

BOHOL PHILIPPINES

DIVING ATTRACTIONS

BALICASAG ISLAND

Balicasag is located about 30 minutes by boat to the south of Panglao from Alona beach. It has an area of only about 25 hectares surrounded by a magnificent white sand beach. Around the island, one will find some excellent dive locations, as the south side of the island is a protected marine sanctuary.

Black forest

The black forest is an advanced dive, which begins from a steep sandy slope that extends to a depth of 40 metres. It is a very nice dive site with black coral bushes, large groupers, a solitary Napoleon and large schools of mackerels or barracudas depending on the time of day.

Balicasag Marine Sanctuary

The marine sanctuary covers an area of about 400 metres located on the south side of Balicasag Island. It is a steep wall where schools of jackfish and groupers accompany you on your dive.

Diver's Heaven

The dive site is a steep slope dive suited for mostly drift dives. Attractions in the site include an excellent cave in the northwest, very nice coral, sea turtles, sharks and Napoleon wrasse.

Rico's Rock

It is located six kilometers southwest of Balicasag Island and is reached by a 45-minute banca ride from Alona Beach. The wall has excellent coral formation that includes both a garden on a shelf at 7 metres to 11 metres and a wall that drops to 35 metres. A plethora of macro life including nudibranchs, sea stars, crinoids, hydroids, clownfish can be found in the garden while morays, sea fans, jacks and snappers can be seen along the wall.

Rudy's Rock

Rudy's Rock is located very close to Rico's Wall about six kilometers from Balicasag Island. Divers here have the opportunity to come across large green turtles and shoals of big eye trevallies that frequent this site.

Cathedral

The Cathedral is a wall dive with a depth of 45 metres, with big overhangs, ledges and gaps. Inside the cave, the light reflection is stunning with yellow bucket sponges and colorful sea fans along the overhangs. Barracudas, sergeant fish, pyramid butterfly fish and angelfish are among the species found close to the walls.

CABILAO ISLAND

Cabilao Island lies in the Cebu Strait with only two resorts and two dive operators on the island. The dive sites around the island are best suited for night dives to spot special creatures such as Pegasus and seahorses.

Lighthouse

The Lighthouse is one exhilarating dive due to the number of attractions it offers. The dive starts off from a wall down to 25 metres then plateaus at 30 metres. There are strong currents for thrill seekers. There are numerous species including hammerheads and white-tipped reefsharks in the winter and barracudas and jackfish schools in the shallower areas. Night dives should also be done to observe some devilfish, stonefish and even huge mantis shrimp.

Cambakis Point

This is a very nice dive just in front of the village starting off as a wall down to 30 metres with a small cave. There are sandy parts between the reefs where double-ended fish and ornate pipefish can be spotted.

South point

South point is a steep wall covered with hard and soft corals and many sponges with large table corals at the reef top. This dive point is blessed with a really beautiful and picturesque landscape.

Mangrove dive

This is another site to observe a huge variety of interesting animals, including special nudibranchs, a brown sea snake, dragonets and chitons.

PANGLAO ISLAND

The island is a small coralline and limestone island located southwest of Bohol with most divers using the white-sand Alona Beach as their diving base. The northern and western sections of this reef are not noteworthy with a reef platform that is relatively narrow and shallow.

Alona Beach Sanctuary

This dive site lies 5 min. by boat from Alona beach and is a shallow dive on a wall with plenty vertical cuts. Anemones and multicolored corals are home to small fish, scorpionfishes, frogfishes, nudibranches and the occasional seasnake.

Kalipayan

Kalipayan is a shallow dive on a wall, some sandy areas with attractive corals, groups of batfishes, lionfish and an excellent assortment of nudibranches. One should keep an eye out for ghostpipefish and stonefish in the deeper parts of the reef.

Bohol Beach Club

The site is a shallow dive on a wall with a sandy bottom. There is a small cave complete of cardinalfish, frogfish, flatworms and nudibranches. At the entrance to the cave, there are as much as four moray eels and snake eels.

Doljo Beach

This site is visited during strong southwest wind because it is more sheltered. If you jump in at the right place, this is a great dive. Start the dive with the wall on the left shoulder, going west where many giant sea fans, bucket sponges, elephant ear coral and green leather corals as well as angelfish can be spotted. Watch the blue water for mackerel and squid or young barracudas then go up relatively quickly to the reef top and around 15 to 10 m there are yellowish-green sponges.

Napaling

This is another steep wall dive with cathedral virgin corals and is perfect for shallow water photography. There are huge gorgonian fans and black coral growing with schools of barracudas or jackfish. On the edge of the reef there are table corals with a lot of small fish, moray eels and seakraits.

Puntod

The site is 30 min. by boat from Alona beach with a steep wall encompassed by gorgonians and soft coral. Divers can spot schools of mackerels, squids sometimes even seasnakes.

PAMILACAN ISLAND

Pamilacan Island is now more popularly known for its whaleshark and dolphin watching when the World Wide Fund (WWF) introduced the Whale Watching Integrated Village Development Program.

Pamilacan

This is a great drift dive, which starts with the slope on the right shoulder heading down to 25 metres. The reef slope is home to numerous hard, soft corals and even rare coral strings. Delicate sea whips, Napoleon wrasse, barracuda schools and batfish are seen occasionally.

Snake Island

Located about 40 minutes by boat from Alona beach, this site is home to some strong currents and gets its name from the numerous banded sea snakes around. There is a sunken plateau about 18m deep, lying in the south of Pamilacan, covered with corals. Attractions include seasnakes and if you are lucky even a thresher shark on the edge of the plateau.