

CRITTER WORKSHOP

Rare nudibranchs and other weird creatures and how to find them

Date: 29 September – 10 October 2018

MEET THE CRITTERS

They shoot cannons, produce their own energy, are deadly toxic, camouflage like a chameleon, are stealthy like a Ninja or have other unique special effects:

North Sulawesi is home to some of the most cryptic and bizarre animals the deep blue part of our planet has to offer. They lead fascinating and secretive lives. And in this workshop, you'll learn more about them and how to find some of the weirdest ones by yourself.



Doto ussi... once you understand its way of life, you'll find this pearly-looking beauty very easily.



Emperor Shrimp – a guaranteed sighting

WORKSHOP

Celebes Divers proudly presents a **unique underwater workshop** at their **Mapia Resort**: Under the direction of Angela V. Loetscher, owner of ae'kai.ch, underwater photographer, dive reporter, author of marine animal articles and critter expert, you'll be meeting the weird critters of North Sulawesi.

Smack **in the middle of the coral triangle**, finding amazing critters that are on a wish list of many macro-lovers is guaranteed. But what makes these animals so special and how can they be found? Angela's experience and meticulous and tiresome research has produced some impressive knowledge. During the workshop the participants will learn fascinating things about some of the most cryptic animals and will get some valuable tips on how to find them.

North Sulawesi is known as **macro central** and a true critter treasure trove. Divers will find the best conditions to find some of the weirdest critters the sea has to offer along the Manado coast – and with great visibility, especially for muck diving. **Goal of the workshop** will be to introduce the participants to the local marine biodiversity and to give hints on how to find the critters by themselves. At the same time, the better behavioral understanding will lead to better photography, a more relaxed time spent with the animals and a more sustainable human-animal interaction.

PROGRAM

Most of the diving will be done along the Manado Coast with some of the dives done in the Bunaken National Park. During 8 days (Sunday to Sunday), the participants will be introduced to several special marine inhabitants (shrimps, crabs, nudibranchs, slugs, octopus, frog- and other fish). They will learn about unique behavior, habits, lifestyle, feeding behavior, habitats, etc. and get direct tips on how to find them. During the dives, special critters we will be targeted, meaning the group will explicitly look for animals discussed ahead (animal, unique information, habitat, how to find it). All finds will be discussed with the help of photographs taken during the dive – also some critters that haven't been discussed ahead – and yet more information will be given and the critters identified together.

During the first few days in the afternoons, in-depth information on specific animal groups is provided in the form of well-founded documents and specialist knowledge is imparted. Regular identification exercises are carried out so that the participants learn what they have to pay attention to when identifying a certain animal on the basis of real questions.



Phyllodesmium pinnatum – just one example of a critter with special effects (head to the right)



With the right knowledge and a little bit of training you can easily find the Paron Shrimp (Gelastocaris paronae) by yourself



Nudibranch or worm? How to tell them apart and what resources can help identifying them is part of what you'll learn during the workshop.

BOOKING

Celebes Divers, Mapia Resort
Jl. Raya Tanawangko
Kalasey I - Dusun II
Kec. Pineleng - Kab. Minahasa
Manado - Sulut 95361
Sulawesi, Indonesia

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REGISTRATION DEADLINE

31. May 2018

After dinner, the participants can sit together and look at a choice of pictures on the large screen and any questions will be answered, experiences can be exchanged.

If animals that have not yet been discussed are found, participants will receive important tips on how to easily identify them using books and other resources. What do you pay attention to when identifying a shrimp or nudie? This and more will be explained in the workshop.

MINIMAL REQUIREMENTS / MATERIAL / NOTES

The resort has a limited amount of reference books available. The participants are invited to bring their own reference books to the workshop, as the local diversity of animals will guarantee they will be put to good use.

Some of the critters live at depths exceeding 18 meters which is why a certification of OWD plus Deep Diver or AOWD will be a minimum requirement for participating.

All participants must have a diving stick for all dives. Sticks can also be bought at the resort shop.

Wearing any kind of gloves is prohibited. No exceptions.

Respect the critters. There will be a 5-picture-per-diver-limit for any animal with eyes as they are sensitive and might be damaged through excessive use of flash.

LANGUAGE

The workshop will be held in German (if exclusively German-speaking participants) or English, but Angela can also provide additional explanations in Italian or French. The documents can be handed out in German or English, regardless of the course language (please indicate when registering).

COSTS

INCLUDED

11 nights in cottage, double occupancy, full board, free WiFi, free water, transfers from/to Manado airport

Up to 4 dives per day (all boat dives)¹

Course fee for 8 days workshop

€ 1'560.- per person for double occupancy

10% surcharge for single occupancy

EXTRAS

Flights, drinks, excursions, diving courses (Deep Diver, AOWD), rental of diving equipment, diving stick (can be bought in the resort shop), diving insurance (responsibility of the participant, will have to be shown at the resort), national park fee of € 10.00 (changes in exchange rate not excluded), Nitrox.

¹ During the workshop. No postponement or refund if the participant decides to make fewer dives during the workshop or if the weather conditions make diving impossible. Reduced dive prices were used for the creation of the package.