

Dive Review of Wakatobi -- Pelagian in Indonesia/Wakatobi

December, 2015, an Instant Reader Report by Andrew Bernat, VA, US

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"An Idyllic Week on the Pelagian"

Report Number 8798

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Reporter and Travel

Dive Experience	501-1000 dives		
Where else diving	Raja Ampat, Fiji, Great Barrier Reef, Bora Bora, Lembeh, Caribbean		
Closest Airport	Tomia	Getting There	Through Bali

Dive Conditions

Weather	sunny, dry	Seas	calm, currents
Water Temp	84 to ° Fahrenheit	Wetsuit Thickness	
Water Visibility	50 to 100 Feet		

Dive Policy

Dive own profile?	yes		
Enforced diving restrictions	No deco diving. Dives were generally 70 minutes or longer.		
Liveaboard?	yes	Nitrox Available?	no

What I saw

Sharks	1 or 2	Mantas	None
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Dolphins	None	Whale Sharks	None
Turtles	> 2	Whales	None

Ratings 1 (worst)- 5 (best):

Corals	★★★★★	Tropical Fish	★★★★★
Small Critters	★★★★★	Large Fish	N/A
Large Pelagics	N/A		

Underwater Photography 1 (worst)- 5 (best):

Subject Matter	★★★★★	Boat Facilities	★★★★★
Overall rating for UWP's	★★★★★	Shore Facilities	N/A
Comments	Excellent camera room with plenty of space, plugs, towels and compressed air. Rinse tanks on the outdoor deck. Cameras carried to/from tenders by the dive guides.		

Ratings and Overall Comments 1 (worst)- 5 (best):

Accommodations	★★★★★	Food	★★★★★
Service and Attitude	★★★★★	Environmental Sensitivity	★★★★★
Dive Operation	★★★★★	Shore Diving	N/A
Snorkeling	N/A		

Overall Rating

Value for \$\$	★★★★★
Beginners	★★★★★
Advanced	★★★★★

Comments	<p>This was our first trip on the Pelagian and our second ever on a liveaboard. The previous trip was not a success due to very rough seas, food issues and poor quality diving. So this trip was an experiment to see how we would like what is generally regarded as a top-end liveaboard.</p> <p>We first spent 10 days at the resort (see separate Undercurrent review).</p> <p>We hadn't finished the trip before we were talking about doing two weeks next time.</p> <p>We stayed in a superlux cabin which has room to spare with plenty of storage space. The boat generates its own fresh water so we never ran out.</p> <p>The level of service is exquisite. Diving is from tenders, which were fine</p>
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with 4 divers plus 2 camera in each but would get crowded if fuller. The tender was always waiting for us when we came up (even once when we came up early with an equipment issue). Rides to/from the yacht were short. Your main gear stays on the tender. When you return from a dive you come up the ladder to the warm fresh water showers to rinse off. The dive guides hang up your wetsuits and hand you a dry towel. The third dive guide takes your hot drink order. Cameras are carried to/from the rinse tanks.

We had calm seas so were able to dive the south end of Buton which has a unique topography. The boat is very stable even when swells showed up.

Dive guides Muji, Shelly and Steve maintain a very high standard. We saw a number of bucket list items.

The kitchen was under the direction of Chef Andi whom we knew well from the resort and the meals were up to his high standard. He handled food allergy issues completely. Menu options for lunch and dinner are taken but it is no issue if you mix and match.

I left a charger on the boat (shame on me) and Steve found it and brought it to the airport.

Why do the liveboard instead of the resort? We dove other locations, not only two days of muck diving but also reefs that were like gardens. And the convenience of the diving/eating/sleeping process was outstanding.

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