

ADELAAR

Banda Sea and Alor

Ambon to Maumere | Lucipara, Wetar, Pantar and Alor

Set off on an extraordinary journey from Ambon into the untouched splendour of the Banda Sea, known as the 'Forgotten Paradise', then on through the Alor Archipelago to Maumere.

This remote gem offers a dive into history and biodiversity, surrounded by volcanic islands, with everything from majestic pelagic fish to schools of hammerhead sharks.

Highlights include Gunung Api, an old, lonely volcano rising from the depths, and the remote reefs of Lucipara, which plunge steeply into the crystal-clear abyss.

Like Komodo, Alor lies in a strait between the Pacific and Indian Oceans, and along with the current comes the big stuff, such as thresher sharks and mola mola.

The sheltered bays are a haven for weird critters, from frogfish and seahorses to the holy grail, the rhinopias.

Above the water, the local children paddle out in their outrigger canoes to say hello.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	EXPERIENCE
10 nights	Ambon	Maumere	Certified divers







Your itinerary

DAY 1

Ambon

After boarding Adelaar in Ambon, you will enjoy your first day on board whilst cruising straight into the heart of the blue Banda Sea.

DAY 2

Lucipara Penyu Archipelago

4 day dives

The Lucipara archipelago consists of several uninhabited low profile sandy islands with lush tropical vegetation.
The islands themselves are inaccessible, protected by very shallow fringing reefs that extend several hundred meters from the shore line.
At the edge these huge coral shallows plunge steeply into the typically crystal-clear abyss of the Banda Sea.
Diving these remote locations has by definition an exploratory character - their location in the middle of the deep sea with no other islands around is very inviting for passing pelagics to hang around, thus increasing chances of close encounters between divers and bigger species such as tunas, rainbow runners, thresher sharks, silky sharks or hammerhead sharks.

DAY 3

Lucipara Maisel Archipelago

4 day dives

Another day just like the day before.
Apart from the chances to see pelagics other strong points of these dives are the general healthiness and sheer vastness of the reefs.
Some of the walls and steep slopes are studded with luxuriant soft coral growth, in other parts the landscape is dominated by huge barrel sponges or immense sea fans.
The shallows are mainly intact hard coral gardens inhabited by myriads of different species of reef fish.





DAY 4

Gunung Api

4 day dives

Gunung Api means simply volcano in Indonesian.
It is an old, lonely volcano that arises from the depth of the Banda sea.
It attracts a huge colony of resident seabirds above the waves, while underwater the island is home to schools of jacks, surgeonfish, tunas, barracudas, and other pelagic fish species, as well as a lot of sea snakes.
These venomous but unaggressive reptiles can be encountered on each dive around Gunung Api, sometimes in great numbers, which makes these dives absolutely unique.

DAY 5

Wetar

3 day dives

During our last stop in the Moluccas where we dive the walls and slopes of Reong and Wetar. Depending on the prevailing current they can be very rich in fish.
Grey reef sharks, bamboo sharks, giant trevally, schooling big-eyed jacks, rainbow runners, and tunas are often seen here.
On the quieter dives, there are areas completely covered in zebra anemones.
Looking closely, we may spot the beautiful but rare leopard shrimp that lives in symbiosis with them.
We will set the sails as we start our crossing away from the Moluccas toward Alor and Nusa Tenggara Timur.
With a bit of luck, we may see some of the whales that migrate through these waters during this time of the year.

DAY 6

Pantar

3 day dives, 1 night dive

Today's four dives in the scenically beautiful Pantar strait are distinctly different from one another: from an adrenalin filled dive with the objective to see schooling hammerhead sharks, and a second morning dive on a stunning wall that is covered so completely in soft corals that we might get a sensory overload, over an afternoon dive on a unique site that is covered in carpets of anemones and known for attracting mola molas and thresher sharks, to finally one of the richest black sand critter spotting night dives, it is really a day that demonstrates Indonesia's underwater richness in a nutshell!

DAY 7

Beangabang

3 day dives, 1 night dive

Hairy frogfish, mimic octopus, rhinopias, ambon scorpionfish, hairy octopus, thorny seahorse, hairy shrimp, halimeda ghostpipefish are just a few stars we might be lucky enough to spot on the rich dark sands of Beangabang Bay in the South of Pantar.
Another highlight will be the enthusiastic welcome we'll get by the village kids when we go and let them guide us through their place.

DAY 8

Alor Strait

3 day dives

The weather this time of the year typically provides good conditions to dive the exposed sites off the barren, dry south of the Alor archipelago.
Apart from iconic huge soft coral 'trees' growing on the seafloor and profuse coral growth all around, we can expect a lot of pelagics, clouds of anthias and may even be lucky enough to meet mola molas or thresher sharks.

DAY 9

Boling Strait

3 day dives, 1 night dive

Another chance to find some macro treasures!
Critters hiding in the patch reefs and bright sandy substrates below the waters underneath the towering volcano Lewotolo include, but are not limited to, blue ring octopus, roughsnout ghostpipefish, rhinopias, frog fish, tiger shrimp or wonderpus.

DAY 10

Adonara

2 day dives

The submerged seamounts off Adonara are covered by a diverse mix of hard and soft corals. They provide shelter for a variety of reef fish and attract bigger predators such as jacks, tunas, and black tip and grey reef sharks.
Juvenile silvertip sharks are often seen patrolling the typically clear blue water.
After the dive we cruise back into the sunset and arrive in Maumere at night for a farewell dinner.

DAY 11

Maumere

After a last delicious breakfast, it is time to say goodbye and disembark - until the next time.

GOOD TO KNOW

On land and on the way

Water sports

For non-divers, as well as snorkelling, the boat has stand-up paddle boards and a two-person kayak. Not every area is suitable, and the cruise manager finds the right times and places.

Small groups

Adelaar takes a maximum of 8 guests, with a Western cruise manager who is also a PADI dive instructor, a divemaster and a crew of ten.

Check in

Our team collects you from the airport or your hotel and takes you to the harbour where Adelaar is anchored. On the day before departure you can be taken to a hotel.

Check out

After breakfast on the last day you disembark, with an airport or hotel transfer. Please arrange your flight with the no-fly rule in mind.

Itinerary

All routes are examples, and the final plan depends on the weather, the sea conditions and any permissions.

INCLUDED

What your trip covers

INCLUDED IN THE TRIP PRICE

- Double or twin stateroom with private bathroom, bath towels and deck towels
- Fully crewed vessel, with all meals
- Coffee, tea, juices, soft drinks, drinking water and snacks
- The diving package described in the itinerary, with 12 litre tanks, weight belt and weights
- Land excursions described in the itinerary
- Transfers between the harbour and the nearest airport
- Stand-up paddle boards, a two-person kayak and a wakeboard
- Starlink Wi-Fi, up to 1 GB per guest
- Sensatia Botanicals toiletries

NOT INCLUDED

- International and domestic flights, visas and transit hotels
- Port and park fees, prepaid
- Fuel surcharge, prepaid
- Nitrox and 15 litre tanks
- Dive and snorkel gear rental, a private dive guide and dive courses
- Compulsory dive insurance, and travel insurance is suggested
- Laundry and satellite phone use
- Crew tips, which are customary

BEFORE YOU GO

What to bring

ESSENTIALS

- Dive certification card and logbook
- Completed diver medical questionnaire
- Details of your dive and travel insurance
- Dive computer and surface marker buoy
- Torch for night dives

AND ALSO

- Reef-safe sunscreen
- Swimwear, hat and sunglasses
- Light clothing and sandals
- Personal medication and toiletries
- Passport







WORTH KNOWING

Key notes

Good to know

The itinerary may vary depending on weather and sea conditions

Good to know

All extra charges must be prepaid, and the fees are subject to change

Good to know

Proof of dive certification and enough diving experience for the programme is required, and divers sign a liability waiver





