AMBAI

Ring of Fire and Forgotten Islands

Ambon to Saumlaki | Banda Islands, Serua and Babar



This multi-destination trip runs along the so-called Ring of Fire and visits the best dive sites of the Banda Sea.

It offers outstanding diving and is a perfect itinerary for encounters with the schooling hammerhead sharks that roam the Banda Sea during this season.

Around Manuk, a small volcanic island, sulphur traces can be seen underwater, and the diving signature is the abundance of sea snakes.

At the Banda Islands a dive along the lava flow of the fire mountain shows how corals and sponges have grown back since the last eruption in 1988.

Serua, two small islands lost in the middle of the sea, is where schooling hammerhead sharks often show up on the drop offs.

Tunas, giant trevallies and barracudas add to the show.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	EXPERIENCE
12 nights	Ambon	Saumlaki	30 dives, Advanced







Your route

STOP 1

Check dive in Ambon

On the arrival day, we will have a check dive in the bay of Ambon.

STOP 2

Banda Islands

Our first destination are the Banda islands.
The diving around those islands 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 stop in Banda Neira, for a land visit.

STOP 3

Suanggi

The island of Suanggi, about 20 NM from Banda, is another hot spot for hammerheads schools.



STOP 4

Manuk

Overnight navigation to Manuk island, a small volcanic island, where a lot of seabirds comes for nesting.
Underwater the sulphur traces of volcanic activity can be seen.
The diving signature is the abundance of sea snakes, both Aipysurus sp. and Laticauda.
Hammerheads are also roaming around, but generally only individuals or small groups.

STOP 5

Serua

Going South we will reach Serua, which consists in two small islands.
Two days of fabulous diving around those islands lost in the middle of the Banda Sea.
One drop off offers high chances to find the schooling hammerheads.
In order to maximise the chances of encounter, we dive very early in the morning and a bit late in the afternoon.

STOP 6

Nil Desperandum

At the West of Serua lays a big reef without any land, with the attractive name of “Nil desperandum”.
This is another spot for hammerheads and a fantastic drop off.

STOP 7

Dai

Our last day of diving is on Dai island.
This granite island, part of the Babar island group, offers fantastic dive sites with great fish life.







GOOD TO KNOW

On land and on the way

Ashore

The Banda Islands were the original Spice Islands, and you stop on Banda Neira to visit the village, the fort and the museum. You also visit some other small villages on the islands, and the dinghies can take you ashore whenever the schedule allows.

Dive count

A minimum of 36 dives, which is 3 dives per day, is offered, including at least 6 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

Average to good in the Banda Sea. The water is 26 to 28°C in the Banda Sea.

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 Ambon 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 Saumlaki 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

Ambon (AMQ) at the start and Saumlaki (SXK) 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