

VISIT THE INTERESTING DERAWAN ISLANDS

DERAWAN ISLAND/PULAU DERAWAN

The *Derawan* Islands are an archipelago located in *Berau Regency*, East Kalimantan/*BORNEO*. In this archipelago there are a some of charming marine tourist attractions, one of which is the Underwater Park which is of interest to International tourists, especially world-class divers. The Derawan Islands have three districts , *Derawan* Island, *Maratua*, and *Biduk Biduk*, Tanjung Redeb, Berau.

There are at least four famous islands in the archipelago, *Maratua* Island, *Derawan*, *Sangalaki* and *Kakaban*, which are home to rare species of green turtles and hawksbill turtles.

Geographically, it is located on the northern peninsula of the sea waters of ***Berau*** Regency which consists of several islands, namely Panjang Island, Raburabu Island, Samama Island, Sangalaki Island, Kakaban Island, Nabuko Island, Maratua Island and Derawan Island as well as several coral reefs such as Muaras sandbar, Pinaka sandbar. , Buliulin char, Masimbung char, and Tababinga char.

In the ***Derawan*** Islands there are several very important coastal and small island ecosystems, namely coral reefs, seagrass beds and mangrove forests. Apart from that, there are many protected species in the ***Derawan*** Islands, such as green turtles, hawksbill turtles, whales, dolphins, clams, coconut crabs, dugongs, barracudas and several other species.

Interesting activities on Derawan Island:

1. Rent a bicycle around the island
2. Play on the white sand beach
3. Enjoy the sunset while taking photos on the long pier that juts out into the sea
4. Visit Gusung Pasir Sanggalau (about 20 minutes by speedboat) when the water is low
5. Snorkeling
6. See turtles laying eggs at night

SANGALAKI ISLAND/PULAU SANGALAKI



Different with **Derawan** Island, there are no residential villages on **Sangalaki** Island. What is here is only an exclusive resort and Natural Tourism Park which functions to preserve marine biota, especially habitat for green turtles and hawksbill turtles. **Sangalaki** Island can be reached by speedboat for around 1 hour from **Derawan** Island.

Recommended Activities on Sangalaki Island:

- See the process of hatching turtle eggs and turtles laying eggs, releasing hatchlings into the sea
- Swim with manta rays which are often seen around Sangalaki Island

KAKABAN ISLAND/PULAU KAKABAN



Just like **Sangalaki** Island, **Kakaban** Island is also an uninhabited island. The main attraction on this island is the brackish water lake which is in the center of the island and is surrounded by quite dense forests. In the lake there are many jellyfish that have undergone an evolutionary process so that they have lost their ability to sting.

Activities that can be done on Kakaban Island:

- Swim with stingless jellyfish (jellyfish that don't sting)
- Snorkel around the island pier

MARATUA ISLAND/PULAU MARATUA



Maratua Island is an island that has quite complete facilities. Apart from the residential villages, there are also many exclusive resorts, an airport and several interesting tourist spots to visit.

Recommended Activities on Maratua Island:

- Visit Halo Tube Cave. This cave was previously better known as the Haji Mangku Cave. However, in recent years, this spot has increasingly developed its tourist potential by making entry easier and changing its name. The easiest access to get to Halo Tabung Cave is by road which is then followed by a 2 minute walk via the boardwalk. Apart from land, Halo Tabung Cave can also be accessed by water, but only at high tide so that boats can approach the entrance. Entrance ticket: IDR 20,000/person.
- Swim and enjoy the blue waters around Maratua Paradise Resort
- Swim with turtles at the dive spot called Turtle Traffic
- Snorkeling around the Green Nirvana Resort pier

LABUAN CERMIN LAKE/DANAU LABUAN CERMIN



The next tourist destination in the Derawan Islands which is no less interesting is **Lake Labuan Cermin**. As the name suggests, this tourist attraction in Derawan is famous for the mirror-like clarity of its water. To reach Labuan Cermin Lake, Toppers will explore a river covered with dense mangroves. Swimming in the clear Labuan Cermin will certainly not fail to refresh your mind.

TRANSPORTATION

To go to the Derawan Islands, there are 2 entry points to choose from.

The first is by flying to Balikpapan, Sepinggan Airport from Jakarta, and direct flight to Maratua Island by Light Aircraft, and the schedule are 2 times a week

the second option, direct flight from Jakarta to Berau, Kalimantan Airport followed by a 2.5 – 3 hour road trip by car to Tanjung Batu Harbor, then using a speedboat for 30 – 45 minutes to Derawan Island.

From Derawan Island we can island-hop all day visiting Sangalaki Island, Kakaban Island, Maratua Island and stopping at several other interesting places, such as Gusung Pasir Sanggalau and Halo Tabung Cave.

Meanwhile, for the return trip to Berau, we found the option of taking a speedboat directly from Maratua to Tanjung Redeb Pier (Berau) for 2.5 – 3 hours, then from there just take a car for 20 minutes to Kalimantan Airport, Berau. Which route is better? Depends on individual preferences. The road trip is quite long and the roads are a bit damaged. The sea route is faster but is sometimes affected by weather conditions.

The following is an overview of transportation costs:

- Car from Tanjung Redeb to Tanjung Batu: IDR 650,000 – IDR 750,000/car
- Tanjung Batu speedboat to Derawan Island: IDR 150,000/person
- Speedboat for island-hopping: IDR 3,500,000/day
- Speedboat from Maratua to Tanjung Redeb: IDR 3,500,000/boat (charter for boats with a capacity of 16 people).
- Car from Tanjung Redeb to Kalimantan Airport: IDR 250,000/car

PLACES TO STAY/PENGINAPAN

Of the 4 most visited islands in the Derawan Islands, the choice to stay overnight mostly on ***Derawan*** Island or ***Maratua*** Island. On Derawan Island there are many beachside resorts with rooms above the sea and there are also many accommodation options in the form of homestays. Meanwhile, on Maratua Island, most of the accommodation is in the form of resorts that have long piers jutting out into the sea.