

ADELAAR

Banda Sea and Alor

Maumere to Ambon | Adonara, Pantar, Wetar and Lucipara

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

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.

The Banda Sea 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.

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







Your itinerary

DAY 1

Maumere

After boarding Adelaar in Maumere in the North of Flores, you will enjoy your first day on board whilst cruising eastwards along the Flores coast.

DAY 2

Adonara

3 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.

DAY 3

Pantar

3 day dives, 1 night dive

We start the day with an adrenalin filled dive with the objective to see schooling hammerhead sharks, followed by a second morning dive on a stunning wall that is covered so completely in soft corals that we might get a sensory overload.
The afternoon and night dive take place on a patch reef that is well known for harboring rhinopias.
After the afternoon dive, we let the locals show us around their picturesque village.



DAY 4

Pura

3 day dives

Today's diving takes us on a unique site that is dominated by sheer endless carpets of anemones and regularly visited by thresher sharks and mola molas, a spectacularly beautiful hard coral reef, where one of the attractions is observing local freediving fishermen.
The impressive big overhang hosts critters: clown frogfish, pontohi seahorses or halimeda ghost pipefish can be found.
It is very likely Adelaar will be visited in between dives by a group of local ikat weavers that offer their beautiful tissues for purchase.

DAY 5

Wetar

3 day dives

After a night's crossing we arrive in the morning 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 journey into the heart of the Banda Sea.
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

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 under water 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 7

Lucipara Maisel 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 8

Lucipara Penyu 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 9

South Ambon

3 day dives, 1 night dive

After two morning dives on the exposed south coast of Ambon island that are both stunning from a topographical and coral cover point of view, we enter Ambon Bay where we will go hunting for critters.
Thorny seahorses, ornate ghost pipefish, rhinopias, frogfish and ribbon eels are just a few examples to illustrate the extraordinarily rich muck diving of Ambon Bay.

DAY 10

Laha

2 day dives

Laha's muck diving sites are world renowned.
Apart from a plethora of nudibranchs, cephalopods, ambon scorpionfish and different species of leaf scorpionfish, Laha is also famously the only place in the world where, with some luck!, the beautifully weird psychedelic frogfish may be spotted.

DAY 11

Ambon

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





