

L*OTUS* JOURNEY

Malaillo & Malayeka Liveaboard

Alor – Banda Neira - 10 Nights / 11 Days | Up to 30 Dives

Trip Overview

This extraordinary expedition takes you from the remote waters of Alor to the historic Spice Islands of Banda Neira, combining world-class muck diving, pristine coral reefs, volcanic islands, cultural encounters, and exciting opportunities to encounter schooling hammerhead sharks. From the macro-rich black sands of Kalabahi Bay to the untouched walls of Wetar and the legendary reefs of Banda, this journey showcases some of Eastern Indonesia's most diverse and rewarding diving destinations. Along the way, guests may encounter dugongs, sea snakes, dogtooth tuna, schooling pelagics, and, season permitting, hammerhead sharks.

Day 1 – Embarkation (Kalabahi, Alor)

Guests will embark at Kalabahi Harbour and settle into their cabins before attending vessel orientation, safety procedures, and dive briefings.

Depending on arrival times and weather conditions, a check dive may be conducted in Kalabahi Bay, one of Indonesia's most renowned muck diving destinations. Following embarkation, the vessel will begin its overnight cruise towards Komba Island.

Day 2 – Komba Island | 4 Dives

Komba is a dramatic volcanic island located approximately 50 nautical miles from Alor. Its active crater frequently emits smoke, creating a spectacular backdrop for diving.

All four dives will be conducted around the island. Expect healthy hard coral gardens, large sea fans, colorful reef walls, and impressive barrel sponges. Fish life is abundant, with frequent sightings of fusiliers, giant trevallies, dogtooth tuna, and other pelagic species.

Day 3 – Northern Pantar & Kalabahi Bay | 4 Dives

Begin the day around Northern Pantar, where divers may encounter schooling hammerhead sharks during the appropriate season and conditions.

The second dive explores the impressive underwater arch formations of Ternate Island before returning to Kalabahi Bay for two exceptional muck dives.

These macro-rich sites are home to a remarkable variety of critters, making them a paradise for underwater photographers and macro enthusiasts.

Day 4 – Kalabahi Bay & Cultural Experience | 3 Dives + Land Excursion

Spend the morning exploring additional muck diving sites within Kalabahi Bay, famous for their incredible diversity of rare and unusual marine life.

After lunch, guests will enjoy a cultural excursion to a local village, offering the opportunity to experience traditional Alorese dances and learn about the island's rich cultural heritage.

Day 5 – Reefs, Walls & Dugongs | 2 Dives

Discover the vibrant coral reefs of The Edge and the dramatic wall dives surrounding Ternate Island.

Weather and sea conditions permitting, guests may have the opportunity to snorkel alongside a resident dugong in its natural habitat.

In the afternoon, the vessel begins its crossing towards Wetar Island.

Day 6 – Wetar Island | 4 Dives

Explore the pristine reefs of Wetar Island, one of the Banda Sea's most remote and rarely visited destinations.

Dives feature dramatic walls, untouched hard coral gardens, excellent visibility, and abundant reef fish. Wetar's isolation has helped preserve its reefs in remarkable condition.

Day 7: Pulau Gunung Api (Volcano Island) (3 dives)

Explore the remote Volcano Island, known for healthy reefs and an unforgettable experience diving with numerous sea snakes in their natural habitat.

Day 8 – The Magic of Banda Neira | 4 Dives

Experience some of the Banda Islands' most celebrated dive sites.

Highlights include:

- Karang Hatta Atoll – a remote reef system known for excellent visibility and healthy coral growth.
- Pulau Hatta Wall – dramatic drop-offs with vibrant reef life and pelagic activity.
- Lava Flow – one of Banda's most famous sites, where coral growth has flourished following historic volcanic eruptions.

The day concludes with a night dive in Banda Neira Bay.

Day 9 – History & Hidden Treasures | 3 Dives + Land Excursion

Begin the day with a guided visit to Banda Neira's historic Dutch colonial fortress, a reminder of the islands' importance during the global spice trade.

Following the excursion, diving resumes at:

Pohon Miring: A beautiful wall dive featuring swim-throughs, healthy coral growth, and occasional pelagic visitors.

Batu Kapal: A spectacular pinnacle and ridge system known for its impressive fish life and dramatic underwater scenery.

The day concludes with a night dive in the Banda Neira area.

Day 10 – Pulau Suanggi | 2 Dives

Conclude your diving adventure at Pulau Suanggi, one of the Banda Sea's most reliable locations for hammerhead shark encounters.

In addition to the possibility of seeing schooling hammerheads, divers can enjoy beautiful hard coral gardens, abundant reef fish, and frequent sightings of large dogtooth tuna.

Following the final dives, the vessel begins its overnight cruise towards Ambon.

Day 11 – Disembarkation at Ambon Airport (AMQ)

Please note that the latest disembarkation from Malaillo is **11:00 AM**. Guests with later departing flights will be transferred directly to the Airport at 11:00 AM, while guests with confirmed transit hotel reservations will be transferred to their respective hotels following disembarkation. No onboard stay is available after 11:00 AM.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Flying After Diving: The last dive of the trip will take place on Day 10. Divers are strongly advised to observe a 24-hour surface interval before flying.

Travel Tip:

Arrival Recommendation: We highly recommend arriving in the city of embarkation one day prior to the cruise departure and staying at a local hotel. This provides flexibility in the event of unexpected flight or luggage delays, or cancellations.

Departure Recommendation: We strongly advise against booking international flights on the same day as disembarkation, to ensure a smooth and stress-free transfer.

Itinerary Disclaimer: This itinerary is provided as a sample only and may be adjusted due to weather conditions, sea conditions, local regulations, or other operational considerations. The final route, timing, dive sites, and activities remain at the discretion of the Captain and Cruise Director, who will always prioritize guest safety while striving to deliver the best possible experience.
