



C E M P E D A K
PRIVATE ISLAND

DIVING AND
SNORKELLING

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There are many opportunities to dive or snorkel either around Cempedak island or on neighbouring islands and reefs. Visibility varies greatly throughout the year and whilst the best conditions will depend on many factors, the months from early March to June and from September to November are usually the best for exploring these waters. Currents can be strong and only divers that are suitably qualified will be allowed to dive with us.

Several of our local staff are qualified (up to PADI Master Diver level). We also employ a marine conservation officer who is a certified Dive Instructor who helps oversee the dive operation. Unfortunately the nature of our set up and the local diving conditions are not conducive to offering dive courses.

The area around Cempedak is part of the Sunda shelf, hence the seabed is relatively shallow and rarely exceeds 20 meters. The strong tidal flows that are typical of the area encourage the growth of soft coral gardens that are probably the best feature of the area.



You should not expect to see big schools of fish or large pelagic fish like sharks or mantas. That said, the area has pristine hard coral gardens and there are surprises for the careful observer. We regularly see turtles, stingrays, seahorses, cuttlefish, bat fish, octopus, sweet lips and occasionally unusual species of star fish and puffer fish.

There are different levels of diving possible within a variety of different ecosystems. If divers focus on details rather than grand vistas, embrace the mood of the moment rather than expecting 30 meters of visibility then the experience becomes as good as anywhere, especially considering the proximity to Singapore.

The area has been over fished, evident in the discarded nets, but fortunately there has been very little destructive fishing methods used in the area. As a result we are observing a recovery in those areas where the reef has been damaged, evidenced by new growth, and helped by the periodic cleaning of the reef of debris and plastic by our team.

The best reef to snorkel around the island is difficult to access without a boat so if you are interested in snorkeling do ask our staff. There are better opportunities to snorkel on some of the nearby desert islands so you might like to make a day of it and take picnic lunch. If

you are interested in this do chat to our staff and they can suggest a few options.

The diving around Cempedak is on a small scale, personalised, and you are guaranteed diving without lots of boats and other divers around which is a luxury these days.

If you are interested in diving whilst you are staying on Cempedak then do let us know by email what your interest is and how many divers there are in your group. Our staff would be more than happy to suggest a few dive sites when you arrive that are suitable for the weather conditions.

For more information on marine conservation efforts and marine life visit the **Below the Surface blog** maintained by our Marine Conservation officer – Michel Lippitsch or check out the underwater pictures on our **Facebook page**.

Dive prices - Dive on Cempedak house reef cost S\$100++ per person including equipment. Boat Dives on outer reefs will depend on the location and number of dives. Note All divers must provide proof of their diving license and prices exclude 10% tax and 10% service. There is no charge for the use of snorkelling equipment.

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