



Where there's **MUCK,** there's magic.

在脏乱中找到奇迹



Discovering Indonesia's biggest treasures, which are often buried in a pile of rubbish.

在垃圾堆里发现印尼最大的宝藏。

Low visibility in the shallows clouds the first view of the Duke of Sparta but lush soft corals soften the shape of the rotting metal hull.

在浅水区能见度低，遮蔽人们对斯巴达爵士(沉船名)的第一印象，但郁郁葱葱的软珊瑚柔和了锈蚀的金属船身。



A pair of mating dwarf cuttlefish peer at divers from behind a protective maze of old and decaying ropes.

一对交配中侏儒墨鱼在陈旧腐烂的绳索迷宫保护下望向潜水员。

Remember what it was like when you were a little kid, getting down and grubbing in the dirt? You may have only been six years old and your mother yelled at you, but it was worth it. Then, as you got older, you found that digging around in a load of old bits and pieces sometimes meant coming up with the treasure of a lifetime.

For divers, the trick is to get to a place where you can do the same thing underwater until, like that kid playing in the muck you come up with something so exciting you simply can't believe your luck.

Long before we headed off to Ambon in Indonesia, we'd heard many eloquent and enthusiastic tales of the weird and wonderful critters found there along with almost as many reports on the extensive local reef system. All the same, we had no real idea of what we would find as the island is still regarded as an Indonesian outpost — it's not that it's all that far from the major airports in Bali or Manado, but there are no direct flights from England and that meant we arrived late in the day. Our group was keen to get straight in the water and see what was on offer despite the time.

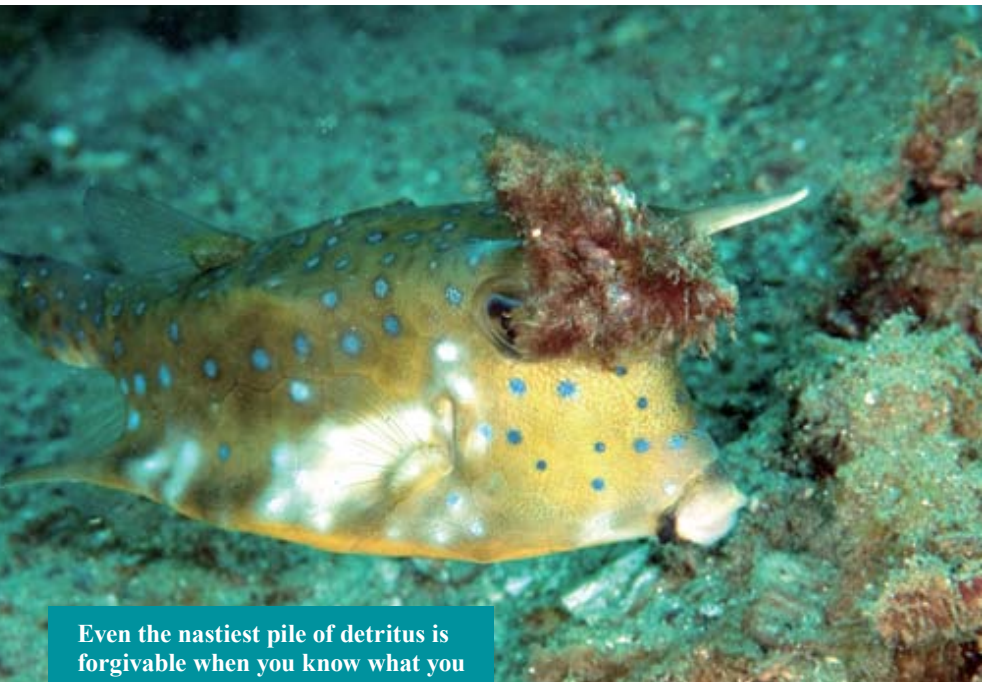
We set sail for a very short cruise from the airport back towards the open waters of the Banda Sea and within moments arrived at a coconut fringed bay and Rhino City, a dive site named for its rhinopias residents. Sometimes things just work out right and we dropped right in over a pale pink rhinopias who was nestled beside a rock in less than five metres of water.

还记得小时候赖在地上弄得一身脏的感觉吗？当时的你可能只有六岁，被妈妈狠狠地骂了一顿，可那很值得。当你渐渐长大，你会发现有时候在一堆年代久远的老东西里寻寻觅觅就有可能挖到你一生中珍贵的宝贝。

对潜水员来说，想要挖宝就是潜入一处能像孩子般尽情玩泥巴的地方，寻获至宝的激动让你无法相信自己的绝佳运气。

好久以前，我们曾前往印尼的安汶，也听过许多动人而热烈的传说，大部分都跟当地广阔的礁脉间所发现的神奇美好生物有关。尽管如此，我们对于这座仍被视为印尼前哨站的岛屿并没有实际的了解，不只因为它与巴厘岛或美娜多的机场距离遥远，而且没有直飞航班，这意味着我们抵达时都是在傍晚时分。我们一行人一到达，就迫不及待的冲向大海，等不及要大开眼界一番。

我们从机场搭了一小段航程的船前往班达海开阔的海域，转眼间，我们就抵达了沿岸点缀着椰树的海湾和以当地的吻触居民们所命名的潜点——Rhino City。有时候事情就是这么凑巧，我们正好下潜在一



Even the nastiest pile of detritus is forgivable when you know what you might find digging around in it.

就算再脏乱不堪的岩石堆，一旦想到你可能从中挖到一些宝，你就会欣然忍受。

This curious fish was rocking slowly back and forth, completely unconcerned by the number of interlopers gawking at him. Eventually, we took our leave and cruised down a sandy slope into a gully where we met stonefish, lots of shrimp and dwarf cuttlefish. The seabed was fairly barren apart from some tiny corals and a few fingers sponges but every whip coral had a whole colony of shrimp on it and we spotted tiny pufferfish, ornate ghost pipefish and many different nudibranchs. It was a fabulous dive and a good omen for what was to come.

The next morning we awoke itching to get straight back in the water. We were taken to Laha, the best-known dive site in the region along a coastal stretch where several dives merge into an elongated display of muck diving magic. However, the surrounds were nowhere near as appealing as the previous day. We were back close to the city harbour where masses of small, rickety fishing boats were crammed together into a much-too-small space. Packed to the gills with whole families, the boats created a miniature floating town but the water around them was less than sparkling. Discarded rubbish, old food and all sorts of unmentionable things were floating on the surface so rolling back into the water required a mental shove. However, once we were underwater, we saw the reasons why the crew were so adamant

尾淡粉色吻鲈的上方，少说也有五尺长的它，舒服的趴在石块旁。这位古怪的仁兄，慢慢的前后摇摆着，完全不在乎一票外来客正呆看着它。

最后，我们游离这里，往下寻访一片倾斜的沙地，潜入一座峡谷，在那里我们遇见了石鱼、数不清的虾子以及侏儒墨鱼。海床相当贫瘠，只有一些细小的珊瑚和几株指海绵，不过每一朵鞭珊瑚都寄居了一大群虾公民；河豚、尖嘴鬼海龙还有五花八门的海兔紧紧吸引着我们的目光。这真是一处不可思议的潜点，也为接下来的潜水行程带来了好兆头。

第二天早晨，我们在能直接重回大海怀抱的满心期待中醒来。我们前往此区最著名的潜水地区一拉哈，拉哈沿着海岸一路延伸，揽括了好几处潜点，形成一处绵长又魅力无穷的漫潜胜地，不过周围的景致已远远不如从前那般动人。我们回到近市区的港湾，一艘艘摇摇晃晃的小渔船全挤在这不大的空间里。这些装载了一家大小连同全部家当的渔船，自成一座小规模的小镇，只不过环绕他们的海水黯然无光。弃置的垃圾、残羹剩饭，还有各种令人羞于启齿的贴身用品，全都漂浮在水面上，所以想转身潜回海里，还真需要意志力推自己一把。不过，当我们身处海中，眼前的一切说明了工作人员为何坚持我们一定要潜游此处的原因。海床风光重现水面上杂乱景象，不过，



we've muck dived before and know that sites like this often hide rare and unusual treasures.

我们曾进行过漫潜，非常清楚如此这般的潜点通常蕴藏着稀有不凡的珍宝。

Ambon | Indonesia

we had to do this dive. The unpromising surface views were repeated on the seabed but we've muck dived before and know that sites like this often hide rare and unusual treasures.

A Messy Slope

There was no doubt that the seabed beneath the fishing boats was reminiscent of a rubbish dump, but undeterred, our divemasters led us down another messy slope for the new diver tour. Just a two-minute fin along and we passed some old crates containing soft drink bottles, each one housing a curious goby, sometimes two. A pile of old coconut husks were being used by a pair of cockatoo waspfish as camouflage, then a few inches further on we spotted another hopping across the sand. Glancing up, we spied a pile of rocks with rubber tires strewn across them. Each tire was home to at least one moray and some poked their noses out to take advantage of the resident cleaner shrimp. Before the excitement could slacken, we were directed to the other side of the rocks and a cluster of banded pipefish before we ran into a black ornate ghost pipefish in a black crinoid then several nudibranchs and a snake eel.

After an hour, the tide started to change, pushing us along far too quickly. It was frustrating to realize that we were going to be forced to even though there was a promise of something more scattered all around, as waiting for us to uncover. Even as we did a safety stop in the current, we could see crabs, shrimp,

我们曾进行过漫潜，非常清楚这样的潜点通常蕴藏着稀有不凡的珍宝。

混乱的斜坡

渔船下的那片海床，毫无疑问的会让人联想到一堆堆垃圾，不过，我们并不害怕，导潜带着我们从另一处脏乱的斜坡下潜。才游了两分钟，我们就经过一些装了饮料瓶的旧木条箱，每只瓶子里都栖居了一尾好奇的虾虎鱼，有些则挤了两尾。一大堆的椰子壳成了一对帆鳍鲈伪装的最佳道具。接着，我们看见了前方几英尺处有另一尾帆鳍鲈正蹦蹦跳跳的横越沙地。往上看，我们发现满坑满谷的石头，还有许多橡胶轮胎散落其间。每个轮胎至少蛰居了一尾海鳗，有些海鳗伸出鼻子享受着同样居住于此的清洁虾们周到的服务。我们的亢奋还没有平息，就接着潜往石堆的另一侧，遇上了成群结队的斑节尖嘴鱼，还见到了一尾黑色的细吻鬼海龙隐身在一朵黑色的海百合里，随后是几尾海兔和一尾蛇鳗隆重登场。

一小时后，海潮变了，快速将我们推离，迫使我们上升，离开这处放眼望去必定还有更多惊喜的地方，这让我们很沮丧。即使我们在水流中进行安全停留时，还能观赏到虾兵蟹将、幼小的鲈鱼、微小的狮子鱼，还有成双成对的侏儒墨鱼紧密地黏在一起。



Every moment spent studying the seabed or a pile of rubbish seemed to be repaid with a new and weird creature well camouflaged by its location.

每个探索海底或垃圾堆的时光，似乎就会见着一张陌生而神秘的新面孔，伪装良好的就地藏匿着。

juvenile scorpionfish, miniscule lionfish and several dwarf cuttlefish that were sticking together in strict pairs. And all that amongst a pile of old rubbish.

A Gorgeous Mess

Even the nastiest pile of detritus is forgivable when you know what you might find digging around in it so we returned to Laha and, averting our gaze, rolled in again. The dive plan had been to head the opposite direction but we hardly went anywhere as the dive developed into the most amazing experience right where we started. We had only been down a few moments when we encountered a fingered dragonet, his dorsal fin popping up and down at speed as he returned our stares. Next, we saw pair of seagrass ghost pipefish and nearby a rubble bed was overwhelmed by a huge number of mandarinfish skittering about – we were amazed to see so many of these tiny creatures in the daylight as they are usually only seen at dusk. Perhaps the shadows from the perpetually moored boat hulls above have encouraged their tiny body clocks to adjust.

When we finally forced ourselves to move on, a huge octopus and an even larger moray eel sharing the same rocky outcrop greeted us. A few feet away and another rock revealed six morays all huddled together, noses waving in unison so beautifully that we nearly missed the stonefish sitting just below them. As we

went over the sand there were all sorts of critters competing for attention – just how do you choose between two giant frogfish and a mantis shrimp that insists on following your path across the reef?

Non-stop Critter Hunt

As you can imagine, we spent a lot of our time diving the area inside Ambon channel. It seemed that every time we went down we found something different. Every moment spent studying the seabed or a pile of rubbish seemed to be repaid with a new and weird creature well camouflaged by its location. The pink rhinopias turned out to be one of a pair, thorny sea-horses could be found wrapped around finger sponges daily but the winged pipefish was a one-off. We found the haunt of a solar-powered nudibranch in a tiny crevice beneath a rotting log, while burrfish seemed to park themselves in every available box no matter what it was made of. And we haven't even mentioned the garden eels, scorpionfish, blue ribbon eels, black ribbon eels, cowries, cardinalfish, flounders... oh, now we have!

Delving Into The Deep

In amongst all this glorious muck, we also headed further afield to discover what the Banda Sea reefs had to offer. An hour or so sailing from the channel mouth and heading east revealed some dramatic coastal dives

华丽的杂乱

就算再脏乱不堪的岩石堆，一旦想到你可能从中挖到一些宝，你就会欣然忍受，所以我们重回拉哈，再度潜入。这次的潜游计划是前往相反的方向，可是潜游的一开始就进入了无与伦比的绝美中，我们实在很难照着计划走。我们才刚潜入，就碰上了一尾指龙鱼上下迅速地拍动背鳍，作为对我们注目礼的回报。

接着，出现在我们眼前的是一对蓝鳍鬼海龙，还有数不胜数的皇冠青蛙排山倒海地飞掠过沙砾海床附近，能在白天目睹这些通常只在傍晚出没的小生物，让我们十分惊喜。或许水面上恒久停泊于此的船只身影，使得它们调整了生理时钟。当我们总算强迫自己前行时，一尾巨大的章鱼和一尾更大的海鳗一起伏坐在同一块露出的石头上迎接我们。

几步之外的另一块岩石露出了六尾海鳗的身影，它们挤成一团，步调一致地挥动着口鼻，形成一幅和谐美好的画面，让我们差点错过了就在它们下方的魮鱼。当我们越过沙床时，所有生物无不卯足劲的想要赢得我们的青睐——你会如何在坚持跟随你穿越礁脉的两只庞大躑鱼以及一尾螳螂虾间取舍？

搜寻生物无止境

你可以想象，我们花了许多时间潜游于安汶区域内的水道，仿佛我们每次的潜入都会有不同发现。每个探索海底或垃圾堆的时光，似乎就会见着一张陌生而神秘的新面孔，伪装良好的就地藏匿着。粉红色的吻魮四处交际着，想为自己找到另一半；刺海马鬼鬼祟祟的藏身在手指海绵附近；那尾巨吻海鳗则是绝无仅有。我们发现一根腐朽的木头下，一处细小的缝隙中出没了一尾太阳能海蛞蝓；不论哪一种材质的箱子，似乎全被刺魮占据了。这些还不包括我们没提到的花园鳗、鬼石狗公、黑色缎带鳗、贝类、天竺鲷、比目鱼。哦，不对！我们现在就提到了！

探究深遂

体验这一整个壮观的杂乱之余，我们也深入更偏远的区域去探索班达海礁脉间无限的可能。从河口出发航向东方，约莫一个钟头，一处处引人注目的近海潜点呈现在眼前，张裂的洞穴刻划过外礁壁，舞动的珊瑚密密麻麻的覆盖住这些裂口。不过，我们最中意的蓝海潜点是在小巧的努沙岛。这座青葱繁茂的小岛下，是一处延伸至海



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where gaping caverns cutting through the outer reef wall are smothered by waving fan corals. However, our favourite blue water dives were around tiny Nusa Laut. Beneath this lush green island, an underwater promontory protrudes into the currents and attracts substantial numbers of large and pelagic animals. As we descended we met a shimmering school of jacks then another one of midnight snappers. There were a few Spanish mackerel and a stray barracuda that would launch into the fish schools scattering them in all directions. The schools would reform quickly into a cluster even as a turtle swimming past along the reef diverted us. However, the main attraction was the resident bumphead parrotfish, some of the most enormous we have ever seen. There were three or four clusters, each one with a leader that would watch us warily as we approached, allowing us to get just so near, then would lead his team casually away. They never completely disappeared, but seemed to be playing a game with the divers. It was a lot of fun swimming away and around a boulder, knowing that you just might catch one unawares.

The visibility was crystal clear around Nusa Laut and if was hard to turn away from the promontory where all the big guys were hanging out, because their presence eclipsed the pretty reef above. There were so many smaller creatures in the shallows – tomato clowns and shrimp in an anemone, a bed of garden eels, angel and butterflyfish, starfish and the ‘spearchucker’ mantis peering out of a sandy burrow.

Getting Wrecked

Sailing back to Ambon before our return flight, we did our last dive on a wreck that has long been referred to as the Pertamina wreck as it is found offshore from the Pertamina oil refinery. Recently, the local dive centre conducted a series of penetration dives and discovered a plaque on the boiler in the engine room. It’s serial number eventually led to the vessel being identified as the *Duke of Sparta*, built in 1940 in northern England. The ship was bombed in Ambon harbor during a clandestine Cold War CIA operation against Indonesian communist rebels in 1958.

Descending down the anchor line to the bow, low visibility in the shallows clouded our first view of the hull but as we reached the seabed, the water was clearer and we could see lush soft corals and areas of tubastrea corals softening the shape of the rotting metal hull. The holds are open and easy to peer into but we didn’t enter, as there was so much to admire on the exposed surfaces with many nudibranchs and pipefish slithering across the aging decks. Small fish were flitting about and an octopus made an appearance as he slipped into a funnel that he used as his home.

流中的岬角，吸引了丰富多量的大型远洋动物慕名而来。当我们下潜时，遇见了一群闪闪发光的鲹鱼，之后是另一群斑点笛鲷。几尾鲹鱼和一尾迷途的巴拉金梭鱼硬是闯进鱼群里打乱队伍，使其散向四面八方。不过，鱼儿们很快地再度群集，这时，一只海龟沿着珊瑚礁悠游而过，分散了我们的注意力。然而，最有魅力的莫过于栖住于此的铁头鹦哥，有些体型庞大到我们不曾见过。这些鹦哥鱼分成三、四群，每个小团体都有个头头，当我们靠近时，小心谨慎的盯着我们瞧，只允许我们再靠近一些，然后就领着牠的弟兄们若无其事的离去。它们从来就不会完全的消失，倒是和潜水员们玩着游戏。潜游于大圆石周遭乐趣无穷，你可能出其不意的就遇见了惊喜。

努沙岛四周的能见度极高，水质清澈透明，齐聚着所有大伙开派对时的岬角，让上方美丽的珊瑚礁也相形失色，更令人流连忘返。浅水区则有无数的小生物 – 红小丑鱼和虾穿梭于海葵间，花园鳗、天使鱼、尖嘴蝴蝶鱼、海星，还有「鬼祟」的濑尿虾从沙穴中向外窥视。

潜游沉船

上飞机前，我们搭船回到安汶，前往一艘沉船进行我们最后一趟潜游。这艘在Pertamina炼油厂外海发现的沉船被称为「Pertamina沉船」。近来，当地的潜水业者进行一连串的渗透潜水，探索到轮机房里的锅炉上有块饰板，根据上头的序号最后查证出这艘沉船是1940年英国北部建造的「Duke of Sparta」。这艘船于1958年冷战时期，在中央情报局对抗印尼共和叛军的秘密任务中被炸毁于安汶港。

顺着锚绳下潜至船艏，浅水区昏暗不清的视野模糊了我们对船身的第一印象，不过，当我们抵达海床时，海水变得澄澈了，我们见到繁盛的软珊瑚，还有整面的管珊瑚柔和了腐蚀的金属船身。船舱敞开，里头看得一清二楚，不过我们没有潜入，船身外已经有太多美妙的景物可观赏，好多海蛞蝓和海龙悠哉的滑过年代久远的甲板，小鱼在附近轻快的游荡，一尾章鱼溜进一座烟囪里，那儿俨然已成了它的家。

Information

Getting there: For most countries in Asia, there are plenty of direct flights to Bali every week. To dive Ambon, fly to either Bali or Manado and connect to a domestic airline. International airlines include Singapore Airlines, Qatar, Cathay Pacific and Eva Air. Smaller, regional airlines include Silk Air (www.silkair.com) and AirAsia (www.airasia.com).

Visas: Visa-free entry for up to 30 days is available for passport holders of these countries: Hong Kong, Macau, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. A 7-day (\$10) or 30-day visa on arrival (\$25) is available at principal Indonesian ports of entry for visitors from Australia, China, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan.

Language: Most Indonesians speak Bahasa but English is widely spoken at hotels, resorts and dive centres.

Currency: The unit of currency is the Rupiah (1 USD = 9.5 Rupiah) but many operations will also accept US Dollars. It’s important to have some cash, as outside of major centres, banking facilities are restricted.

交通方式: 亚洲大部份国家每周都有不少直飞班机飞往巴厘岛。潜游安汶可以飞往巴厘岛或美娜多，再转接国内班机。国际航班包括了新加坡航空、卡达航空、国泰航空以及长荣航空。规模小一些的区域性班机则有胜安航空和亚洲航空。

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语言: 大部份的人都说印度尼西亚语，不过在饭店、度假村和潜水中心讲英语也很普遍。

货币: 印度尼西亚的官方货币为印尼卢比【1 USD = 9.5 Rupiah】，不过很多潜水业者都能接受美金。有些大型的潜水中心、银行机构还是有所限制，所以持有现金是很重要的。

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