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Pulau Weh, Aceh, Indonesia
Diving in Pulau Weh

The diving
Bored with rigid schedules, busy dive boats and crowded resorts. Looking to kick back in a hammock on a deserted beach and have spectacular diving at your doorstep? Pulau Weh is the place for you. Located an hour north of Banda Aceh on the Northern tip of Sumatra, this special location has an end-of-the-world feel to it. Indeed, 20 minutes drive past your resort you'll find Kilometre Zero, the westernmost point of Indonesia from which the government measures distances.

With steep underwater drop-offs and both oceanic and local currents converging, this is a location where interactions with big stuff such as mantas and larger sharks are a distinct possibility. On every dive expect to see reef sharks, turtles and rays cruising the dramatic moray eel-infested underwater topography. In addition, the beach dive in front of the dive shop is gaining a deserved reputation for critter diving, with ghost pipefish, waspfish and even mimic octopus being regularly found. Boat dives are single dives and the house reef can be dived anytime...

Area name / Island name
Pulau Weh, Aceh, Indonesia

Nearest airport
Banda Aceh, Aceh

Season
The Pulau Weh dive season runs all year round
Manta season March-May
and September-December
Wet season November - January

Center type
PADI /CMAS
Friendly and experienced
Dutch owned

Experience level
PADI Open water diver or equivalent. Beach dive suitable for all. Some boat dive sites are for experienced divers only. Daily dive sites will be chosen based on diver experience

Minimum age for participation
10 Years

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Location
Pulau Weh is located north of the northern end of Sumatra, an hour by ferry from Banda Aceh. It is a mountainous, verdant island with waterfalls, caves and villages to be explored. Gapang Beach is located on the NE shore of the northern peninsular and is the definition of quiet. No bars, no clubs... just a diveshop, a few locally run bungalows and a couple of basic restaurants.

Your resort in Pulau Weh.
You'll be both diving and staying at the best-known and most respected operator on Pulau Weh. With over 12 years of experience in these waters these are the guys to dive with! Behind the dive shop they have created a 20 room boutique-style resort designed for leisurely contemplation rather than frenetic activity.

Your room
Upgraded room with double or twin bed, hot water, fan, bathroom with shower (or bath) & toilet, pantry, large veranda and just a few meters to the atmospheric dive center. The rooms are exactly what you want upgraded accommodation to be; Light, very spacious and with lots of soul!

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away to sea

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This is only a selection of the many dive sites represented on this particular destination. The diving is dictated by the safeness of the environment.

Batee Tokong Pulau Weh's flagship site is a pinnacle that allows a diver to be as exposed or sheltered as he/she likes. Beginners can drop on the lee-side and enjoy being in fish soup seeing more morays than they thought possible. Meanwhile more advanced divers can drop on the current-side and observe the Giant Trevally and Black Tips cruising the streams... or even drop blue on the NE ridge named Shark Plateau where you work hard for your reward of possible Grey Reefs, Mobula and barracuda. All guided by local DMs with years of experience of reading current and conditions.

Pantee Peunateung Located on the western side of Pulau Weh on the exposed Indian Ocean coast, this site is condition-reliant but should not be missed if it's possible. Peunateung is the local Acehnese word for rice terraces and this is reflected in the terrace-like topography. With walls dropping to over 100m and 1km deep water only 800m out to sea, this is the site that has the best record for encounters with true pelagics: marlin, mola mola, thresher sharks and hammerheads have all been here. More regular visitors include schooling barracuda and trevally, napoleon wrasse and leopard sharks. An advanced dive for those who like a bit of action and a chance of the unexpected.

Gapang Beach Right in front of the diveshop is a great dive site for all levels. Whether you're a beginner still finding your way or a 1000 dive photographer looking for something new, you won't be disappointed. With a resident turtle, clear blue water and soft white sand for practicing your buoyancy skills for the learner, the experienced diver with the aid of the hawk-eyed DM's can find all manner of funky stuff, including ghost pipefish, frogfish, mantis shrimp and even the odd mimic octopus. All a 40m swim from the diveshop; no need to book or plan... just grab your weights, a tank and a buddy and see you in up to 90 minutes! Record time set by a photographer? 115 minutes! And as for the nightdive? Superb!

Conditions:

Visibility
10-40m

Temperature
Variable by tropical standards: 28-29C with thermoclines down to 25C not uncommon

Current
Site-dependent: beach none
Boat sites: variable

Surface
25-35C; Pulau Weh is in the Indian Ocean; surface conditions can be choppy and windy

Special marinelife
Chance to see mantas, mola mola, hammerheads. Smaller sharks, turtles, mobula common. Critters and turtles at the beach.

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Diving in Pulau Weh

Itinerary
On the day of arrival you will be shown your bungalow and given an orientation of the dive shop and of the diving or courses you will be doing. On diving days 2 boat dives will be conducted and the day can be finished off with a late afternoon dive on the house reef from the beach. For an extra fee this can be done as a night dive. Between dives you'll most likely be hanging out at the atmospheric dive center. There will be no refund on dives not used. Check out time is matched with your ferry going back to Banda Ache on the mainland.

Dive Package 1: Fundiving Pulau Weh
4 days / 3 nights
The short option with 4 dives spread out on 2 days of diving, 2 travel days and 3 nights of accommodation, the dive sites will vary depending on weather and experience level. On Friday mornings there is no diving, the diving will be conducted on the afternoon.

Dive package 2: Fundiving Pulau Weh Extended
6 days / 5 nights
The longer option with 8 dives spread out on 4 days of diving and 5 nights of accommodation, the dive sites will vary depending on weather and experience level. On Friday mornings there is no diving, the diving will be conducted on the afternoon.e.

If you want a longer itinerary, you can add extra days of diving and accommodation upon booking.

Please note
Due to ocean and weather conditions, the itinerary can be subject to change.

Activity starts
9am in the dive shop

Activity starts from
Dive center, few meters from your bungalow

Group Size
Max. 12 on the boats
Small groups under water
max 4 divers per diveguide

Language
English

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Diving in Pulau Weh

Step 1 - Get to the harbour in Banda Ache
Book a flight to Banda Ache in Northern Sumatra.
When you arrive, take a taxi from the airport to the ferry harbour Ulee Lhue.

Step 2 - Take ferry from mainland Sumatra to Pulau Weh
On Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday you have the option to connect to the car/passenger ferry at 14:00.
Or you can wait for the fast ferry Express Bahari, which is leaving at 16:00 daily -except on Fridays it leaves at 16:30.
On Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday the car/passenger ferry does 2 trips at 11:00 and 16:00.

Step 3 - Get a ride to Gapang Beach
When you arrive in Balohan, the harbour on Pulau Weh, there are many cars and minibuses waiting for passengers. Following a rotating schedule, there is a designated minibus (and/or taxi) to go to the Gapang & Iboih beaches.

For taxis count on a minimum of Rp 150.000-200.000 or if shared with others 50.000 per person - for a car to take you directly to the dive center on Gapang Beach. In a minibus it's also Rp 50.000 per person, when negotiating hard Rp 40.000. It is a 40 minutes drive over spectacular scenic roads with monkeys sitting along the road.

Step 4 - Backtrack
For the way back, there is daily transport leaving Gapang Beach at 7 AM, which gives enough spare time to catch the morning fast ferry at 8:00 or the bigger car/passenger ferry.

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away to sea

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Prices below are based on 2 persons sharing accommodation, unless stated otherwise.

FUNDIVING EXTENDED	
Days / Nights	6/5
Amount of dives	8
Price (incl. accommodation)	428 EUR

Supplements	
EFR course + 1 night accom.	150 EUR
Extra 2 dives (reef dives)	81 EUR
Extra night (after)	22 EUR
Extra night (before)	22 EUR
Refresher dive (added to 1st dive)	50 EUR

Prices for supplementary accommodation are based on 2 persons sharing accommodation, unless stated otherwise.

Supplements
A supplement can be chosen to add on your package. All supplements can also be booked on site. In high season, bungalows and boats get filled fast - you might find trouble getting an extra night in your resort or an extra day of diving. If you are booking a course, it is recommended to book an extra night of accommodation prior your course, to get settled and get up front on the studying

Included
Diving as stated in package
All dive equipment
Dive guide or instructor
Boat, mineral water on the boat
Accommodation
Free internet

Not included
Meals & drinks not included
Transfers not included

Also available on site
Extra Accommodation if available
Extra days of diving if available

Continuing education
Continuing courses & Specialties available

Cancellation
Terms on voucher

Dive insurance
Basic dive travel insurance required

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General terms and conditions

GENERAL CONDITIONS

CHANGES OF BOOKINGS:
You can change your booking request or start date free of charge.
If you need to change your booking you must contact the **dive center** directly by e-mail or phone. You will find the contact details on your voucher. For verification purpose, please remember to mention your name and booking ID.

If you want to change your start date, we recommend that you do so minimum 10 days before the beginning of your dive package. Later than this, might cause the accommodation to be fully booked for alternative dates. During high seasons, 10 days might not be sufficient time, please allow extra time for changes in the high season. As a reminder, you will receive an email with general information and contact information of your dive center 10 days prior to your start date.

CANCELLATION RULES:
Any customer has the right to cancel their booking with Blue Venture Diving. In order to do so, you must contact your selling agent. The cancellation fees and rules of your selling agent will apply for your cancellation.

Blue Venture is not liable for any cancellations done by the customer of personal reason such as/or in the same category as sickness, family, missed flights etc, or other circumstances that is beyond reasonable control such as force majeure.

Blue Venture booking cancellation
In the unlikely event that Blue Venture is forced to cancel a booking, the customer will get direct notice. A cancellation will only happen if Blue Venture finds that the contracted dive center can't perform the needed service of the booked package or if the dive standards can't be fulfilled accordingly. Minor changes in the itinerary will not be defined as a valid cancellation reason, as diving is dictated by the environment and the people enrolled in the activity.
Blue Venture will always do their best to find another operator of same or higher standard, but it is up to the customer to decide whether they want to accept the change or get a refund.

INSURANCE:
A cancellation insurance is not included. It is highly advised recommended that you obtain adequate travel insurance prior to your departure from your home country.

REFUNDS:
Medical Statement
To enroll in an Open Water Course, all students MUST fill in the Medical Statement. Please ensure that you have received the medical statement from your travel agent. If any questions are replied with a "Yes", the medical statement must be signed by a doctor. Failing the medical statement at the destination, and therefore not being able to enroll in the diving course, you will not be entitled to a refund.

If you have not received your Medical Statement, please make sure to print it from this link.
https://blueventure.net/files/information/12.pdf

Restricted dives
Diving is dictated by the environment and the people enrolled in the activity. All diving is performance based. It is up to the discretion of the dive guide/instructor to restrict divers from entering activities that goes beyond their experience level. All guides strive to reach the expectations of the customers. However, if they find that the safety of the group or an individual is jeopardized or at risk by one or several individuals, it is up to the dive guide/instructor to restrict any divers from entering the water.
In this event the dive center or Blue Venture is not obliged to give a refund.

Dives not completed
There is no refund for dives not carried out.
Refund for dives not done for any reason is up to the discretion of the dive center. Most dive centers do not give refunds for dives not done with personal causes such as seasickness, low on air situations or a failure in mastering the equipment etc. All log books will be checked prior to the dive and the dive sites will be chosen accordingly to the experience level. It is however expected that certified divers keep within their limits and do not cross their comfort zone. Blue Venture and your travel agent is never responsible to pay a refund for dives not done.

Courses not completed
There is no refund for courses not completed! All courses are performance based, but it is up to the instructor to pass the student. If a customer can not complete a course with success they will receive their course documents for an optional referral, but the contracted dive center, your travel agent and Blue Venture is not responsible to pay a refund.

Boats or dives not departing
If boats or dives are cancelled due to bad weather or sea conditions, it is up to the dive center to re-schedule and compensate with a similar dive trip when conditions allow. If the customer does not have adequate time to enroll in another trip/course it is up to the customer to make sure the dive center notify Blue Venture of this in order to secure a refund via the sales agent who completed the sale with the customer. There will only be refund on the diving and not the accommodation.

ACCOMMODATION:
Unless mentioned in the destination information folder the accommodation is always part of the package.
If the dive center by any means can't deliver the agreed accommodation, it is up to their discretion to supply immediate accommodation of the same or higher standard. (the destination information folder is found on the Blue Venture website.)
If the accommodation somehow does not live up to satisfactory standards of the customer, the customer must contact Blue Venture by phone or email as soon as possible (preferably while still on site) in order to solve the problem.

DIVE INSTRUCTORS & DIVE GUIDES:
All contracted dive centers has been handpicked based on their level of professionalism and expertise. Blue Venture ensures that all guides and instructors have the correct education and experience. In the unlikely event that a customer suffers a bad experience with any guide, instructor or dive center facilities, Blue Venture is entitled to know, but can't by any means be held liable.
At the end of you dive experience as questionnaire will be sent out to you, that we would like you to answer. By doing this, you help securing a high level of professionalism towards all customers.

MEDICAL STATEMENT & LOGBOOK:
If you are about to enroll in a dive course (entry level only), you must fill out the RSTC Medical Statement before you leave your home country. Please make sure your agent has provided you with the RSTC Medical Statement. You can also print the medical statement from the link, further up on this page. If you need the medical statement reviewed by a doctor, you have 10 days from the date of the booking with the option of cancelling for free.
If you are already certified as a diver and about to go fundiving, you must remember your current dive certificate and your personal logbook or dive computer.