



WAKATOBI

GUIDE TO DISCOVERING THE WORLD MARINE
HERITAGE OF SOUTHEASTERN SULAWESI





Wakatobi Guidebook :
**Guide to Discovering The World Marine
Heritage Of Southeastern Sulawesi**

By:
Wakatobi SINTASU

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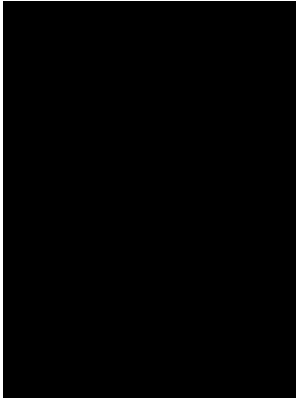
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Welcome to Wakatobi, a maritime district located in Southeast Sulawesi right in the heart of world's coral triangle. On behalf of Wakatobi District Government, I would like to welcome people from around the world to Indonesia and encourage them to discover the beauty of Wakatobi.

This guidebook – Wakatobi: Underwater and Beyond, A Complete Guide to Marine Biodiversity and Culture – is a collaboration between Swisscontact WISATA and the Governments of the Wakatobi Regency. This partnership aims to develop Wakatobi as a competitive tourism destination and in turn, help develop a sustainable hospitality industry that will benefit the communities and peoples of Wakatobi.

With only 3% of land, Wakatobi is the only district in Indonesia where the whole area is mandated as a national park. The region has over 750 different species of coral and 942 species of fish recorded as the highest number of reef and fish species. In 2016, Wakatobi selected by Ministry of Tourism of Republic Indonesia as one of 10 priority tourism destination in the country.

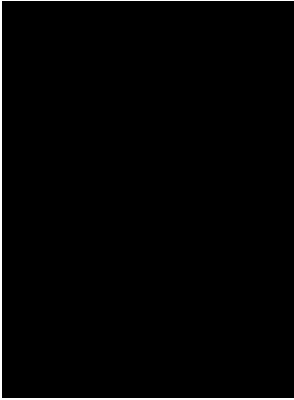
Known as one of the best diving and snorkeling spot in the world, Wakatobi has no shortage of attractions. Travelers can explore the breath taking surroundings, indulge the taste with fresh seafood and immerse in a number of local activities. There are new experiences for all curious and eager divers or adventure lovers.

This book provides practical information that will help you plan your holiday in Wakatobi, in-depth information about destination as well as inspiring ideas about non-diving activities – including bicycling, canoeing and cultural events. It also gives a general overview of the island's biodiversity, people and their way of life. Another highlight is about community based tourism that invite you to engage with local community and make your holiday memorable.

I hope this book suits the need of every traveler who is planning a trip to Wakatobi, let's explore and experience the adventures offered by this paradise island. Furthermore - I hope all of the visitors will leave the destination having made positive contributions towards sustainable tourism.

I wish you happy and safe travels!

H. Arhawi, SE
Regent of Wakatobi District



As one of ten chosen destinations in Indonesia, Wakatobi has developed into a destination offering a variety of charms from diving and snorkelling, beautiful dancing, and a rich history of seafaring people. The Wakatobi Guidebook is written to make your visit to the islands as easy as possible and to introduce Wakatobi to the world.

Wakatobi's islands offer crystal clear waters and a rich bio-diverse underwater life creating a true paradise for divers. In terms of diversity of marine life, size, and reef condition, Wakatobi ranks as one of the highest priorities for marine conservation in Indonesia. For many years, Wakatobi's underwater beauty has been deemed legendary, especially among passionate divers and researchers.

However, there is a lack in the information accessible to the public about this region, especially concerning the non-diving attractions these islands offer. I am delighted that this guidebook provides information about underwater and land-based attractions, culture and history, cultural tips, as well as practicalities to help all travellers plan myriad adventures in Wakatobi.

This book begins by introducing readers to the colourful and unique islands of Wakatobi. From geography and climate to dive sites, the first part of this book provides detailed information about each site and each island that makes up Wakatobi (Wangi-Wangi, Kaledupa, Tomia, and Binongko). This guidebook then delves into the history and culture of the Bajo people, also known as sea gypsies, as well as listing the best accommodation, dive operators, and restaurants in the region. The Bajo people of Wakatobi, with their long history of free diving, sailing, and fishing, as well as the natural beauty of the islands will surely appeal to a variety of visitors.

To improve the competitiveness and maintain the authentic beauty and culture of the destination, it will require a collaborative effort from national and local parties such as government departments, the tourism industries, the people of Wakatobi, and all the visitors coming to these paradise islands. Such a commitment to develop and maintain sustainable tourism in Wakatobi will not only benefit the local communities but also the world at large.

I wish you an incredible adventure in Wakatobi!

Martin Stottele
Head of State Secretariat
for Economic Affairs (SECO)

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Balumpa costume
Photo by Guntur



INTRODUCTION WAKATOBI

Selamat datang di Wakatobi

Welcome to Wakatobi. Located at the heart of the Coral Triangle, one of the most diverse marine ecosystems on the planet, Wakatobi boasts an abundance of marine wealth and perhaps the clearest water in the world.

Besides world-class diving, many lonely islands, unspoiled by tourism, await your arrival.

Be ready for the mesmerizing aerial view of Wakatobi before landing, with emerald like atolls stretching over the turquoise blue sea, bathed in brilliant sunshine. The wooden stilt houses of the Bajo people seem to float above the pristine water, close to the white sand beaches.

Wakatobi offers more than 50 spectacular dive sites, which are easily accessible from the main islands. Its high visibility promises excellent diving yearround, regardless of the weather conditions. The underwater paradise can be enjoyed through a range of different dive types from

wall dives, slopes and seamounts to drift diving, pinnacles and channel diving.

The reefs in the area are home to over 396 identified coral species and a lavish array of marine life. Previously known as the Blacksmith Archipelago, its marine and cultural diversity has seen Wakatobi listed as a UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserve. In addition to offering the perfect playground for divers, the diverse island cultures also complement the area's underwater world.

From the mysterious seafaring Bajos, to the transcendental dances from kingdoms past and the heritage of ruins hidden in the forests, there is so much waiting to be discovered. The bountiful flora and fauna, with lush forests, endless mangroves, ancient springs, endemic birds and the famous flying foxes are bound to awaken your wild spirit.



GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT WAKATOBI

The chain islands of Wakatobi lie south east of the orchid shaped island of Sulawesi and separated by the deep Banda Sea to its north and east and the Flores Sea to its south. Just as diverse as the acclaimed underwater life is the culture of the various people who mainly are of Buton, Bajo and Bugis.

Only 7 of the 143 total islands belonging to Wakatobi are inhabited, and most of the total population of approximately 120.000 inhabitants live on one of the four major islands. The name Wakatobi is in fact an acronym of these four islands: Wangi-Wangi (WA), Kaledupa (KA), Tomia (TO) and Binongko (BI). Before being called Wakatobi it was known as Kepulauan Tukang Besi, the Blacksmith Archipelago.

Weather and Seasons

Seasons

Dry Season: May to August

Rainy Season: December to April

The best time to visit is from October to December or March to May. In these months the wind is relatively calm, making it easier to travel the sea.

Temperature

Wakatobi is drier than the rest of the country and the most main islands are protected by the surrounding islands and reef. The temperature ranges between 26 - 30 degrees Celsius all year round. Air humidity is mostly only about 75-85%.

Wind

Usually between 2 and 5 knots maximum.

December to April: from the West

June to October: from the East

November and May: changing

Due to the effects of climate change these seasons have been becoming less reliable in the past years

Source: (Wonderful Indonesia, wakatobitourism.com)



Juvenile Cuttlefish
Photo by Guntur

WAKATOBI NATIONAL PARK

Wakatobi National Park is located in Sulawesi Tenggara Province with an area of 1,39 million hectares. Geographically, the islands of Wakatobi are located between Longitude 123_15'00" 124_45'00" and latitude 05_15'00" 06_10'00."

The national park began as marine conversation reserve following recommendations from a survey conducted in 1989 by the General Directorate of Forestry and Nature Conservation in collaboration with World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). The survey results indicated that Wakatobi possessed abundant marine natural resources such as extensive coral reefs, fish and habitat diversity resulting in a wonderful underwater panorama.

Wakatobi Islands therefore became a national park based on a decision from the Ministry of Forestry in July 1996. According to the decision the area of the national park includes 1.39 million hectares containing 5 different zones: core zone, rehabilitation zone, protection zone, exploitation zone and traditional exploitation zone.

The types of reef include barrier, fringing, patch, and atoll reefs. The four main oce-anic islands are generally speaking dry, hilly and covered by dry tropical forest. The smaller islands are low lying with elevations of just a few meters. Wakatobi National Park has a rich coral diversity, some 400 types of hard and soft corals have been identified so far, with many more remaining undiscovered. There is a vast and very diverse range of maritime creatures living in the waters around Wakatobi National Park. Each marine animal in their own way plays an important role in the complex web of life sustaining the rich environment. Because a collapse can easily occur, all species have to receive a special protection ensuring that the national park's coral reefs continue to thrive.

(Source: Marine research and conservation in the Coral Triangle: the Wakatobi Na-tional Park. Author Julian Clifton, Richard K.F. Unsworth, David J. Smith

Photo by Guntur

A scuba diver is positioned in the center-left of the frame, facing the camera. They are wearing a full diving suit, including a mask, regulator, and fins. Two bright dive lights are attached to their gear, casting a strong beam of light forward and slightly to the right. The diver is standing in a narrow, arched opening of a cave. The cave walls are covered in various types of coral and marine life, including some orange and red corals on the right side. The water is a deep blue-green color, and the overall atmosphere is mysterious and adventurous.

DIVING IN WAKATOBI

GENERAL INFORMATION

Due to its magnificent underwater life, Wakatobi is fast gaining worldwide attention for its quality dives that suits all levels. Beginners to divers with uncountable logged divers, nobody is disappointed by the abundance of Wakatobi underwater world.

Located right in the heart of the Asia-Pacific Coral Triangle, in the province of South East Sulawesi, the islands of Wakatobi offer crystal clear pristine waters and a rich bio-diverse underwater life. A true paradise for Divers, this is one of 3 hearts in the World Coral Triangle that stretches from the Solomon Islands in the Pacific to Wa-katobi, and further North to the Philippines.

Underwater visibility

Underwater visibility is mostly between 20 m and 50 m, with an average of 35 m. There are no rivers or lakes bringing sediments, therefore visibility is not affected by rain. Visibility stays perfectly fine throughout the year.

Diving Season

In Wakatobi you can dive the whole year. However the best time to dive is from *March to May* and *September to November* because this are usually periods of relative calm weather conditions in the Banda Sea- in which the islands are located.

The climate in Wakatobi National Park is drier than the rest of the country and most main islands are protected by smaller islands and reefs.

Due to climate change this has been changing in recent years and becoming less reliable.

Rainy season: From December to February and from June to August. This also means high waves. This has also become less steady in the recent years.

Water temperature: 25-30°C. A 3mm shorty should be sufficient. If you feel the cold easily a 5mm shorty is advisable.

Depths: 5 -> 50m.

Currents: Are generally gentle. Some spots may vary and it is advised to check the currents for every spot.

Surface conditions: Usually calm. From December to February and from June to August is rainy season. This also means higher waves.

Experience level:

Beginner – Intermediate – Advanced. Wakatobi offers all.

Dive sites: So far around 70 dive sites have been mapped. Since the reef around Binongko is nowhere near being fully explored, this number will surely increase in the future.

MARINE DIVERSITY

While diving in Wakatobi, you won't be able to shake the feeling that everything seems somehow unreal. The sheer abundance and diversity of underwater life gives the impression you are swimming through an aquarium. To understand this sensation, some hard facts about the national park's marine diversity are required.

The total area of coral reefs in Wakatobi is around 54,500 hectares and includes fringing reefs, barriers and atolls. The area is also home to 396 coral reef species such as fungi coral, hard coral (non-scleractinian or ahermatipic), soft coral and scleractinian hermatipic coral. Approximately 590 fish species from 52 families, including wrasse, damsel, grouper, cardinal, snapper and angelfish, can be found frolicking in and traversing around the waters of Wakatobi National Park. The macro-world is especially vivid with 31 species of foraminifera and 34 species of stomatopoda inhabiting the reef flats, inner lagoons and sloping reef areas. Wakatobi is also blessed with 11 of the 12 known sea grass species in Indonesia.

Plenty of sea mammals can also be spotted gathering around the islands. Scientists have recorded five species of whale in the area, namely beaked whales, pilot whales, sperm whales, Bryde's whales and melon-headed whales. There are also five kinds of dolphin including bottlenose dolphins, risso dolphins, spinner dolphins and spotted dolphins.

Furthermore, you will also find many turtle inhabitants in Wakatobi, with Binongko home to the largest population. The turtles are from two species, namely hawksbill turtles and green turtles,

The national park also contains 11 fish spawning monitoring sites, known as Spawning Aggregation Sites (SPAG), at Kapota Coral, Hoga Channel, Otiolo Coral, Coral of Table City, Tomia Coral, Runduma, Kentiole, Binongko, Koko Coral and Moromaho.

(wakatobitourism.com / Marine research and conservation in the Coral Triangle: the Wakatobi National Park. Author Julian Clifton, Richard K.F. Unsworth, David J. Smith, (source: Master Plan of The Nature Tourism of Wakatobi National Park Development, 2012).





DIVE SITES IN WAKATOBI

WANGI WANGI

For diving enthusiasts there are many accessible dive spots around Wangi-Wangi and Kapota Islands. Thanks to its airport and harbor that connects the island with other parts of Indonesia, diving around Wangi Wangi is the easiest option. You can find a descent number of dive operators who can advise you about the best spots and current conditions. They also usually have one or two secret spots up their sleeve that are not yet mapped. The most frequently dived sites are Waha Cemara, Sombu, Nua Shark Point, Wandoka Pinnacle, Kapota Pinnacle, Waha Wall, Jepang, The Zoo, Tanjung Kapota and The Berandals Cavern. Below is a full description of the most popular dive sites around Wangi Wangi and its smaller neighbor Kapota.

Sombu

Dive type: Drop off

Average depth: 15-20m

Reef type: Coral reef

Snorkeling: Good, especially near the jetty and the sheltered coral gardens

Recommended for: All divers

Sombu is the most popular diving and snorkeling spot in Wangi-Wangi and is reachable within 20 minutes from the town of Wanci by car. Because of this accessibility it is frequently dived. Divers simply need to park their car or boat at the jetty and they are ready to go. The entry point is a long jetty. From there, you can just take a giant step and jump straight into the sea. During the right season the vibrant colors of the corals and fish are visible from the jetty. Begin the dive at the start of the jetty (or the western side if you use the stairs) and follow the wall to the north. Beautiful

hard corals dominate the shallower waters and once diving deeper you will begin to discover a variation of hard and soft corals covering the steep slope. Various marine species such as trevally, snapper, fusilier, sweetlips, wrasse, grouper, damselfish, butterfly fish, cardinal fish, angelfish, anthias and triggerfish, as well as sea snakes and much more can be found here. More experienced divers can continue until the cape, which is shaped like a man's face. Turn back to the jetty and ascend to the shallower water, where schools of small fish usually swim, making this



Sombu Jetty

Photo by Seto Ariyadi

spot perfect for photographs with the jetty pillars in the background. Macro enthusiasts can try a night dive to spot various nudibranch, octopus, shrimp and other marine life under torchlight. Traditional fishermen sometimes go fishing at nighttime using spear guns or traditional fishing equipment.

During weekends or late afternoons Sombu is a popular place for local youngsters to hang out and enjoy the sunset. They will happily perform their best trick-jumps off the jetty to impress visitors.

Nua Shark Point

Dive type: Steep slope

Average depth: 25m

Reef type: Wall Slope

Snorkeling: Not advised

Recommended for: Experienced divers

One of the most loved dive sites in Wakatobi is Nua Shark Point located south of Sombu. As indicated by its name, Nua Shark Point is frequently visited by sharks. The site is a 5-minute boat journey from Sombu Jetty.

Descending deeper into the clear blue waters, you will notice leafy formations of hard corals covering the sea floor, with groups of blacktip reef sharks cruising around. Some of them may pass close by and curiously play around the divers. Besides blacktip reef sharks, yellow fin barracudas, eagle rays, black snapper, bumphead parrotfish and leaf scorpionfish are commonly found here. Colorful soft corals dominate the shallow waters, providing interesting views even during the safety stop.

The best time to dive is in the morning

and afternoon when the sunlight reaches a depth of 20m and provides good visibility.



Blacktip reef shark
Photo by Onenk DCDC

BLACKTIP REEF SHARK

The blacktip reef shark has one of the smallest territories among shark species and gets its name from the black tips on its fins. Individual adults keep a relatively small territory of about 2.5 km² and appear to reside close to their home reef for up to several years at a time if undisturbed. However, occasionally they cross the deep-water channels to neighboring reefs. Blacktip reef sharks have a slender body with a gently sloped snout. Greyish brown in color and with a white underside, they can be identified by their black-edged tail and black-tipped first and second dorsal and pectoral fins. Adults grow to 180cm and can be seen year-round in Wakatobi. This species is commonly found in shallow waters, near coral reefs and occasionally in brackish water. While generally timid and not dangerous, divers and snorkelers must still treat this threatened species with respect. Overfishing and disturbances have resulted in reported declines in the population of this species worldwide.

Waha Wall

Dive type: Boat, drift

Average depth: 25m

Reef type: Fringing reef

Snorkelling: Good

Recommended for: All divers

The Waha Wall is blessed with an amazing drop-off with many sea fans, which have become the symbol of this dive site. This spot is also suitable for drift diving. It is located very close to the dive sites of Cemara, Turtle Transporter and the Zoo.

Waha Cemara

Dive type: Boat, drift

Average depth: 25m

Reef type: Fringing reef

Snorkeling: Very good

Recommended for: All divers

This dive site is very close to Cemara Beach, making it easy to swim to during high tide. At low tide the water at some spots can be too shallow for the journey. Many dive operators on Cemara Beach use this dive site for their Open Water Course. If you are spending a day relaxing at Cemara Beach be sure to go snorkeling here.

Cuttlefish
Photo by Guntur



Kapota Pinnacle/Aquarium

Dive type: Boat

Average depth: 20m

Reef type: Submerged coral reef

Snorkeling: Very good

Recommended for: Experienced divers

Start with a big jump off the boat and dive into the clear water to find out why this site carries the nickname “Aquarium”. Your eyes will be drawn to the colorful soft corals and sponges along the reefs, as well as the bustling underwater life including candy crabs, leaf fish, snapper, grouper, trevally, fusilier, butterfly fish, cardinalfish and angelfish and many more. Follow the soft current along the wall while descending to a depth of 15-20m

where you will likely meet cuttlefish with their colorful semi-transparent bodies passing by. Spend the safety stop dive-dreaming among the colorful soft corals and sea fans. This site is easy to find and can be reached within 30 minutes by boat from Sombu. Kapota Pinnacle has amazing soft coral, which make up about 70% of all the coral at this spot. Snorkeling is also very good here.

Wandoka Pinnacle

Dive type: Boat and drift

Average depth: 16m

Reef type: Submerged coral reef

Snorkeling: Not advised

Recommended for: Experienced divers

Wandoka Pinnacle is a pinnacle with very rich biodiversity. Its shallowest point is at around 5m in depth. Depending on the current, you can dive the outer or inner part of the pinnacle, following the ridge. The bottom contour of this site consists of a drop off, a steep slope and sand with a maximum depth of 40m. At first sight the site doesn't appear very exciting, but as you descend down to 10-15m and follow the ridge you will discover the vibrant colors of the healthy hard and soft corals and huge sea fans

along the way. The site is bustling with life including giant trevally, midnight snapper, sweetlips, butterfly fish, angelfish, grouper, damselfish, anthias, batfish, wrasse, parrotfish, surgeonfish, triggerfish, boxfish, pufferfish, porcupinefish, gobies, moray eels, leaf fish and octopus. Macro wonders such as frogfish, nudibranchs, ghost pipefish and stonefish are also common here. This site is easy to find and can be reached in about 10 minutes by boat from Nua Shark Point or Sombu Jetty.







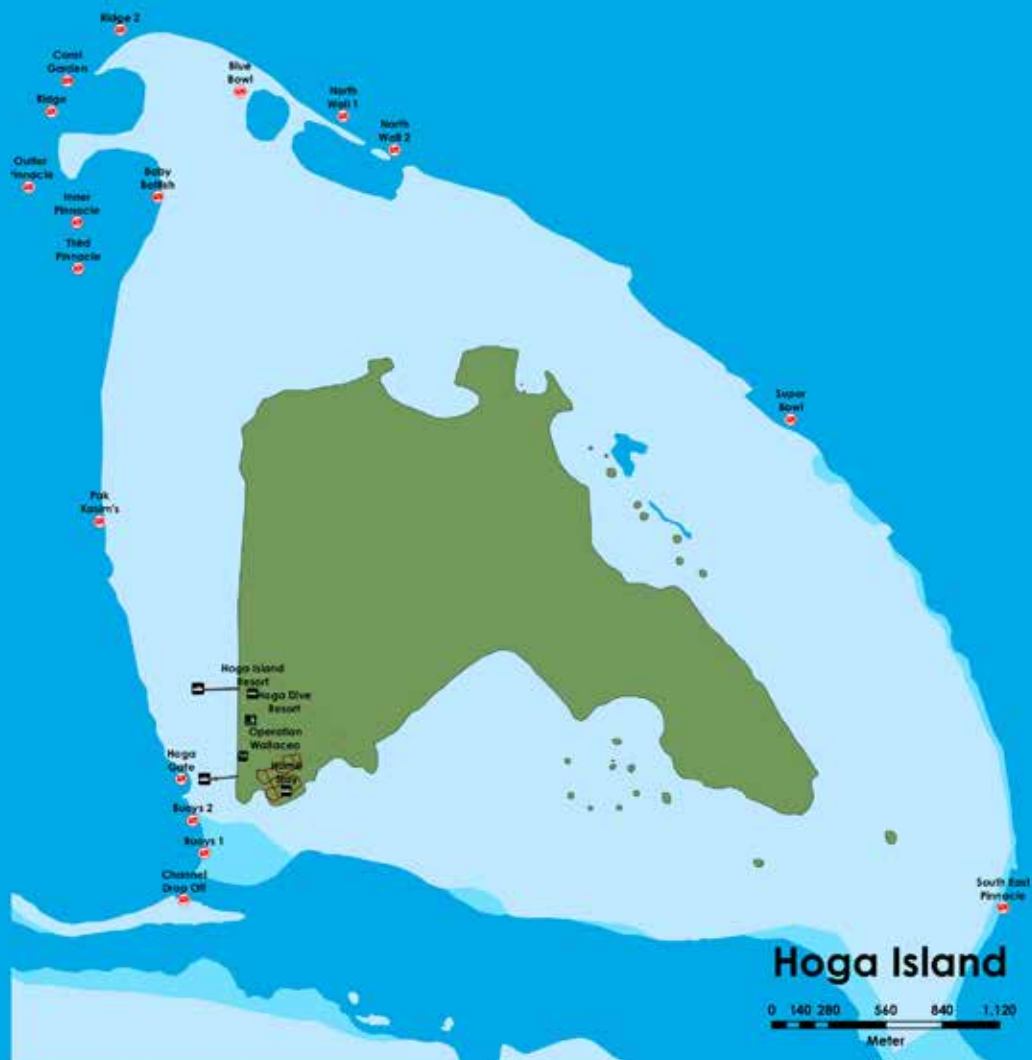
DIVE SITES IN WAKATOBI

KALEDUPA /HOGA

Near the island of Kaledupa, surrounded by pristine coral, lies its small neighbor, Hoga Island. Thanks to its unique and rich underwater world many student researchers regularly reside on this island and take part in a program run by Operation Wallacea, an organization focused on conservation research. This small paradise hosts no less than 22 dive sites, all of which can be accessed within 30 minutes by boat. Channel Drop Off, Outer Pinnacle, The Ridge, Coral Garden, North Wall, Pak Kasim's and Baby Batfish are the most popular. Your local dive operator will know which spots suit you best. On Hoga there are a few dive operators and two resorts who offer diving. Kaledupa also has a few dive sites, Kaledupa Double Spurs being the most popular of them.

KALEDUPA





Channel Drop Off

Dive type: Drift

Average depth: 15m

Reef type: -

Snorkeling: Not advised

Recommended for: Experienced divers

Owing to its relatively strong current, this is quite a challenging dive site – however, the stronger the current the larger the number of fish that will appear. The best time to dive is during slack tide (the period between high tide and low tide), as it provides divers with

fantastic views of schooling barracuda, eagle rays, longface emperors and dog-tooth tuna. The wall on the outer side leads to a sandy slope, which is home to garden eels. The site lies between Hoga and Kaledupa Islands.

Outer Pinnacle

Dive type: Wall

Average depth: 22m

Reef type: Submerged coral reef

Snorkeling: Very good

Recommended for: All divers

Located in a straight line further offshore from both Baby Batfish and Inner Pinnacle, this seamount rises out of very deep water to just 3 meters below the surface at its highest point. The Outer Pinnacle, which is around 70m long and 20m wide is home to a great number of fish, soft corals, as well as the occasional visiting turtle. The overall shape of this pinnacle is

said to resemble that of a tadpole, with the tail at the southern end. A very popular dive for more experienced divers is from the Outer Pinnacle to The Ridge. Due to the long distance, this is only recommended for divers with a significant number of logged dives and good air consumption. This longer dive will take you along a tall and narrow ridge that links the two spots.

The Ridge

Dive type: Wall, slope and drop off

Average depth: 20m

Reef type: submerged reef

Snorkeling: Depending on the current

Recommended for: Experienced divers

The Ridge is located in the northwest of the reef surrounding Hoga. The shallowest point is about 3m in depth and normally you can explore the outer part along the vertical wall. Depending on the current, you can float to the right side of the reef and dive into a coral garden overlay with its lip at a distance of 21m. Large statue-shaped coral formations are spread throughout the middle of the

bowl. All parts of the outer ridge are busy with fish and decorated with various hard and soft corals. Bargibanti pygmy seahorses are commonly found between the abundant soft coral. This is one of the spots that will leave even the most experienced diver in awe and admiration at the abundance of underwater flora. Be aware of occasionally strong currents.



North Wall

Dive type: Drift

Average depth: 30m

Reef type: -

Snorkeling: Good (seasonally)

Recommended for: All divers

The North Wall offers many different dive sites, all of them excellent. The visibility at this spot is celebrated among all divers in Wakatobi. Here you can find a huge variety of fish, as well as manta rays, spotted eagle rays and even the occasional shark. The wall is very steep, almost vertical, and covered in corals, sponges and sea whips. There are two buoys at North Wall. At Buoy 1, diving along the reef to left you will see a small indent, with a ledge full of branching soft coral. If you dive along the reef to the right you will find a large basin with a rectangular shape and sloping sides surrounded by small coral heads. Starting from Buoy 2, just after the aforementioned basin, the route to the right will take you along the wall. A sandy slope spectacularly meets the wall at around 18m. At this lip you will encounter a huge variety of anemones, which host several species of resident anemone fish. Snorkeling is usually good, however depending on the season you may encounter big waves. It is best to ask your dive operator beforehand.



Coral Garden

Dive type: Boat

Average depth: 18m

Reef type: Fringing reef

Snorkelling: Good

Recommended for: All divers

The name alone gives you an immediate idea of what you will find at Coral Garden: a delightful dive surrounded by colorful coral reefs. See your imagination become reality as you descend down the slope to encounter healthy corals growing from east to west. This site is home to fish

like trevally and snapper, as well also moray eels, sea snakes, turtles and rays. Several species of sea pen and squid are commonly seen during daytime dives. However, be aware, similar to The Ridge, the currents can be strong at this site.

Pak Kasim's

Dive type: Slope

Average depth: 30-40m

Reef type: Hard coral, fringing reef

Snorkeling: Very good

Recommended for: All divers

This site could instead be called Hoga Island Dive Resort, as this is the actual name of the small resort that Pak Kasim opened in 1998. The mooring line is located on a steep sandy slope, to the south of which is a small promontory and then a vertical wall of hard and soft corals, sponges with many schooling

fish. Heading north to the right along the reef leads to a gentler slope with patches of branching coral and intermittent rubble. At around 15m in depth you will find plenty of wonderful coral bowls. There is also hardly any current, guaranteeing a very smooth and gentle dive.

Kaledupa Double Spur

Dive type: Slope, wall

Average depth: 22m

Reef type: Sandy slope, rocky wall

Snorkeling: Good

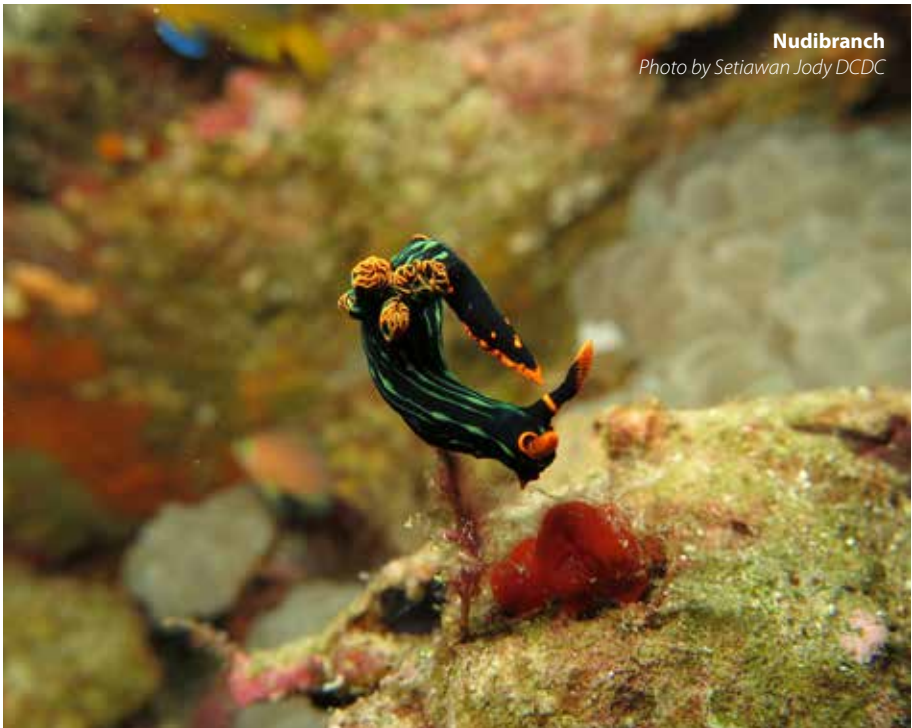
Recommended for: All divers

Depending on your boat it takes approximately 20 minutes to reach this site from Hoga but it is well worth it. Kaledupa Double Spur attracts large honeycomb rays, schooling adult batfish and schooling blue-lined sea bream to its habit of large sponges and sea fans. There have also been a few shark sightings here. As the name implies the dive site is a spur, which divides into two spurs at the seaward end to form a 'T' when viewed from the surface. On either side of the stem of the T are sand basins reaching very deep down. Even at 30m it is still not

possible to see the bottom. The top of the 'T' is a dramatic wall that is home to large sponges and sea fans. In the southern basin, sea pens can be found open in the morning and daylight hours while in the northern basin sea pens and large numbers of shy garden eels can be found.

There is also a short coral tunnel at approximately 30m in the northern spur, which will take you around the corner at the beginning of the north wall. The shallow reefs here are also very beautiful.





Nudibranch

Photo by Setiawan Jody DCDC

Nudibranch

Nudibranchs are closely related to snails, despite having lost their protective shell through the process of evolution. They produce a constant flow of mucus to allow their bodies to slide more easily. Nudibranchs feed mainly on algae and sponges. Often brightly colored, a variety of nudibranch can be found on most coral reefs throughout Wakatobi National Park, ranging in size from the miniscule to over 20cm. However, a good pair of eyes is needed to spot these creatures despite their bright colors.



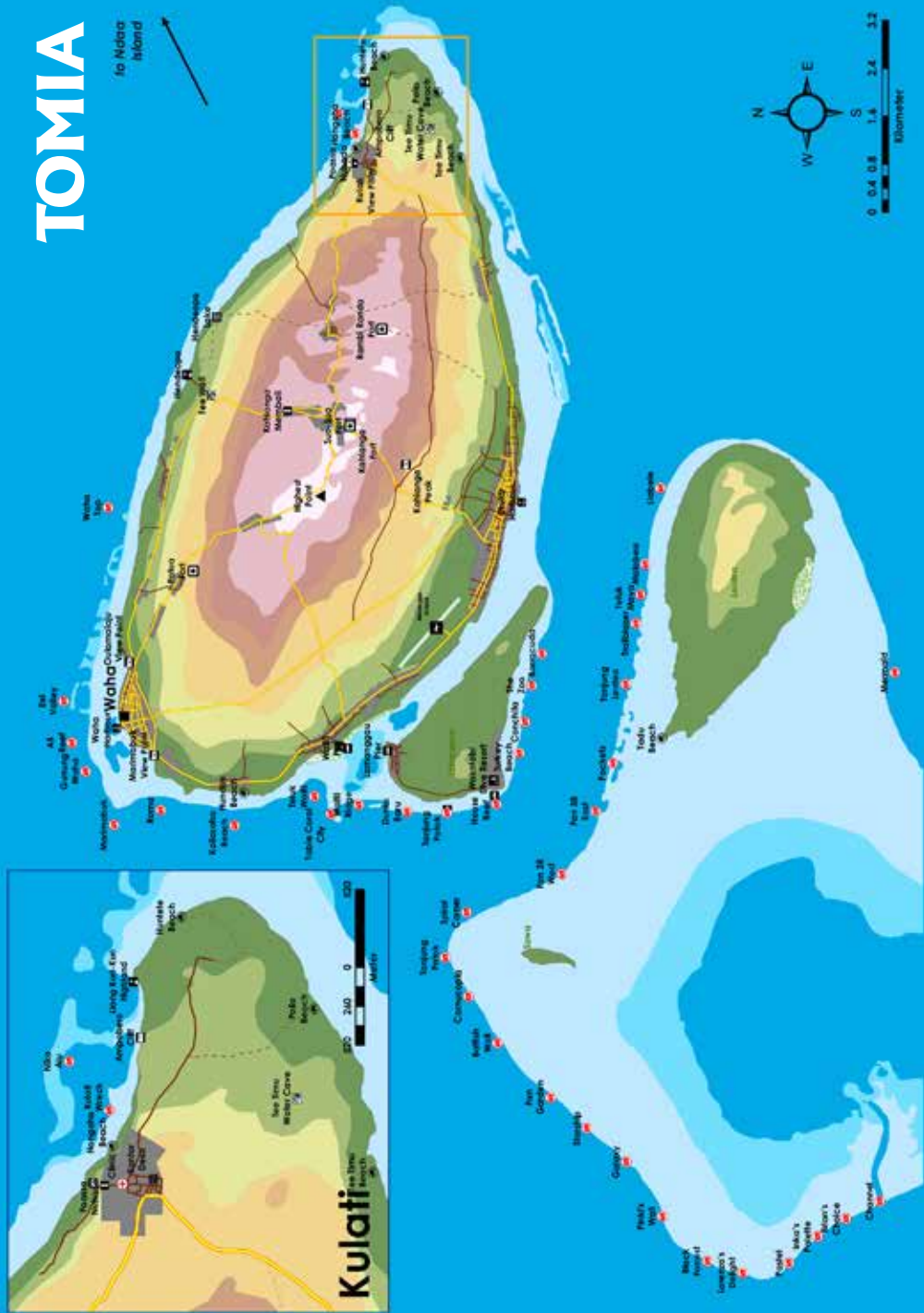


DIVE SITES IN WAKATOBI

TOMIA

Tomia is the most famous destination for diving in Wakatobi. Numerous hotels, homestays, guesthouses, a luxury resort and many dive operators have gathered on Tomia and its small neighboring island. The crystal clear waters around the island host more than 40 dive sites that have been named and mapped. Most of the dive sites are easily accessible by boat. To choose a dive spot that suits your expectations, level of experience and the season the best, ask a local dive operator. The most popular and loved dive sites are the Wreck of Kulati, Roma, Mari Mabuk, Ali Reef and Niko Alu of Kulati.

TOMIA



Wreck of Kulati

Dive type: Coral garden

Average depth: 5-20m

Reef type: Hard coral fringing reef, sandy slope

Snorkeling: Good on the inner side of the wreck

Recommended for: All divers

The Wreck of Kulati is located on the eastern side of Tomia and is only accessible when the ocean is sufficiently calm. The wreck is a sunken 30m long Japanese cargo ship with metal structures that are now heavily overgrown with corals. Head to this dive site to fulfill your dream of diving a shipwreck. The best time to dive is during a falling tide. Start at the reef flat and head toward the slope. This leads to the wreck, which lies at a depth of between 5-21m. While either diving or snorkeling, you will witness the magnificent colors of the shipwreck's corals, sponges, table corals, soft corals, anemones and a diverse range of massive hard corals. You will also see

a variety of reef fish, schooling batfish, blue streak fusilier, yellow tile fusilier, black tile snapper, rabbit fish, a number of groupers, parrotfish and various ornamental fish such as damselfish, butterfly fish, angelfish and emperor fish. Occasionally you can also see a blacktip reef shark patrolling the area. There are several ways to dive this site depending on your experience and the conditions. It is preferable to dive during a slack tide and finish the dive with a safety stop among the shallow corals. During the safety stop, you can explore the plethora of macro sea creatures such as nudibranchs, gobys, mantis shrimp and ribbon eels. There is only a weak current at this site.

Goby Fish

Photo by Akas Hamid



Niko Alu of Kulati

Dive type: Drifting and drop off

Average depth: 30-40m

Reef type: Hard coral fringing reef, submerged rock pinnacles

Snorkeling: Good

Recommended for: Very experienced divers

The Niko Alu dive site is situated on the eastern side of Tomia Island. This dive site has a variety of coral reefs that form part of a series of outer atoll reefs in Kulati that face the Banda Sea and can be categorized as an outer pinnacle. The site is quite close to the shipwreck in Kulati Village and just like the Wreck of Kulati, Niko Alu of Kulati is situated in the zone of the famous fish bank, an area protected by local law that offers a vivid display of underwater life.

The best time to dive is during a slack tide. Niko Alu has a fairly challenging current that is well suited to drift diving. Due to these conditions, usually only experienced divers are able to handle the currents, waves and tides at this site.

On the reef flat nearby, divers are given a sad reminder of the past when destructive fishing methods were still used. However, there have been very promising improvements, and the locals now prohibit the use of these methods. Thanks to this, nowa-days the reef is slowly starting to recover, and you will be able to enjoy to sight of thousands of schooling yellowtail fussier. As divers head deeper, a pinnacle wall with 95% living coral coverage can be spotted and enjoyed. The area is brought alive by snapper, rabbit fish, grouper, parrotfish, baby Napoleon wrasse, emperor fish and a number of ornamental fish species, such as angelfish, butterfly fish, damselfish and several types of goby fish that inhabit the outer pinnacle.

At the end of the dive, while performing the safety stop, underwater photographers can enjoy documenting a variety of macro sea creatures such as nudibranchs, man-tis shrimp and other species.

Kolosuha

Dive type: Drift

Average Depth: 40m

Reef type: Hard coral fringing reef

Snorkeling: Good

Recommended for: Experienced divers

Situated on the western side of Tomia Island, Kolosuha is a somewhat challenging dive spot. Categorized as a fringing reef, the site also has a drop off and moderate currents suitable for drift diving. However, depending on the time of day, the current is not as strong as other similar sites in Wakatobi. It is possible for beginners starting their Open Water certificate to enjoy diving at this site with assistance and supervision from a dive master or dive instructor. The diversity and abundance of fish will surely amaze; from schools of

pelagic fish, to fusilier, grouper, snapper, butterfly fish, angelfish and damselfish, to the diverse number of macro sea creatures such as nudibranchs, goby fish, mantis shrimp, cuttlefish, stonefish, Christmas tree worms and other species. Giant clams can also be spotted among the variety of corals and sea fans.

To dive Kolosuha, being an experienced diver with a firm knowledge of the ocean and the site's conditions is a must.

Barracuda

Photo by Setiawan Jody DCDC



Roma

Dive type: Boat and drift

Average depth: 25m

Reef type: Hard coral fringing reef and submerged rock pinnacles

Snorkeling: Good

Recommended for: All divers

Roma is an elegant coral garden shaped like a pinnacle – wide and large, fringed with a beautiful reef and massive corals. Schools of yellowtail and pick-handle barracuda, black tile snapper, damselfish as well as schools of red-tooth triggerfish can be observed across the 10m reef flat on the western side of Roma. On the reef slope, the massive corals and hard corals form large column-like structures - bringing to mind the architecture of Ancient Rome.

The best time to dive is during slack tide. The outer pinnacle has a fairly challenging current and is a good place

to practice drift diving. The rich diversity of coral reefs consists of roughly 80% massive coral and brain coral species with their many clefts forming the Ancient Rome-like structures, making for a truly unique diving experience. Other corals include various table coral and branching coral species, while a variety of sea fans can also be found. Those who prefer macro life can observe rib-bon eels, leaf scorpionfish, winged pipefish, nudibranchs, goby fish and rock-mover wrasses. During the safety stop, underwater photographers can also capture shots of rabbit fish and turtles.

Ali Reef

Dive type: Deep seamount

Average depth: 25m

Reef type: Submerged

Snorkeling: Not recommended

Recommended for: All divers

This dive site can be reached in less than 30 minutes by boat from Waha Harbor in Tomia. Ali Reef is known among veteran divers as a challenging and extremely beautiful site. Divers will swim around a seamount with a flat peak connected by a deep ridge to a long valley of table corals. The yellow color of the sun corals, also known as tubastraea, stands out vividly. Gorgonians also dominate the shallower waters. Further below, the brilliant colors of the

larger soft corals dominate the ridge. Like a big underwater city, Ali Reef is bustling with life. Divers will be in awe of the giant trevally tornados and mesmerized by comings and going of the plethora of other smaller fish. The site is also a home for sea turtles and reef sharks. Please consult your dive guide on the best time to dive, as the currents can be very strong during rising tides. If you dive early in the morning, it is recommended to bring a torch because of insufficient sunlight.



Mari Mabuk

Dive type: Drift and wall

Depth: More than 50m

Reef type: Hard coral fringing reef and submerged rock pinnacles

Snorkeling: Good, especially in shallow water of the reef flat

Recommended For: Experienced divers



Situated on the west coast of Tomia Island, the name of this dive site loosely translates to “Let’s get drunk!” This describes the feeling most divers experience after diving here, owing to both the beauty of the amazing colors of the sea fans and soft corals and as well as the strong current. This site, which is shaped similar to a pinnacle, has a diverse variety of coral reefs including hard fringing reefs and table corals, while the drop off offers amazing views of the ocean wall.

Roughly 75% of the coral coverage here is dominated by living and healthy table corals, branching corals, massive corals and brain corals that form along the wall. Located nearby Roma, the two sites are fairly similar. However, the fringing reefs at Mari Mabuk are more abundant than at Roma.

The soft corals here provide a great variety of color, which is enriched by the presence of schooling yellowtail, grouper, sweetlips, red-tooth triggerfish, snapper and number of ornamental fish including damselfish, butterfly fish and rabbit fish, as well as turtles. Macro creatures are also abundant.

The best time to dive is during slack tide. This dive site has a fairly strong current, which is suited to drift diving. Because of this current, it is recommended that only experienced and skillful divers with sufficient information about the site dive here.



Fish Schooling

Photo by Onenk Han DCDC



Ali Reef

Photo by Seto Ariyadi

Dive with sea turtle

Photo by Akas Hamid





DIVE SITES IN WAKATOBI

BINONGKO

The waters around Binongko remain little explored, except by its inhabitants who fish using small boats and traditional tools. There is no dive operator in Binongko. Adventurous divers seeking to explore the far reaches of Wakatobi's underwater world will have to rent a boat from nearest island (Tomia) and bring all their dive equipment (including filled tanks) to Binongko. However, it is well worth the effort as Binongko offers a rich and pristine marine environment. A variety of hard corals dominate the dive sites on the west of the island, and while in the east corals are scarcer and hundreds of turtles can be found. Thanks to strict protections under local law, the turtle population here is very healthy, making it the turtle capital of Wakatobi. The conditions depend on the season, with easterly or westerly winds. To date, 14 dive sites have been mapped around Binongko, with many more to follow in the future. Listed below are some of the ones that have been properly explored and assessed.

BINONGKO



Lighthouse at Haka

Dive type: Step slope and drop off

Average depth: 30m

Reef type: Hard coral slope

Snorkeling: Not advised; consult your guide for nearby snorkeling spots

Recommended for: Experienced and adventure divers

Located in the north of Binongko, this dive begins on the eastern side of the light-house. From the beginning, this dive will challenge even the most experienced di-vers, with waves and currents throwing divers around after jumping off the boat. Once all divers are ready, descend to 15m and swim to the east, following the slope. The slope descends more than 40m and expert divers will be rewarded by the sight of huge schools of big eye trevally

curiously following along. Green sea turtles, snapper, grouper, bumphead parrotfish, cockatoo fish and other members of the carangidae family are also common here. The conditions here can be erratic so it is essential to seek advice from an experienced guide who is able to evaluate the conditions above and below the water. Strong currents mean this site is unsuitable for inexperienced divers and can even render it impossible to dive.



One Melangka Beach / Rinu

Dive type: Slope wall and drop off

Average depth: 25m

Reef type: Hard coral encrusted rocky wall

Snorkeling: Good

Recommended for: All divers

The One Melangka Beach dive site has an easy entry. You can simply jump in at any point roughly 60m from the white sand beach shores. The colorful coral shines through the shallow water, making it an ideal place for snorkeling. Snorkelers often spot eagle rays near the lip of the reef. The dive is accessible from the beach; however, using a

boat to reach the deeper waters is recommended. The best time to dive is in the afternoon when the sun illuminates the coral filled slope. Batfish, grouper and snapper can be spotted swimming close to the wall, while turtles, Napoleon fish and bumphead parrotfish are also commonly found also.

Palahidu Beach

Dive type: Slope wall

Average depth: 20m

Reef type: Rocky reef

Snorkeling: Good near the lip of the reef

Recommended for: All divers

The Palahidu Beach dive site is located to the northeast of Binongko with its entry point around 100m from the beach on the lip of the reef. Follow the lip of the reef and along the way you will spot lots of turtles swimming around the

divers or hiding in the cove or behind corals. Meeting turtles at this site is guaranteed while diving or snorkeling. Various fish including batfish, snapper, triggerfish and cockatoo fish are also commonly found here.



**PEOPLE,
CULTURE
AND ISLAND
ACTIVITIES**

Flora and Fauna

From the arid island of Binongko, with its moon-like landscape full of jagged volcanic rocks, to the humid swamps of Kapota and the lush green forests of Kaledupa; the natural diversity of Wakatobi is representative of the beauty that characterizes Indonesia. The natural environments vary from island to island, each with their own unique charm, capturing the diversity that many travelers find so beautiful and addictive about the Indonesian archipelago as a whole.

In addition to the coral reefs of Wakatobi National Park, six types of vegetation can be found on the islands: Mangrove forest, coastal forest, lowland swamp forest, riverbank vegetation, lowland rainforest and mountain rainforest. Beyond these vivid displays of flora, many arid areas, where few plants can survive in the rocky ground, hint at the volcanic origins of the islands.

Mangrove forests play a vital role in the ecological balance of the islands and the surrounding ocean. The Indomalayan biogeographic realm (in which Wakatobi is located) is home to a diverse range of mangroves. Not only do they provide protection for the shoreline from storms and tsunamis, they form a substantial part of the ecosystem of the surrounding waters. In Wakatobi, mangroves are closely associated with extensive sea-grass beds and reefs. Fish use the mangroves as safe high tide feeding grounds and nursery areas. But it is not just the lives

of the fish that are intertwined with the mangroves; scrubfowls build huge nests in the mangroves that can reach over 2m high, while white-bellied sea eagles nest in mature trees that offer just the kind of niche these birds require. Mudskippers, amphibious crabs and monitor lizards all inhabit the ground below the mangroves, while colorful butterflies play overhead. The mangroves also feed the surrounding ocean with essential organic carbon and nutrients. These fascinating ecosystems can be found throughout Wakatobi, and can be explored either by boat, on foot or even with a motorbike.



(Source: Mangrove Forests of the Wakatobi National Park by Simon M. Cragg and Ian W. Hendy)
(<http://www.rainforestconcern.org>)

Birds



With over 85 species, the most astonishing diversity among the above water species of Wakatobi can be found among its birds. From the prolific mangrove forests, which are protected by local law and NGOs, to the small islands around Limbo Langge, to the unexplored reaches of Binongko and the many areas yet to be discovered, numerous rare species of bird can be found.

Indonesia itself has the highest number of endemic birds of any country on the planet—some 383 species. The country is also a transit route for many birds that migrate between Australia and the islands of the Pacific Ocean. With so many islands and so many isolated habitats, speciation (the formation of new and distinct species in the course of evolution) is also common.

Recent studies on the bird populations of the Wakatobi archipelago have revealed that many smaller bird species are morphologically and genetically

distinct from their mainland relatives. The outcome of this work could earn Wakatobi international recognition as an Important Bird Area.

A recently discovered species is the Wakatobi flowerpecker (*Dicaeum kuehni*). Re-search conducted by Trinity College Dublin has shown that these birds are distinct from the grey-sided flowerpecker (*Dicaeum celebicum*), which is endemic to Indonesia. Wakatobi flowerpeckers do not cross the ocean to the mainland and thus do not mix or interbreed with their mainland relatives. They are also significantly larger. But this one particular evolutionary divergence is really just the tip of the iceberg.

The best places for bird watching in Wakatobi include the mangrove forests and small islands that surround Limbo Langge on Kaledupa Island, Sombano Lake and the mangrove forests of Tomia Island, Lentea Island and Sowa Mangrove Forest on Binongko Island.

Birds

- Common kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*)
- Moluccan king parrot (*Alisterus amboinensis*)
- White-browed crane (*Amaurornis cinerea*)
- White-breasted woodswallow (*Artamus leucorhynchus*)
- Ivory-backed woodswallow (*Artamus monachus*)
- Striated heron (*Butorides striatus*)
- Plaintive cuckoo (*Cacomantis merulinus*)
- Yellow-crested cockatoo (*Cacatua sulphurea*)
- Malaysian plover (*Charadrius peronii*)
- Grey-sided flowerpecker (*Dicaeum celebicum*)
- Sulawesi drongo (*Dicrurus montanus*)
- Hair-crested drongo (*Dicrurus hottentottus*)
- Pied imperial pigeon (*Ducula bicolor*)
- Elegant imperial pigeon (*Ducula concinna*)
- Little egret (*Egretta garzetta*)
- Pacific reef heron (*Egretta sacra*)
- Rufous-throated flycatcher (*Ficedula rufigula*)
- Barred dove (*Geopelia maugei*)
- Collared kingfisher (*Halcyon chloris*)
- Orange-footed scrubfowl (*Megapodius reinwardt*)
- Island monarch (*Monarcha cinerascens*)
- Olive-backed sunbird (*Nectarinia jugularis*)
- Nankeen night heron (*Nycticorax caledonicus*)
- Black-naped oriole (*Oriolus chinensis*)
- Australian golden whistler (*Pachycephala pectoralis*)
- Osprey, sea hawk (*Pandion haliaetus*)
- Great cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)
- Glossy ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*)
- White-browed Crane (*Poliolimnas cinerea*)
- Rusty-bellied Fantail (*Rhipidura teysmanni*)
- Spotted dove (*Streptopelia chinensis*/*Spilopelia chinensis*)
- Great-billed parrot (*Tangynathus megalorynchos*)

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Buton Heritage

In the past, the islands of what is known today as Wakatobi were a melting pot of Hindu and traditional cultures, with a Muslim kingdom rising on Kaledupa. The is-lands remained divided into these small communities until the 16th century when the expanding Sultanate of Buton cast its eye over these strategically important islands.

In an attempt to gain control of Wakatobi, the Butonese sent a spy, whose name is still known today, Midao. After reporting back to his sultan, Midao's brother, Lakasa-fari gathered an army and lay siege to the islands, one by one, starting with Binongko before moving on to defeat the King of Kulati in Tomia. When the army arrived in Kaledupa they met strong resistance from the Kaledupa kings. Even though the Butonese were fellow Muslims, the Kaledupa kings refused to become part of the Butonese Sultanate. Their resistance was finally shattered at a battle in Sombano, from which the area earned its name—Sombano means “to bow down” in the local language.

After the various leaders and kings of Wakatobi had been defeated, the entire archi-pelago became a „Barata“ of the Butonese Sultanate. A Barata was an autonomous government loyal to the sultanate that served as an outer protective ring of Buton. Kaledupa was designated to be the center of the Barata. The former royals of the is-lands either fled from the Butonese invaders or intermarried with them. The de-



scendants of the conqueror Lakasafari still own large amounts of land to this day.

Despite its history, Wakatobi's culture today cannot be described as purely Butonese; instead, it is a mix of ancient customs and Butonese traditions. However, if asked, many locals describe their origins as Butonese.

The spread of Islam throughout the islands is perhaps the major cultural legacy of the sultanate that lasts until today, with almost all inhabitants of Wakatobi considering themselves Muslim. They do practice a pure Islamic

faith, however, as many people still believe in spirits and many skilled and revered shamans can be found throughout the islands.

The fierce spirit of resistance displayed by the inhabitants of Kaledupa can also still be felt today. The people of this island consider themselves to be

less than diplomat-ic and rather rough, often preferring to decide disputes with a fight rather than words. Traditional martial arts are practiced all around the island. In Tomia and Binongko, the Butonese tribes of Ciacia and Berabera have each preserved onto their very unique cultures and languages.

Bajo

Many myths and legends surround the seafaring nomadic people known as the Bajo. While they consider themselves Muslim, and construct mosques in most of their settlements, they have maintained their long-held belief in spirits. When they converted to Islam, they transformed their old ancestral belief in the coexistence of a spiritual world to be simply translated as Allah. The spiritual maritime domain of the Bajo is without boundaries; it is infinite like the ocean.

Numerous local legends trace the origins of the Bajo to the disappearance or abduction of a princess. The king ordered a band of people to search the ocean for his daughter, and forbade them from returning should they not succeed. Failing to find the princess, these people and their decedents have sailed the ocean ever since.

Variants of the Malay term “Bajau”

(e.g. Badjaw, Badjao, Bajo, etc.) are commonly applied to a variety of mostly seafaring Sama-Bajau-speaking peoples whose scattered settlements can be found throughout the vast region of islands and coastal areas that extends from the southern Philippines to the northern and eastern coasts of Borneo, and eastward over much of eastern Indonesia, from Sulawesi to Timor. In eastern Indonesia the Bajau are called “Bajo” by the Bugis and both “Bajo” and “Turijene” (people of the water) by the Makassarese.

Wakatobi is home to many Bajo communities; some located on the islands’ shores, others in the middle of the ocean. There are typically three different types of Bajo settlement. At one extreme, among Bajo boat-dwellers, are small communities of scattered moorage groups made up of several families who regularly return, between intervals of fishing, to



a common anchorage site. Somewhat less intense are the stilt-house villages made up of families whose members regularly rotate between the village and extended periods at sea as boat-dwelling fishing crews. Today, however, the most common form of Bajo settlement are well-established stilt-house villages where village members fish largely in all-male crews, on a daily or overnight basis, returning to the village for meals and to sleep. Such settlements generally consist of densely clustered houses built in strategic locations.

The largest Bajo settlements in Wakatobi are Mola on Wangi Wangi Island and Mantigola and Sampela on Kaledupa Island.

In the early seventeenth century, Dutch accounts of Sulawesi had recorded the presence of large numbers of Bajo around Makassar. Following Makassar's defeat to the Dutch and Bugis forces in 1669, many of these communities were said to have dispersed to other islands such as those in Wakatobi.

In Sabah, on the island of Borneo, the Mat Salleh Revolt (1894-1900), the first major uprising against European rule in the region, was led by a man of Bajo-Sulu ancestry. Since 1963, when Sabah gained independence from European rule as part of Malaysia, and throughout most of the postcolonial period, the Bajo, as the largest minority group of Muslim faith, have played a decisive role in state politics, disproportionate to their numbers. In Indonesia, change has

been rapid since independence, with Bajo communities facing government pressure to abandon their nomadic seafaring ways. Today, the majority of Bajo now live in coastal villages, where they continue to practice fishing, trading and other maritime pursuits for their livelihood.

Young and old, the Bajo are a colorful, festive and musical people. From the story of their ancestry, they are believed to be the descendants of royalty. This is perhaps partly why they wear such brilliantly colorful clothes, often made by hand from traditional dastar fabric. Brides and grooms wear even more vibrant clothing at their weddings. The more highly regarded a woman is, the more brightly and flashy she will be dressed. The Bajo are also keen artists, and create traditional ornaments from seashells and turtle shells, and embellish their houses, boats, furnishings and grave markers with carved designs.

The Bajo see themselves, in contrast to their neighbors, as nonaggressive people who prefer flight to physical confrontation, usually carrying only a sarong as a “weapon” with them. As a consequence, the politically dominant groups of the region have historically viewed these peaceful nomads as rather timid people.

Source: Sather, Clifford. "Bajau." Encyclopedia of World Cultures. 1996. Encyclopedia.com. 9 May. 2016

Living among the Bajo Sun, Sea and Sampela Edward Bass



My name is Edward Bass. I have been lucky enough to live in the Bajo village of Sampela for three months and will remain here for a total of eight months. During my time in the village I have been able to see how the villagers go about their day-to-day lives, and have become familiar with the struggles the villagers face.

Daily life in the village is dominated by the tides, a concept completely foreign to someone who has spent his whole life living on land. My first couple of weeks was spent adjusting to the notion that the day starts when the sun rises and ends when the sun sets.

The Bajo village of Sampela, while so far removed from the hustle and bustle of the western world, is a village that never truly sleeps. The community of around 1,700 people live in a cluster of stilt houses that rise out of the water between the islands of Kaledupa and Hoga, in Wakatobi National Park, Indonesia. The village is surrounded by the sea that the Bajo rely on so heavily for their survival, and the incessant noise of women shouting, boat engines running and village chickens clucking at all hours of the day, gives the village its distinctive sound. The walkways between houses act as streets and are the most popular places to gather with friends. Each group has their own spot to gather and discuss the latest news.

Describing the daily life and routine of the Bajo is a somewhat complicated task. The people of Sampela are active right throughout the day; fishermen can be heard heading out to sea at all hours, even during the early hours of the morning. Their lives are dictated by the tides, but their day usually starts at around 5am. This is when "Sampela Radio" starts. This is the village's means of communication and of spreading news, but it is not broadcast from a radio tower. Instead, it relies on people shouting from one house to

another. The early hours of the day are dominated by the sounds of fishermen going out to sea and of women getting their households ready for the day. This involves paddling around one kilometer to the local market to fill their jerry cans with freshwater. However, as the market is inaccessible during low tide, the fresh water sellers on Kaledupa open at 2am when high tide is in the early morning.

While the fishermen are out at sea in the mornings, some women earn extra money by making an assortment of bread and doughnuts to sell. The children in the village start school around 6.30-7am. There is a primary, secondary and high school in Sampela, however, because the teachers must travel from Kaledupa, school is also dependent on the tides. Because of this, the education in Sampela is not the best. Combined with the common mindset of “why do I need an education if all I’ll be is a fishermen” means that some adults remain illiterate. While this situation is changing and the importance of education is becoming increasingly acknowledged, many children still do not go to school, and can instead be seen playing in the sea or accompanying their parents during their daily activities. Any tourist or westerner visiting the village will be greeted by a barrage of children shouting “Hello turis!” or “Siapa na-ma?” It’s very endearing.

The fishermen return around midday. Many of them still fish on the nearby reefs that surround the village, using a

variety of techniques, each with their own specific skills. The method for which the Bajo are most well known is their skill for free-dive spear gun fishing. Some members of the village are capable of holding their breath for up to three minutes, while diving to depths of over 20m and being able to walk along the sea floor. For a multitude of reasons, fish stocks in the area have declined year on year. This led to use of destructive fishing practices in the past, such as bomb and cyanide fishing, which have had severe repercussions on the health of the reefs. No fishermen will admit to using these methods today, but it is known they continue to be used by some members of the community. Once the fishermen return with their catch, it is then up to the women to take the fish to the market in Kaledupa.

During midday, when the sun is at its hottest, the village will take a mid-day “siesta”. This lasts until around 3pm. After that, the village finds its voice once again and Sampela Radio finds a new playlist featuring the day’s gossip. Afternoons in the village are spent with the men and women gathering in groups, chatting with friends. The women in the village will discuss local gossip while searching for lice in each other’s hair, while the men sit around with their friends exchanging information about the days fishing, while smoking and playing dominos. If low tide comes in the afternoon, the women and children will also go

gleaning for shellfish on the sea grass flats that surround the village. On some occasions the village can feel vacant when many people go out gleaning. Gleaning is a simple method of fishing that involves walking along the seagrass beds at low tide and collecting the shellfish that live there.

Early in the evening the villagers will start to cook their dinner, often consisting of only fish cooked on an open fire with boiled rice or cassava bread. The village has roughly 12 hours of day light due to its close proximity to the equator, meaning by six o'clock the sun has already set. Evenings are spent with the men gathering around the billiard table, smoking and relaxing, with the occasional occurrence of gambling. Women gather in their respective groups to gossip and relay

the daily news to each other. Homes connected to the village generator, which usually runs from 6pm to around 11pm, become centers for socializing. Groups of 10-20 people can be seen huddled in a house in front their neighbor's TV, watching either football or an Indonesian soap opera, depending on who has control of the remote; a predicament reminiscent of many homes. At night the village takes on an almost party-like atmosphere. As soon as the village generator comes on, houses will start playing music at near full volume for the rest of the neighborhood to enjoy, or endure. This will continue long after many have attempted to go to sleep and until the generator is turned off. However, from around 8-9pm the village starts to sleep, in preparation for another day. During the night, a chorus of cats



Sama Bahari or Bajo Sampela

Photo by Seto Ariyadi

fornicating and fighting can be heard alongside the sounds of chickens clucking, providing you with what could be termed the “Sampela Lullaby”.

Life in Sampela is hard! The people of the village live without many of the luxuries of western life we take for granted, such as running water, electricity and the wide range of food available to us from all over the globe. Yet the people in this village are immensely proud of their lifestyle and their community. Poverty is apparent but the Bajo are not broken and miserable because of it. They feel it’s what makes them strong. The kids are allowed to swim in the water around their houses because it makes them strong. Fishing everyday to earn money to feed your family

makes you strong and eating a simple diet of fish and rice makes you strong. Poverty in itself is a subjective term, relative to the polarizations of wealth someone has been exposed to. For the Bajo, while they do not hold the same financial and material capital as us in the “developed” world, their social and traditional knowledge far outweighs any limitations in material wealth. They are rarely left wanting, and make just enough money to support their families and put food on the table.

As the men are away for most of the day fishing, the women are just as capable in many aspects of life. While there is a clear gender division of household roles, if one is absent the other is able to fulfill the duties of their partner





without trouble. From a young age, the children are also perfectly capable of earning their own money and finding their own food from gleaning or fishing around the village.

There are issues and problems in the village, as there are in any society, but the Ba-jo, I feel, are resourceful enough to overcome them. For example, during the worst of the economic downturn in the West, some of the Bajo had a pretty good time economically. The price of lobster tripled for no reason, as far as they knew, and they cashed in while the prices were still high.

If the world were to fall into complete apocalyptic anarchy tomorrow, it would be the communities and societies still able to live without relying on the trappings of modern life that would survive. This is what makes the Bajo strong, not what makes them weak.



Colossal Dance

Photo by Amal Hermawan



FESTIVALS



Sama Karia
Photo by Guntur

Karia'a

Wakatobi is rich with cultural traditions, ceremonies and coastal festivals. One of these ceremonies is Karia'a, a rite usually held after Ramadhan that has its roots way back in the Buton Sultanate. The custom sees young girls dress up in traditional Wakatobi clothes with headdresses made of colorful paper flowers. They sit on a palanquin carried by a group of men (usually family relatives) and are paraded along the streets enlivened by the dancing and singing of older women. Karia'a is intended to purify their souls before reaching adolescence. You can observe this ritual right across the islands after Eid al-Fitr or Eid al-Adha.

Kabuenga

Kabuenga is an old but fun tradition in which young people find their soul mates by playing on swings! This ceremony gives youngsters a chance to meet-up and get to know each other. It starts with a sacred ritual with an elderly leader praying for happiness and welfare. Young women, accompanied by their parents, show up in magnificent colorful traditional

dressess, while the young men also wear their finest attire to attract the girls. Young couples will be invited to ride the swings and recite some prayers. Locals believe this ceremony will bless the young people to help them find their future life partners. This tradition is practiced on all the islands, most commonly on Wangi Wangi and Kaledupa.



Festival Barata Kahedupa
Photo by Muis Brojest

Barata Kahedupa

Barata Kahedupa is a large traditional festival held in Kaledupa, typically in September. The festival aims to illustrate the richness of the island's culture and heritage, with many different spectacles including the mystical Lariangi dance and ceremonies such as the purifying Karia'a. This ritual, which has been practiced since 1260 AD, requires young women to fast and attend a retreat on femininity and wisdom. The pinnacle of the festival sees these young women dress up like Kaledupa princesses and be paraded through the streets on palanquin carried by men while older women sing and perform dances.

Indonesian Independence Day

To celebrate Indonesia's Independence Day, every August 17th, an official ceremony is held at Lapangan Merdeka (Independence Field), on the 15th and 16th of August, on the main road of Wangi Wangi Island. Groups of people will parade through the streets, wearing traditional costumes. Typically, every school, institution and organization will send representatives to participate in a marching competition.

Festival Pulau Tomia

This festival is held on Tomia Island, usually after *Idul Fitri*. The festive people of To-mia gather for ceremonies, energetic dances and a celebration of their island's spirit. One of the highlights is *Sajo Moane*, a sacred dance performed by young men. It symbolizes the readiness of the warriors to confront war. Another performance is *Saride*, which represents unity and is a long-standing tradition within the tribal Tomia ethnicity.

Wakatobi WAVE

Wakatobi WAVE is a grand annual event held in Wangi Wangi every November. This event goes beyond any ordinary cultural festival. It features traditional dances, rituals, music and food, as well as folk games and a carnival. A grand performance with hundreds and hundreds of performers is one of the peak events. A major ritual is Tamburu Liya, a sacred procession where 15 honored elders from Liya parade their traditional spear and drum. The Karia'a parade is also a key part of the festivities and features children wearing colorful traditional dresses with girls also wearing headdresses adorned with flowers and golden accessories. For one full week, Wangi Wangi comes alive with an extraordinary blend of music, colorful costumes and a joyous atmosphere, with people of all different ages participating in the cheerful occasion. It is a mesmerizing experience.

Sail Indonesia

Sail Indonesia is an annual yacht rally held in Indonesia. The event is organized by Yayasan Cinta Bahari Indonesia (YCBI) and supported by various tourist destinations across the archipelago. It was established with the goal of introducing visitors to the delightful natural and cultural features of the Indonesian archipelago in order to expand and promote tourism in less frequently visited locations.

Festival Pulau Tukang Besi

This festival highlights one of the most important aspects of the Wakatobi identity. In the past, the chain of islands now known as Wakatobi, used to be called "*Pulau Tukang Besi*"—the Blacksmith Archipelago. This form of craftsmanship is still very important today. The island of Binongko, which has by far the highest number of blacksmiths, celebrates this cultural and economic pillar of their society every year, usually in April or March. The blacksmiths on Binongko are praised for the quality of their parang (machetes), which are sold all over Indonesia. During the festival the entire production process is demonstrated and the elders recite the underlying philosophy behind the craft. Numerous traditional games are also held as part of this unique festival.

Festival Barata Kahedupa

Photo by Muis Bhojest

A photograph of a sailboat on the water during sunset. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and grey clouds. Several people are silhouetted against the bright sky on the deck of the boat. One person is captured mid-jump, falling over the side of the boat into the water. The boat has a white cabin and a tall mast with many ropes.

**WANGI
WANGI**



City Map Wanci

Wangi-Wangi Island



- Karaoke/Cafes**
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 - 107 Bintang Family Karaoke
 - 108 Planet Karaoke
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 - 141 Post Office
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 - 148 Tourism Gort. Office
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WANGI-WANGI ISLAND



Introduction

All roads lead to Rome and in Wakatobi all travels go through Wangi-Wangi Island.

Commercial flights to the local Matahora Airport and the harbor in Wanci make this island the doorway for all visitors to the archipelago. Wangi-Wangi Island consists of numerous small villages and the main town of Wanci.

Wanci is the center of transportation, economics, finance, government and shopping.

The uniqueness of Wangi-Wangi is its easy access to different tourism activities. For visitors interested in culture, the village of Bajo Mola and

heritage sites like Liya Togo offer interesting surroundings and cultural events. The island's beaches invite you to swim and the freshest seafood awaits you in the three markets. With a motorbike or a car everything is in easy reach, and with only two major roads, getting around is simple.

There are many options to spend the night, as well as a nice resort that is perfect for a few days relaxation. For those who enjoy diving there are some easily accessible dive sites around the island. Most visitors will stay on Wangi-Wangi Island for at least one or two nights to catch flights and boats to other islands.

Liya Togo



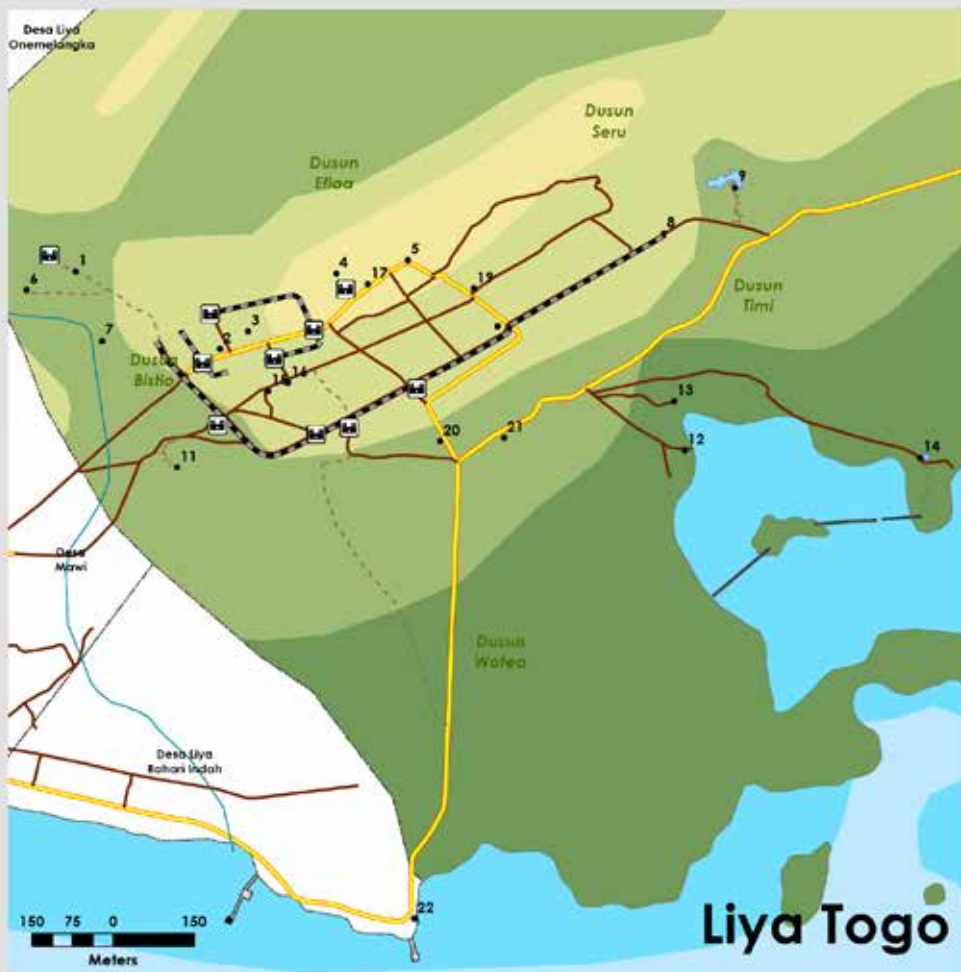
Children in traditional costume
Photo by Guntur

One of the best locations to experience the island's cultural heritage up close is the village of Liya Togo in the south of Wangi-Wangi. The inhabitants of this village have preserved their traditional values and rituals for decades and live their lives accordingly. The remains of historic architecture can be found and numerous cultural events are held throughout the year including the *Lariangi Liya* and *Honari Mosega* dances, which are both long-held traditions in Wakatobi.

Liya Togo sits atop a small hill not far from the coast, about 15km from Wanci. Most of the villagers live in

traditional wooden stilt houses, which their inhabitants say have remained unchanged since the Kingdom of Liya.

Historically, the village was led by a *Meantu'u* (leader of Liya) and his house was called *Kamali*. The Kingdom of Liya was surrounded by three layers of fortifications, which still can still be seen today. The gates of the outer two layers were protected by guards to defend against the marauding sea pirates of the Banda Sea. Two gates in the inner layer were called *Lawa Lingu* and served as secret evacuation paths for the king and his government in a time of emergency. These gates were



Historical Sites

1. Kampo Molengo
2. Mubarak Mosque
3. Baluara Bastion
4. Ponto Lange
5. Watu Sahu'u Rock

Natural Spots

6. Uwe Moori Water Cave

7. Uwe Ehuhu Water Cave
8. Woru Nunu Tree
9. Kohonda'o Water Cave
10. Wasialingku Cave
11. Tamba'a Water Cave
12. Oa Seru Bay
13. Kolo Pimpi Bay
14. Uwe Emoito Water Cave

Others

15. Liya Togo Village Office
16. Tenun Craftsman Village
17. Traditional Dance Troup Eflaa
18. Kamali House
19. Traditional Dance Troup Seru
20. Traditional Dance Troup Wotea
21. TIC Liya View Port
22. Monument

built to complement the fortifications during the 12th regency (1730-1750) by King La Ode Ali.

In addition to its historical importance, the village itself is very beautiful. Rows of centuries old frangipani trees provide shade for the cemetery of Liya's most celebrated figures and leaders. Inside the outer layer of the fortress, visitors are invited to stroll through a residential area of simple wooden stilt houses and enjoy observing the various activities that make up the everyday lives of the local community. Picture a scene of elderly women weaving underneath stilt houses, chatting merrily while pulling threads and rotating their looms, slowly creating magnificent fabrics rich with various colorful motifs. Artisans weave pandanus leaves to make mats, fishermen repair their nets or busy themselves working on bamboo to make fishing gear. In Liya Togo, most women apply traditional powder for treating and cooling facial skin. In the afternoon, the children usually play *Hebaongko*, a game where they race while walking on coconut shells.

At the shoreline, on the outskirts of the village, visitors can take a rest and enjoy sip-ping on a young coconut in the shade of the large banyan trees, known locally as woru nunu, while looking out across the sea to the islands that surround Wangi-Wangi. Although close to the sea, the village of Liya has an abundance of fresh water, with 10 freshwater springs throughout the village. Visitors can also take a dip in the

fresh water lakes. If you're feeling active, you can walk along the rocky plateau toward the sea where traditional canoes wait at the shore. Aboard the canoes you can cruise to the natural surrounds of O'a Bay where you will be greeted happily by the numerous local fisherman who dock there.

At twilight, visitors can watch fascinating traditional dances. On such dance is the *Lariangi Liya* performance, in which a group of young women dance while singing poems that recount stories of heroism, love and local knowledge. The graceful movements and enchanting singing are accompanied by the rhythms of gong drums, and will inevitably put you under a spell.

Cuisine

Enjoying Liya Togo's traditional dishes such as susuru (bowsprit cakes), onde-onde and wadhe (glutinous sweet rice cake) is a must. Don't miss the delicious tamarind juice, the main ingredient of which grows wild all around the village. For lunch or dinner, visitors can order soami (a rice substitute made from cassava) with fresh moringa leaf and a wide variety of fresh fish. The ingredients are all organic and come straight from the local's gardens and the sea and are guaranteed to pamper your taste buds. Delve deeper onto Liya's local cuisine by taking a cooking class with the local community. The dishes are easy to make and the experience will surely leave you with fond memories.

Mangania

Mangania is the name for a feast held during important occasions in the village to express gratitude and praying for the prosperity of Liya Togo. These occasions can be a bountiful harvest, abundant marine life, inauguration of heritage buildings or a child's birth. During the event groups of young girls in colorful traditional dresses bring offerings of flowers, drinks and snacks while humming a unique kind of poetry called „Kadandio“. It is common believe that Kadandio poems can only be created in a joyful state of mind and this happiness will reflect upon all those who hear it. All visitors are welcome to join in this celebration. During mangania, youngsters have a chance to meet-up and get to know each other.



Baluara

Photo by Guntur

Nighttime activities

Come nighttime, visitors can choose to mingle with the friendly locals of Liya Togo who are happy to tell stories about their history, culture and local wisdom while sip-ping on a cup of coffee and snacking on fried yam. When the moon is bright and the tide is low, you can also accompany the local fishermen as they search for crabs, clams and other marine creatures. Armed with only torchlight and simple fishing gear, it's a lot of fun to catch your meals with your own hands.

If you visit during Ramadhan or after *Idul Adha*, make sure you to watch *Posepa'a*, a traditional battle performance and *Honari Mosega*, a traditional heroic dance per-formed by a group of men. The village is south of Wanci and is reachable by motor-bike or car in 20 to 30 minutes. Take the main road, Jalan Poros Liya, from the cen-ter of Wanci, and follow it south until you reach Liya.

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Markets

Wanci has three traditional markets that are all worth a visit.

Pasar Sentral Mola (Central Market of Mola)

Pasar Sentral Mola is the largest of the markets and is located close to Bajo Mantigo-la village around 10 minutes drive from the center of Wanci at the Kantor Bupati (re-gent office). In the morning, small vendors sell an assortment of delicious cakes and sweet baked goods in front of the market. In the maze of the market you can find great souvenirs like sarongs and traditional knives from Binongko. Dried and fresh fish are also sold, as well as vegetables, fruits, clothes, cosmetics and other daily necessities. The market is not designed for tourists; rather it's where the locals do their daily shopping, so a visit will give you a truly authentic experience of an Indonesian market, with all the shouts of the sellers, the salty smell of the fish and the general hustle and bustle. The best time to visit is in the morning before noon.

Pasar Pagi (Morning Market)

The morning market is also a good place to visit. It is located in central Wanci, only a short walk from the *Kantor Bupati*. Here you can find a similar variety of goods as central market, including clothes, kitchen accessories, fresh fish and greens. It's best to visit early in the morning to get the freshest vegetables.



Pasar Malam (Night Market)

As soon as the sun is setting, the night market in Wanci comes to life. It offers a great choice of the freshest seafood, vegetables and fruits. You can see the day's catch spread out on wooden tables. A wide variety of snapper, tuna, barracuda, crabs and the foodies delight, sea urchins, are all for sale. The sea urchins are best enjoyed raw or slightly steamed and are offered at an unbeatable price. In front of the market, grilled fish and a variety of traditional dishes are prepared for you to enjoy on the spot or to take away. The night market is located at Marina Bay close to the Ferry Harbor, a 5 minute walk to the north of the *Kantor Bupati*. It opens around 4pm in the afternoon.

Cemara Beach

With its postcard-worthy scenery of beautiful white sand and shady tropical trees, Cemara Beach is the perfect place to take a break from diving, and just relax and swim. During weekdays you can almost enjoy the entire beach to yourself, while on weekends it becomes a popular local gathering place and takes on a vibrant atmosphere. Families enjoy barbecues, local youngsters come to hang out and young children learn to swim. On some Sundays the local volleyball team plays here and everyone is welcome to join. From time to time, ice cream and fresh coconuts are sold right on the beach. The beach also has a reef that is good for diving and snorkeling, and is a popular place for dive centers to conduct their Open Water Courses. The “*santai*” (relaxed) ambience of Cemara Beach makes it worth a visit, and if you

do happen to miss div-ing, you can find several dive operators right next to the beach.

To help preserve the beauty of this spot please be sure to take your plastic waste with you and encourage others to do so too. As in most parts of Indonesia, there are problems with waste management. Also note, there are no public toilets in this area.

Cemara Beach is situated close to the village of Waha around 7km from Wanci. The best way to reach the beach is to take a motorbike from Wanci and follow the main street of Jalan Ahmad Raya to the north. Along the way you will pass the villages of Wandoka and Sombu. The entrance to the beach is on the left side of the road at the beginning of Waha village.





Mercusuar (Lighthouse)

While it is rather difficult to access, the lighthouse on Wangi-Wangi offers breathtaking views and is the ideal spot to enjoy a beautiful sunrise or sunset. The 18m tall lighthouse was built by Dutch colonialists in 1901. The Dutch constructed the lighthouse on the north coast of Wangi-Wangi to assist the navigation ships as it lies on the path of an international shipping route. Despite its age, the lighthouse remains in good condition and it is possible to climb up to the top.

The lighthouse is located near Waha village, around 7km from Wanci. If heading from Wakatobi, the dirt road leading up the hill to the lighthouse is found at the beginning of Waha, directly after the Cemara Beach turnoff. Be careful when driving a motorbike, as the first part of the road is not in good condition. After around 200m you will be able to spot the lighthouse. Just follow the small path up the hill.

Dolphin Watching

In addition to the plethora of marine creatures that inhabit its coral reefs, Wakatobi is also a playground for six different species of dolphin. The Bajo culture has a strong bond with these friendly creatures. At sunrise you can witness the beautiful symbiosis between the fishermen and the dolphins. In search of tuna, the fishing boats often follow a group of dolphins, who know best where to find the best catch. Once they find a school, the hunt begins and the boats and dolphins together encircle the tuna. While the fishermen snatch up the larger fish, the dolphins go for the smaller ones. This is the reason many Bajo consider the dolphins their best friends and would never hurt them. An ancient belief also states that if a dolphin jumps across the front of your ship, you should return to the harbor immediately, as it is trying to warn you about rough weather and high waves further out to sea, or that one of your loved ones at home is in trouble.

The best place to see dolphins is near Kapota Island, which is reachable within 40 minutes by boat from Mola Harbor. Here, you can see the Bajo's best friends jumping and playing around the boats. They often come close enough that you can hear the clicking and squeaking sounds they make to communicate, and see their beautiful and intelligent faces. Sometimes it is even possible to spot pods of pilot whales. Tours to see the dolphins usually start at 6am.

A recommended tour operator is the community-based tourism office in Bajo Mola. The guide's name is Albal, but everybody calls him Mr. Dolphin. This joyful character will tell everything you need to know about these animals, as well as the Bajo's culture, beliefs and fishing methods.

LEPA MOLA (Bajo Mola Tourism Office)
Tel. +6285239590350, +6281245019903
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Most dive operators and hotels in the area also offer dolphin-watching tours.



Dolphin

Photo by Amal Hermawan



Bajo Mola

Mola is home to the seafaring Bajo people who first settled in Wangi-Wangi in 1958. As descendants of sea nomads, the people of Mola have passed down their culture from generation to generation, including their skills and knowledge on how to live at sea. No trip to Wakatopi is complete without a visit to the largest Bajo settlement in the region. The village has a well-run community-based tourism office that offers regular tours. The most popular among them is the dolphin-watching tour, which allows visitors to get up close and personal with the best friends of the Bajo Mola fisherman. Visitors will be taken at dawn to the waters around Kapota Island, where the dolphins

usually gather. You can also go on a cultural walking tour, in which a guide will take you for a stroll through the narrow alleys of Mola village to show you the everyday life of villagers as well as the traditional food and snacks of the Bajo. End your visit with a star gazing tour, and listen to stories of how the Bajo have used the stars to guide them in life and their travels across the seas for centuries.

Bajo Handicrafts

In the middle of the traditional Bajo village, crossing one of the many small wooden bridges that make up the village, you will find a small house. Here a gentle old lady named Ibu Hapsah

greet her visitors to her handicraft store. Ibu Hapsah is somewhat of a celebrity among the community of Bajo Mola. She has been making handicrafts for over 50 years. She was also the first in her community to make them, which brought her some well-deserved fame. Despite her years she continues to be busy running her store and offers regular lessons for various organizations on traditional handicrafts. She uses materials from the ocean as well as recycled plastic and newspapers to make an array of

products including jewelry, handbags, decor and key-chains. When asked about her wish for the future, her eyes turn bright, “My biggest wish would be a big educational center for handicrafts in Wakatobi. I would give all the lessons for free,” she says.

If you would like pay a visit to Ibu Hapsah, just head to Bajo Mola village on Wangi-Wangi and enquire at the tourism information center, the first building on the left when entering the village.

Marina Bay

Marina Bay is an area of reclaimed land near the center of Wanci. Many locals gather here to watch the sunset, enjoy food and coffee and relax as night falls. Food stalls serve a variety of small meals like fried bananas, classic Indonesian *bakso* (meatball soup) and hot and cold drinks. If you're the musical type, you can also find a laid-back open-air karaoke bar, which opens at night and is popular among the locals.

To reach Marina Bay, from the main road in Wanci turn onto Jl. Jendral Ahmad Yani, which leads to the morning market, then follow the road past the barriers, and head toward the ocean. Then just choose your spot, listen to the calming sounds of the ocean and enjoy the sunset.



Sombu Jetty

Sombu Jetty is the most popular and accessible diving and snorkeling spot on the island. If you arrive by car or motorbike, the gorgeous expansive reef is just a small jump off the jetty away. After diving you can replenish with drinks and snacks from the small cafe located on the hill overlooking the jetty, another great spot to watch the sunset. Sombu Jetty is also a popular evening hang out spot. As soon as night falls you will see locals out hunting for fish with flashlights,

spear guns and traditional fishing equipment in hand, as well as groups of friends gathering together under the light of the stars. Sombu is located close to the village Waha, to the north of Wanci. Driving from Wanci you will pass through the villages of Wandoka and Sombu. Around 2km after Sombu there is a building called “fabrik es” (ice factory) on your left. Enter the complex and you will see a long pier that leads to Sombu Jetty.



Kontamale and Tekosapi Springs

Wakatobi is blessed with many natural springs, but Kontamale and Tekosapi are the most popular. *Gua Kontamale* (Kontamale Cave) is a freshwater cave in Wanci. For decades locals have taken water to shower and use for their other daily needs from the natural spring inside the cavern. In the mornings and evenings, local children enjoy jumping down into the pool of water. If you are brave enough, feel free to join them, or just enjoy swimming in the refreshingly cool water. Kontamale's hidden water-filled caverns are worth exploring and make for a great adventure. Kontamale is located around 10 minutes drive from the town centre.

Connected to Kontamale by a mysterious underwater cave lies the other popular spring of Tekosapi. Only a handful of the most adventurous and skilled scuba divers have explored this secret passage. The water in Tekosapi is crystal clear and like Kontamale locals use it for bathing and washing. In the early morning hours the sun's first rays make this an exceptionally beautiful place to visit. Around noon it usually starts to get busier with children enjoying a quick swim after school. Tekosapi lies on the main road close to the city center heading north toward Cemara Beach.

Kapota

When in Wangi-Wangi, a short island-hopping trip to Kapota Island is a wonderful choice. The first settlers of this island came from Lemakera, a Hindu kingdom located in Flores, East Nusa Tenggara. They settled on a hill in the middle of the forest overlooking the entire island. The settlement is called Katiama, which means “the first village”.

Looking to the west from Wangi-Wangi, you can spot the small, white sand ringed island of Kapota. Public boats cross between Wanci and Kapota between 8am and 4pm daily. The boats usually leave every half-hour to hour and take around 30 minutes to complete the journey. Once on the island you can

enjoy its many beach-es, bamboo and mangrove forests, coconut groves, lake and, for the adventurous types, a bat cave. The best way to explore the island is by motorbike, which can be rented locally. If you do not have experience driving motorbikes it is advisable to hire a driver, as nature has reclaimed some of the roads.

The coastline of Kapota Island is blessed with a bounty of unspoiled white sand beaches. The most popular are *Aowolio*, *Kolowowa* and *Umala*. But even these popular spots can be enjoyed to yourself on weekdays, and will be shared with only a few other visitors on weekends. Pine and coconut trees line





Kapota Lake

Photo by Amal Hermawan

the beaches, offering shade and shelter from the sun. Another of the island's natural beauties are its lush mangrove forests, which have built-in roads that allow you to observe the life of these vital ecosystems. *Tailaro Nto'oge* Lake, which is surrounded by a boardwalk, is a great place for bird watching.

Those in search of adventure can explore a bat cave, which has a 12m high entrance and caverns full of stalagmites and stalactites and hundreds of bats that hang from the ceiling.



KALEDUPA

Introduction

Before the arrival of the Butonese in Wakatobi, Kaledupa was the island of the ruling kingdom. Stepping foot on Kaledupa you will instantly be taken by the island's glorious beauty and come to understand why the royals chose it as their home. Coconut trees and mangrove forests greet you at the shoreline and behind them lays the most fertile land in Wakatobi. The island is home to peaceful villages of beautiful wooden stilt houses with gardens full of shady trees from which the many birds give free music concerts each day. Kaledupa Island takes its name from "Kauhedupa", which means incense wood. The quiet calm of the island's forest, and the sight of its rolling green hills, will steal your heart immediately.

There are many things to do and see around Kaledupa: from visiting the island's heritage sites to admiring Wakatobi's traditional ikat (weaving), to experiencing the daily life of locals or learning to cook *kasoami*—the culinary delight of Kaledupa. Thanks to the lush tree cover, there is plenty of shade on the roads, making the island a perfect destination for road trip adventures on two wheels.

Limbo Langge



Mangrove Trail
Photo by Putri Kirana

Limbo Langge is a traditional area in eastern Kaledupa that consists of eight villages whose boundaries were decided long ago under the local law called *adat*. Limbo Langge can be enjoyed both by land and by sea. Enjoy strolling around the traditional villages, where fishermen mend their nets and women prepare *kasoami*, a local dish made of cassava, among the authentic stilt houses, while others just enjoy a cool breeze on a sunny day. Watch the talented women of the Pajam cultural centre make sarongs or discover Tampara—the “Garden of Eden” of Kaledupa—where a heavenly variety of fruits and vegetables grow. You can also head to Langge Harbour to rent

a boat and simply cruise between the small islands. Some of these islands are small and rocky with small villages climbing up the hills along the coast, while others are completely unsettled, with their main inhabitants being the yellow-crested cockatoos who may join you on your journey as travel companions. You can swim or snorkel in the crystal clear waters and, if you're lucky, you might catch sight of a pod of dolphins in the lagoon, while closer to the coast you can also explore the stunning mangrove forests. The nearby small Bajo village of Lohoa is also a site to behold, as it seems to float above the sea.

Limbo Langge is about a 30 minutes drive from Ambeua Harbor. A variety of traditional homestays are open to welcome visitors to the area.

Pajam

The area of Pajam is home to the traditional villages of Palea and Jámeraka. Located up in the hills, the area offers majestic views over the island. It was the site of the island's first settlement and still serves as the cultural centre of Limbo Langge today. Pajam is known for its sarongs, and many women can be seen, hard at work, weaving the cloth in their homes. The ancient art form has been passed down from generation to generation, with mothers teaching their daughters from an early age. Upon entering a house,

the gentle sound of wood tapping can be heard before the craftswoman is spotted, usually sitting in the dim light on the floor of her home. With fast and skilled movements, like that of an expert musician with their instrument, they weave on their *homoraa*, a traditional wooden tool used for weaving the threads together. The colors of the sarongs are given beautiful names like pomegranate, watermelon or tamarind flower, and usually have clearly defined patterns. Patterns with stripes are made for females, while males wear squares. The patterns also reveal a great amount about the origins of a person's family and the way it is worn shows whether you are married or not.

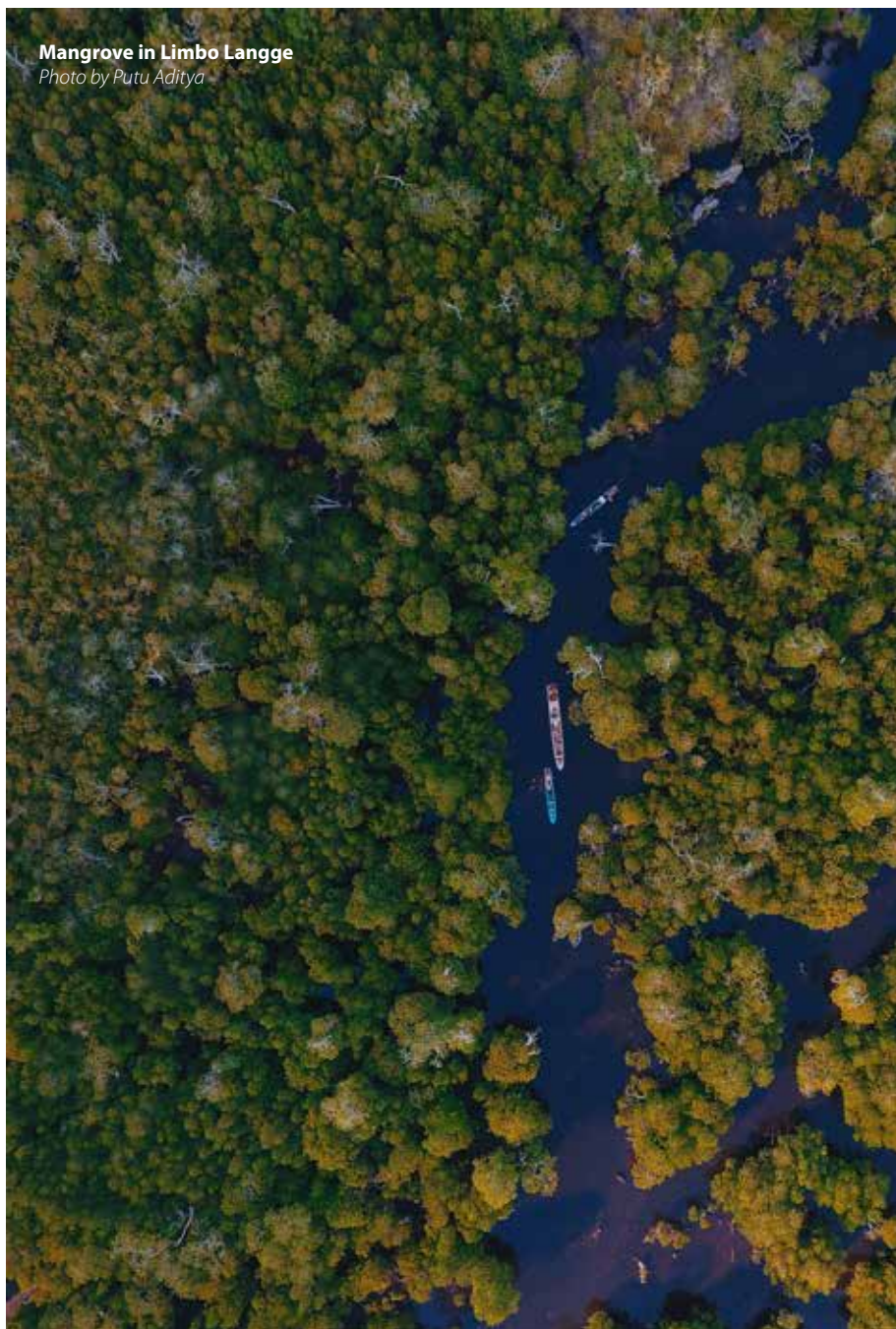


Traditional Weaving in Pajam

Photo by Muis Bhojost

Mangrove in Limbo Langge

Photo by Putu Aditya



Just ask for a sarong when entering the village and someone will take you to their house. Most of the sarongs are customized and made-to-order, but they usually have some of their work in stock and a small shop will be opened soon.

Tampara

Kaledupa is a green gem, blessed with lush forests and a great variety of fauna, but without doubt, it is the fertile soil of Tampara, a small village located in Limbo Langge, that brings forth the riches of the earth in the greatest abundance.

The agricultural heart of the region abounds with fruit, vegetables, herbs and spices.

Cassava, sugarcane and water spinach grow in the fields, while fruits like guava, jackfruit, starfruit and pomelo hang from tree branches like jewels. Squash grow to twice the size of footballs, while spices like turmeric grow wild. The backyards of the traditional houses are also filled with vegetables. It seems like life itself in this village revolves around this astonishing abundance of crops. During the day, old ladies can be seen preparing henna color, while groups of boys enjoy sharing fruit and young girls prepare corn. Before the introduction of rice, corn and cassava formed the most important part of peoples' diets in Wakatobi.

For food lovers it is possible to take a tour of the small organic micro-farms, where you can learn all about the local's crops. After this, you can join a cooking class to learn how to prepare these fruits, vegetables and spices to perfection and then enjoy your creation at a collective dinner.

Sombano Lake & Village

Sombano village is the largest traditional village on Kaledupa. Here, tamarind and lime trees surround the wooden stilt houses, while freshly caught octopus is dried in the sun as goats spend the day in the little gardens and countless chickens roam freely. In the shade of the houses, sarong-clad women can be seen tying little knots of seaweed to nets. These nets will be placed in the sea and a few months later the seaweed will be ready for harvest. The inhabitants of Sombano usually have a coconut tree next to their houses, as they are an important part of their traditional medicine and offerings. Rituals are held to bring fertility or to chase away bad spirits or illness. For every problem there is

a different shaman, called a *Sando*. To perform their rituals they usually recite Islamic prayers and ancestral mantras, and use ke-menyang (frankincense) and different kinds of offerings. While walking through the village you are also sure to be accompanied by a group of curious kids.

Near the village lies the mystical lake *Akku'a Mulumu*, known as Sombano Lake, which is reachable on foot from Sombano Beach or by motorbike from the village. The beautiful road takes you through a coconut tree forest with the ocean directly beside you. The locals consider *Akku'a Mulumu* to be a sacred lake that is shrouded in many myths and legends.





While in the area, it is prohibited to use any bad words, as many spirits are believed to live here. On Fridays, no locals dare approach the lake, as this is the day the spir-its are considered most active. They say that on this day many strange creatures can be seen in and around the lake. In the lake's clear brackish water, blood red colored shrimp can be spotted swimming, and while they certainly look unusual, and may even try nibbling on you, they are

not to be feared in any way. According to local legend, a big black crocodile once lived in this lake and fed on the red shrimp. As the locals don't dare fish here, many big fish can be seen peacefully swimming about, making it a nice spot for snorkeling. From the lake's magnificent green-blue water and the variety of orchids that surround it, to the calm breeze that rustles through the leaves, you will quickly realize why this is considered a sacred place.



Hutan Mangrove

Numerous coconut trees mark the border of the mangrove forest close to Sombano. The mangrove forest is thousands of years old, and has not been affected by environmental degradation, with the people of Kaledupa having long placed the forest under the protection of their local *adat* law. The dim light that filters through the treetops, the astonishing number of butterflies and the sounds of many rare birds give this mangrove forest an almost primeval feel, providing visitors with an idea of what Kaledupa may have looked like before human settlement. Capturing photos of the

birds and butterflies can require a lot of experience and patience but the forest is full of excellent spots for it. The mangrove forest is situated 2km from Sombano vil-lage.

When exploring the area, it is best to wear boots. In the rainy season the mud can be knee high and even in the dry season the ground is still very boggy. To hire a local guide, head to the tourism information center where the KITG (Kaledupa Island Tourism Group) will be happy to help. Their English-speaking guides have excellent knowledge about the forest's flora and fauna.

Bajo Villages in Kaledupa

Mantigola Village

When the seafaring nomads known as the Bajo decided to settle more permanently in Wakatobi they first settled at Mantigola, making it the oldest Bajo village in the area. According to the villagers, Mantigola appeared on a Dutch map in 1890, however sometime between 1940-1950 sea pirates destroyed the village and the Bajo fled to other areas and founded villages like Sampela. In 1965 some Bajo returned to Mantigola. If you ask the older generation of Bajo around Wakatobi, most of them identify Mantigola as their hometown.

Today, the village is rarely visited by tourists. On occasion, students and anthropological researchers come to

collect information about the origin or life of the village. This village is perhaps the most traditional among the local Bajo settlements, and for visitors it can seem like traveling back in time. The smell of the ocean mixed with that of fish and smoke is characteristic of the village. The doors of the houses in Mantigola are always open, giving the village a very familial feel. In a community as close as the Bajo, family is everything.

To reach the village, visitors will need to take a small boat. The path from the jetty on the mainland was destroyed, so the only way to get to the village is by hiring a small boat. It is said in the village that this way the spirits of the mainland are kept away. The small



Bajo Village

Photo by Amal Hermawan

Bajo the sea nomad

Photo by Amal Hermawan



The Bajo way of life

Photo by Amal Hermawan



boats that visitors need to take to Mantigola can easily capsize. Therefore, tourists who cannot swim should not make the journey.

To reach the village, you'll need to take a small boat from the area of Horuo village on Kaledupa, around 15 minutes by motorbike from Ambeua. In Horuo, small boats can be found at the end of a wooden pier that runs through a mangrove forest. The boats will take you to the northern side of the village for Rp 2.000/person. English is not spoken in the village, so bring a guide from Kaledupa.

Sampela Village

Sampela, also known as Sama Bahari, is a traditional Bajo village that rises out of the ocean around 3km off the Kaledupa mainland. Several thousand inhabitants live in its traditional wooden stilt houses, which are built on a coral stone base.

These impressive constructions are built in rows connected by narrow bamboo bridges under which small boats pass. Children welcome visitors to their village with broad smiles. Women usually spend their time taking care of household duties such as fetching fresh water from the well and travelling to the market on the mainland as well as, cooking, cleaning and washing clothes. In their spare time they chat with friends. The fishermen return from the sea in their dugout canoes and clean their catch before giving it to their wives or family members to sell at the market. Small children can be seen playing in the water around their homes, using buckets or pieces of polystyrene as makeshift boats and rafts.

The village is around 10 minutes by boat from the harbor in Ambeua and 20 minutes from Hoga Island. The price of the trip is Rp 5.000-15.000 per person from Kaledupa and Rp 25,000 per person from Hoga. There is a small homestay available, for those who wish to spend a night in those truly unique surroundings.

Lariangi Dance

One of the region's classical dances to have originated from Kaledupa is the *Lari-angi*. The dance is performed by 12 young women who move gracefully while singing and reciting lyrics that recount the story of Kaledupa's heroic past and its natural beauty, as well as local stories of love, advice and philosophy. The dance is accompanied by the solemn sounds of traditional music played with acoustic instruments, giving the performance a sacred and majestic atmosphere. The name of the dance is derived from the word "*Lari*", which means to decorate and "*Angi*", meaning people who dress up to present a certain message.

Lariangi was first performed in the royal palace of the Kahedupa Kingdom in the 13th century to greet guests of the kingdom. The costumes, accessories and headpieces of Lariangi dancers represent various forms of local knowledge and symbols. This knowledge has been passed down for generations through such cultural events in Kaledupa. It is surely the most beautiful way to communicate such wisdom. To watch a Lariangi performance, contact the local tourism group KITG (Kaledupa Island Tourism Group) about bookings.



Lariangi Dancer

Photo by Guntur

Bicycle Tour

A great way to discover the unique natural and cultural beauty of Kaledupa is by bi-cycle. The island's roads will take you through villages, forests, vast landscapes and magnificent vistas, where an abundance of photo opportunities will present themselves. Along the way you will pass by traditional houses, seaweed farmers busy with their harvest, limestone cliffs and pristine mangrove forests. While taking a break, you can visit traditional weavers, enjoy the local cuisine and watch performances by talented dancers. To maintain your strength, your guide will show you the best natural snacks the island

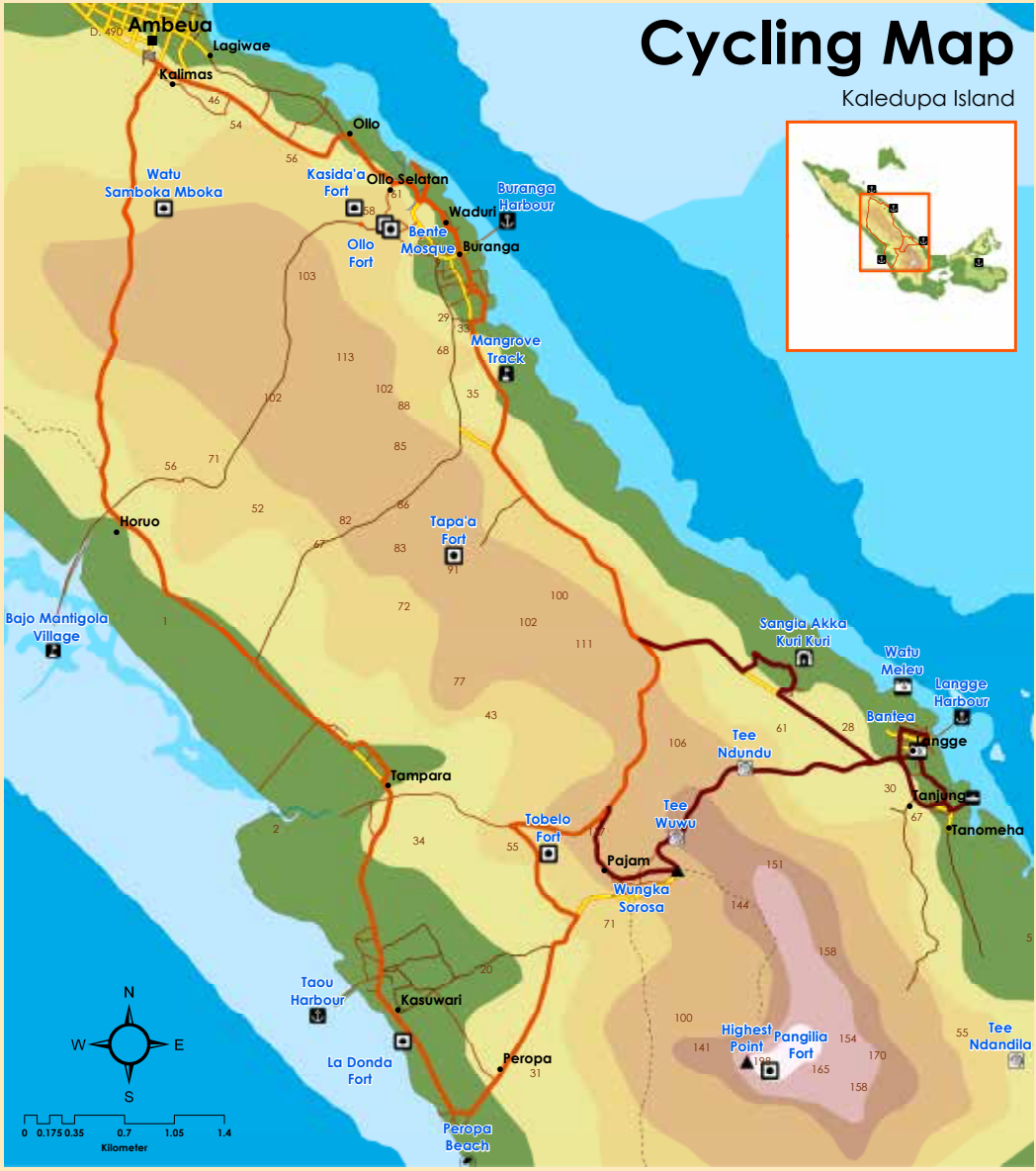
has to offer, like wild fruits, nuts and fresh sea urchins. The routes vary depending on the required fitness levels. Some are quiet challenging and you might need to push your bike up a hill a few times, while other routes are suitable for everyone. Generally, the roads in Kaledupa are in excellent condition, and the ride is smooth. Free roaming chickens deciding to cross the road pose the only real danger. This thrilling experience of nature, people and culture can be booked at the Visitor Information Center in Ambuea. Whether you want to take an experienced local guide or explore the island by yourself is up to you.



Cycling in Kaledupa

Cycling Map

Kaledupa Island



Hoga Island

Hoga is a small island located roughly 15 minutes by boat from Kaledupa. Beyond its postcard perfect island paradise features, it has become popular among researchers from Operation Wallacea, who journey to Hoga twice a year to study its amazing marine diversity from June-August and March-April. As Hoga is quite small, these periods are also its high seasons for visitors. The island is blessed with white sand beaches, shady coconut groves and a beautiful reef perfect for extended snorkeling and diving sessions. There are no roads or vehicles on the island, just one very small village on the northern end. Whether you

enjoy the beach life, lazing about in your hammock or getting in as many dives as possible, Hoga has it all.

Several homestays can be found on the island, as well as two resorts. One of these is Hoga Island Dive Resort, an eco resort that blends smoothly into its natural surroundings, and is devoted to using only sustainable materials found on the island. The owners invest a lot into the community, especially in education and financial support for the local families. Over the years, Hoga Island Dive Resort has become renowned among more adventurous travelers keen to enjoy un-spoilt





nature at its best with clean budget accommodation, great hospitality, good food and tranquility.

The other resort is called Hoga Dive Resort, which is located right by the arrival jetty of Hoga. Many dive operators do their lunch stop here during dive trips around the island.

The boat from Wangi-Wangi to Kaledupa stops at Hoga if enough people want to be dropped off there. If the boat does not stop, you'll need to take a smaller boat from Kaledupa to Hoga jetty. If you have booked at Hoga Island Dive Resort or one of the homestays, a boat from Kaledupa harbor will usually be arranged for you.

Handicrafts on Kaledupa and Hoga

Traditional handicrafts have recently seen a revival on Kaledupa. An association of young and old have formed a handicraft community led by Pak Safarudin, popularly known as Safar. During Operation Wallacea season (Jun-Aug and Mar-Apr) this cheerful man lives on Hoga Island, where he sells the handicrafts he and his wife make throughout the year, including bamboo-drawings, hammocks made


out of sa-rongs, jewelry made from coconut shell carvings, lukisan pasir (sand-painted pictures) and many other treasures. Safar also offers workshops to anyone interested in learning his craft. He can teach you the art of bamboo painting or woodcarving, or you can simply choose to design your own t-shirt. When you get to Hoga, just ask for directions and sign up with him.





He is also currently building a centre to hold workshops on Kaledupa. For the time being, however, there is only a small shop inside his studio where you can buy the authentic handicrafts. The place is easy to find. Just follow the road straight from Ambeua harbor all the way up to the top and turn left. It's only a 5-minute walk.

Contact:

 Safar: Tel. +6282395662618

Tombole'a

Tombole or *Tombole'a* is a local term for a special way of cooking food using stones heated with fire. Even though modern cooking methods have come to Wakatobi, on many occasions the people of Kaledupa still use this age-

old method. The food is wrapped in banana leaves, and placed on the hot stones before being covered with sand. The best part is, as the food cooks, a group of women will sing and dance to liven up the mood as you wait.



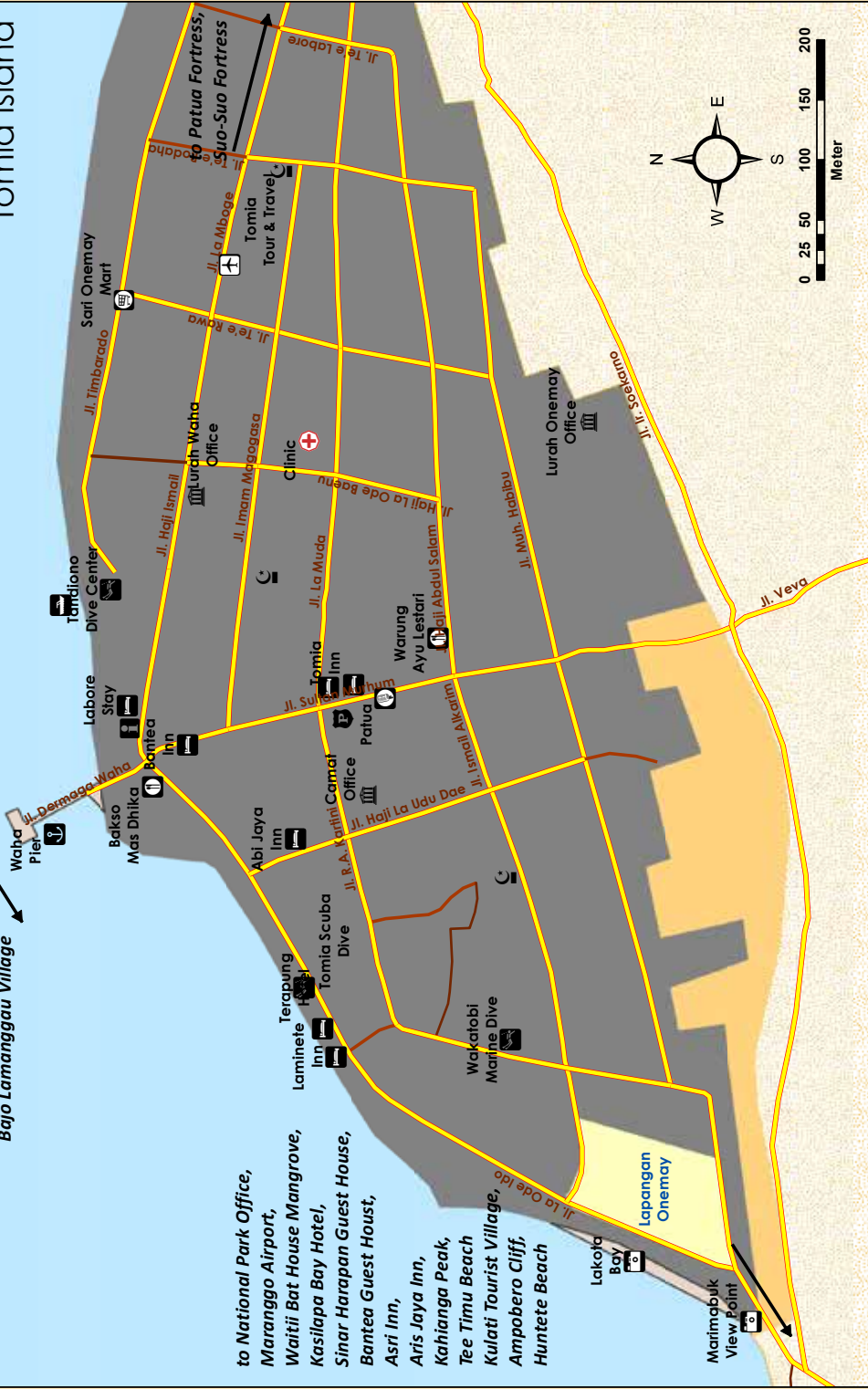
Sajomoane Dance
Photo by Amal Hermawan

TOMIA

City Map Waha-Onemay

Tomia Island

to Tolandono Island:
Wakatobi Dive Resort
Bajo Lamanggau Village



Introduction

As the island with the largest number of dive sites in Wakatobi, Tomia is highly re-garded for the beauty of the underwater world that surrounds it. But curious visitors who keep their eyes open will soon notice this beauty does not stop at sea level. Arriving from the ocean, the island's wild white-sand beaches and soaring cliffs await you. Many lively villages are spread throughout Tomia as well as an ancient heritage site. Discover the nearly unexplored neighboring islands with their unique wildlife and incredible beaches, or head to Tomia's night market for local delicacies. The hospitable locals will proudly show you around their wonderful island. They

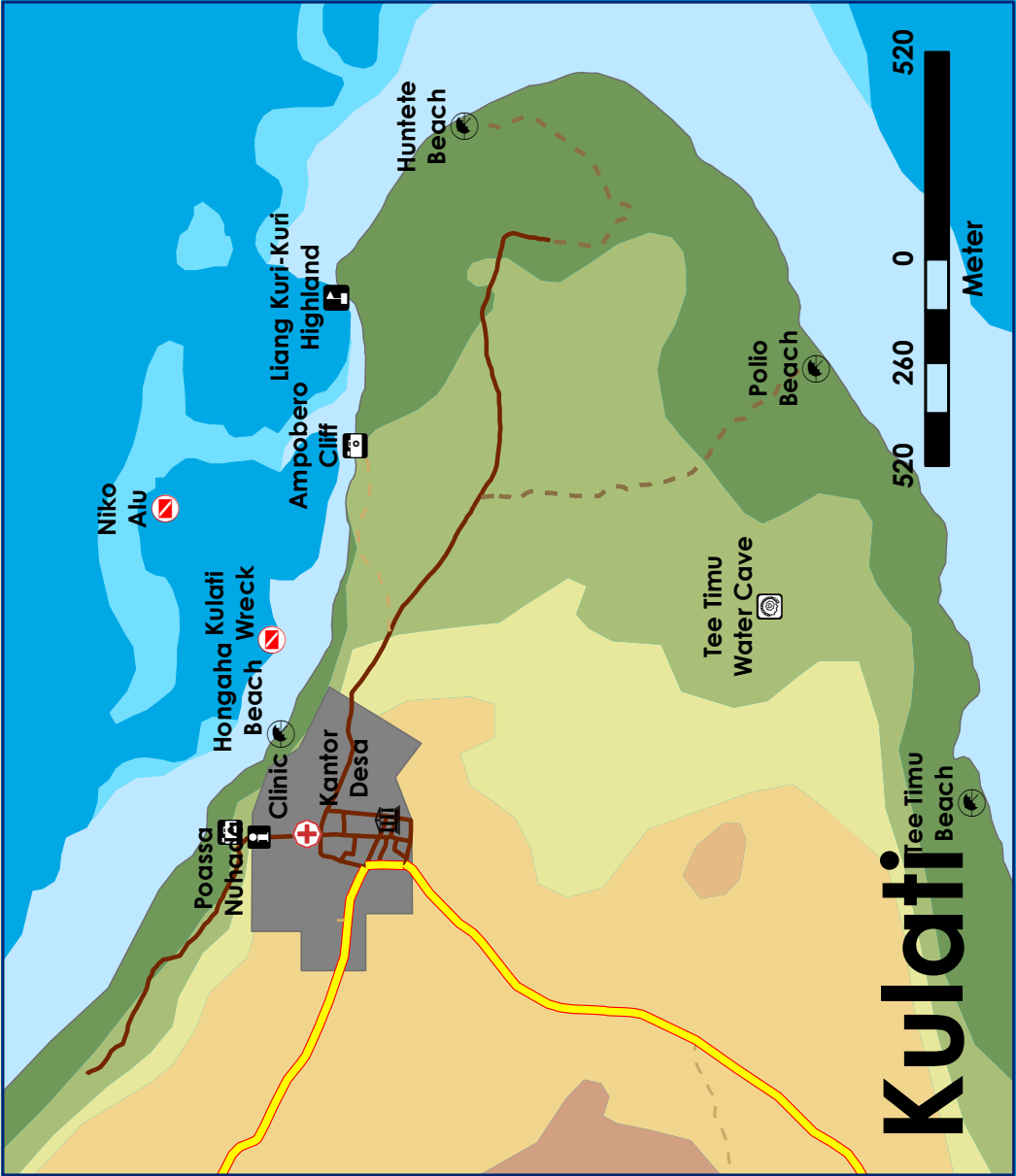
are known as the finest dancers and musicians in Wakatobi, so make sure to visit one of their vibrant events, like the *"joged"* dancing on Sunday evenings.

Tomia lays 3-4 hours boat ride from Wangi-Wangi Harbor. A particularly famous dive resort, located on one of the small neighboring islands, has even opened a private airstrip offering direct flights between Bali and Tomia. After arriving, rent a motorbike and cruise around the island to discover Tomia's hidden charms. Thanks to its popularity among divers, the island has good infrastructure with many hotels and homestays waiting for your arrival.



Kahianga Peak

Photo by Muis Bhojest



Kulati Village

When first enter Kulati village, it might not seem that extraordinary. However, as you approach the TIC (tourism information center) located on the hilly area of the village, you will realize what makes Kulati special: its stunning views of the turquoise sea and the majestic cliffs that border it. Kulati is blessed with five beaches, a hidden cave and its own fish bank. One of the traditional leaders of the village, La Asiru, popularly known as *Bapak Tua*, proudly proclaims, "While everyone else only has a bank for money, Kulati has a bank for fish." The local community is very protective of this area, which is home to a seemingly infinite variety of marine species. Surrounding the fish bank is

the area of Hu'untete, which is quite an adventurous place to explore. From the hills to the lowlands you can enjoy views of the magnificent blue sea and the wide expanses of grasslands, and are welcomed with white sand beaches as you reach the shore.

The enchanting view from the cliffs out over the fish bank is sure to take you under its spell. During the daytime the sea is crystal clear, making it possible to see the many fish from the top of the cliff. Occasionally, juvenile reef sharks can be seen playing among the rocks in the shallow water. This bay is also home to Hongaha Beach, located near a famous shipwreck of a Japanese

Play the Crazy Bamboo

Photo by Guntur



Kulati Cliff

Photo by Guntur



warship. This wreck has become an amazing diving and snorkeling spot. The rocky cliff coves, palm-trees and brilliant white sand offer the perfect hideaway to relax after diving.

Besides enjoying its stunning natural beauty, in Kulati you can stay with the heart-warming locals and experience island life in a way that will make you feel right at home. The homestay is located near the cliff's edge, offering breathtaking views over the ocean, while your hosts will pamper you with delicious local dishes. The hospitality of this village is truly unrivaled. After a few coffees at the village leader's home, the locals will share stories of past times, and their visions of the future of Kulati.

In 2012, sustainable and community based tourism was established in the village. They now offer English-speaking guides, and run daily language courses for all the young kids. The determination of the young locals to help develop their village makes the elders—especially Bapak Tua—proud. In the past, he jokingly explains, it was hard to get everyone on board, but now even the chicken and goats support the idea.

With the full support of the village, visitors can dive into the everyday life of the locals and enjoy a truly authentic experience. Below are just a few of the activities you can enjoy in Kulati.

Hu'ntete & Hogaha Beach

Your tropical getaway starts at the aforementioned TIC in Kulati where you can meet a local guide who can show you around Hu'ntete. If you're feeling adventurous you can try climbing down the cliff to Hongaha Beach. Here you can simply enjoy relaxing on the beach or explore the Japanese shipwreck.

Cultural Performances

The beautiful *Balumpa* dance will leave you with a lasting impression of the warm hearts of the Kulati people. The cheerful music and movements have been passed down for generations, and after enjoying a performance, visitors can also learn to dance and play traditional instruments from members of Sanggar Tari Kulati. Another fun activity is "*Bamboo Gila*" (Crazy Bamboo) in which a local shaman summons a spirit with a bamboo stick, which starts moving, slowly at first and then wildly. The stick is passed around, with the person holding the bamboo joining in the movements and dance.

Daily Activities

Spend your days in Kulati immersing yourself in the gentle pace and ambience of village life. Head out to sea with the fishermen to catch your dinner, search for shells on the beach at low tide, or weave a scarf or sarong with the local women, a perfect memento to bring home. Perhaps pay a visit to a local bamboo handicrafts maker or join the youngsters in a game of volleyball.


Traditional Cuisine

Indulge your taste buds with juicy seafood prepared with fresh ingredients. If you want to know the finer points of the local cuisine, take a cooking class with your host. The best of the modest way of village life is reflected in their food. Simple, but delicious.

Stargazing

Getting out of the big cities is a chance to experience the starry night sky in all its magnificence. As the electricity in the village is turned off before midnight, the village is left in darkness save for the incredible illumination of the galaxies overhead. Whether taking in the night sky on the beach or in the village, be prepared for a jaw dropping view above, and just try counting all the shooting stars!

Contact:

 Kasman Tomia (+6282193509550)

 kulati.village@gmail.com

Patua Fort

The lush forest around Patua Fort has reclaimed much of the fortification's stone walls and buildings. Massive tree roots engulf the ancient stones; creating a sense of mystery and making any visitor feel like a true explorer. Patua Fort is the biggest of all the forts in Wakatobi. Located in the hills near Patua II Village, the fort is easily accessible by motorbike or car from Waha. The fort has three main gates and upon

entering you will find old graves, ruins of an old mosque, tunnels, old cannons and a big gazebo. The fort is full of secret hideouts, where the royal family and people of Tomia would flee in case of attack. From the top of the fort, you can also take in the magnificent views of the sea and the lowlands of Tomia. The site is also used for a diverse range of festivals and cultural events.

Nda'a Island

The small, uninhabited island of Nda'a is a true island paradise. Situated across the water from Kulati village, the island is a 40-minute boat ride from either Kulati or Waha. With postcard perfect

scenery, Nda'a is the perfect place for beach lovers to swim, snorkel or just relax in total privacy. To visit Nda'a Island, just book your trip from Kulati.

Kahinga Peak

Kahinga Peak is one of the highest points on Tomia, and is the most celebrated summit in all of Wakatobi. The view from the top offers stunning vistas of the island's long beaches and the small surrounding islands, making it a favorite sunset picnic spot

among locals. Grab some food, get on a motorbike and join them for an amazing farewell to the sun.

Lintea Island

Near Tomia lies an island that remains largely unexplored, even by the few locals that live there. Pulau Lintea boasts amazing flora and fauna, huge colorful seashells and a fascinating mangrove ecosystem. Stingrays swim in the shallow waters by the shore, and butterflies float through the thick forest, accompanied by the songs of the rare birds that perch in the trees.

Arriving on Pulau Lintea, you will be given a warm welcome by the smiling inhabitants of the only village on the island. The village consists of no more than a few bamboo houses by the beach in Tandubasa, the island's northern tip. The small bamboo huts are built in

the middle of a coconut grove by the beach, making for a truly picturesque setting. Streets, vehicles and electricity are nowhere to be found. Trekking through the forest is challenging, but the beauty of the island's nature and wildlife will reward those who make the effort. To visit the island, take an ojek (motorcycle taxi) to Waiti Harbor. There you can arrange a two-way boat to Lintea Island for Rp200.000. The 35-minute boat journey you will pass by the famous luxury resort Wakatobi Dive Resort. Make sure to bring a GPS as getting lost in the wilderness of Lintea is easy, but finding your way back to the village isn't.



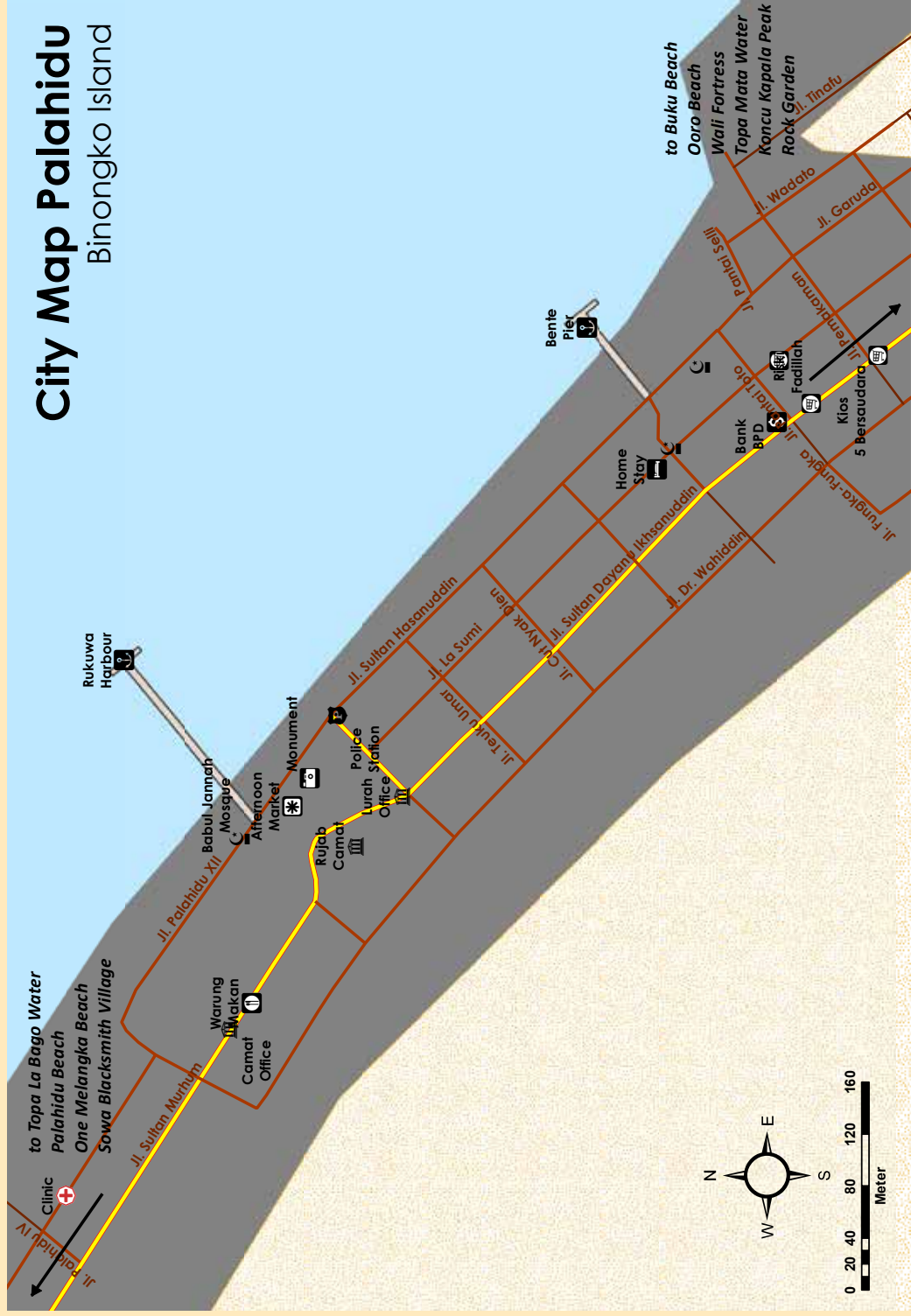




BINONGKO

City Map Palahidu

Binongko Island



Introduction

Binongko might be the last abbreviation in the name of Wakatobi, but it certainly does not lag behind the other islands when it comes to natural and cultural beauty. It is a truly unspoiled land, full of rocky hills and dramatic cliffs, with inviting beaches, turtle breeding grounds and countless springs hidden throughout. The traditional communities in Binongko are tightly knit together by the social principle of "*gotong royong*" (helping each other). It is not unusual to you see people leaving shops without paying, as they know their neighbors will soon return the favor. Their culture is well preserved, with traditional roles and values maintained. This attitude is also reflected in their beautiful villages, some of which are built directly on the edge of cliffs. Much of their *adat* (local law)

also revolves around the conservation of nature, protecting the environment and natural resources. Another unique feature of Binongko are the island's blacksmiths, who in the past gave the area of Wakatobi its name "*Kepulauan Tukang Besi*", meaning Blacksmith Archipelago. These dedicated artisans are famous for producing high quality parang (machetes), which are exported throughout all of Indonesia. There are no hotels on Binongko to spoil the authenticity feeling, but there are plenty of traditional homestays with clean rooms and delicious food. If you want to visit this hidden treasure, just take a boat from one of the other islands. From Wangi-Wangi a boat leaves every other day from Mola Harbor around 9am. It usually takes 5-6 hours to arrive at Rukuwa Harbor in Binongko.



Binongko Fishermen

Photo by Guntur

Binongko Beaches

In Binongko there are endless opportunities to feel like Robinson Crusoe. Isolated bays, lonely sandy shores and wilderness promise a unique beach experience. Most beaches boast white sand, palm trees and crystal clear water. When you get thirsty there are plenty of fresh coconuts that can be harvested straight from the trees around you. The only beach considered somewhat popular is One Melangka. It is located just off the ring road, making it a favorite spot for people from nearby villages to gather for picnics on the weekend. Despite its local popularity, however, it is still comes nowhere

near being crowded. The numerous coconut trees are a perfect distance apart to hang your hammock and doze the day away. Little ships made by local kids float in the calm seas, adding to the tranquility of One Melangka. After enjoying the amazing sunset you can watch fishermen spear fishing with flashlights throughout the evening. Another breathtaking beach is Palahidu Beach. An old, square-shaped stone fort overlooks the long white sand beach, which is easily accessible and is around 2.5km from Rukuwa. Other beaches also worth a visit are Yoro Sampu, Buea Buku Wali and Mbara-Mbara.



One Melangka Beach

Photo by Amal Hermawan

Tukang Besi

Tukang Besi means blacksmith, and was once the eponym for the Tukang Besi Islands that we now know as Wakatobi. In Binongko you can visit skilled machete makers as they transform steel from car springs into sharp blades guaranteed to cut. The tough men of Binongko get their first machete at a very early age, at a time when children in other regions and countries usually start going to elementary school. Following traditional methods, a Binongko blacksmith builds a scorching hot fire by blowing air with a self-constructed ventilator. He then heats the metal until he can hammer and shape it into form. The blacksmiths in Binongko are famous for the quality of their machetes, which are sold throughout Wakatobi, Papua, Flores and the islands of Maluku. Depending on their usage, their forms vary: some are for cutting wood, some are specialized for opening coconuts, while others are made especially for left-handers. The ever-creative blacksmiths even produce samurai swords and Arabian-style curved blades. With over a thousand machetes produced per week, you will certainly get a chance to witness the production process while traveling around the island. The sound of iron hammers striking the hot blades can be heard throughout the villages, while the smoke from the hot fires will indicate the numerous blacksmith huts. Visitors are also invited to participate in a blacksmith workshop to make their own knife with the support of the professionals.

The Tukang Besi can be found in most villages around Binongko. A great place to visit them is Popalia village, as their huts are located directly on the cliff's edge and overlook the ocean. To reach Popalia, take the ring road from Wali to the north. After 25km, roughly 45 minutes by motorbike, you will reach Popalia village. The black-smiths can be found on the right side of the ring road. When traveling by airplane, please note that you are only allowed to take knives, swords or machetes in your checked-in luggage, not your cabin baggage.



Blacksmith

Photo by Guntur

Flying Foxes at Topa Mata

A long time ago, a man named La Gundi visited a spring that nowadays is called Topa Mata. Local legend has it that when he arrived, he threw a rock at the fruit loving inhabitants of the area: the flying foxes. Instead of hitting the animals the rock bounced straight back into the attacker's eye. Ever since the incident, the spring has been called Topa Mata (*Eye Spring*). While bathing in Topa Mata you can see hundreds of flying foxes hanging in the surrounding trees during the day. With a wing-span

of 1.5m they are one of the world's largest bat species. According to the villagers these animals have been in Topa Mata for many decades. Only when there was an outbreak of disease among the people of Wali these flying foxes miraculously disappeared, but returned soon after the last person was healthy again. Topa Mata is located around 100 meters from Wali's cemetery, close to Jalan Poros Wali Jaya Makmur.





Turtle Point

From ancient times until today, the turtle has been a symbol of longevity, stability and peace. Their unhurried movements and aged appearance gives them an aura of wisdom, and makes them a favorite among divers. They can be found throughout the waters surrounding Binongko, but one spot in particular, called Turtle Point, is especially famous for its massive population. Turtle Point is located near a breeding ground, which is protected by adat, or local law. Binongko is home to turtle protection programs and the capturing of turtles is strictly forbidden. Thanks to these conservation efforts, the local turtle population has been rising for many years. Witness this when taking a breath-taking snorkel trip. To enjoy the reef, located in front of Wali, it is best to take a small wooden boat. If you snorkel from the southern tip of

the reef the current will drag you along the reef. After snorkeling for around 20 minutes the small boats can pick you up and take you back to your starting point. They are a bit unstable, but after some time you get used to it. If you are not a good swimmer be sure to wear a life jacket while snorkeling and in the boat. In addition to the beautiful hard coral and enormous amount of fish, it is not unusual to see up to ten turtles. If you want to catch a glimpse of these wonderful creatures, this trip is highly recommended.

Turtle Point is located on the southeast reef of Binongko around 3km from Wali. Small boats can be taken directly from Wali village. The small wooden motorized boats take around 30 minutes to reach the reef.



Bante: Snorkeling and Topa Labago

Bante is a small peaceful village that lies on the coast of Binongko. Follow the ring road from Wali for around 14km through the village of Rukuwa to Bante village. Just before entering the village there is a rocky entrance to the ocean. It is rather difficult to pass, and requires a short climb down the rocks, but if you make the effort, a heart-stealing snorkeling spot awaits you. Swimming out above the reef you will see a huge coral fan garden just below you.

If you want to cool down and refresh afterward, head to “*Topa Labago*,” a fresh water spring. It is only a 5-minute drive from the snorkeling spot. Any local can point you in the right direction, as among the many springs in Binongko, this is the most popular. The hard rocks that surround the clear water keep the temperature low. According to the locals, *Topa Labago* has been used for hundreds of years.

Sowa Mangrove Forest

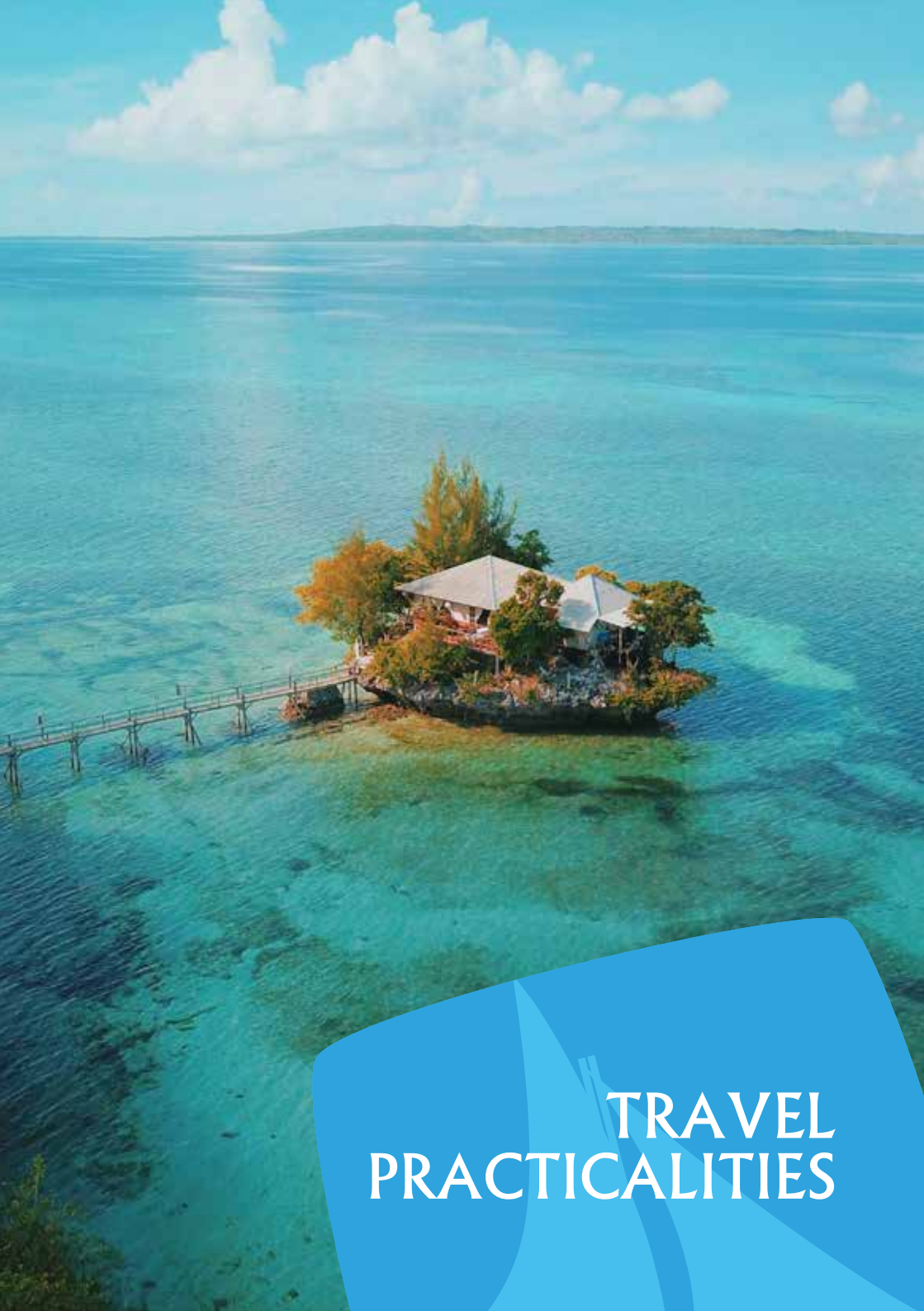
Despite its untouched appearance, the Sowa mangrove forest does not have a natural origin. It was planted long ago, during the time of the Butonese Sultanate. Why they chose to carefully sow the mangrove seedlings remains unknown today. The whole forest is protected by adat law and is therefore well preserved. The trees are gigantic, with some reaching over 30m tall. On closer inspection the forest appears more organized and less dense compared to other mangrove forests, and because of this it is easier to spot animals. Not only can audiophiles enjoy the songs of the birds, they can also trace the beautiful sounds back to the singer. Meanwhile at ground level numerous monitor lizards can be seen wandering the terrain with ease, fleeing

as soon as they hear any suspicious sounds. These lizards are often called the 'small brother' of the Komodo dragon. Hundreds of dragonflies also flutter overhead, illuminated by the rays of the sun that filter through the thick canopy of leaves.

The forest is around 1km long and not very wide and is located just by the ring road near One Melangka Beach, around 20km from Wali village. Follow the ring road to the north with the ocean to your right. After 8km you will pass through Rukuwa vil-lage, which has a harbor. Continue following the road, passing through Bante and Taipabu villages. After roughly 30 minutes the forest will appear on your left.







TRAVEL PRACTICALITIES

Transportation

Travel Practicalities

There are many different ways to get around in Indonesia. The following chapter provides different options to get in, around and out of the Wakatobi National Park. Be aware that prices and schedules might change in Wakatobi.

How to get to Wakatobi

To get to Wakatobi depends on your time and budget you wish to spend. You can either fly to Makassar (also called Ujung Pandang) or Kendari and get a connecting flight or a boat to Wangi-Wangi directly, or fly to Bau Bau (Buton Island) and find a boat to one of Wakatobi's big islands.

By Air

Flight from Makassar (UPG) to Wakatobi (WNI): You can take this flight operated by Wings Air and Garuda Indonesia from Makassar to the airport of Wakatobi (Ma-tahora Airport) on Wangi-Wangi Island. It is a transit flight, stopping in Kendari for a transit before heading to Wangi-Wangi Island. Wings Air operates the flight daily, while Garuda Indonesia flies four times per week. Please check for the exact schedule on the airline website (www.lionair.co.id and www.garuda-indonesia.com) or your booking operator of choice. The flight prices vary, but are usually around Rp1.000.000/person or US\$100/person.

Flight from Kendari (KDI) to Wakatobi (WNI):

Kendari (KDI) is the main hub for flights to Wakatobi airport. Flights from Surabaya, Jakarta or as mentioned Makassar are well connected. From Kendari to Wakatobi there are daily flights operated by Wings Air, as well as four Garuda Indonesia flights per week. Please check for the exact schedule on the airline website (www.lionair.co.id and www.garuda-indonesia.com) or your booking operator of choice. The flight prices vary, but usually are around Rp500.000/person or US\$50/person.

Flight booking: One of the best online flight ticket booking operators in Indonesia is Traveloka (www.traveloka.com). The prices which are shown on the homepage are fixed prices. Other reliable sites are Tiket.com (www.tiket.com) and Pegi Pegi (www.pegipegi.com)

Flight from Bali to Tomia Island: A direct flight to Tomia Island is available on pri-vate chartered flight provided for the guest of the Wakatobi Resort.

By Sea

Taking the boat is cheaper for all tourists who prefer to travel on a budget. Be aware however that safety standards in most regions of Indonesia may not be as it is in other developed countries. Weather conditions may also affect your plan because the boat does not operate if the waves are too high.

Boat from Kendari to Wangi Wangi Island

If you are in Kendari, go to Pelabuhan Wanci to find Kapal Wanci (Wanci Boat/Ship) leaving at 11.00am in the day. It takes about 10 hours to get to Wakatobi. There are two types of boats or ships: KM Aksar Saputra and KM Agil Permai, with different date of departure. KM Aksar Saputra de-parts every Monday and Thursday from Kendari to Wanci, Tuesday and Saturday from Wanci to Kendari. KM. Agil Permai departs every Tuesday and Saturday from Kendari to Wanci, Monday and Thursday from Wanci to Kendari.

The cost of a ticket is around Rp200.000/person or US\$20/person.

Boat from Bau Bau to Wakatobi

Another way is to fly from Makassar to Bau Bau, Buton (BUW) and continue with a public boat to Wangi-Wangi Island, Kaledupa Island or Tomia Island. There is Jetliner operating from Tuesday to Friday at 22:00pm, taking around 6 hours until it's destination Wangi-Wangi. There is also a daily ferry running from Kamaru on Buton Island to Wangi-Wangi at 13:00pm, which takes around 5 hours. To get to the harbor of Kamaru, you need to take a car from Bau Bau for about 3 hours. The price for a ticket of the Jetliner and the ferry are approx. Rp80.000/person or US\$8/person. There are also several boats running between Bau Bau and the islands of Kaledupa and Tomia. Please check the schedule on the harbor.

How to get around

As Wakatobi consists of four main islands, the only way to get around is by boat. Be aware that weather conditions also play an important role. If the waves are too big no boats can cross the sea. Another challenge in transportation in Wakatobi is that the timetables of airplane and ferry is not coherent. You might be staying in Wangi-Wangi for one night to catch a ferry the next morning.

*The following time tables,
prices and the ferry location shall give you an overview.*

From Wangi-Wangi Island to Kaledupa Island

Regular boat

Depart from : Pelabuhan Mola (Mola Harbour)
Time : 09:00am
Duration : 2-3 hours
Arrive in : Pelabuhan Ambeua (Ambeua Harbour)
Price : Rp50.000/person

Transit to Hoga Island

If you want to go to Hoga Island you need to take the boat from Wangi-Wangi Island to Kaledupa Island, and at the Ambeua Harbour, ask the local people there for a chartered boat to Hoga Island. The cost should be around Rp50.000/person.

Return Kaledupa Island to Wangi-Wangi Island

Regular boat

Depart from : Pelabuhan Ambeua (Ambeua Harbour)
Time : 05:00am
Duration : 2-3 hours
Arrive in : Pelabuhan Mola (Mola Harbour)
Price : Rp50.000/person

From Wangi Wangi Island to Binongko Island

Regular boat

Depart from : Pelabuhan Mola (Mola Harbour)
Time : 09:00am
Duration : 6 hours
Arrive in : Pelabuhan Rukuwa (Rukuwa Harbour) or
Pelabuhan Bante (Bante Harbour) depending on the boat
Price : Rp120.000 - 150.000/person

From Wangi Wangi Island to Tomia Island

Regular boat

Depart from : Jabal Harbour
Time : 09:00am
Duration : 4-6 hours
Arrive in : Pelabuhan Onemai (Onemai Harbour)
Price : Rp120.000/person

Speed Boat

Depart from : Pelabuhan Jabal (Jabal Harbour)
Time : 01:00pm
Duration : 3 hours
Arrive in : Pelabuhan Onemai (Onemai Harbour)
Price : Rp120.000/person

Return from Tomia Island to Wangi-Wangi Island

Regular boat

Depart from : Pelabuhan Onemai (Onemai Harbour)
Time : 06:00am
Duration : 4-6 hours
Arrive in : Jabal Harbour
Price : Rp120.000/person

Speed Boat

Depart from : Pelabuhan Onemai (Onemai Harbour)
Time : 08:00am
Duration : 3 hours
Arrive in : Pelabuhan Jabal (Jabal Harbour)
Price : Rp150.000/person

All times are subject to change in the dynamic Wakatobi. Please let your accommodation check the daily changes. You can also find the newest information on www.wakatobitourism.com

Accommodation

All forms of accommodation are found in Wakatobi - from a luxury 5-star resort to family-run hotels or authentic guesthouses. There are no chain hotels in Wakatobi. Thus booking via email or online platforms is still a new practice among most accommodation providers. Best is to pick up the phone (usually cell phone, not land line) to ensure there is a room available or simply travel to the islands and book locally.

Hotels and Guesthouses in Wangi-Wangi


Alphabetical order

Abdi Jaya

Hotel Abdi Jaya opened in October 2014 and is providing nice clean rooms with TV and AC. The hotel lies in the heart of Wanci with many restaurants and the markets nearby. The rooms offer AC, TV and a small breakfast including. Adjacent to this ho-tel a dive operator run by the same owner, who is providing trips with high quality dive equipment. The owner Pak Akas is also a very enthusiastic diver who can show you the best dive spots in Wakatobi.

Information

 Jl. Wa Ompu Jengo,
Mandati II, Wangi-Wangi Selatan


 +62811400067
+6281355507480


 Room 250.000
IDR /room/night - Pricing (2017-2018)


Al-Azizyah

The hotel is located 5 minutes away from the big central market in Wanci. It has 20 rooms available, a restaurant and a small meeting room. The standard rooms are simple and affordable, while the executive are equipped with TV and AC.

Information

 Jl. Poros Liya No. 5, Wangi-Wangi

 +6281245912744
+6281245912744


 Standard 150.000
Executive 250.000
IDR /room/night - Pricing (2017-2018)


Ampupu Beach Hotel

Ampupu Beach Hotel recently opened its door to visitors in 2017. The new hotel is beautifully located outside of Wanci right next to the ocean. The four spacious rooms all have AC. Part of the Ampupu Beach complex is also a coffeeshop, where people love to spend their evenings calmly drinking their late night coffee, while enjoying the ocean breeze.

Information

 Jl. Wandoka Wangi-Wangi

 +6285241684626

 Standard 350.000
IDR /room/night - Pricing (2017-2018)


Nur Rizqi Hotel

Nur Rizqi is located very closely to the night market and opened for visitors since 2012. The three VIP rooms offer AC,TV, hot water and balcony with a view. The 5 standard rooms have the same facilities but no balcony.

Information

 Jl. Ahmad Yani, Kelurahan Bente Wangi-Wangi Selatan

 +6240421221


 Standard 300.000
VIP 500.000
IDR /room/night - Pricing (2017-2018)


Ar' Rafif Hotel

Lying in central Wanci this hotel is clean and relatively new. It lies close to all important sites in Wanci. Ar' Rafif offers 13 rooms from executive double bed to standard. All of the rooms are equipped with AC, TV and necessary amenities. Breakfast is included.

Information

 Jl. Wa Opa Leas, Kel. Pongo, Wangi-Wangi Selatan


 +6281242226830
+6285299345748

 Standard 150.000
Executive Double-Bed 260.000
IDR /room/night - Pricing (2017-2018)


Hotel Wakatobi

The Hotel Wakatobi (Melati III – this in a rank given to a hotel whose facilities and services are below starred hotel) is situated in the center of Wanci close to the morn-ing market. The hotel offers 30 clean rooms in different categories, a meeting room, as well as a car rental.

Information

 Jl. Jenderal Sudirman No. 105, Kelurahan Mandati I Wangi-Wangi Selatan

 +6240421823

 Standard 180.000
Executive 350.000
IDR /room/night - Pricing (2017-2018)

Patuno Resort

Patuno Resort is an exclusive and highly regarded resort on Wangi-Wangi Island. The resort complex is situated in a beautiful bay where guests can relax right on the beach or go for a swim. Patuno Resort has its own dive operator with well-equipped boats. The resort has a restaurant offering a variety western and Indonesian dishes. Every night guests can enjoy live music. The facilities of the resort include a ballroom, tour and travel packages, a spa, diving operators car rentals and packages for weddings or conferences.

Information



Jalan Raya Patuno
Wangi-Wangi 93791



+628114002221
+6282147265632



info@wakatobipatunoresort.com



www.wakatobipatunoresort.com



Standard 500.000
Superior 700.000
Deluxe/Junior Suite
1.000.000-1.200.000

IDR /room/night - Pricing (2017-2018)
Check the website for the latest rates and deals

Penginapan Jeli

This budget option is a favorite among backpackers coming to Wakatobi. There are 10 affordable rooms in total. They also offer a motorbike rental for those who enjoy discovering the island on their own. You will find Penginapan Jeli located close to "Kantor Bupati" in Wanci.

Information



Jl. Leas Kel Pongo,
Wangi-Wangi



+6285299427798
+628529942779



Standard 80.000
VIP 120.000

IDR /room/night - Pricing (2017-2018)

Sri Rezeki Hotel

Located near the harbour of Wanci and the Pasar Malam (Nightmarket) Sri Rezeki has 14 rooms and a refreshingly shady court to relax. Breakfast, snacks and amenities like drinking water, towels and toiletry items are included. Sri Rezeki has newly opened a more budget option, located right next to the hotel. It is running under the same name.

Information



Jl. La Ode Lalangi No 23,
Bente Wanci, Wangi-Wangi Selatan



+6282346134305



Single-Bed 220.000
Double-Bed 275.000

IDR /room/night - Pricing (2017-2018)

Villa Nadila

Villa Nadila is one of the newest hotels in the area of Wanci. It provides 14 newly refurbished rooms, all with AC and a terrace facing the court. A fresh and plentiful breakfast is included in the room price. They also cater to business or big family groups for dinner, serving a lavish buffet with many different food options.

Information



Jl. Jendral Sudirman,
Wanci, Wangi-Wangi Selatan



villa.nadila@gmail.com



+6282291348645



Standard 300.000
VIP 500.000

IDR /room/night - Pricing (2017-2018)

Wasabinua

This two star accommodation is 12 minutes walk from the beach. Wasabinua offers air-conditioned rooms, a private beach area and a garden. The in-house restaurant serves Asian cuisine. The rooms are fitted with a flat-screen TV and AC. Every room comes with a kettle, while some have a terrace. The owner also runs the famous Wasabinua restaurant, located on a small rocky island and only connected through a small bridge with the main island.

Information



Jl. A.H Nasution No.5,
Wandoka Utara,
Wangi-Wangi Selatan



+62218972618




Standard Room 350.000


IDR /room/night - Pricing (2017-2018)

Wisata Beach Hotel

Wisata Beach Hotel is located strategically in the center of Wanci and operates since 2011. All rooms are equipped with AC, television and hot water. Nearby Wisata Beach Hotel, is the restaurant offering a good selection of Indonesian food, located on the ocean. Furthermore there is a big hall available for meetings that can accommodate up to 150 person.

Information

 Jl. Jenderal Sudirman,
Kelurahan Mandati I
Wangi-Wangi Selatan

 +6281245639300
+6285231235223

 hotel.wisata.beach@gmail.com

 Deluxe 380.000
Executive 440.000
VIP 550.000


IDR /room/night - Pricing (2017-2018)


Wisma Maharani

The 6 rooms in this guesthouse all have AC, TV and western-style bathrooms. Featuring a 24-hour front desk, this property also provides guests with a terrace. The accommodation provides airport transfers and a bicycle rental service is also available. Free WiFi and complimentary coffee and tea served in the morning.

Information

 Jl. Jend. Ahmad Yani No. 125,
Wanci, Wangi-Wangi Selatan

 +6285341664816


 Standard Double/Twin-Bed
200.000
Superior Room 250.000

IDR /room/night - Pricing (2017-2018)

Other accommodation:


Green Tetembatu Wakatobi

 Jl. Poros, Liya Desa Numana, Wangi-Wangi


 Contact via: booking.com


Hotel Lina

 Jalan Wolter Monginsidi, Endapo

 +6240421691

Hotel Fidel

 Jalan Jenderal Sudirman, Wanci

 +6281330766274


Lamongan

 Jalan Merdeka, Kel. Pongo

 +6240421961


Nita Sari Inn

 Komp Pasar Pagi, Wanci


 +6281341762446

Nirmala Inn


 Jalan Ahmad Yani
(Bundaran mandate I)


 +6281341768156 /
+6285398512032

Melati Indah


 Jl. Kemakmuran no.27, Kel Pongo

Sinar Babo

 Mola Utara, Wangi-wangi

 +6285241727484

Toliamba Homestay

 Jl. Jendral Sudirman, Poros
Toliamba, Wanci

 Contact via: booking.com

Homestays in Kaledupa

There are several lodges and homestays spread around Kaledupa such as Madya Siru, MM Homestay, Angga Homestay, Lyan Inn and Agung Inn. Please consult your tour operator to arrange the accommodation here or simply head to the island and find a suitable place on arrival.

Villa Watumeleu

A small guesthouse located on a hill very close to the ocean. Villa Watumeleu has basic facilities, free breakfast included and a beautiful view over the mangroves of Limbo Langge.

Information



Langge, Desa Langge,
Kaledupa Selatan



Via booking.com



Standard 150.000 IDR room/night
IDR /room/night - Pricing (2017-2018)

Hotels/Homestays in Hoga

Hoga Island Dive Resort

Hoga Island Dive Resort has become well known among the more adventurous travelers keen to enjoy unspoiled nature at its best. The resort boasts with wooden bungalow accommodation, great hospitality and tranquility. The traditional cottages are built on stilts, each having the luxury of private balcony, beach view, and a hammock for relaxing. The resort's dive operator has more than 20 years of experience and knows all the best dive spots around Hoga and Wakatobi. The homemade Indonesian food is highly praised among all visitors. The resort also has a long lasting relationship with a NGO, improving the livelihood and education of local inhabitants.

Furthermore the manager Wia can help with trips around the neighboring island Kaledupa. The room price includes 3 delicious meals per day.

Information



Hoga Island



+628524162827



wiahoga@gmail.com



www.hogaislanddiveresort.com



Bungalow 400.000
IDR /person/night - Pricing (2017-2018)

Hoga Dive Resort

Hoga Dive Resort is located a short distance away from the pier on Hoga Island. It offers a variety of rooms, all equipped with AC. The beach of Hoga is only a one-minute walk away from the room. The hotel can also organize your diving package for you. Price is including breakfast.

Information



Hoga Island



+6281379532485
+6282291831072



www.hogadiveresort.com



Standard Room 600.000
Executive Room 800.000

IDR /room/night - Pricing (2017-2018)

Operation Wallacea

There are numerous bungalows for the students, who flock to Hoga every year for conservation and research purposes. When not in use by Operation Wallace, it is possible to rent them out.

Information



Hoga Island



+6285395303993



www.opwall.com



Small Bungalow 100.000

IDR /room/night - Pricing (2017-2018)

Homestays on Hoga

There are also numerous homestay on Hoga island with varying facilities and prices. Most of them are simple, but they can offer stunning views located straight overlooking the ocean. Ask your tour operator to arrange them or simply travel to the island to get the best deal. If it is not a national holiday there will always be some rooms available. Most of the homestays are located near the jetty, where the boats usually stop.

Resorts around Tomia

Wakatobi Resort

Wakatobi Resort is a luxury dive resort located on a small neighboring island of Tomia. With 5-star amenities, fine dining and luxurious bungalows and villas it is praised among the best dive resorts in the world. They also offer trips on their luxury dive yacht. All rooms include 24/7 management of staff, daily housekeeping, gourmet meals, in-room amenities, 24 hour snacks, coffee, tea, WiFi and village tour. The villa stay include a butler, private guide and diving camera set-up. The resort also offers a private chartered plane directly from Bali to Tomia.

Information



Wakatobi Dive Resort
Onemobaa Island, Tomia



+62 361 759669
(Bali Office Number)
Mobile: +628123811084
(Bali Office Manager)



office@wakatobi.com



www.wakatobi.com



Palm Bungalow 290 USD
Ocean Bungalow 380 USD
One-bedroom villa 605 USD
Two-bedroom villa 845 USD
IDR/person/night - Pricing (2017-2018)

Hotels and guesthouses in Tomia

Alphabetical order

Abi Jaya Inn

Abi Jaya is a small guesthouse which offers clean and simple rooms, located five minutes away from Waha harbor. The big garden has beautiful shady benches to sit around and enjoy coffee or fresh coconuts. The friendly staff cooks delicious Indonesian food. Abi Jaya works together with dive operators so it's possible to meet other divers there. There are 7 VIP rooms with AC/TV and other amenities. The 4 standard rooms are equipped with a fan only. Breakfast is included in the price.

Information



Kelurahan Waha, Tomia



+6281355507480
+6285656520252




Standard 150.000
VIP 250.000
IDR/room/night - Pricing (2017-2018)


Aris Jaya Inn

This guesthouse is located in Patipelong Village, strategically closer to Usuku Harbor and not far away from all tourist attraction in Tomia.

Information

 Kel. Patipelong
(Patipelong Village) Tomia Timur

 +6282333852850

 Standard 100.000
VIP 350.000


IDR /room/night - Pricing (2017-2018)


Bantea Inn

A small and clean guest house in Waha area. All rooms feature a flat-screen TV with cable channels and a private bathroom. The hotel provides tasty Indonesian breakfast and available to order lunch and dinner.

Information

 Kelurahan Waha, Tomia

 Via booking.com


 250.000 – 350.000


IDR /room/night - Pricing (2017-2018)

Asri Inn

This two floors guesthouse is located in Tee Moane, strategically closer to Usuku Harbor. The price including breakfast and free flow coffee and tea.

Information

 Desa Tee Moane, Tomia Timur

 +6282189100261

 Standard 150.000
Deluxe 300.000


IDR /room/night - Pricing (2017-2018)


Kasilapa Bay Hotel

This small hotel is located beautifully, with many rooms with a gorgeous view of the bay. Its less than a minute walking to get to the beach and in case you want to do a bicycle tour, the bikes are provided for free. All rooms have AC, terrace and western style bathrooms.

Information

 Jl. MH Thamrin, Patipelong
Tomia

 Via booking.com


 Deluxe Junior Suite 250.000
Deluxe Room 300.000
Deluxe Double 350.000


IDR /room/night - Pricing (2017-2018)


Laborestay


This small 4-room B&B sits right next to the market in Waha. The rooms are simple but clean and the location is strategic, making Laborestay a favorite amongst backpacker.

Information

 Jl. Pasar Waha, Tomia

 +6281343730361
+6285796640612


 laborestay@gmail.com


 Standard 150.000
VIP 200.000
IDR /room/night - Pricing (2017-2018)

Sinar Harapan

A small guesthouse with a good view of the mountainous area around Kahinga Peak and a very friendly owner. It also offers a small restaurant where guests can eat.

Information

 Jl. Toliewatu, Tomia Timur

 +6281343730361
+6285796640612


 Economy 250.000
Deluxe 300.000
IDR /room/night - Pricing (2017-2018)


Terapung Inn

This cosy and clean guesthouse is directly facing the sea in Waha. It offers clean rooms all equipped with AC. It is the perfect point to start your dive trip because the next dive operator is located just behind the building. The hotel provides tasty Indo-nesian breakfast and meals. The harbor of Waha is just a 5 minute walking distance away.

Information

 Kelurahan Waha, Tomia

 +6285394331703

 Standard 150.000
VIP 200.000
IDR /room/night - Pricing (2017-2018)


Other accommodation:

Kulati Village


The community of Kulati run a clean homestay at a beautiful spot overlooking the bay of Kulati. The sound of the waves at night, the calm breeze from the ocean and the delicious local food make Kulati a recommendable option. The price is Rp160.000/room/night including snacks and meals. Snorkelling and other tours are easy to organize from here.


Tomia Inn

 Kelurahan Waha, Tomia

 +6285394331703

Information

 Kulati Village, Tomia Timur, Tomia Island

 +6283349387586
+6282169579815

Homestay Poasa Nuhada

 Village Kulati

 Tel: +6282193509550

Homestays in Binongko


There are a number of simple homestays spread around Binongko. They all offer delicious local food, a simple bedroom and a bathroom

All Booking can be made through the Binongko Homestay Association, which manages all the accommodation on the island. The cost of a night is usually around Rp100.000/night for a room, including a small breakfast.

Contact:

 binongko.homestays@gmail.com

 Nuraisyah Tel: 082293324911

 Safie Tel: 085399527326

Other accommodation

The heart-warming hospitality of the people of Wakatobi also means that you will always find a nice and budget place to stay, no matter how remote the area is. Staying at a resident's home gives you an authentic experience that is hard to forget. Enjoying amazing home-cooked traditional Wakatobi dishes and dwelling into the culture of your hosts are just two of the experiences worth taking. Many will happily offer to be your guide, providing valuable knowledge about the area.



Public Services and Business Listing

Community Based Tourism



Kelompok Sadar Wisata Kapota Raya

-  Kapota Village, Wangi Wangi
-  +62 853 941 948 32
+62 852 424 351 97
- ★ Offer island tour around Kapota Island and English speaking guide

Lembaga Pariwisata (LEPA) Mola Raya

-  Mola Raya, Wangi Wangi
-  +62 852 395 903 50
-  bajomolatourism@gmail.com
- ★ Offer tour package around Bajo Mola, English speaking guide and dolphin watching



Waha Tourism Community

-  Waha Village, Wangi-Wangi
-  +6285241857674
- ★ Snorkeling center, marine activities

Keppo'oli Liya Togo



-  Liya Togo Village, Wangi Wangi
-  +62 853 405 789 35
+62 813 432 679 15
- ★ Offer tour package in Liya Village, English speaking guide, canoeing, cooking class, Liya culture tours

Poassanudaha Kulati Village


-  Kulati Village, Tomia
-  +62 852 412 044 67
- ★ Offer tour package in Kulati Village and Nda'a Island

Tour and Dive Operator in Wakatobi



Dinis Cemara Dive Center (DCDC)

-  Cemara Beach, Wapia-pia Village, Wangi Wangi
-  +62 822 932 401 10

Wakatobi Marine Dive

-  +62 853 408 538 31



Tomia Scuba Dive

-  Waha Village, Tomia
-  +62 821 878 777 51



Waka-Waka Dive Center

-  Mandati II, Wangi Wangi And Hoga Island,
-  +62 823 436 800 00

Wakatobi Dive Trip

-  +62 811 401 449
-  www.wakatobidivetrip.id

Patuno Dive Center

-  Patuno Resort, Jl. Ir. Soekarno, Wangi Wangi
-  +62 811 400 2221
-  www.wakatobipatunoresort.com



Oceania Wakatobi

-  oceaniawakatobi@gmail.com



Rekan Dive Center

-  Cemara Beach, Wapia-pia Village, Wangi-Wangi
-  +62 811 405 670
-  rdcwakatobi@gmail.com

Wakatobi Dive Adventure

-  Mandati II, Wangi Wangi
-  +62 852 401 378 88

Mawadah Dive Center

-  Jl. Ahmad Yani, Wangi Wangi
-  +62 821 960 951 75

PT. Anoa Outdoor Activities



Lingkungan Endapo
Kel. Mandati II,
Kec. Wangi-wangi Selatan



+62 821 871 604 21



wakatobi@
anoaoutdooradventures.com



www.anoaoutdooradventures.
com

Wonderful Wakatobi



Jl. AH Nasution No. 5 Sombu,
Wanci



+6282112618744



info@wonderful-wakatobi.com



wonderful-wakatobi.com

Tomia Wakatobi Soea



+62 812 456 904 89



tourtomia@gmail.com



www.tomiawakatobisoea.com

Toudani Trip Operator



Kel. Ambeua, Kaledupa, Wakatobi



+62 821 932 660 20

Wakatobi Adventure Tour



Jl. Ahmad Yani no.6 Lingkungan
Hanta, Tomia



+62 82211867236,
+6281311488577,
+6281574292923



wakatobiadventure@gmail.com

Famokosa Tour



Rukuwa, Binongko, Wakatobi





+62 853 995 273 26

Tour Operator in Makassar

If you would prefer to join a package tour, rather than venturing out solo and planning by yourself, the tables below provide information for a few tour operators that offer tour packages to and in Wakatobi. The operators are listed in alphabetical order.

Alfa Prima

 Jl. Berkah 3 A, Sungai Saddang Baru, Makassar, Sulawesi Selatan

 +62 411 454 699

 info@alfaprimatours.com

 www.alfaprimatours.com

Caraka Travelindo

 Jl. Dr. Wahidin Sudirohusodo No. 44, Makassar, Sulawesi Selatan

 +62 411 361 8877

 info@carakatravelindo.com

 www.carakatravelindo.com

Dewi Wisata

 Jl. Sultan Hasanuddin No. 24 E, Makassar, Sulawesi Selatan

 +62 411 361 5858

 dewi@dewi-wisata.com / andre.wydianto@dewi-wisata.com

 www.dewi-wisata.com

Khiri Travel

 Jl. Gunung Rinjani No. 7 New Jasmine, Metro Tanjung Bunga, Makassar


 +62 811 413 1711

 sales.indonesia@khiri.com

 www.khiri.com

Matahari Travels

 Perumahan Veteran Regency blok
B No. 2, Makassar

 +62 8784 000 8784
+62 811 461 6461


 info@mataharitravels.com


 www.mataharitravels.com

Panorama Destination

 Jl. Bulukunyi No. 8, 3rd floor


 +62 411 853 366

 ujungpandang@panorama-tours.
com

 www.panorama-destination.com

Tari Travel

 Jl. Sultan Alauddin,
Graha Modern Jaya C-29, Makassar


 +62 411 870 767
+62 411 878760


 taritravel@yahoo.com


 www.taritravelindonesia.com

Tour Operator in Kendari and Baubau

Alexa Scuba


 Jl. Malik V No. 12 Kota Kendari,
South East Sulawesi


 +62811405406
+62811405407
+6281213033479

 alexascuba@gmail.com

 -

Bahteramas Wisata T&T


 Jl. A.H Nasution, Komplek
Andonohu Town Square no. 03,
Kendari, South East Sulawesi

 +6281342613826

 andrelantang66@gmail.com

Wasage Divers

 Baubau, Buton, South East
Sulawesi

 +6281355459398 (Imin) or
+6281244251673 (DJ)


 info@wasagedivers.com

 wasagedivers.com

Visitor Information Center

There are three visitor information centers spread around Wakatobi. (Wangi Wangi, Kaledupa and Tomia) They offer information about the best attractions to visit, transportation rental, dive operators and the best places to eat.

Visitor Information Center Wangi Wangi

 Jl. Sudirman 58, Mandati II, Wangi-
Wangi Selatan

 -

 10.00 AM - 05.00 PM

Visitor Information Center Kaledupa

 Rumah Kamali, Ambeua, Kaledupa

 +6281355711126

 10.00 AM - 05.00 PM

Visitor Information Center Tomia



Waha, Tomia
(turn left from Waha Harbor)



+6282290961588



10.00 AM - 05.00 PM

Electricity and Communication

Electricity

Wangi Wangi	: 24 hours
Kaledupa	: 18:00-06:00
Tomia	: 18:00-06:00
Binongko	: 18:00-06:00

In Wakatobi there can be power shortages, leaving you with only candle-or flashlight. This is common on the four islands of Wakatobi. Therefore it is recommended to organize the charging of your electronic devices.

Communication:

For your mobile phone it is recommended to use an Indonesian prepaid SIM. They are really affordable and you can easily refill your credit (or called 'pulsar') at many small shops (kiosk). There are several operators in Indonesia but the most reliable in Wakatobi is Telkomsel (Simpati and AS). In some areas of the islands you might not have either mobile reception or internet access at all.

Internet:

Mobile internet access only works reliably in Wangi-Wangi. On the other islands, depending on your phone (and sometimes also your luck), you might have troubles in getting even a decent connection. Also WiFi does not always work and only found in some spots in Wangi-Wangi Island or Tomia Island.

What to eat in Wakatobi

With the sparkling ocean that surrounds Wakatobi, it is easy to guess that seafood is the number one cuisine here. Straight from the crystal clear waters, guaranteeing amazing taste and freshness, and with numerous traditional dishes, the seafood can be enjoyed any way you like. Probably the most famous local dish is ikan parende—a fish soup with a tingly sour taste from ingredients like tamarind, which is balanced by the sweetness of the fish and chili spice. Combined with kasoami, a cassava based dish that is the perfect way to mop up the soup, you will find it hard to stop eating.

Another favorite is luluta—sticky rice boiled in coconut milk then grilled inside a bamboo stick. Of course you can also find other Indonesian favorites like nasi goreng, soto ayam and gado gado. As most islands have quite a few chickens running around, be sure to ask for ayam kampung, which means village chicken. It's also not a problem to bring your own fish bought at the market to a rumah makan (restaurant) or your homestay. For a small charge, they will prepare it any way you like.



Parende
Photo by Guntur



Kasoami
Photo by Guntur

Where to eat in Wakatobi

Wangi Wangi Island

Wangi Wangi Island has by far the most rumah makan and warung (small restaurant) all with comparable quality. They are mostly concentrated in Wanci, where you can just drive your motorbike around town and pick the most appealing for your appetite. Some of the favorites include:

Warung Sederhana

Located in central Wanci, the friendly staff of this warung serve delicious fresh juices and popular Indonesian dishes.

Wasabi Nua

This recently opened restaurant sits on the shore, offering gorgeous views over the ocean. It is a short drive out of Wanci, but the mix of Japanese garden style interior, the cool ocean breeze and fresh seafood makes it worth a visit.

Wisata Restaurant

This restaurant, beautifully located on wooden stilts above the ocean, is built with an open area in the middle, where huge fish gladly take care of any leftovers.

Asoka Restaurant

Asoka is known for using a special combination of herbs and spices for their dishes. They serve all kinds of seafood, chicken, duck and delicious vegetable dishes. Be sure to set aside some time, as it can take time for them to prepare the food.

Kaledupa Island

Kaledupa has few rumah makan and warung, but its homestays will amaze you with home-cooked tasty dishes featuring fresh fish, crab, shrimp and a nice choice of local vegetables. Before you set out on a day trip just ask them to prepare a lunch to go for you. The small warung on the island serve simple but tasty food.

Tomia Island

Most hotels in Tomia offer breakfast and you can also find some “rumah makan” on the island. However, it is recommended to order lunch and dinner at your hotel or homestay. In the evening you can also head to Lakota Beach where many small food stalls offer all kinds of local culinary treats, with a beautiful atmosphere and the beach serving as your dining background. Here you can find satay (meat on a skew-er) grilled on charcoal and pisang epe (grilled banana) for dessert, as well as a large choice of fish and other Indonesian meals.

Binongko Island

Binongko does not have any restaurants. Your homestay will cook meals whenever you desire, and will be happy to show you the absolutely fantastic traditional cuisine. If you want to go on a day-trip just ask for a packed lunch.

Money

There are three banks in Wakatobi which you can find on Wangi-Wangi Island in the town of Wanci: BNI, BRI and Danamon. BNI provides two ATMs in Wanci. With BNI you can access money with your VISA or MasterCard. The other bank BRI provides access for MasterCard. Only a few hotels and restaurants do accept a credit card payment. Therefore

it is recommended to ask your hotel if it provides such a service before your arriving in Wakatobi. Also there are no Money Changer in Wakatobi. If you travel to the other islands make sure to bring enough cash with you, as the town of Wanci is the only place for you to get cash.

Health

Health centres, hospital, and general practitioner are present throughout Wakatobi. However, in case of emergency, the limited medical equipment may not be sufficient. Depending on the case, admission to a renowned hospital in Makassar or Bali is advised. Be aware that Wakatobi is a high-risk malaria area. Make sure you take the necessary measures, be it a preventive intake of anti-malaria medication, or bring along 'Malarone' or 'Riamed' tablets to take in case of Malaria infection. Another increasing illness is Dengue Fever which is spread throughout Southeast Asia. There are no vaccinations or medicaments to treat dengue. Just prevent mosquito bites.

The tap water is non-drinkable in Wakatobi. To avoid risk, consume bottled water you can easily purchase

in the shop and make sure that the caps are fully sealed. If you get served water in a village, it is usually boiled well and safe.

Vaccinations

There are several vaccinations recommended for travelers coming to Indonesia:

- Diphtheria, Tetanus, Polio
- Measles (Rubeola)
- Hepatitis A

Additional for high-risk groups:

- Hepatitis B
- Typhus
- Rabies
- Japanese Encephalitis
- Pneumococcus

Prevent mosquito bites

To prevent mosquito bites, you are recommended to follow these guidelines:

- Wear protective clothing (long pants and long-sleeved shirts).
- Use insect repellent with DEET (N,N diethylmetatoluamide). The repellent is available in various strengths up to 100%. In young children, use a preparation containing less than 24% strength, because too much of the chemical can be bad for the skin.
- Use bed nets (mosquito netting)
- Use flying-insect spray indoors around sleeping areas.
- Avoid areas where malaria and mosquitoes are present if you are at higher risk (for example, if you are pregnant, very young, or very old).

Medical Risk Scuba Diving

The most common medical problems are simple **“squeezes.”** These can affect your middle ear or face mask during descent. Squeezes cause pain in your ears. The pain is caused by the difference in pressure between the air spaces of your ears and mask, and higher water pressure as you go deeper in the water. Squeezes that affect the inner ear or sinuses are less common.

Cuts, scrapes and other injuries

to the arms and legs can be caused by contact with fish and other marine animals, certain species of coral and

hazards such as exposed sharp metal on wrecks or fishing line.

Barotrauma occurs when you are rising to the surface of the water (ascent) and gas inside the lungs expands, hurting surrounding body tissues. In some divers, these lung injuries can be bad enough to cause lung collapse (pneumothorax). The injuries may also allow free air bubbles to escape into the blood stream. This is called arterial gas embolism. Arterial gas embolism often causes chest pain, breathing trouble and neurologic problems such as stroke.

Decompression sickness occurs during ascent and on the surface of the water. Inert nitrogen gas that is dissolved in body tissues and blood comes out of solution and forms bubbles in the blood. The bubbles can injure various body tissues and may block blood vessels. The most common signs of severe decompression sickness are dysfunction of the spinal cord, brain and lungs.

Prevention of DCS

Recreational divers must dive conservatively, whether they are using dive tables or computers. Experienced divers often select a table depth (versus actual depth) of 10 feet (3 meters) deeper than called for by standard procedure. This practice is highly recommended for all divers, especially when diving in cold water or when diving un-der strenuous conditions. Computer divers should be cautious in approaching no-decompression limits,

especially when diving deeper than 100 feet (30 meters).

Avoiding the risk factors noted above (deep/long dives, exercise at depth or after a dive) will decrease the chance of DCS occurring. Exposure to altitude or flying too soon after a dive can also increase the risk of decompression sickness. DAN (Divers Alert Network) has recently published guidelines for flying after diving.

If you or one of your dive buddies has had an accident while diving, or if you would like to discuss a potential diving-related health problem, call the Divers Alert Network (DAN) emergency telephone line (1-919-684-8111). DAN is located at Duke University Medical Center in Durham, N.C. Doctors, emergency medical technicians and nurses are available 24 hours a day to answer your questions. See the Emergency Guidelines at the end of this Guidebook for all relevant medical facilities.

Diving Guidelines

Wakatobi is a remote area and diving is a high-risk activity. These guidelines have been developed to help divers enjoy a safe and interesting visit to Wakatobi, while helping to protect its natural beauty.

Safety (Divers should)

- Be certified by a recognized international training agency and be physically fit to dive
- Ensure that the personal and/or rented dive equipment is in a working condition and appropriate for local conditions
- Carry safety items such as:
 - A surface marker buoy or other daylight signaling device

- A dive light, strobe or other night-signaling device
- A whistle, air horn or other auditory device
- A dive computer if doing a series of dives over multiple days

- Understand and comply with briefings, depth limits, emergency procedures and other guidelines provided by their dive guides
- Exercise caution when surfacing, and remain vigilant for boats maneuvering nearby
- Adopt sensible and conservative depth limits, profiles, ascent rates, safety stops and surface intervals. There are no local facilities for diving medicine.

- Avoid flying or ascending to an altitude of 2,500m (9,000 ft) within 18 hours after diving

- Inform their dive guide immediately in the event of an accident, and render assistance without putting themselves or others at risk

- Render assistance in the event of an accident only to the extent that their training, experience and physical fitness allows

- Never dive beyond their level of certification, training, experience or physical fitness.

Conservation

- DO practice environmentally-aware diving by:

- Practicing good buoyancy, do not dive over weighted

- Avoiding physical contact with the reef or other marine life

- Being aware of their fins, especially in currents or surge

- Securing hoses and gauges

- DO use reef hook or fingertip to stabilize yourself in strong current
Look for rock not living coral!

- DO help to protect Wakatobi National Park by reminding fellow divers and tour-operators

- DON'T disturb, collect or capture the park's living or non-living natural resources including dead corals, shells or stones

- DON'T wear gloves while diving, unless required in cold water and confirmed with your dive guide

- DON'T feed or attract fish or other wildlife with food or bait

- DON'T dispose of trash or rubbish, except in designated areas

- DON'T touch the reef or move marine creatures using your hands or metal stick

Etiquette

The people of Wakatobi are always friendly and smiling and will understand that you are from a foreign country with a different culture. But cultures can differ quite a lot so it is advised that you respect local customs to avoid any negative situations or embarrassment. Here are some things to keep in mind:



- Smile. Indonesians love smiling, as it signals approachability. Luckily, smiling is contagious so it won't be hard for you to respect this beautiful custom.



- Be patient. You will be the centre of attention almost everywhere you go. Curious children will follow you, as will shouts of "*hello mistaa*" (even if you are a woman), and many people will ask where you are from and approach you for selfies. Enjoy being the star and try to understand and appreciate their enthusiasm about welcoming visitors.



- Wakatobi is predominantly Muslim. In the Islamic faith, as in Hinduism, the left hand is seen as unclean. So when handing over or receiving something, eating, pointing and touching other people, please use your right hand.



- Do not blow your nose in public, but wipe it discreetly with a tissue.



- Couples, even married ones, should avoid public displays of affection other than holding hands.



- It is considered bad manners to touch a person's head—even the common western show of affection of rubbing a child's hair.



- Bargaining in markets is the rule. But in Wakatobi vendors will not give you a heavily overpriced offer. Try to be generous, as the costs compared to your origin country are presumably a lot lower anyways.



- Take off your shoes before entering people's homes. It is also considered very impolite to refuse food or drinks. After everybody has been served, the host will invite you to start eating. In case you have any food allergies, are vegetarian/vegan, or can't/won't eat a certain animal, let the host know. Thanks to the wide cultural diversity of Indonesia, they will understand.



- Be especially sensitive during the Muslim fasting month of Ramadhan. Avoid eating, drinking and smoking in public.



For Women

- Wear t-shirts that cover your shoulders and pants that don't reveal too much of your legs.



- Wearing a bikini is fine in the hotels or on deserted beaches. Everywhere else where there is other people around please put on a t-shirt and shorts for swimming.

Sustainability



Refillable bottle

Using a refillable bottle is an eco-friendly (and budget) way to stay hydrated on the islands.

Instead of buying a small bottle every time you are thirsty, bring a refillable bottle with you. You can fill them up at local warungs or your homestay or hotel. These bottles will be available at the various tourist information centers on every island



Say no to unnecessary plastic, use re-usable bags

A lot of unnecessary plastic is used, especially when shopping at the market or for take away food. If you go shopping try to bring your own bag. These bags are also available at the tourism information centers around Wakatobi.

Destruction of the reef

Reefs are home to thousands of marine species and the destruction of a single reef can cause severe problems for the whole surrounding ecosystem. The food chain is highly dependent on the small animals that live on the reefs. In Wakatobi the majority of people depend on the reefs, as fish is the main part of the local diet. Fortunately, destructive fishing methods have declined significantly in the last ten years and the islands' reefs are in very good condition. Below are some of the practices that have caused damage to

the reefs in the past.

Cyanide fishing

Cyanide fishing uses sodium cyanide (NaCN), an inorganic compound. The chemical paralyzes the fish, which can then be easily captured and collected. According to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), for every live fish caught using cyanide, a square meter of coral reef is destroyed. Although highly illegal in Indonesia, it is an easily performed but hard to detect form of fishing.

Dynamite fishing


Another destructive fishing method and that was commonly used in Wakatobi in the 1990s is dynamite fishing. This form of fishing uses self-prepared bombs that consist of glass bottles filled with explosive material. Depending on the size of the bomb the explosion can kill fish within a radius of 10-20m² and can be heard up to 10km away. After the blast the fisherman can collect the dead fish from the water's surface. However, it is not only the fish that are killed. This method results in the destruction of corals and the death of other animals. In some spots in Wakatobi where dynamite fishing was used, the reef looks like a dead grey moon-like landscape. Dynamite fishing is also a very dangerous business, as the detonation time is unpredictable it has caused deaths and injury to fisherman.

Sand-mining

Sand mining is the practice of extracting sand from beaches. In Wakatobi, sand is often used to build roads, buildings and other constructions. Beaches without sand are ugly but furthermore it has a destructive effect on the ecosystem. The stealing of sand from beaches and sand dunes is a direct cause of erosion along many shore-lines. It is very damaging to the beach fauna and flora and frequently causes environmental damage to other coastal ecosystems associated with the beach such as wetlands.


Although it is very unlikely that you will encounter any of these practices today, please notify the Wakatobi National Park (Taman Nasional Wakatobi) if you do.

Wakatobi National Park Call Center:

 +628114057113


Wakatobi National Park Office in Wangi-Wangi Island:

 Jl. Panglima Talo-Talo No. 47,
Desa Numana, Kecamatan Wangsel


 Tel: +6281353528217


Wakatobi National Park Office in Kaledupa Island:

 Jl. Kelurahan Lagiwaie,
Kecamatan Kaledupa Selatan

 Tel: +6281241237100

Wakatobi National Park Office in Tomia Island:

 Jl. Poros Waha-Usuku,
Desa Temoane, Kecamatan Tomia

 Tel: +6281343806005

Emergency Guidelines

The following information should be used as a guideline in the event of accident in Wakatobi National Park. This includes all diving-related illnesses. If you find yourself in an emergency or other threatening situation, inform your dive guide immediately.


It is essential to find out whether the diver requires recompression treatment, or not. Any diver with


unusual signs or symptoms after diving needs be medically evaluated to confirm or exclude Decompression Sickness. Contact must be made with a qualified and competent diving doctor. For the current situation, as soon as DCS is confirmed, evacuation must be made to a Makassar or Bali hospital. There is a decompression chamber in Wangi-Wangi, but the facility is not yet running (latest point 2018). Please check on the www.wakatobitourism.com website for the newest update, or ask your local diving operator.

Facilities in Wanci

Wanci has a small hospital but the facilities are considered basic and would only be used whilst awaiting evacuation from Wanci to more extensive medical facilities in Baubau, Makassar or Bali. There is a Decompression Chamber but is not running at the moment.

Rumah Sakit Umum Daerah Wakatobi


 Lead Medic: Dr Kartini
+62 813 5566 9233
+ 62 856 305609


 Head of Hospital:
Dr Irfan +62 812 4135 2805

Facilities in Kendari

The medical facilities in Kendari are considered basic. They can be used for patient stabilisation before onward evacuation to Makassar. There are many daily flights be-tween Kendari and Makassar.

R.S.U Santa Anna (Hospital)

 Jl. Lh. Woodward No.1
Kendari 93871


 +62 823 4513 2857

Facilities in Bau Bau

The medical facilities in Bau Bau are considered basic.

Rumah Sakit Umum Buton


 I, Jend. Sudirman No.20, Bau Bau

 +62 402 282 1803

Facilities in Makassar

Where there is a serious illness or incident where a patient may require surgery, the patient will be taken to Makassar, which is the home of the best medical facilities in Sulawesi. There are plenty of western standard hospitals and all the facilities you would expect from a major city. Most medical situations including DCS can be handled here.

Rumah Sakit Wahidin

 Jl, Perintis Kemerdekaan No.11,
Tamalanrea Kampus UNHAS,
Makassar



+62 411 583333 (for decompression
+62 411 583333 8196)

This is the main hospital for the whole of Sulawesi and as such contains all the equipment you would associate with a major hospital. There is a range of specialist doctors capable of dealing with most conditions, highly trained surgeons and proper intensive care facilities. This hospital runs a decompression chamber.

Siloam Hospital



Jl Metro Tanjung Bunga Kav 9,
Tanjung Merdeka-Tamalate,
Makassar, 90225



+62 (0)411 3662 900
Emergency Phone:
+62 (0)411 811 7911



info.shmk@siloamhospitals.com

The Siloam Hospital Group have by far the most advanced medical facilities and services in the whole of Indonesia.

Rumah Sakit Akademis



Jl, Bulusaraung No.57, Makassar



Telephone: +62 411 317343


This large private hospital is to western standards. It is very clean and has highly qualified doctors and surgeons, mostly educated in Europe and the US. It is equipped to a high specification and is ideal for all non-specialist treatment and operations.

Facilities in Bali

Bali also has a number of decompression chambers and where any diver suffering decompression sickness should be heading at the first instance. This would require a medivac plane to collect from Wanci.

RSUP Sanglah


 Jl Diponegoro - Denpasar - Bali

 Emergency Phone:

+62361226363

Switchboard Operator:

+62 361 227911 – 227915

 +62 361 224206

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About Wakatobi Island Working Group Networks and FTKP Wakatobi

The FTKP (Destination Management Forum) Wakatobi was initiated by the Ministry of Tourism of Indonesia in October 2014. FTKP is functioning as the coordination body for tourism stakeholders in Wakatobi; including local associations, the district government and tourism industry players. Under the district FTKP, there are three Island Working Groups (IWGs) that manage the coordination function among tourism stakeholders in each island level specifically on destination development.

In a participatory process, Wakatobi FTKP re-designed the brand of Wakatobi as a destination and through the IWG has promoted Wakatobi through participation in national and international travel fairs. Other IWG activities include collaboration with local tourism businesses in order to manage and organize educational familiarization trip (media and tour operator) and guidance to help raise the quality standards of local tourism businesses (accommodations, restaurants and tour operator) to meet international standards of service. Gaining the trust of local tourism

businesses and stakeholders, as well as building means of collaboration, is essential to Wakatobi FTKP's mission. Through developing sustainable tourism, which is protecting natural and cultural tourism resources, the organization aims to improve the economic situation of local communities around Wakatobi.

Wakatobi IWG Networks



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Under the jetty at Jepang Dive Site

Photo by Guntur





wakatobi
world marine heritage