization in Madagascar.

A reef manta ray swims over a diver in Komodo National Park

Children in a crowded classroom raise their hands during a marine conservation lesson

Learning with us on board

Every MMF expedition is hosted by a working marine scientist, who shares the latest research and conservation discoveries about the animals you'll see. Across the voyage your host gives a series of evening presentations — on the animals we're looking for, how they're studied, what the current research actually shows, and the threats these populations face. There's time to ask the questions you never get to ask a researcher in person, and photography guidance for anyone who wants to come home with better images.

Your photographs do real work. Whale sharks and manta rays can be identified individually by their natural markings — the spot patterns on a whale shark's flank, the markings on a manta's underside — the same way a fingerprint identifies a person. Guests are shown how to take an identification shot, and the photographs taken during the trip are contributed to the global photo-identification databases that researchers around the world draw on. Sightings you record become part of the long-term record for that population.

Marine Megafauna Foundation is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit. Our expeditions exist to bring people into contact with these animals and send them home understanding them — and **100% of the profit supports MMF's research, education, and conservation work**.

A snorkeler photographs a whale shark swimming below.

Our expeditions are small-group trips hosted by MMF scientists, and they support this work.

Your hosts

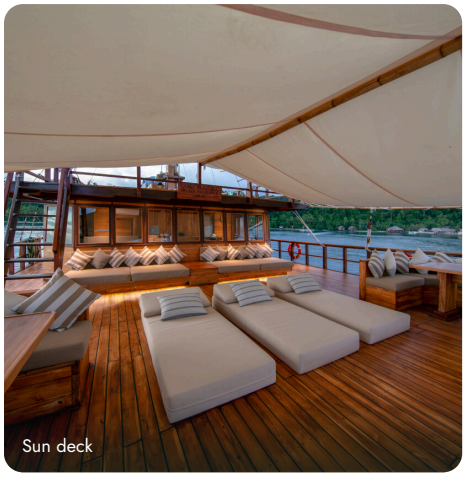
Dr Simon Pierce
Executive Director

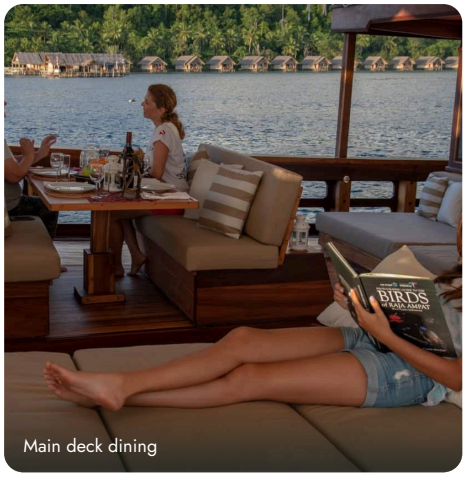
Dr. Pierce founded MMF's flagship Global Whale Shark Program. His work on the population ecology and management of this iconic species has made him the world's top whale shark conservation biologist.

Janis Argeswara
Indonesia Country Manager

In Indonesia, a two-year Research Assistant program trains early-career marine scientists. Janis Argeswara, MMF's first Indonesian intern, later earned a Fulbright scholarship to Florida International University, where she completed a master's degree on the reef manta rays of Nusa Penida. She now leads the national program.

Costs, getting there and good to know


Sun deck


Main deck dining

Indoor lounge

What's included

- Liveaboard cruise on the Coralia
- Up to four dives a day
- Complimentary Nitrox
- Shore excursions according to the program, including the Komodo dragon trek
- All meals and snacks, every day
- Hot and cold soft beverage selection
- Tanks, weights, belts
- Transfers to and from Labuan Bajo airport
- Presentations from MMF hosts

Not included

- International or domestic flights
- Labuan Bajo accommodation
- National park and port fees (paid on board)
- Dive courses
- Dive gear rental
- Alcoholic beverages
- On-board massages
- Laundry
- Use of on-board satellite phone
- Encouraged gratuity
- Travel insurance

Getting there

Fly into Labuan Bajo (LBJ) on Flores from Bali or Jakarta. The airport is about 15 minutes from the harbor, and transfers are included.

Booking and terms

National park and port fees are paid on board. Inquire with no commitment. A 30% deposit and the completed terms and conditions form confirm your place, and the balance is due 120 days before departure. Travel insurance is required.

Good to know

Do I need to be a diver?

Certified divers of all experience levels are welcome, and each dive guide leads no more than four guests. Snorkelers are welcome too, and the Cenderawasih Bay whale sharks are seen at the surface.

How experienced a diver should I be?

Some sites have currents and depth, so recent diving helps you get the most from them. Tell us your certification, logged dives, and when you last dived when you inquire, and we will confirm the trip suits you. Courses, including Advanced Open Water and Nitrox, can be arranged on board if you book them ahead.

What insurance do I need?

Personal dive-accident insurance that includes emergency evacuation (Divers Alert Network is recommended) is required for every certified diver. Our trip terms and conditions also require comprehensive travel insurance covering trip cancellation and interruption, overseas medical expenses, and emergency evacuation: these trips run in remote places where medical care is scarce, and MMF cannot help with canceled flights or lost luggage.

Is Nitrox included? Can I rent gear?

Nitrox is free for certified Nitrox divers, and tanks, weights, and belts are included. Full rental gear is available (BCDs, regulators, wetsuits, computers, fins, masks, torches, and SMBs); reserve it before the trip.

What if my flight is delayed?

Contact the boat straight away. Depending on the itinerary and where the boat is, the crew will do everything possible to help you join. Plan a spare day either side for international flights; the last full day ends with two morning dives, finished around 1 pm, so you can fly safely.