AMBAI

Halmahera, Misool and the Banda Sea

Ternate to Ambon | Halmahera, Misool and the Banda Sea

This multi-destination trip visits the west and south-west of Halmahera, Misool in Raja Ampat and the best of the Banda Sea, before ending in Ambon.

In Halmahera, bommies covered with colourful soft corals are patrolled by blacktip sharks and tunas, and strait currents bring intense life to some of the most beautiful dive sites in Indonesia.

Misool is astonishing for its gorgonian forests and quantity of fish, from the tiny pygmy seahorse to the oceanic manta ray.

In the Banda Sea, steep drop offs of hard corals and huge sponges hold schooling hammerhead sharks, in small groups or big shoals.

The last day brings fantastic muck diving in the bay of Ambon.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	EXPERIENCE
14 nights	Ternate	Ambon	30 dives, Advanced







Your route

STOP 1

Ternate to Misool

Starting from Ternate, we first reach the group of Goraici islands where many seamounts offer gorgeous dive sites: bommies covered with colorful soft corals, blacktip sharks, tunas and other pelagics.
Going more South came another group of islands (Kusu isl, Sale isl.), at the very North of Patientie strait.
The strait currents forced around the islands brings an intense life to those dive sites which are definitely among the most beautiful of Indonesia.
The next stop is at Pisang islands, an isolated island with a few satellite rocks, home to intense underwater life: millions of trigger fish, schools of surgeonfish, bump head parrotfish, Spanish mackerels and tunas passing by.

STOP 2

Misool

We then reach Misool in Raja Ampat for three days to see gorgonian forests, lot of soft corals, intense fish life.

STOP 3

Misool to Ambon

Then we head to Koon, at the eastern tip of Seram islands.
The dive site there have been named “too many fish”.
A drop off with schools of trevallies, surgeonfish, barracudas, and hopefully hammerhead sharks.
On the upper part there is a sandy slope with coral bommies, some huge groupers and schools of spadefish.



STOP 4

Banda Islands

Next step are the Banda islands.
The diving there is very rewarding.
One of the highlight is a dive along the lava flow of the “Gunung Api” (the fire mountain); the last eruption was in 1988 and we can see how the corals and huge sponges did grow back since then.
We will do a land visit to Banda Neira, visiting the village, the museum and the fort.

STOP 5

Serua

If the weather forecast and sea conditions are good enough the trip will go down south until Serua island, the best place for encounters with schooling hammerheads.
Two days of fabulous diving around this tiny island lost in the middle of the Banda Sea.
From Serua we will be back to Suanggi island, a few miles away from the Banda islands it is also a great spot for hammerhead sharks and other pelagics.
Our last day of diving is on the island of Nusa Laut or in the bay of Ambon for some muck diving.







GOOD TO KNOW

On land and on the way

Ashore

In Misool you visit the ranger's station and snorkel in a natural shark nursery, where small blacktips swim in one metre of crystal clear water, and a short hike leads to the viewpoint of a lagoon in the shape of a heart. The Banda Islands were the original Spice Islands, and you stop on Banda Neira to visit the village, the fort and the museum.

Dive count

A minimum of 42 dives, which is 3 dives per day, is offered, including at least 7 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

Good to excellent in Halmahera, average in Misool, and average to good in the Banda Sea. The water is 26 to 28°C.

Currents

Currents are generally moderate on most dive sites, with some consistent currents on occasion. 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 Ambon and you disembark before 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 Ambon (AMQ) 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





