



East of Flores, September 2016

Trip Report & photos by the Brough family. Underwater photography by Victoria Bolotina.

As three relatively novice divers, **Josh**, **Dan** and **Hope's** concerns were put to rest very quickly on the Seven Seas. We were looked after impeccably and the enjoyment we took from this diving trip will be remembered for life. We are all coming away much improved with new, Enriched Air NITROX qualifications.

'The wildlife and coral life was so prolific, colourful and vast that you didn't know where to start the dives. Even the apparently rarest species were spotted by our eagle-eyed dive guides. One-hour seems never enough to soak up all the life below the drop off and the reef. Where else in the world can you experience the presence of four Frogfish, three Rhinopias and 2 Pygmy seahorses on a wall dive?'

'You have to try a night dive, switch off your torch and play with the phosphorescence! Being greeted on your return by hot face towels and steamy hot chocolate with Baileys is a dream.'





During the land tour to see the Abui Mountain tribe we had the option to share local tobacco and chew betelnut and lime for a buzz with the Abui people after a warm reception and a spectacularly musical dance. The local market was thriving with enticing sights and smells: what beautiful colours!

'It is fair to say that every person that we encountered on land was friendly and helpful'.

Where to begin on the topic of food... Without hesitation we concur that every meal was delicious and you definitely couldn't go hungry. The chef, Totok, and sous chef, Lulu, worked relentlessly and it was wonderful to taste the huge selection of food on offer.

'It was particularly exceptional with every taste and diet catered for without fail- three times a day- a perfect welcome for voracious divers. The watermelon cake was my personal favourite of the daily treats, and the morning mango smoothies were totally refreshing. The volcanic view and flying fish brightened that morning for me.'



Regarding the crew overall,

'They were so friendly that you almost felt guilty not having to lift a single finger to enter and exit the water, and within the totally manageable daily routine on the ship. My personal highlight was attempting to identify the hundreds of fish in the water and spotting a rare fish that nobody else had yet witnessed because they were swimming behind me.'

'I think the best way for me to communicate my immense feelings regarding this trip is for you to witness the perpetual grin on my face; both when underwater and aboard the Seven Seas ship. An unexpected joy was the way the motion of the boat affected my dreams in the cosy cabin! I'll sure miss hearing the bell that signalled mammals (pods of dolphins and a blue whale for us lucky adventurers), activities and...you guessed it: food.'

The entirety of the crew was fun and a genuine pleasure to be around: they helped to make this trip so special for us, and clearly the other guests, too! We managed to befriend them all on a first name basis and their company was very gratifying. We were looked after in such a professional, yet informal manner that enough cannot be said.

Finally, on behalf of all three of us... **Thank you for the lasting memories!**

