

CRITTER WORKSHOP

Rare nudibranchs and other weird creatures
Date 14 – 25 October 2017

MEET THE CRITTERS

They shoot cannons, produce their own energy, are deadly toxic, camouflage like a chameleon, are stealthy like a Ninja or have other unique special effects: North Sulawesi is home to some of the most cryptic and bizarre animals the deep blue part of our planet has to offer. They lead fascinating and secretive lives. And in this workshop you'll learn more about them and how to find some of the weirdest ones by yourself.



Doto ussi... once you understand its way of life, you'll find this pearly-looking beauty very easily

WORKSHOP

Celebes Divers proudly presents a unique underwater workshop: Under the direction of Angela V. Loetscher, owner of ae'kai.ch, underwater photographer, dive reporter, author of marine animal articles and critter expert, you'll be meeting the weird critters of North Sulawesi. Smack in the middle of the coral triangle, finding amazing critters that are on a wish list of many macro-lovers is guaranteed. But what makes these animals so special and how can they be found? Angela's experience and meticulous and tiresome research has produced some impressive knowledge. During the workshop the participants will learn fascinating things about some of the most cryptic animals and will get some valuable tips on how to find them.

North Sulawesi is known as macro central and a true critter treasure trove. Divers will find the best conditions to find some of the weirdest critters the sea has to offer along the Manado coast – and with great visibility, especially for muck diving. **Goal of the workshop** will be to introduce the participants to the local marine biodiversity and to give hints on how to find the critters by themselves. At the same time, the better behavioral understanding will lead to better photography, a more relaxed time spent with the animals and a more sustainable human-animal interaction.

Program

Most of the diving will be done along the Manado Coast with some of the dives done in the Bunaken National Park. During 8 days, the participants will be introduced to several special marine inhabitants (shrimps, crabs, nudibranchs, slugs, octopus, frog- and other fish). They will learn about unique behavior, habits, lifestyle, feeding behavior, habitats, etc. and get direct tips on how to find them. During the dives, special critters we will be targeted, meaning the group will explicitly look for animals discussed ahead (animal, unique information, habitat, how to find it). All finds will be discussed with the help of photographs taken during the dive – also some critters that haven't been discussed ahead – and yet more information will be given.

„The best way to observe a fish is to become a fish.“ – Jacques Yves Cousteau



Emperor Shrimp – a guaranteed sighting



Phyllodesmium pinnatum – just one example of a critter with special effects (head to the right)

BOOKING

Celebes Divers, Mapia Resort

Jl. Raya Tanawangko
Kalasey I - Dusun II
Kec. Pineleng - Kab. Minahasa
Manado - Sulut 95361
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REGISTRATION DEADLINE

31 May 2017

After dinner, the participants will sit together and look at a choice of pictures of the day taken by them on the large screen and any questions will be answered, experiences can be exchanged. At the same time the participants will have the chance to take notes in the workshop logbook (print or digital) provided by Celebes Divers as well as insert their own pictures.

Have critters been found that haven't been discussed before, Angela will give valuable tips for identifying them with the help of books. What does one look for when identifying critters, what if it's a crab, a shrimp or a nudibranch? This and more will be conveyed during the workshop.

Minimal requirements / Material / Notes

The resort has a limited amount of reference books available. The participants are invited to bring their own reference books to the workshop, as the local diversity of animals will guarantee they will be put to good use.

Some of the critters live at depths exceeding 18 meters which is why a minimum certification of OWD plus Deep Diver or AOWD will be a minimum requirement for participating.

All participants must have a diving stick for all dives. Sticks can also be bought at the resort's shop.

Wearing any kind of gloves is prohibited. No exceptions.

Respect the critters. There will be a 5-picture-per-diver-limit for any animal with eyes as they are sensitive and might be damaged through excessive use of flash.

Language

The workshop will be held in German (if exclusively German-speaking participants) or English, but Angela can also provide additional explanations in Italian or French.

COSTS

Included

11 nights (bungalow), double occupancy, full board, free WiFi, free water, transfers from/to Manado airport

Up to 4 dives per day (incl. boat dives)¹

Workshop fee

€ 1'545. –

Extras

Flight, drinks, excursions, dive courses (Deep Diver, AOWD), dive gear rental, stick (can be bought at the resort shop), dive insurance (responsibility of the participant, will have to be shown at the resort)

¹ For the duration of the workshop. No postponement or refund in case the participant makes less dives than the amount offered here during the workshop. Reduced fees have been applied to create this package.