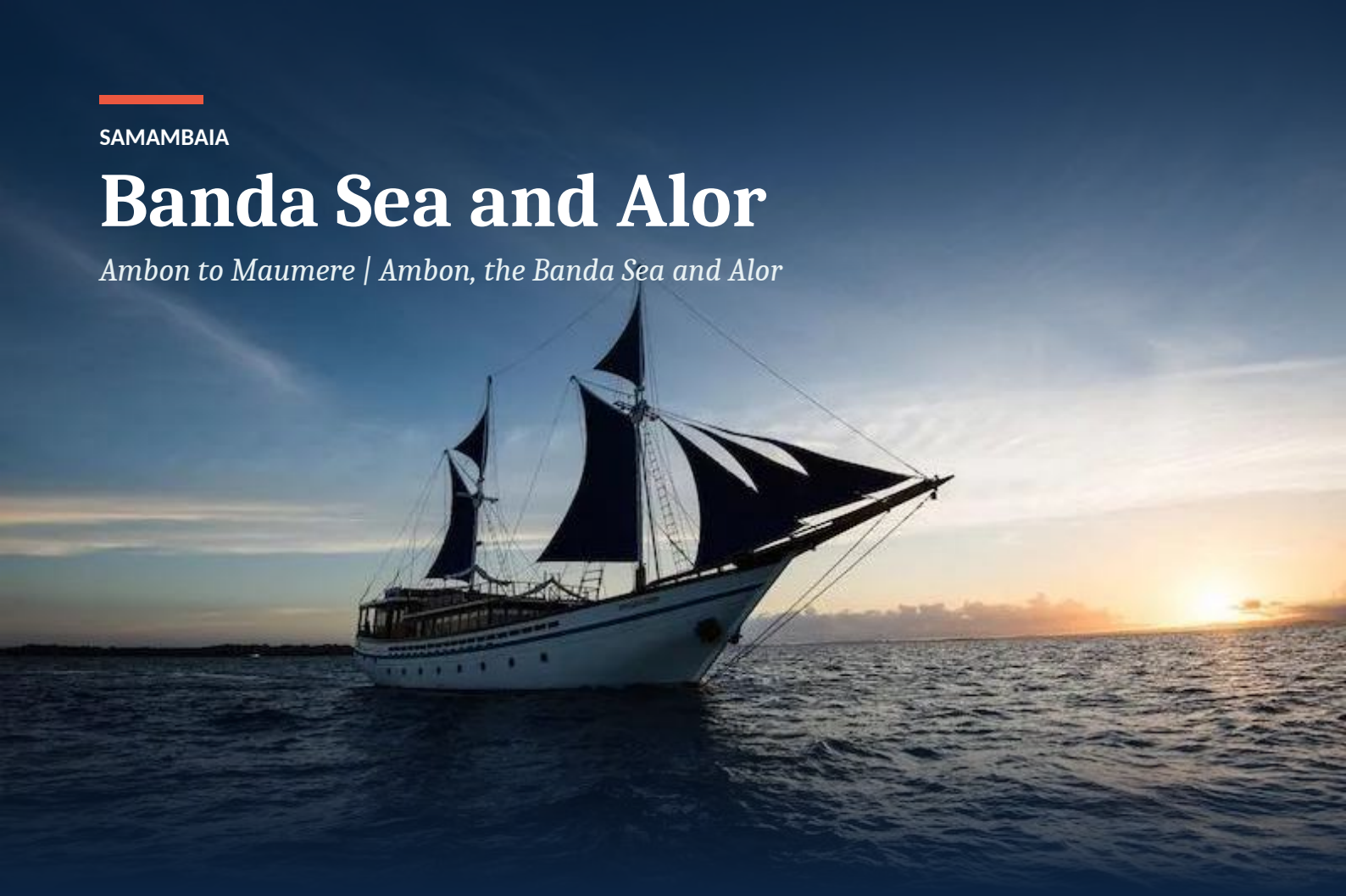
SAMAMBAIA

Banda Sea and Alor

Ambon to Maumere | Ambon, the Banda Sea and Alor



The critters of Ambon Bay, with rhinopias, frogfish and ghostpipefish, open a route across the Banda Sea.

The Banda Islands are historic spice islands, where volcanic walls rise from deep water and schooling hammerheads are often seen.

Further on, the Snake Islands have dozens of sea snakes in a single dive, and Nil Desperandum has steep walls with big pelagics.

Alor brings action packed current drifts with oceanic sunfish and thresher sharks, and Beangabang is a sheltered bay with some of the best macro life in the region.

Whales and dolphins are often seen while crossing the Banda Sea.

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







Your itinerary

DAY 1

Embarkation in Ambon

Crew members meet you at the airport and you embark in the port of Ambon.
After a general dive briefing there is a check dive at an easy, protected dive site, where the guides check your buoyancy and you check your gear, weights and camera housing seals.
No skill demonstrations are required.
Two more muck dives follow in the bay of Ambon, one in the afternoon and one at sunset.
Ambon is famous for critter hunting, with Rhinopias, frogfish, ghostpipefish, harlequin shrimps and, if you are lucky, the psychedelic frogfish.

DAY 2

Suanggi

A small island in the Banda Sea that can only be reached by liveaboard, and a haven for birds and fish.
The dives explore a pristine hard coral reef with pelagics such as schools of barracuda or tuna, fusiliers and bannerfish.
Hammerhead sharks have been seen here in the past.

DAY 3

Around Banda Island

The Spice Islands are historically significant as the only place where nutmeg grew, which led colonial powers to fight over them.
You can walk through the town of Banda Neira, with its museum and two forts, and the more ambitious can climb the volcano of Gunung Api, which is strenuous in the tropical heat.
The volcanic islands attract large pelagics, and schooling hammerheads are often seen.
The diving includes a reef that was destroyed by lava in 1988 and has regrown impressively, a mandarin fish dive in Banda Neira's harbour and walls and slopes around the islands.

DAY 4

Gili Manuk, the Snake Island

Divers may see dozens of sea snakes on a single dive.
They are venomous but usually peaceful and sometimes curious.
The site also has plenty of reef fish, pelagics and thousands of nesting seabirds.

DAY 5

Nil Desperandum

An atoll with steep walls rising from deep water.
If the weather allows, the whole day is spent here, with fans and sponges, some sloping sections and big pelagics.
Schooling sharks have been seen here before.

DAY 6

Pulau Nila

About five miles from Nila, an atoll offers prettier wall growth and passing pelagics.
Nila island provides shelter for the night's anchorage and a possible night dive.
You may also visit a village at the foot of an active volcano, where the residents live from clove harvests.

DAY 7

Romang

The Romang island group offers gentle slopes with relaxed diving, huge gorgonians, large barrel sponges, reef fish and occasional reef sharks or tuna.
Nearby is a site with overhanging walls and abundant fish.
Because a long overnight crossing follows, there are three day dives only.

DAY 8

Reong

A small island off Wetar and the last stop before the Banda Sea crossing.
The fishy wall dives have caverns and overhangs where nurse sharks rest during the day.
The shallows have hard coral that snorkellers will enjoy.

DAY 9

Beangabang and Alor

Beangabang is a protected bay said to have better macro life than the famous Lembeh Strait.
There can be cold upwellings, but critter lovers enjoy extended bottom times.
The boat then moves to Alor for action packed current drift dives on slopes and walls, with potential for big animals.
Past sightings include oceanic sunfish, tuna and thresher sharks.

DAY 10

Pulau Rusa and Pulau Kambing

A sloping area with boulders and plenty of fish, shaped by strong currents.
Sunfish may appear while snorkelling.
It is a secret spot that few divers have visited.

DAY 11

Serbete and Adonara

The day starts with a morning dive at a pretty, easygoing, protected wall south of the small island of Serbete.
Two more macro focused dives follow at secret spots south of the island of Adonara.

DAY 12

Disembarkation in Maumere

Depending on your flight schedule, the crew checks your luggage in for you in advance, so you can rest on board until you are taken to the airport when your plane is ready to leave.







THE TRIP

On every cruise

Diving

Three day dives of at least one hour each, and one sunset or night dive unless the boat has many miles to cover overnight.

Tender rides

Scenic rides through lagoons and coves in the tenders.

Treks

Trekking to breathtaking viewpoints.

Beaches and villages

Visits to secluded beaches and excursions to traditional villages.

Whale watching

Whale watching on every cruise.

Water action

Water action such as wake boarding and water skiing.

Check in

The boat leaves before 1 pm on the first day, with transfers between the airport and the harbour.

Check out

On the last night the boat returns to the end harbour, so guests can catch early domestic flights.

INCLUDED

What your trip covers

INCLUDED IN THE TRIP PRICE

- Nitrox
- Weights and weight belts
- 12 litre tanks
- Inflatable kayak
- Beer, soft drinks, juices, Italian coffee, premium tea and snacks
- Transfers between the airport and the harbour in both directions
- Guided diving with the Cruise Director and dive masters

NOT INCLUDED

- Flights and hotels
- Wine and spirits
- Massages
- Laundry

WORTH KNOWING

Key notes

Good to know

The itinerary is decided by the Cruise Director as the boat cruises, based on the weather, the dive conditions, guests' requests and the schedules of other liveaboards.

Good to know

Four dive masters go with guests on the dives, usually one guide to every four divers, and solo diving is not allowed.

Good to know

Every diver carries a GPS marine rescue device for the whole trip, the dive staff are trained in Emergency First Response and oxygen is on board.