

Alor diving

by Gilles & Neya Brignardello

Located between Flores and Sawoe Sea, Alor Archipelago is one of Indonesia's last frontiers. Alor and Pantar are the main islands and the strait between the two is a world class dive attraction, a hidden jewel of breathtaking underwater scenery and above water tranquility.

The local government is planning and developing ecotourism as a part of conservation strategy for the Alor Protected Marine Area. They work closely with local communities and encourage sustainable fishing techniques in order to preserve the beauty, variety and abundance of Alor's reefs and marine life.

Alor Divers Eco Resort is an intimate and charming retreat, located on a 450m long sandy beach in Pantar Island. The authentic atmosphere of the place is preserved with careful integration of all the buildings into their natural surroundings and the enchantment of the stay comes from a combination of world class diving and personalized hospitality.

To ensure great service and friendly ambiance, the number of guests is limited to a maximum of 14. The team of local staff, Western management and French – Slovenian

owners is committed to presenting you with a memorable experience at this off the beaten track dive destination.

Alor's climate is particularly pleasant and most of the operating months are fairly dry and fresh, even surprisingly cool! The architectural style of spacious and thatched roof bungalows enables indoors to be continuously refreshed by a natural breeze. Furniture and décor are designed with simplicity to enhance the Zen spirit of the place. Spacious private terraces (each one with a "coffee corner") grant you an impressive view of the spectacular Pantar Strait and each bungalow has in its direct proximity a shady patch of sand for a hammock or

***Bama wall Pantar island
Top of the reef. Nikon D90 with
Nauticam housing and 2 inon Z240
strobes. Nikon 10.5 fish eye. ISO 250,
F7.1, 1/80 sec***

***Rhinopias muck diving Alor island
Nauticam housing and 2 inon Z240
strobes. Nikon 10.5 fish eye. ISO 250,
F14, 1/160 sec***





View from the bungalow terrace
Nikon D90 with Nikon 10.5 fish eye, F18 , 1/160 sec

lounge chair snooze. Under Western management everything is kept to high standards. The “busy” areas like restaurant and commune lounge, kitchen, dive center and staff quarters are separated from private bungalows and situated to the side of the resort.

With 3 custom made fiber glass speed boats, diving in small groups is guaranteed. The low ratio divers/guide is appreciated by all the guests, especially by passionate UW photographers and those who might look for a bit of extra attention. There are 2 experienced Western dive instructors with their local apprentices dive guides working full time at the resort. Many times you will also be accompanied and assisted by owner Gilles, himself a dive enthusiast and a passionate UW photographer, who can advise you on the photography part, if needed.

There are 2 scheduled boat dives per day and over 20 world class dive sites are reached within 5 to 30 minutes. The centrally located and over 500



Hammerheads, pantar island
I was very lucky this day they came so close, the photo is not cropped. They were literally less than 3m away from the camera.
Nikon D90 with Nauticam housing and 2 inon Z240 strobes. Nikon 10.5 fish eye. ISO 200 , F10 , 1/100 sec

hundred meters long house reef is “open” from 6.00 to 21.30. It is a mixture of slope and vertical wall, with generous growth and excellent fish life. At night, you will be surprised by the number of incredible critters around.

Between boat dives and diving at the resort’s “doorstep” there are more than enough possibilities to satisfy any diving appetite. Alor Divers dive team will assist you with finding you special camouflaged and other unusual marine life, so macro lovers will not be left out, since critter diving in Kalabahi Bay is a highlight.

The colorful slopes around Pura Island are the home of endearing mandarin fish, frog fish, Blue Ribbon Eel, leaf fish, Harlequin ghost pipe fish, pygmy sea horse and more... Probably the most



Sea horse, Alor island
Muck diving with WA makes always produces an interesting shot.
Nikon D90 with Nauticam housing and 2 inon Z240 strobes. Nikon 10.5 fish eye. ISO 250 , F11, 1/100 sec



Saron shrimp, Pura island
These are usually very shy but the 150 mn allowed me to stay far from subject.
Nikon D90 with Nauticam housing and 2 inon Z240 strobes. . Sigma 150 macro. iso 250, F14, 1/200 sec



*Frog fish Pura island,
Frog fish portrait
Nikon D90 with Nauticam housing and
2 inon Z240 strobes. Sigma 150 macro.
iso 250, F25, 1/200 sec*

unique thing you will see in Alor (and in the world) is the Anemone City - a "carpet" of countless anemones of different types, that has not failed to impress every single diver to date.

In the south the water is generally colder, the reef is mainly covered with soft coral, fish life is amazing and an unbelievable variety

of nudibranchs can be found. Further north, the walls around Ternate Island offer beautiful underwater scenery, including caves and multiple overhangs; divers are often gently drifting, surrounded by schools of fusilier, Sergeant fish and mackrels. Alor is a place of incredible surprises!

We offer you no guaranties, but Mola Mola (Sunfish), Hammerhead shark, grey reef sharks, Eagle rays, marble rays, Mobulas, huge dogtooth Tuna, barracudas, Napoleons, turtles and more have been spotted frequently, many of them encountered on a regular basis. The preserved reefs have a lot more to offer – from unblemished coral slopes and walls to scenic rock formation, Alor will enchant everyone. The growth is exuberant, with an astonishing variety of soft and hard coral, surrounded by schools of reef fish.

If you are looking for an unforgettable adventure, far away from crowds and groups of other bubble makers, Alor Divers is a place to visit!

Gilles & Neya Brignardello

Owners

www.alor-divers.com

