

Dive Review of Wakatobi Dive Resort in Indonesia/Wakatobi

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

★ Sr. Reviewer ([8 reports](#), with 1 Helpful vote)

"A Wonderful Trip to Wakatobi"

Report Number 8797

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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 Island | 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 around 70 minutes. | | |
| Liveaboard? | no | Nitrox Available? | yes |

What I saw

| | | | |
|--------|------|--------|------|
| Sharks | None | Mantas | None |
|--------|------|--------|------|

| | | | |
|----------|------|--------------|------|
| Dolphins | None | Whale Sharks | None |
| Turtles | > 2 | Whales | None |

Ratings 1 (worst)- 5 (best):

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

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

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-------|------------------|-------|
| Subject Matter | ★★★★★ | Boat Facilities | ★★★★★ |
| Overall rating for UWP's | ★★★★★ | Shore Facilities | ★★★★★ |

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| Comments | <p>Large camera room. Rinse tanks on the boats and at the dive shop. Marco is a dedicated underwater photography pro who gives courses and advice. I didn't take a course but one person who did was very pleased.</p> | | |
|----------|--|--|--|

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

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

Overall Rating

| | |
|----------------|-------|
| Value for \$\$ | ★★★★★ |
| Beginners | ★★★★★ |
| Advanced | ★★★★★ |

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| Comments | <p>This was our third trip to Wakatobi so we obviously like it. There are a fair number of reviews of Wakatobi and it's interesting to see the split between those who find it wonderful and return (like us) and those who find it fine but prefer other locations for reasons of cost and/or sea life.</p> <p>For the first time we also spent a week on the Pelagian; see separate Undercurrent review.</p> <p>To us Wakatobi combines healthy beautiful reefs, abundant fish life (but not large stuff), excellent food and great service. No question that it is expensive but we find that you get what you pay for.</p> <p>Examples: I discovered two items that I didn't know I would need and didn't bring. Stijn of the Wakatobi Bali office found both (one in Singapore) and got</p> |
|----------|--|

them on the next flight to Wakatobi.

The restaurant deals admirably with food allergy issues. If you have allergies, you know how the wrong food can ruin a trip. We have no concerns while at Wakatobi and they are careful on our behalf.

We stayed in a villa, one feature of which is a private dive guide. Both Kaz and Muji not only consistently helped us explore the reefs and inhabitants, they helped with the whole process. We can't say enough about them. Both highly recommended. Using a private dive guide obviously personalizes the experience - and it also lets you switch boats and pick your dive spots. Plus we dove virtually everyday on the house reef for our fourth dive.

The staff is systematically pleasant, enthusiastic and helpful.

We did find more current than in the past (our trip centered around full moon). There's nothing quite like zipping along with the current and seeing a turtle effortlessly going in the opposite direction. On one house reef dive coming back next to the jetty was like trying to swim up a waterfall. We ended up crawling back along the rocky bottom.

The villas have more space and are brighter inside than the bungalows (and come with a private dive guide and some other benefits). But the walk from villa 4 to/from meals and to/from the dive boat did get tedious over the 10 days.

We didn't have any mosquito issues (the rainy season hadn't started) but there were loads of flies at breakfast; they seemed to disappear for later meals.

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