



Media Pack

Uniquely Wakatobi



Wakatobi is a rare gem among resorts — a unique tropical vacation destination that offers an unrivaled combination of world-class diving, upscale amenities, superlative personal service, and spectacular natural beauty.

"This is top to bottom excellence."

~ Cathy and Frank White, Dec 2022

Pristine and Protected

Wakatobi is set within a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve that encompasses one of the most bio-diverse marine ecosystems on earth. The coral reefs that surround the resort are home to thousands of rare and colorful species of marine life. These treasured sites enjoy the protection of a private, community-based marine preserve founded and funded by Wakatobi and embraced by the local community.

Personal Touches

During their stay, Wakatobi guests are hosted by a staff that takes pride in providing warm personal service and for anticipating needs before a request is spoken. A two-

to-one staff-to-guest ratio ensures the highest levels of attention for each individual, and the range of bespoke services available includes personal dive guides, nanny services, private butlers and event planning for special occasions.

Removed But Not Remote

Wakatobi is far from city lights and other reminders of the outside world. But distance isn't an issue, thanks to direct charter flights from Bali to a private airstrip. During their stay, resort guests enjoy gourmet dining and iconic private accommodations that incorporate all the creature comforts of the modern world while also celebrating the region's cultural ambiance.



We put Wakatobi on the map



Until recently, there was no such place as Wakatobi. Historically, this region of central Indonesia's Sulawesi Sea was known as the Tukang Besi Archipelago. Lying some 500 miles east of Bali, these islands encompass some of the planet's most productive and pristine reefs and coastal shallows. As the resort's reputation grew, the Wakatobi name became associated with the surrounding region, leading to the eventual establishment of the Wakatobi Regency by the Indonesian government, and the creation of a new national park of the same name.

Easy Arrivals

Direct exclusive guest flights from Bali to Wakatobi's private airstrip eliminate the need for multiple air and land connections and trim travel time from days to mere hours. Following a restful overnight stay in Bali, this 2.5-hour flight provides generous luggage allowances, VIP transit lounge privileges, and includes all taxes and surcharges. Guests are met at our airport and transferred directly to the resort by way of a short van and boat ride, with staff handling all logistics of luggage transfer and delivery to their accommodation.

"The direct flight certainly influenced our decision to go to Wakatobi. The ease and speed of getting to the resort is superb, as is the reassurance that all your luggage will arrive at the same time as you do."

~ Kathy Beech, Jan 2023

VIP Meetings and Bali Concierge Services

From the moment they touch down in Bali, Wakatobi guests enjoy concierge-level assistance with all aspects of their vacation. Wakatobi representatives are on hand at the airport with VIP welcome services, which whisk guests past the lengthy queues at immigration while staff will handle baggage transfers and other details. Guests who choose to take a Bali stopover can further engage our concierge service to make all the arrangements for an enjoyable and fascinating few days before or after their Wakatobi trip. Private guides and drivers are available to transport guests to see towering volcanoes, emerald green rice paddies, Hindu temples, dazzling beaches or cultural dance performances. Bali also offers incredible value in art, furniture, silver jewelry, accessories, and tropical fashions.

A total vacation experience



While diving and snorkeling are star attractions at Wakatobi, there's much more for guests to experience and enjoy. The resort's garden-like setting provides a relaxing backdrop for a full range of recreational activities and programs.

"Wakatobi exceeded our expectations. The kids loved it!"

~ The Attrill Family, Jan 2023

"Very high-quality service, outstanding Michelin-star cuisine."

~ Irina and Pascal Brandys, Jan 2023

"The massage was the best I've ever had. All SPA staff are wonderful"

~ Cynthia Giorgio, Dec 2022

A Commitment to Service

Our friendly, personalized service provides each guest with a relaxing and enriching vacation experience in Wakatobi, no matter how they spend their time. From the senior management on down, guests find that all members of our staff possess a genuine warmth and a dedication to ensuring each visitor finds comfort, satisfaction, and relaxation. Attentive but unobtrusive, our staff focuses on ensuring guests have everything needed to settle in and enjoy the holiday of a lifetime.

Delectable Dining

Our executive chefs lead a talented culinary team devoted to delivering a savory mixture of Indonesian and international cuisines. Meals can be enjoyed in the ocean-view dining room, delivered to the guest's villa or bungalow, or served beachside by personal wait staff. Full beverage services are enjoyed with meals, at the longhouse coffee bar or the jetty bar, which sits perched over the waters of the House Reef. Chefs are happy to accommodate guests with special dietary needs, whether it be a food allergy or a preference such as a low-carb, vegetarian, vegan, low-lactose or gluten-free diet.

Family Friendly

Wakatobi is a family-friendly resort, and children are encouraged to share in all appropriate resort activities, creating lifetime memories for the family. For times when our adult guests are diving or relaxing, we offer a variety of adventures designed to entertain, amaze, and educate children of all ages. Nannies are available to provide parents with a stress-free interlude from childcare.

Something for Everyone

The resort grounds include a spa, dive/water sports center and the iconic over-water Jetty Bar. Explore the day-time activities including island tours, village visits and Indonesian cooking classes.

Wellness

East and West come together at Wakatobi's Spa, which blends the best of Indonesian and European healing and relaxation traditions. Our original custom-blended oils and aromatherapies complement personalized massage and a variety of other treatments. With a caring heart and a pair of well-trained hands, our skilled therapists ease our guests' aches or stresses, leaving them relaxed and rejuvenated.

Full-spectrum diving and snorkeling



An Ideal Location

Wakatobi is dedicated to providing each guest with the ultimate diving and snorkeling experience, whatever their interests and abilities. The resort's location was carefully chosen following an extensive search for the perfect site in terms of geography, climate, oceanic topography, and marine biodiversity. Diving and snorkeling programs are tailored to meet the needs and comforts of every user group and to ensure Wakatobi's future, our founders created the world's largest private, community-based marine park.

Pleasing Profiles

Wakatobi's underwater experiences can begin right off the resort's beach and include more than 40 unique venues located just a short boat ride away. The juxtaposition of blue water and coral shallows found at many of these sites creates stunning underwater landscapes, provides opportunities for long and relaxing multi-level dive profiles, and gives divers and snorkelers an equal opportunity to enjoy the shared aquatic environment.

Exceptional Service

Divers never lift a tank or set up their gear in Wakatobi, as all equipment is managed to the diver's preference. Cameras are carefully handled by the crew and given to divers once they are in the water. On returning to the boat the crew will change tanks, check gear and prepare it for the next dive. Snacks are served between consecutive boat dives, as well as drinks such as tea, hot chocolate, and water – the boat crew quickly learns each guest's preference. Fresh dry towels and mint-scented facecloths are always available.

Large, Comfortable Boats

Wakatobi operates a fleet of locally built dive boats designed for spacious comfort, safety, and stability both underway and at rest. Each of these vessels features large deck-level bathrooms and showers

and fully shaded decks that provide every diver with ample personal space. Attentive crews are on hand to assist with water entries and exits. Each guest's personal dive gear is transferred to and from boats by the dive staff to ensure things don't get lost and are always within easy reach. A large, dedicated camera table and rinse station are located near the rear of the boats, while egress to and from the water is by wide side entry doors on both sides of the boat. This allows photographers room to assemble their gear without being in the way of other divers and snorkelers entering or exiting the water. An additional benefit of the side entry points is the separation from the boat's engine exhaust, which is far away in the stern.

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"From the minute to the magnificent, the reefs around Wakatobi continued to surprise, delight, enthrall and inspire us. No two dives were the same."

~ Alan Bennett and Family, Dec 2022

Full-spectrum diving and snorkeling



The World's Best Shore Dive

Wakatobi Resort's House Reef has been named the world's best shore dive. This site is a favorite with guests, who discover a diverse wealth of marine life and underwater landscapes just a few fin strokes from the beach. The House Reef's drop-off is just 80 meters in front of the resort, making it easy for divers to make a wall dive followed by a shallow safety stop day or night. The site expands to both sides of the resort to encompass an area more than three miles in length that includes shallow grass beds, coral heads and slopes, wall sections, overhangs and ridges. The dive center provides a taxi boat service that allows guests to explore areas of the reef beyond normal swimming range from the resort.

"Wakatobi is a diver's paradise. I dived on the Wakatobi House Reef 17 times including 8 night dives. Each dive was unique and memorable due to an outstanding diversity of the marine life-the site is amazing."

~ David Karp, Oct 2022

Snorkeling

Wakatobi is an ideal environment for snorkelers and free divers. The House Reef is a vast expanse of shallow reefs and seagrass beds that offers a convenient and beautiful snorkeling venue populated with a myriad of marine creatures. In addition, many dive sites have exquisite shallow coral growths that are ideal for surface exploration. Snorkelers receive the same level of support as divers, including assistance with gear, fresh towels, snacks and camera support and in-water guide and monitoring services. All dive sites are rated for suitability for snorkeling based on the reef topography.

Exceptional Imaging Opportunities

Wakatobi offers the underwater photographer or videographer a wealth of imaging possibilities. Settings range from dramatic drop-offs, breathtaking coral gardens and pinnacles ideal for wide-angle shots down to havens for the minute and rare exotic marine creatures sure to please macro fanatics. The exuberant vitality of the reef systems, benign in-water conditions and professional support system means that each dive delivers ample opportunities

to fill the viewfinders of every photographer from casual shooters to photo pros.

Advance Diving Support

Wakatobi's dive center serves air, nitrox, and rebreather users as well as snorkelers with comprehensive support facilities that include a full range of premium quality rental gear. The center operates state-of-the-art Nitrox Technologies membrane systems fed by multiple water-cooled Bauer compressors, and can provide oxygen concentrations to 100 percent. CCR divers with Trimix certification can take advantage of Trimix (HeliAir) diluents and bailout gases.

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Full-spectrum diving and snorkeling



A Place For Learning

Wakatobi's warm water, calm conditions and professional infrastructure provide an ideal environment to develop or upgrade your diving skills. Whether you are new to the sport, needing to refresh existing skills, or seeking advanced certifications, we offer the full support needed to ensure a successful, relaxing and rewarding training experience. Children as young as eight can take part in the Bubblemaker program, which allows them to experience the thrill of diving safely under full supervision, and at shallow depths. The Dive Center also offers Discover Scuba experiences that give non-divers their first taste of Wakatobi's spectacular underwater world, all under the attentive supervision of our trained dive staff. Certification opportunities range from open-water courses to advanced certifications, nitrox programs, and technical diving specialties.

"We love that we can go out on the dive boats with the children, and they can snorkel with the guide while we dive."

~ Sarah Bettie, May 2021

Private Dive Experience Program

Wakatobi's Private Dive Experience program delivers the ultimate in underwater freedom and discovery. This personalized guide service, tailored to the guest's wishes, enhances the diving and snorkeling experience by providing deeper understandings of marine life behavior, assisting the guest's underwater imaging, or guiding them through the unique experience of a Fluo-dive, which is complimentary for those taking at least four days with a Private Dive Experience guide.



Fluo-dive Experiences

The thrill of fluo-diving lets guests see the underwater world like never before. At night, special ultraviolet lighting causes fluorescent proteins in certain fish and corals to light up in glowing colors. Fluo-diving is a second-to-none experience that guests find amazing, all while revealing the underwater realm in a new and enthralling manner.



Activities and amenities



Resort guests can choose from a range of additional watersports and beach activities, pamper themselves in our full-service spa, or stay entertained with our media suite, high-speed internet services and library. Other activities include Indonesian cooking classes, workshops, village tours and nature walks. Sports activities include kitesurfing, kayaking and wakeboarding. Wakatobi is family friendly, with childcare services and a kids club.

"It's just you in nature, flying over this beautiful water of all different colors. Beneath you are stingrays, dolphins, turtles, and along the shore it's all white sand and palm trees."

~ Kiter Toby Brauer, May 2021

Stupendous Kitesurfing

Recently, Wakatobi has gained recognition as a world-class destination for the exciting sport of kitesurfing. From June to September, seasonal trade winds provide ideal conditions for riders of all skill levels. Novices are provided with calm, sheltered waters right off the resort beach, while advanced riders can move out into the channel to play in the waves or make long distance runs. Wakatobi hosts a dedicated Kite Week each July, and has established a full-service kiteboard center, providing instruction, equipment and both shore and chase boat support.

Kayaking and Paddle Boarding

The calm lagoons near Wakatobi's beach are ideal for watersports such as kayaking and paddle boarding. Equipment for both activities is provided as part of the activities package. Guests can enjoy self-guided paddling excursions at any time or join resort guides for a nature tour of the coast. To experience the thrill of gliding over crystal-clear waters on a paddle board, guests need only contact the water sports center to arrange for a driver and towboat. All equipment is provided, along with basic instructions for novice riders.

Nature and Culture

Wakatobi isn't just about the ocean. A network of walking paths provides hours of exploration for walkers and bird watchers, with trails leading inland and to quiet waterfront venues where one can relax and take in the views. Wakatobi also arranges regular tours of area villages, giving guests a unique opportunity to interact with local residents of the islands in a warm and informal setting.



Accommodation



Wakatobi is the epitome of a tropical island retreat. Grand villas and bungalows are nestled into verdant landscaping and towering coconut palms that fringe a white-sand beach. Each private accommodation represents the perfect blend of natural beauty and five-star amenities, providing privacy, climate-controlled comfort and sleeping arrangements for singles, couples or families. Interiors are finished in rich native woods, with shaded porches, separate sitting areas and spacious shower rooms. Some also feature Asian-style outdoor showers.

Grand Villas

Wakatobi's villas offer the ultimate in privacy and spacious comfort. These one-bedroom villas and two-bedroom pool villas sit on a low ledge at the northern end of the resort, just above the beach and steps away from the water. Each villa includes outdoor shower gardens and private ocean-view decks ideal for relaxation and taking in Wakatobi's spectacular sunsets. Villa guests also enjoy a number of complimentary inclusions.

The Ultimate 2 Plus (Two-bedroom pool Villa)

Butler (Private Resort Experience Manager) • Daily private boat • One daily Spa treatment per guest • Two PDEMs (Private Dive Experience Manager) for the first two guests; a third is added for two additional guests • One Fluo experience or trial with Seacam/Canon 5D UW setup for two dives.

The Ultimate 2 (Two-bedroom pool Villa)

Butler (Private Resort Experience Manager) • One PDEM (Private Dive Experience Manager) for the first two guests; a second is added for additional guests • One Fluo experience or trial with Seacam/Canon 5D UW setup for two dives.

The Ultimate 1 (One-bedroom Villa)

Butler (Private Resort Experience Manager) • One PDEM (Private Dive Experience Guide) • Fluo experience or trial with a Seacam/Canon 5D UW system for two dives.

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Accommodation



Turtle Beach Bungalows

Wakatobi's newest accommodations sit at the quiet end of the resort beach and are an ideal choice for families and couples. These are an expanded version of our Ocean Bungalows with enlarged interiors that can comfortably accommodate a family of four or couples looking for more spacious amenities. Turtle Beach Bungalows are set in a palm grove at the southern end of the resort property, overlooking the quiet waters of their namesake beach. Added amenities include a large indoor bathroom with double sinks, a spacious ocean-view front porch and an expanded Asian-style outdoor shower with two rainfall shower heads and a separate outdoor entrance from the beach — an ideal feature for swimmers and divers who don't want to track sand and water through the bungalow.

"The resort accommodations are world class, and we loved how accommodating and thoughtful the staff is."

~ Alex and Amy Johnson, Dec 2022

Ocean Bungalows

Set just steps from the water, Ocean Bungalows encourage guests to take in a glorious sunset at the end of a satisfying day's diving to a soundtrack of waves gently lapping on the shore—all while seated on comfortable lounge chairs on their private verandah. In addition to stunning sea views, all Ocean Bungalows feature comfortable lounge-style beds, separate sitting areas, private indoor shower rooms and spacious Asian spa-style outdoor showers. For guests seeking the optimal blend of luxury and cost-effectiveness, an Ocean Bungalow is the best choice.



Palm Bungalows

Like all guest accommodations at Wakatobi, the cozy Palm Bungalows are hand-crafted by local craftsmen using native stone and sustainable local woods. These fully appointed bungalows are located slightly behind and in between the front-row Ocean Bungalows, nestled amidst beautiful palm trees and other tropical foliage. All guest needs & comforts are provided in a Palm Bungalow and, as with all accommodation types, guests enjoy chef-prepared meals and Wakatobi's renowned and personalized service. These residences deliver exceptional value with no compromise in comfort or quality.



A total commitment to conservation



Wakatobi's Collaborative Reef Conservation Program is widely recognized as a pioneering initiative in self-sustaining, community-based resource protection. This initiative was developed by the founders of Wakatobi Dive Resort to provide a proactive means of protecting the reefs and marine resources.

A portion of the revenue generated from resort guests is shared with the local community to maintain and support a sustainable lifestyle that fosters stewardship and respect for the coral reef ecosystem. This program includes payments to local villagers and fishermen to honor a no-take policy on specific reef tracts, along with supplying an additional range of social and economic programs. Since the Collaborative Reef Conservation Program's implementation in 1997, the local village and surrounding communities have enthusiastically adopted the conservation plan. As a result, environmentally damaging fishing practices have ceased, and the reefs have remained in near-pristine condition, with some showing marked improvement. Wakatobi's private marine preserve now covers a 20-kilometer section of reef. In addition, this preserve is now part of the Wakatobi National Park, which is the second largest in Indonesia. In 2012 this area was designated a UNESCO Marine Biosphere Reserve.

Sea Turtle Protection

Wakatobi's beach has long been recognized as an important turtle nesting ground. Nighttime lighting along the resort's beach is minimized to encourage females to come ashore and lay their eggs. When a nest is identified, it is cordoned off and monitored to provide protection for the eggs, ensuring a greater number of hatchlings survive and return to the sea. It is quite common to see young turtles swimming along the reefs and the shoreline fronting the resort.

Supporting Local Communities

The resort provides electricity for the village on the island (population 500), and waste management services for villages on a neighboring island. Other ongoing programs include civic improvement projects for all 17 villages within the district and the sponsorship of schools with educational materials and sponsorships for orphans. To provide economic alternatives to destructive marine harvesting practices, Wakatobi sponsors a credit scheme for small businesses and employs up to 50 widows from the local village to create natural roof tiles for resort buildings.

Pelagian Wakatobi's dedicated dive yacht



The Pelagian dive yacht cruises to sites in the Tukang Besi archipelago beyond the scope of other dive operations. Guests enjoy an intimate atmosphere with the personalized service and exclusive amenities of a world-class motor yacht.

Pelagian's spacious salon is complemented by a refined dining area, modern media center and dedicated camera workroom, while several open and shaded deck areas offer additional space for privacy and relaxation. At 36 meters / 115 feet in length, but carrying a maximum of just ten guests, Pelagian offers more space per guest than any dive yacht of its kind.

Personal Attention

With just ten guests served by an experienced international crew of 12, including a master chef, Pelagian offers a setting that is upscale and intimate. The crew is able to provide each guest with appropriate attention, no matter if they are a first-time cruiser and snorkeler, or a seasoned dive traveler who appreciates value and excellence.

Dive Support

Pelagian is well suited for divers and snorkelers of all skill levels. Dives take place from custom-built, twin-engine tenders, providing comfortable and short rides to each site. The Dive Experience Managers and crew handle all logistics of equipment and cameras, and provide full in-water support. Additional technical diving support can also be arranged for guests.

Customized Itineraries

Cruise itineraries are built around guests' preferences, generally with four dives of up to 70 minutes, including night dives. Each is a rewarding experience – from the Mandarinfish at Magic Pier to the shrimp breeding grounds of Cheeky Beach at Pasar Wajo to the seamounts at Karang Kaledupa. For the best of both worlds, guests often combine a Pelagian cruise with a stay at Wakatobi Dive Resort.

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Pelagian Wakatobi's dedicated dive yacht



Pelagian Accommodations

All of Pelagian's cabins have been masterfully designed for comfort and aesthetics. Spacious floor plans, luxurious shower rooms and modern decor create a relaxing environment – the master suite provides all the comforts one would expect of an upscale hotel.

Master Suite

This beautiful master cabin spans the full width of the vessel occupying the entire bow on the main deck. Offering all the comforts of home it is the largest cabin available on any motoryacht that we know of. A king-size bed provides relaxing and restful sleep. A spacious lounge with a love seat become the perfect

place to watch videos on the HD flat-panel TV with Blu-ray DVD player, listen to music, read, or work on one's laptop—all in total privacy. The shower room is contemporary and features top of the line rainforest shower and vanity fittings.

Superlux Cabins

The Superlux cabins offer fresh, bright spa-like environments for guests. Both of these cabins feature a walk-around, queen-size bed and separate daybed. Hanging bedside tables, floor-to-ceiling wardrobes and large drawers under the beds offer guests ample space to store personal items. Adjustable, high-intensity reading lights hang from the headboards for convenient night-time reading.

Both of these cabins are located forward of the main salon and down a flight of stairs. They each have several portholes that let in ample daylight.

Deluxe Cabin

The perfect accommodation for a couple or two dive buddies looking for their own space. There are large cupboards and a small loveseat where one can sit, read, or work on a laptop.

Standard Cabin

This cabin is ideal for divers who tend to focus more on the boat's common areas and in-water activities rather than having the largest cabin onboard. The cabin features two single beds, with ample built-in storage.

"As usual, the standards on this boat never disappoint. The diving was breathtaking, the crew are simply awesome, the food and service on the Pelagian exceed expectations every time."

~ Simon Bowen and Kate Taylor, Jan 2023



The underwater environment



The islands of Wakatobi are blessed with unique underwater profiles that create exceptional diving experiences. Islands are flanked by fringing barrier reefs that drop to depths of 40 meters or more at distances of less than 100 meters from shore.

There are also a number of offshore reef plateaus and sea mounds in the region that rise from the depths to create additional isolated areas of shallow marine habitat.

Next-Level Experiences

Reef tops which often rise to within a meter of the surface transition abruptly to precipitous walls and steep slopes that may be riddled with ledges and crevices. This juxtaposition of depth and shallows creates unique opportunities for extended multi-level dive profiles that can stretch for more than 70 minutes with no staged decompression obligation.

It's Clear To See

Excellent water clarity allows divers to take in the full scope of the underwater terrain, while the intricate nature of the reefs creates habitat for a wide range of marine life, including numerous cryptic and rare species, while adjacent blue waters attract large schools of fish.

Great Diving Starts Here

Wakatobi is blessed with more than 50 mapped and named dive sites that fall within a short distance of the resort. The reefs around Wakatobi are actually continuous, so sites are just starting points on the reef chosen for a signature landmark or the marine life often encountered in the area.

What's in a Name

Each site at Wakatobi has its own story, and its own unique cast of characters. The coral-encrusted slope known as Zoo takes its name from the tremendous variety of macro subjects found in this area, while Fan Garden is named for the extensive groves of sea fans that cover the area's slopes and walls. Magnifica features a steep slope that explodes with life, and Spiral Corner is covered with intricately spiraling growths of wire coral that extend from this outcropping on the reef.

Rings, Roses and Knife Edges

Roma is identified by a fringing ring of potato coral that is said to resemble the Colosseum in Rome. It's also the location of a large, circular colony of turbinaria coral with sculpted leaf-like folds that look like giant rose flower. The famous site known as Blade is a tall, thin series of sea mounts set along a ridge rising from blue water depths. When seen in profile, this formation resembles the blade of a serrated knife complete with giant sponges, sea fans, corals and colorful crinoids sitting atop it all.

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The underwater environment



Guests who prefer to stay shallow or enjoy the relaxing freedoms of snorkeling also have access to vast areas of the Wakatobi marine reserve. What truly sets Wakatobi apart from other diving and snorkeling destinations is the abundance of sites where divers and snorkelers can share the underwater experience. Snorkelers often have the option of exploring shallow areas of the reef or hovering on the edge of walls and slopes, where clear waters let them watch divers below.

Shallow Water Paradise

Directly in front of the resort beach is the famous Wakatobi House Reef. It's been named the world's best shore dive and snorkeling experience. All guests need to do to experience the House Reef is wade in from the beach or walk to the ladder toward the end of the resort jetty. Here, they will find undulating seagrass meadows and shallow coral formations rich in marine life. A few fin kicks further, the shallows transition to steep slopes and a wall just 80 meters/230 feet from the shore.

Wakatobi is an especially attractive option for novice snorkelers, as they can progress at their own pace at a site that is monitored from shore. The same goes

for youngsters, who can hone their water skills in the company of parents or a personal guide. And because the site is also a favorite with divers, its underwater treasures can be shared by those who wear tanks and those who don't. When snorkelers are ready to venture farther from the resort, they are not shunted into a separate craft and sent to a separate shallow reef. Instead, snorkelers join divers aboard the resort's boats.

At a vast majority of Wakatobi dive sites, snorkelers have the option of exploring shallow areas of the reef or hovering on the edge of walls and slopes, where clear waters let them watch divers below.



Marine life



The islands of Wakatobi are surrounded by some of the most bio-diverse coral reefs on the planet. This region, known as the “coral triangle,” is home to more than 450 varieties of hard and soft corals, 3,000-plus species of fish and several thousand more types of invertebrate animals. With thousands of species living on Wakatobi’s protected reefs and shallows, divers, snorkelers and photographers have near-endless opportunities to seek out, observe and document the region’s rich diversity of life.

Lively at Every Level

Reef tops are covered in schools of multi-hued anthias, walls are patrolled by turtles, rays and bumphead parrotfish, while trevally, jacks and snappers congregate around pinnacles. Overhangs provide shelter for lobsters, eels and a host of nocturnal fish species that spend the daylight hours in the shadows. Giant barrel sponges hide tiny treasures like porcelain crabs, while sea fans are home to a menagerie of cryptic shrimp, wrasses, and seahorses.

Small Treasures

Wakatobi provides an ideal environment for pygmy seahorses to thrive, and it was only recently that this group of tiny creatures became known to science; most significantly, four of the seven known species are regularly seen in Wakatobi, and were discovered nearby in the past decade. Unlike their larger cousins, the pygmy seahorses live only on coral reefs, and in many cases on a single species of gorgonian sea fans, which are found in abundance on the reefs at Wakatobi.

The Pier Group

Diving and snorkeling around the resort jetty is an ideal way to find numerous varieties of colorful anemones and their attendant clownfish. A closer look along the upper lip of the drop off at the far end of the pier will reveal stonefish, moray eels, blue-spotted stingrays, crocodilefish, cuttlefish, ghost pipefish, jawfish, shrimp and goby pairs, and more.

See It in the Sea Grass

The vast seagrass meadows surrounding Wakatobi provide hours of marine life viewing. Cuttlefish and squid patrol singly or in roving packs. Closer looks may reveal a juvenile eel slithering among the stalks or a young, blue-spotted stingray hovering close to the bottom. Octopus lurk in the meadows, but it can take a keen eye to discover these masters of camouflage. Even closer looks reveal a whole new level of life, with shrimp and crabs moving about, while colorful nudibranchs make their slow, slithering way across the seabed. A closer look at what at first may seem like a random bit of debris might reveal a pipefish or seahorse.

Milestones



2023

Wakatobi breaks ground on a new Villa complex that will become a self-contained enclave offering dedicated private boats and a range of exclusive services.

2022

Wakatobi reopens and is soon operating at full capacity. Guests report that the reefs are in superb condition.

2021

During closure Wakatobi engages in a series of upgrades to the resort property and dive boats. Local staff remain onboard and funding reef protection efforts provides additional revenue to the local community.

2020

COVID-19 travel restrictions result in a resort closure. Management continues to fund reef protection efforts and retains staff members to provide much-needed revenue to the local community.

2017

Wakatobi hosts its first Kid's Sea Camp family event. Construction began on the resort's first custom private boat.

2016

The Private Boat program is launched. The open-air dining areas of the restaurant are expanded. A kiteboarding program and on-site kiting school are established.

2014

Wakatobi increases the frequency of the charter flight operations from 5-6 times a month to twice a week.

2012

The Wakatobi National Marine Park area is designated a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve and recognized as one of the most bio-diverse marine ecosystems on earth.

2009

Wakatobi introduces two Privilege Services upgrades that allow guests an even higher level of individual attention and luxury.

2008

Full rebreather and technical diving support are implemented, and overall guest services further enhanced with a range of special services.

2007

The resort's move towards "barefoot luxury" brings upgrades to all accommodation levels. Two additional waterfront Villas are added, and four Bungalows are converted and enlarged into Select Bungalows. A separate Spa is constructed to the north of the Longhouse.

2006

Two premium Villas are completed and a new purpose-built restaurant with open air seating is opened.

2005

The Longhouse is converted into a Dive Center and other common guest facilities such as a library and bar, boutique and souvenir shop and multimedia room. A Jetty Bar is added at the end of the pier, additional accommodations are finished to accommodate 44 guests. The dive boat fleet expands to four large dive boats that are able to reach more distant dive sites.

Milestones



2004

Resort capacity increases to 34 guests with the addition of Beach Bungalows.

2003

A culinary team from a Bali five-star hotel is hired to elevate the resort dining experience.

2002

The Wakatobi National Park is created with a total area of 1,390,000 hectares.

2001

Wakatobi Maranggo Runway, which is believed to be the largest hotel-owned airstrip in Asia, is opened. Aircraft can now transport guests directly from Bali in under three hours, linking the resort to the world.

1998

The resort's first custom-built transfer boat is commissioned to ferry guests from the nearest airport in Kendari. This cuts transfers, but travel times are still more than a full day from Bali. The protected zone is extended to encompass more than 20km of coral reefs, generating immediate economic benefits to the community and further emphasizing the long-term value of these reefs.

1997

Wakatobi's privately-managed Collaborative Reef Conservation Program is created as a pilot project.

1996

Despite the challenging logistics of travel, Wakatobi attracts a growing number of dedicated diving enthusiasts.

1995

Construction begins on the resort's first building, the Longhouse, which has a capacity of 12 guests.

1994

After years of searching for the perfect location for a dive resort, Wakatobi founder Lorenz Mäder finds Onemobaa Island.

