



## **Frequently Asked Logistical Questions**

### **Q : Can I pay by credit card on boat ?**

A : Both VISA and MASTERCARD credit cards are accepted on the Archipelago Adventurer II vessel. However due to the remote nature of the cruises, there can sometimes be issues with the connection for the machine, making credit card transactions difficult. This is inevitably out of the control of the crew aboard the vessel. It is therefore advised to bring as much cash as possible, just in case the credit card facilities are not operational.

### **Q : Shall I bring Rupiah or USD on this cruise?**

A : Archipelago accept US\$ on the vessel, however, Rupiah are more easily used in local markets, souvenir shops and as gratuities for the crew. Best to change as much currency as possible in Bali or Jakarta prior to the cruise departure in order to secure the best exchange rate.

### **Q : Is there any reliable money changer you can advise us in Bali ?**

A : Please contact the Bali office via email [info@archipelago-fleet.com](mailto:info@archipelago-fleet.com) or via telephone, +62 361 282 369 to discuss currency exchange. It is possible for Archipelago to ask money changers to visit your hotel to assist you with transactions, or also recommend the better establishments to visit directly.

### **Q : Can you help us with the domestic flight bookings for each cruise?**

A : Indonesian transport schedules can be tricky to say the least, Archipelago will handle all flight bookings for charters, groups and individuals in order that the situation with tickets and domestic schedules can be closely and efficiently monitored.

### **Q : Can you also help us to recommend accommodation & transportation while in Bali or other places in Indonesia prior to or after the cruise ?**

A : Very much so, Archipelago has years of experience assisting visitors with accommodation, transport, tours and general entertainments throughout Indonesia.

### **Q : Are there any concerns regarding mosquitoes or Malaria?**

A : Mosquitoes are common in many areas of Indonesia, as such it is something to be wary of. Whilst cruising, there are unlikely to be so many mosquitoes so protection will not be a permanent issue. During land excursions, suitable amounts of good quality mosquito repellent are satisfactory. Should any anti-malaria tablets be used, a doctor should be consulted to assess the appropriate use with prolonged diving activities.

**Q : What is the situation concerning crew gratuities?**

A : General industry standards suggest that 10% of the value of the cruise package is a standard. Archipelago distribute anonymous blank envelopes at the conclusion of each cruise, which are then placed in the vessel's tip box to be opened by the cruise director and captain collectively. All tips are shared equally amongst all members of the crew. US currency exchange is difficult in remote areas of Indonesia, with low exchange rates commonplace, also the case for the crew should tips be given in US\$. In order that your generosity can be even more effective for the crew, where possible, tips should be given in Indonesian Rupiah. From 2008 onwards, gratuities can also be paid with credit card.

**Q : In case of an emergency, where can my family or friend contacting me while I am on the boat joining the cruise?**

A : The Archipelago Adventurer II remains in regular radio contact with the Bali Operations Office during cruises and so the most effective manner of communication is to email directly to the Bali office, [info@archipelago-fleet.com](mailto:info@archipelago-fleet.com) whereupon Archipelago will assist by forwarding messages. Though there is a satellite phone aboard, direct contact with the vessel is not recommended or encouraged.

**Q : What documents do I need to have signed before the cruise?**

A : In order to complete a booking, Archipelago require a number of documents to be completed, and faxed or scanned to the Bali office preferably 1 month prior to arrival for the cruise departure. J-peg or photo copy of every diver's **PASSPORT, SIGNED DIVER REGISTRATION** and a **VESSEL WAIVER** . These documents will be sent to each diver, but can also be requested from the office.

**Frequently Asked Vessel Questions**

**Q : What is the menu aboard the Archipelago Adventurer II?**

A : The Archipelago Adventurer II has three chefs on board the vessel and the culinary team prides itself on having Indonesia's most impressive liveaboard menu. Dishes are predominantly asian fusion cuisine, interspersed with Indonesian flavours and salads each day. Lunch meals are served buffet style and evening meals are a la carte.

**Q : How many crew member does the Archipelago Adventurer II have?**

A : The Archipelago Adventurer II has 18 crew with additional dive guides and cruise directors during dive cruises.

**Q : Are there First Aid facilities?**

A : The Archipelago Adventurer II liveaboard is very safety conscious and has a full time nurse on the crew. This crew member controls the vessel's extensive first aid kit and will assist with any necessary sickness, cuts and scrapes.

**Q :What time does the cruise embark and disembark?**

A : Unfortunately there is no hard and fast rule here, it depends on the domestic flight schedule, check dive requirements and cruise itinerary.

**Q : Are batteries available on the vessel?**

A : Divers are encouraged to bring adequate supplies of batteries for their equipment. Archipelago cannot guarantee that battery stocks will be available aboard the Archipelago Adventurer II.

**Q : What type of electricity and adapter plug on the vessel ?**

A : Each cabin has twin, round plug sockets with 110 and 220 volts. A recharging area is also situated in the main camera room. Though there is a supply of adaptors for European or American plugs, divers are encouraged to bring their own.



**Q : Will there be any village or land tours during the cruise?**

A : Archipelago tries to encourage interaction between divers and the communities visited during the cruise – it is their ocean after all. Therefore, divers and explorers joining the vessel are advised to bring suitable footwear for visiting beaches and villages. On many cruises land excursions are available offering the chance to hike up volcanoes or mountain paths, so a sturdy pair of sandals or hiking boots is also to be considered.

**Q : Are souvenirs and gifts available on the boat?**

A : The Archipelago Adventurer II has an extensive collection of souvenirs, hats, t-shirts and other gifts which can be purchased during and at the end of each cruise.

**Q : Can I bring something for the villagers when we do land tour?**

A : Gifts for local villagers are always welcome. However please consider that plastics and non-biodegradable products can pollute the environment. Suggested gifts would be educational materials, pens, note books for village schools and children, or decent quality hard wearing second hand clothes.

**Frequently Asked Dive Questions**

**Q : Are the dives conducted from the main vessel?**

A : Divers prepare for dives on the port and starboard dive decks of the vessel. During this time, the crew move the tanks and BCD's down to the Adventurer II's custom built aluminium tenders. Divers then use sturdy vessel ladders to step down to the tenders. Once over the dive site, divers gear up and roll in, very convenient!

**Q : What is the expected water temperature?**

A : Water temperature throughout most areas of Indonesia will generally be around 27 – 29 degrees Celsius, though this can vary depending on the time of year and the destination too. For Archipelago Komodo cruises, the temperature in **South Komodo** can get as low as 22 degrees Celsius, so more adequate thermal protection, perhaps even a dive hood, should be considered.

**Q : What kind of wetsuit should I bring with me?**

A : After extended periods of repetitive diving, even the most dedicated of divers get cold, we would therefore consider 3 mil suits as standard and 5 mil are suggested for those divers susceptible to the cold.

**Q : Can I rent dive gear on the boat?**

A : Dive gear can be arranged **in advance**, but information must be received by the office at least 1 month in advance of the departure date.

**Q : How many Dive Masters or Dive Instructors do you have on the boat?**

A : Depending on group size, Archipelago has one or two Western cruise Directors aboard, accompanied by two or three Indonesian dive masters.

**Q : How many dives can I expect to every day? Are there night dives too?**

A : Itinerary permitting, Archipelago offer 4 dives each day on the vessel, including an evening or a night dive. Should an extended overnight relocation be necessary between islands, night dives may be forfeited or exchanged for an early day dive, should divers request. Itineraries will be discussed in detail during each cruise.

**Q: Can we take courses whilst on board the vessel?**

A: Our cruise directors are qualified PADI instructors and can teach a variety of courses during cruises. One popular cruise is the NITROX cruise, which enables divers to take advantage of the complimentary NITROX fills on the vessel. Feel Free to discuss these courses on the vessel with the cruise directors.