ADELAAR

The Banda Sea Ring of Fire

Ambon to Ambon | Banda Islands, Hatta, Manuk, Sarua and Run



Set off on an extraordinary journey from Ambon into the untouched splendour of the Banda Sea, known as the 'Forgotten Paradise'.

This remote gem offers a dive into history and biodiversity, surrounded by volcanic islands and an array of marine life.

Encounter everything from majestic pelagic fish to schools of hammerhead sharks.

Highlights include Gunung Api, the richly populated reefs around Ai and Hatta, and Manuk, an old, lonely volcano where sea snakes are seen on every dive, sometimes in great numbers.

Historical sites add a unique dimension, from the fort, museum and spice plantations of Banda Neira to the bustling market of this lovely town.

Arriving between Banda Neira, Gunung Api and Lonthor is the goose bump moment of the trip, in one of the most spectacular natural harbours in the world.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	EXPERIENCE
10 nights	Ambon	Ambon	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

Ai and Gunung Api

3 day dives, 1 night dive

Our first day of diving is along the steep walls surrounding the whole island of Ai.
From a plateau with pretty hard coral gardens, these walls, beautifully decorated in yellow soft corals, plunge deep into the dark blue clear Banda Sea.
With a bit of luck, we might already meet the first hammerhead shark of the trip.
In the late afternoon everybody will be on deck to witness the goose bump moment of arriving into one of the most spectacular and beautiful natural harbours in the world between the islands of Banda Neira, Gunung Api and Lonthor (Banda Besar).

DAY 3

Banda Neira

2 day dives, 1 dusk dive

After a guided visit to the historic town of Banda Neira, the fort, museum and spice plantations, we have traditional Bandanese breakfast before strolling back to port through the bustling market of this lovely town.
One of today's dives is on a new reef that has been growing naturally on the spur of the lava from Gunung Apis 1988 eruption, it is a fantastic example of nature's ability to recover from natural disaster.
In the evening we will dive at dusk to try and spot some romantic mandarin fish.



DAY 4

Banda Besar and Sjahrir

3 day dives

On today's menu is a spectacular submerged pinnacle covered in dense schools of fish and a couple of drift dives.
The unique location of the Banda archipelago enhances chances of close encounters with pelagics such as big tunas, Spanish mackerels, giant jacks or even thresher sharks.
In the evening we have a farewell dinner from Banda Neira in the tropical garden of a beautiful house from the colonial period.

DAY 5

Hatta

4 day dives

The diving off Hatta, the easternmost Island of the Banda archipelago, named after Indonesia's first vice-president, is our first day of diving dedicated to seeing schooling hammerhead sharks. The sight of groups ranging from a handful to literally hundreds of those majestic animals is an unforgettable experience, and one of the main reasons diving in the Banda Sea is so special.

DAY 6

Manuk

4 day dives

Manuk - meaning 'bird' in Javanese - 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 absolutely unaggressive reptiles can be encountered on each dive around Manuk, sometimes in great numbers, which makes these dives absolutely unique.



DAY 7

Sarua

4 day dives

There are no words that can do justice to the sheer awesomeness of the hammerhead site of Sarua.
So we do not even try.

DAY 8

Sarua

3 day dives

One day would simply not be enough.



DAY 9

Run and Nailakka

3 day dives

Back in the Banda archipelago we dive around Run, an island that used to be the most desirable piece of real estate in the whole world.
So desirable that it was reluctantly and under a lot of pressure traded by the English to the Dutch against an undesirable piece of land on the other side of the world called Manhattan.
Apart from its history, Run is beautiful, on the surface covered in nutmeg trees and under the water the steep slopes are studded with huge gorgonian sea fans.
It is yet another place that attracts schooling hammerhead sharks and other pelagics.
We finish the day with a few drinks on the beach of Nailakka, the beautiful, but tiny island that was home to the English for several years after they lost Run to the Dutch.

DAY 10

Manukang

2 day dives

On the way between Run and Ambon we stop for a couple of dives on a volcanic outcrop that is according to Moluccan lore known to be haunted, this we cannot judge, but what we do know, is that it attracts its fair share of pelagic visitors that swim along its underwater ridges that are covered in huge barrel sponges.
After the last dive we set sails and start our trip back to reality.

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





