

## Tips For Underwater Macro Photography In Indonesia



Raja Ampat and Komodo are undeniably two of the top best places in the world for underwater macro photography. Thanks to their locations within the Coral Triangle, underwater photographers can look forward to an incredible variety of marine life including an astonishing array of fascinating macro creatures like pygmy seahorses, nudibranchs, frogfish, and countless other tiny wonders, the perfect subjects for macro photography.

Embark on a diving adventure to the Komodo National Park and Raja Ampat with M Diving, and we'll take you the famous and hidden dive sites that are teeming with macro creatures, ideal for your underwater macro photography adventure!

Let's explore some underwater photography tips when photographing macro creatures.

### **What is underwater macro photography?**

Underwater macro photography is a form of photography that focuses on capturing incredibly detailed images of small marine life. It involves getting very close to tiny critters that are abundant in the waters of Komodo and Raja Ampat, such as nudibranchs, pygmy seahorses, and shrimp, to reveal their intricate beauty and unique characteristics.

For a satisfying underwater macro photography session, you'll need specialized equipment, including macro lenses or wet lenses and specialized techniques to capture sharp, vibrant images of these tiny creatures in their almost invisible world.

### **Where you can do macro photography in Indonesia?**

Indonesia is an underwater macro photography paradise with countless locations to spot these tiny critters as well as fantastical underwater creatures both big and small. Raja Ampat and the Komodo National Park would be on our top two most recommended locations in Indonesia for underwater macro photography. The waters of Raja Ampat on its own covers a vast 62,000 km<sup>2</sup> while the waters surrounding Komodo National Park covers 1,130 km<sup>2</sup>.

In these waters, you're bound to find the perfect setting for your underwater macro photography setup. In both locations you'll find an incredible array of bizarre and beautiful macro creatures in vibrant, underwater environments, hiding amongst corals, rocky reefs and sandy and silty bottoms.

### **What is an ideal lens to use for macro photography?**

The best lens allows you to get up close without losing sharpness so every detail pops out at you with vivid colours.

According to Adobe's findings, most popular options range between 90mm -105mm focal lengths, offering life-size magnification levels indicated by a ratio of 1:1.

Underwater macro photography equipment that you'll need for successful macro photography would include macro lenses, strobes or video lights to reduce backscatter and shadows, and wet diopters, also known as a wet macro lens.

### **What camera is best for macro diving?**

Remember, [not all underwater cameras](#) have the ability to shoot macro. You may need an additional close-up lens or wet lens that fits on the front of your waterproof housing or a specific macro lens for a particular camera brand.

When it comes to choosing what camera is best for macro diving, a few popular, trusted big name brands have popped up including Nikon, Canon and Sony but whether it's compact cameras, mirrorless, or dSLRs, choosing the right underwater macro photography equipment will ultimately depend on what you want and need.

Our advice would be to speak to other underwater photographers, do your own research on the internet and visit camera stores to speak to their product specialists and try out the product on your own before deciding. Read more about cameras for diving in our blog post [here](#).

### **What are the challenges to photographing underwater?**

Some primary obstacles faced by underwater macro photographers would include

Color absorption: Water absorbs warm colours, such as red, orange, and yellow. As a result, underwater images tend to have a bluish or greenish cast, especially as depth increases. You can overcome this by adjusting your camera's settings, adjusting your focus and by getting as close to your subject as you possibly can without scaring them off.

Light absorption: Water is a natural filter and at every 10 metres, [half of your light is lost](#). Light will also change depending on the time of day, so to get the best light, try to dive between 10 am and 2 pm. You can also use a strobe to illuminate your macro subjects.

Maintaining buoyancy: Strong currents can make it difficult to stabilize the camera and capture sharp images. It would be difficult to take good underwater photos while trying to swim against the current, sinking too deep or rising to the surface. Use a buoyancy compensator (BCD) to help you maintain stability while in the water.

Refraction: This occurs when light traveling through water passes through [the glass and air of your underwater camera](#), causing objects to appear approximately 25 percent larger and closer than they really are. Use a camera with infrared autofocus or do a manual focus setting at 25 percent magnification.

### **Underwater Macro Photography With M Diving**

Learn more about underwater photography tips and underwater macro photography setup with M Diving. We offer a wide range of PADI courses, some based out of our Komodo dive centre, liveboard Indonesia and some taught from our Raja Ampat location. The ideal course for aspiring underwater photographers would be the PADI Digital Underwater Photographer Course. In this course, you'll learn how to take underwater photos you'll be proud to share with others.

You'll also learn to avoid beginner mistakes and shorten the learning curve with tips from the pros, how to use underwater photography lights (strobes), avoid backscatter and enhance colour.

### **The Best Liveboard For Underwater Photography Raja Ampat**

Ready to master macro photography with M Diving? Sign up for our PADI Digital Underwater Photographer Course and then embark on an unforgettable diving and underwater photography adventure with our beautiful boat or for a Raja Ampat liveboard experience that you won't forget.

Don't forget to check out our hot offers page for some unmissable deals and discounts. Contact us for more information or to book your liveboard diving in Indonesia with M Diving!