

MERMAID I

Biodiversity Special Ring of Fire: Ambon, Banda Sea, Alor and Maumere

Ambon to Maumere (Ambon, the Banda Sea, Alor and Flores

One island is among the most emblematic spots in the Banda Sea to see schooling hammerhead sharks, and two atolls near Nila give a good chance of more, with healthy walls and visibility of over 50 metres.

Walls in the Banda Islands are covered in massive gorgonians, soft corals and barrel sponges, beside spectacular hard coral reefs next to the volcano.

Damar and Wetar add crystal clear water, walls covered in massive sponges and soft corals in a great variety of colours, and zillions of triggerfish of every species.

The trip ends in Alor, with healthy reefs, pinnacles, walls, great muck dives and strong currents.

Alor has it all.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	EXPERIENCE
11 nights	Ambon	Maumere	Certified divers







Your itinerary

DAY 1

Ambon

Check in + extra dives

Check-in on board Mermaid I.
Once all guests are on board a safety briefing will be given.
If all the guests are on board by 12.00 hours, you have the chance to do two extra dives at Ambon Bay in some fabulous muck dives with critters galore.
This area is known for many rare and unusual species including the psychedelic frogfish and Rhinopias.

DAY 2

Ambon

Dives

Ambon for some fabulous muck dives with critters galore – this area is known for many rare and unusual species including the psychedelic frogfish and Ambon scorpion fish.
Cruising overnight to the Banda Islands, 110 nautical miles.

DAY 3-4

Banda Islands

Dives + cultural visit

The next two days will be spent in the Banda Islands, formerly known as the - Spice Islands.
Many of the dive sites around the Banda islands are wall dives.
The walls are covered in massive gorgonians, soft corals, barrel sponges and have some very interesting swim throughs.
But there are other attractive dive sites such as pinnacles with enormous groups of schooling pyramid butterflyfish, triggerfish and pelagic fishes such as tunas passing through, spectacular hard coral reefs next to the volcano, and great muck dives with lots of mandarin fish at the local jetty.
The Banda Islands are much more than diving.
It is also a cultural and historical experience.
You will spend one morning walking around the village of Banda Neira the main island, with a local guide, visiting the local museum, the old Dutch fort, the old colonial governor's house, the local fish market and a nutmeg plantation, where you will have breakfast.
Cruising overnight to Manuk Volcano, 50 nautical miles.

DAY 5

Manuk

4 dives

Manuk, also known as the Snake Volcano.
Don't need to be afraid!
The site also offers a black sand reef dive with loads of fish and pretty hard and soft corals.
We will spend the whole day here doing four day dives.
Cruise to Serua Island, 55 nautical miles.

DAY 6

Serua

Dives

Serua Island is probably one of the most emblematic spots in the Banda Sea to see schooling hammerhead sharks.
Also an amazing site to see schooling fish such as big eye trevallies, pinjalo snappers and others.
Cruise to Nila Island, 20 nautical miles.

DAY 7

Nila atolls

Dives

Surrounding Nila Island there are two atolls, Dusborgh and Nil Desperandum.
It's at these two atolls that there is a good chance of seeing hammerhead sharks.
Even without the hammerheads, the reefs are fabulous, with healthy walls and 50+ metre visibility.
Cruise overnight to Damar, 90 nautical miles.

DAY 8

Damar Islands

Dives

Today you will dive several small islands – Nus Leur, Terbang Selatan and Terbang Utara.
The island of Damar and its three surrounding small islands have spectacular diving.
Like many dives in the Banda Sea, there is crystal clear water and beautiful walls covered in massive sponges and beautiful soft corals.
Cruise to Wetar Island, 150 nautical miles.

DAY 9

Wetar

Dives

In Wetar you will dive at the small island of Reong and at Cape Nunukae.
Pulau Reong is a small island on the northwest coast of Wetar and separated by a small channel only 700 metres wide.
More walls, like many of the dive sites in the Banda Sea, covered in small soft corals but of a great variety of colours, with zillions of triggerfish of every species.
Cape Nunukae, about 6 nautical miles southwest of Pulau Reong, is a large ridge with slopes on both sides, covered with a hard coral reef on the shallow area of the ridge, with soft corals on the slopes in the deeper areas.
There can be strong currents at the end of the ridge, where large aggregations of schooling fish can be found.
Cruise overnight to Alor, 95 nautical miles.

DAY 10

Alor

Dives

Alor is a favourite dive spot for divers coming to dive Indonesia year after year due to its variety of dive sites.
Healthy reefs, pinnacles, walls, great muck dives, cold water, warm water, strong currents and protected areas.
Alor has it all.
Cruise overnight to Kawula Island (90nm) or Serbete Island (120 nm).

DAY 11

Kawula or Serbete

Two dives

You will do two dives today at Kawula Island (90 nm to Maumere) or Serbete Island (60 nm to Maumere).

DAY 12

Disembark in Maumere

After breakfast there is a transfer to the airport or your hotel.
Disembark is at 8 am.

GOOD TO KNOW

On land and on the way

Serua and Nila

Schooling hammerhead sharks.

Manuk

The Snake Volcano.

Banda Neira

Fort, museum and nutmeg plantation.

Ambon

Muck diving with rare critters.

Check in

Check in on board is on the day of departure. We recommend arriving the day before the cruise, so you can settle into your cabin and set up your equipment before the boat leaves.

Check out

Disembark after breakfast at 8 am, with a transfer to the airport or your hotel.

Last dive

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

- Transfers to and from the boat: anywhere in southern Bali on Komodo trips, and Sorong airport on Raja Ampat trips
- All meals and snacks, fruit, coffee, tea, hot chocolate, soft drinks and drinking water
- All dives, with tanks, weights and weight belts
- Diving with experienced divemasters and instructors
- Land visits to villages, beaches, viewpoints and wildlife where the plan includes them
- 3 GB of Starlink internet on board

NOT INCLUDED

- Flights, including any domestic flight
- Nitrox fills
- Rental equipment and on board courses
- Alcoholic drinks
- Marine park fees, port and national park fees (subject to change with government regulation)
- Dive and travel insurance

BEFORE YOU GO

What to bring

ESSENTIALS

- Dive certification card and logbook
- 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

Good to know

Itineraries are a sample and can be changed because of the weather, tides, currents, season and other events beyond our control

Good to know

This itinerary runs from Ambon to Maumere





