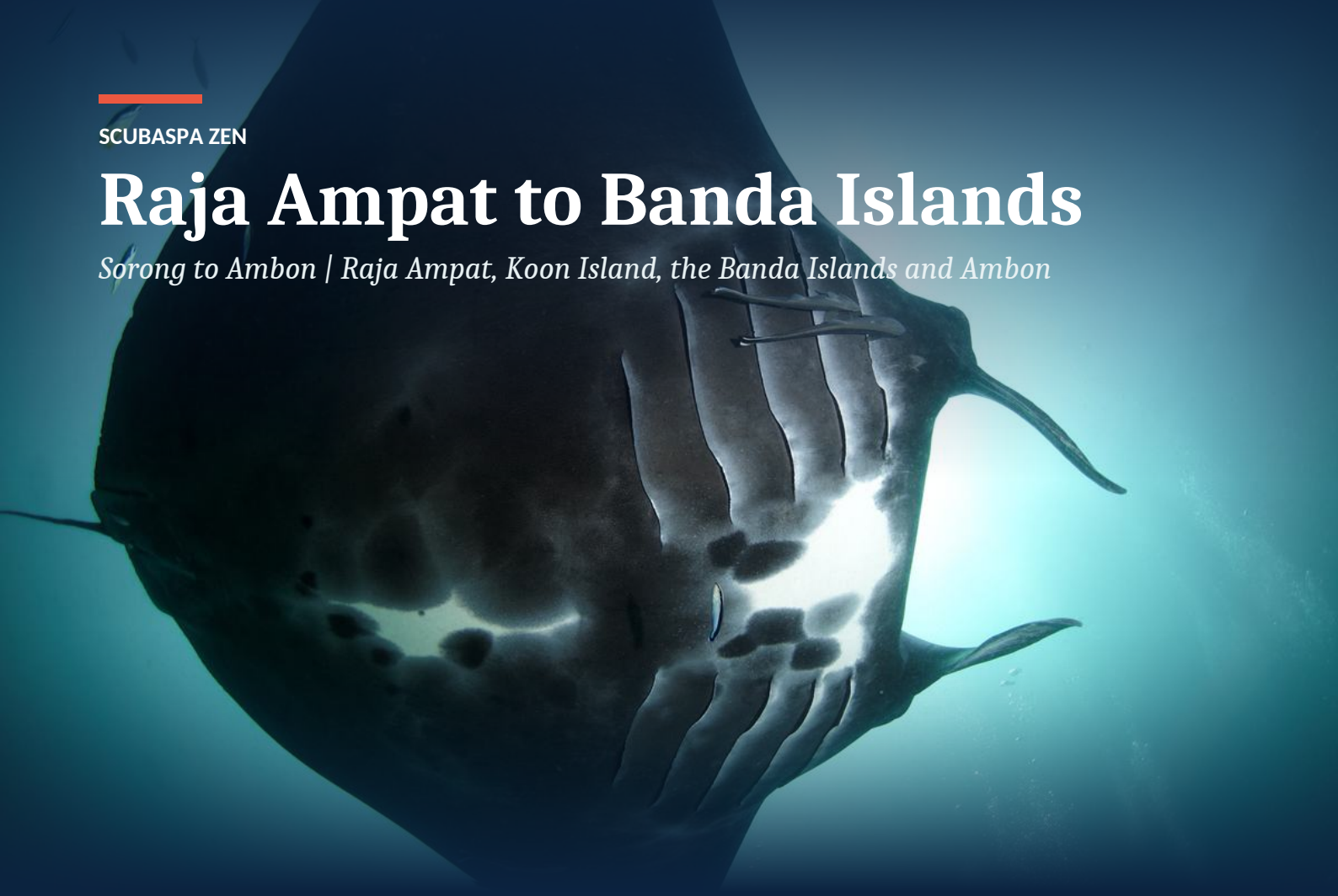
SCUBASPA ZEN

Raja Ampat to Banda Islands

Sorong to Ambon | Raja Ampat, Koon Island, the Banda Islands and Ambon



This is the Forgotten Islands, a remote and largely undeveloped chain across Raja Ampat and the Banda Sea that only a handful of boats ever visit.

Diving means drifting along steep walls, past huge sea fans, vibrant soft corals and barrel sponges, and meeting reef sharks, hammerheads, mobula rays and sea snakes, often in exceptional visibility.

Raja Ampat adds pygmy seahorses, black mantas, endemic walking sharks at night and pinnacles crowded with millions of tiny fish.

At Koon Island the sandbanks stretch almost to the horizon at low tide, and strong currents bring schooling jacks, barracuda and sharks.

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







Your itinerary

DAY 1

Arrive in Sorong

Guests are met at the airport or hotel by the crew and taken to the harbour to board.
After a short rest while the spa opens for information and bookings, the Cruise Managers introduce the crew and give the boat briefing, followed by a buffet welcome dinner in the al fresco restaurant.

DAY 2

Batanta

Up to 4 dives

The bays of the Batantas offer excellent macro photography at sites such as Algae Patch and Black Beauty, and a chance of reef mantas at Dayang Manta.

DAY 3

Farondi Islands

Up to 4 dives

The Farondi islands make many divers' lists of favourite Raja Ampat sites, with tunnels, caverns and colourful walls.
Jellyfish Lake is worth a visit for snorkelling with dozens of jellyfish, though the hike is challenging, and Tomolol Cave, a set of water filled caverns, is a possible land excursion, near red ochre paintings estimated at three to five thousand years old.

DAY 4

Wayil Batan

Up to 4 dives

A 30 kilometre wide channel with medium to strong currents.
Gorgonian Passage is one of the best sites for macro divers, and another spectacular site has several pinnacles rising from the deep, covered in millions of tiny fish crowding the soft corals.
In the afternoon an easy hike climbs to a viewpoint over a salt water lagoon shaped like a heart.

DAY 5

Pelee Island

Up to 4 dives

A short early cruise reaches Pelee, with the first dive at Kaleidoscope Ridge, one of the best sites in Misool, named for the bursts of colour among its soft corals and fish, and good for mobula rays and wobbegong sharks.
Toblerone is known for its swim through and large hard coral gardens.

DAY 6

Fiabacet

Up to 3 dives and a night dive

Fiabacet, three small rocks eight nautical miles east of Wayil Batan, has some of the most beautiful reefs in Raja Ampat, with pygmy seahorses and nudibranchs, black mantas and with luck oceanic mantas on the pinnacles.
A night dive at Romeo may find the endemic walking sharks, and the chefs prepare a barbecue dinner as the yacht sails to Koon Island.

DAY 7

Koon Island

Up to 4 dives

The sandbanks of Koon stretch almost to the horizon at low tide, a Maldives like landscape, and the gateway between the Banda and Arafura Seas gives strong currents with diverse fish and coral.
Dives highlight swimming among millions of fish, schooling jacks, barracuda and sharks.
Lunch is a barbecue between dives, and a beach barbecue dinner follows while the yacht sails to Banda Neira.

DAY 8

Banda Neira

Up to 3 dives

Start with morning yoga or a walk around the picturesque village beneath the active Banda Api volcano.
Batu Kapal is a small rock with coral, sponge and sea fan formations on its walls, and white tip and grey reef sharks in the deeper areas.
Pohon Miring is one of the top sites in Banda, with swim throughs full of sea fans, huge sponges, a plateau of small critters and amazing visibility.

DAY 9

Pulau Suanggi

At least 2 dives

Pulau Suanggi is the gateway to the outer reefs of the Banda Sea and the first chance for big fish, with an early sunrise dive for the elusive hammerhead shark.
Deep cool upwellings draw reef sharks, silky sharks, tuna and shoals of fish, and above water there are brown boobies, red footed boobies and frigate birds.

DAY 10

Laha, Ambon

Up to 3 dives

The last site is Laha, about three kilometres inside the bay on Ambon's northern coast and the best macro site in Ambon, known for frogfish, juvenile fish, ghost pipefish and rhinopias.
After lunch the crew helps rinse the gear and pack, the Cruise Managers settle the bills, and the day ends with farewell cocktails at sunset and dinner.

DAY 11

Departure

After a final breakfast and farewells to the crew, guests are escorted to the airport for their departing flight.

INCLUDED

What your trip covers

INCLUDED IN THE TRIP PRICE

- Suite accommodation with three meals a day
- Welcome drink, drinking water, coffee and tea
- Airport transfers at the start and end of the cruise
- Yoga classes every morning
- Snorkelling, with equipment included
- A barbecue on a deserted island and the excursions in the programme
- The diving or spa treatments of the package you choose
- Wi-Fi, with a 1 GB allowance per person

NOT INCLUDED

- International and domestic flights
- Service and administration charge and the national park and port fees, shown on our trip listings
- Dive and travel insurance
- Dive equipment rental
- Drinks from the bar and extra spa treatments
- Crew tips, which are customary





