

Dive Tubbataha Reef National Marine Park, departing Puerto Princessa

February to June - 6 nights / 13 nights

Inscribed as a **UNESCO World Heritage site** in 1993, in recognition of its outstanding universal value in terms of marine life species diversity and richness, **Tubbataha Reef** offers some truly amazing diving, only accessible by liveaboard. These reefs consist of **vertical walls or near drop off's** rising out of great depths where hammerheads, thresher sharks and whale sharks can be seen. The **shallow reef tops** are teeming with **colourful reef fish** whilst at many dive sites stingrays, spiny lobsters, immature manta rays and turtles are found.

Tubbataha Liveaboard Diving Itinerary



150km South East of Puerto Princessa, on Palawan Island, the **Tubbataha reef system** consists chiefly of two atolls (North and South) and the Jessie Beazley reefs. After an overnight cruise of approximately 14 hours we arrive at the Tubbataha Reef system to enjoy up to **4 dives per day** over the course of our 6-night trip. The delicate reef system supports over 600 different fish species and over 300 coral species, whilst providing a haven for nesting **hawksbill and green turtles** along with numerous birds. A field station on the North atoll is

manned by rangers year-round, during our trips we visit with the rangers to learn more about **conservation and reef protection**.

Dive sites include **Washing Machine**, where many shark species can be sighted in the speedy current, the **Delsan Wreck** - now home to a plethora of reef fish and **white tip reef sharks** as well as **Amos' Rock**. **Seafan Alley** is where huge sea fans adorn the reef walls whilst **Staghorn Point** boasts fields of staghorn corals. Divers can expect to see **stunning corals**, schools of jacks, numerous reef sharks, **marble rays**, blue spotted sting rays, turtles, unicorn and **triggerfishes** in schools. There are a wide variety of smaller creatures from sea cucumbers to **coral crabs**, ghost pipefish to sea stars, **crinoids with cling fish** and **pygmy seahorses**. After our final dive on day 6, the yacht will make the cruise back to Puerto Princesa where the trip will culminate.

The S/Y Philippine Siren also offers extended 13 night trips, which combine 5-6 days of diving at the Tubbataha reefs with the highlights of diving the Southern Visayas. These trips depart from Puerto Princessa or Cebu.



Explore Malapascua - Donsol

November - December 10 nights

Different shark species will be the order of the day as the S/Y Philippine Siren cruises between Malapascua Island, on the northern tip of Cebu and **Donsol** in the Bicol region. Encounters with **thresher sharks, black tip reef sharks and whale sharks** can all be expected during this 10-night trip. Many of the islands and reef located in this section of the Visayan Sea have seen few divers due to a lack of dive operators in the region. However there are sites with pristine corals and schools of fish waiting to be explored in depth. Whilst at **Ticao** we can expect to see manta rays and macro.

Malapascua / Donsol Liveaboard Diving Itinerary



Departing from Malapascua the **S/Y Philippine Siren** crew welcome their guests aboard to spend the first 2-3 days of the trip diving **Monad Shoal, Gato Island and the Dona Marilon wreck**. A mix of macro critters including **sea horses and ghost pipefish** are commonly seen, but its the change to see thresher sharks and manta rays that have our guests repeating dives at Monad Shoal. Moving northwards we then encounter **Maripipi, Santo Nino and Almagro Islands** where topography ranges from dark volcanic sand to steep reef walls laden with sea fans and

sponges. Marine life found here includes long nose hawkfish, white tip reef sharks and blue spotted sting rays.

Dives at the **Naranyan and Capul Pass** follow. Here divers can expect some current as the tides move in through the channels from the Pacific Ocean, which can bring forth pelagics such as grey reef sharks and wahoo.

Reaching **Ticao** we dive the "Manta Bowl" to spot these gentle giants drawn here by the plankton bloom from the San Bernadino Pass. Thresher sharks and the occasional hammerhead have also been spotted here. The island has a range of sites, some where currents can be

expected to bring schools of fish, whilst there are plenty of "relaxed" dives where schools of bannerfish, triggerfish, butterflyfish and fusiliers literally engulf divers. Our trip culminates in **Donsol**, where numerous whale sharks can be seen in the shallow waters of the bay. Only snorkelling is permitted but this provides a better interaction all round.



This trip involves some long distance travel with some 120 nautical miles covered. Your cruise director will schedule up to 30 dives and a snorkelling excursion though this will be dependent on the conditions during your cruise.

Trips also operate in reverse, departing from Donsol and culminating in Malapascua.

Dive Southern Visayas, departing Mactan or Moalboal

Year round - 6 to 10 nights

The Visayas region is home to some of the best **diving in the Philippines**, with its nutrient rich water supporting a variety of eco-systems & a **wide diversity of marine life**. Sites range from steep coral covered walls to gentle sloping reefs and muck diving hotspots. During the tour we visit and dive the islands of **Cebu, Cabilao, Panglao, Balicasag and Pescador**. Along with **Apo Island** marine sanctuary and critter hot spot Dauin.

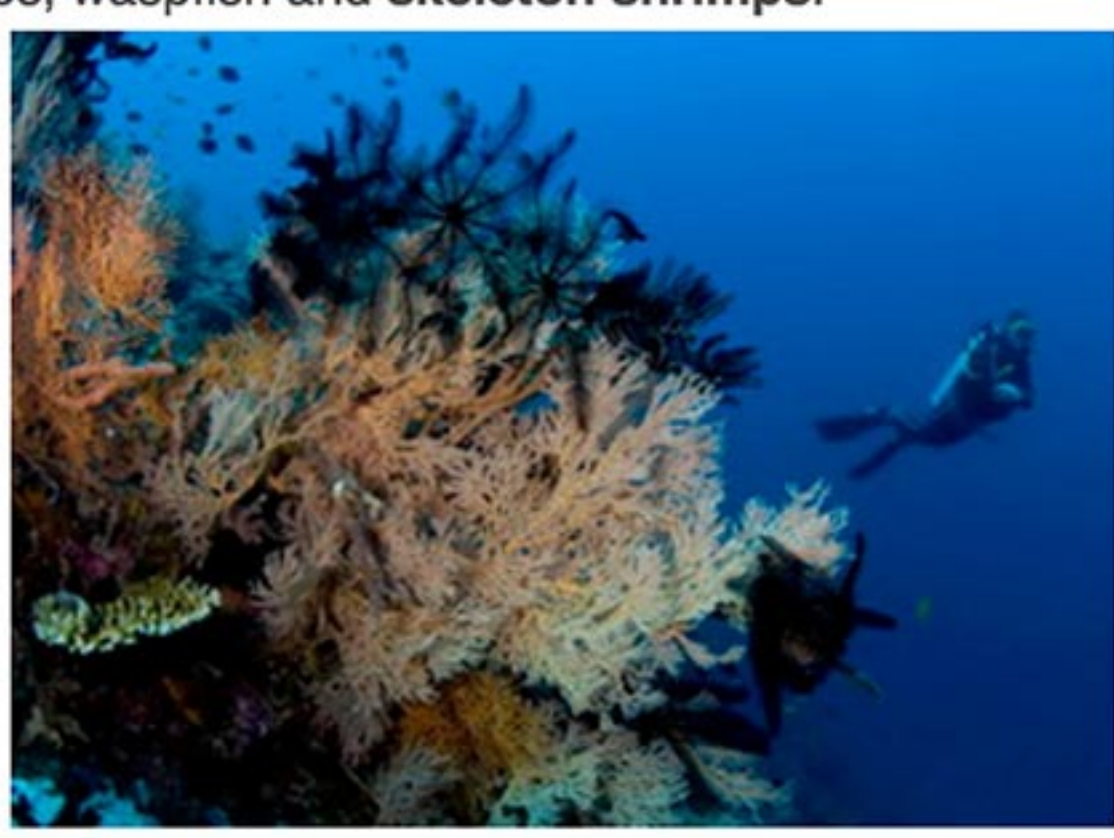
Visayas Liveaboard Diving Itinerary



Departing from Cebu the **S/Y Philippine Siren** cruises southwards to the first stop at Cabilao Island, where steep reef walls are covered with sea fans, corals and sponges. **Pygmy seahorses** and frogfish are common sightings.

Moving on to Balicasag we dive a variety of sites around the tiny island to see turtles and **schools of jacks** as well as barracuda and snapper. The dark sand slopes of Dauin are the place to find a myriad of tiny odd shaped bottom dwellers from **robust ghost pipefish** to pipehorses, waspfish and **skeleton shrimps**.

Apo Island is a testament to the success of the marine sanctuaries in the Philippines and the **pristine corals** abound with numerous fish species including **redtooth trigger fish**, pyramid butterfly fish and blue lined fusiliers. Friendly **turtles** approach divers and at least 8 species of **anemone fish** can be found here. Moalboal and tiny Pescador Island are the next destination. **Schools of sardines** are known to pass through with the occasional hungry **thresher shark** in their wake. **Whale sharks** are frequently seen in the channel. Smaller creatures including a wide range of **nudibranchs**, shrimps and crabs can be found on each reef during every dive. The calm seas and diversity of marine life make the Visayas an ideal diving destination for all experience levels.



Dive Southern Visayas, departing Mactan or Malapascua



Combine all the favourites from the Southern Visayas itinerary with a 2 day extension in Malapascua Island for thresher sharks, wrecks and more! 10-night and 12-night trips start in Mactan and culminate in Malapascua or vice versa.... Check our schedule to find available dates.

