ILIKE

# Raja Ampat - Maluku - 12 Days / 11 Nights

*Sorong to Ambon | Raja Ampat, the Banda Islands and Ambon*

Three great dive areas on one trip, from the reefs of Raja Ampat across the Banda Sea to the muck diving of Ambon.

Raja Ampat has seamounts, pinnacles and coral walls, gardens covered in giant sea fans and soft corals, and two species of manta ray.

The Banda Sea is remote, with crystal clear water and bottomless drop-offs, and a hard coral garden has grown back remarkably fast over a lava flow.

At dusk comes the mating dance of the colourful mandarin fish.

Ambon has some of the best muck diving in the world, with harlequin shrimp, hairy frogfish and the elusive, psychedelic rhinopias.

| LENGTH | DEPARTURE PORT | ARRIVAL PORT | EXPERIENCE |
|---|---|---|---|
| 12 days / 11 nights | Sorong | 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 Raja Ampat - 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 2-5

## Raja Ampat

3 to 4 dives a day

The first days are in Raja Ampat, with its enormous coral diversity.
Misool has seamounts, pinnacles, coral walls and gardens covered in giant sea fans and soft corals, and the Dampier Strait has cleaning stations, bigger predators such as giant trevallies and reef sharks, and two species of manta ray.

DAY 6

## Crossing the Banda Sea

2 dives

The Ilike crosses the Banda Sea.
When crossing, only 2 dives a day can be scheduled.



DAY 7-9

## The Banda Islands

3 to 4 dives a day

The Banda Sea is remote, with crystal clear water, bottomless drop-offs and colourful coral pinnacles.
After the 1988 eruption of Gunung Api the lava flowed into the sea, and a hard coral garden has grown back remarkably fast.
At dusk you can look for the mating dance of the colourful mandarin fish, frogfish, seahorses and octopus.
You can also visit the old town of Banda Neira, with its remains of the Dutch and English spice trade, an old nutmeg plantation and Fort Belgica, which has views of the port and Gunung Api.
Manuk is another active volcano, with seabirds and hundreds of sea snakes.

DAY 10

## Nusa Laut

3 to 4 dives

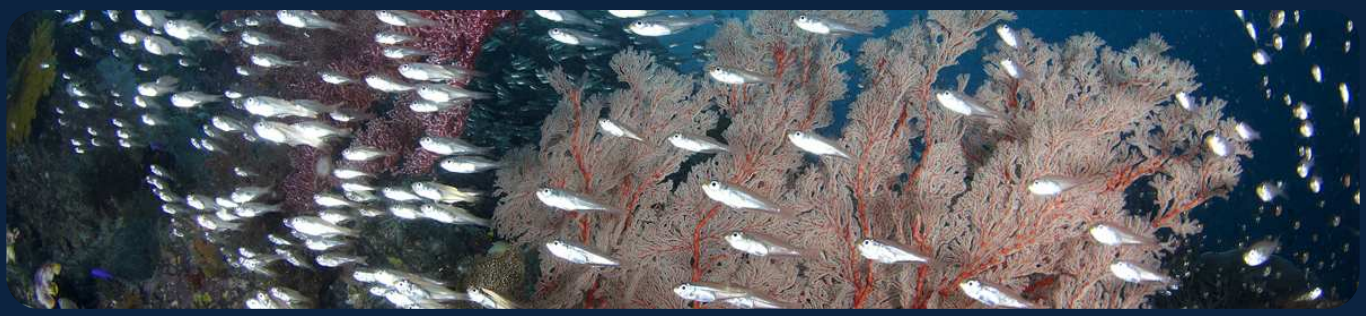
Nusa Laut has big schools of jacks, rainbow runners, tuna and Spanish mackerel, with a chance of bigger pelagics.
A small village protects the area from illegal fishing.

DAY 11

## Ambon

3 to 4 dives

Ambon has some of the best muck diving in the world.
Twilight, in Laha village, feels like dusk even in daylight, and it is home to harlequin shrimp, hairy frogfish, flamboyant cuttlefish, seahorses and many kinds of octopus.
Rhinopias, the elusive psychedelic frogfish, is a highlight.
You can also dive the Duke of Sparta wreck, a steel English cargo ship that sank after a bomb strike in 1958, and the natural rock bridge of Pintu Kota, covered in soft corals.



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

### Banda Islands

The lava flow, mandarin fish, Banda Neira and Fort Belgica.

### Ambon muck diving

Twilight, the Duke of Sparta wreck and rhinopias.

### Raja Ampat

Misool and the Dampier Strait.

### Sea snakes

Hundreds at Manuk.

### 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 Sorong to Ambon. It is also sailed in reverse, from Ambon to Sorong, as Maluku to Raja Ampat