

CALICO JACK

Sorong Banda Ambon

Sorong to Ambon | Misool, Pulau Koon and the Banda Islands

This route runs from the soft coral walls of Misool to the remote Banda Islands, close to the 6,000-metre-deep Banda trench, where the chances of meeting big pelagic species are quite high.

Schooling trevally, barracuda, tuna and turtles gather around the underwater mounts, along with hammerhead and grey reef sharks.

Halfway across, a small island in Ceram is known for aggregations of red snappers, pompano and giant groupers.

In Banda you can dive down through a hole in the reef to a bridge covered with soft corals.

A sunset dive at the old jetty is one of the best places in the world to spot mandarin fish.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	EXPERIENCE
12 days / 11 nights	Sorong	Ambon	Open Water, 10 dives







Your itinerary

DAY 1

Embarkation in Sorong

1 Dive

We will pick you up at the Hotel or Sorong airport and take you to the harbour, where our crew will welcome you onboard Calico Jack.
Following refreshments and a short tour of the ship, you will be briefed on safety, diving operations, and life onboard.

DAY 1

Embarkation in Sorong (continued)

1 Dive

You will be served a delicious lunch and have time to get acquainted with the ship, set up your dive gear & cameras, and meet and socialize with the other guests and friendly crew.
We will do a check dive in the area later in the aernoon.
Early morning we will navigate to Misool.

DAY 2

Wayilbatan, Misool

4 Dives, including a night dive

Sites include Dunia Kecil, Barracuda Rock, Four Kings and Wedding Cake.
The Wayilbatan area offers impressive dive sites with a remarkable range of marine diversity as well as topography.
At Wedding Cake, schools of bat fish, trevallies, barracuda, and pygmy seahorses congregate.
In the aernoon, you will have the opportunity to take in the scenic landscapes with some kayaking and paddle boarding amongst the most spectacular hidden lagoons in the region.
Four Kings dive site is made up of four underwater pinnacles covered in so coral and colorful tunicates.
You can swim from one rock to the next, enjoying the so corals, psychedelic colors, and abundant fish life.
Be sure to look out for turtles here.



DAY 3

Balbulol

3 Dives

Sites include No Contest, Love Potion, Number 9 and Pet Rock.
Schools of platax, snapper, and bump head parrot fish can be found at these dive sites, including barracudas and jacks surrounding the pinnacles.
You will spend the aernoon in the hidden lagoon; a very special anchorage inside a narrow bay enclosed by towering rocks.
We will take the dinghies to explore another lagoon located further into the rocks and as night falls, you will see and hear the magnificent Palm Cockatoos roosting along the rainforest edges.

DAY 4

Daram

3 Dives

Sites include Candy Store, Warna Berwana and Andiamo.
Andiamo is a large, stunning reef with a submerged pinnacle covered in sea fans and surrounded by schools of fusiliers and bat fish.
Black tip reef sharks and napoleon wrasse can also be found here.
Candy Store, named so as the first divers to explore this reef felt like kids in a candy store, is covered in huge sponges, beautiful so corals6, and sea fans.
In the valleys, schools of fusiliers, butter fly fish, and barracuda gather.

DAY 5

Yilliet

3 Dives

Sites include Whale Rock, Nudi Rock and Tank Rock.
In the early morning, we will take short navigation to dive into the Fiabacet area where colorful so corals and beautiful sea fans smother the reefs.
A deep underwater ridge connects the islands of Boo in the East, to Kalig in the West.
In certain areas, the ridge moves up shallower to form the most amazing dive sites of the park.
These include Batu Kecil (also known as Tank Rock), Nudi Rock, and Whale Rock.
Here you will find one of the most extensive reef systems in Raja Ampat; offering a fantastic range of marine diversity.
You can expect to see abundant and healthy fish life, a galore of pygmy seahorses, nudibranchs, colorful anemones, and reef sharks.



DAY 6

Warokaraket and Boo Island

4 Dives, including a night dive

Sites include Shadow Reef, Jamur Boo and Yellit Kecil or Besar.
Shadow Reef, also known as Magic Mountain is one of the top-rated diving sites in Raja Ampat.
An offshore pinnacle with a long and narrow ridge, shoals of banner fish, pyramid buttery and yellow snappers can be seen cavorting on top of the ridge, persistently stalked by giant trevallies, orange-spotted jacks & longnose emperors.
The ridge goes progressively down, with yellowtail barracudas patrolling the upper sector and white tip and grey reef sharks found nestled under the large coral tables.
At the end of the peninsular is a cleaning station where oceanic manta rays come to be cleaned from parasites by wrasse and another reef fish.
Continuation Boo Rock or Jamur Boo is known for the “windows” or rounded openings on the end of the largest rock that completely pierce the reef from the surface down to five meters deep.

DAY 6

Warokaraket and Boo Island (continued)

4 Dives, including a night dive

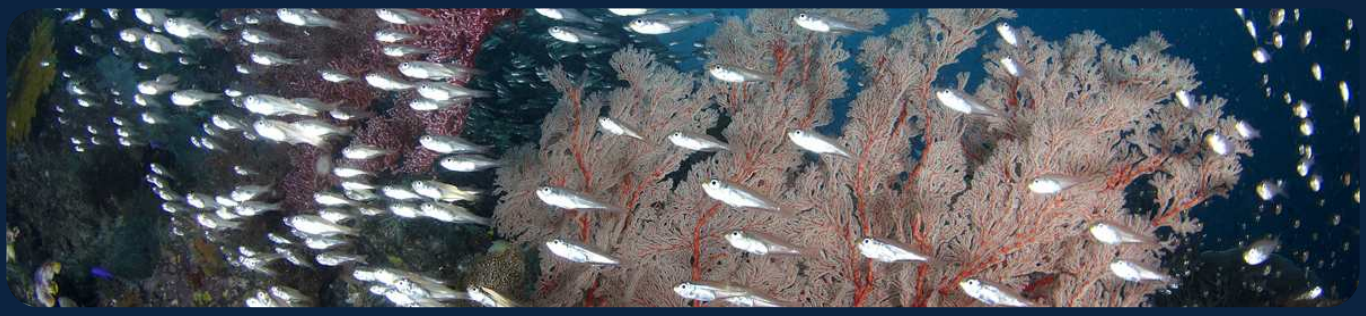
Although the two rocks appear separate from the surface, they are in fact connected underwater by a magnificent reef draped in so corals and brimming with fish.
Reef sharks, parrot fish, surgeon fish, schooling bat fish, fusiliers, snappers and moray eels are all found here, as well as a wide variety of nudibranchs, unicorn fish, octopus, and green turtles.
Yellit Kecil's (whilst sharing all of the attributes of its neighboring sites) main characteristic is the large number of nembrotha nudibranchs that can be observed on the ridge.

DAY 7

Pulau Koon, Ceram

3 Dives

Pulau Koon is a small island on the southeast of Ceram, halfway between Raja Ampat and the Banda Islands.
Underwater there are walls covered in so corals and sandy slopes with hard coral bommies.
But the most interesting feature of this island is the amount of schooling fish and pelagic, barracudas, bigeye trevallies, aggregation of red snappers, pompanos, bat fish, and giant groupers.
Three great dives in this area before setting sailing towards Banda Islands.



DAY 8

Banda Islands

3 Dives

Karang Hatta is a reef located South East of Pulau Hatta.
The dive sites in this region are closest to the 6,000-meter-deep Banda trench, making it an intriguing area as the chances of encountering big pelagic species are quite high.
Schooling trevallies, barracudas, tuna, turtles, as well as hammerhead and grey reef sharks, can be spotted close to this underwater mount.
You will have two dives in this area, dependent upon the conditions, and then sail to the main island of Pulau Hatta where you will dive in front of the West shore beach where a 5-meter hole in the reef opens up to the sea.
You can dive down through the hole and find yourself looking back to what appears to be a bridge in the reef.
The bridge is covered with so corals, and large gorgonian fans underneath are home to various pigmy seahorses.
Overnight navigation to Pulau Koon.

DAY 9

Banda Neira tour and Banda Islands

3 Dives

Early morning, we will head to Banda Neira, where you will have the chance to explore the remaining remnants of the former lucrative spice trade as well as take in the historical and cultural legacies of the islands.
You will spend the morning walking through the town and be given a chance to observe the Dutch colonial architecture, which remains to this day, as well as Fort Belgica, with its incredible views overlooking the bay around the island.
Before lunch, you will dive at Batu Kapal, which, when translated, means 'boat rock'.
A submerged pinnacle, the site has a rock breaking the surface of the water in the shape of a boat, hence the name.
Various types of fish are present here in vast numbers, along with huge gorgonian fans and some truly monumental sponges. & Banda Islands Continuation Your second dive will be at Pohon Miring.
At this site, a large crack in the reef creates a deep swim through which you can dri through and view the sponge-covered wall on the other side.
Moray eels can be spotted at the top of the wall as well as schools of bump head parrot fish.
Late in the aernoon, you will have a sunset dive at Banda's jetty.
In the shallows and amongst the stones from collapsed sea walls and jetties, mandarin fish congregate.
This particular spot is one of the best in the world to spot mandarin fish.

DAY 10

Pulau Ai and Pulau Run

3 Dives

Early morning, we arrive in Pulau Ai.
This dive site, on the island of Ai, translates to Umbrella Rock as there are many overhangs along the walls of the island.
You will be able to dri along the wall and enjoy the view of thousands of tiny reef fish darting in and out of the cracks and crevices.
For the second dive of the day, we'll move onto Little Manhattan which is next to the island of Run.
In 1667, the English traded the island of Run for Manhattan, giving the Dutch full control of the Banda archipelago.
White sandy slopes interspaced with large coral heads and a healthy reef make this a very beautiful dive site.
A resident school of bump head parrot fish may be spotted here, as well as passing eagle rays.
The third dive for the day will be an exploratory dive off Pulau Run.
This region is full of unexplored dive sites, and the Banda Sea is the perfect location for the discovery of new underwater treasures.

DAY 11

Nusa Laut and Molana

3 Dives

Early morning, we arrive at the beautiful Amet Reef.
Whilst situated only a few hours from Ambon, it is a great example of successful grassroots conservation efforts.

DAY 11

Nusa Laut and Molana (continued)

3 Dives

The locals have instilled sustainable methods to protect their reef, and as a result, the corals are outstanding and a favourite amongst dive enthusiasts.
White tips and reef sharks patrol the depths, and playful turtles can be spotted.
For the incredibly lucky, hammerhead sharks and dugongs have also been spotted at this site.
After lunch, we will navigate to Molana Wall.
The shallow wall breaks in places and in the sandy slopes, ribbon eels, small pipe fish, and moray eels can be found.
Above the reef, turtles are seen feeding in the beautiful coral garden.
In the aernoon, we will navigate toward Ambon.

DAY 12

Disembarkation in Ambon (Maluku)

After breakfast and the last exchange of photos and memories, the crew and Calico Jack will say our fondest farewells and transport you either to your hotel or the airport.
We are looking forward to welcoming you aboard.

GOOD TO KNOW

On land and on the way

Small groups

Dive groups are limited to 5 divers per guide, with a dedicated tender.

Activities

Kayaks, stand-up paddle boards and snorkel gear are on board.

Check in

Private transfers collect you from the airport or your hotel and take you to the harbour, where the crew welcome you on board.

Check out

After breakfast on the last day the crew transfer you to your hotel or the airport.

Itinerary

Each sample itinerary is an example, and navigation and dive sites vary with the weather.





INCLUDED

What your trip covers

INCLUDED IN THE TRIP PRICE

- Private airport and hotel transfers
- Air-conditioned en-suite cabin with hot shower, with daily housekeeping
- Three meals a day plus snacks, cooked on board
- 3 or 4 dives a day, with a night dive on alternating nights when the weather allows
- Groups of at most 5 divers, with a dive guide and a dedicated tender
- Snorkel gear, kayaks and stand-up paddle boards
- Starlink Wi-Fi when available, which varies in remote areas
- First aid kits and emergency oxygen

NOT INCLUDED

- International and domestic flights, airport taxes and visas
- Park and port fees, covering park entry, village contributions, dive permits, harbour clearances, trekking fees and regional taxes
- Dive equipment rental and dive courses
- Nitrox
- Crew gratuities, which are optional, with 10% of the charter cost suggested
- Alcohol, with beer and wine, and you may bring your own spirits

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 sample itinerary is an example, and navigation and dive sites may vary slightly with the weather and visibility

Good to know

Park and port fees are paid in addition to the cruise price