

Wakatobi, SULAWESI, INDONESIA

In June 2004, I went to Wakatobi, a dive resort in the Tukang Besi archipelago off the southeast end of Sulawesi, Indonesia. This was my first dive trip to Indonesia, and I had a fabulous time. Good diving, good hospitality, good food, good company. I mostly shot slide film, with some digital shooting using my friend Norb's camera. A selection of my digital shots follow: I have many more on slide film.



Mushroom coral harboring a pipefish



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This little shrimp was hiding in an anemone, safe from predators, and probably dines on the anemone's catch.



Leaf fish would sit very still, swaying a bit in the current.



These spectacularly colored large ascidians or tunicates were abundant on the reef.



This angelfish was very shy about having a photo taken.



Fish were diverse on these reefs.



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A cluster of ascidians or tunicates on the reef. Each one is a separate animal, filter feeding for its food. The larger opening is its mouth siphon.



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Clownfish are always fascinating to watch, hiding in their host anemone.



This little blenny was hoping I didn't see him in his tiny hole surrounded by an encrusting sponge, but I did. I wonder what he thought about the blinding flash from my camera strobe.



The smallest fish seem to have personality in abundance.



Sea snakes were out and about; this one came by me at night in shallow water.



Fish were numerous on the reefs.



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You had to keep an eye out for lionfish to avoid running into them as you look down at interesting things on the reef. They like to hunt at night, so you really have to keep an eye out for them as you swim along.



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Crinoids are echinoderms, related to seastars. They 'walk' by bending down their feathery arms and moving them, sort of hoisting themselves along. They hold on with their hooked cirri, and grab food out of the water as it drifts by.



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I always stop and watch clownfish when I spot them. They never are happy to see me though, since I look threatening to them. As I watch, they burrow in deeper into the anemone tentacles.



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Ascidians or tunicates clinging to a gorgonian stalk or something.



I followed this coy filefish around for awhile, waiting for it to come out more in the open so that I could take its photo. Finally, it obliged.



Leather coral were a common sight.



I watched this little fish flit around on a beautiful hard coral.

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