

FLORES TO SORONG, INDONESIA

OCTOBER 24-NOVEMBER 10, 2014

Anacortes Diving Adventure Team



Liz, Marle, Bob, Kelley, Allison, Hal, Axel, Kathy, Scott, Chris, Phyllis, Ken, Dale, Peggy, Mike, Mary

LEMBEH STRAIT, SULAWESI

NOVEMBER 10-17, 2014



Jesse, Linda, Phil, Allison, Kelley, Peggy, Ken, Phyllis, Liz, Hal, Bob, Kathy, Marle, Dale, Mike, Mary

Flores to Raja Ampat, Indonesia

October 24-November 10, 2014

Lembeh, Sulawesi

November 10-17, 2014

Route: Vancouver BC—Hong Kong—Bali (Cathay Pacific Airways)

Return: Manado—Singapore—Hong Kong—Vancouver BC (Silk Air & Cathay Pacific Airways)

Departure Night and travel day

We departed for Vancouver BC and had no issues getting to and across the border. In fact it was so smooth we had plenty of time to kill before the flight. It's a 2:00 am departure and our first flight landed us in Hong Kong for a 4 hour layover. The flight to Bali was a quick 4.5 hours and around 3:00 pm we had landed. Normally we have an agent that meets us as we come off the plane, but Bali has temporarily suspended its "fast tracking". This agent would whisk us through, past any lines and purchase our Visa on arrival as we stood around and waited for our luggage. This time after purchasing our Visa's we stood in a huge line for over an hour to clear immigration. By the time we made it to our luggage and out the door it had been close to 2 hours. We spot Bernard and Jack, patiently waiting for the group to exit. There are several banks just outside the exit door and you will want to change money now, which the going rate was almost 12,000 RPH to the dollar. There are also ATM's if you just want to use a card. We wearily load onto the bus for about a 20 minute ride to our hotel. The new toll road makes travel much faster because it by-passes all the crazy traffic in Kuta. Mike & Liz arrived on a morning flight and are relaxing by the pool by the time we arrive. Our hotel for this visit is TamuKami in Sanur, which is a small boutique hotel run by a single family. We quickly throw our bags in our rooms and decide to go



down to the beach for dinner. It's nice and breezy tonight while we quickly put some tables together at the Sand Bar Restaurant. Some ice cold beers and a good meal and I think everyone has hit the wall. Back at the resort we make a bee-line for our rooms, a quick shower and I don't even remember my head hitting the pillow.

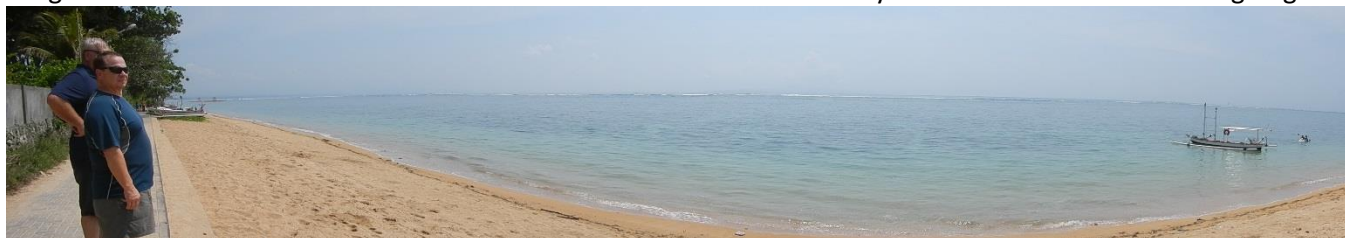
Day 1

I have nothing planned for the day except relaxing. We enjoy a nice breakfast with some of our favorite Indonesian breakfast choices. While it is still cool enough we hit the streets to do a little walk around to explore



the area. There is a Starbucks down the street not too far from the hotel for those who need their espresso shots. The heat is rising and the pool is calling our name, so back we go to the resort for some relaxation. Several group members are already in getting massages, I'm sure we will keep these 2 ladies very busy today. Jack had come by at breakfast and made plans with some of the group to do a little late afternoon touring. Their plan was

to make it out to Tahan Lot for sunset. This is a beautiful temple on the ocean that is well worth a visit. For lunch we go back down to the beach and decide to eat at Beenos. Chicken Satays and some more Nasi Goreng to go



around, not to mention some nice cold Bintang beers. There is a new Bintang on the market which is flavored with lemon, it is a bit too sweet, but a nice change if you want something different. Back to the resort for more pool time and Bob and I have scheduled a 2 hour massage which was wonderful. Part of the group has left with Jack for the evening while the rest of us debate what to do the rest of the night. Dale, Peggy, Bob and I decide to eat at the hotel which was quite good and they did have music tonight which made the entire evening very entertaining. Still feeling the jet-lag, it's time to make our way back to that comfy bed. What a nice relaxing day.

Day 2

No early flights so once again we have a leisurely breakfast and start to pack up our bags. Jack will be here at 10:00 am to pick up luggage and we need to be ready to go by 11:00 am. Bob and I enjoy one last dip in the pool before getting serious about leaving. Jack is right on time and we take a quick ride to the airport. This is when all



the fun begins as we never know what is going to happen when we take these little hopper flights. Bernard is at the airport to help us navigate everything. We are flying Wing Air today and the biggest challenge will be overweight luggage fees. Wing Air has a ridiculous luggage allowance of 10 kilo. As we start to check in Dale & Peggy get questioned about electronics in their checked bags, good thing Bernard is there to smooth that one over before they start to make them unpack everything. The rest of us just say no we don't have any electronics. Yikes. The fun part is that after they weigh all your luggage they give you an amount and then you have to go to another window and pay your overweight fees which the going rate today was 17,600 rph per kilo. Not too bad considering last time they charged me almost double that. They never even weighed our carry-ons this time, so that saved us a ton of money. After paying our departure tax of 75,000 Rupiah per person and making it past security, we find a place to grab a bite to eat as there is no food or drinks on these planes. Once aboard the flight it is now a 2 hour ride over to Maumere. Our carry-ons are too big for the overhead bins but they just take them once inside the door and put them in a small room in the back of the plane. Upon arrival we should be met by the WWDS (World Wide Dive & Sail) crew who will be taking care of us for the next 2 weeks and we start our 14 day transit from Maumere to Sorong.

All our luggage arrived and it is just a short drive to the dock where the boat is waiting for us. Once aboard we



meet Axel from Germany, who is the last person to make up the group. Cold beers and an orientation and we are quickly unpacking and getting settled in. We go through the mandatory fire drill to muster station and we



have completed all safety requirements. Dinner is served shortly thereafter and the boat departs Maumere Harbor for an 8 hour overnight cruise to our first dive in the morning.

Day 3

The first night aboard most of the group doesn't sleep well, new sounds, creaking, banging etc. Remember, you are on a boat. Wake up call is 6:30 am to start the briefing for the first dive of the trip. A quick cup of coffee and we are ready to splash. First dive went very well, not too many issues, just mostly weighting and getting everything dialed in. We are in the Flores/Alor area and we are mainly looking for macro life here. Sort of like muck diving

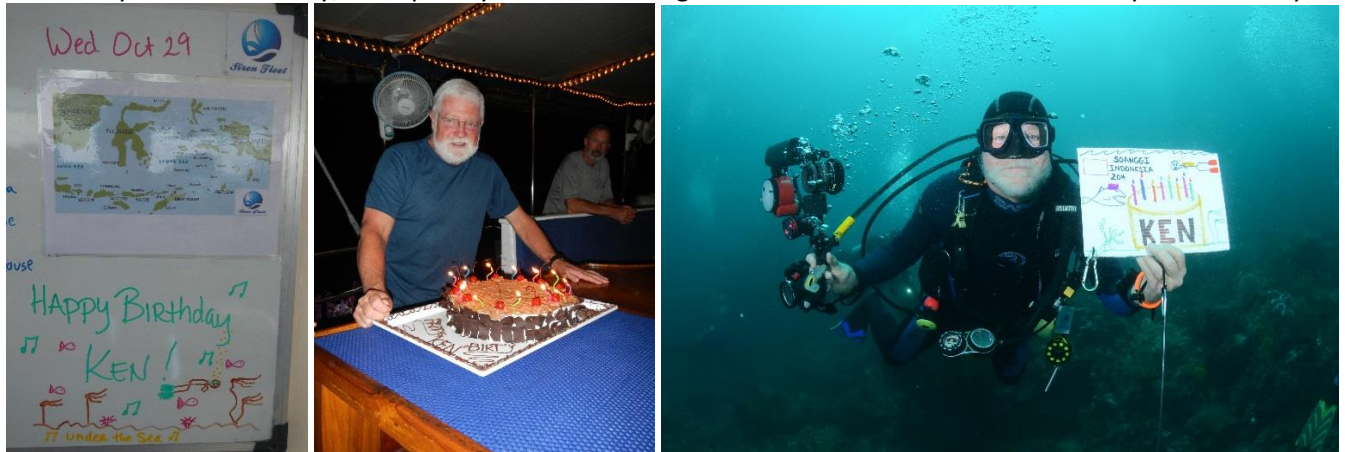
only it does have nice reef structure. And so it begins, the cycle of eat, dive, eat, dive, and a little sleep. We spend the afternoon motoring again to the next sight, here we will do our 3rd dive and night dive. The visibility has dropped to about 15-20 ft along with the temperature. I think we are in the 70's and it is cold. We find all kinds of great stuff, Hingback Shrimp, Pipehorse, and more Crinoids than I have ever seen and in every color



imaginable. Back on board we have a late afternoon snack, while some of the group are already getting a massage. Time for the night dive and what a night dive it was. We had at least 3 Bobtail Squid, a small Octopus, Ornate Ghost Pipefish, Flatworms, Nudibranchs and the list just goes on and on. Time for dinner and before I can finish my cold Bintang my eyes are drooping and my head needs to hit the pillow. Great day one!

Day 4

The anchor went up at 2:30 am and of course I am awake as it sounds like we are in the anchor locker. We motor for about 4 more hours before we make our first dive. Up again at 6:30 am and back in the water by 7:00 am. Today is Ken's birthday, so hopefully we have some good encounters in store for him today. The visibility is



a little better than yesterday, seems to be about 40 ft, with lots of algae in the water. The reef is beautiful with soft corals and Anthias Fish are everywhere. We find several Blue Ribbon eels, Soft Coral Crab, Lobster, Nudibranchs and a Turtle. Back to the boat for breakfast and there is a pod of Dolphins just off the Starboard

side. Now that's a great way to start off the day! We are doing the same dive site for dive 2, and I decide to do wide angle even though the vis is low. It paid off as we saw a huge Sea Krait, Turtle and a Moray getting



cleaned. We went around the corner this time and it was like a completely different dive site. Amazing fish, soft corals and the color was incredible. Lunch time and more motoring to another area for the last couple of dives for the day. We have arrived in front of a whaling village where we see the vertebrae of a large whale up on the beach. This is their way of life and the whale that they take is shared and eaten by the entire village. The muck dive is located right in front and as we dive down the current is running and the visibility is about 20ft. As soon



as we descend, Dinche our dive guide, points out the Lady bugs on a piece of leather coral. They seem to be microscopic or else my eyesight is really getting bad. Plenty of critters to shoot, nudibranchs, etc. This was Hals 1300th dive, congratulations Hal! The sun has gone down and we jump in for the night dive. It is a completely different dive as there is animals everywhere. Nudibranchs, Cuttlefish, Lady Bugs, weird Crabs, Shrimp and on and on. Time to surface for a cold Bintang and dinner. We celebrate Ken's birthday with a fabulous cake and of course terrible singing from all of us. Great day, but now it's time for some sleep as we will be motoring all night.

Day 5

Anchor went down at 2:30 am and the wakeup call was once again at 6:00 am. Time for another adventure in diving. We are parked in front of a small village on Pantar Island. Looks like a father and 3 sons have canoed out to greet the boat and chat with the crew. We have now entered black sand muck diving. The visibility is quite good here so it is easy to see the guides as they find us the weirdest creatures living here. Not even at 10 feet and we start to see Pygmy Cuttlefish, small Octos and all different kinds of fish. Inyo the guide has finally found us a Frogfish which is the size of a pea, as well as a translucent Rhinopias, Robust Ghost Pipefish, and a flying Gurnard. My teeth are chattering so time to end the dive and enjoy a hot breakfast. We will be in this area all day enjoying all the craziness of muck diving. The

second dive was further down the beach in front of a rocky lava flow. Here we had more reef structure and lots of fish life, it is amazing the difference between the two dives. We still found all kinds of great life from Leaf Scorpion fish, Zebra Crabs and a small Orange Frogfish. After lunch we are jumping in on the black sand for the crazy critter hunt. It starts out a bit slow and then we hit it big time with a Wunderpus out and cruising around, White & Brown Frogfish, Rhinopias, more brown Octopus and then the icing on the cake is a Blue Ringed Octopus at the 75 minute mark. It was a pretty good size one

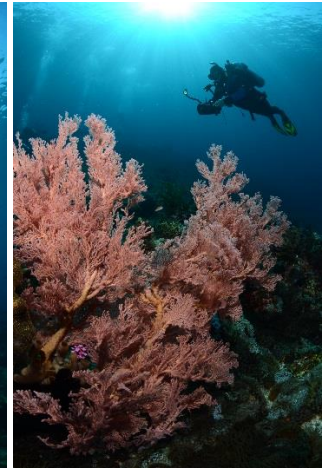
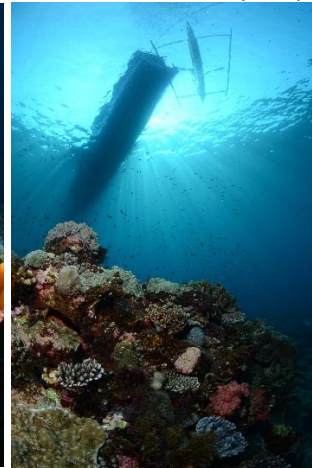




and amazing to watch as its blue rings would change intensity. We are out of air and shivering so time to call it quits. This was Peggy's 600th dive and it was a killer one! I don't know how the night dive is going to top this one. Spoke too soon as the night dive was incredible. So many Frogfish everywhere you looked. It was a Frogfish nursery along with little brown Octopus. Had another Wunderpus out and about, saw some Squid, and everywhere you looked something was popping out of the sand. Our time has run out so back to the boat for dinner and some sleep.

Day 6

The boat pulled anchor around 4:00 am as we motor over to Pantar Island for our first dive. Our wakeup call this morning was a wonderful rendition of Cher sung by the very vocal Nick. Followed by some killer lip syncing to Cher up on deck. The mornings dive is Anemone Valley which the site is literally carpeted with Sea Anemones, it



was very beautiful. The visibility is crystal clear and we have several Sea Krait Snakes cruising the reef looking for breakfast. What a great way to start out the day. We spent the next 2 hours moving to the next dive site and along the way we spot a couple other Live-aboards. This is the first time we have had company since we departed Maumere. Today will only be a 2 dive day due to the amount of travel time. So this afternoon we will catch up on logbooks, photos, and suntans. After lunch we are on our way for the long crossing, not sure exactly how far that is, but my guess is all through the night. After relaxing most of the afternoon a mean game of Skipbo starts on the back deck. Pretty soon there is quite the crowd, but Peggy is the big winner as she won at



least 3 games. After that we gather in teams to play a Halloween Pub Trivia that one of the crew members has

put together for us. The questions are a bit difficult and we are neck and neck but in the end team MSU (make shit up) wins by 1.5 points. Free drinks for them tonight. After dinner things are winding down as tomorrow brings a 3 dive day as long as everything stays on schedule through the night.

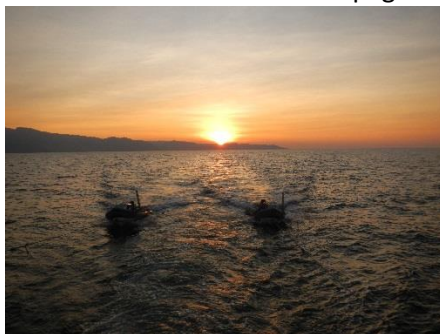
Day 7

The crossing was nice and calm for which I am thankful for. But, I unfortunately have a sinus infection and Mary is stuffed up with a head cold. So both of us will be sitting out today's diving and hoping tomorrow brings us better luck. It is a beautiful day once again with blue skies, calm seas and a light breeze. We are now located at Wetter Island on our journey north to Sorong. The first dive was a beautiful wall dive with big sponges, Seafans and soft coral. Dinche even found a small boxer crab for group 1. Dive 2 is a short motor to another island where the group will be doing another wall dive. It literally drops straight down from the shore. The group reports that it was a beautiful dive with a few Shark sightings, Grouper, and tons of fish. While eating lunch we are motoring to the next dive site when Nick spots a few Whale spouts off in the distance. We kid around about getting close when we realize they are not moving and seem to be bobbing at the surface. The boat gets closer and we are all lined on the deck trying to figure out what type of Whale we are looking at, when someone yells out Sperm Whales. There is a big group of them, we think around 10 or so and they are right next to the boat. Bob wants to



know if we can snorkel and Nick gives the ok and Bob is off like a shot. I'm surprised he even has a swimsuit on! The rest of us grab our masks and snorkels and jump into the dinghy's. We make several attempts to snorkel with them and everyone gets a glimpse or two as they move by. I still haven't seen them and on the last jump I swim for all I'm worth and there they were. They are big and one of them checks me out as I lay still in the water and we look eye to eye. Then 2 more come by and then down they go. Absolutely amazing! How incredible to have seen AND snorkeled with Sperm Whales. How many people can say they snorkeled with Sperm Whales? Well, our group did, and it was incredible. Back on the boat we have a pod of Dolphins off the stern playing in

our boat wake. Can this day get any better? The group gets ready for the next dive as we have another long crossing to look forward to tonight. Dive 3 was a bit of a bust, it did however have more Blue Spotted Rays than anyone had ever seen. They did find a small reef that had several Spaghetti Nudibranchs and really nice coral. As



soon as all divers were back on deck we start our long 20 hour motor to the next destination of Damar. We have time to kill so we have two competitive games of Skipbo going until dinner.

Day 8

Wake up at your leisure this morning as we still have a long way to travel. Mary and I are still pretty stuffy again today so not sure either of us are going to be able to dive. Nice and sunny again today and relatively calm with just a bit of wind chop. The nice thing about WWDS boats is that they really don't move that much in rough water, which makes it nice for those of us prone to motion sickness. Diving won't start until about 3:30 pm today so everyone is just catching up on logbooks and photos. We didn't arrive in Damar until late about 5:00pm so it will only be a 1 tank dive and then we will continue moving for the next 20 hours over to Manuk Island. It is starting to get a little rolly and we seem to be taking them on the beam. This should make for a fun night.

Day 9

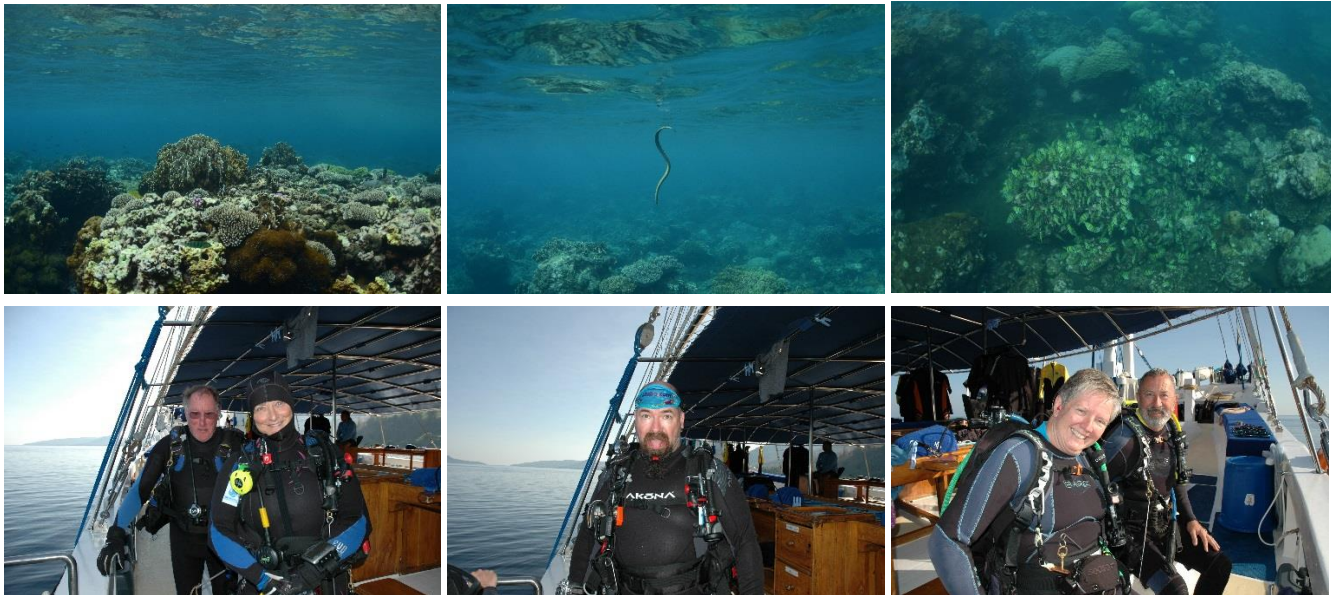
What a horrible night! Most of us didn't sleep, our cabin was creaking so loud it was deafening. I feel worse than I have ever felt, with a pounding headache and so stuffed up I can't breathe. I have my fingers crossed that a miracle will happen and this will all go away by this afternoon. Mary is feeling better so she is going to give it a try when we arrive. We motor all day in a rolling swell taking them on the beam. There is just nothing out here but water as far as you can see, no land in sight. By the calculations it looks like we won't be getting there until late. We have a pod of Dolphins come by, but they didn't have any interest in sticking around. We finally have the island in sight and there are small Mobula Rays jumping out of the water, which looks promising. We throw



the anchor down and all of a sudden there are tons of sea snakes coming to the surface to breathe. I have never seen anything like this before. From the boat they look like Olive and Banded Sea Kraits and they just keep coming up for air, absolutely crazy. Some of the crew will not dive with so many Sea Snakes in the water, Erol and Inyo say they are staying on the boat. There is no way I can dive, but Mary gears up to give it a try. It is about 6:00 pm so this will be ½ day ½ night dive. The report is the reef was beautiful lots of corals and tons of fish life and they only saw a few snakes. Time for dinner and then the hard core divers are going in for a night dive. I am going to bed in hopes that tomorrow will be my day to get back to diving.

Day 10

We stayed anchored all night at Manuk which was nice as I was able to get a good night's sleep. The crew left early to try and find a pinnacle where we might be able to see schooling Hammerheads today. They didn't have any luck so everyone gears up for a reef dive. I unfortunately did not wake up in time to prepare so I will wait for the next dive to give it a try. Suited up and attempted to dive but only made it to 5 feet and the ears just would not budge. I just snorkeled over the reef and pretended that I'm diving, which makes me feel a little better. It is



hot and calm today as we try and soak up a few rays, but it is just too hot. The third dive is at another spot around the island, and since I can't dive I decide to snorkel the shallows. It started out good, but then a Sea Snake decided he was very curious about me and started coming at me. I swam away and actually had to kick him with my fin, alright maybe this wasn't such a great idea at Snake Island. There are fumaroles all over in the black sand and the bubbles coming up are hot. It is a little murky and it starts making me nervous for sharks

coming in. Back on board everyone reports about their dive and everything they saw. One last night dive here and then we are motoring all night long to our next destination of Banda.

Day 11

The ride was not as bad as the other night, just a little rolly so most of us got a good night's sleep. This morning



we have the option of walking around the town of Banda Neira or doing a dive. So Kathy, Allison, Axel, Marle and I opted for the tour. I am still not diving and Allison is starting to get stuffy so it looks like she has caught Mary's head cold. Dive one is Dale's 600th dive, congratulations Dale! In town we visited the fort which had a spectacular view from the top. We learned all about nutmeg, almonds, avocado, cinnamon and jack fruit trees.



We then stopped at a local's house where he had prepared us some nutmeg cinnamon tea and various cakes. We stop at the local market to see the local vegetables, peppers and of course the fresh caught fish. Everyone says it smells but since I can't smell a thing it really isn't that bad. After we return to the boat there is a big lava flow that meets the sea. Nick asks us if we would like to take a close up look so we jumped in the dinghy and got up close and personal. The volcano erupted in 1988 and took out the entire village. Bob jumped out and got Allison a rock from the lava flow, which she was very excited about. Time to move the boat to the next dive site which is a small rock formation. I decide to snorkel since it is flat calm and the water looks crystal clear. Saw a small turtle, a couple of Sea snakes, Titan triggers and tons of fish life. Unfortunately there is a lot of fish net in the shallows and the group reports lots of net on the reef. A little lunch, and the group hops in for the 3rd dive and then Kathy comes back with a new 3+ Go Pro that she found on the bottom. Hadn't been there long and we download the card and it turns out it was attached to a speargun and once he speared a fish the camera fell off. Back in the water for the night dive, a little dinner and then we will motor 11 hours to Koon.

Day 12

We arrive at Koon Island just around 7:00 am and we are surprised to see that there is another boat here. Seems funny all the way out here in the middle of nowhere to run across another dive live-aboard boat. Looks like we will be sharing the dive site with them for the morning. The first dive was a sloping wall dive and a few report that they saw a Hammerhead in the deep, Turtles, schooling Jack and a Giant Sweetlips. Unfortunately the plague has taken over and now Allison, Liz, Kathy & Peggy are out with a head cold. The second dive was a



different part of the reef and another Hammerhead was spotted by quite a few of the group, while four of us went snorkeling and saw lots of great fish life. Back on the boat, time for lunch and a long motor to our next destination of Misool. I think it is an 18 hour crossing, but it is flat calm out so we might make up some time. As



we were finishing lunch there is a huge pod of Dolphins just a short distance from the boat. Some of them decide to come over and ride our bow wake and do some great jumps out of the water. It was quite an entertaining show! Always great to have Dolphins around, they just look like they are having so much fun in the water. The group has another round of Trivia and it is cut throat! The MSU (make shit up) team takes the underdogs by 3 points in the end. So far they have won every trivia challenge. We enjoy a beautiful evening as another large pod of Dolphins come by and entertain us for a short time. It looks like almost a full moon tonight as we enjoy dinner and a nice calm cruise for the evening.

Day 13

We awake to the calm waters of Misool and another live aboard boat that looks like they want to dive the same dive site as us. Luckily they wait their turn and don't jump in until our group is done. I will not be diving again today as I still cannot equalize my ears along with Liz and Allison who have a bad head cold. A big rain squall came thru at breakfast but other than that it looks like it will be a nice day. We move the boat to the second dive site where we see another live aboard and we dive the site after they are done. Allison and I decide to take the kayaks over to a big island close to us to do some snorkeling. The rock structure of the islands is incredible, it is



rugged and sharp limestone called karst topography. We jump in and the snorkeling is spectacular! There are so many different fish and the corals come right up to the surface. We jump back in the kayaks and move over to where the divers are on a dive site called windows. There are literally 2 "windows" through the middle of the rock that go underwater. The fish life here is just as abundant and we take a swim around the entire rock. The divers surface and report that they have seen several of the Misool Pygmy Seahorse, known only for this area. I decide to try and dive on the 3rd dive of the day, but sadly only 5 feet again. I will drown my sorrows with a cold Bintang. The divers report that they have several more Misool Seahorse and an Ornate Ghost Pipefish. The



group heads out for the night dive while the rest of us have a mean game of Skipbo until Joe kicks us out as he has to set up for dinner. It is a full moon tonight and it is absolutely incredible out here. Kathy says she has to keep pinching herself as she can't believe we are sitting in such an amazing place. I completely agree. We are staying anchored here for tonight and will be moving the boat in the morning.

Day 14

Good night of sleep, with nice, quiet calm seas. We are only moving about ½ hour away to the next dive site. My ears are

popping this morning so I am going to try and dive again. The dive site is a pinnacle that comes up to about 20 feet from the surface and there is a little bit of current running. We jump in and I make a very slow descent to a max of 22 feet, Liz makes it to 16 and Allison made it all the way down. Even in 20 feet we found several Pipefish, Sarron Shrimp, a small Octo and lots of fish activity. I don't care, I am spending an hour down here which feels fantastic to be diving again. The boat moves to our next location for the last 2 dives we will be doing today. I decide not to chance doing the next dive as my ears aren't clearing well. The group reports that the visibility has dropped from the first dive but still lots of good things to see. On the 3rd dive the fish life is super abundant and the icing on the cake was the Wobbegong Shark Axel found at about 20 feet. We have a 15 hour motor to the Sorong area since tomorrow is our last day of diving. We will be doing 2 early morning dives so we have plenty of time before flying out the next morning. To make sure boredom doesn't set in, Mark has put together another Trivia quiz and this time the teams are chosen by Hal & Bob. Bob's team is ahead until the final round in which Hal's team makes a great comeback and we end up calling it a tie game. There is a great lightening show off in the distance tonight, but the skies over us are clear and the stars are out in full force. Pretty calm tonight so hopefully it will stay this way for the rest of the cruise.



Day 15

Quiet crossing and we arrive at our first dive site called Manta Sandy, here the group is hopefully going to see Mantas. I've decided to call it quits and not take a chance with my ears and look forward for diving in Lembeh. The only advantage to this is my dive gear will be dry, wow, I'm super excited about that...not really. Rain clouds in the distance, I guess that is pretty normal for the Raja Ampat area this time of year. The group returned with big smiles on their faces and report that they had 6 different Mantas come by on the dive. This was Chris's first time seeing Mantas so that was real treat for him. We motored farther North toward Sorong for the last dive sight of the trip. The islands in Raja Ampat are very green and beautiful dotted with white sandy beaches all



around them. Only a small group are doing the last dive which turns out to be about a 3 knot current drift. Meanwhile Peggy, Kathy, Bob and I have Fendi our dinghy driver drop us at one of the little beaches. When the group returns they report that the visibility was the best at 100 feet or more and the reef was nice with lots of

fish life. With all of us back on board we have about a 7 hour steam to Sorong. We have dark rain clouds surrounding us but we have seemed to out run them today and all our dive gear dries for packing. The sunset was amazing with all the clouds in the distance lit up with orange and red colors. The Chefs out did themselves



with the dinner BBQ tonight and we are all stuffed and ready for bed. Our day will begin early as most of us are on the 9:25 am flight for Manado to continue another week of our diving adventure.

Day 16

Wake up call was 6:00 am as Nick serenaded us with “leavin’ on a jet plane”. Last minute pack, a good breakfast and we are loaded up headed for the dock. We say goodbye to Scott, Chris and Axel as they are on later flights



and Scott & Chris are headed home. The ride from the harbor dock to the Sorong airport only took about 15 minutes. The interesting part about these small Indonesian Airports is that there are usually no lines and everyone just mashes to the front counter. You have to fight for your space and as soon as you turn around someone has maneuvered past you. Our flight is at 9:15 am and by the time we have everyone checked in and overweight luggage fees paid it is 9:20 am. Good thing our plane isn’t leaving on time. We are flying wing air and their luggage allowance is 10 kilo, so we have to pay of course. Ours worked out to be about \$80 US, which was about \$1.60 per kilo, which was a good price. They never did weigh our carry-ons again or limit us to a size. The only thing is that the overhead bins are super small so you just hand them your carry-on when you board the plane and they stack them in the back. The flight left ½ hour late and was only 1 hour 45 minute flight to



Manado, with a 1 hour time change. The staff from Kasawari Lembeh Resort was there to greet us with cold water, and cold towels. We loaded into taxis and prepared for the 1 1/2 hour drive to the resort. The drive went remarkably well and I only flinched 3 times when I thought we were going to run into someone. Once we arrived Linda, Jesse & Phil are here to greet us. They arrived 3 days ago and have had a great time diving and seeing all sorts of critters. Here at Kasawari Lembeh Resort they pretty much don’t let you carry a thing. Our bags are taken to our room, you put your dive gear in a bin and they come by your porch to pick it up and set it up. The camera room is huge and

has plenty of room for all of us plus more and once you have it set up they carry it to the dunk tanks. Once you do your camera bubble check, off to the boat it goes along with all your equipment. My ears popped well on the plane so I am excited to get back in the water and start diving again! They put 3 people per dive guide so we have 3 guides and 8 people on the boat. I go slow and am very happy to report that I was able to get down with no trouble, thank god! It has been 10 long miserable days with no diving. Our guide Hanni (honey) points out all kinds of critters from Frogfish, Wunderpus, Octos, Bobtail Squid and the one thing I have been waiting to see...a Tiger Shrimp. Simply amazing and a great start for a week worth of diving. Back at the resort we shower and make our way to dinner. A little camera work and then it's off to bed. It's nice to be on land after being on a boat for 2 weeks but I'm not sure if everything has stopped moving yet.



Day 17

First full day for most of the group as we awoke to beautiful blue skies and sunshine. First dive starts at 7:30 am and everyone is on board. Plenty of crazy critters to see as the group reports Octo's, Frogfish, Nudibranchs galore and even a Lembah Pipefish. Back to the resort for second breakfast and off for dive 2. My ears are clearing just fine and Liz is back up and diving as well, so the whole group has recovered from the horrible black plague. The big highlight of today was one group saw and photographed mating Blue Ring Octopus. Wish I was there to see it, but the highlight for us was on the night dive where we had a Peacock Mantis Shrimp with eggs



and a Bobbit Worm. So many critters, we have lost count on exactly what we have seen. This is my first day back to doing 4 dives a day and it feels awesome...and I think I am really tired. A late dinner and a little camera work and I hear my bed calling.

Day 18

Another beautiful sunny day and another full day of diving. After the first dive we all came up to cloudy skies and raindrops. Normally the squalls are short, but after the 2nd dive it really came down in buckets with a good thunder and lightning show. Part of the group will be doing a Mandarin Fish dive tonight while the rest of us will go tomorrow. We will do our third dive this afternoon and then relax until my massage this evening. Our 3rd dive of the day yields a Mimic Octopus and a small Hairy Frogfish, which was quite nice. Time for a couple of beers and some relaxing on the deck as we all talk about the diving. The group that went and did the Mandarin Fish dive report back that it was fantastic. Plenty of room for everyone and the Mandarins were in full action mating at dusk. This was the first time both Phil and Kathy had seen Mandarins and they loved it. Hal reports that



this is the best Mandarin Fish dive he has done. My hour long massage was really nice and relaxing and the cost is \$20 for an hour. Time for dinner and a good night's sleep as we get ready to do it all over again tomorrow.

Day 19

A little cloudy this morning and we are hoping that it will not be raining all day, we could use a little more sun time. Off for our morning dives in hopes of seeing something incredible today, you just never know what you're going to see. Plenty of critters out and we had a blue ring Octopus on both dive 1 & 2. The second one didn't like



to turn blue, so Bob thought it would be a good idea to put his finger close to it and I had to remind him that these Octo's are DEADLY!! He promptly played dead guy on the reef. Most of the group is going out for the Mandarin Fish dive tonight, I hope it is as good as last nights. We arrive at the dive site plenty early and get down to the reef to claim a spot. Basically you want to try and find a female with several males around in her territory. After we were down, another boat had pulled in and put divers on each end of our group. The usual happened, as they were terrible divers that kicked up the sand and were using bright white lights. Our group all had their red lights on so we did not disturb the fish and they would mate at dusk. One of our guides had to go over and school some of the divers and then yelled at the guides for being so lousy. All in all it was good action and everyone saw Mandarins and saw them mating as well. I have to say that the females were some of the largest Mandarins I have seen which made for easier pictures. Looking forward to another day of diving tomorrow. Happy 22nd wedding anniversary to Linda & Jesse today!

Day 20

Another day of diving! The rain squall didn't come in until after the second dive today so we did get to enjoy some sunshine. Today's dives we had a Mantis Shrimp out running around with a huge mass of eggs, a Mimic, lots of Frogfish, 3 Pontonhi Seahorse, and lots of other critters. After the 3rd dive our guide found a Sargassum



Frogfish floating at the surface where we had the boat anchored. He is pretty small, maybe the size of a walnut but pretty interesting to see one. The night dive was great as we finally found a Harlequin Shrimp, Squid, Frogfish, Nudibranchs and so much more that you forget what you saw. Back to the resort for dinner and we chalk up another great day of diving.



Day 21

This day will be anything but normal. First the compressor stops working so we don't have any tanks for the morning dive. After about an hour delay we travel to Lembeh Resort to borrow some tanks for the first 2 dives. So Lembeh decides to surprise us with a big rock and roll today. We were just heading to breakfast when our room starts shaking violently. Bob wants to know if I am doing some exercises and shaking the villa. I yell earthquake as we all run outside to see all the

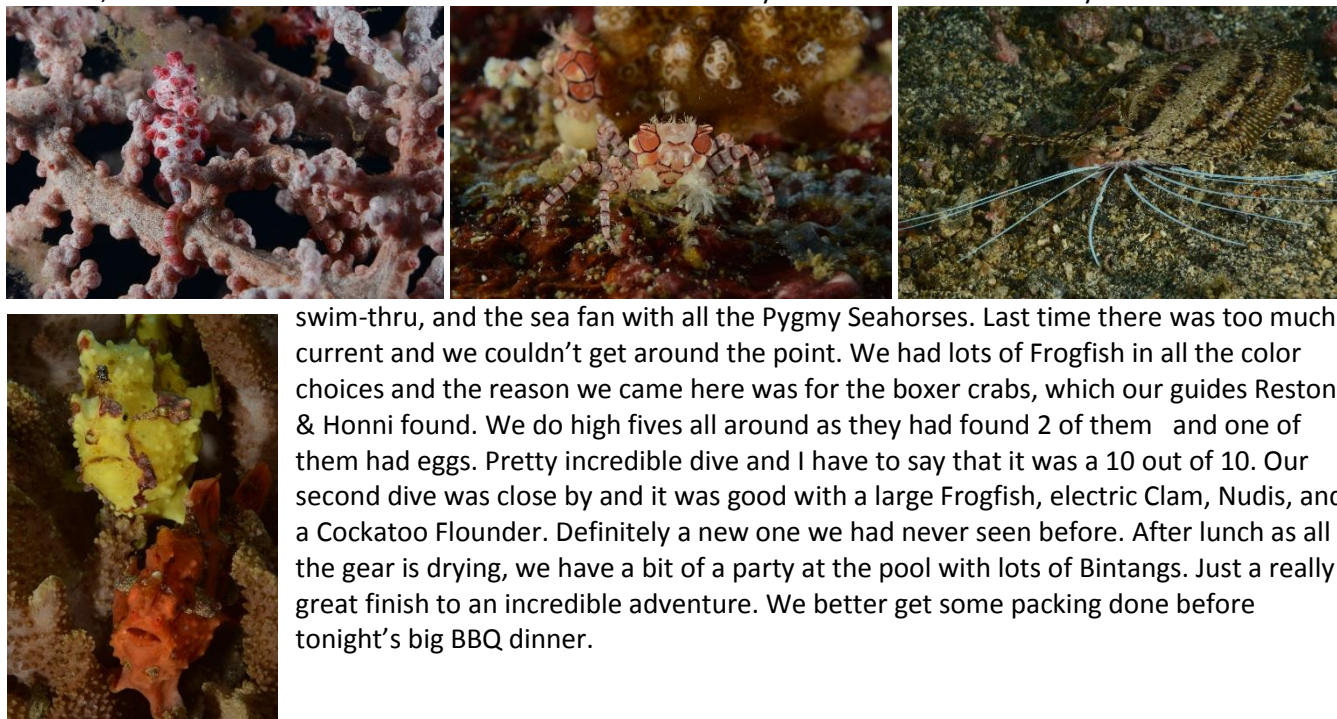
buildings shake and the pool had good waves in it. The whole thing lasted about 1 minute or less and apparently it was a 7.1 and the epicenter was located right in Manado. That is just a 1 ½ hour drive from us. Allison said there were about 9 aftershocks, several of which she felt while we were out diving. Then due to the earthquake the water line broke so we were without water for most of the afternoon. On our 3rd dive today Kathy found a Blue Ring Octopus all by herself and if that wasn't enough she found a second one right close to it. How lucky



was that? By the evening the water was up and running, we only had a trickle of hot water for our shower after the night dive, but at least it was hot. Tonight was our last night dive and it was incredible as each of the night dives are. We had several Frogfish, 2 Stargazers and a Nudibranch our guide has never even seen. No Bobbit worm for Bob tonight but the best thing was the Tiger Shrimp that were big enough for us to see AND film. Congratulations to Jesse as he did his 500th dive today, perfect place for a big milestone. We have been told that if there is another earthquake tonight we need to run outside so be ready. I hope that's not the case as I really need a good night's sleep. Tomorrow will be our last day of diving, so hopefully our last 2 dives will be unforgettable.

Day 22

Our last day of diving and we are on the hunt for the last few items on our shot list. Our group heads to Angels window, which we had been to before but this time it is a totally different dive. We actually see the window and



swim-thru, and the sea fan with all the Pygmy Seahorses. Last time there was too much current and we couldn't get around the point. We had lots of Frogfish in all the color choices and the reason we came here was for the boxer crabs, which our guides Reston & Honni found. We do high fives all around as they had found 2 of them and one of them had eggs. Pretty incredible dive and I have to say that it was a 10 out of 10. Our second dive was close by and it was good with a large Frogfish, electric Clam, Nudis, and a Cockatoo Flounder. Definitely a new one we had never seen before. After lunch as all the gear is drying, we have a bit of a party at the pool with lots of Bintangs. Just a really great finish to an incredible adventure. We better get some packing done before tonight's big BBQ dinner.



The big BBQ was wonderful with grilled meats, squid, corn on the cob and lots of sides. Then the staff started playing music and singing. What a beautiful night and a wonderful send off from all the staff here at Kasawari Lembeh Resort.

Day 23

We were trying to sleep in but the music from the village next to the resort starting playing some loud music at about 5:30 am. Not sure if this is their alarm clock as it only lasts for about 1 ½ hours and then that's it. Oh well, we were up anyway. A leisurely morning with coffee on the porch enjoying the warmth of the sunshine for soon we will be heading back the cold Northwest. We have a late breakfast and the staff sends the group off with more music and singing. What a special treat, the staff is so great here and talented! We are departing the



resort at 10:00 am for our 1:50 pm flight on Silk Air to Singapore. It will be a long haul home, but it was worth it. Our drive back to the airport was uneventful as we all gathered up our luggage to check in and start the long flights home. On the second leg we landed in Hong Kong and our layover was down to about 45 minutes before we even departed the plane. That is not enough time, so we alerted the flight attendants that our connection was super tight and they had ground staff waiting for our group to depart the plane. Then a very tiny gal with super-fast legs walked us through the crew line for security and right to the gate. I have never been through the



Hong Kong airport so fast. I think we did it in 15 minutes, which has to be a record! Kudos to Cathay Pacific crew for being so great and on the ball. Once at the gate we discover that our flight has been delayed, oh well, at least we made the flight. After about a ½ hour delay we were on our way to Vancouver BC. Once we landed, customs and immigration were quick and then we loaded vehicles and made our way across the border for home.

Bob and I would like to thank everyone for joining us on this trip, we had an incredible time and hope you all did as well. We look forward to traveling with you again in the near future. Terima Kasih!