

## Day Trip: Bidong Island Technical Excursion



Pulau Bidong (Bidong Island), where Universiti Malaysia Terengganu's research station is located; is one of the many coral reef islands in the east coast of Peninsular Malaysia. Formerly used as a Vietnamese refugee camp, the island is blessed with very clear water that teems with an abundance of coral reef fishes due to the high coral cover of the area. Here, one can expect to find highly diverse coral reef fishes, including damselfishes, wrasse, parrotfishes, cardinal fishes and other families including big predators such as groupers, snappers and sharks. Reef flats within the shallow water are with high percentage of coral cover with lots of resident fishes, and are very suitable for snorkeling. In the reef crest and slope, proliferation of hard and soft coral species, with abundant bigger coral reef fishes is an excellent site for anyone interested to experience and embrace warm water coral reef ecosystem using SCUBA diving.

There are few types of artificial reefs deployed in the vicinity of Pulau Bidong to enhance local fisheries. These artificial reefs are usually covered with hard and soft corals, bivalves and mollusks with high abundance of small and big fishes that take refuge in the area- providing multiple dimensions for observing their performance in mimicking the functions of natural reefs.

This excursion will provide a chance to embrace the natural beauty of Terengganu's underwater wonders both at natural and artificial reefs.

### **PROGRAMME COST**

The one day programme costs: RM350 ( $\pm$  USD 90) for SCUBA divers; RM250 ( $\pm$  USD 65) for snorkelers

The cost includes:

- Coach transportation (from your hotel) and boat ride to Pulau Bidong and return
- Two meals (lunch and afternoon tea) on Pulau Bidong
- Rental of SCUBA or snorkelling gears

## ITINERARY

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY
<b>14<sup>th</sup> Sep 17</b> <b>(Thursday)</b>	7:30am	Gather at PPSMS, UMT
	8:00am	Travel to Pulau Duyong by bus/van
	8:45am	Depart to Pulau Bidong via speedboat
	10:30am	i) 1 <sup>st</sup> SCUBA dive: <i>Coral Reefs</i> ii) 1 <sup>st</sup> snorkeling: <i>Pantai Pasir Cina</i>
	12:30pm	Lunch
	2:00pm	i) 2 <sup>nd</sup> SCUBA dive: <i>Artificial reef</i> ii) 2 <sup>nd</sup> snorkeling session: <i>Pantai Vietnam</i>
	4:00pm	Depart to Pulau Duyong by speedboat
	5:30pm	End of Excursion

### **BOOKING [limited to 30 pax (20 divers and 10 snorkelers) only]**

Reservation (first come-first served basis) can be made by contacting Dr. James Tan, the coordinator via email: [tanchunhong@gmail.com](mailto:tanchunhong@gmail.com). Payment must be made in full on the registration day (10 September) in cash (local currency) only.