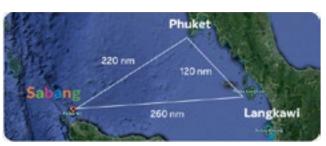


Sheltered Sabang Bay

By Marieke Derks

ulau Weh, the most Northern island of Indonesia, still evokes this feeling of you being a 19th century explorer discovering someplace remote and very special.

Well, special it is with its large areas of untouched jungle covering hills and mountains and a small population of some 30,000 souls. At the same time it's an island of today's era with wifi and creature comforts but remote enough to have few tourists. Arriving by yacht in very sheltered Sabang Bay (Sabang being the capital town of Pulau Weh) is probably the best way to visit this little gem close to Phuket and Langkawi. Expect friendly people, clear waters and fantastic underwater life.



Every year since 2009, the Indonesian Ministry of Tourism chooses a special destination to be the host of an annual national "Sail Event". This

year it is Sabang on Pulau Weh. The event is a great occasion to improve (marine) infrastructure in the area. So these "Sail Events" are not just a promotional tourism push, but provide real opportunity to improve the lives and economy of the local population long term. A bit like the Olympic Games are supposed to be set up.

Green, Clean, Nice & Easy

Upon arrival in Sabang Bay you will greatly appreciate the fantastic shelter this bay is offering to yachts going at anchor here. It is protected from wind and waves from every direction and the view is simply breath taking. The Sail Sabang 2017 event is more than worth your while to visit. The island is located some 220 nm from Phuket and 260 from Langkawi hence easily reachable for all types of yachts either as a destination or as a first stop for exploring Sumatra. From Sabang it is a small distance to explore the neighboring islands Pulau Breueh. Nasi and Tenom.

The Ministry of Tourism, Sabang Enterprise Agency (BPKS) together with all relevant authorities (immigration, customs, port authority, harbor master) have gone out of their way to turn this event into a success and make life as easy and nice as possible for participating yachts. Everybody knows how complicated red tape for arrival by yacht can be. But not this time. The authorities in a concerted action have promised entry and exit procedures to take a maximum of 1 hour for ALL formalities and fully free of charge. They will inform you upon arrival so no need to first find out where everything is located on shore.

Once the formalities are done you can go wherever you like with your yacht (depending on your visa arrangements) but of course you will love to stay for the events that take place from 28 November to 5 December. After the kick off by the President of Indonesia, HE Joko Widodo a fun and interesting and FREE program is at your disposal during this week including a Banda Aceh Tsunami Tour including a visit to the excellent Tsunami Museum (Aceh was close to the 8.9 earthquake of 2004, setting off the worst tsunami since written history). But also scuba diving is possible as part of the free program.

And.. the Sabang team is preparing a special Yacht Club venue under some large trees, for talking to your fellow yachtsmen while sipping an ice-cold beer and enjoying one of the 3 FREE meals per day that the organization will provide you with. Oh, and talking about free gifts from the organisation: each yacht is entitled to 100 ltr of fuel for free. Welcome to Sabang!



