DEWI NUSANTARA

The Forgotten Islands, Historic Banda and Ambon

Saumlaki to Ambon | Dawera and Daweloor, Dai Island, Nila Island and Offshore Reefs and more

The Forgotten Islands are one of Indonesia's last great wilderness areas, remote and largely uncharted.

Sheer coral walls and deep drop-offs teem with life, with vast schools of bumphead parrotfish, swirling clouds of big-eye trevallies, giant trevallies, Spanish mackerel and barracudas.

Hammerhead and whale sharks make their ghostly appearances.

The Banda Islands bring the dazzling mandarin fish, and the Lease Islands add slopes lined with soft corals, giant sea fans and towering sponges.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	EXPERIENCE
10 nights	Saumlaki	Ambon	Certified divers







Your route

Areas are shown in the order visited. Sites and dives change with the weather, the sea conditions and the captain's decisions.

STOP 1

Dawera and Daweloor

Located in Indonesia's remote South Maluku province, just 78 nautical miles north-west of Saumlaki, the regional capital of the Tanimbar Islands, the twin islands of Dawera and Daweloor are two of the most pristine and awe-inspiring dive destinations on Dewi Nusantara's Forgotten Islands itineraries.
Dive sites include North Point, Stoney Cove, Staghorn Slopes, Karang Kecil, Karang Besar, Colosseum.

STOP 2

Dai Island

One of the smaller islands in the Forgotten Islands archipelago, Dai Island lies in the open sea, approximately 13 nautical miles north of Babar Island.
It shares a similar geology with the twin islands of Dawera and Dawloor to the southeast, featuring high limestone cliffs, ledges, and terraces.
This contrasts sharply with the volcanic rock islands of the Damar Ridge further north, giving Dai a distinct and rugged landscape.
Dive sites include North-West Point, Laina, Lontar Slope, Lontar Point, Lontar Wall, Kira Kira Wall.

STOP 3

Nila Island and Offshore Reefs

Perched majestically atop the Damar Ridge, Nila is a breathtaking volcanic island in the heart of the Forgotten Islands.
Its rugged picturesque coastline is a haven for adventure-seekers, offering pristine shallow coral reefs perfect for snorkelling and diving.
These vibrant reefs teem with marine life, providing an underwater spectacle of dazzling corals and tropical fish.
Dive sites include Nil Desperandum, Griffin East, Desperado, Dusborgh East, Dusborgh Lagoon, Due South.

STOP 4

Serua and Kekeh

Serua Island, sometimes marked as Legatala on maritime charts, rises dramatically from the depths of the Banda Sea near the eastern tip of the Damar Ridge.
This remote volcanic island, standing over 600 metres tall, is a captivating fusion of rugged terrain, verdant forests, and deep sapphire waters.
Dive sites include Hammer Ridge, Paisley Park, Dive Site Right, Rockface, Chasm, Mamas Rock.

STOP 5

Manuk Volcano

The BBC wildlife documentary “Island of the Snakes” brought global attention to Manuk’s mysterious volcanic island, a place as captivating as it is remote.
As dawn breaks and a yacht approaches its rugged shores, the air grows thick with the unmistakable scent of sulphur, a tell-tale sign of the island’s ongoing geothermal activity.
Dive sites include Coconut Point, Snake Pit, Eigth Wonder, Warm Sand, Twin Ridge, Bubble Reef.

STOP 6

The Historic Banda Islands

A Timeless Treasure in the Banda Sea.
Far out in the remote reaches of the vast Banda Sea, south of the huge landmass of Ceram, lies a small island group steeped in history and natural wonder, the Banda Islands.
These islands, once the epicentre of the global spice trade, still whisper stories of their storied past, offering a rare blend of cultural intrigue and breathtaking landscapes.
Dive sites include The Banda Islands.

STOP 7

Hatta and Skaru Reef

Located just over 10 nautical miles south-east of the central harbour of the Banda Islands at Banda Neira, Hatta Island offers scuba divers an unparalleled underwater adventure.
With its crystal-clear waters and an abundance of marine life, the island is a haven for divers seeking both beauty and biodiversity beneath the surface.
Dive sites include Hatta Arch, Hammers Head, Skaru Ridge, Skaru Wall, Barat Corner, Hammer Point.

STOP 8

Banda Neira

During our time in the Banda Islands, Dewi Nusantara has explored the outer island of Hatta and the magnificent reef plateau of Skaru.
Now, it’s time to venture into the heart of this stunning archipelago.
A variety of diverse dive sites await, beginning with the remarkable critter dive at Mandarin Hotel.
Dive sites include Batu Kapal, Lava Flow, Pohon Miring.

STOP 9

Run and Suanggi

Diving around the breathtaking island of Run and its smaller, remote neighbour, Suanggi, offers an extraordinary underwater adventure that seamlessly blends history, natural beauty, and exhilarating marine encounters.
Located in the northern reaches of the Banda Sea over 100 nautical miles south-east of Ambon, Suanggi is a rugged, rocky outpost that stands as a gateway to the Banda Islands.
Dive sites include Lailaka Wall, Suanggi Seamount, Suanggi Ridge, Suanggi Slope, Run Village, Tanjung Noret.

STOP 10

Nusa Laut

Nusa Laut, the easternmost jewel in the Lease Islands archipelago, which also includes Saparua, Haruku, and Ambon, offers an unspoiled paradise both above and below the sea's surface.
The island's landscape is lush with a high-rising interior, fringed by picturesque bays and dotted with small fishing villages that exude charm and tranquillity.
Dive sites include Ameth Slope, Nahalia Slope, Amed, Nahalia Village, Ameth Village, Akon Arch.

STOP 11

Laha (Ambon)

Not far from Ambon airport, along the northern shore of the Ambon Inlet, the village of Laha is renowned for hosting some of the most extraordinary muck diving sites in the world.
Most of the dive points are clustered fairly close together, with names such as Middle Point, Mandarin City, Rhino City, and the one that started it all, the aptly named Twilight Zone.
Dive sites include Duke of Sparta, Ambon City, Ambon Airport.







ROUTE MAP

Your route



GOOD TO KNOW

Cruise notes

Flexible itineraries

Our cruise routes are intentionally adaptable. Throughout the journey, the captain and cruise director continuously assess sea conditions, weather, and tides to ensure the best possible experience.

More than is listed

The locations featured in these itineraries represent only a portion of what's possible. Numerous additional anchorages and activity options are available along the way, making each voyage truly unique.

Extended stays

If a particular anchorage offers exceptional experiences, guests may opt to linger a bit longer.

Overnight passages

To maximize daylight hours at our most spectacular destinations, longer transits between anchorages are typically conducted overnight.

Away from the crowds

With the exception of embarkation and disembarkation points, our itineraries are carefully crafted to avoid congested areas and busy commercial ports, allowing for a more tranquil and immersive experience.

Beyond the dive

Many of our anchorages offer more than just diving and snorkelling. Guests can enjoy kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding, and occasional visits to local villages and cultural sites — adding even more richness to the journey.