

**Discover Brunei's
Unexpected Treasures**
with Oceanic Quest!

DISCOVER THE MACRO KINGDOM OF BORNEO

Allied Cowries of Brunei

TINY OCEAN GEMS – With 71 species of Allied Cowries in Brunei, it is easily the largest number of species of Allied cowries in one place.

It is known that they are members of the Ovulidae Family, closely related to the True Cowries in the Cypraeidae Family. They also have a retractable mantle decorated in a wide range of colors and

finger like projections called Papillae. The mantle is used as camouflage, because despite their protective shell, predators like crustaceans and octopuses can break into the shell and eat them

– **Brian Mayes Sport Diving issue 163, 2014**



RICH AND RARE

Underwater photography, especially macro photography, is becoming a favourite pastime for divers who have already achieved good diving skills.

Brunei has some great sites for wide-angle photography. Among its shipwrecks and Rig Reef

photography enthusiasts will find critters which are only available in the neighbouring region all in one place. Special critters like Leopard Anemone Shrimp, Mimic Octopus, Bumble Bees, Tiger Shrimp and Bearded Goby are among some of the seasonal finds.



DIVING IN BRUNEI

With average water temperatures between 26°C - 28°C and visibility ranging from 5m to 30m, the pristine reefs around Brunei offer unforgettable underwater experiences for diving enthusiasts. The dive sites are rich with marine and coral life and there are several ship wrecks dating back to World War 2 and even a sunken decommissioned oil rig to explore. There are over 60 known dive sites around Brunei waters and they include these 'must dive' sites:

American Wreck

The wreck is the American mine sweeper, USS Salute, which met its fate during World War 2 when it struck a sea mine. Now resting about 32 metres on the sea bed, it is home to schools of Trevally and Yellow Tail fish. Divers may also find pieces of old items from the ship such as bullet shells and their cases.

Australian Wreck

Home to schools of barracudas, lionfish and other pelagic marine life, the Australian passenger ship, SS De Clerk, was sunk during World War 2 in 1944 when it struck a sea mine on its way to Manila.

Bolkiah Wreck

Once the main sea ferry plying between Brunei and Labuan, this wreck was decommissioned and sunk by the Royal Brunei Navy in 1992. It is now teeming with coral life and divers can expect to see schooling yellowtails and micro critters around the wreck.

Rig Reef

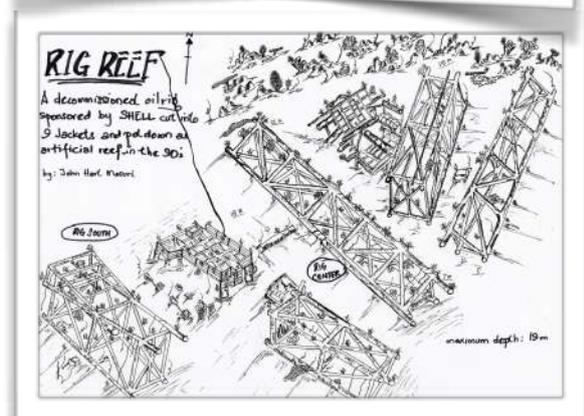
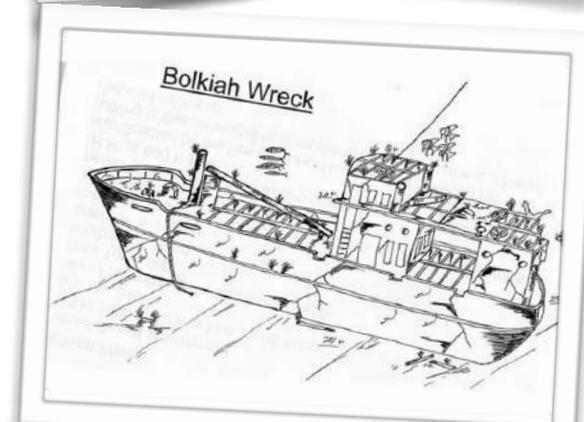
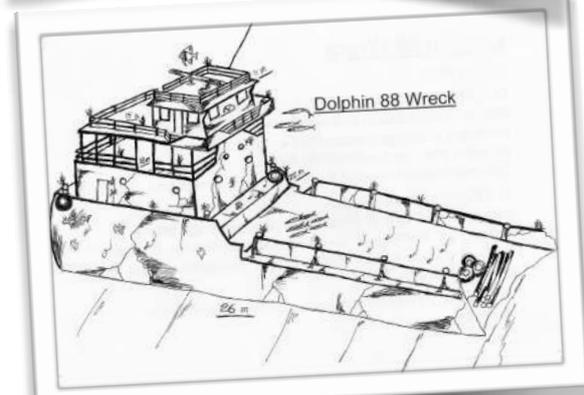
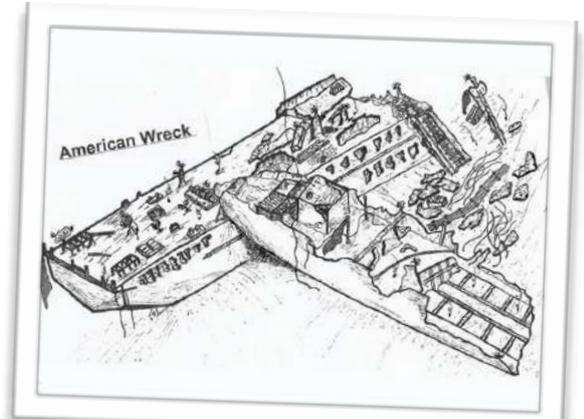
This is a rather fitting dive in an oil and gas wealthy destination. Spanning across almost 100 square metres at the depth of 19 metres, the site is a decommissioned oil rig which serves as an artificial reef off the coast of Brunei. It is now swarming with Schooling Baracudas, Pufferfish and other micro marine life seeking shelter around the rig.

Pelong Rocks & Abana Reef

Popular amongst the locals, the Pelong Rocks site is under the protection of the Brunei Museum Department because of its awesome rock formations and historical significance, while Albana Reef is a muck haven booming with Macro Life. Both sites boast clear visibility over the dive season and are great for beginners and avid Macro underwater photographers.

Dolphin 88

Although it is a relatively new wreck, this sunk commercial vessel off the coast of Muara has attracted schools of fishes and micro critters



WHAT ELSE TO DO IN BRUNEI

Besides diving, take time to explore Brunei, which is dubbed "The Kingdom of Unexpected Treasures" and "The Green Heart of Borneo".

Reef to Rainforest

Brunei boasts one of the world's most unspoilt ecosystems. Highly recommended before leaving Brunei is a visit to the Temburong National Park where you may encounter nature at its best in the pristine rainforests, enjoy the panoramic view of the rainforest from the 40m high canopy tower, or just chill out at the Freme Rainforest Lodge. The more adventurous may also want to participate in the activities offered at Freme's Rainforest Adventure Park.

Brunei Heritage

Brunei's rich cultural heritage is reflected in many of its buildings and tourist attractions. Must visits are the Sultan Omar Ali Saifuddin and Jame-Asri Hassanil Bolkiah Mosques with their imposing golden domes, and the Royal Regalia Museum which houses the Regalia used during Royal ceremonies.

ABOUT OCEANIC QUEST

Oceanic Quest was established in 2010 to cater mainly to experienced diver tourists looking for new destinations to explore. It is also used as a platform to educate local divers of the importance of marine conservation.

As a 5-star PADI Dive Centre, its in-house facilities for training and development include an onsite pool and classroom. It also has retail

and servicing space stocked with the latest equipment and a rest house for avid divers wishing to be close to the sea.

Oceanic Quest assures all its customers, be they beginners or experienced, the delivery of professional services with safety and comfort as its top priority.



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