

Mabul Island

Mabul Island is reputed to be one of the best places for underwater macro-photography in the world. Located in the clear waters of the Celebes Sea off the mainland of Sabah, it is surrounded by gentle sloping reefs two to 40m deep.

Covering some 21 ha., it is considerably larger than the nearby Sipadan Island and is home to the Bajau Laut tribe, one of many ethnic groups in Sabah. Diving is the main activity on this island, and it can be done all year round. Marine life that can be seen here includes sea horses, exotic starfish, fire gobies, crocodile fish, pipefish and snake eels. There are over eight popular dive spots, each with its own speciality.

Three resorts cater to scuba divers—two are on the island itself while one is on a converted oil rig platform about 500m offshore. All of the resorts provide day trips for their guests to the nearby Sipadan and Kapalai Islands.

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Key Tips

There's no airport in Semporna, so book your flight to Tawau instead and organise a pick-up from your tour operator for the hour-long drive to the jetty at Semporna.

How to get there

By Sea

To reach Mabul Island, it is a 30-minute boat ride from Semporna and 20 minutes from Sipadan Island.

Who to contact

For more information, please contact Sabah Tourism Office Tel: +6088-248 698 / 211 732 or visit their website at <http://sipadan-kapalai.com>

Accommodation Overview

Mabul Island is home to three very different resorts, all up-market, and all catering to divers.

WHERE TO STAY

Winner Hotel
Phone: 60 088 243222
Fax: 60 088 217345

Hotel Deleton
Phone: 60 088 252222
Fax: 60 088 267999

Best Western Kinabalu Daya Hotel
Phone: 60 088 240000
Fax: 60 088 263909

The Palace Hotel
Phone: 60 088 211911
Fax: 60 088 211600

Hotel Shangri-La
Phone: 60 088 212800
Fax: 60 088 212078

Likas Square Business Suites
Phone: 60 088 252233
Fax: 60 088 251122

Tang Dynasty Hotel
Phone: 60 088 263389 / 251155
Fax: 60 088 263989 / 265566

Beverly Hotel
Phone: 60 088 258998
Fax: 60 088 258778

Promenade Hotel
Phone: 60 088 265555
Fax: 60 088 246666 / 253980

Hyatt Regency Kinabalu
Phone: 60 088 221234
Fax: 60 088 225972

Le Meridien Kota Kinabalu
Phone: 60 088 322222
Fax: 60 088 322223

Nexus Resort Karambunai
Phone: 6 088 411222 / 411030
Fax: 6 088 411020 / 412028

Shangri-La Tanjung Aru Resort
Phone: 60 088 327888
Fax: 60 088 244871 / 327878

Sutera Harbour Resort - Magellan Sutera
Phone: 6 088 318 888
Fax: 6 088 317 777

Sutera Harbour Resort - Pacific Sutera
Phone: 6 088 318888
Fax: 6 088 317777

Gayana Eco Resort
Phone: 6 088 380390
Fax: 6 088 381390
Email: www.gayana-eco-resort.com

Novotel Kota Kinabalu
1BorneoTB-00-01, 1Borneo Hypermall,
Jalan UMS,
88450 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia
Phone: 6 088 529888
Fax: 6 088 529889
Email: info@novotel1borneo.com

Megah D' Aru Hotel
No. 2, Jalan Kinabalu, Tanjung
Aru Township, 88100 Kota Kinabalu,
Sabah
Phone: 6 088 239666
Fax: 6 088 239777

