

Malaillo & Malayeka Liveaboard

Ambon - Banda Neira - 8 Nights / 9 Days | Up to 23 Dives

Trip Overview

This round-trip expedition from Ambon explores the legendary Banda Sea, combining world-class reef diving, remote oceanic atolls, volcanic islands, and some of Indonesia's most exciting opportunities to encounter schooling hammerhead sharks.

Highlights include the historic Banda Neira region, the remote seamounts of Karang Nil Desperandum and Karang Hatta, the volcanic island of Manuk famous for its sea snakes, and the pristine reefs of Suanggi and Serua. This itinerary offers a perfect balance of pelagic encounters, healthy coral ecosystems, and dramatic underwater topography.

Day 1: Embarkation – Ambon (AMQ)

Guests board the vessel in Ambon (AMQ) before 14:00 for check-in, cabin allocation, safety briefing, and dive orientation.

Depending on arrival time and sea conditions, a check dive will be conducted in **Laha Bay**, one of Ambon's most famous muck diving sites, known for its exceptional macro biodiversity.

Day 2: Pulau Suanggi & Banda Naira (4 dives)

Begin the expedition at **Pulau Suanggi**, one of the Banda Sea's most reliable sites for encounters with schooling hammerhead sharks.

The dives feature healthy reef systems, strong pelagic influence, and abundant fish life, including large schools of fusiliers, trevallies, and dogtooth tuna.

In the evening, enjoy a night dive in the waters surrounding **Banda Neira**, offering a different perspective of the reef after sunset.

Day 3: Banda Naira Exploration & Batu Kapal (3 dives)

Start the day with two dives at:

Batu Kapal: A striking pinnacle and ridge system featuring excellent coral coverage and abundant reef fish.

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

In the afternoon, guests will enjoy a guided excursion to a historic Dutch fortress, followed by a night dive inside Banda Neira Bay.

Day 4 – Pulau Manuk | 3 Dives

Dive the unique volcanic island of **Pulau Manuk**, one of the Banda Sea's most distinctive dive locations.

Manuk is renowned for its dense population of sea snakes, often seen in large numbers throughout the dives. The surrounding waters also offer strong pelagic potential, including occasional sightings of schooling hammerhead sharks.

Day 5 – Pulau Serua | 4 Dives

Spend a full day diving around **Pulau Serua**, a remote volcanic island rising steeply from the Banda Sea.

The site offers dramatic underwater landscapes, healthy coral reefs, and nutrient-rich waters that attract pelagic species. Conditions often provide opportunities for hammerhead shark encounters, along with schooling reef fish and large pelagic visitors.

Day 6 – Karang Nil Desperandum | 3 Dives

Explore one of the Banda Sea's most remote oceanic atolls.

Karang Nil Desperandum features steep drop-offs, strong currents, and pristine reef systems. The area is known for its excellent visibility and high likelihood of pelagic encounters, including schooling hammerhead sharks under the right conditions.

Day 7: Karang Hatta & Hatta Island | 4 Dives

Begin the day at **Karang Hatta Atoll**, a nutrient-rich reef system known for its vibrant coral growth and diverse marine life.

Continue with two additional dives around **Hatta Island**, featuring dramatic reef structures and healthy fish populations.

The day concludes with a night dive in the Banda Sea region.

Day 8 – Amet (Seram) or Pulau Suanggi | 2 Dives

Depending on weather and ocean conditions, the final diving day will take place either at:

- **Amet (Seram Island)** – known for healthy reefs and macro-opportunities or
- **Pulau Suanggi** – offering another chance to encounter schooling hammerhead sharks

The Captain and Cruise Director will select the optimal site to ensure the best diving experience.

Day 9 – Disembarkation (Ambon) | 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 8. 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.
