

## Mabul & Kapalai

Situated just 25 minutes from Sipadan, Mabul is another gem in the Sulawesi Sea. However, the seascape in Mabul is starkly different, yet equally stunning. A diversity of tiny marine life makes Mabul a great site for macro and muck-diving. Blue-ringed octopus, mandarin fish, lionfish, frogfish, moray eels and spike-fin gobies are definite show-stealers in the relatively-shallow waters. Mabul is slightly larger than Sipadan and has several resorts as well as a local village.

Kapalai is another great location for muck-lovers. In fact, this little island is rated by many diving journalists as one of the best macro-diving destinations in the world. Mandarin valley, Gurnard Ground and Stingray City are enchanting sites with a prolific marine life.

Just like Sipadan, the jumping-off point to Mabul and Kapalai is Semporna. The boat ride takes about 45 minutes. Semporna is about an hour's drive from Tawau airport. There are regular air services connecting Tawau and Kota Kinabalu. [Transfers can be arranged with us.](#)

---

## Sipadan

Sipadan is an internationally famous dive site surrounded by the Sulawesi Sea. The geographic position of Sipadan at the Indo-Pacific Basin (the centre of the richest marine habitat in the world) makes it a paradise for divers. The seascape is decorated with huge gorgonian sea fans, barrel sponges and gigantic soft tree corals. Steep walls form a stunning

backdrop while pelagic species such as sharks and turtles swim gracefully.

Further away, the Turtle Cavern contains skeletons of turtles that were lost in the tunnels. At Barracuda Point, divers can have exciting encounters with schools of barracuda. To preserve the delicate ecosystem, accommodation is only provided at the neighbouring islands of Mabul and Kapalai. Tours must be pre-arranged.

The nearest airport to Sipadan is Tawau. From Tawau, take an hour's drive to Semporna before proceeding with a 40-minute speedboat ride to the island.

---