

# Tubbataha and More, Philippines

## Itinerary - 13 Nights

### Puerto Princesa - Cebu

- **Meeting point for embarkation in Puerto Princesa: 12:30 at Hotel Centro**
- **Puerto Princesa embarkation: Baywalk Pier, Puerto Princesa at 13:00\***
- **Cebu Disembarkation: Marina Seaview Restaurant, Cebu Yacht Club at 10:00**

Transfer from Puerto Princesa Airport and local hotels to Hotel Centro, and from Hotel Centro to Baywalk Pier are provided free of charge on embarkation day.

Transfers from hotels and resorts outside of the Puerto Princesa area can be arranged for and additional charge.

Transfer from Marina Seaview Restaurant to Cebu International Airport or local hotels is provided free of charge upon disembarkation at 10:00.

### **IMPORTANT**

- It is imperative that all guests are ready to embark at 13:00
- Before Philippine Siren can depart from Puerto Princesa, a mandatory check by the coast guards and briefing by the Tubbataha Management Office must be conducted when ALL guests are on board.
- If the briefing and coast guard check are not accomplished, the boat cannot leave the port.
- Crossing time from Puerto Princesa to Tubbataha is between 12 - 16 hours; any delays to departure due to late arrival of guests may result in Philippine Siren being refused permission to leave port or in dives being missed.

### Cebu - Puerto Princesa

- **Meeting point for embarkation: Marina Seaview Restaurant, Cebu Yacht Club**
- **Cebu embarkation: 13:00**
- **Disembarkation: Baywalk Pier, Puerto Princesa at 10:00**

Transfer from Cebu Airport and local hotels to Marina Seaview Restaurant is provided free of charge on embarkation day.

Transfer from Baywalk Pier to local hotels or Puerto Princesa Airport is provided free of charge upon disembarkation at 10:00.

Transfers to hotels and resorts outside of the Puerto Princesa area can be arranged for an additional charge.

### **Marine & Port Fees:**

- 160 USD per person

Marine park fees can be paid in advance, or on board.

There is an additional charge of 30 USD per person, payable on board for diving with whale sharks at Oslob.

### **Minimum dive certification and experience:**

Diving conditions in and around Tubbataha are not suitable for entry level or inexperienced divers due to strong currents, deep walls and surge.

Divers wishing to join our Tubbataha itineraries are required to have Advanced Open Water certification\*, or equivalent, with a minimum of 30 logged dives and experience in strong currents.

\*Advanced Open Water course can be completed on board

Guests who do not fulfil the minimum certification and experience requirements may be denied participation in some or all dives.

It is a mandatory requirement for all divers to have insurance which covers scuba diving activities, including emergency evacuation and recompression chamber costs.

Participation in this liveaboard itinerary is subject to acceptance of our Terms & Conditions as outlined here: [www.masterliveaboards.com/terms-conditions](http://www.masterliveaboards.com/terms-conditions).

### **Number of scheduled dives:**

- Up to 39

This itinerary involves some long distance travel and, whilst we attempt to ensure the number of planned dives is fulfilled, bad weather and sea conditions can affect the boat's ability to reach a specific dive site in good time and may impact on the number of dives that are possible.

**Safety and dive briefings are conducted in English. If you, or any of your group, do not speak or understand English, please contact us.**

The following is an example of the day-to-day itinerary.

Day 1: Embarkation at 13:00 followed by lunch and briefings. There is no diving on embarkation day.

Day 2-12: Your Cruise Director will schedule up to 4 dives per day; 3 day dives and a sunset or night dive. A typical diving day is scheduled as follows:

- Light Breakfast followed by a briefing & Dive 1
- Full Breakfast, relaxation followed by briefing & Dive 2
- Lunch, relaxation followed by briefing & Dive 3
- Snack
- Briefing for Dive 4 (sunset dives only in Tubbataha)
- Dinner

In accordance with Tubbataha Marine Park regulations, dive times are limited to a maximum of 60 minutes.

Day 13: Usually 2 morning\* dives before Philippine Siren commences the cruise to port.

Day 14: Following breakfast on board, disembarkation is scheduled for between 09:30 and 10:00.

\*We kindly request that guests check their flight departure times to ensure that they leave a minimum of 24 hours between their final dive and the departure of their flight.

## Tubbataha

Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park comprises North Atoll, South Atoll and Jessie Beazley Reef and is often rated as one of the world's best diving destinations by those who have been fortunate to dive there.

Dive sites consist mainly of vertical walls or near drop offs rising out of great depths, with shallow reef tops teeming with local reef fish. The angelfish, butterfly fish, rainbow runners, moorish idols, fusiliers, jacks, snappers and sweetlips follow you around, while stingrays, marble rays, spiny lobsters and juvenile reef sharks are also common sightings in many places. There are several species of turtle known to inhabit the waters of this gigantic natural park; the most commonly sighted being green and hawksbill.

Large trevally, tuna and barracuda as well as grey reef sharks and white tip reef sharks can be spotted patrolling the reefs on the majority of the dive sites, whilst manta and eagle rays are occasional visitors. Groupers and wrasse flourish here and sightings of hammerheads and silver tip sharks have been amongst the large elasmobranchs spotted by guests of the Siren Fleet during our cruises.

In addition to breath-taking dives, you will have the opportunity to visit the ranger station on the North Atoll to learn more about the marine protection of the area.

The following are prohibited in Tubbataha:

- Single use plastics - operators are mandated to follow No-Single-Use Plastic which includes water and other drinks in plastic bottles, snacks in plastic wrappers, etc.
- Diving with gloves (unless for medical reasons)\*
- Use of reef hooks, tank bangers and nudi pointers
- Use of drones without a permit
- Dives longer than 60 minutes

\*guests who have medical issues and are advised to wear gloves for protection underwater must carry medical certificate for this purpose. There is no exception to this rule.

Following is a sample of the dive sites which we may visit during your time aboard Philippine Siren.

The safety of our guests is paramount and we always do our best to offer diving at alternate locations, should we be unable to visit those sites listed below.

Guests are welcome to suggest preferred dive sites to the Cruise Director. He/she will be happy to accommodate guests' wishes, providing it is possible and the schedule allows for it.

## Tubbataha Reefs

### Delsan Wreck

One of the best dive sites in Tubbataha with big schools of big-eyed trevally, yellowtail barracuda, great barracuda, dogtooth tuna, giant trevally together with grey reef sharks and white tip reef sharks.

### Black Rock

There is so much to explore at this dive site that we will often spend the whole day diving here. Schools of surgeonfish, rainbow runners and sweetlips are a common sight. White tip and nurse sharks are found resting under huge table corals and scribbled filefish, box fish and leaf fish add to the colour and spectacle of the stunning reefs; a great site for spotting spiny lobster too!

### Washing Machine

A wide variety of colourful reef fish form schools here; from big-eye jacks to tiny orange & purple anthias, all creating a welcoming atmosphere. Spot the tiny creatures including cowries wedge themselves amidst the leather and whip corals. It is a great site for turtles, and whale sharks have also been spotted here.

### North East Wall

Adorned with stunning sea fans and colourful soft corals. This wall is super for wide-angle photography. Schools of bannerfish hover in the blue, turtles bumble along the wall and from the sandy bed garden eels and gobies emerge.

### Shark Airport

Many white tip reef sharks resting at the shallow plateau are typically seen here; hence the name Shark Airport. Dog tooth tuna, schools of trevally, marble rays, eagle rays, nurse sharks and batfish all add drama to the stunning reef. Turtles and moray eels are a common sight but divers should watch out for the triggerfish.

## Amos Rock

Moorish idols, sweetlips and snappers all form large schools here, also commonly seen are white tip reef sharks, great barracuda and giant trevally. When lucky, pygmy seahorse can be found in the gorgonians.

## Staghorn Point

Golden, pinnate and longfin spadefish all form schools along this fan encrusted wall, meanwhile clouds of purple anthias hover over the fields of staghorn corals in the shallow reef top. Also this is a good site to spy turtles, snowflake morays and spiny lobster.

## Jessie Beazley Reef

Huge schools of surgeon fish and unicorn fish hover over the reefs, where we commonly see numerous grey reef sharks and huge Napoleon wrasses.

## Malayan Wreck

This reef is the habitat for different trevallies, barracudas, bump head parrotfish, juvenile grey reef sharks with the usual suspects darting around. Marbled stingrays can sometimes hang out here.

## Cagayancillo

This scarcely dived destination with its healthy hard and soft corals along with massive sea fans and plenty reef fish is a perfect pit stop in our long journey between Tubbataha Marine Park and The Visayas.

## Apo Island

Apo Island Marine Reserve is one of most successful marine sanctuaries established in the Philippines. Reef hooks and gloves are not allowed and night diving is unfortunately not permitted. The order of dives will be based on the currents and conditions of the day choosing from:

## Coconut Point

An often fast paced drift brings divers over the sloping coral reef wall. Along the way giant trevally, blackfin barracuda, big school of big-eyed trevally and plenty of sea snakes can be encountered.

## Rocky Point West

Just beyond the chapel opposite the marine park warden's office, Rocky Point West offers some of the most stunning hard corals to be found in the region with endless patches of

leather corals on the top. The steep reef walls support numerous colourful reef species – pyramid butterflyfish and red-toothed triggerfish are here in their hundreds, frogfish, cuttlefish, banded sea snakes and hawksbill turtles are amongst the common sightings.

### **Cogon**

The colourful bottom divided by sand channels is the place to find a big school of big-eyed trevally, huge brown marbled groupers and sea snakes.

### **Dauin, Negros**

Dauin, with its black volcanic sand, is famous for muck diving. Depending on the season different types and sizes of octopuses, sea horses, (baby) frogfish, different kinds of ghost pipefish and flamboyant cuttlefish can be found.

### **The Cars**

Between 25-30m (80-100ft), car parts as an artificial reef are attracting porcelain crabs and different kinds of shrimps amongst the many weird and wonderful creatures found at this site.

### **Secret Corner**

This dive site contains sand and pebbles only and is the perfect habitat for the smallest, weird and unexpected creatures as cockatoo waspfish, short-fin lionfish and snake and garden eels.

### **Ceres**

This dive site was named after the local bus company that donated its tyres to create an artificial reef, which attracts schools of reef fish. Different kinds of shrimps like to live on this reef together with juvenile reef fish.

### **Mainit**

A mix of coral boulders with soft corals and black volcanic sand. Probably due to the current, all fish are very active which makes this dive very lively and exciting ending in an area with hot sand at the bottom, hence the name Mainit meaning 'hot'.

### **San Miguel**

Another critter wonderland! When it is the right season, this is the place to find all your favorites.

### **Balicasag Island**

The small island of Balicasag, just off the tip of Panglao, is characterised by its many turtles, coral gardens and steep walls which provide overhangs, cracks & crevices in which to search

for a variety of marine species. This area has become a marine protected area since July 2017 and allows two dives per day only with valid permits.

### **Divers Heaven**

The main attraction of this beautiful dive site is the green sea and hawksbill turtles in the shallow waters. The reef top edge is a nice habitat for schools of colorful damsels and anthias and when lucky also for giant frogfish.

### **Black Forest**

Once famed for its black coral is where we encounter schools of jacks, long-jawed mackerels, red tooth triggerfish and different kinds of fusiliers.

### **Cabilao Island**

There are several interesting wall and coral garden dives around the island of Cabilao and we choose from the following:

#### **Gorgonian Wall**

Provides a gentle drift along a fantastic coral reef with schooling fish and plenty of macro life in the shallow water, including the possibility of spotting a Denise's pygmy seahorse.

#### **Lighthouse**

Sloping walls full of sponges and gorgonian fans. This is a great place to dive with large green turtles. Also being seen are giant frogfish which can be spotted resting on sponges and numerous cowries hiding amidst the stunning hard coral garden.

#### **Talisay Tree**

Beautiful wall with gorgonians where bubble coral shrimps and orangutan crabs can be found in the bubble corals. The shallow grassy garden with its elephant ear sponges and barrel sponges is a perfect spot for wide angle photography.

#### **Cambaquiz**

A fantastic spot where we often make night dives. A gently sloping reef and sandy bottom to 20m – soft corals and sea pens can be found dotted over the sand; also a great site for sightings of bottom dwellers. The grassy top is a favourite crab hideout.

Should you have any questions or queries concerning the dive sites or whether this itinerary is suitable for your experience level, please contact our reservations team [dive@masterliveboards.com](mailto:dive@masterliveboards.com) who will be pleased to assist and advise you.