

SCUBA News

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Welcome to SCUBA News. I hope you find it useful. We love hearing from you - any questions, or to tell us about a diving trip, email news@scubatravel.co.uk.

You can download a pdf version of *SCUBA News* [here](#).

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What's New at SCUBA Travel?



Wrecks Unlimited

Learn more about the many wrecks of the Egyptian Red Sea.

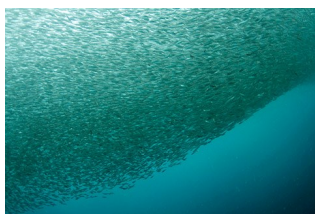
[Read Now...](#)



Window on Honduras

Whale sharks, hammerhead sharks, eagle rays, turtles, giant lobster, coral - just some of the sea life in the Bay Islands of Honduras.

[Read More...](#)



South Africa Contrasts

Atlantic and Indian Ocean, squid run, sardine run, white shark cage diving and coral reefs

[Read More...](#)

Diving Komodo from the Duyung Baru

[Komodo](#) has fabulous diving – from sharks to seahorses, walls, reefs and crazy drifts. The best way to dive around Komodo is by liveaboard, although you can take day boats from [Labuan Bajo](#) on Flores.



Which liveaboard to choose? You can't go wrong with the [Duyung Baru](#). For a start this liveaboard takes just six divers in three cabins. With the co-owner and dive guide Vovo Korth taking a dim view of crowded dive sites, often the seven of you will be the only people in the water.



Vovo's wife Yani is the captain and cook. Her food is delicious, created with care and love. She gets up at three in the morning to make fresh bread for breakfast – from loaves to croissants. Not only a great cook, she is most friendly and welcoming.





Yani Korth, Cook and Captain, Duyung Baru, Photo credit: Vovo Korth

Vovo bought his first boat in 1998 and called it the Duyung – Indonesian for mermaid. He has been sailing Indonesian waters ever since. When he and Yani started the liveaboard operation around Komodo only one other boat was operating, and Vovo made many exploratory dives. He has an intimate knowledge of the dive sites of Komodo with their wild currents, including a couple of “secret sites”.

The couple commissioned their current boat in 2011, calling it the Duyung Baru or New Mermaid.

Two double cabins and one twin cabin house the divers. There is plenty of storage space and ensuite shower and toilet. The beds are extremely comfortable. On the canopied deck are a sofa and chairs around a coffee table plus a sun terrace upstairs.



Big Hawksbill Turtle in Manta Alley, Photo credit: Vovo Korth

The boat is 27 m long with two masts – a beautiful looking craft. Nitrox is available.

Finally to the [diving](#). This is world-class. Sharks and turtles on nearly every dive. Eagle and manta rays. Many huge shoals of fish. Corals in excellent condition. There are also dive sites for those liking the smaller stuff – seahorses and frog fish. The boat doesn't have a set routine of dives – it depends on the type of dives that the divers on board want to do. If you really want to see that seahorse and not another manta ray, then you'll have

to sell it to your fellow divers.



Nembrotha kubaryana nudibranch, Photo credit: Vovo Korth

The boat is only for experienced divers. Vovo likes you to have at least 75 dives. I would go further and say that you need to have experience of currents. The diving in many sites is not easy – the currents are fierce, especially at full and new moon (which is why there are so many large fish there). It is assumed you know what you are doing. At the beginning of the trip is an easy dive or two to practice using a SMB (surface marker buoy or “safety sausage”). Not until Vovo is satisfied that you can use the SMB will he take you on one of the the more challenging dives. That way if you should get separated from the group the tender will easily see you and pick you up.

Vovo is also a freediving instructor and there is an opportunity to take a freediving course if you wish. Although we dived with Vovo, on many trips one of his two experienced divemasters takes his place.

A wonderful trip which I highly recommend.

Further Reading

[Book the Duyung Baru](#)

[The dive sites of Komodo](#)

If you would like any more information on the Duyung Baru, diving Komodo, getting there, where to stay etc, please contact [Jill](#)

Diving News From Around the World

Our round up of the best underwater news stories of the past month. For breaking news see our [Twitter page](#) or [RSS feed](#)



[Winners of Underwater Photography Shootout Announced](#)

Some stunning underwater photographs were the winners of this year's SoCal shootout.



[Divers May Have Discovered the Oldest Shipwreck in Lake Erie](#)

A team of divers have discovered the Lake Serpent, a 47-foot schooner last seen in 1829.



[Are Cleaner Fish Self-Aware?](#)

The cleaner wrasse appears to have passed the mirror test - a standard test of self-recognition. If the finding holds, this humble fish will join a very exclusive club.



[Which tea bags are free from plastic?](#)

It came as a surprise to most people to learn that even tea bags contained plastic. Discover which brands don't.



[Many Arctic Pollutants Decrease After Market Removal and Regulation](#)

Levels of some persistent organic pollutants (POPs) regulated by the Stockholm Convention are decreasing in the Arctic.



[Maybe we can afford to suck CO2 out of the sky after all](#)

A new analysis shows that air capture could cost less than \$100 a ton.



[There's one key takeaway from last week's IPCC report](#)

Cut carbon pollution as much as possible, as fast as possible



[Thirteen ocean solutions for climate change, ocean acidification and sea level rise](#)

1. Ocean-based renewable energy 2. Reducing marine pollution 3. Stopping over-exploitation of marine resources and so on



[To Save the Baltic Sea Harbor Porpoise, Scientists Try Listening](#)

By tracking the echolocation clicks of the



endangered porpoise population, scientists have discovered a potential new breeding location.



Thailand limits number of divers visiting the Similans

Thailand has declared that no more than 525 divers can visit the Similans on any one day. Many tour operators opposed the move but the more responsible dive operators welcomed it. It means you will need to book early to dive the Similan Islands.

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