

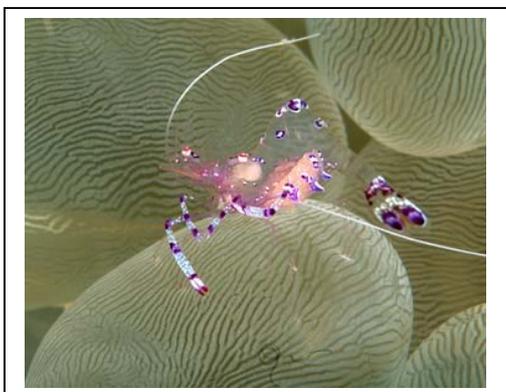
BUNAKEN NATIONAL MARINE PARK



Most of the reefs of the Bunaken National Marine Park are rich and unspoilt, offering pristine and abundant soft coral and fish life in huge concentrations. The night diving in the park is spectacular, providing frequent encounters with rare nocturnal creatures. For a change of scenery, the Molas wreck is remarkably intact for a WWII ship, the bows resting at 25m and the propeller at 40m.

The Bunaken National Marine Park consists of five islands: Bunaken, Manado Tua, Nain, Montehage, and Siladen, as well as a part of the North Sulawesi mainland. Diving in and around Bunaken is predominantly wall diving and drift diving. There are also numerous beautiful coral slopes that are suitable for novice divers. There are 22 official dive sites within the park. The variety of both fish and soft coral is outstanding, and marks out this area as one of the most bio diverse marine environments in the world. With visibility around 25m and water temperature # 26-30 C, this is an excellent destination for underwater photographers and naturalists alike.

Schools of Barracudas and Jacks, Green Sea Turtles and reef sharks, Sea snakes and Napoleon wrasses are among the resident inhabitants of these steep coral walls fringing Bunaken Island.





Nain and Siladen Islands, (which is home to Siladen Resort), offer huge fields of hard coral in addition to their classic wall dives. **Montehage** yields excellent visibility and is a favourite location for sharks and big schools of barracudas, jack and bumphead parrot fish. The hard coral slopes offer some excellent drift dives where you can watch schools of coral fish in all shapes and sizes and colours, as you glide by the huge sea fans and impressive sponges. Bunaken offers superb opportunities for macro and wide angle photography, as well as underwater videography.

Manado Tua, the fascinating cone-shaped volcanic island, features steep slopes on land covered with coconut palms and even steeper vertical drop-offs under water. Here you find the prettiest and most pristine coral, as well as many nudibranches and other macro life. The impressive overhanging walls are a breathtaking experience to dive, packed as they are with life, whilst the shallows provide some of the best snorkelling. In the many indents, caves and outcroppings of the walls, you often find reef sharks and other big fish, making this a preferred area for deep diving.



SNORKELLING

Snorkelling around the drop-offs of Bunaken provides some of the best snorkelling opportunities anywhere in the world. The reef tops on these walls offer a huge diversity of soft coral and marine life, and an astonishing number of fish. The warm waters and the shallow depths on the reef tops make the snorkelling here very easy and relaxing.

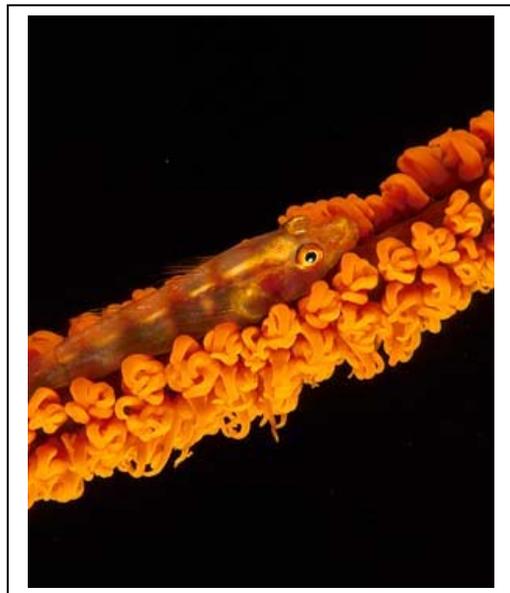


AWARDS

In September 2005, Condè Nast's **Traveller US Edition** assigned the Bunaken National Marine Park top spot as the best among the ecotourism experiences around the world. The winners in the different categories were chosen based on their environmental-preservation efforts, their contributions to local culture and the quality of the guest experience.

Selected among 340 entries, the Marine Park was also the recipient of the **Equator Prize 2004** in recognition of outstanding community efforts for poverty reduction and biodiversity conservation.

In December 2003, British Airways voted the Bunaken National Marine Park as global winner among 70 entries of its British Airways **Tourism for Tomorrow** Awards. The award raises awareness of the world's leading role models for responsible tourism.



MAPS – North Sulawesi and Bunaken Park

