

ILIKE

Alor - Banda - Maluku - 12 Days / 11 Nights

Alor to Ambon | Alor, the Banda Sea and Ambon

A remote journey across the Banda Sea, with crystal clear water, bottomless drop-offs and colourful coral pinnacles.

Alor has vertical coral walls and anemone gardens for miles, and its nutrient rich strait brings dolphins, even whales, and with luck mola mola or thresher sharks.

At an active volcano you are surrounded by friendly sea snakes among dramatic lava formations and huge barrel sponges.

From September to November hammerhead sharks migrate through the Banda Sea.

Ambon ends the trip with some of the best muck diving in the world, with harlequin shrimp, hairy frogfish and flamboyant cuttlefish.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	EXPERIENCE
12 days / 11 nights	Alor	Ambon	Advanced, 75 logged dives







Your itinerary

DAY 1

Boarding

No dives

The crew transfer you from the airport or your hotel to the Ilike.
After a welcome briefing from the cruise director, cabins are allocated and you take a tour of the boat.
You can then set up your equipment and settle in before the Ilike sails.

ABOUT THIS ITINERARY

This itinerary is the same as our 12 night Alor - Banda - Maluku itinerary, which it is copied from, but it is 1 night shorter.

The day by day plan below is the original 12 night plan. With 1 night fewer on board you do not get every day shown here, so please ask us which days are left out before you book.

DAY 2-4

Alor

3 to 4 dives a day

Alor has great diversity, from vertical coral walls to sloping gardens covered in anemones for miles.
Kalabahi Bay in West Alor has world-class muck diving, with ghost pipefish, nudibranchs, every family of scorpionfish and the elusive rhinopias.
The Pantar Strait brings lots of nutrients, so you can expect dolphins or even whales, and with luck mola mola or thresher sharks.
You can visit a traditional village, invited to a traditional ceremony with a dance performance, and local people bring their finest hand-made ikat fabrics to the boat.

DAY 5

Wetar Island

3 to 4 dives

Wetar Island has spectacular drop-offs, with walls covered in black coral bushes and massive barrel sponges.

DAY 6

Gunung Api

3 to 4 dives

Gunung Api is an active volcano, famous for its sea snakes and seabirds.
The birds come to greet you long before you reach the island, and from the moment you jump in you are surrounded by friendly sea snakes, among dramatic lava formations, huge barrel sponges, sea whips, sea fans and hard and soft corals.



DAY 7

Damar, Terbang Selatan and Terbang Utara

3 to 4 dives

Deserted islands with steep walls and the most pristine coral gardens on top of the reef.

DAY 8

Nil Desperandum and Serua

3 to 4 dives

Nil Desperandum is an underwater seamount rising from the depths to about 3 metres below the surface in the middle of the Banda Sea, with unspoiled coral and bigger pelagics such as tuna, rainbow runners and Spanish mackerel.
From September to November, Serua Island is a migration area for hammerhead sharks.

DAY 9-10

The Banda Islands

3 to 4 dives a day

After the 1988 eruption of Gunung Api, lava flowed into the sea and a hard coral garden has grown back fast.
At dusk you can look for the mating dance of the mandarin fish.
You can visit Banda Neira, with remains of the Dutch and English spice trade, an old nutmeg plantation and Fort Belgica, which has views of the port and Gunung Api.

DAY 11

Nusa Laut and Ambon

3 to 4 dives

Nusa Laut has big schools of jacks, rainbow runners, tuna and Spanish mackerel.
Ambon has some of the best muck diving in the world, with Twilight in Laha village, harlequin shrimp, hairy frogfish, flamboyant cuttlefish and many kinds of octopus, and the Duke of Sparta wreck.



DAY 12

Last diving day

1 to 2 dives

The last day of diving has 1 to 2 dives, and then the Ilike sails back to the harbour.
Keep to the no-flying rule, pack your gear and settle your bill.

DAY 13

Check out

After breakfast and check out, the crew prepare for disembarkation and arrange your transfer to the airport, with help at check in for your onward flights.

GOOD TO KNOW

On land and on the way

Gunung Api

Sea snakes and seabirds around an active volcano.

Banda Islands

The lava flow, mandarin fish and Banda Neira.

Alor

Walls, muck diving and a traditional village.

Ambon

Twilight, rhinopias and a wreck.

Check in

The crew transfer you from the airport or your hotel to the Ilike, where the cruise director gives a welcome briefing, cabins are allocated and you set up your equipment before the boat sails.

Check out

After breakfast and check out the crew prepare for disembarkation, arrange your transfer to the airport and help with check in for your onward flights.

Last dive

The last dive is in the morning of the day before disembarkation, and then the Ilike sails back to the harbour. Divers should wait at least 24 hours after their last dive before flying, so please keep to the no-flying rule when you book your flight home.

INCLUDED

What your trip covers

INCLUDED IN THE TRIP PRICE

- VAT and airport transfers
- Full board meals and snacks, with drinking water, tea and coffee
- Welcome cocktails
- Diving package, with extra dives
- Land excursions
- Cabin and deck towels
- Complimentary toiletries

NOT INCLUDED

- Flights and local flights
- Trip fees, covering fuel, port fees, local community support and eco projects, paid on board
- Marine park fees, depending on the itinerary
- Nitrox, per diving day
- Rental dive gear
- Private dive guide
- Soft drinks and alcoholic drinks
- Laundry and massage
- Wi-Fi package
- Crew tips
- Dive and travel insurance

BEFORE YOU GO

What to bring

ESSENTIALS

- Dive certification card and logbook, showing at least 75 dives
- 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

Experience

Ilike trips are for experienced divers. Advanced Open Water and at least 75 logged dives are required

Good to know

Sample plans are an example of the route. The exact route and sites depend on local regulations, guest experience, weather and logistics, and are at the captain's discretion

Good to know

Divers should wait at least 24 hours after their last dive before flying

Insurance

Please arrange dive and travel insurance before you travel

Good to know

This itinerary runs from Alor to Ambon. It is also sailed in reverse, from Ambon to Alor, as Maluku to Alor