

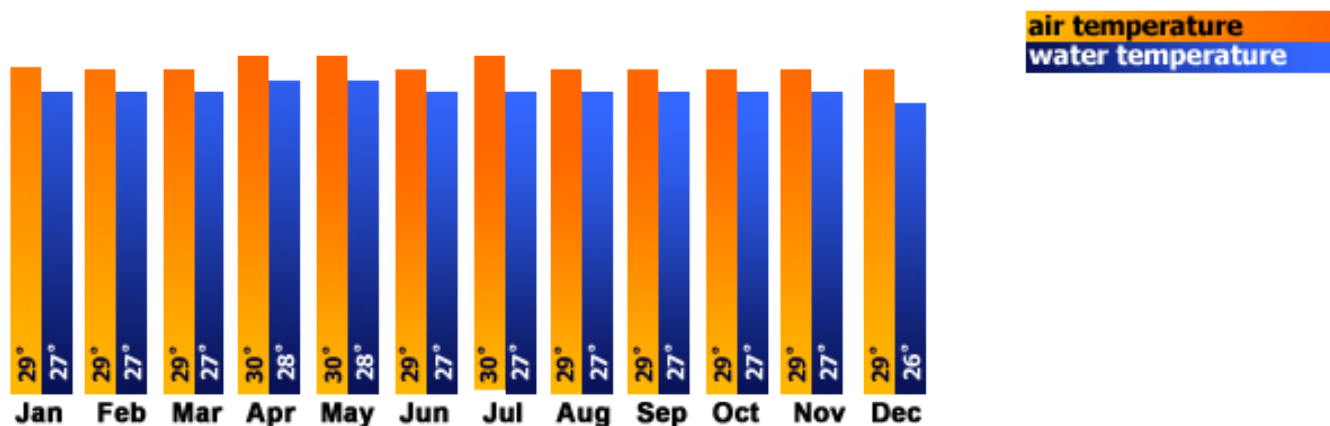
**Location:** Indonesia is the largest archipelago in the world that straddles the Equator between the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean. With 18,110 islands, 6,000 of them inhabited. With well over 230 million people, Indonesia is the fourth most populous country in the world after China, India and the USA.

**Languages:** Bahasa Indonesia is the official national language. Altogether, there are an estimated 583 languages and dialects spoken in the archipelago. The older generation still speaks Dutch as a second language. English is widely spoken in tourist areas.

**Religion:** There is a Muslim majority of approximately 90%, with Christian, Hindu (mainly in Bali) and Buddhist minorities. During Islamic events such as the months of Ramadan (please contact us to find out when this will be happening) shop hours are shorter and some hotel facilities or excursions may be limited or unavailable. Please respect local customs and dress appropriately.

**Time:** GMT + 7 (West) in Sumatra, Java and Western Borneo; GMT + 8 (Central) in Sulawesi, Lesser Sunda Islands, Bali and Eastern Borneo; GMT + 9 (East) in Papua and Maluku.

**Weather & Water Temperature:** Tropical climate varying from area to area. The eastern monsoon brings the driest weather (June to September), while the western monsoon brings the main rains (December to March). Rainstorms occur all year. Higher regions are cooler. Air Temperature is generally around 30°C during the day and cooler in the evenings. Water temperature is around 26°C-28°C. We recommend a full body 5mm dive suit, especially for divers making several dives in the day.



**Electricity:** 220/250 volts AC, 50Hz but 110 volts is still used in some areas. Plugs used are European-style with two circular metal pins. We highly recommend that you take a surge adaptor with you if using expensive and valuable appliances. If you have a specific electrical requirement please contact one of the Scuba Team who can discuss this with you and advise you accordingly.

**Currency:** Indonesian currency is the Rupiah. US \$'s and credit cards are widely accepted as well as travellers cheques.

**Tipping:** Tips are welcome for any help given. If you are unsure what to give please do hesitate to speak with the local dive guide or contact us.

**Visas:** UK passport holder will be required to obtain a 30 day visa on arrival for approx. US \$25 per person. Non UK passport holders can contact the Indonesian embassy on +44 (0)207 499 7661. Visitors who exceed their 30-day stay will be fined US\$20 per day. Visitors staying longer than 60 days risk large fines and may face deportation or imprisonment.

**Food & Drink:** The biggest form of health problems with divers and tourists alike is being dehydrated. Please drink plenty of water before and after a dive as well as throughout the day. We also advise that you don't drink the local water and only drink bottle water and wash all fruit beforehand.

**Foreign & Commonwealth Office Travel Advice:** For up to date advice on foreign travel please visit <http://www.fco.gov.uk>.

**Health & Vaccinations:** Requirements vary from country to country, your own GP is the best person to speak to regarding relevant requirements. Make your GP aware that you will be scuba diving, as some medication is not recommended for Scuba divers.

**Clothing:** Warmer clothes are needed for cool evenings and upland areas. It is regarded inappropriate to wear brief clothes anywhere other than the beach or at tourist areas. Women should observe the dress code in Muslim areas that requires shoulders and legs to be kept covered. Towels are provided in the rooms / cabins but we recommend you pack a beach towel for after diving. Shoes are not worn on any liveboards or any of the island resorts. More importantly take lots of sunscreen, a hat and sunglasses as the weather is nearly always sunny.

**Passports:** Passports must be valid for at least 6 months on your return to the UK.

*Please note that although we maintain and revise this information frequently, the information contained within these documents is subject to change without notice. Please check with one of our travel consultants for the latest information.*