

# WAKATOBI, INDONESIA

OCT 26-NOV 9, 2018

## Anacortes Diving Adventure Team



Jim, Hope, Dale, Scott, Chris, Jay, Liz, Mike, Kolleen, Peggy, Jon, Katie, Brandyn, Connie  
Lori, Bob, Kelley, Audrey, Marle, Penny

## BALI, INDONESIA NOV 9-16, 2018



Brandyn, Chelsi, Peggy, Bob, Jon, Chris, Katie, Penny, Kelley, Audrey, Marle, Dale

# WAKATOBI & BALI

INDONESIA

Oct 26-Nov 16, 2018

Route—Vancouver B.C—Hong Kong—Bali—Wakatobi      Airline—Cathay Pacific & Garuda

## Departure day

Our flight departs at 2:20 AM which left on time and the flight to Hong Kong was pretty uneventful, a little bumpy but pretty good. We have a 4 hour layover in Hong Kong and then a 5 hour flight to Bali. When we departed the plane in Bali there are agents waiting for our group. We proceeded to immigration and we were very lucky as there was no line! Some of our group came in days earlier and had anywhere from 60-90 minute wait. Chris and Katie lucked out by paying a guy \$20 and he took them to the front of the line. And they arrived at 2 AM! Off to grab luggage and we have a team of guys taking care of us and our luggage as we exit through customs. Outside we leave our luggage with them as we back track to wait for a bus. Lori and Scott are flying in on another airlines right after us, so we are waiting for them to show. Before you exit the airport there are plenty of places to exchange money as well as ATM's. Also, make sure that you tip luggage handlers in Rupiah as giving them \$1 US bills are no good, they cannot exchange them for Rupiah and no one will take them. Our bus arrives and as usual we barely fit the 13 of us. We are staying at Peneeda Resort in Sanur. It takes us about 45 minutes with the traffic because it is about 5 PM. Once we arrive at the hotel, it is a quick check in and we just have to wait for luggage. One carload shows up with ½ of the luggage and the rest takes another 90 minutes to



show. Once again they have underestimated the sheer volume of luggage and have to make 2 trips. They assure me when we go back to the airport on Monday they will be better prepared. Everyone scatters to their rooms to shower and unpack a bit. Then we grab some cold bintangs at the beach and relax a bit, meeting up with the rest of the group that has arrived before us, before calling it a night. I think we made it to at least 8:30 PM.

## Day 1



Surprise, I think we made it until 4:30 AM before we were wide awake and making coffee. Hmm, the sun isn't even up yet. We do a quick check of messages and then wander on down to the beach where we run into Jim and Kolleen catching the morning sunrise at the beach. We drink (or chew) our coffee as we welcome in the morning. We grab breakfast at the hotel before everyone is headed in all different directions depending on how much you want to do on this down day. Penny, Marle, Bob and I are headed up to Ubud to the woodcarvers and silver shops. Our driver is Tony, who Jim and Kolleen have used several times when they are in Bali. Our first stop is the silver shop to pick up a few things then off to the woodcarvers. This is a place that we have purchased the majority of our masks that we have on display at the store. Prices have changed a lot since the last time we had made a purchase 5 years ago. It's funny because you barter in US dollars and then they change the currency to rupiah when you pay. They took credit



cards like cash and did not charge us extra to use them. We did get our masks at 50% less than the asking price, so that was really good. Normally they will go as low as 40% and the more you buy the better you can barter. We then had them wrap it all up so we can hand carry it on the plane. After that we stop for lunch and then head back to the resort for some pool time and relax for the rest of the afternoon. From the sounds of it everyone did exactly what they wanted to do and it was a very successful day. Time for a shower and then a group of us wander down the beach in search of dinner. We stop at a beach side place for dinner and then back to the resort to call it a night. We have to be ready to go by 5:45 AM to make it to the airport for our early flight to Wakatobi.

## Day 2

Ok, I made it till about 4 AM, but we did go to bed at 9 PM so that was pretty good. Might as well get up and get showered and take luggage to the reception area. Our driver surprises us by showing up before 5 AM with a much bigger bus and a box truck for all the luggage. Everyone slowly makes their way down and believe it or not our luggage barely fit in the box truck. I love our groups, everyone is early and we depart for the airport before 6 AM. The trip takes about 20 minutes with no traffic at this hour. Upon arrival we are quickly met by the Wakatobi crew who grabs all luggage and get us moving to the check in counter. I love this part because you just do not have to handle any of your luggage from this point on. The next time you will see your luggage will be in your room at Wakatobi. After putting tags on all our bags, they hand us our boarding passes and then we are



whisked away to the lounge. There are plenty of choices for food and even a hot cook egg station and of course espresso machines, which I think our group promptly broke. Thank goodness there are 2 of them. Upstairs has more food and more comfortable chairs to relax in until our flight. When the plane is loaded and ready to go, they gather us all up and at the gate we immediately are boarding. We do have to take a bus to the plane which is a ATR72-600. The seat layout is 2 and 2 with plenty of room for more people. Once on board they do feed you again if you are still hungry. The flight is about 2 hours and 40 minutes to the airstrip. We have a beautiful view



the volcano on Lombok as we fly over. The landing was a bit hard, but we quickly unload the plane and into the awaiting cars that will take us down to the beach. They have built a new road so the cars can now drive you to

the landing instead of going down all those stairs. Although, the road is super steep like a dropping roller coaster ride. Not sure how they get up it if it's raining out. The tide is so low that we have to load up on small boats to take us out to the big boats. Good thing it is a nice sunny day. Once on board we are greeted with a cool drink and cold towel as the staff gets us settled in. It is about a 20 minute ride to the resort where we unload and each



bungalow has a guide to take them to their room and explain how everything works. Lunch is served shortly after arriving and then we are to meet back at the dive center at 2 PM for all the dive information. They give us the grand tour on how everything works and then it's time to do our checkout dive. Once we are geared up down the stairs we go and for those who have not been here before have to perform a mask clear and emergency air share. Glad I didn't have to do that, I'm not sure I would have passed—hahaha. Due to the extreme low tide the current is pretty weird on the reef. We literally go one way and then drift back, current changes, back the other way. This happened several times. Lots of big Turtles, schooling fish, leaf Scorpionfish, true Clownfish, huge Moray Eel getting cleaned etc. Our time is up so back we go to get showered up for dinner. Happy hour begins so we want to catch the sunset at the bar. Beautiful sunset and then it's time for dinner which was amazing as always. Everyone is pretty tired so off to bed we go.

### Day 3

Surprise we are up super early once again, so we get our cameras ready and enjoy coffee out on the beach to watch the sunrise. It just doesn't get any better than that—except if I were still sleeping of course! After breakfast we load onto our boats and away we go for a full day of diving. Our boats are coming back to the dock between dives since we are so close. They unload tanks while we wait on the boat for our hour surface interval. We had great morning dives as well as the other boat, although they did say their second dive was a bit of a washing machine with current. After lunch we have some time to relax or catch a nap and then the 3<sup>rd</sup> dive heads out around 2:15 PM. Our third dive did have quite a bit of current as we drifted on the wall making it difficult to shoot all the little macro critters. During the dive a bunch of green algae starts floating by and by the time we are at our surface interval there are huge mats of it coming over the top of the reef. It almost makes it impossible to find a hole to surface through. Yuck, I have never seen so much of this before. Back to the resort where we shower and make our way to happy hour and watch the sunset. There is a meet and greet at the restaurant with drinks before dinner. Ate way too much at dinner once again before having to call it a night.



### Day 4

Happy Halloween! Another beautiful day with the sun shining and the water flat calm. We are doing the dives that the other boat did yesterday and they are doing ours. This morning dive is Chris's 250<sup>th</sup> dive, so





congratulations Chris! Lots of macro critters to shoot and our second dive we were a bit concerned over the washing machine action, but it turned out to be fine. We had a Frogfish, 2-leaf Scorpionfish, Pygmy, soft coral Crab, Nudis and much more. A nice breeze is blowing to keep the temperature under control and the flies at lunch. After lunch we finish up with another wall dive loaded with beautiful corals and then back to the resort. It seems to be the perfect night for a house reef night dive since the currents should be slack. Bob, Jim and I decide to go out at dusk and enjoy the calm of the reef as we start to swim left out of the main bar gully. It's



nice and dark out now and all the soft corals are starting to bloom. The current has also started to pick up as we drift along the wall. Pretty soon we are drifting at a good rate, so much so that we cannot kick back to our entry point. Lucky for us we have been here before so we aim for the second gully. It didn't take long for us to arrive and scare up a huge Turtle and some big Lobster. We poke around this end for a while before having to make the long swim back to the dive locker. The current wasn't really bad over the shallows, but once we were against the sea wall we were engulfed by a billion little fish. It didn't feel good as they were squiggling on your face, ears and even felt like they were going up our wetsuits. Time for dinner as we quickly shower and enjoy another wonderful meal. Back at the room we are trying to stay awake long enough to look at pictures but no luck.

## Day 5



Another beautiful day as we go out this morning for a 2 tank dive. We are quite a ways away from the resort and the walls were amazing. On our second dive we had 3 Cuttlefish all together which made for some great photos. Upon surfacing we see in the far distance a blow from a Whale, but it is too far away to see what it is and it's going the wrong direction for us to investigate. Back at the resort for another wonderful lunch and then most of the group is doing a house reef dive for the 3<sup>rd</sup> dive since tonight is our boat night dive. Each boat heads to a different spot for

their night dives. I am on the boat with Kolleen as we are finishing her night diving specialty. Our side is Teluk Maya, where there is a large sandy area surrounded by coral. We have very little current and plenty to see. Lots of critters in the sand like Crocodile Flathead, Spearing Mantis, winged Pipefish, Ornate Ghost Pipefish and a Stargazer. Our time is up as we make our way to the surface. Great job Kolleen, congratulations on becoming night dive certified! As the rest of the group surfaces they report that under the boat is a juvenile Moray Eel which appears clear. No one can get a picture but they are all raving about it. Back to the resort for a late dinner and off to bed.



## Day 6

Back out for another full day of diving. Our first dive we had a Giant Frogfish on a light lavender sponge and the Frogfish was the exact same color. And it's head down towards the reef. An absolute impossible position to get a picture so we all had a good laugh over that one. I look up from the Frogfish and there is a gigantic fish just hovering about us. We don't see many big fish out here, so it was quite surprising to see and it didn't seem to be bothered by us at all. Of course we are all shooting macro, so no pictures, but Jon followed it down the reef a



ways and said he saw a few more of them. Connie is taking a photo class from Marco at the resort and she comes back to the boat all smiles as she has gotten a picture of a Pygmy Seahorse. She is hooked for sure now. Her husband Jay has now become a photo widow, sorry Jay! The other boat reports great dives as well and that they had found 4 Cuttlefish on the same dive we did yesterday. After our last dives of the day a small group decides to jump in for a dusk/night dive while the rest of us enjoy happy hour at the bar. This was Dales 900<sup>th</sup> dive, congratulations Dale! Bob breaks out the drone and gets some great footage of them all back rolling into the water and a flyby of all of us at the jetty bar. As it starts getting dark we notice that there are green trails on the surface of the water. When we were here 5 years ago we saw the same phenomenon. It is some type of shrimp spawning. It happens at night and it leaves long trails of what looks like green bioluminescent. The entire surface of the water is neon green. So amazing. Another wonderful dinner and off to bed. I can't seem to make it past 8:30 PM!

## Day 7

Bob down. He fought some stomach issues all night so he is sitting out the first 2 dives of the day. Our boat is on a macro hunt for the first 2 dives. Plenty of the same critters at Teluk Maya that we saw the night before, and Hope is joining us as she had lost her strobe somewhere on the dive last night. It was not in the sandy area so that means she dropped it over the coral and that is going to be impossible to find. Luckily, Katie spots it on a coral head and Hope is one happy diver! Drinks for Katie tonight! On our second dive today we had a huge school of Barracuda some by, such an amazing display as they swirl around like a tornado. Once again with my macro lens on. Oh well. Bob joins us for the last dive of the day out to Fan Garden, where it is a beautiful vertical



wall covered in life. Congratulations to Brandyn as this is his 50<sup>th</sup> dive and he spotted a nice Cuttlefish, way to go Brandyn! In this area I always come up to the very top of the reef in about 3 ft of water or so as it is so beautiful with all the corals and fish life. Late in the day the sun is shining on it and the reef just sparkles as the light dances across the corals. Probably one of my most favorite spots on the reef. Back to the resort to enjoy another happy hour on the jetty bar to watch the sunset. No one doing a night dive tonight, everyone just needing to take



a break for tonight. The shrimp are at it again tonight as the surface of the water is totally lit up in green contrails.

## Day 8

So much for sleeping in. We make some coffee and enjoy the sunrise from our front porch once again. Not really a bad way to start the day. Connie has one more day with Marco for her photo class. I have to say, for not knowing much about taking underwater photos, she has some great shots to take home. I would say the photo class is totally worth it from the smile on Connie's face. Today it is pretty overcast with black clouds looming in the distance. On our way to the second dive we have a water spout off in the distance. At lunch we hear the rumble of thunder off in the distance. Everyone has another great day of diving and Bob hit his 8300<sup>th</sup> dive today. Back to the resort and we hustle off to get showered as Audrey, Jim, Kolleen and myself are doing the cooking class. The chef has all the ingredients ready to go and shows us how to make a yellow curry. Of course



after watching how to make it, the best part of class is eating it and it was really good. The dark clouds are moving in and it looks like we are in for a squall tonight. Better batten down the hatches as it might get bad. Everyone is in the longhouse for the bar tonight as we sit and watch the lightening show out over the water. Hardcores Dale, Peggy, Mike & Liz are in for a night dive and at least the lightening is a long ways away. Time for another wonderful dinner and off to bed.

## Day 9

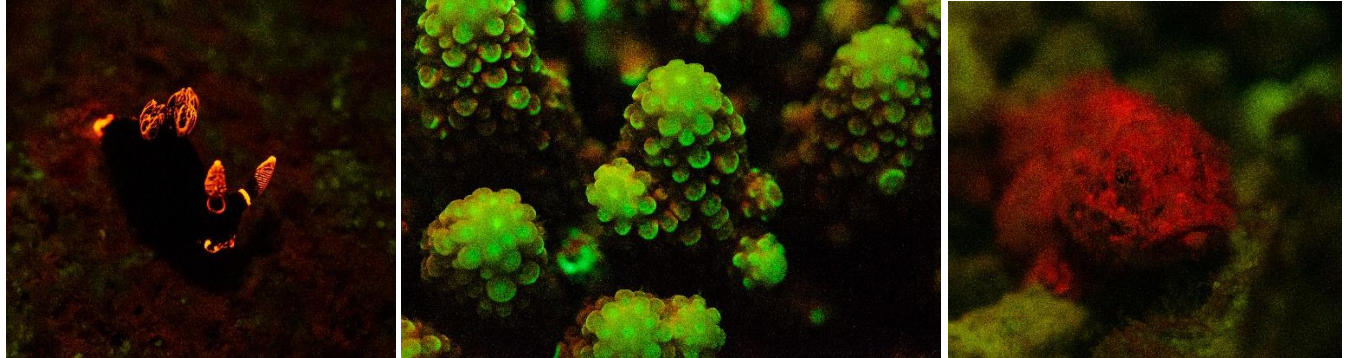
The weather looks much better this morning which is a good thing as our boat is heading to the blade divesite. It takes about an hour to get there from the resort. The water is nice and calm and the sun is shining. We jump in and the top of the pinnacle is beautiful with a huge school of Surgeonfish doing a quick flyby. The topography on this dive is what makes it so unique. It is a series of pinnacles with a blade edge running in between them. Lots



of fish, a huge Hypseldoris Nudibranch, Shrimp fish and just a great dive to take in the scenery. Back on the boat



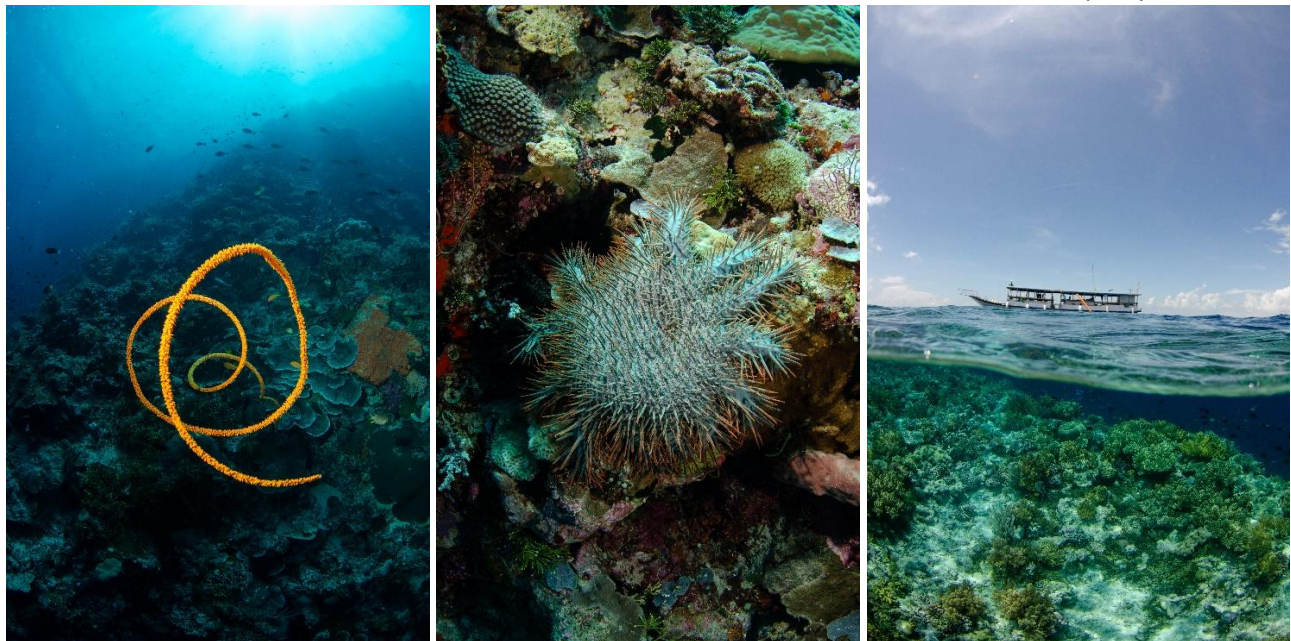
we head back to the resort and there is a big black cloud looming right where we are headed. It is torrential rain at the resort right now so our sunshine is short lived. Just as we stop for our second dive, down it comes. Not a big deal we are going diving anyway. Back to the resort for lunch and the sun is shining but still pretty cloudy. By the time we take off for the 3<sup>rd</sup> dive, it is flat calm and sunny but rain squalls all around us. This dive is all about the little critters as we hunt for Nudibranchs and anything else small we can find. Once we return to the resort, Bob, myself, Jon & Brandyn all get ready for a night dive. Current looks good and Bob and I are using our flouro lights to see what exciting things we can find. Most of the corals fluoresce, but not a lot of the fish. We find a



Sea Krait, Lobster, Leaf Scorpion Fish and none of them fluoresce at all. We did find a small nudibranch that did along with a Scorpionfish all lit up in red. Our time is up so we get cleaned up and off to dinner we go. Not a breath of wind tonight and the stars are out in full force. Hopefully tomorrow will be bright sunny skies all day.

#### Day 10

Bright and sunny to begin the day. More rain squalls on the horizon but it looks like we are going to get lucky. For our second dive of the day we went to Lorenzo's delight which is at least a 45 minute boat ride from the resort. We decide to go deep to see the whip coral garden in both orange and green colors. After that you come up on the wall and it is a beautiful drift along the wall with gorgeous soft corals and lots of fish life. Really a beautiful dive. We did see 2 crown of thorns starfish, which Bob had to relocate to the deep abyss. Back at the



resort for lunch and then most everyone is doing a house reef dive as tonight is our boat night dive. Bob is busy flying his drone around all the divers, boats and pier. Both of our boats head in opposite directions for the night dive. My boat saw 2 giant pluerobranchs and at the end of the dive I found a small orange Frogfish right at the mooring. Luckily everyone was headed back to the mooring so I was able to point it out. Time for another wonderful dinner and off to bed exhausted as usual.



## Day 11



Plenty more great diving today.

## Day 12

Last day of diving. Boo hoo. We have 2 dives this morning and then we will come back for lunch and the packing will begin. Everyone enjoys their last 2 dives and we were finally able to find Fred the giant Barracuda that was living on the house reef before. He now resides just down the wall a bit at Turkey Beach. As we drifted along this site, there he was in all his glory. Had to be the same Barracuda because I have never seen one this size before and I can't imagine that there are 2 of them. You just don't see big fish here. When I pointed it out to Bob I did get a "holy shit!" from him so I know it was big. He didn't stick around either as soon as I tried to get close to



take a photo, off he swam. Once we are back at the resort, we take off for lunch while the crew is busy rinsing all your gear and hanging it up to dry. Time for packing before meeting up with everyone at the jetty bar for our last night farewell toast. Several of our guides (Yusuf, Chiara, Liza & Marco) join us for a drink and another



beautiful sunset before going to dinner. Another spectacular meal by the restaurant staff to top off the last dinner of the trip.

## Day 13

Departure day today. Our luggage has to be out by 6:30 AM, we need to vacate our room by 8:30 AM and we will depart for the airport at 9:30 AM. We enjoy our last cup of coffee on the deck as the sun is rising and the tide is going out. Another beautiful day at Wakatobi. We enjoy a wonderful breakfast and say our goodbyes to the restaurant crew. All smiles as they wish us farewell and get ready to greet the next wave of divers. We meet up at the long house to pay our final bills before catching the boat to the other island. Just when we get ready to leave a large pod of Dolphins come past the resort. Bob quickly gets the drone up but we just can't seem to find them in the blue. It was a nice send off for the end of our trip. We load onto Waka III for the short ride to the harbor where we unload and then jump into the awaiting cars to drive the short distance to the airstrip. This





time they actually have security that opens our carry ons and looks in and then another person runs a wand over us. Never had that last time we were here. The plane arrives with 20 new guests as they are whisked away in the awaiting cars. That was just us a short 11 days ago. The plane turn around takes a little over an hour to unload and load back up. We are back in the air just around noon and should be landing somewhere around 2:30 PM. We had to say goodbye to Mike, Liz, Lori, Scott, Jay, Connie, Hope, Jim and Kolleen. They will overnight in Bali before catching their flights home the next afternoon. Chelsi is joining the group and should be coming in from Hong Kong around 3 PM this afternoon. Looking forward to having her join the group. Once we arrive in Bali, we are met by the Wakatobi rep as we gather up all our luggage and he helps everyone meet up with their drivers. Outside we have Danny from alam Batu waiting for us as his crew jumps in to help with all our luggage and directs us to the 4 cars that will haul 11 of us to the resort. Once we are on our way it is a good 3 hour drive to the resort in Tulamben. Part way through the trip I had to ask the driver if we were taking a different route as it did not look the same as when we came before. He said "yes, shortcut, the other way too many trucks, too slow". Well, it was a windy road over the mountains through small villages. Thank goodness I was sitting up front otherwise I would have been carsick for sure. A couple of our crew did get carsick so be sure to medicate before leaving the airport. Once we hit the mountain top, the terrain changed to very dry and arid with pine trees. It was very interesting to see the difference in the sides of the island. The drop back down was very steep, windy and narrow as well. Finally we are at the resort as the staff comes out to greet us. Just about 3 hours to get here. Chelsi is in a car by herself and is not too far behind us, maybe an hour. Once we are settled it's time for dinner and the diving schedule. We start bright and early in the morning, first breakfast is out at 7 AM, and we are departing at 7:30 AM for the dive. We opt to set up our dive gear tonight and also camera's so we are ready to go in the morning. Tired from the day of travel so off to bed we go.

#### Day 14

Up bright and early in the morning as usual. This time we awake to gecko's croaking, doves, birds, frogs and of course the almighty rooster. Welcome back to Bali! The rooms are really nice bungalows and the outside bathrooms are beautiful. Wish I could have one at home! We make a cup of coffee and then wander outside to





the two upper platforms (bale) and watch the sunrise. The fishing boats are already out on the water and there is barely a breeze. Looks like it is going to be a great day. We head to the dive center to start to get ready as we meet our guides and get completely dressed with mask & fins in hand. After a short briefing we walk down to the boats and we have to swim out to the boats to get on. The group is divided up into 2 boats as the resort only has 2 boats that take 6 divers each. The boat ride is a minute to maybe 15 minutes to the divesites. Once on site, you put on fins, gear and mask and then backroll in. The vis is relatively good for muck diving, I would say we had 40-50 ft with the sunshine. We are diving in black sand with little coral bommies everywhere. Here the hunt begins for all the strange and crazy critters that muck diving offers. Our guides have eagle eyes as I swear they look for the smallest creatures I have ever seen. We find all the good stuff from Ghost Pipefish in every variety, Pygmy Seahorse, Nudibranchs galore and even our first Wonderpuss. Crabs, Shrimps, Frogfish in every color and



size. The list goes on and on. Our schedule for today is 7:30 AM dive, breakfast, 11:30 AM dive, lunch, 3:00 PM dive, dinner and then you can house reef dive for the night dive if you wish. In between us diving there is 2 other groups diving as soon as our boat returns. This crew is working non-stop from morning until night. After our dives we relax with a cold bintang by the beautiful infinity pool and chat with everyone about what they saw today. Later several of us head up to Chris & Katies room, called the chicken room, for some drinks before



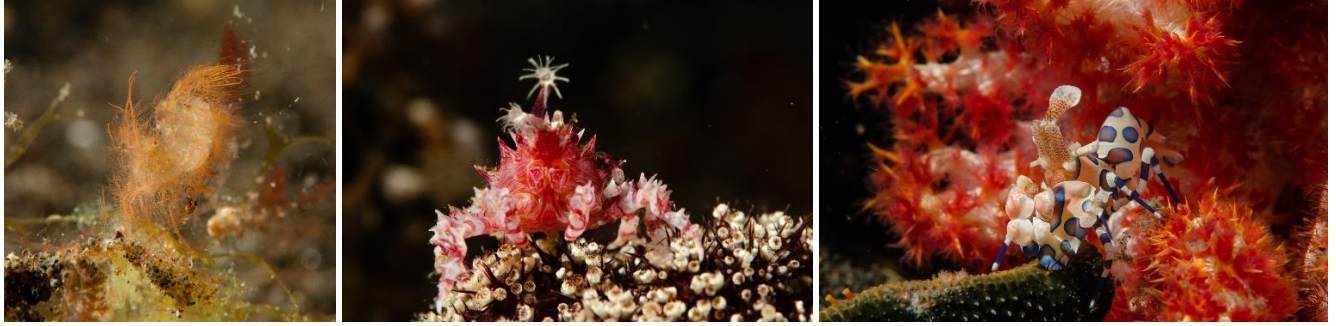
dinner. They have a beautiful room and a private pool, with a very large outside dining area. It's called the chicken room as the roosters are crowing non-stop in the night. Time for dinner as we dine outside tonight on the point. An amazing spot for a restaurant. A small group of divers went out to do a black water dive tonight. This is where you drift in the ocean and wait for strange critters to be drawn into your lights. Super difficult shooting, but the pictures of these creatures is amazing. I think we are

going to give it a try later in the week. Time for bed as tomorrow will be a long day with 4 dives.



## Day 15

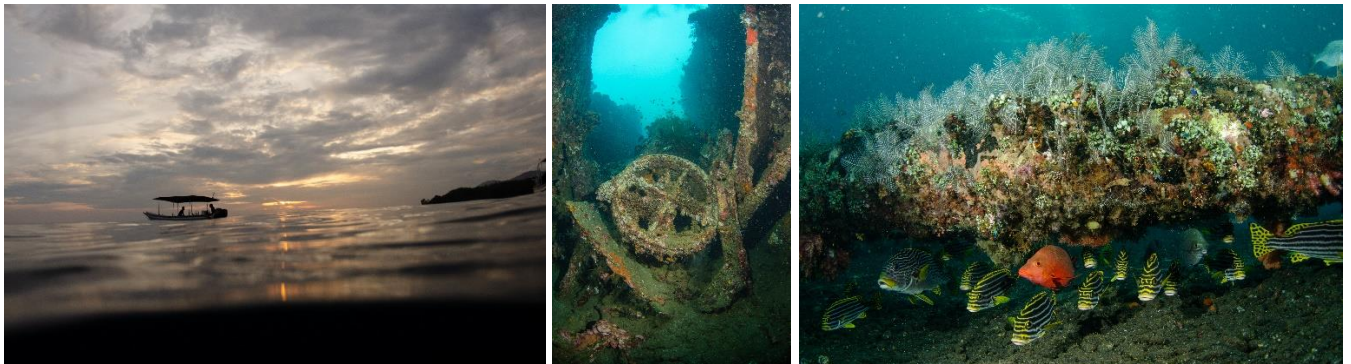
Up early once again, but we have some camera work to do so up at it. After our first dive when we come to the surface Chelsi spots a very small Frogfish next to the boat. Sure enough it is a small Sargassum Frogfish. He hides in Bob's hand and then he jumps on my camera to hide. I tried to take a photo, but it is too difficult snorkeling at the surface in the chop. Oh well, pretty cool to see anyways. Back for second breakfast and a short break before heading out on the next dive. The next 2 dives were filled with plenty of little critters once again. On our third dive of the day we did get lucky with 2 Harlequinn Shrimp down deep. Back at the resort we have a couple of hours before the night dive departs at 6:30 PM. Almost everybody is in for the night dive as both boats are going out tonight. Our dive is just a quick 1 minute boat ride away and as we drop down it's a little slow to start but



then it just went crazy. All the tiny Frogfish, Harlequinn Crabs, Bobtail squid, Ornate Ghost Pipefish, Hairy Shrimp and the icing on the cake was a small Harlequinn Crab dragging a starfish across the sand. Amazing night dive! Back to the resort for dinner and then off to bed because we have to be up at the crack of dawn.

## Day 16

Alarm goes off at 5:00 AM, so tough to drag myself out of bed. Down to the dive area to get ready and almost everyone makes it. It is about a 15 minute boat ride to the Liberty Wreck and we need to be there at sunrise to hopefully beat the crowds. Too late there is already a group in the water and the shore is lined with divers. We jump in and it is like going to a busy day at Disneyland. Diver soup. Divers everywhere are descending on this wreck at 6 AM, who are all these crazy people? Just like us they are trying to beat the crowd. Bob's boat ended up jumping about 20 minutes after us and it was not as crowded. I think the best thing is to try and jump between the initial wave and the next wave. Maybe 7 or 7:30 AM would be less crowded as everyone is doing a surface interval or is gone. The wreck is full of fish life like bumphead ParrotFish, huge grouper and pufferfish.



The wreck is covered in soft corals, barrel sponges and some coral. It is surprising that anything is alive on the wreck with all this diver traffic. It was almost more entertaining to watch all the divers instead of the marine life. I will just say there are some divers down there that should not be diving! Back to the resort and time for breakfast. Bob's boat lost an engine on the way back so it took them an extra 30 minutes to get back. Our next dive isn't until 11:30 AM so we have lots of time to kick back and relax. A bit of current on these second dives, enough to really make you work for it. Plenty of new critters to see as we end the day late in the afternoon. After the last dive, I hustled back as I have a 5 PM massage appointment for 90 minutes of bliss. At 6:30 PM we headed down to the restaurant area for a happy hour before dinner on the point.



## Day 17

Morning starts with coffee and the 7:30 dive. The wind has picked up and there are white caps on the water. But there is no stopping Team Anacortes. The crazies get ready for dive number one and head out. The wind has continued to build and has necessitated a dive site change. Bob's boat heads to a site called "dream land" a great mix of corals and muck. There were plenty of blue spot stingrays, blue ribbon eels, and emperor shrimp riding nudibranchs. On the dive there was a huge upwelling of cold water ....78degrees. Who knew that you



could complain about 78. At the end of the dive there was "a little current". They covered 4 dive sites during their shallow water drift! Everyone continues to see cool critters and have fun. The other boat had a good down current that surprised a few people. The wind has continued to blow and our black water dive has been cancelled. Bob's low beer light came on so that is the end of our diving for the day. A quick dip in the pool with a cold Bintang and then time for a shower and happy hour. Another delicious meal on the point and time for bed.

## Day 18

Wind is low this morning so Bob skips the first dive and breaks out the drone. He gets all of us swimming out to



the boats and taking off for our dive sites. We did a repeat site to Silent Hill, where we had Harlequin shrimp, Pygmys and sheep nudibranchs. Upon surfacing the wind is blowing strong as we make our way back. Bob is still flying the drone even in this wind. He gets us all returning and then it's time to wrap it up before it blows the drone away. This is a full day of diving today including our last night dive. Might have to have dive site changes due to the high winds, we will see what happens. The winds have definitely picked up so all the sights have changed for the day. No worries, plenty of good diving close by. Our night dive was amazing with great critters once again. The highlight of the dive was a small decorator crab releasing it's eggs! So lucky to see this happen. Celebrating my 3200<sup>th</sup> dive on this night dive, woot, woot! Back to the resort for a late dinner and off to bed.



## Day 19

Bob got up early to fly the drone one more time before the wind kicks up. Another beautiful day here for our last 2 dives of the trip. Once again the wind has picked up when we surface from the dive so it will be another rough day on the water. Back for breakfast and then out for our last dive. Just a short hour and our diving is all over for the trip. Back to the resort to clean gear and get it all hung up to dry while we enjoy lunch. We do a little packing and then it is pool time with cold Bintang. Most of the group joins us for our last hoorah before



getting serious about packing. It is a super hot day so packing is a bit difficult as we are sweating to death! At 6 PM we all join up to say farewell to Chris & Katie as they head off to the airport for their 1 AM flight tonight. The rest of us meet up for happy hour and then dinner. The breeze is dying now, and it is sweltering. A quick retreat back to our room for AC. It is a long hot night as I don't think our AC kept up with how hot it was. Tomorrow will be a long day.

## Day 20

Up again around 6:30 AM to finish packing and then relaxing on the upper Bale and soaking up the view. Off to breakfast before taking a last minute shower and then our drivers are picking us up at 10 AM. This crew is early and we are ready to go so we depart the resort at 9:45 AM. The ride is super windy so medicate if necessary. We make it in record time of only 2 ½ hour drive. Check in was super easy and off to the lounge we go to wait for our 4 PM flight to Hong Kong. Our flight departed a little late but it was smooth sailing all the way home.



Bob and I would like to thank everyone for joining us on another great Indonesian adventure. Spending all this time underwater with a great group of friends is the best way to live! We are grateful everyday to do what we love to do; travel and dive! We look forward to traveling with you again on another adventure.

Cheers, Kelley & Bob



