SAMAMBAIA

East Flores and Banda Sea

Maumere to Ambon | Flores, Alor and the Banda Sea



Dozens of sea snakes in a single dive, on one of the two Snake Islands in the Banda Sea, with silvertip sharks and hammerheads in gin clear water.

The chances of close encounters with blue whales, sperm whales and pilot whales are very good while crossing the Banda Sea.

Alor brings action packed current drifts with oceanic sunfish, big dogtooth tuna and thresher sharks, and Lucipara has steep walls and a healthy population of sea turtles.

Ambon closes with muck diving, from frogfish and ghost pipefish to harlequin shrimps.

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







Your itinerary

DAY 1

Embarkation

Arrival with plane to Maumere.
You will be picked up by crew members at the airport.
Embarkation in the port of Maumere.
A general orientation follows.

DAY 2

Serbete & Adonara

After an initial general dive briefing, check dive in the morning at a pretty, easygoing and protected dive site.
A wall south of the tiny island of Serbete.
We will offer two more macro focussed dives this day, at two of our secret spots south of the island of Adonara.

DAY 3

Lembata's Critters

Sandy critter diving par excellence.
One spot is at a pier, the other ones a bit further to the east.
Critter hunting at it's best: Seahorses, different species of Rhinopias, sometimes even side by side, frogfish, all sorts of cephalopods.
Truly a world class dive spot.

DAY 4

Lembata / Komba

We will do three dives in daytime at a spot we call 'The Shark Wall' (the name says it all) and two other fantastic wall dives.
In the afternoon we will head north towards the active vulcano of Komba, which erupts every 15 to 20 minutes.
A spectacular display of nature's power and free fireworks for us.

DAY 5

Alor / Pura

Time for some action packed current drift dives with potential for big stuff.
All our dives are going to be either slope or wall dives.
We have spotted here in the past: Oceanic Sunfish, Big Dogtooth Tuna and Thresher Sharks.
Popular dive sites here: School's Out, Anemone City, The Great Wall of Pantar.

DAY 6

Beangabang

A protected bay which is said to have a better macro life than the famous Lembeh Strait.
Be prepared for some cold water upwellings which will not stop you from having extended bottom times if you are a critter lover.
No time limit here on the night dive.

DAY 7

Alor

We are back for three more day dives around Alor, with many great spots to pick from.
Depending on the preferences of our guests, we're able to choose here between action packed, current fused diving, or calm and protected critter hunting.
We conclude the day with an afternoon dive at a pretty wall, that has a few rare secrets to it.

DAY 8

Reong

Our last stop before heading out into the Banda Sea will be Reong, a small island just off the coast of Wetar.
Very fishy wall diving with small caverns and overhangs in which nurse sharks like to chill out during the day.
In the shallows we find a hard coral heaven that will delight every snorkeler.

DAY 9

Gunung Api

Also referred to as one of the two Snake Islands in the Banda Sea.
Be prepared to meet dozens of sea snakes.
In a single dive.
Besides snakes we have seen Silvertip Sharks and Hammerheads here.
Usually the waters around here are gin clear so make sure you look out into the blue not to miss something big passing by.

DAY 10

Lucipara

A group of seven paradise islands in the middle of the Banda Sea.
All dives are steep wall dives.
The Dutch seafarers named this island group the Schildpad Islands as we have not only find nesting grounds but also a healthy population of sea turtles here.

DAY 11

Ambon

All of these days will be muck dives.
World class critter hunting.
That's what Ambon is famous for.
Rhinopias, Frogfish, Ghostpipefish, Harlequin Shrimps and if you are really lucky: the Psychedelic Frogfish that has been very recently found here again.
Two more dives here before lunch.
If you have planned a land based extension in Ambon after the cruise and are not flying out straight away the next day, our dive guides will happily go diving again with you in the afternoon.

DAY 12

Disembarkation in Ambon

Depending on your flight schedule, our crew will check your luggage in for you in advance so you can rest on board and let us shuttle you to the airport when your plane is ready to leave.
The chances to have close encounters with whales (Blue Whales, Sperm Whales, Pilot Whales and others) are very good whilst cruising the Banda Sea.

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.





