AMBAI

Halmahera

Ternate to Ternate | Goraici, Patienti Strait and Bacan



Halmahera is one of the best Indonesian dive destinations, with a great variety of dive sites among beautiful islands still largely covered with tropical forests.

Blacktip sharks patrol around on most dives.

Sea mounts and rocky islets are covered in large soft coral bommies in every colour, with tunas, Spanish mackerel and giant trevallies passing through.

Napoleon wrasses, bumphead parrotfish, groupers and schools of surgeonfish and spadefish fill the reefs.

In the strait, islands partly close the channel and force the water between them, so the currents bring a lot of life.

Great wall diving in the south of Bacan and famous critter dives at Labua complete the picture.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	EXPERIENCE
9 nights	Ternate	Ternate	30 dives, Advanced







Your route

STOP 1

Ternate to Goraici

Starting from Ternate we will head south after our check dive, passing near the islands of Tidore, Moti, Makian, all of which are spectacular cone-shaped volcanic islands.
After a first night we will dive for 2 days in the area of Goroaici islands.
Sea-mounts and rocky islets form the dive sites, attracting a great marine life.

STOP 2

Sapiente Strait

Going South we will reach the north part of the Sapiente strait between Halmahera and Bacan island.
The 2 islands of Saleh and Kusu plus some other smaller ones partially close the strait, forcing the water between the islands with currents bringing a lot of life.

STOP 3

Sapiente Strait, continued

Many dive sites in this area, including sea mounts, rocks, drift dives along fringing reefs and quiet critter dives in bays.
We spend 2 days in this area.



STOP 4

Bacan and Labua

We keep going South and dive around the small islands of Pigajara, then turn around the south of Bacan islands where some great wall diving awaits us.
Going North West of Bacan island, the next stop is Labua for some famous critter dives an excursion on land.

STOP 5

Back to Ternate

From there we go back to Goraici area for one day of diving.
We then head back to Ternate with one stop on the way for a fort visit.

GOOD TO KNOW

On land and on the way

Ashore

Ternate, Tidore, Moti and Makian are volcanic, cone-shaped islands that were part of the spice trade, and you visit some of their old forts. In Bacan an afternoon excursion visits the village and fort of Labuan, and the forest, with a great variety of butterflies.

Dive count

A minimum of 27 dives, which is 3 dives per day, is offered, including at least 5 night dives.

How the diving works

Divers go in groups of up to four with a dive guide, with a briefing before every dive. Nitrox is free for certified divers, and divers are asked to stay within no deco limits, to a maximum depth of 35 metres.

Snorkelling

The trip is open to snorkellers, with a lot to see in shallow water at most dive sites, and specific guidance for snorkellers.

Visibility and water

Generally very good, with blue clear water, and lower after heavy rain. The water is between 27 and 30°C.

Currents

Some of the dives can have consistent currents. The guides check the current before each dive and brief you on the conditions, and the crew picks the right place at the right time.

Check in

You are welcome on board in Ternate before 12 noon, and the boat leaves at 1 pm. Ambai can arrange pick up from the airport or your hotel.

Check out

The cruise ends in Ternate, and you can disembark from 6 am to 12 noon. Ambai can arrange the drop off at the airport or your hotel. The last dive is at 8 am on the penultimate day.

Airports

Ternate (TTE) at the start and Ternate (TTE) at the end of the trip.







INCLUDED

What your trip covers

INCLUDED IN THE TRIP PRICE

- Transfers between the boat and the closest airport
- Accommodation in a shared twin or double bed cabin
- All meals and snacks, drinking water, soft drinks and hot drinks
- All guided dives, with one guide for up to four divers
- Aluminium 12 litre tank, weights and belts
- Free nitrox for certified divers
- Four complimentary kayaks on board

NOT INCLUDED

- Park and port fees and fuel surcharge, paid in cash on board
- International and domestic flights
- Alcoholic beverages, which you can bring yourself
- Diving equipment rental and 100 cf (15 litre) tank
- Crew tips, which are customary
- Massages and laundry

BEFORE YOU GO

What to bring

ESSENTIALS

- Dive certification card and logbook (PADI Advanced Open Water or equivalent with at least 30 logged dives)
- Dive insurance covering medical evacuation and diving accidents, which is highly recommended

AND ALSO

- Your own dive equipment, or rental booked before the cruise, as not all sizes are on board
- Cash for park and port fees, fuel surcharge, tips and extras, as credit cards are not accepted on board

WORTH KNOWING

Key notes

Good to know

The route can vary slightly with weather, currents, visibility and tides

Good to know

Payments on board are in cash only, in euros, US dollars, Australian dollars, Swiss francs or Indonesian rupiah, and prepayment by wire transfer can be arranged

Good to know

Divers with less experience can join with special supervision, arranged before the cruise

Good to know

Prices and trip dates are shown on our trip listings