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Komodo National Park

Indonesia

When you visit the 700-square-mile Komodo National Park, you feel like you're sailing through the Grand Canyon—but one that's been flooded with crystalline water and fringed with reef. Underwater, the UNESCO World Heritage Site has more than 1,000 species of fish and 260 kinds of coral, plus whales, sharks, and manta rays, making for some of the world's best scuba diving and snorkeling.

On the park's volcanic islands, the planet's last 2,500 wild Komodo dragons roam. These 200-pound, 10-foot-long reptiles inject their prey with highly septic saliva, and they can devour a water buffalo in just half an hour. To see them, take a stroll around the main islands of Komodo and Rinca—don't worry, guides shoo the beasts with a stick if they get too curious.

There aren't any hotels in the park, so live-aboard boats are the way to go. Fly to Lubuan Bajo on the western shore of Flores and head out on a twin-masted *phinisi*, a cross between an Arab dhow and a Western schooner, or try the five-cabin ironwood *Silolona*. For a private trip, book Amanresorts' *Amanikan*, a 105-foot coastal cruiser.

silolona.com, amanresorts.com

—JAMES STURZ



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SpiceRoads Cycle Tours

Vietnam

Pedal past rice paddies, lotus ponds, and Khmer temples in the Mekong Delta on a SpiceRoads bicycle tour. The company offers 13 cycling journeys around Vietnam, from a one-day meander through the villages that surround Hanoi to a 10-day, 329-mile climb into the

northwest Hoang Lien mountain range. On the latter trip, you'll meet Hmong, Yao, and other hill tribe people as you explore the trails around Fansipan, one of Southeast Asia's highest peaks. Then take on the 4,265-foot Pha Din Pass—according to local legend, it's the border between heaven and earth.

66/2-712-5305, spiceroads.com

—MICHELLE BANGERT



LANDSCAPE: LAURYN SHAK; KOMODO DRAGON: JED SCATTERGOOD; BICYCLE: COURTESY OF SPICEROADS