ONDINA

Raja Ampat and North Banda Sea

Sorong to Ambon | Misool, Pulau Koon, the Banda Islands and Ambon

The Banda Sea is the deepest of the inner seas of Indonesia, and its walls have giant sea fans, massive barrel sponges and thick schools of fish, with pelagics such as hammerheads.

The trip starts in Misool, in Raja Ampat, among colourful reefs and a nursery beach for blacktip sharks.

At the eastern point of Koon, walls on both sides meet in a sandy plateau facing a deep trench, drawing large masses of fish and some pelagic sightings.

In the Banda Islands there is a dusk dive for mandarin fish.

Ambon ends it with muck diving and a vast array of critters and oddities.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	EXPERIENCE
9 nights	Sorong	Ambon	Certified divers







Your itinerary

DAY 1

Sorong

Check dive + overnight sail

Pick up at Sorong airport and transfer to the boat, with a welcome drink and time to settle into your cabin.
You have a check dive in the afternoon at one of the reefs around Sorong, and then sail overnight to Misool.

DAY 2

Misool: Daram Islands

3 dives + night dive

Three day dives and a night dive in the colourful reefs of the Daram Islands, at sites such as Andiamo, Candy Store and Warna Bewarna.

DAY 3

Misool classics

Dives

Diving around the main area of Misool, at classics such as Nudi Rock, Tank Rock, Pulau Boo and Shadow Reef, also known as Magic Mountain.

DAY 4

Misool and Yilliet

Dives + overnight sail

More classic Misool diving, with a visit to the blacktip shark nursery on the beach at Yilliet.
In the evening the Ondina sails overnight to Pulau Koon.

DAY 5

Pulau Koon

3 dives + overnight sail

Three day dives around the very strategic eastern point of Pulau Koon, where the walls on both sides of the island meet in a sandy plateau facing a deep trench, drawing large masses of fish and some pelagic sightings.
Overnight sail to the Banda Islands.

DAY 6

Banda Islands

Full diving day

A full diving day in the Banda group, at famous sites such as Karang Hatta, Batu Kapal and the Lava Flows.
At dusk there is a mandarin fish dive, and dinner is in a restored colonial house in Bandaneira, probably the most beautiful natural anchorage in Indonesia.

DAY 7

Bandaneira

Dives + cultural visit

A cultural visit around Bandaneira, the heart of the Spice Islands, with Fort Rotterdam, the Governor's House and a nutmeg plantation.
You then dive Batu Kapal and Pulau Soanggi, and sail to Nusa Laut.

DAY 8

Nusa Laut and Pulau Pombo

Dives + night dive

Two morning dives at the famous Ameth's Knoll, a reef parallel to the coast that local villagers have protected since old times, so that fish can spawn and spill over to nearby areas.
In the afternoon and night there are dives at Pulau Pombo, then an overnight sail to Ambon.

DAY 9

Ambon

Two muck dives

Two muck dives around the jetties at the Twilight Zone, with a vast array of critters and oddities.
Then prepare for departure the next morning.

DAY 10

Disembark in Ambon

After breakfast there is a transfer to the airport or your hotel.
Check out is at 9 am.







GOOD TO KNOW

On land and on the way

Bandaneira

The heart of the Spice Islands, with forts and a nutmeg plantation.

Mandarin fish

A dusk dive to watch the mandarin fish.

Pulau Koon

Walls meeting a sandy plateau and a deep trench.

Ambon muck

The Twilight Zone, home to endless critters.

Check in

The crew pick you up from the airport and take you to the boat for a welcome drink. Check in is at 11 am, and the transfers from the airport or your hotel are included.

Check out

The boat is in port the evening before, so you can prepare for departure. Check out is at 9 am, after breakfast, with a transfer to the airport or your hotel.

Last dive

The last dive is on the penultimate day of the trip. 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

- Airport or hotel transfers at embarkation and disembarkation
- Full board, with tea, coffee, snacks and a soft drink at lunch and dinner
- An average of 3 or 4 dives a day
- Land excursions where the plan includes them
- Tanks and weights for divers, and snorkelling gear for non-divers
- Library and music on board

NOT INCLUDED

- Flights
- Alcoholic drinks
- Crew tips, which are customary
- Police or diving permits, tourist tax, harbour fees and fuel increases
- Marine park fees and port clearance fee
- Nitrox, charged per day for the full trip
- Rental dive gear and other on-board services
- 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 only an orientation and can be modified because of the weather, sea conditions and other external causes

Good to know

This itinerary runs from Sorong to Ambon. It is also sailed in reverse, from Ambon to Sorong

Good to know

The Banda Sea is the most exposed of the inner seas, and these routes only run in October and November, between the monsoons, when the waters are more likely to be calm. Most nights are spent sailing