

Deep South Komodo During the North West



Loh Dasami

A private trial of our new DEEP SOUTH itinerary had us enjoying a great vacation early January, during the peak of the North West season. South Komodo, Padar, Rinca, Gili Motang and South Flores. It was absolutely gorgeous! Beautiful bright mornings most of the time, glassy warm and clear waters down South - right up to Karang Makassar, Batu Bolong and Pengah Kecil, but don't go further north this time of year, brrrr! Great manta cleaning station in clear water on North of Karang Makassar, all the 4 sisters EASY at Padar, and even Lida could find a frog fish there. OK, it was the size of a skippy ball...



Ok - I'll have that beach



Your survey team

Flat calm conditions and nice warm blue water welcomed us in South Komodo, where you normally get rocked around before entering cold and turbid waters during the Southeasterlies. Stunning views of all the formations around manta alley on our dive there, without mantas this time of year, but with great visibility and a chance to focus on the reef, the rocky formations, canyons and fish. Nice big potato cod came to say hello here. So many more and new dive sites open up during this season, it was beyond what we had expected and there is just a whole new round of exploring yet to be done.



The whole world to ourselves



Fresh fish for dinner

Great wide angle diving in the bright mornings, focusing on the little things in the darker late afternoons, or just hanging out on a beach then, or doing some fishing for the pot. Your little survey team just added a handful new sites on this trip, checked out some of the ones we knew (from WAY back when...) and in talking with some of the local guides basically realized that we have a whole new menu of sites yet to design for this season in the DEEP SOUTH.

So much to do, all of a sudden, around Padar for example, excellent dive with elegant sand divers (the biggest displaying males that I have ever seen) and then into the channel just off the beach at Padar Kecil. Then the 4 sisters just around the corner, the secret garden, the seamount at South Pader, and the islets to the West... And as expected, NOBODY there, except for some small local boats near Pantai Merah and Karang Makassar, and of course the eagles in Loh Dasami, we did not see ANYONE down south. Yes we did, I remember now, one local boat on one day in Padar, got some antibiotics from them for my sinus infection - thanks guys! And for the rest, all the beaches and the dive sites to ourselves, just as we had hoped for.

Plenty fish around too, great casting for small tunas that went straight into sashimi and sevice. Big mackerel around, great fresh steaks, just seared with salt and pepper and lime, yummy!

Lida and Jos Pet & kids

