EMPEROR RAJA LAUT

Alor and the Banda Sea

Maumere to Ambon | Alor, Wetar, Gunung Api and the Banda Islands



The Banda Sea cruise is for those with the spirit of adventure, setting sail to rarely dived sites, islands and atolls.

Seldom-dived sites, active volcanoes, hammerheads and pelagic action, plus a visit to the historic Banda Islands, the original Spice Islands, make this a once in a lifetime cruise.

In Alor, there is plenty of opportunity to find rare critters like frogfish, mimic octopus, fire sea urchin and even the rare rhinopias in the hundreds of bays and coves of the island chain.

Dolphins and whales are often encountered, as this area is part of the migration routes between the Pacific and Indian Oceans.

Since the last eruption of Gunung Api in 1988, the regeneration of the hard coral reef on top of the solid lava platform has been phenomenal.

In Banda Neira, visit the nutmeg plantation, the historic forts and the small Maritime Museum.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	EXPERIENCE
12 nights	Maumere	Ambon	50 dives, Advanced







Your itinerary

DAY 1

Boarding in Maumere

Meet the crew, join the safety briefing, complete your dive paperwork and settle into your cabin.

DAY 2

Check dive

Up to 3 dives

Your first dive is a check dive to settle your kit and buoyancy.
Then the boat heads for Alor.

DAY 3

Alor region

Up to 3 dives

Dive sites such as Boardroom, Babylon and Cave Point, with strong currents that bring big fish and a world of marine life.



DAY 4

Alor region

Up to 3 dives

Clown Valley and Wall of Pura, with a chance of dolphins and whales, which migrate through between the Pacific and Indian Oceans.

DAY 5

Kalabahi Bay

Up to 3 dives

Famous muck diving, with rare critters such as frogfish, mimic octopus, fire sea urchin and the elusive rhinopias.

DAY 6

Wetar area

Up to 3 dives

Tanjung Nanukae, Nunukae Wall, Reong North and Reong Wall, in seldom-dived waters.



DAY 7

Wetar area

Up to 3 dives

More walls and reefs around Wetar, well away from any other boats.

DAY 8

Gunung Api

Up to 3 dives

Dive around an active volcano, at Snake Ridge, Snake Pit and Sulfur Ridge.

DAY 9

Damar and Terbang

Up to 3 dives

Nus Leur, Terbang North and Terbang South, with current-swept reefs and plenty of fish.



DAY 10

Nil Desperandum

Up to 3 dives

A remote seamount where hammerhead sharks can be seen, depending on conditions.

DAY 11

Manuk and Banda

Up to 3 dives + land visit

Manuk Island, then the Banda Islands, with a half day visit to Banda Neira to see the nutmeg plantation, the historic forts and the small maritime museum.

DAY 12

Last diving day

2 dives

Two morning dives, keeping to the no-flying rule.
The boat returns to port around 13:00 and moors overnight, so you can pack your gear and settle your bill.

DAY 13

Check out in Ambon

After a final breakfast you transfer to the airport or your hotel.
There is no diving today.







GOOD TO KNOW

On land and on the way

Banda Neira

A half day visit to the nutmeg plantation, the historic forts and the small maritime museum, with two good nights at anchor before and after.

Secret spots

Emperor knows some excellent spots for shark action that it prefers not to publish, but is happy to share on board.

Check in

Boarding is usually in the morning at Maumere. Your exact time and meeting point are confirmed with your booking.

Check out

Check out is after breakfast on the last day, by around midday, with transfers to the airport or your hotel.

Last dive

Two morning dives on the last diving day.

INCLUDED

What your trip covers

INCLUDED IN THE TRIP PRICE

- Full board meals and snacks
- Water, tea and coffee
- Guided diving from zodiac tenders, with a dive guide
- Nitrox for certified divers
- Marine park and port fees
- Fuel surcharge
- Airport and hotel transfers
- Land excursions
- Cabin and deck towels
- Wi-Fi on board

NOT INCLUDED

- International and domestic flights
- Soft drinks, juices and alcoholic drinks
- Dive equipment rental
- Dive courses, including Nitrox
- Government tax on onboard charges
- Crew tips, which are customary
- Personal expenses
- Travel and dive insurance (mandatory)

BEFORE YOU GO

What to bring

ESSENTIALS

- Dive certification card and logbook
- Dive computer and surface marker buoy (needed on every dive)
- Torch for night dives
- Wetsuit suited to your area (see notes)
- Reef-safe sunscreen

AND ALSO

- Swimwear, hat and sunglasses
- Light clothing and sandals
- Personal medication and toiletries
- Travel adaptor (220V)
- Passport and copy of your insurance

WORTH KNOWING

Key notes

Insurance

Travel and dive insurance covering dive injury, medical evacuation and travel is mandatory

Experience

Minimum of 50 logged dives and Deep Diver or Advanced Open Water (or equivalent). Currents can range from medium to extremely strong

Good to know

Diving is from zodiac tenders, which gives precise entry and exit points. Many dives go below 18 m

Good to know

There are 600 to 700 nautical miles to cover, with about three dives a day and travel at night. This cruise is not advised if you get very seasick or cannot sleep while the boat is under way

Good to know

In parts of Alor Strait the water can drop to around 20°C, so bring a 5 mm wetsuit and/or hooded vest

Flying

There is no diving for 24 hours before a flight