








C&S

# TANKED UP!

## THE TOP GLOBAL SHARK DIVING LOCALES

*by Kim Campbell Thornton*



>> It's always a thrill to spot a hammerhead, let alone a school of them.

Sharks are the lords of the deep. Even veteran scuba divers stare in awe at their presence. Their torpedo-shaped bodies and jagged teeth send a clear message: I can take you.

Fortunately, they usually don't. When sharks bite humans, it's typically by mistake or in self-defense. Sharks are more at risk from us than we are from them, from overfishing and from the trade in their fins.

Diving with sharks is a thrill, but it's also a way to make sharks more valuable alive than dead, as well as support ocean habitat, other species—from tuna to shellfish—and coral reefs. If you want to have a meet-up with “the men in gray suits,” here are seven top places to go.



## **GALAPAGOS**

The enchanted islands, as they're known, are most famous for tortoises and birds, but beneath the water is an incredible array of marine life, including scalloped hammerhead, Galapagos and whale sharks. You can go on a liveaboard dive boat such as Humboldt Explorer or Galapagos Sky that visits different islands such as remote Darwin and Wolf over a week or stay on land and take day trips with an outfitter. The moderate to strong currents—I was nearly swept away by one—make the Galapagos a destination for experienced divers only, although some sites are suitable for beginners and snorkelers. The best time to see large schools of hammerheads is December through May.

[explorerventures.com](http://explorerventures.com)  
[galapagossky.com](http://galapagossky.com)

Photo by Dennis Whistone, courtesy Ecoventura.

>> A liveboard dive boat in the style of a traditional Indonesian pinisi.



Photo courtesy Wallacea

>> Indonesia's Banda Islands are a popular destination for scuba divers and snorkelers.

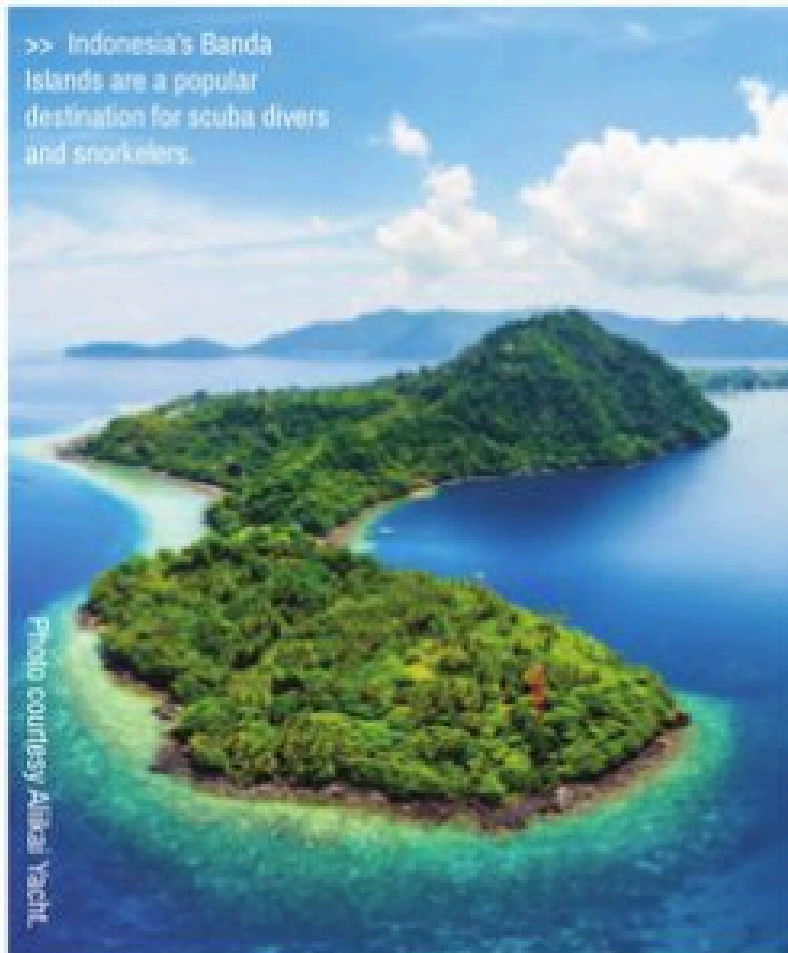


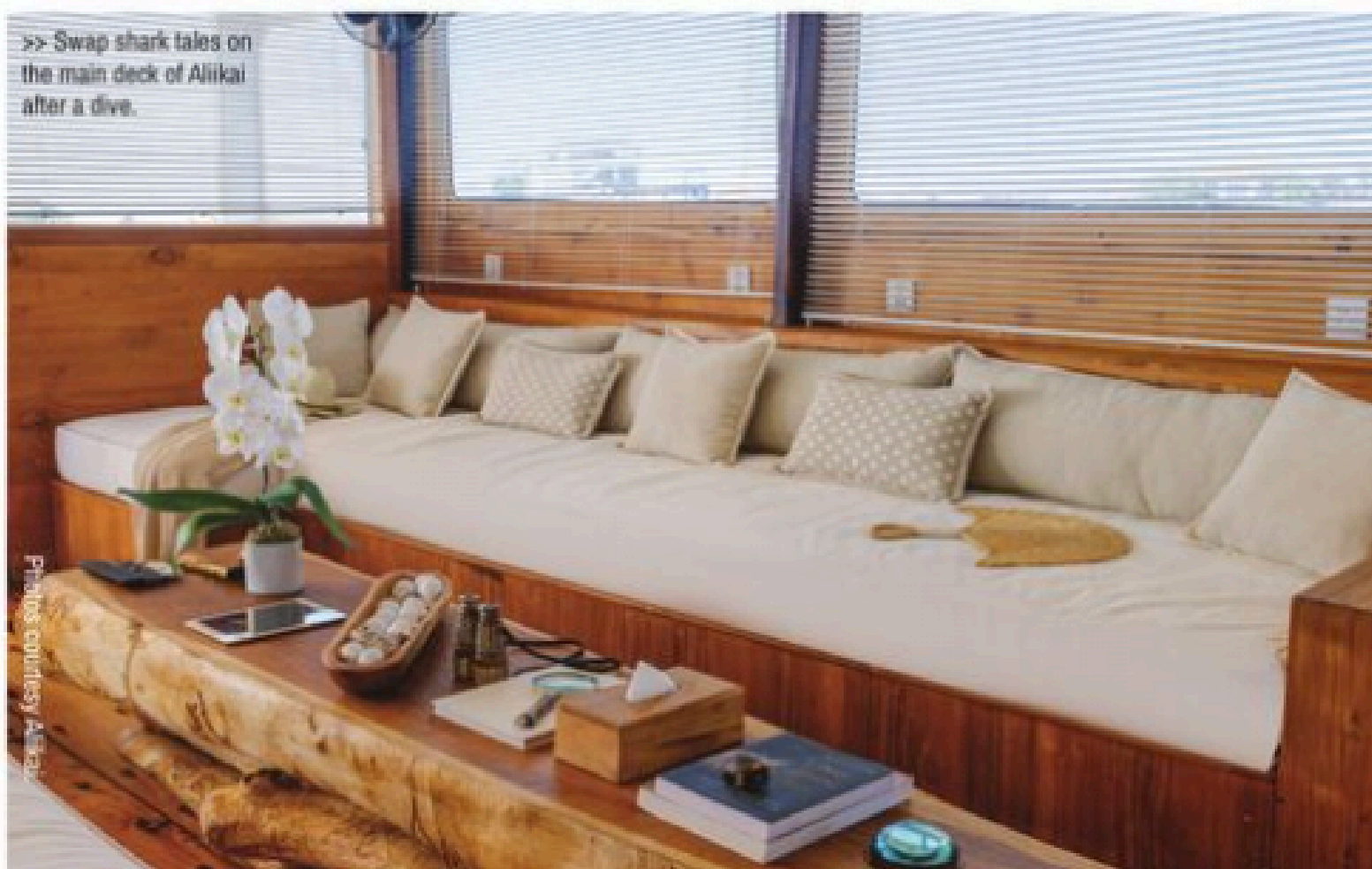
Photo courtesy Aliikai Yacht

## INDONESIA

Raja Ampat and Komodo National Park offer spectacular shark-diving experiences. Species you might encounter in the gin-clear waters include blacktip and whitetip reef sharks, wobbegongs, hammerheads, and the gigantic whale sharks, as well as manta rays, colorful reef fish, and sea horses. Experienced divers will be at home on one of the liveboard dive boats operated by Wallacea. They accommodate 16 divers in eight cabins with ensuite bathrooms and offer three to four dives daily. For an exclusive personalized trip or a single cabin on a voyage shared with others, three-deck Aliikai Yacht offers seven spacious cabins, chef-prepared meals, wellness activities, and diving.

[wallacea.com](http://wallacea.com)  
[aliikai-voyage.com](http://aliikai-voyage.com)

>> Swap shark tales on the main deck of Aliikai after a dive.



Photos courtesy Aliikai

>> White-tip reef sharks often spend their time resting in caves or beneath ledges.



Photo courtesy Aliikai