



Directions: Read the text below and answer the following questions.

Wakatobi



Situated on the most south eastern edge off the coast of South East Sulawesi Province, the entire regency of Wakatobi Islands is a marine national park that is blessed with abundant and magnificent underwater wonders. Surprisingly, the wonders of Wakatobi do not only lie below the surface of its vast waters but also on the islands, in the cultural traditions of its friendly people. From turtles gliding gracefully over the open waters, soft pearly white sandy beaches and relaxing breezes, to traditional forts and historical legacies of ancient kings and rulers, some of the most fascinating wonders of Wakatobi are your holiday destination.

First Wangi-Wangi, the Gateway to the Wonder of Wakatobi. Whether you are a skilled diver, occasional snorkeler, or just a laid-back traveler, the adventure of Wakatobi begins here. Commercial flights fly to and from Matahora Airport on this island make it the perfect gateway to explore all the wonders of Wakatobi. Watching the sun rise majestically over the horizon while dolphins swim and jump around your boat could not be a better start to your adventure. You can rent a boat at the Sombu or Mola Harbor that will take you around Kapota Cape to see these exceptional attractions. This close encounter with playful sea creatures out in their own habitat is truly a one of a kind sensation. On this dolphin watching adventure you will also see a unique collaboration between dolphins and local fishermen who use kites to fish for tuna. The fishermen notice where the dolphins are swimming and go to these spots since they know that this is where dolphins feed on tuna.

Second Kaledupa and Hoga: Timeless Serenity. Surrounded by mangrove forests and coconut trees, the island of Kaledupa boasts a quiet and calmer atmosphere compared to the other islands. The total tranquility is especially felt at the nearby Hoga Island which is the center for scientific and research undertaken by Operation Wallacea. Boasting crystal clear water, pristine soft white sandy beaches, swaying palm trees, and nothing but the sound of waves rushing to the shore, this is best as it gets in terms of a perfect getaway. Off the coast of Kaledupa, you can also visit the unique Bajo Sampela village built on the water by the Bajo ethnic group who are better known as the sea gypsies. Known as a community that has a special attachment to the sea, the Bajo can be found all over the Indonesian archipelago and even abroad, while at the Bajo Sampela village, you can observe how these legendary sea people live their unique life on houses built on stilts in the middle of the sea. Stepping onto the village, you will be greeted with big smiles and enthusiastic children, with an exceptional ambience rarely found elsewhere.

Third, Tomia: Diver's Delight. With over 40 dive sites that have been named and mapped with easy access to most of them, the island of Tomia has already established its name among divers worldwide. Among the many, Roma's Reef is a must among veteran divers as a challenging yet beautiful site. Almost resembling a big city, Roma's

Reef is very busy with vibrant underwater life. Here, you can find schools of Giant Trevallies, sea snakes coming up from the sea floor, turtles gliding by majestically, as well as various colorful fish dancing among the soft corals. The privately funded Marine Preserve in Tomia, the Wakatobi Dive Resort offers exclusive packages including direct flights from Bali to the resort's private airstrip.

Fourth, Binongko: The Island of Blacksmiths. Binongko, the Bi or the last syllable of Wakatobi, and the furthest island of the group, offers its own special experiences. Again, you will be greeted with the warm hospitality and friendliness of the local people. A lovely traditional welcoming dance is performed by a group of young girls accompanied by the traditional *gambus* music when a group of tourists visit the island. Binongko is actually the reason why the islands were once known as *Tukang Besi*. Simply translated, *Tukang Besi* means iron workers or blacksmiths. And Binongko is the island where you can find these really skilled blacksmiths. Here you can observe how steel is forged, shaped, and sharpened using traditional techniques that have been passed on down generations. Many even consider that knives and machetes produced on Binongko are the best in Indonesia. Off its shores, Binongko also offers excellent snorkeling and diving experiences with plenty of magnificent underwater splendors to enjoy.

Answer the following questions:

1. What can you explore at Wakatobi Islands?
2. What can you see at Wangi-Wangi?
3. Why are the Bajo ethnic group also known as the sea gypsies?
4. What can you enjoy at Roma's Reef?
5. What can you find about blacksmiths' activities in Binongko?