

Lembeh Resort



North Sulawesi

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New Managers

As of last November, Lembeh Resort is pleased to announce we have new management: Karl Klingeler &



Linda Johnston will manage the Dive Shop & Resort respectively. Originating from the USA & UK, our management team began their diving career in the Bahamas with Stuart Cove's Dive Bahamas before moving to Indonesia as Cruise Directors for Bali-based Kararu Dive Voyages. Fully qualified PADI, NAUI, & TDI/SDI instructors with photo & video experience, they also bring with them an extensive local knowledge, having guided over a thousand dives each throughout the Indonesian archipelago. Linda speaks fluent Spanish & French and has 10 years' experience in Human Resource Management.

Addition of 5 Cottages

In October we completed construction of five new cottages. Views from these rooms are even more spectacular than our first rooms! The Balinese style bathrooms are all equipped with showers and bathtubs and a lovely



garden bed. All rooms have "Eco Friendly" waste water gardens and solar power hot water. These rooms are not for the faint of heart as many steps are required to reach each room. A recent guest commented the views and seclusion are "fantastic".

What our Dive Guides are Showing Guests (Oct, Nov, Dec.)

House Reef – our house reef has been exceptional lately.... mating Mandarin fish almost every night; loads of Bangai and Pajama Cardinal fish. At high tide the other day Dive Guide Ronald spotted a Hairy octopus on the sea wall which we could see without even getting wet! We're finding Mushroom Coral Pipe fish and a Winged Pipe fish, Jan's Pipe fish and Double Ended Pipe fish. The selection of wasp fish has been abundant – Spiney Wasp, Cockatoo Wasp fish. Also, Devil fish, Leaf Scorpion fish and Giant Frog fish and plenty of Common sea horse. Broad club and Pygmy cuttlefish compliment Finger Dragonets and Pink Hairy squat lobster. A Wonderpus shows his legs from time to time. Drum roll please on December 7 & 8 we saw a Blue Ribbon eel in its yellow female phase!!!

We are happy to announce the arrival of our first female dive guide: Dimpy Jacobs recently finished university studies in marine biology. She will focus on categorizing house reef coral and animal species and rehabilitating coral growth.

Trash is a problem in Lembeh Strait, however, we have been diligently cleaning our house reef and making improvements eg. additional stabilizing bars for photographers. Dimpy will ensure guests have a "trash free" house reef dive!

Within the Strait –

Pygmy sea horses have been abundant...red and orange Hippocampus Bargibanti; Hippocampus Denise and we did see what is now being referred to as Hippocampus Pontohi. We've also been showing divers the common and thorny sea horse.

We've been seeing plenty of Ghost Pipe fish for this time of year including Ornate and Robust. Rhinopioid come and go, but we have been occasionally seeing the Lacey and a Juvenile Weedy species.

Loads and loads of Frog Fish –

Giant, Hairy, Hairy Lembeh (short hair one) Scarlet, Randall, Painted, Juvenile Clown and adult Warty and Sargassum. Excitement mounted when Ron-

ald return d with news of what he believes to be a new Frog Fish species...one definitely never seen before in Lembeh Strait. A day later, every available crew went to look again (collectively 18,000 Lembeh dives) and photograph the pair of which the female was very pregnant. Upon return to the dive center, we again checked the book "Reef Fish Identification – Tropical Pacific" and determined the "Hispid" Frogfish to be very similar.

Lembeh's local encyclopedia, Bruce Moore, joined Ronald for a dive. The lure is like a pom pom which is different to the black hispid previ-

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ously seen in Lembeh Strait. Bruce also hasn't seen this in Lembeh before but thinks this species may

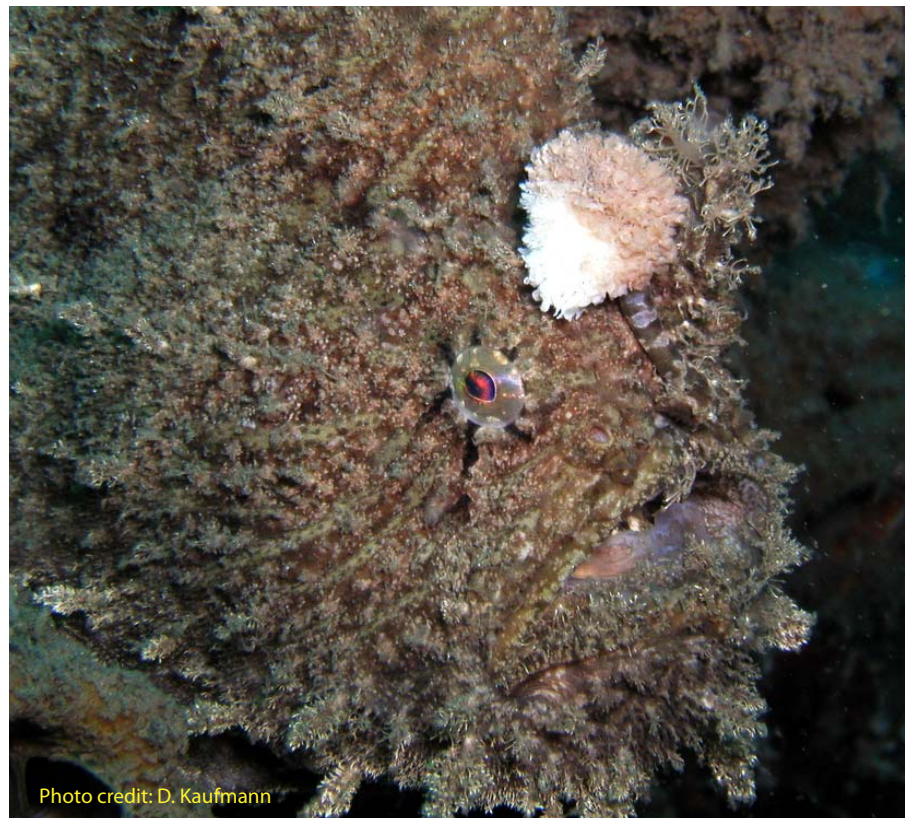


Photo credit: D. Kaufmann

also be located in Secret Bay on Bali. We are checking with local experts first before mounting excitement internationally.

Octopus, octopus and more octopus – haven't seen a Mimic?... come on over! Recent guests who stayed with us for two weeks had 7 Mimic sightings all on different dives and 3 wonderpus! On one dive alone at TKILL, guests saw 5 mimics. We are also seeing on occasion a Blue Ring and Hairy, Mototi, Starry Night and Brown Mimic. Lots of Long Arm and Coconut octopus are being found throughout the strait. [SEE VIDEO ON WEB SITE](#)

Flamboyant cuttlefish have been around, flambo laying eggs and in the last few days we even have seen eggs hatching. Coleman shrimp and Zebra crabs have been around and Juvenile Zebra Batfish on a couple of sites. Boxer crabs and Harlequin shrimp are spotted on occasion.

Dive Guide Andy can't pass up an opportunity to share about his rare goby sightings – Red Striped, Magnificent and Rayed shrimp gobies. More commonly we're seeing Yellow Nosed, Black Rayed and Sail Fin goby.

Abundant sightings of all the following at various sites: Leaf Scorpion fish in all colors, Cockatoo Wasp fish, Spiney Wasp fish, White Face Wasp fish, Long Spine Wasp fish (adult and juvenile) and Ambon Scorpion fish.

Night Dives – Dive Guide Jandri... our "King of the Night" enjoys showing divers Spanish Dancers, Bobbit worms, Bobtail squid, Stargazer, Coconut, White Tipped, & Starry night octopus. Saron shrimp are around. Flying gunards and Slipper lobsters are prevalent. We often see Lion fish feeding, Bubble shells, Coral Cat and Bamboo sharks. At Nudi Falls we are routinely seeing a Comet fish.

Guest Testimonial:

Daniel and Beatrice from Zurich, Switzerland dived and stayed with us from 03 – 17 December. They both did 45 dives and here's what they shared with Karl – "Guides and crew are fantastic, very good spotters, very patient with photographers. All the crew were helpful, nice, warm and friendly. Amazing diving...7 Mimics and 3 Wonderpus, 3 Flamboyant cuttlefish on one dive. Frog fish were everywhere and Beatrice especially loved the juvenile Clown Frog fish. We saw 6 Cockatoo Wasp fish on one dive! Lots of seahorses and the pygmy sea horses were

We had Bobtail squid, Stargazers, Devil fish, Tozeuma shrimp, loads of octopus and what was really cool was a Stargazer Snake eel, Clown Snake eel and baby Bobbit worm. Hot tea on the boat was a nice touch for after night dives.'

'Ronald showed us two frog fish he had never seen before and he has been diving Lembeh Strait for 10 years. He was very excited underwater and hopes it is a new species! (See Daniel's Image Below) On the very last dive, we saw the birth of a Flamboyant cuttlefish... this was absolutely amazing and a wonderful way to end the diving.'

"Our whole holiday was relaxed and amazing; we enjoyed it very much. We will come back for sure. We love this place!"

great. It was so special to see a Hairy frogfish hunting and eating two Finger Dragonets! [\(SEE VIDEO ON WEBSITE\)](#) Two Finger Dragonets came by the frog fish ... he ate the first one no problem. He then ate the second one but his eyes were too big for his stomach....he spit the second out! Great!

'The guides are great at coaxing the Mimics out of their holes in an unobtrusive way. After the Mimic is out of its hole the guide presents it as if it were a gift to us. We had 20 minutes to study its mimicry before it returned safely to its hole.'

'Guides treat all the critters carefully and they are aware of how special these critters are and are very protective of everything.'

'It was fantastic to see mating Mandarin fish right on the house reef....we never have seen this before - to have them so close is very special. Night dives were all great.

'The entire Lembeh Resort staff was helpful and friendly and act like a big family. We like the resort being small and comfortable and we felt at home. The resort is gorgeous and fantastic. Food was great. Room was perfect – we had an incredible room with a view straight to the strait. We felt very safe and never locked our door. The camera room was excellent and great: it has 110 and 220 electrical outlets. Diving was so easy....gear was set for us, carried to the boat and tanks changed. All we had to do was slip into our gear and go diving! It was nice to be able to request dive sites and critters. A big Thank You to Karl because of his efforts and we were treated special.'

'Our whole holiday was relaxed and amazing; we enjoyed it very much. We will come back for sure. It was one of the best places we have ever been diving....muck diving paradise. We love this place!'

Who Has Been Visiting Us...

Larry and Denise Tackett made a reunion visit a few weeks ago and had this to say: "We recently spent time at Lembeh Resort celebrating our ten years of diving in Lembeh Strait. We're happy to report the Strait is just as fascinating and full of critters as it was when we first dived here in 1995. The lush setting and laid back ambience of Lembeh Resort reminded us of old times in the Strait. We met up with a group of friends, filmmakers, scientists, and Indonesian friends at the resort and it was truly like old home week for us. There's still magic in these waters!"

Mark Norman (author of *Cephalopods A World Guide*) spent a week here with the Kaufmann Production crew from Australia to shoot part of an international wildlife documentary on cuttlefish.

Peter and Georgette Scoones - spent nearly the entire month of November at Lembeh Resort, filming for the new BBC series "Planet Earth".

Robert Yin - "I can easily tell you that Lembeh Resort is definitely one of the most comfortable dive resort I have stayed."

"There's still magic in these waters!"
Denise Tackett

(Don't forget to visit our Testimonial page for more of our guests' valued comments!)

Silk Air (MI) has recently announced plans to add a fifth flight from Singapore to Manado on Thursdays, starting June 2006, to be confirmed within the first quarter of next year.

Win a Week of Free Diving!

Danny & Angelique are offering a week of free diving at Lembeh Resort to the person who comes up with the best name for our dive operation. Although we will always be part of the Murex family, we think it is time for us and less confusing for the dive industry to have a separate identity. Any name inclusive of "Lembeh" will not be considered. **The winner will receive 7 days of unlimited boat and house reef diving!** Please send your suggestions to danny@lembehresort.com

Last but not least.....

We wish you all a happy and safe New Year filled with family, fun and diving!

May 2006 be well traveled and peaceful. Thank you for supporting Lembeh Resort and have a

Happy New Year!

Please visit our web site:

**www.lembehresort.com
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