

# Muck Diving in PJ

By Peter

I call it “diving on the moon” ... A fantastic place for divers that would like to dive in Bali. A ‘must do’ dive for divers that want to see something else after a couple of hundreds of dives in their logbook but also for divers that are interested to discover a new underwater world full with weird, strange critters. A dive where even dive professionals can be surprised and say: “What the hell was that???” This is a [Bali dive site](#) famous amongst macro photographers and muck divers worldwide. This dive site is called PJ, or Puri Jati (what stands for “Fortified Royal Residence with teak trees”) the former name of Zen Resort Bali. As the name of the resort now is Zen Resort Bali, people start to call this dive site Zen Beach.

It’s a six minute walk from our dive resort to the beach, covered by black volcanic sand; the walk is between rice fields and vineyards where farmers harvest the grapes for the famous Bali Hatten Wine. PJ lies in between Pemuteran and Lovina with water temperatures of at least 28° Celsius the whole year round. In normal circumstances you will have at least 10 meters visibility and during good days even 25! [Diving in PJ](#) had some problems in the past due to fishermen dragging with fishing nets but that didn’t stopped the fish from leaving this fantastic dive site. Since a few months ago, local people made a diving area so fishermen know that they can’t come in that area anymore, with success!

You’ve got all the facilities that you need at the beach, right in front of the dive site. Showers, toilets, change room, large bamboo gear benches, and separate rinsing tanks for equipment and camera’s local helpers are willing to help putting your gear on or taking it off when you exit the water. This is all in between trees to give you more than enough shade.

PJ is a shore entry dive without surface swim. Why should you do a surface swim if the Macro Magic already starts at your feet where you can even find Whitemargin Stargazers during daylight when you’re lucky! Anemones with Saddle Back Anemone Fish, Porcelain Crabs and Shrimps are welcoming you at the start of Bali’s world famous muck dive site. As you continue your journey you will see lots of different kind of Lion Fish, most of the time attached to pieces of wood or on concrete cylinders. Also on the same cylinders you can spot squid, protecting their eggs during season. You will also see eggs of reef octopus under coconut shells and sometimes you can see ‘the little one’ inside the egg! Other marine life you can find during your dive are Dragonets, Threadfin Sand Divers, Ambon Scorpion Fish, different kind of gobies, Frogfish, Starfish, Ornate and Robust Ghost Pipe Fish, Napoleon Snake Eels, Porcupine Fish, Schools of Anchovies, Flying Gurnards, Razorfish, Nudibranch, Flounders, a lost Barracuda, etc.

But the real target while diving in PJ is the **Mimic Octopus**. This is a special species that has the ability to imitate other marine life such as anemones, crabs, flounders and sea snakes to name but a few. They are hard to spot or to see them out of their hole so an expert dive guide that knows this area is essential! Also you need an expert to go and find that rare, special nudibranch (Janolus Sp) between 17 and 30 meters.

I have to admit that PJ is my most favorite [dive site in Bali](#). Maybe you can ask yourself why as diving in dark volcanic sand is not really the place where you would like to go diving in. I can tell you that even now, I see still different, strange things that I have never saw before just like a few weeks ago as

I saw the strangest Frogfish ever. My first reaction was, he comes straight out of Chernobyl! Diving in PJ is an amazing adventure and a true gem for Macro Photographers. Even PADI Open Water Diver students are so excited when they come out of the water when they do diving in PJ! You can find the best marine life in between four and twelve meters so that makes longer dives!

You have to see it to believe it. Come and dive in Puri Jati and combine it with a stay in Zen Resort Bali where our dive resort is based; a place where tranquility and harmony are going hand in hand, a holistic resort with fantastic spa treatments. Where you will feel the sensation of an Ayurvedic, massage with four magical hands working in harmony, treating your body with the love and care that you deserve after a couple of dives and dinner on the 'top of the world' table as the cherry on the pie will make your experience complete.