



Cruise Itinerary Kalabahi – Maumere

No cruise on MV Samambaia is like the other. Every single trip is tailor-made to create a once-in-a-lifetime experience. The decision on the itinerary is made by the cruise director as we cruise along and is based on factors such as weather conditions, dive conditions, requests of guests and schedules of other liveaboards, which we are trying to stay away from.

There are however certain constants on every cruise which are:

- Three day dives of minimum 1 hour duration
- One sunset- or night dive (unless we have to cover a serious amount of miles over night)

Activities during the surface intervals such as:

- scenic rides through lagoons and coves in our tenders
- trekking to breathtaking view points
- visits of secluded perfect beaches
- excursions to traditional villages
- whale watching
- water action such as wake boarding and water skiing

Based upon that, here is a potential itinerary for an 11 nights / 12 days cruise from Kalabahi/ Alor to Labuan Bajo/Flores. This is just to give you a general idea and is subject to change due to weather- and other conditions. Popular dive sites are named. We do however have our secret spots as well, which you will learn about during the cruise.

Day 1: Embarkation

Arrival with plane from Kupang in the afternoon to Alor. You will be picked up by crew members at the airport. Embarkation in the port of Kalabahi. A general orientation follows.

Day 2: Easy start

After an initial general dive briefing, check dive in the morning at a pretty, easygoing and protected dive site. Three more macro dives thereafter, one at Pura, two in the bay of Kalabahi. With a little bit of luck our dive guides might show you the 'Holy Grail of Critter Hunters', the Rhinopias, already on your first day of diving. Other than that you can expect: Frogfish, Ghostpipefish, all sorts of cephalopods and Crustaceans as well as colourful Nudibranchs.

Popular dive sites here: Mucky Mosque, Black Rhino, Pertamina Pier

Day 3 & 4: Alor & Pura

Time for some action packed current drift dives with potential for big stuff. All our dives are going to be either slope or wall dives. We have spotted here in the past: Oceanic Sunfish, Big Dogtooth Tuna and Thresher Sharks. Popular dive sites here: School's Out, Anemone City, The Great Wall of Pantar

Day 5: Beangabang

A protected bay which is said to have a better macro life than the famous Lembah Strait. Be prepared for some cold water upwellings which will not stop you from having extended bottom times if you are a critter lover. No time limit here on the night dive.

An excerpt of the spotting list from 1 (one!) dive we recently did there: Wonderpus, Blue Ring Octopus, Coconut Octopus, Pegasus, Frogfish, Rhinopias, Ambon Scorpionfish, Robust Ghostpipefish, Roughsnout Ghostpipefish, Thorny Seahorse, Melibe.....

Day 6: Pantar Selatan / Kambing

Facing the Savu Sea the southern coast of Pantar and Pulau Kambing are exposed to strong upwellings and swells full of nutrition from the deep. Hence the marine life here is mind boggling with potential for large pelagics. Besides the known sites around Pulau Kambing our favourites here are our secret spots.

Day 7: Lamalera & Soangi

A macro morning dive at an excellent secret spot of ours ('The Corner Shop') is followed by an optional visit of the traditional Whaling Village of Lamalera. The people of this village are fundamental animists and are living their ancient traditions until today in our modern world. Alternatively we offer a dive for you, of course.

In the afternoon we are aiming for an action packed dive at the island of Soangi if the conditions permit. Good potential for big stuff and amazing colourful coral. If the conditions are too rough, we have our alternative secret site in proximity. To cap the day, we will offer you a sandy critter night dive.

Day 8: Lembata's Critters

Sandy critter diving par excellence. One spot is at a pier, the other ones a bit further to the east. Critter hunting at it's best: Seahorses, different species of Rhinopias, sometimes even side by side, frogfish, all sorts of cephalopods. Truly a world class dive spot.

Day 9: Lembata & Komba

We will do three dives in daytime. Either at a spot we call 'The Shark Wall' or alternatively at a fantastic critter spot. This depends on the preferences of the group. In the afternoon we will head north towards the active volcano of Komba, which erupts every 15 to 20 minutes. A spectacular display of nature's power and free fireworks for us.

Day 10: Pulau Raja & Flores

In the morning we offer two dives at the island of Pulau Raja, north of Flores. One at a stunning wall with very good coral growth and overhangs, the other very interesting one at the bottom of a lava flow of the volcano that erupted last time in 2013. Third and last dive of the day along the north coast of Flores. In the afternoon we will take you on an exciting wall dive at Pulau Babi.

Day 11: Maumere Bay

Our last day before disembarkation we will spend at a beautifully quiet and protected anchorage in the bay of Maumere. In the morning we offer you a wreck dive ('Wodong Wreck') that turns in the shallows into a critter heaven: Pipehorses, Ghostpipefish, Nudibranchs. A beautiful dive with no time limit to finish this cruise. If your flight schedule permits our guides will happily take you on a second dive as well.

The afternoon we spend at this anchorage, filled with some in-water fun such as wakeboarding and waterskiing and the famous Floating Bar.

Day 12: Disembarkation in Maumere

Depending on your flight schedule, our crew will check your luggage in for you in advance so you can rest on board and let us shuttle you to the airport when your plane is ready to leave.

