

# MALAYSIA

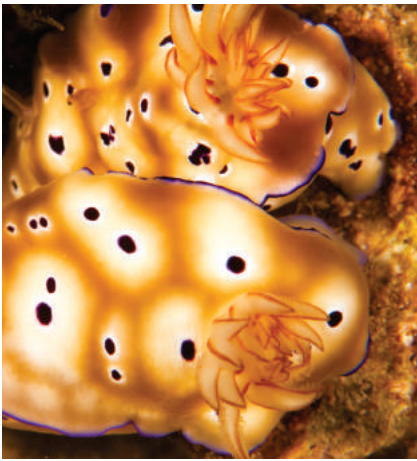
Dive in  
Paradise



An underwater photograph showing a large boat wreck in the upper half of the frame, with sunlight filtering through the water from above. In the lower right, a diver is seen swimming over a coral reef. The overall scene is a vibrant blue-green underwater environment.

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## Dive in Malaysia, and experience the diversity

Imagine warm clear waters, colourful underwater reefs and fascinating aquatic life forms. Imagine stunning, sheer walls and large, graceful pelagics. Imagine breathtaking beaches of powdery soft sand. These captivating sights will be yours to enjoy in the abundance of dive sites in Malaysia.

Pulau Redang offers vast coral gardens of unimaginable variety. Its pristine beaches and clear visibility make it a favourite for all divers. Pulau Tioman, acclaimed as one of the world's most beautiful islands, has excellent wrecks and reefs to explore by boat or from shore. Pulau Perhentian, with its sapphire waters, soft white sand, and trendy lifestyle, offers endless varieties of fish of all colours and sizes.

Pulau Sipadan is the ultimate diving destination with amazing sights of turtles, reef sharks and a 680-metre deep drop-off. Nearby Mabul attracts keen naturalists and photographers with its wealth of macro life.

In Miri, discover a thriving new destination that unveils reefs with a breathtaking marine life. Fostered by a high sense of professionalism, a stable government and a harmonious racial mix, Malaysia offers an unforgettable experience to visitors. English is widely spoken here and the friendly service adds to its appeal.

In Malaysia, the avid diver will find a fascinating variety of underwater attractions available nowhere else in the world.

# MAP OF MALAYSIA





LEGEND			
	Federal Capital		International Airport
	State Capital		Domestic Airport
	Major Town		Short Take off and Landing (STOL)
	Jetty		Expressway
			Major Road
			Railway Line
			International Border
			State Border
			Ferry Terminal
			Dive Site

\* Map not drawn to scale

# Sabah & Sarawak

The Malaysian states of Sabah and Sarawak in Borneo are two intriguing destinations with an abundance of natural and cultural treasures. The multitude of tribal and ethnic groups provide a showcase of diverse cultures and traditions that blend together in harmony.

In Sabah, don't miss an encounter with the famous Orang Utan, or 'Man of the Jungle'. Another unforgettable adventure for visitors is climbing the 4,095.2 metre Mount Kinabalu, the highest peak in Southeast Asia. The capital, Kota Kinabalu, is a laid-back port that still retains its old-world charm. Not far away is the island of Labuan, a federally-administered offshore financial centre. This duty-free shopping destination also boasts several war memorials.





In Sarawak, you'll find another tropical haven endowed with Mother Nature's splendours. Mulu National Park is a World Heritage Site containing the largest limestone caves in the world. Other national parks in the state offer a vast diversity of plant and animal life.

The capital, Kuching, is famous for its colourful cultural performances, British colonial architecture and fascinating sightseeing attractions. Lapped by the waters of the South China Sea, as well as the Sulu and Celebes Seas, the islands and beaches in these two states make for pleasant getaways. Enjoy unforgettable holidays in Sabah and Sarawak.





# Pulau Sipadan

## A Sea Turtles' Haven



Lying just off the northeast coast of Borneo is Sipadan, Malaysia's only oceanic island. This magical isle was made famous by renowned French oceanographer, Jacques Yves Cousteau, in his documentary 'Ghosts of the Sea Turtle'. Indeed, Sipadan offers more than just turtles; it guarantees that every dive is a memorable experience. Few islands in the world offer such prolific marine and coral life.

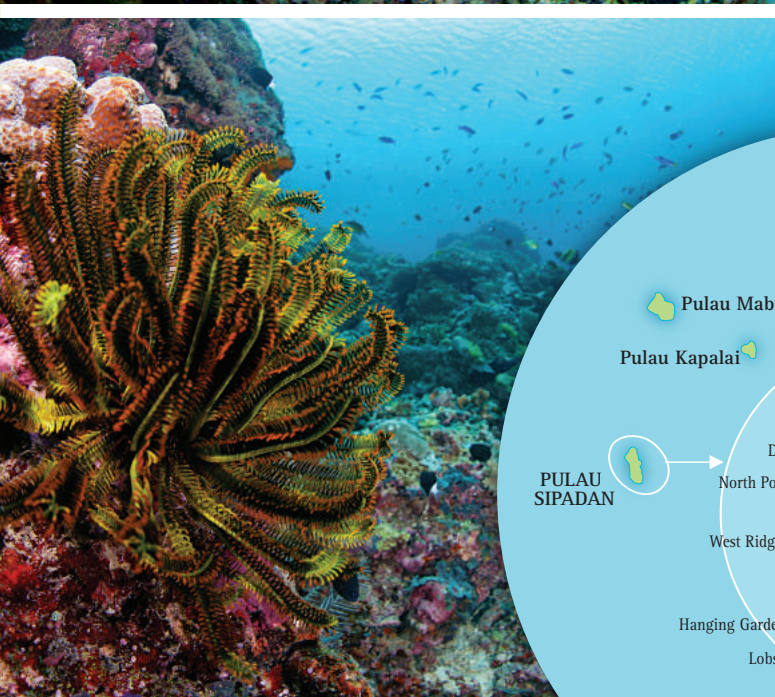


At the Drop Off, five metres of white, soft sand in knee-high water suddenly gives way to a precipitous drop of discovery. Follow the vast wall around as you drift with the current, exploring the corals that inevitably form refuge for the fish. Bumphead parrotfish often rumble past in bison-like hordes. A night dive here may yield a chance encounter with these large fish as they sleep.

Bumphead parrotfish weave a transparent cocoon before they sleep to keep their scent from predators, and this nocturnal sight is as impressive as the one in daytime. The reef life is always varied. Porcupine pufferfish, clown triggerfish, unicornfish and Moorish idols call this dive site home. Giant moray eels lurk in their grottos, observing the traffic going past while huge gorgonian sea fans protrude like the plume of a proud peacock.

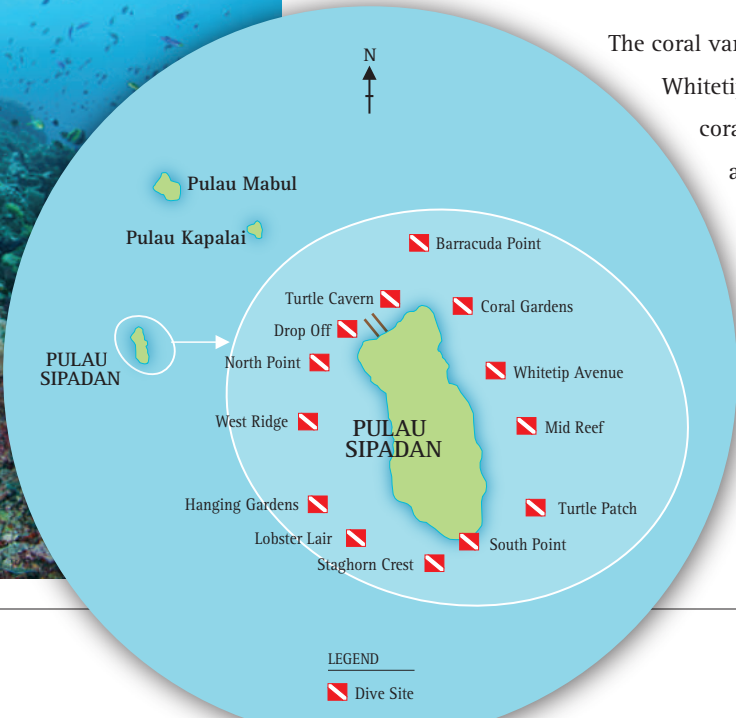
More often than not, you will enjoy the spectacle of Barracuda Point. What starts out as a drift dive will soon turn into a head-on encounter with hundreds of these fearsome-looking creatures. As they move left and right, a gray wall forms from their sheer weight of numbers. It is a sight you will never forget. Don't miss out on the other delights too. Leaf fish and the odd-looking crocodile fish have been spotted here.





At Turtle Cavern, those with cavern-diver certification can explore the same mysteries that Cousteau and his crew did 30 years ago. Keeping your buoyancy good, you will enter the opening and soon encounter a macabre chamber of skeletons. They belong to turtles and some dolphins that were lost in the labyrinth of tunnels, became disorientated and drowned. Divers are often warned during their first orientation dive that they are not allowed to enter the cavern for their own safety.

At Hanging Gardens, you will enjoy the sight of crowded corals in a riot of colours. Both soft and hard corals intermingle seamlessly, while shoals of reef fish keep it a lively dive site. Another interesting sight will be the bumphead parrotfish roaming for its favourite food, corals. Batfish, Moorish idols, hawkfish, groupers and coral trout are other inhabitants you are likely to spot. Of course, you will find plenty of anemones here, hosting playful clownfish.



The coral variety repeats itself at Whitetip Avenue. Large black corals, gorgonian sea fans and barrel sponges vie for attention with gigantic soft tree corals. It is almost a parade of underwater divas!



Here, you will also find whitetip reef sharks and gray reef sharks going about insouciantly.

On all dives, you should see healthy numbers of green turtles and whitetip reef sharks. The lure of Sipadan is that divers can observe these two species thriving in harmony. The menagerie of fish life, including rare and peculiar species, will keep divers spellbound at all times.

Accommodation is no longer allowed on the island. However, divers can still experience the wonders of Sipadan on day trips from nearby Pulau Mabul. There are regular weekly flights from Kuala Lumpur to Tawau, the nearest airport. From the latter, it is a 90-minute drive to the port of Semporna and a 40-minute boat ride to Mabul.







# Islands off Semporna

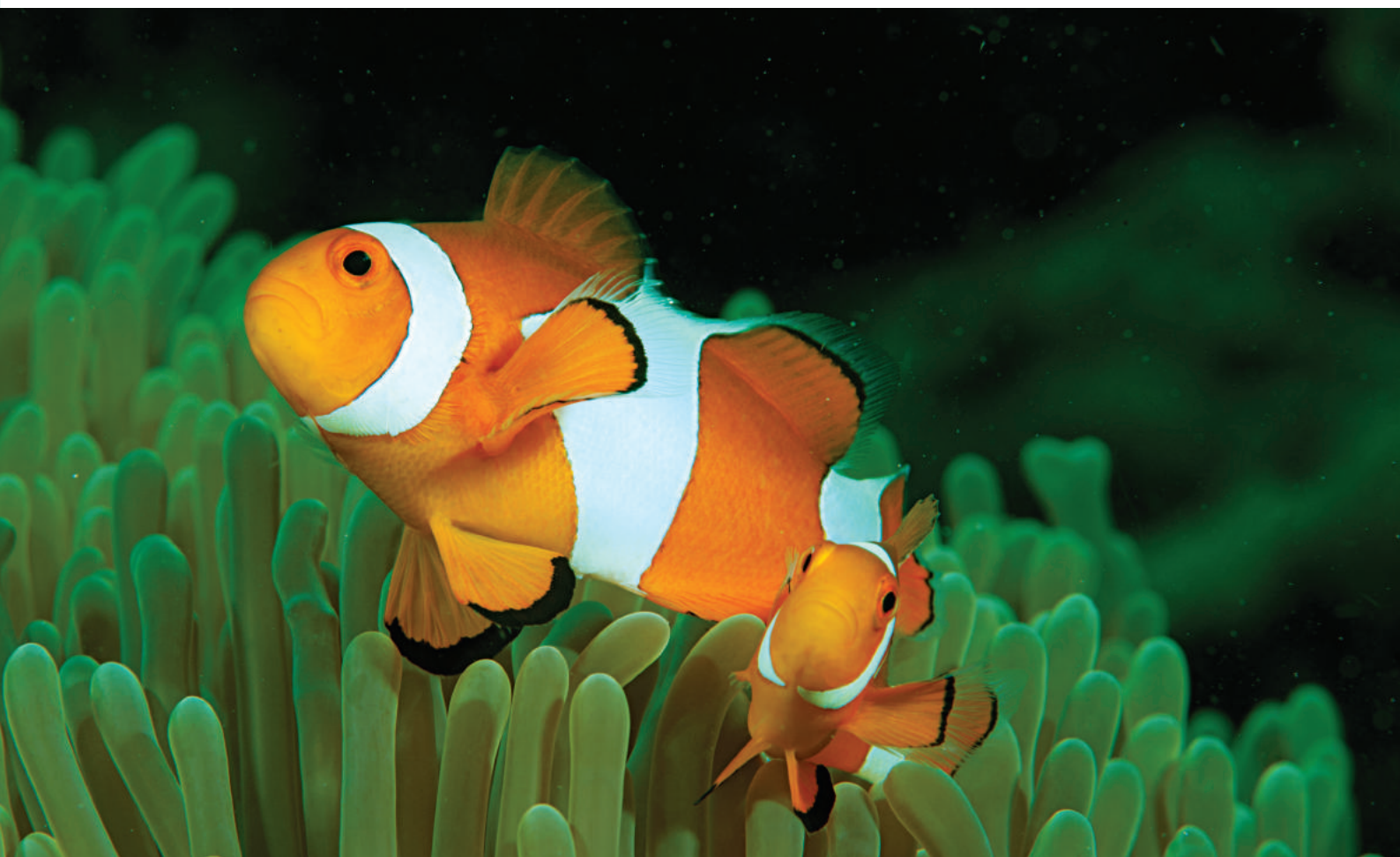
## Pulau Mabul, Kapalai and Matakning

Just like Sipadan, Pulau Mabul has grabbed the world's attention for its own attractions. It is slightly larger than Sipadan, and even has its own village. However, the seascape in Mabul is starkly different, yet equally stunning. While pelagics are the main stars in Sipadan, Mabul is a macro haven for its diversity of tiny marine life.

Just off the edge of the island's jetty is Froggy Lair. This dive site is typical of the many others here. The visibility is usually limited to just several metres. But vigilant divers will soon notice a teeming fish life on the sea bed and in the holes.

They range from the well-camouflaged crocodile fish and frogfish, to more unique-looking creatures like pipefish, scorpionfish and the colourful mandarinfish. With an average depth of only 10 metres, you will be able to devote a longer time finding these fascinating fish along your journey here.

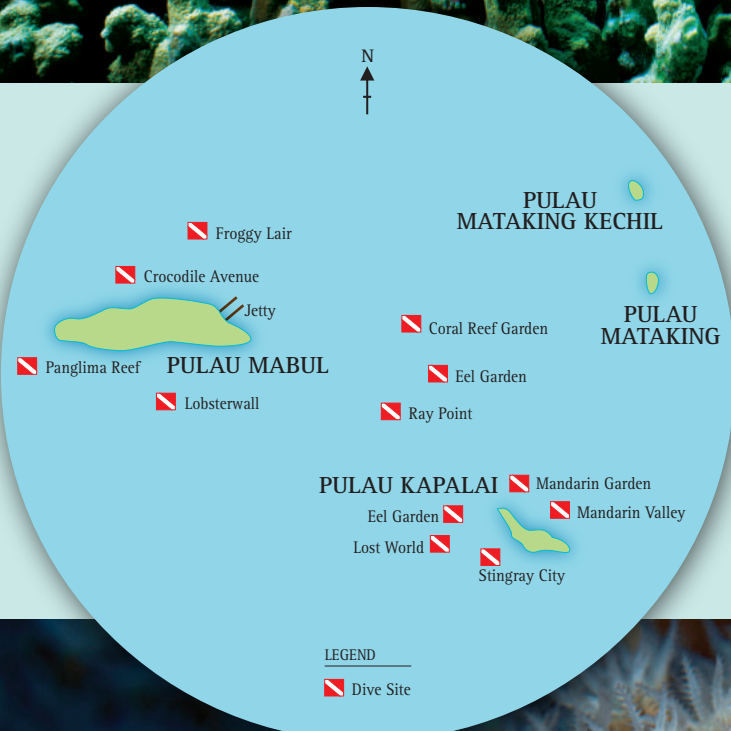




Lobster Wall is another example of Mabul's small wonders. This minor wall contains a cave famous for its lobster inhabitants. But don't miss out on exploring the corals and ledges. Hiding from view are ghost pipefish, pufferfish, seahorses, rabbitfish and the striking lionfish.

For those wanting to get even closer, Nudibranch Centre and Panglima Reef offer a myriad of nudibranchs. Take a break to study these colourful sea slugs and their various patterns.

Pulau Kapalai is another muck-lovers' paradise. In fact, this little island is rated by many diving journalists as one of the best macro-diving destinations in the world. Lying about 45 minutes from the gateway town of Semporna, Kapalai is small enough to be discovered by shore diving. It is not actually an island; rather a large sandbank where a resort has been built on stilts.



The diving, indeed the best of it, is right beneath you! Below the main jetty, blue-ringed octopuses have been spotted many a time.

It is difficult to sub-divide the well-endowed Kapalai into dive sites but three distinctive ones have been noted and named. Mandarin Valley, off the main jetty, is a circus of manic fish life. Jawfish, leaf fish, cuttlefish and gobies are but a few to attract your attention. A gray frogfish or ghost pipefish might chance upon your path.





At Gurnard Ground, ribbon eels and moray eels will add to the crowd. Finally, Stingray City derives its name from the obvious. These are the blue-spotted stingrays, which lurk on sandy bottoms. In these calm, shallow waters, dragonets, octopuses and shrimps are commonly found too.

In Pulau Matakang (east of Semporna), a new world of diving awaits you. The wall diving here is similar to Sipadan and whale sharks have also been sighted. Currently, the island offers luxury accommodation to the privileged few. But its stature is growing steadily as more resorts and divers make their way there.





# Pulau Lankayan

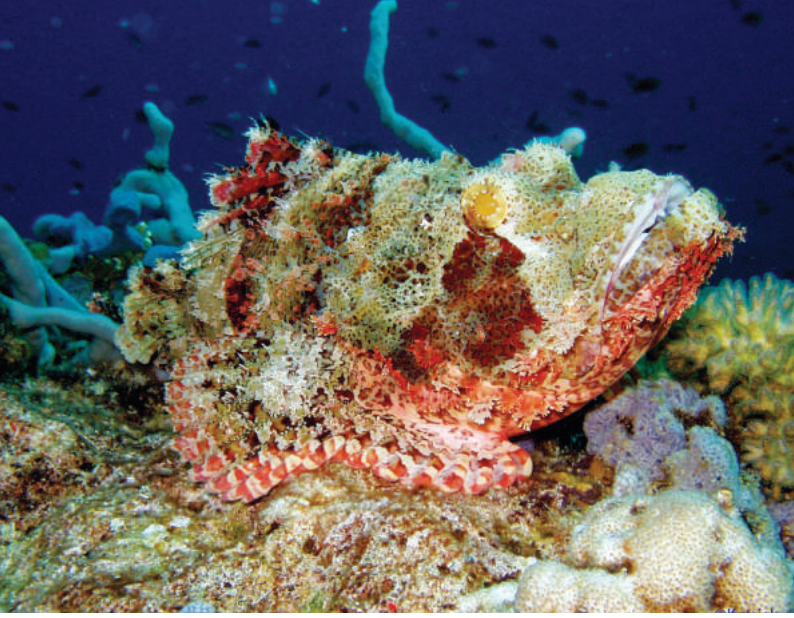
Pulau Lankayan is another unforgettable gem offering a fascinating array of diving opportunities in a remarkably small area. It is located 90 minutes (by speedboat) from the northeast Sabah town of Sandakan. Of all the islands in Malaysia, it offers the best chance for sighting whale sharks. The best time to see these mesmerising giants is between March and May. Otherwise, you will have to be content with ogling bamboo sharks, mandarinfish, mimic octopuses, porcelain crabs and ghost pipefish.

To spice your diving menu a little, Lankayan also offers a couple of wrecks. Right in front of the island's only resort is the Lankayan Wreck, a scuttled illegal fishing vessel.

Today, it is home to an array of fish which relish the irony of its shelter. These include yellow pikes, groupers and even the ghost pipefish.







On the other side is the Mosquito Wreck. It is really an armed barge that sank during World War Two. However, this makes it old enough to be encrusted with lots of corals and inhabited by a bevy of fish life. On its doorstep lies a nursery of baby whitetip sharks. Enjoy the experience of feeding them!

At Lankayan, accommodations range from simple chalets to deluxe apartment rooms.



# Pulau Mantanani

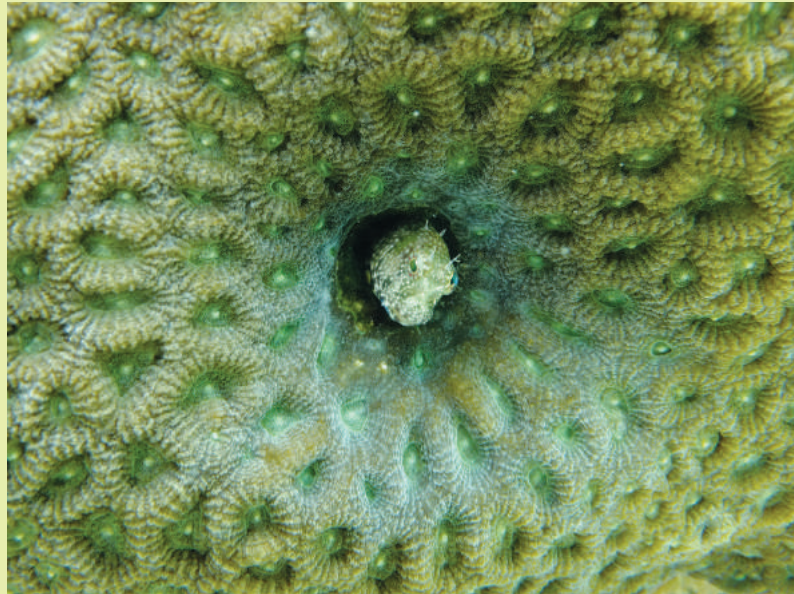
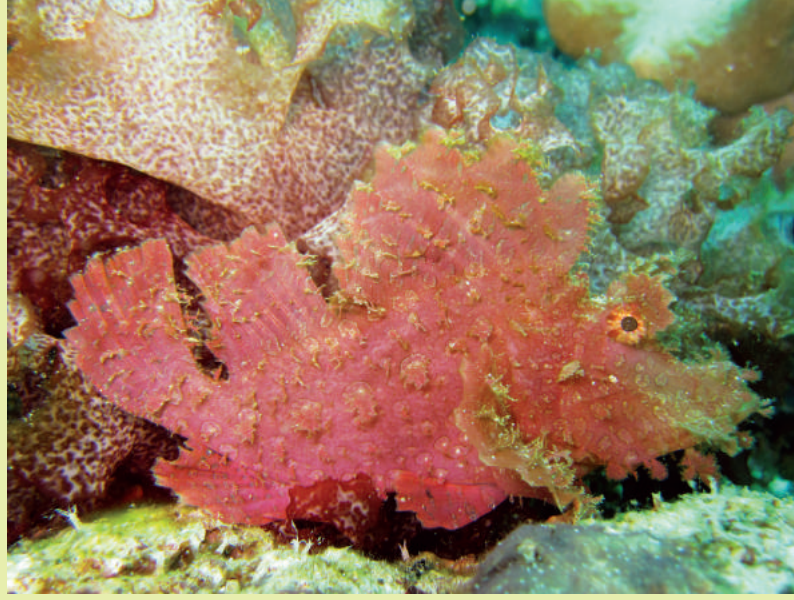
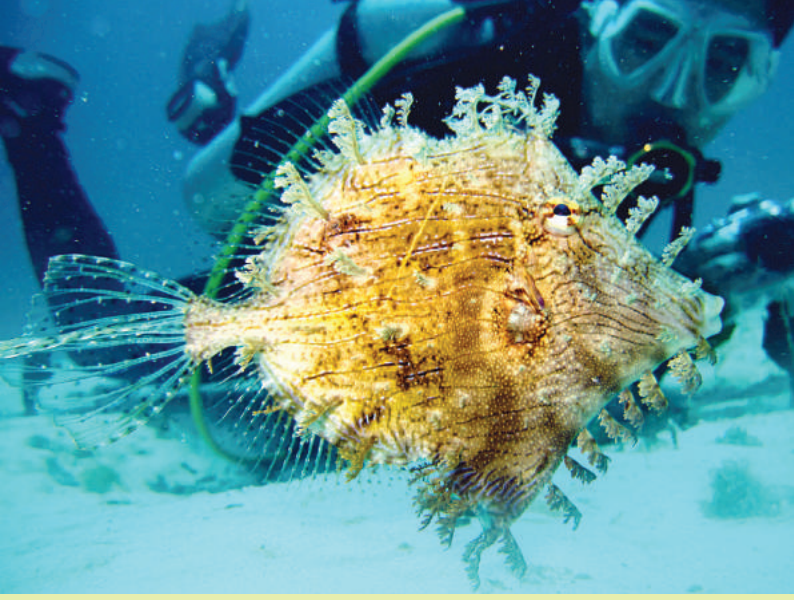
Mantanani's reputation as a dive destination is growing as fast as its tourist arrivals. Located not far from Kota Kinabalu in Sabah, it consists of three small islands. Little is known about it. But this is your chance to discover diving at its evolutionary best.

For novice divers, Mantanani offers pristine waters teeming with coral reefs and a cornucopia of fish life.

A good place to start is Ribbon Reef. On the descend, you will be greeted by the sight of ribbon eels, nudibranchs, lionfish and even marbled stingrays.

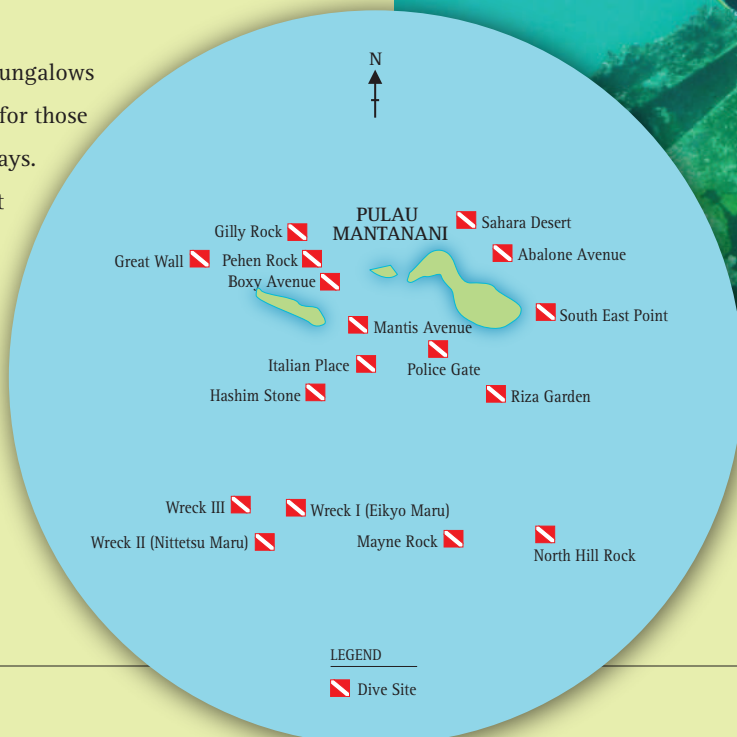
Pehen Rock offers unusual topography and plenty of bottom-dwellers. Clam Garden too, features just that. Excitingly large giant clams congregate here, amid a school of batfish and occasionally, green turtles.





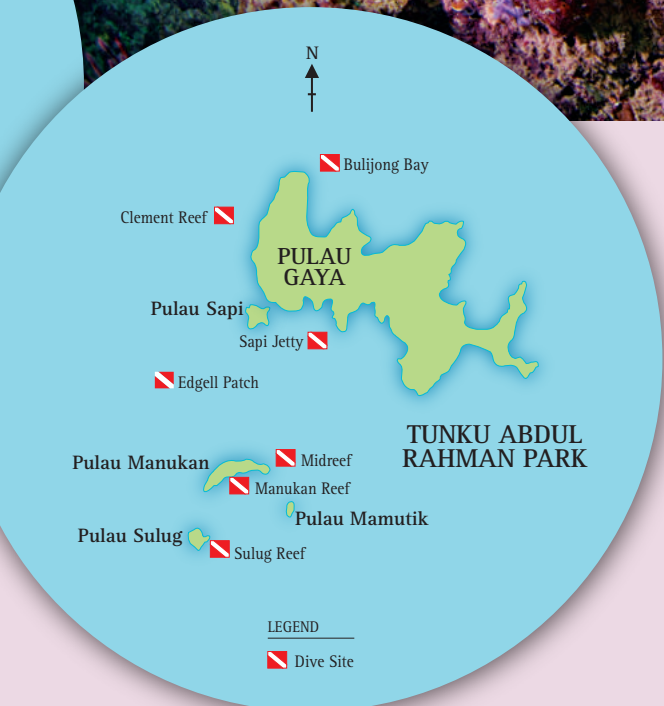
For the more experienced divers, some wreck diving is called for. Three Japanese World War Two ships lie halfway between Mantanani and the mainland. Their coral-encrusted hulls attract a variety of schooling fish and also large stingrays.

A resort with charming bungalows lies on Pulau Mantanani for those interested in overnight stays. It is only a one-hour boat ride from Kota Belud, which is an hour's drive from Kota Kinabalu. Day trips to this beautiful, untouched island are possible.





# Tunku Abdul Rahman Park & Pulau Tiga



With its close proximity to Kota Kinabalu, Tunku Abdul Rahman Park makes convenience a part of your diving holiday. The Park is named after Malaysia's first Prime Minister and comprises five islands, namely Gaya, Manukan, Mamutik, Sapi and Sulug.

The beaches here offer powdery white sand and clear, tranquil waters. About 35 km southwest of Kota Kinabalu lies Pulau Tiga. This is where 'Survivor', the famed reality TV series, was filmed some years back.

Snake Island is where you will get the chance to see banded sea snakes. Although venomous, they are shy creatures in the presence of humans. Their striking colours and undulating movement through the water are spectacular sights to behold.



# Pulau Layang Layang

A world-class dive site of unique character awaits you here. Layang Layang is a ring of 13 coral atolls in the midst of the South China Sea. Your best chance of spotting hammerhead sharks lies here. They school in large numbers between March and July, mesmerising divers with their form and gracefulness through the water. Beyond these months they tend to descend into deeper waters. In fact, many kinds of pelagics call Layang Layang home.

The diving here is characterised by walls that descend as low as 2,000 metres although most divers do not venture beyond the 30-metre depth. Hammerheads are visible in almost all dive sites as they swim in proximity to the atoll. Buoyancy control is your key to enjoying the diving here.

Dogtooth Lair, at the eastern point of the atoll, features the large tuna that lends the site its name. These schooling fish are not the only hosts you can find here. Fusiliers, jacks and even turtles can be spotted on a good day. The large and elusive sun-fish has been sighted here on occasions but hammerheads are also likely.

For those interested in more serene beauty, Gorgonian Forest provides the awesome sight of large gorgonian seafans along the wall. Sponges and sea whips add variety to this visual feast.



Wrasse Strip, besides offering the obvious, is home to a wonderful mélange of soft and hard corals. Their colours are abundant and saturated. Plenty of flat table corals lie here, providing refuge for the smaller reef fish. Of the pelagics, you may find turtles and hammerheads on their many forays as well as the occasional trevally.

Shark Cave will enthrall you with a Leopard Shark encounter if you're lucky. More common encounters await divers who visit the site's famous cavern. Here you'll find many whitetip sharks sleeping – a dream pose for those with cameras!



Layang Layang has also generated some excitement in recent years with the numerous appearances of short-finned pilot whales. Measuring about seven metres in length, with a bulbous forehead, these whales are docile and usually feed on squid and schooling fish. Pilot whales are normally found in groups of tens or even hundreds, providing a spectacle unrivalled by any other diving experience.

Layang Layang is accessible via Kota Kinabalu. The accommodation here is comfortable but limited in terms of extra-curricular activities. However, the multitude of diving opportunities will leave little time for other pursuits.



# Pulau Satang & Kuching

Pulau Satang is a playground for macro lovers, leisure divers and snorkellers. It comprises two islands, the larger Pulau Satang Besar and the smaller Pulau Satang Kecil.

Most diving activities are conducted in Pulau Satang Besar where two thirds of the island is fringed by coral reefs. Submerged rock boulders lay on the other parts of the island. With an average depth of 10 metres and temperatures reaching 300 Celsius, the waters mesmerise divers with its variety of corals and marine life.

Underwater photography enthusiasts will enjoy their adventure with the interesting variety of macro species. Delight in spotting the Blue Ringed Angelfish, Grouper, Snapper, Mangrove Jack, Copper Banded Butterflyfish, Parrotfish and Pufferfish.

Visibility is generally between 5 to 10 metres. Divers are cautioned of sea urchins and low visibility at certain areas. There are no commercial facilities on the island. A park fee of RM20 is payable to the Sarawak Forestry Corporation.

Getting to Pulau Satang is fairly easy. Visitors can take a short drive from Kuching to Santubong and embark by boat to the islands.

## KUCHING WRECK ADVENTURE

The waters off Kuching, Sarawak's capital, is famed for wreck diving. There are around 19 wrecks but only a few are available for recreational diving.

The popular wreck sites include Katori Maru and Hie (Hiyoshi) Maru which are from the Second World War. These wrecks are part of Borneo Island's history. They are from the Japanese invasion fleet during the start of the war to take control over the island and the maritime route.

The wrecks are generally considered shallow, sitting at an average depth of 21 metres with plenty of artefacts such as ceramic ware, ship parts and ammunition. Marine life and corals are abundant around and within the wrecks.

There are other interesting wreck sites of commercial vessels. Their length ranges from 20 - 30 metres at a depth between 21-28 metres. Among them are TK Wreck, Thai Seven and Barge Wreck.

In Kuching, these wrecks play the role of been reefs for marine life and corals. It is not just a dive site for scuba divers but a main contributor to the coastal ecosystem.

All the wreck sites are suitable for Advanced certified divers except some, where experience is required.







# Miri

Miri, an oil-rich coastal town in Sarawak, is known for its cosy charm and friendly atmosphere. Despite its laid-back appearance, it is growing in popularity as a destination for underwater enthusiasts. Take a ride out to the oil rigs, and on your way, you will be sure to chance upon a dive site worth remembering.

Beneath the waters, the downward slope of the shore flattens out into calm bottoms that host the richest reef life in Malaysia.

Located here is Lennon's Memorial. It is a huge coral bommie festooned with hard and soft corals in hues of orange and red.

Eve's Garden is a veritable underwater garden of Eden. The batfish here are so curious that they will greet you gregariously, circling around and escorting you virtually everywhere.

Anemone Garden is adorned with many of these tiny but beautiful creatures. Many of them sport strikingly different motifs, easy enough to attract the eye.

Miri is indeed the new frontier for diving in Malaysia, with pristine dive sites to entice you. All dive sites are not more than 20 minutes away from shore and the hotel accommodation is both comfortable and affordable.





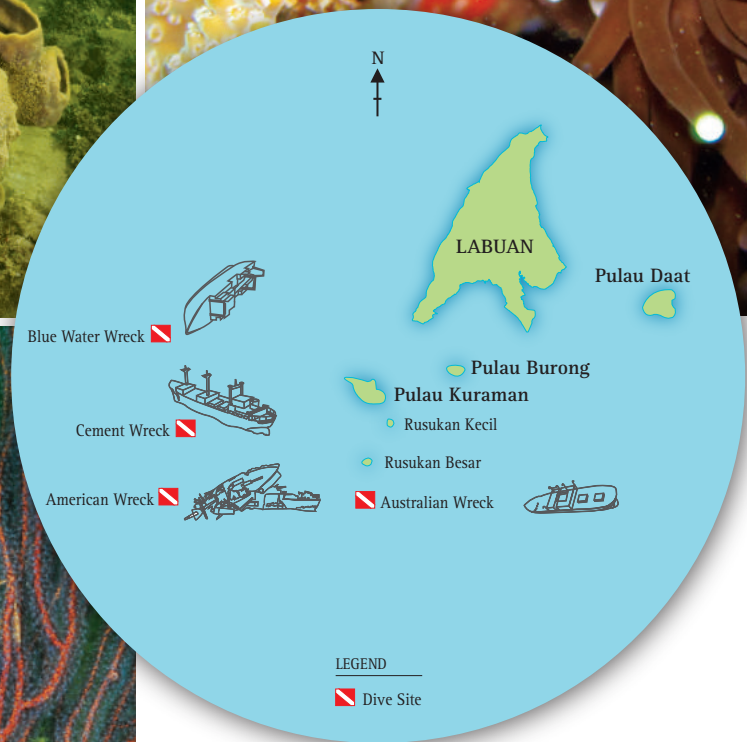
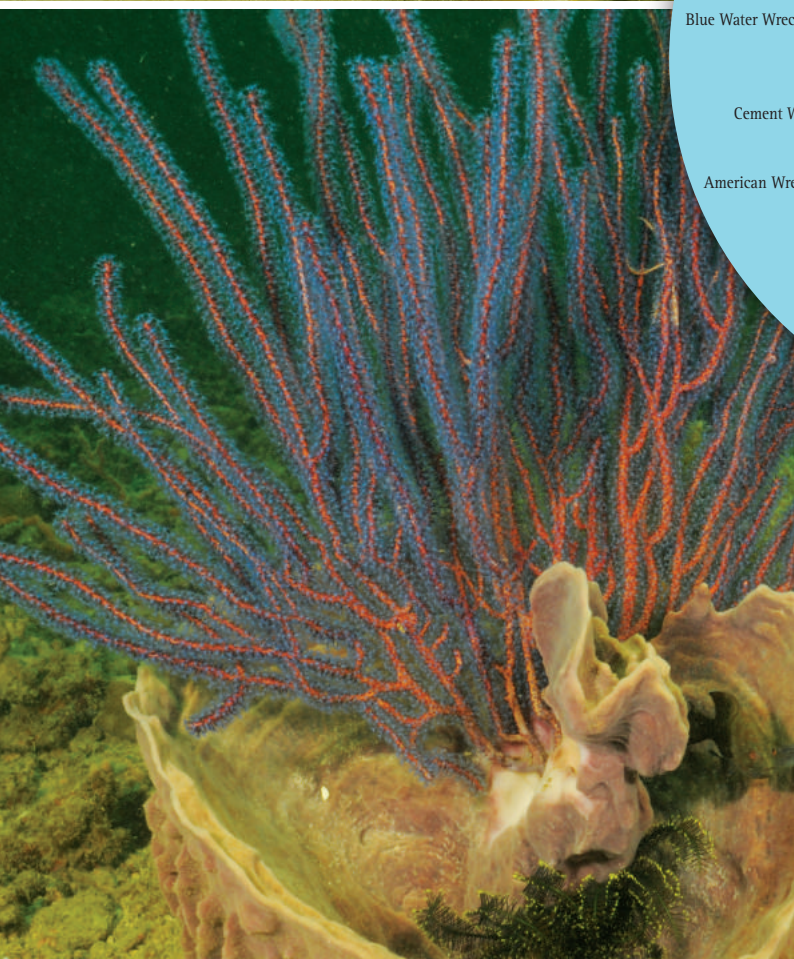
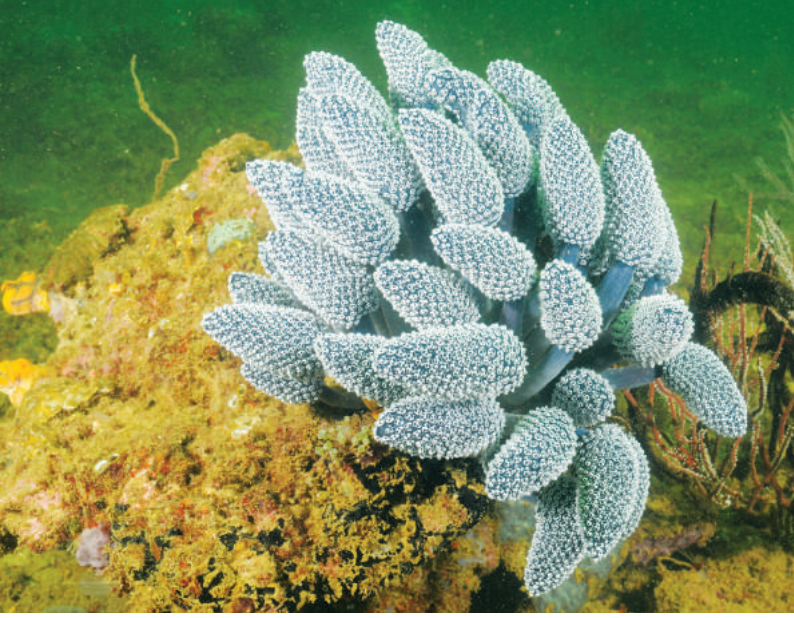
# Labuan

Labuan has long been a military base as well as an offshore financial centre for the Malaysian federal government. The main attraction on this island is its wrecks. Four of them lie spread out southwest of the island. Cement Wreck, a Japanese freighter, does not have the best visibility but will astound you with its soft corals and feather stars.

Blue Water Wreck is a two-decade-old Philippine trawler. The corals here are somewhat sparse but a rich number of residents more than make up for this. You will find plenty of cardinalfish, sweetlips, lionfish and even batfish. Within the hull itself, you will encounter large snappers and groupers.

The American Wreck is another wreck in reasonably shallow waters. It is penetrable but only by those possessing a wreck-diver specialty certification. Once again, it is memorable for its variety of fish life that resides in and around the broken hull. Schools of batfish will escort you warily while barracuda, snappers and small sharks lurk inside.





Finally, there is the Australian Wreck. It is actually a Dutch Steamship which sank during World War Two. Your diving in Labuan will probably be most satisfying here as the broken hull exposes a bevy of fish and fauna. Barracuda, groupers and batfish typically encircle the wreck. Inside, you will join a host of smaller fish like hawkfish, angelfish and lionfish. Octopuses and turtles have been spotted from time to time.

The best time to visit Labuan is between April to August. The wrecks are located 40 to 50 minutes by speedboat from Labuan.

# Peninsular Malaysia

Peninsular Malaysia is a delightful holiday destination with something for everyone to enjoy. Its diverse attractions range from its potpourri of cultures, relaxing hill retreats, ancient rainforests to irresistible cuisine. Kuala Lumpur, its capital, is a vibrant cosmopolitan city with the world's tallest twin towers standing at a height of 452 metres.

The peninsula's long coastline and coral-fringed islands, with the Straits of Malacca to the west and South China Sea to the east, give rise to a large number of beaches. Enjoy a holiday at world-renowned resort destinations such as Langkawi, Tioman and Pangkor or experience unique culture and relish mouth-watering food in Penang.





Melaka, to the south of the peninsula, is your gateway to discovering the country's history. Taman Negara or the country's premier national park beckons with a marvellous range of natural wonders. The charming east coast states of Kelantan and Terengganu offer a wealth of traditional attractions.

Peninsular Malaysia awaits with a myriad of excitements and adventures that will make your holiday memorable.





# Islands of Johor

The southern state of Johor is blessed with beautiful islands and splendid diving opportunities not to be missed. The most popular sites for diving here are Pulau Aur and Pulau Dayang, which are also the furthest islands from the mainland.

Pulau Aur will delight you with its pristine environment. This remote island is about two hours' speedboat ride from Mersing, on the mainland. Surrounded by deep waters, Pulau Aur offers excellent opportunities to encounter pelagics.





Pulau Lang, a smaller island located nearby, usually offers excellent visibility and green turtle sightings. A chance sighting of the formidable bumphead parrotfish is also possible here.

The blue-spotted stingray, common in Malaysian waters, can normally be sighted at Captain's Rock. Look out for the comical dogface pufferfish. It loves to swim solo and attracts plenty of attention for its elongated face and box-like body.

At Raynor's Rock, large boulders shelter a colourful variety of reef fish and sometimes, even larger pelagics. Night dives here, like the rest of Pulau Aur, yield interesting encounters with all kinds of cuttlefish, crustaceans and more dogface pufferfish. The elusive Spanish dancer nudibranch can also be sighted here.





For added spice, you may also want to dive wrecks like the Zero Wreck, located south of Aur. This sunken Japanese fighter plane is home to teeming marine life and thickly encrusted corals.



Accommodation provided by the few chalet operators in Pulau Aur are basic, yet comfortable. The highlight on land is the food served. Like anywhere else in Malaysia, it is filled with sumptuous local dishes.

As an option, you may also choose to stay at the smaller but adjacent Pulau Dayang. It is similar to Aur, with fine beaches to boot.

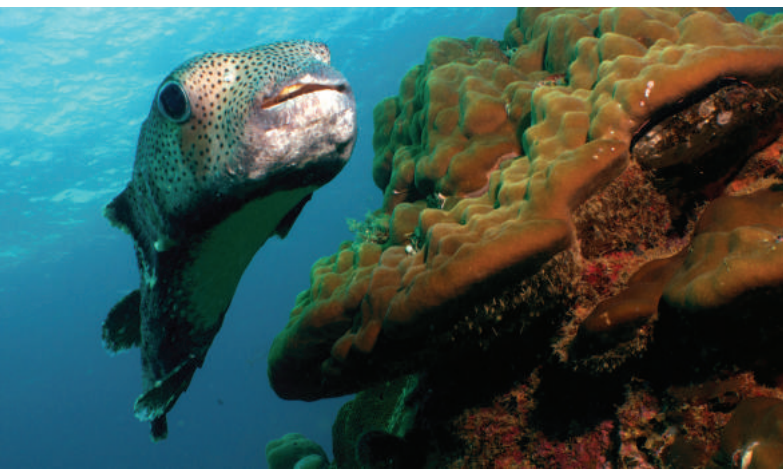






# Pulau Tioman

Tioman will delight you with its irresistible lure of holiday-making, discovery and, of course, diving. Located off the east coast of Pahang, Tioman is easily accessible by a combination of land and boat routes or directly by air. Regardless of your mode of transportation, the rewards awaiting will definitely be worth it.





Start with the dive site of Pulau Renggis, which lies off Tekek Beach. You'll find an assortment of reef life in vast gardens of hard corals. Cuttlefish, angelfish, barracuda and turtles are common here.

Deep diving enthusiasts will love Pulau Chebeh, the site of several giant manta sightings. You will relish the thrill of the deep sea and the sight of huge gorgonian sea fans.

Wreck divers will enjoy the Soyak Wreck with its many soft and hard coral adornments. Moorish idols, trevally and angelfish abound here in a sunken hull not more than 20 metres deep. This means plenty of time for exploration.

Labas, or Pirate Island, offers a fascinating topography with its large submerged and semi-submerged boulders.

Tioman remains the destination of choice for all kinds of budgets, lifestyles and preferences. Time is your only real and limiting factor.



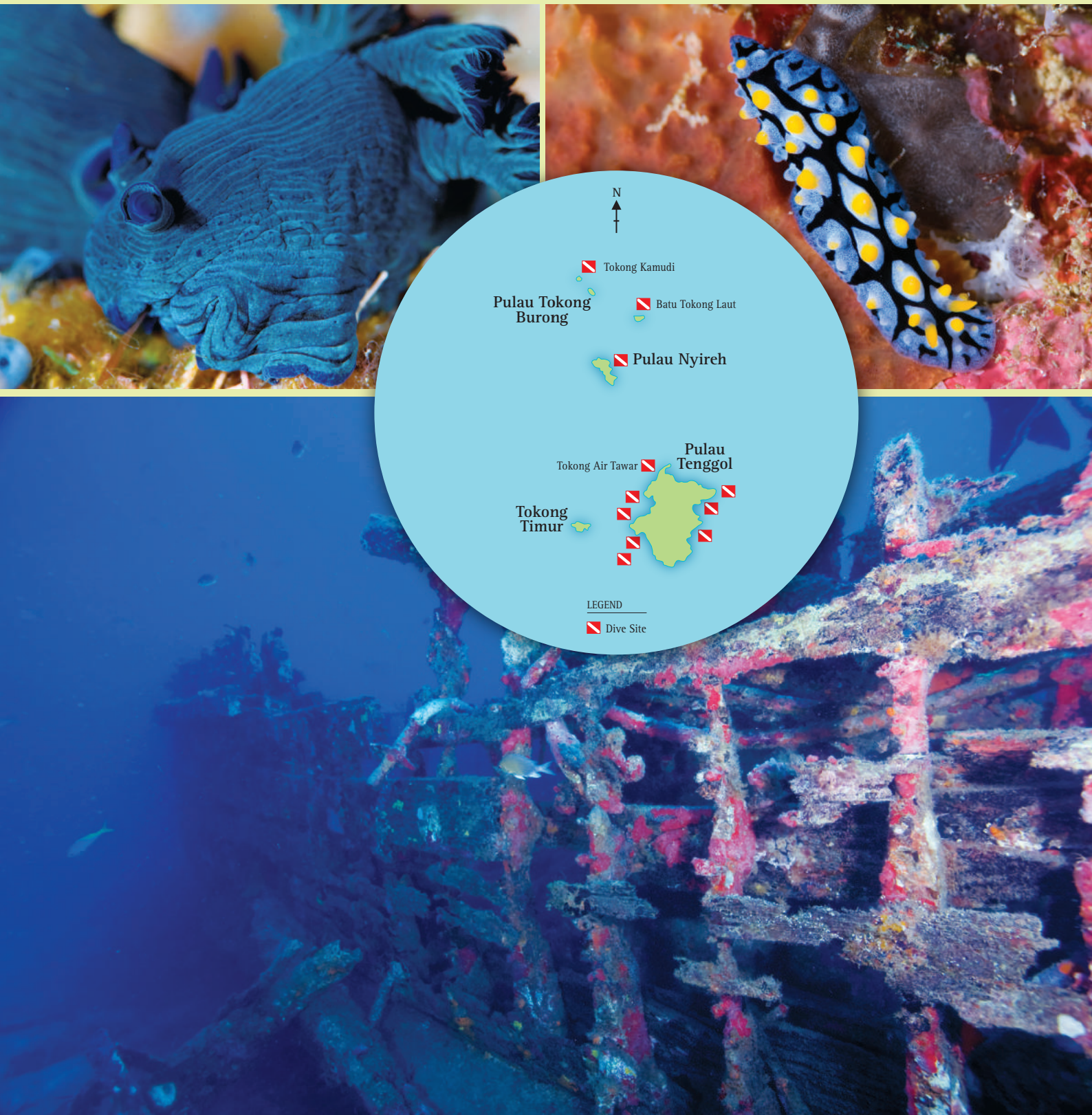


# Pulau Tenggol

Tenggol lies not far from the East Coast mainland, and is an exceptional site to the few who have dived here. The reason is Tenggol offers the experienced diver over 20 dive sites and the thrill of wall diving.

Teluk Air Tawar is the place to find turtles, although humphead parrotfish are also common.





For those with a penchant for wrecks, the Kuantan Wreck is renowned here and is easily penetrable by divers. It attracts a veritable array of fish life, including batfish, leopard sharks, moray eels and even turtles on occasions. If you are fortunate, between July to September you may catch a

glimpse of the elusive whale shark, which has been spotted here on numerous occasions. Tenggol is also famed for its beaches, with fine white sand and lovely views. For an island so small, its rich treasure of attractions make for an unforgettable stay.



# Pulau Kapas & Lang Tengah

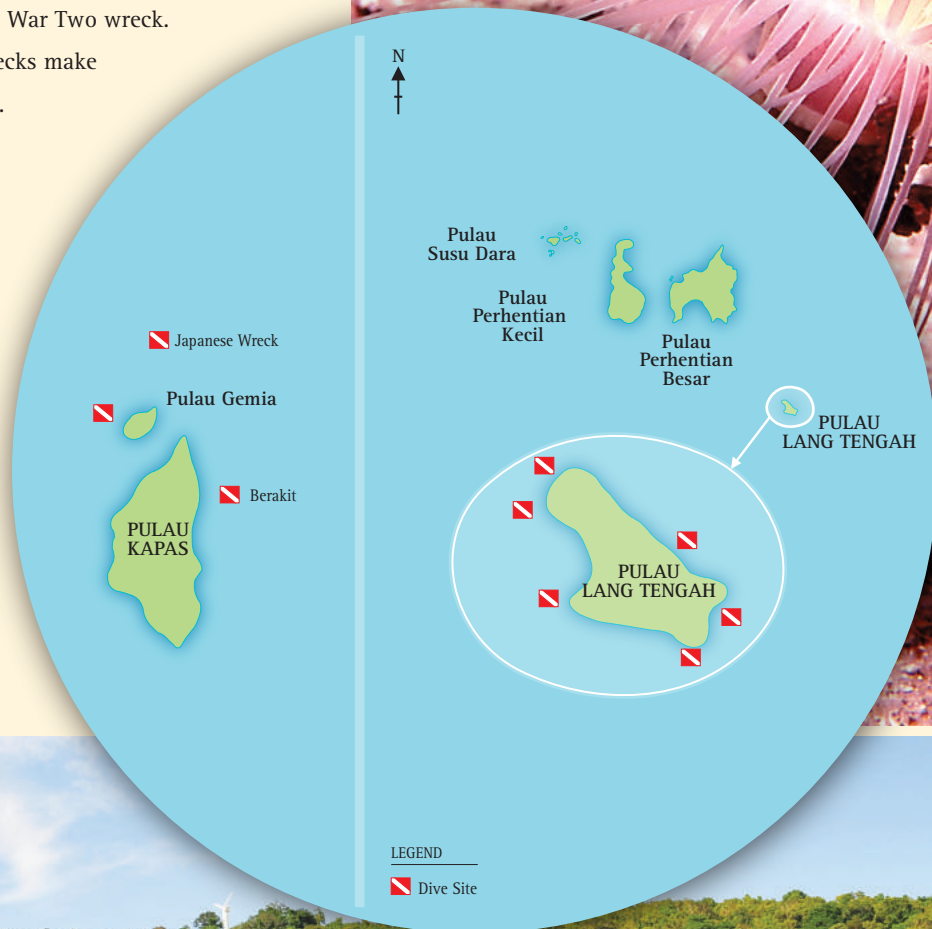
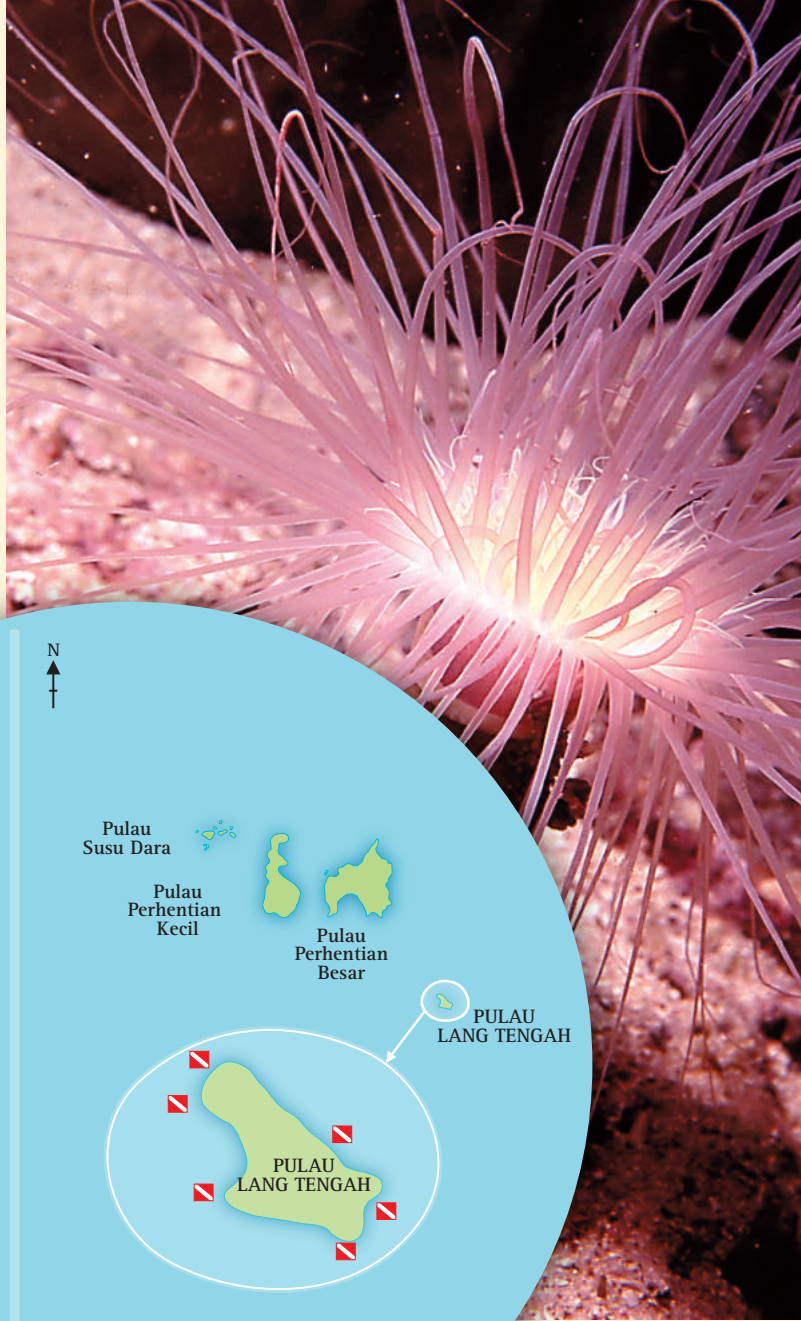


Close to shore, Pulau Kapas and Pulau Lang Tengah are charming islands popular with day-trippers. Despite their proximity to the mainland, the diving here is quite good, with reef fish like moorish idols, butterfly fish and even wrasses easily spotted.

Off Pulau Kapas is a World War Two wreck. Additional Thai fishing wrecks make it a varied dive destination.

Between April to August you may even spot the many hawksbill or green turtles nesting along the coastline.

A wide variety of accommodation is available, ranging from upmarket chalets to the ubiquitous A-frame huts.



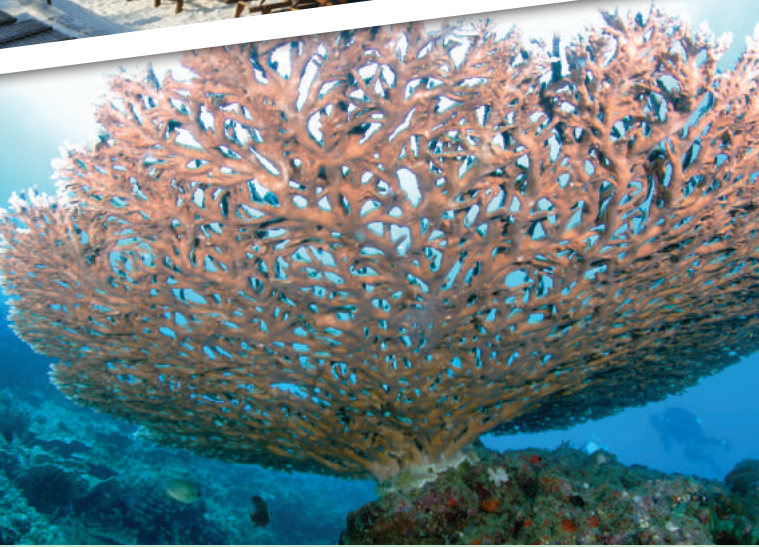


# Pulau Redang

For its sheer alluring beauty, Redang remains one of the most popular islands in Malaysia, and a must-see for any traveller keen on exploring the best of Peninsular Malaysia's diving. The waters here sparkle with an aquamarine shade, and the sand is invitingly soft in its own pearly whiteness.

Starting at the southernmost tip (off Penang), Terumbu Kili is a site that offers typical Redang delights. The great coral variety here – mainly dendronephthya soft corals, mushroom corals and gorgonian sea fans – attracts many reef fish and its fair share of green turtles.

Pulau Chupak to the southeast will enthrall you with some of the best coral gardens once again. The pretty sinularia corals exist in very shallow waters. Deep down it is a cornucopia of colours. Batfish, rabbitfish and white-eyed moray eels can be found if you swim at the right places. Even the rare loggerhead turtle has been spotted here.







Tanjung Tok Kong to the north, offers the sight of huge submerged boulders separated by gaps. These offer sheer swim-throughs with overhanging corals. On a typical day with a mild current, you can hover past and spot the many chromodoris nudibranchs as well as lurking groupers in the near-dark ledges. Large Napoleon wrasses, parrotfish and unicornfish share these pathways with boxfish and large angelfish. Big jacks will occasionally surprise you with their darting forays.

If you think this makes a fantastic sight then your safety stop at five metres will offer a breathtaking vista of green staghorn corals. Tanjung Tok Kong is definitely a site not to be missed.



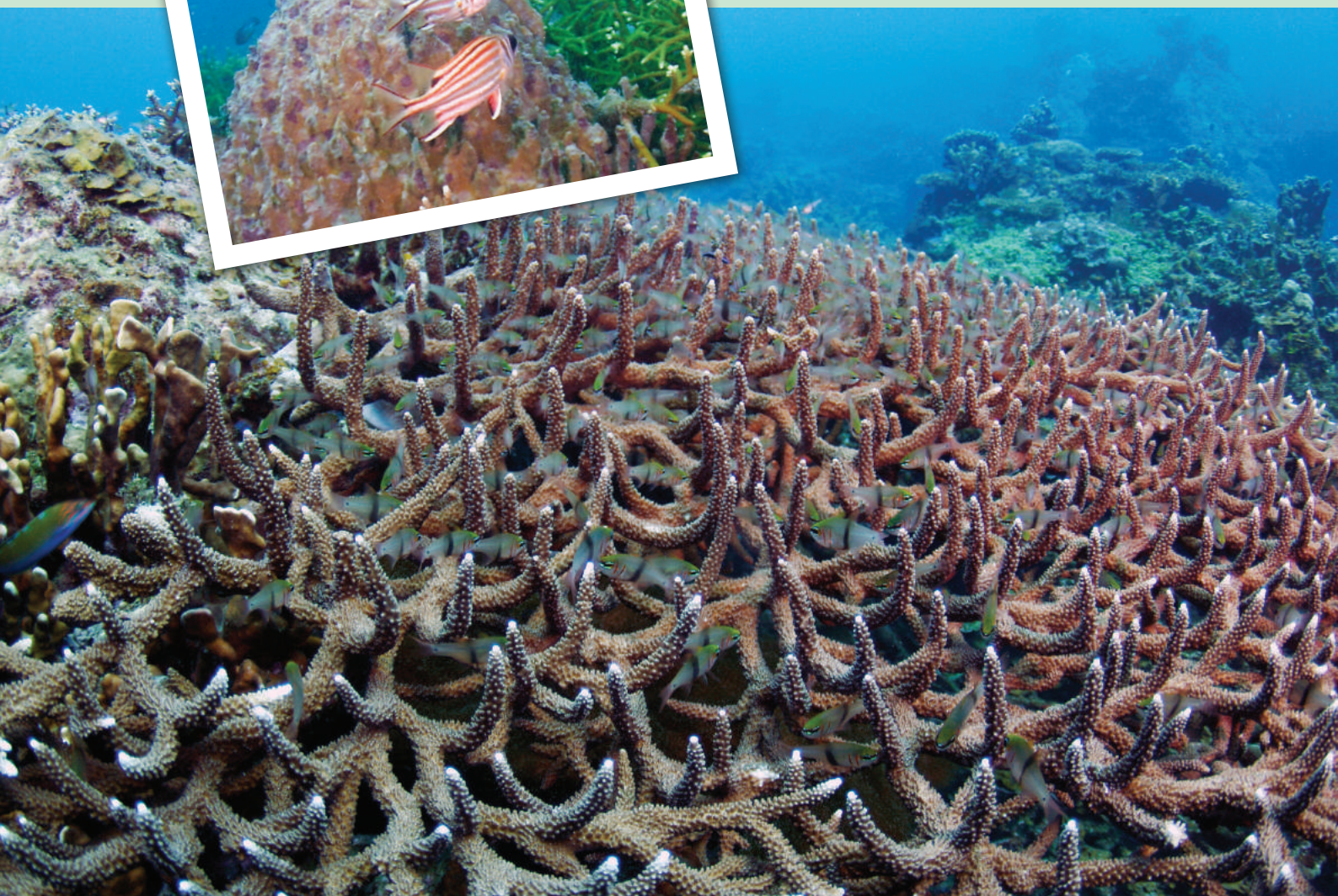
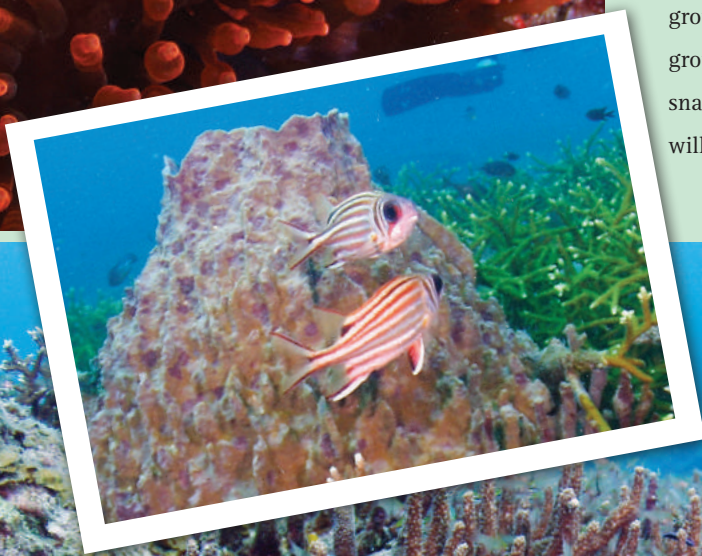
Photos courtesy of photo © Diverchannel.com



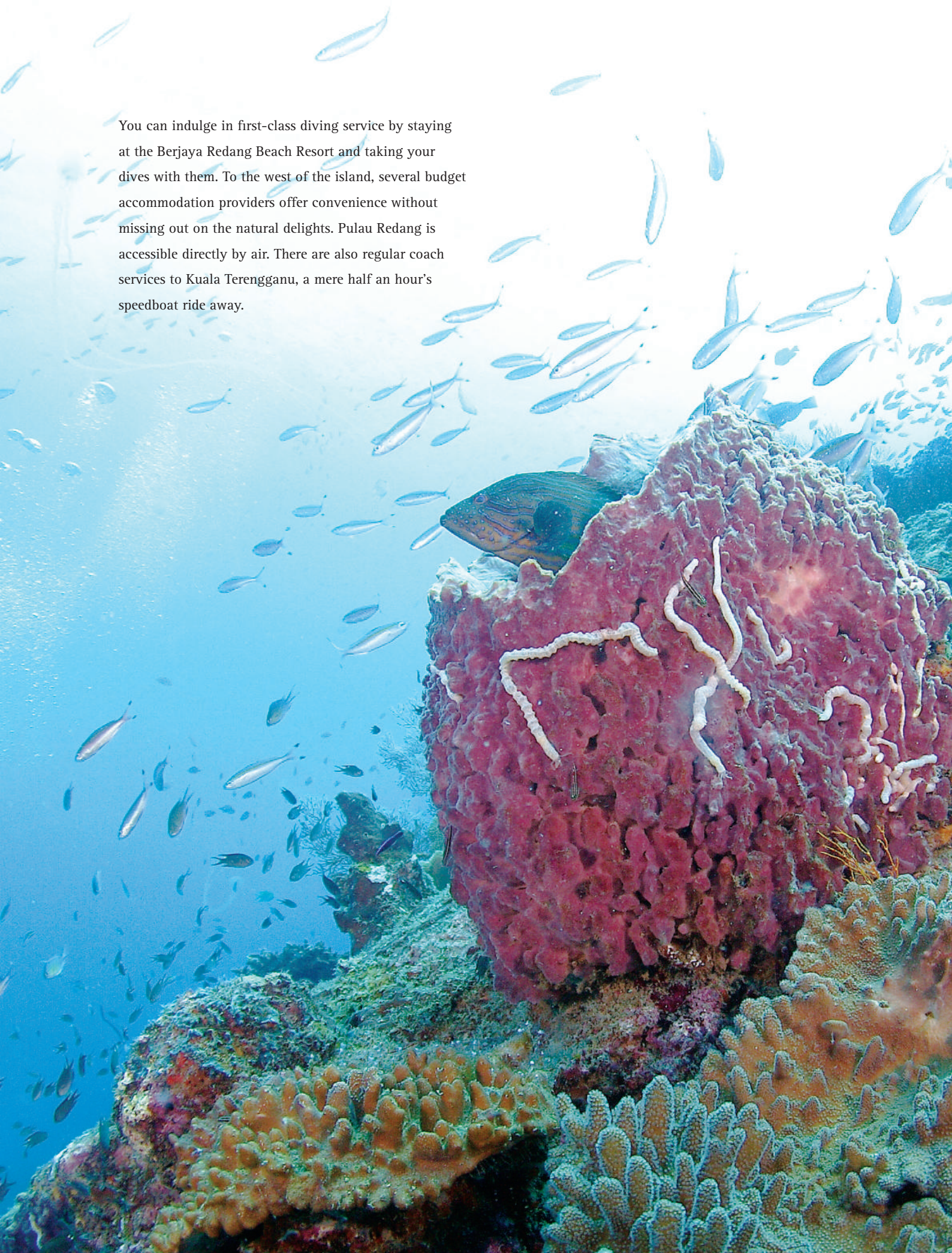
If soft corals take your fancy then don't miss Northern Run. Large groupers, parrotfish and large green triggerfish are prominent here. More enchanting are the corals, both hard and soft. Vast staghorn gardens must be explored at your leisure – you will find plenty of fish and invertebrates lurking within these intertwining abodes.



To the west, Big Mount is considered by many to be among the best dive sites in Peninsular Malaysia. Gigantic boulders dominate the vista with a carpet of hard and soft corals, sponges, sea anemones and their clownfish inhabitants. From its beautiful plateau, this site lures you downwards to the deep where more treasures lurk. Soft tree corals, cup corals and whip corals bunch together in unison as groupers, pufferfish and sergeant majors patrol about. Big groups of schooling fish also make frequent visits. Jacks, snappers and fusiliers are some of the many species you will see throughout a dive.



You can indulge in first-class diving service by staying at the Berjaya Redang Beach Resort and taking your dives with them. To the west of the island, several budget accommodation providers offer convenience without missing out on the natural delights. Pulau Redang is accessible directly by air. There are also regular coach services to Kuala Terengganu, a mere half an hour's speedboat ride away.



*Photos courtesy of photo © Diverchannel.com*



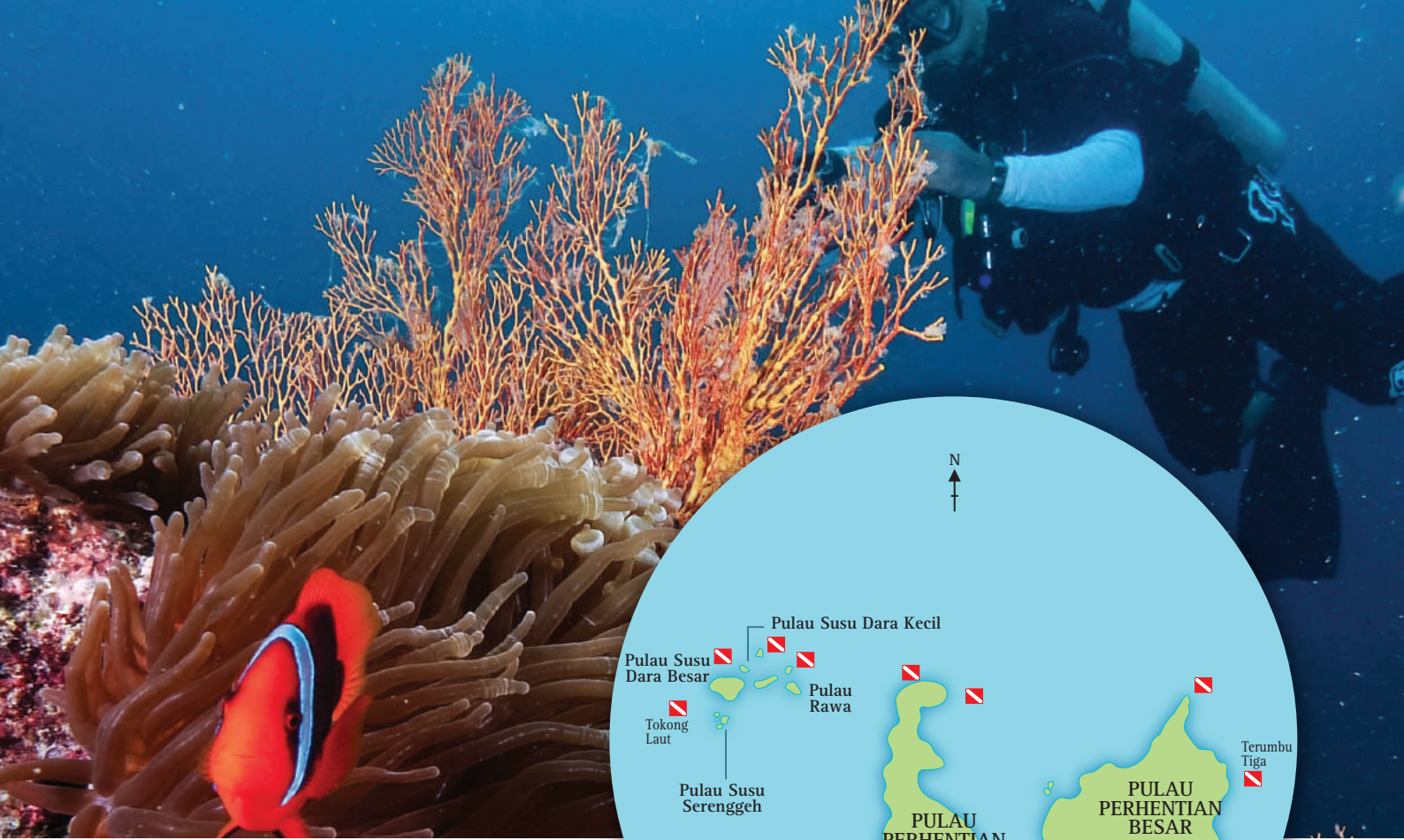
# Pulau Perhentian

Endowed with breathtaking beauty and superb underwater attractions, Pulau Perhentian is a destination in Southeast Asia with few peers. This marine park is divided into two islands, Pulau Perhentian Kecil and Pulau Perhentian Besar.

Dive sites here are at close proximity to one another with interesting sights at each. Tiger Reef offers the chance to spot green turtles. At Gua Kambing, be prepared for an underwater manicure as cleaner shrimp at some coral bommies excitedly interact with divers. Simply lay your hands down next to the coral and these shrimps will venture to you boldly. Pretty soon, they'll be nibbling away gently as they attempt to get rid of so-called 'parasites' from your nails.

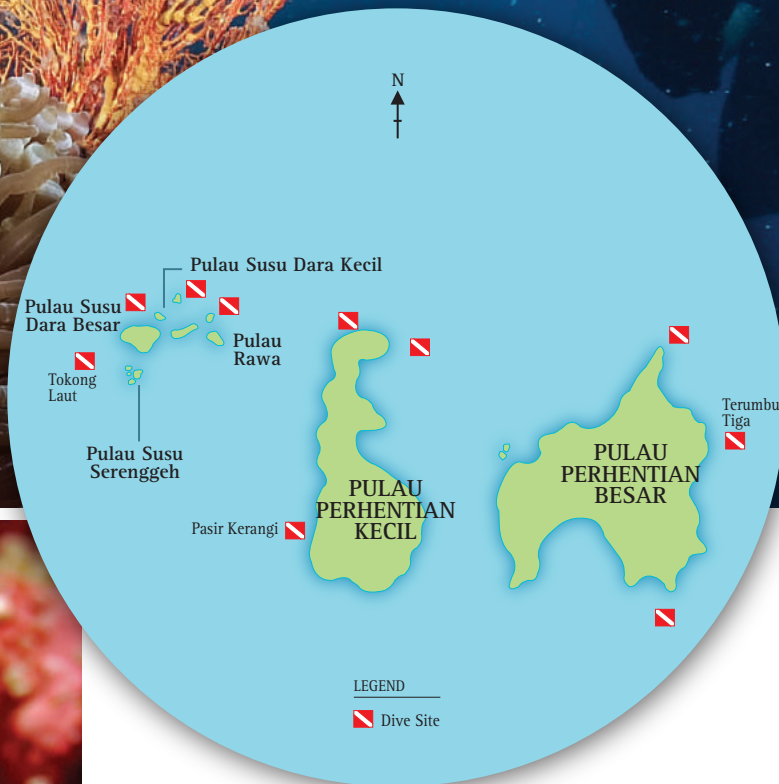
To the north of Perhentian Kecil, at D'Lagoon, you will drift dive past a rich bed of soft and hard corals, shared by large angelfish, parrotfish and black-spotted snappers. Green turtles and manta rays make occasional visits here. Sail Rock is a naturalists' dream. This little pinnacle offers multi-level diving as you encircle it, checking out the diversity of life. Common are blue-spotted stingrays, boxfish, angelfish and parrotfish. However, you'll have plenty of time to marvel at the huge staghorn gardens, lettuce corals and table corals.





Just off the west end of Perhentian Besar is another dive site for coral enthusiasts. Known as Tanjung Besi or Iron Cape, it is home to large tracts of staghorn corals.

Making your way around this cape often yields encounters with oddball inhabitants of the reef. Giant groupers make their home here. Humphead parrotfish make many a meal-stop here in the evenings. Those with a keen eye should also study the crevices between corals: several large moray eels inhabit these.



For the ultimate, relaxing dive, a night-time shore dive from the north end of Perhentian Kecil's Long Beach is recommended. You will encounter blue-spotted stingrays, cuttlefish and plenty of reef fish. As you surface for shore, fin gently on your back and gaze into the starry night. The sound of faint music beckoning from the seaside cafés is a magical welcome back to land. Suffice to say, the relatively shallow depths here allow you to maximise your diving time.

Perhentian Besar has ample accommodation and several dive centres. It has a more sedate lifestyle, with chalets only a few metres away from the shore.

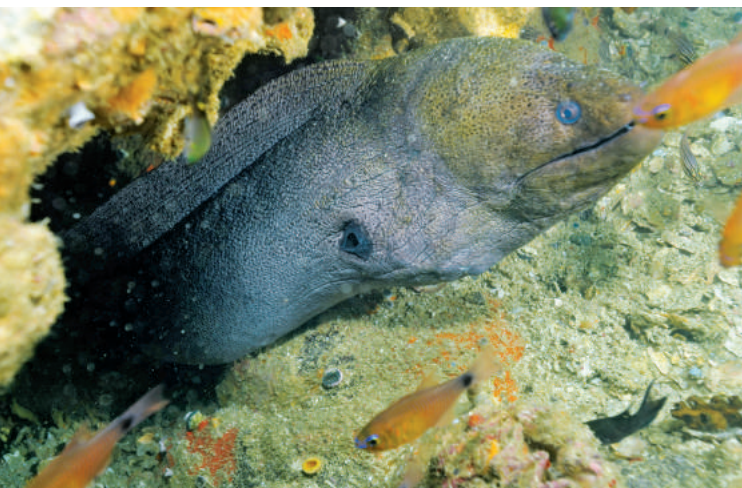
Perhentian Kecil offers wider beaches and an even wider range of accommodation. Its vibrant nightlife is renowned. Along the famous Long Beach, visitors can enjoy their evenings at the many rustic cafés and bars that open till early hours.

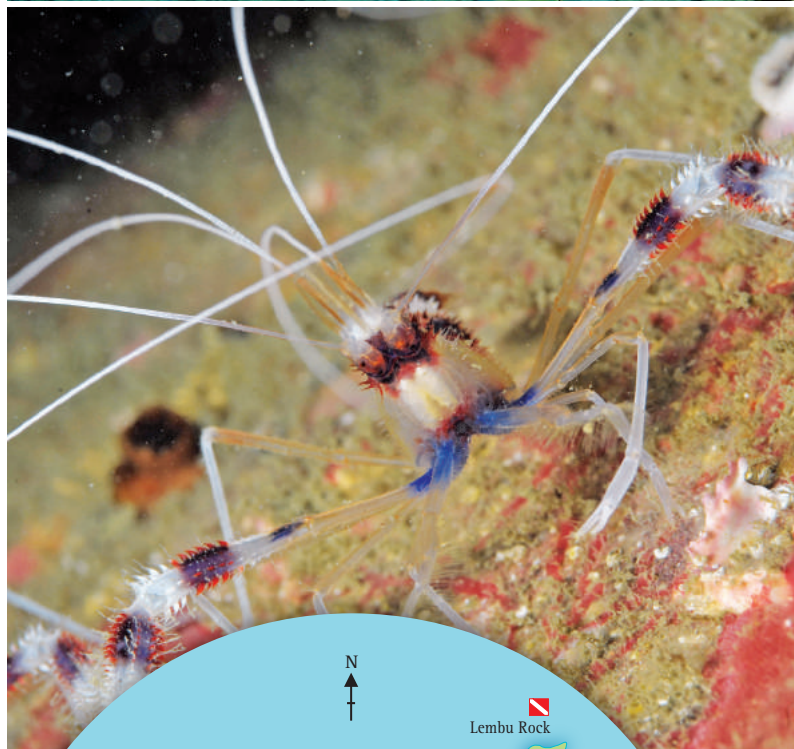


# Pulau Payar

Pulau Payar and its adjacent islands are some of the few locations for good diving off the West Coast of Peninsular Malaysia. Divers flock here during the monsoon season in the East Coast, making Pulau Payar one of Malaysia's year-round diving destinations. Large numbers of coral species lie embedded here, both hard and soft. Their colour and variety provide good opportunities for photography, comparable to some East Coast destinations.

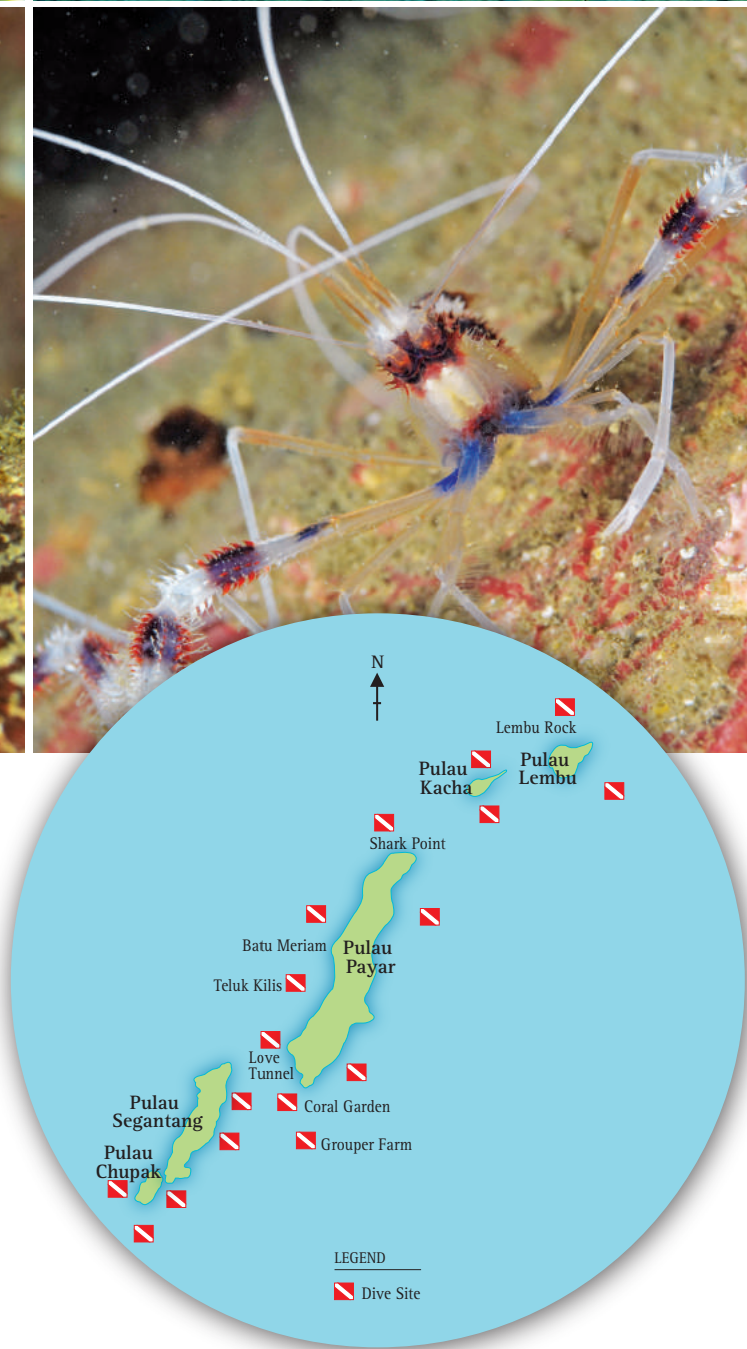
A large, permanent pontoon offshore is a great stopover for its many amenities and the panoramic view. From here, travelling to the dive sites is a matter of minutes. At Coral Garden, you will be enthralled by the colourful soft corals and many reef fish varieties. Next to it is Grouper Farm, a site renowned for its many groupers, snappers and even barracudas.





Further out to the west, limited wall-diving opportunities also exist around the tiny Pulau Segantang. Reef life here range from the many anemones at Anemone Garden to the snappers, jacks and barracudas at Tyre Reef.

Day trips are the only way of discovering Payar. However, nearby Langkawi, the main island, makes an ideal launch pad. Journeys take from 45 minutes to an hour, depending on sea conditions. With Langkawi's duty-free status and multitude of activities, there will be plenty to see and do to spice up your holiday.



# Important Diving Facts

## Climate & Water Temperature

Malaysia has an equatorial climate with fairly uniform temperatures ranging from 32°C during the day to 22°C at night. Humidity is about 85 to 95 per cent.

Water temperature is 27 - 28°C and during the dry months the temperature may rise to 30 - 31°C. Divers will not require thick wet suits. A wet suit of between 1.5 to 3 millimetres is appropriate.

## Best Times to Dive

West Coast of Peninsular Malaysia • December - May  
East Coast of Peninsular Malaysia • March - October  
Sabah : Layang Layang Island • March - August

The islands around Sabah and Sarawak are reasonably well-protected and can be dived all year round. However, water visibility is better during the months of April to August.

## Dive Equipment Rental

Dive equipment is readily available for rent at almost all dive centres. But it would be wise to give prior notice to the operators, as sizes could be limited.

## Emergencies

The following are contacts for recompression chambers in Malaysia:

- Kota Kinabalu Naval Base Tel : 6088 482 000
- Lumut Naval Base Tel : 605 6818 491 / 8498 / 8494
- Kuantan Naval Base Tel : 609 583 3601 ext 2146 / 2122

Diving insurance for emergency point-to-point evacuation and personal accident cover while in Malaysia are available through most dive centres. Evacuation is not included unless covered by insurance.

## Electricity

Electricity is 220 volts at 50 cycles, although most first-class hotels can supply an adaptor for 110 volts, 60 cycles appliances. Plugs are of the British three rectangular prong type. Most island resorts are powered by 24-hour generators or have an electrical supply from the mainland.

## Time Zone

Malaysia is about 8 hours ahead of GMT, 16 hours ahead of US Pacific standard time and 13 hours ahead of Eastern standard time.

## Credit Cards

Major credit cards and traveller's cheques such as Mastercard, Visa and Amex are accepted. For payment by other cards please check with the respective resorts in advance.

## Clothing

Very casual, light cotton clothing like t-shirts, shorts etc. is the order of the day. No formality is expected in the restaurants. Tourists are recommended to be properly attired when visiting villages and towns. Nudity is prohibited.



# Reef Fishes of Malaysia

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Barracuda	<i>Sphyraena Putnamiae</i>	Hatchet fish	<i>Pempheris Oulensis</i>
Barramundi cod	<i>Cromileptes Altivelis</i>	Jacks	<i>Caranx Sexfasciatus</i>
Batfish	<i>Platax Tiera</i>	Leaf fish	<i>Taenianotus Triacanthus</i>
Black tip reef shark	<i>Carcharhinus Melanopterus</i>	Leopard shark	<i>Stegostoma Fasciatum</i>
Blenny	<i>Nemateleotris Magnifica</i>	Lionfish	<i>Pterois Volitans</i>
Boxfish	<i>Ostracion Cubicus</i>	Nurse shark	<i>Nebrius Ferrugineus</i>
Bumphead wrasse	<i>Bolbometapon Muricatus</i>	Manta ray	<i>Manta Birotris</i>
Butterflyfish	<i>Chaetodontidae</i>	Moray eel	<i>Gymnothorax Javanicus</i>
Chromis	<i>Chromis Ternatensis</i>	Parrotfish	<i>Scarus Gibbus</i>
Clownfish	<i>Amphiron Ocellaris</i>	Pennant butterflyfish	<i>Heniochus Diphreutes</i>
Damsel	<i>Dascyllus Trimaculatus</i>	Pufferfish	<i>Arothron Nigropunctatus</i>
Emperor angel	<i>Pomacanthus Imperator</i>	Rabbitfish	<i>Siganus sp.</i>
Flashlight fish	<i>Photoblepharon Palpebratus</i>	Red coral trout	<i>Cephalopholis miniata</i>
Frogfish	<i>Antennarius Moluccensis</i>	Surgeonfish	<i>Acanthurus Leucosternon</i>
Fusiliers	<i>Caesio Xanthonota</i>	Sweetlips	<i>Plectorhynchus Chaetodonoides</i>
Ghost pipefish	<i>Solenostomus Cyanopterus</i>	Triggerfish	<i>Pseudobalistes Flavimarginatus</i>
Glass sweepers	<i>Rhabdamia Cypselura</i>	Stingray	<i>Taeniura Lymma</i>
Gobi	<i>Helcogramma Striata</i>	Wrasses	<i>Thalassoma Lunare</i>
Grouper	<i>Epinephelus Microdon</i>	Yellowtail	<i>Caesio Xanthonotus</i>
Hammerhead shark	<i>Sphyrna Lewini</i>	Green turtle	<i>Chelonia Mydas</i>

# Do's & Don'ts

## Avoid Touching

Underwater, animals will try to evade your touch so please respect this rule. There is nothing to gain from touching marine life. This applies to turtles, eels, rays and other animals that may appear within reach. Often, animal attacks result out of fear or self-defence when they perceive a threat by humans.

## Avoid Harassing

Reef animals are easily stressed so please be mindful about this too. Remember, you are the guest. Harassing animals can disrupt feeding or mating patterns. In the case of turtles, it can drive them away from a dive site altogether, depriving other divers of the pleasure of seeing them.

## Avoid Littering

Besides spoiling the beautiful scenery, litter can endanger the lives of marine animals. Many a turtle has suffocated to death from empty plastic bags. Cans, bottles and styrofoam take decades or even centuries to degrade in their environment. Throw litter in a bin or take it back with you after a dive trip.

## Avoid Collecting Souvenirs

Even dead corals play an important role in the reef eco-system and should not be taken.

## Insure Yourself

Despite all precautions, accidents do happen in all water sports. In diving, the cost of medical treatment, particularly if it is an emergency, is very high. Thus, take up dive insurance which is not expensive at all. Most reputable dive centres offer this.

## Conservation

Coral reefs are home to many beautiful and fascinating creatures. Snorkelling or diving are great ways to explore this spectacular undersea world but must be done carefully as reefs are very fragile and easily damaged.

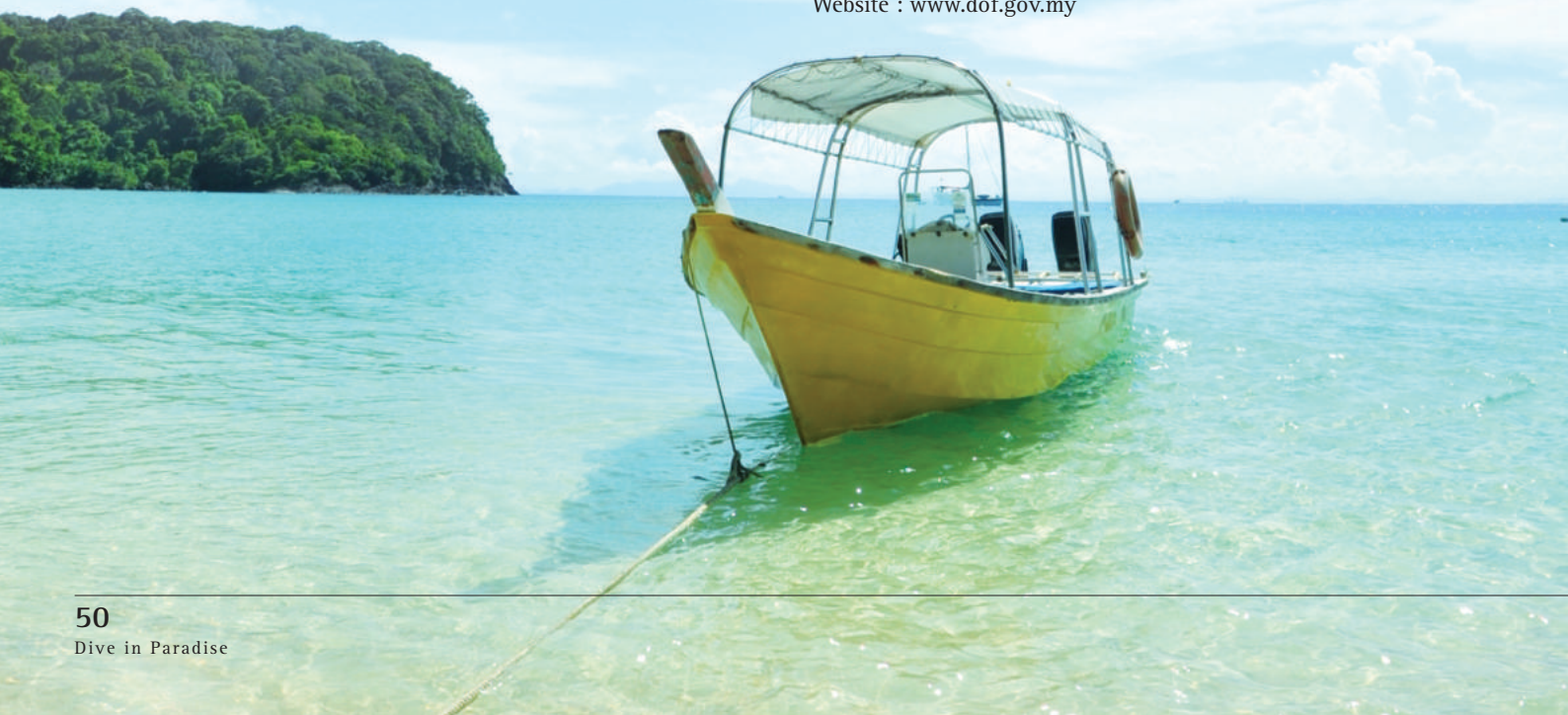
You too can do your part by observing basic rules when diving. Firstly, do not touch, break off or scrape coral reefs. The thin membranes covering these animals (yes, that is what they are) ensure their survival. It is highly recommended to keep your self-pressure gauges secured onto or strapped within your BCD. Having them dangle below you whilst diving may pose a hazard to corals.

Secondly, check and maintain positive buoyancy throughout your dive in order to prevent snagging or brushing against the corals. Even the flapping of fins poses a threat that often goes unnoticed by divers themselves.

Finally, do not condone anchoring within marine park perimeters. Anchors cause great damage to corals and the authorities ensure that buoys are used as markers for dive sites. Please observe these rules and report suspected abuse to the nearest marine park officials.

For more information on the above and other conservation matters, contact:

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES MALAYSIA  
Ministry of Agriculture & Agro-Based Industry Malaysia  
Wisma Tani  
Level 1-6, Tower Block 4G2  
Precinct 4  
62628 Putrajaya  
Tel: 603-8870 4000  
Fax: 603- 8889 2460  
E-mail : [hqhelp@dof.gov.my](mailto:hqhelp@dof.gov.my)  
Website : [www.dof.gov.my](http://www.dof.gov.my)



# Listing of Dive & Resort Operators

## PENINSULAR MALAYSIA

### LANGKAWI

#### CORAL ISLAND

(Ekomegah Holidays Sdn Bhd)  
47, Langkawi Mall, Jalan Kelibang  
07000 Kuah, Langkawi  
Tel: 604 966 5198 • Fax: 604 966 9189  
Website: www.coralisland.com.my

#### LANGKAWI CORAL

(Langkawi Saga Travel & Tours Sdn Bhd)  
Plot 9-11, Tingkat Dua  
Kompleks Cayman, 07000 Kuah, Langkawi  
Tel: 604 966 9140 • Fax: 604 966 9139  
Website: www.langkawicoral.com

#### EAST MARINE HOLIDAYS SDN. BHD.

Royal Langkawi Yacht Club  
Jalan Dato Syed Omar, Kuah 07000  
Langkawi, Kedah  
Tel: 604 966 3966 • Fax: 604966 4966  
E-mail: info@eastmarine.com.my  
E-mail: mihosai@me.com (Japanese)  
Website: www.eastmarine.com.my

### PENANG

#### LANGKAWI CORAL

Langkawi Saga Travel & Tours Sdn. Bhd  
(463059-M)  
16 Jalan Tanjung Bungah  
George Town 11200, Penang  
Tel: 604 899 8822 • Fax: 604 890 6068  
E-mail: sales@langkawicoral.com  
Website: http://www.langkawicoral.com

### KUALA LUMPUR

#### BERJAYA HOTELS & RESORTS

Reservation Office  
06-61 & 06-62, 6th Floor  
Berjaya Times Square  
1 Jalan Imbi, 55100 Kuala Lumpur  
Tel: 603 2141 0088 / 2145 4107  
Fax: 603 2145 7190  
E-mail: klsso.rsvn@berjayahotel.com  
Website: www.berjayahotel.com

#### LAYANG LAYANG ISLAND RESORT SDN. BHD.

Block A, Ground Floor  
A-0-3 Megan Avenue II,  
12 Jalan Yap Kwan Seng,  
50450 Kuala Lumpur  
Tel: 603 2170 2185 • Fax: 603 2730 9959  
E-mail: res@avillionlayanglayang.com  
Website: www.layanglayang.com

#### PACIFIC DOME TRAVEL NETWORK SDN. BHD.

B-3-7, Megan Avenue 1  
189, Jalan Tun Razak, 50400 Kuala Lumpur  
Tel: 603 2330 8033 • Fax : 603 2166 9672  
E-mail: mail@pacdome.com  
Website: www.pacdome.com

#### SEA DIVERS SDN. BHD.

No.24, Jalan Delima, 55100 Kuala Lumpur  
Tel: 603 2141 5201 / 2143 2513/ 2146 2631  
Fax: 603 2141 5202  
E-mail: mike@seadvr.com.my

#### PERHENTIAN ISLAND RESORT SDN. BHD.

KL Sales Office:  
22nd Floor, Menara Promet  
Jalan Sultan Ismail, 50250 Kuala Lumpur  
Tel: 603 2144 8530 / 8531  
Fax: 603 2143 4984  
E-mail: reservation@perhentianislandresort.net  
Website: www.perhentianislandresort.net

### SELANGOR

#### SEALANTIS DIVE CENTRE

P289, Promenade Lakeside,  
1 Utama Shopping Centre, Bandar Utama  
47800 Petaling Jaya, Selangor  
Tel: 603 7726 9932 • Fax: 603 7726 9912  
E-mail: sales@sealantis.com  
Website: sealantis.com

#### SURIA RESORTS MANAGEMENT SDN. BHD.

3A07, Level 4, Block A, Kelana Center Point  
No.3 Jln SS7/19, Kelana Jaya  
47301 Petaling Jaya, Selangor  
Tel: 603 7806 4752 • Fax: 603 7806 4753  
E-mail: sales@suriareorts.com  
Website: www.suriareorts.com

#### REDANG KALONG RESORT TRAVEL & TOURS SDN. BHD.

No. 4 Jalan Universiti, 46200 Petaling Jaya  
Tel: 603 7960 7163 / 8163  
Fax: 603 7960 9163  
E-mail: ddenmsia@tm.net.my  
Website: www.redangkalong.com

### TERENGGANU

#### Pulau Perhentian Besar

PERHENTIAN DIVING & SEA SPORT CENTRE  
Perhentian Island Resort,  
S 5A & 5B, (Business Terminal Building)  
Jalan Pasar, 22300 Kuala Besut, Terengganu  
Tel: 609 6911113 • Fax: 609 6911110  
E-mail: enquiry@perhentianislandresort.net

#### PRO DIVER'S WORLD

Coral View Island Resort  
89A, (infront of Kuala Besut Taxi Station)  
22300 Besut, Terengganu  
Tel: 609 6911705 / 6019 3633695  
Fax: 609 6911701  
E-mail: coralviewislandresort@hotmail.com  
dive@prodiversworld.com

#### WATERCOLOURS DIVE CENTRE

Watercolours Resort  
Pulau Perhentian Besar  
22300 Kuala Besut, Terengganu  
Tel: 609 6911853 • Fax: 609 6911852  
E-mail: dive@watercolours.com.my

#### TURTLE BAY DIVERS

Mama's Chalet, Pulau Perhentian  
22300 Besut, Terengganu  
Tel: 6019 3336647 • Fax: 603 78034060  
E-mail: yaakub@tm.net.my

#### BUBBLES DIVE CENTRE

Bubbles Resort & Dive Centre  
Tanjung Tukas, Pulau Perhentian Besar  
22300 Besut, Terengganu  
Tel: 6012 9838038  
E-mail: info@bubblesdc.com

#### UNIVERSAL DIVER

Tuna Bay Island Resort Mainland Office  
No. 120, Jalan Besar  
22300 Kuala Besut, Terengganu  
Tel: 609 6902 902 / 609 6902 909  
Fax: 609 6902 906  
E-mail: survivor@tunabay.com.my

#### SEASHORE DIVER

New Cocohut Chalet  
Perhentian Besar, 22300 Besut, Terengganu  
Tel: 609 6974 982 • Fax: 609 6978 528  
E-mail: andylua@perhentianisland.net

#### Cocohut Travel & Tours Sdn. Bhd

Lot 58 B, Lorong Empat,  
22300 Kuala Besut, Terengganu  
Tel: 609 6977 988  
E-mail: perhentianislandcocohut@gmail.com  
Website: www.perhentianislandcocohut.com

#### ARWANA DIVE CENTRE

Arwana Perhentian Resort  
Lot 181, Telok Dalam  
Pulau Perhentian Besar  
22300 Besut, Terengganu  
Tel: 609 6911888/609 7780888  
Fax: 609 6911887  
E-mail: enquiry@arwanaperhentian.com.my

#### URBAN ISLAND DIVERS

Samudera Chalet, Pulau Perhentian Besar  
22300 Besut, Terengganu  
Tel: 609 6911670 / 013 272 9539  
E-mail: sales@urbanislanddivers.com

#### ALU-ALU DIVE CENTRE

Bayu Dive Lodge, Pulau Perhentian Besar  
22300 Besut, Terengganu  
Tel: 609 6911650 • Fax: 609 6911656  
E-mail: divemasters@alualudivers.com

#### FLORA BAY DIVERS

Flora Bay Chalet  
Pantai Teluk Dalam, Pulau Perhentian Besar  
22300 Kuala Besut, Terengganu  
Tel: 609 6911661  
E-mail: dive@florabaydivers.com

#### FAUNA REEF DIVER

Fauna Chalet  
176, Pantai Teluk Dalam  
Pulau Perhentian Besar  
22300 Kuala Besut, Terengganu  
Tel: 609 6911607/ 019 9027812  
E-mail: zumiisland@yahoo.com

#### Pulau Perhentian Kecil

##### QUIVER DIVE TEAM

Bubu Long Beach Resort  
Long Beach, Perhentian Kecil  
22300 Kuala Besut, Terengganu  
Tel: 609 6911755  
E-mail: info@quiver-perhentian.com

##### MATAHARI DIVE SHOP

Matahari Chalet, Pulau Perhentian Kecil  
22300 Kuala Besut, Terengganu  
Tel: 609 6911740/6019 9142883  
E-mail: mataharidivers@gmail.com

##### SPICE DIVERS

Chempaka Chalet, Pulau Perhentian Kecil  
22300 Kuala Besut, Terengganu  
Tel: 609 6911550/6019 9857329  
E-mail: info@spicedivers.com.my

##### STEFFEN SEA SPORT DIVE CENTRE

Aur Bay Chalet  
Pulau Perhentian Kecil  
22300 Kuala Besut, Terengganu  
Tel: 609 6978180/ 013 981 4101  
E-mail: steffenseasports@yahoo.com

#### Pulau Tenggol

##### SCUBA EXPLORERS

16, Jalan Doktor, Tun Ismail  
70200 Seremban, Negeri Sembilan  
Tel: 06 762 9080 • Fax: 606 762 9932  
E-mail: contact.info@scubaexplorers.com.my  
Website: www.scubaexplorers.com.my

#### Pulau Kapas

##### AQUA SPORT DIVING SERVICES

Pulau Kapas, 21600 Marang, Terengganu  
Tel: 6019 379 6808/ 6019 983 5879  
E-mail: enquiry@aquasportdiver.com.my  
Website: www.divekapas.com

#### Pulau Redang

##### REDANG BAY DIVE CENTRE

No 139 Jalan Bandar  
20100 Kuala Terengganu, Terengganu  
Tel: 609 630 2320 • Fax: 609 6630 2321  
E-mail: divingredangisland@gmail.com  
Website: www.redangbay.com.my

##### LAGUNA REDANG DIVE CENTRE

S-5, Wisma Tenang, Jalan Sultan Sulaiman  
20000 Kuala Terengganu, Terengganu  
Tel: 609 631 0888 / 603 2141 1188  
Fax: 609 631 3322  
E-mail: enquiry@lagunaredang.com.my  
Website: www.lagunaredang.com.my

#### CORAL DIVE CENTRE

Coral Redang Resort, 9, Jalan Kg Dalam  
20000 Kuala Terengganu, Terengganu  
Tel: 609 630 7111 / 740 • Fax: 609 630 7112  
E-mail: info@coast2coastholiday.com.my  
Website: www.coralredang.com.my

##### THE DIVER'S DEN DIVE CENTRE

Redang Kalong Resort Travel &  
Tours Sdn. Bhd  
No.4, Jalan Universiti  
46200 Petaling Jaya, Selangor  
Tel: 603 7960 7163/8163  
Fax: 603 7960 9163  
E-mail: ddenmsia@gmail.com  
Website: www.diversden.com.my

##### THE TAARAS DIVE CENTRE

The Taaras Beach & Spa Resort  
P.O Box 126  
20928 Kuala Terengganu, Terengganu  
Tel: 609 630 8888 / 8866  
Fax: 609 630 8880  
E-mail: dive@thetaaras.com  
Website: www.thetaaras.com

##### REDANG PELANGI'S DIVE CENTRE

Redang Pelangi  
2A, Jln Syed Hussin  
20100 Kuala Terengganu, Terengganu  
Tel: 609 624 2158/626 1189  
Fax: 609 623 5202  
E-mail: reservation@redangpelangi.com  
Website: www.redangpelangi.com

#### Pulau Lang Tengah

##### REDANG LANG ISLAND RESORT

1129-A, Jln Bukit Kecil  
21100 Kuala Terengganu, Terengganu  
Tel: 609 623 9911/626 7042  
Fax: 609 631 0832  
E-mail: boon@redanglangresort.com.my  
Website: www.redanglangresort.com.my

##### D'COCONUT LAGOON DIVE CENTRE

No.1, 1A First Floor, Jalan Memanda 7  
68000 Ampang, Selangor  
Tel: 03 4252 6686 / 4296 5753  
Fax: 03 4252 2689  
E-mail: sales@dcoconutlagoon.com  
Website: www.dcoconutlagoon.com

#### PAHANG

##### BERJAYA TIOMAN DIVE CENTRE

Berjaya Tioman Resort  
86807 Mersing, Johor  
Tel: 609 419 1000 • Fax: 609 419 1718  
E-mail: tioman.rsvn@berjayahotel.com  
Website: www.berjayahotel.com

##### B & J DIVING CENTRE

297 Jalan Wawasan 15  
Taman Wawasan, 86800 Mersing, Johor  
Tel: 609 419 5555 / 1218  
Fax: 609 419 5558 / 1670  
E-mail: info@divetioman.com  
Website: www.divetioman.com

#### DIVE ASIA

91 Jalan Endau, 86800 Mersing, Johor  
Tel: 609 419 5017 / 1337  
E-mail: diveasia@tm.net.my  
Website: www.diveasia.com.my

##### TIOMAN DIVE CENTRE

Kampung Tekek, Pulau Tioman, Pahang  
Tel: 609 419 1228  
E-mail: enquiries@tioman-dive-centre.com  
Website: www.tioman-dive-centre.com

#### JOHOR

##### Pulau Aur

##### DIVER'S LODGE

Batu Kembar, Pulau Aur  
86800 Mersing, Johor  
Tel: 602 9022 5552 • Fax: 062 6557 0018  
E-mail: info@friendlywaters.com.sg  
Website: www.friendlywaters.com.sg

##### DAYANG ISLAND RESORT

Pulau Aur, Mersing, Johor  
d/a Class Coach Travel & Tours Sdn Bhd  
No. 33 & 33A, Jalan Emas Putih 1, Taman  
Sri Skudai, 81300 Skudai, Johor  
Tel: 6019 753 2898 / 6014 911 3080  
E-mail: aquasha@tm.net.my

##### Pulau Pemanggil

##### LANTING BEACH RESORT

No. 3 Jalan Jeti, Gerai Majlis Daerah  
86800 Mersing, Johor  
Tel: 607 799 7124 Fax: 607 799 1939  
E-mail: lantingbeachresort@yahoo.com  
Website: www.lantingresort.com.my

##### Pulau Sibü

##### DIVE NAUTIC ENTERPRISE

Sibü Island Resort  
No. 59 Kampung Melayu  
Pontian Besar Kiri, 82000 Pontian, Johor  
Tel: 607 799 5555 • Fax: 607 799 4455  
E-mail: resv@sibuslandresort.com.my  
info@sibuslandresort.com.my

##### DAN'S NASTY FROGMEN DIVE BASE

Sea Gypsy Village Resort &  
Dive Base, Pulau Sibü Besar, Johor  
Tel: 607 222 8642 • Fax: 607 221 0048  
E-mail: divebase@siburesort.com  
Website: www.siburesort.com

#### SABAH & SARAWAK

##### Sabah

##### BORNEO DIVERS MABUL RESORT

9th Floor, Menara Jubili  
53, Jalan Gaya, 88000 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah  
Tel: 6088 222 226 • Fax: 6088 221 550  
E-mail: information@borneodivers.info  
Website: www.borneodivers.info

**SIPADAN KAPALAI DIVE RESORT**  
484 Bandar Sabindo  
PO Box No 61120, 91021 Tawau, Sabah  
Tel: 6089 765200  
Fax: 6089 763563 / 575  
E-mail: psrt@po.jaring.my  
Website: www.sipadan-resort.com

**LANGKAYAN ISLAND DIVE RESORT**  
Block C, Ground Floor  
Lot 38 & 39, Mile 6, Bandar Tyng  
90000 Sandakan, Sabah  
Tel: 6089 673 999 • Fax: 6089 673 777  
E-mail: sepilok@po.jaring.my  
lankayan@tm.net.my  
Website: www.sipadan-resort.com

**LAYANG-LAYANG ISLAND RESORT**  
Block A, Ground Floor, A-0-3  
Megan Avenue II, 12, Jalan Yap Kwan Seng  
50450, Kuala Lumpur  
Tel: 603 21702185 • Fax: 603 27309959  
E-mail: res@avillionlayanglayang.com  
Website: www.layanglayang.com

**MV CELEBES EXPLORER (LIVEBOARD)**  
Lot 29, Ground & 1st Floor  
Karamunsing Godown, Jalan Karamunsing  
8000 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah  
Tel: 6088 270 976 • Fax: 6088 270 975  
E-mail: borneogb@gmail.com  
info@bgbackpackers.com  
Website: www.borneotourstravel.com

**BORNEO STAR DIVE SDN. BHD.**  
Shoplot SS06 & SS07  
Labuan International Sea Sports Complex  
P.O. Box 80818, 87018 Labuan  
Tel: 6087 429 278/431 278  
Fax: 6087 415 697  
E-mail: stardivers2005@yahoo.com

**DOWNBELOW MARINE AND WILDLIFE  
ADVENTURE SDN. BHD.**  
KK Times Square,  
5th Floor, Lot 67 & 68, Block L  
88100 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah  
Tel: 6088 488 997 / 485 366  
Fax: 6088 485 300  
E-mail: info@divedownbelow.com  
Website: www.divedownbelow.com

**TRAVELMATE HOLIDAYS SDN. BHD.**  
Shop Lot 27, 1st Floor, Block D  
Riverside Plaza, Kuala Inanam  
88400 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah  
Tel: 6088 432 967 • Fax: 6088 437 967  
E-mail: info@travelmateholidays.com.my  
Website: www.travelmateholidays.com.my

**SEAVENTURES DIVE RESORT**  
4th Floor, Room 422-424, Wisma Sabah  
88300 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah  
Tel: 6088 261 669 / 251 669  
Fax: 6088 251 667  
E-mail: info@seaventuresdive.com  
Website: www.seaventuresdive.com

**POM POM ISLAND RESORT**  
A-2-1, Karamunsing Capital  
Lorong Capital, Block A, 2nd Floor  
88000 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah  
Tel: 6088 484 083 / 093  
Fax: 6088 484 098  
E-mail: info@pompomisland.com  
Website: www.pompomisland.com

**PULAU TIGA RESORT &  
SIPADAN DIVE CENTRE**  
Lot No. A1103, 11th Floor  
Wisma Merdeka (Mail Box No. A236)  
Jalan Tun Razak  
88000 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah  
Tel: 6088 240584 • Fax: 6088 240415  
E-mail: sdc@ sipadandivers.com  
rsvn@pulautiga.com.my  
Website: www.sdclodges.com

**SIPADAN MABUL RESORT &  
MABUL WATER BUNGALOWS**  
Lot A-1-G, Block A, Signature Office  
KK Times Square, Off Coastal Highway  
88100 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah  
P. O. Box 15571  
88864 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah  
Tel: 6088 486 389 • Fax: 6088 486 628  
E-mail: mabul@streamyx.com  
mabul@po.jaring.my  
Website: www.sipadan-mabul.com.my  
www.mabulwaterbungalows.com

**SIPADAN WATER VILLAGE RESORT**  
Sipadan Water Village Resort Sdn Bhd  
TB231, Lot 8, 1st Floor  
Town Extension II (Wisma MAA Building)  
91000 Tawau, Sabah  
Tel: 6089 752996/ 751 777  
Fax: 6089 752997  
E-mail: info@swvresort.com  
Website: www.swvresort.com

**THE REEF DIVE RESORT &  
TOURS SDN BHD**  
GTS Travel Service Sdn Bhd  
(Sales Agent for The Reef Dive Resort and  
Tours Sdn Bhd @ Mataking Island)  
TB212, Jalan Bunga, Fajar Complex  
91000 Tawau, Sabah  
Tel: 6089 770022/025 • Fax: 6089 770023  
E-mail: sales@mataking.com  
Website: www.mataking.com

**SCUBA PARADISE SDN. BHD.**  
Lot G28, Ground Floor  
Jalan Tun Razak, Wisma Sabah  
88000 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah  
Tel: 6088 266 695 / 256 695  
Fax: 6088 236 695  
E-mail: scubadiv@tm.net.my  
resv@scubaparadisborneo.com.my  
Website : www.scubaparadisborneo.com.my

**MARI-MARI MANTANANI BACKPACKERS  
LODGE & DIVE LODGE**  
Lot 227-229, 2nd Floor  
Wisma Sabah, Jalan Tun Fuad Stephen  
88000, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah  
Tel: 6088 260501/502 • Fax: 6088 261503  
Email: tours@diverlodge.asia  
Website: www.traversetours.com

**GAYANA ECO RESORT**  
Jesselton Point Ferry Terminal  
Jalan Haji Saman  
88300 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah  
Tel: 6088 380390 • Fax: 6088 247 390  
Email: info@gayana-eco-resort.com  
Website: www.gayana-eco-resort.com

**USUKAN COVE LODGE**  
Block E, Unit No.28, 3rd Floor  
KK Times Square  
88100, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah  
Tel: 6088 486168 • Fax: 6088 486708/718  
Email: inno@sabahholidays.com  
Website: www.sabahholidays.com

### Sarawak

**CO.CO. DIVE**  
Minda Nusantara Tours &  
Travel Agencies Sdn. Bhd  
Shoplot No. 1338, 2nd Floor  
Jalan Dagang, Waterfront  
98000 Miri, Sarawak  
Tel: 6085 414 433 • Fax: 6085 424 455  
E-mail: miri.cocodive@gmail.com  
Website: www.cocodive.com.my

**CPH TRAVEL (AGENCIES) SDN BHD**  
No. 70, Ground Floor, Padungan Road  
P.O.Box 725, 93714 Kuching, Sarawak  
Tel: 6082 414 921, 243 708, 242 289  
Fax: 6082 424 587  
E-mail: cphtrvl@streamyx.com  
Website: cphtravel.com.my

**BORNEO SCUBA DIVING  
AND ADVENTURE CENTRE**  
No 41, Ground Floor  
Block E, Pearl Commercial Centre  
Jalan Tun Razak, 93450 Kuching, Sarawak  
Tel: 6082 480 234 • Fax: 6082 377 234  
E-mail: diving\_rainforest@yahoo.com

**AQUABASE**  
Damai Puri Resort & Spa  
Teluk Penyuk, Santubong  
93762 Kuching, Sarawak  
Tel / Fax: 6082 846 080  
E-mail: info@aquabase-kuching.com  
Website: www.aquabase-kuching.com

### Labuan

**BORNEO STAR DIVE SDN. BHD.**  
Shoplot SS06 & SS07  
Labuan International Sea Sports Complex  
P.O. Box 80818, 87018, Labuan  
Tel: 6087 429 278 / 431 278  
Fax: 6087 415 697  
E-mail : stardivers2005@yahoo.com

\*The above listing is not exhaustive.

# MALAYSIA AT A GLANCE

## COUNTRY

The federation of Malaysia comprises Peninsular Malaysia, which is made up of 11 states, three Federal Territories as well as the states of Sabah and Sarawak situated in Borneo.

## CAPITAL CITY

Kuala Lumpur

## GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

Lying 2° to 7° north of the Equator, Peninsular Malaysia is separated from Sabah and Sarawak by the South China Sea. The Peninsular shares a common border with Thailand in the north, while its southern neighbour is Singapore. Sabah and Sarawak share a common border with Indonesia while Sarawak also shares a border with Brunei Darussalam.

## AREA

329,758 sq km

## POPULATION

31.7 million

## PEOPLE

Malays make up about 57% of the population, with Chinese, Indians and other ethnic groups making up the rest.

## LANGUAGE

Bahasa Malaysia (Malay) is the national language but English is widely spoken. Malaysians also speak various languages and dialects.

## RELIGION

Islam is the official religion but all other religions are practised freely.

## GOVERNMENT

Malaysia practices parliamentary democracy and constitutional monarchy. The Head of State is the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and the Head of Government is the Prime Minister. The country has a bicameral legislative system.

## CLIMATE

Malaysia has a tropical climate and the weather is warm all year round. Temperatures range from 21°C to 32°C and the annual rainfall varies from 2,000 mm to 2,500 mm.

## ECONOMIC PROFILE

Manufacturing constitutes the largest component of Malaysia's economy while tourism and primary commodities such as petroleum, palm oil, natural rubber and timber are major contributors to its economy.

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Visitors must be in possession of a valid passport or travel document with a minimum validity of six months beyond the intended visiting period. Citizens of most countries do not require visas for social or business visits. For further information, please visit or call the nearest Malaysian diplomatic mission or Tourism Malaysia office.

## CURRENCY

The unit of currency is the Malaysian Ringgit, which is denoted as RM. Foreign currencies can be converted at banks and money changers.

## WORKING DAYS

Most states observe Monday to Friday as working days while Saturday and Sunday are rest days. In the states of Johor, Kedah, Kelantan and Terengganu, working days are from Sunday to Thursday. Friday and Saturday are observed as rest days. This applies to government offices and many private establishments.

## BANKING HOURS

In most states, banks are open from Monday to Friday from 9.15 am to 4.30 pm. In Kelantan and Terengganu, banks are closed on Friday and Saturday. Check the websites of the relevant banks for details on operating hours and rest days. Online banking services are available.

## POST OFFICES

Post offices are open from 8.30 am to 5.00 pm daily except on Sunday and public holidays. They are open for half-a-day on Saturday (until 1.00 pm). Post offices that are located in shopping malls have extended operating hours. In the states of Johor, Kedah, Kelantan and Terengganu, post offices are closed on Friday and Saturday.

## TIME

The standard Malaysian time is eight hours ahead of GMT and 16 hours ahead of the U.S. Pacific Standard Time.

## ELECTRICITY

The voltage used throughout Malaysia is 220 - 240 volts AC, at 50 cycles per second. Standard 3-pin square plugs and sockets are used.

## MEASUREMENT SYSTEM

Malaysia uses the metric system.

## TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Malaysia is linked nationally and internationally by telephone, facsimile and via the Internet. Most hotels provide International Direct Dial (IDD) telephone services and Wi-fi Internet connection.

## GETTING TO MALAYSIA

The main gateway to Malaysia is through the Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) in Sepang. It is located about 50 km south of Kuala Lumpur. Over 40 international airlines fly into the country while the national carrier, Malaysia Airlines, has a global network that spans six continents. The airline is a full-fledged member of oneworld, one of the world's top three airline alliances. The national carrier is complemented by Firefly, AirAsia and Malindo Air. The new KLIA 2, situated about 1.5 km away from the main terminal of KLIA, is the world's largest purpose-built terminal dedicated to low-cost carriers. Airlines that operate from KLIA2 include AirAsia and AirAsia X. Other major international airports that serve as entry points are situated in Penang, Johor Bahru, Kuching, Kota Kinabalu and the island of Langkawi. The main entry point to Malaysia by sea is Port Klang, about 50 km away from Kuala Lumpur. Malaysia is also accessible by rail and road from Singapore and Thailand.

## GETTING AROUND

Malaysia has excellent domestic air links serviced by Malaysia Airlines as well as carriers such as AirAsia and Firefly. The country has a well-developed and efficient public transportation system served by buses, taxis as well as trains. GrabCar and Uber services are available in Malaysia.

## ACCOMMODATION

Malaysia has a wide range of accommodation with competitive rates. International star-rated hotels, boutique hotels, beach resorts, chalets, youth hostels and timeshare apartments are among the types of accommodation available.



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**November 2017 (1117)**

*(TRAFFICKING IN ILLEGAL DRUGS CARRIES THE DEATH PENALTY)*