



PHILIPPINES
VS
TAHITI

Diving with giants

Image: Greg Lecoeur



Image: Tahiti Private Expeditions

WHALE SHARKS, PHILIPPINES

Away from the chaos of the Philippines' main dive spots in Oslob are the protected reefs of Tubbataha. With over 97 hectares of stunning underwater sanctuary to explore, dive beneath the ocean's surface and experience the majestic world that lies below. Named a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1992, the diversity of the marine life will astound you. Perhaps one of the most incredible creatures you'll come across are the whale sharks. These gentle giants are one of the largest fish species in the ocean. Given their exclusive diet of plankton, these spotted behemoths pose no risk to humans and are more than happy to share their watery home with us. Swimming side-by-side with these docile beings is a once in a lifetime opportunity you won't forget anytime soon.

seadoors-liveaboard.com

HUMPBACK WHALES, TAHITI

Hanging out in the depths of the warm Tahitian waters are one of the most magnificent sea creatures, the mighty humpback whale. These calm beasts can reach up to 16 metres in length and weigh almost 30 metric tons – they are definitely not considered one of the smaller whale species. Not unlike the whale sharks of the Philippines, the humpbacks survive on a diet of krill and other small fish and are unlikely to harm humans. Their inherently curious nature means it's not unusual for them to come close to investigate any loitering whale watching boats. Peak season for whale watching is anywhere from June through to October. When out on the water you will be guided by professionally trained divers and swimmers who will ensure that both you and the whales are safe during your trip.

tahiti-private-expeditions.com

INDONESIA **VS** SOLOMON ISLANDS Rock the boat

SEQUOIA YACHT, INDONESIA

Climb aboard this magnificent ship and sail off into Raja Ampat's sunset. The newly constructed 26-metre eco-friendly yacht, named Sequoia after the ancient tree, is a contemporary take on a traditional wooden yacht. Custom-made amenities and features invite guests into this state-of-the-art vessel, which includes three spacious bedrooms, each with a private bathroom, a sky deck for movies under the stars as well as a gourmet kitchen. But life isn't all about what's on deck. On this private charter, you'll be able to snorkel, paddleboard, tube, kayak, water ski and more. This luxury trip is all inclusive, including transportation, laundry, all food and drink, and activities.

coraltrianglesafaris.com

SOLOMON ISLANDS DISCOVERY CRUISE, SOLOMON ISLANDS

With eight days and seven nights aboard the MV Taka, you'll see more of the Solomon Islands than you ever thought possible. Depart from Honiara on the first day and you'll spend the next week surrounded by more culture and history than you could ever imagine. With cultural immersion a key part of your journey, you'll interact with locals of all ages and backgrounds during village and school visits. While onboard you'll have the opportunity to take a step back in time to the Pacific front of World War II, and explore shipwrecks and other significant sites. It's not all about education though, there will be plenty of time for relaxation, snorkelling and paddleboarding among other activities. What's more, when not on cruise with Solomon Island Discovery Cruises, the ship is available for private hire. Count us in.

sidcruises.com.au



Image: Coral Triangle Safaris

CAMBODIA **VS** COOK ISLANDS Piss up



CEREVISIA CRAFT BREWHOUSE, CAMBODIA

Built from the ground up by its owners, Cerevisia Craft Brewhouse is a testament to hard work and a love of tasty beer. The desire to spread the delicious beverage to local Cambodians spawned the idea that would result in this brewery. The aromatic beers are finished with enticing flavours that make locals and travellers alike say "maybe just one more". From the success of the brewery spawned two tap rooms and over 20 restaurants that feature Cerevisia beer on their drinks menu. One of the two taprooms, Botanico Wine and Beer Garden, has cemented its place in the community offering live music, exceptional food and trivia nights and the chance to have a couple of irresistible brews.

cerevisiacraftbrewery.com

RAROTONGA BREWERY, COOK ISLANDS

Rarotonga Brewery in the Cook Islands is locally owned and adored. The goal of this brewery is to create a consistently delicious beer that can be appreciated by locals and visitors alike. There's nothing quite as refreshing on balmy, tropical nights as a crisp, cold lager. The drink can be found in several restaurants and establishments across the Cook Islands so while you're visiting it shouldn't be too hard to get your hands on one. Like many other breweries, Rarotonga Brewery aim to be as environmentally minded as possible, using kegs and flagons to avoid products ending up in landfill. If you find yourself on Rarotonga be sure to stop by the brewery and have a look for yourself.

rarotongabrewery.com