SEAHORSE

Forgotten Islands and Ring of Fire

Saumlaki to Ambon | Tanimbar and the Banda Sea



This trip runs along the so-called Ring of Fire in the Banda Sea and visits the best dive sites of the area.

It offers outstanding diving and is a perfect itinerary for encounters with the schooling hammerhead sharks that roam the Banda Sea during this season.

One drop off offers high chances of schooling hammerheads, and Suanggi is another hammerhead hot spot.

The Banda Sea has steep drop offs, impressive hard corals, huge sponges and pastel black coral bushes, with tuna, giant trevally and barracuda part of the show.

At Manuk, a volcanic island where seabirds nest, sulphur traces show underwater among an abundance of sea snakes.

The last dive is the famous muck diving in the bay of Ambon.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	EXPERIENCE
11 nights	Saumlaki	Ambon	30 dives, Advanced







Your route

STOP 1

Dawelor and Dai

After leaving Saumlaki on Tanimbar island, the first day of diving is at Dawelor and Dai.
These granite islands of the Babar group have fantastic fish life and possible hammerheads.

STOP 2

Nila

A night of sailing brings you to Nila island, with nice diving on a gentle slope with good critter life.

STOP 3

Nil Desperandum and Serua

Nil Desperandum is a large offshore reef with a great drop off and huge barrel sponges.
Serua is two small islands where one drop off offers high chances of schooling hammerheads.



STOP 4

Manuk

Manuk is a volcanic island where seabirds nest, with sulphur traces underwater and an abundance of sea snakes.

STOP 5

Banda Islands

The Banda group includes Hatta, Run, Ai, Banda and Banda Neira, with a dive along the lava flow of Gunung Api and a land visit in Banda Neira.
The island of Suanggi, about 20 nautical miles from Banda, is another hammerhead hot spot.

STOP 6

Nusa Laut and Ambon

On the way to Ambon you stop for one day at Nusa Laut for the dive sites of Ahmet.
The last dive is the famous muck diving at Laha in the bay of Ambon.

STOP 7

Banda Islands

The Banda islands, which are Banda Neira, Banda, Hatta, Ai and Run, were at the centre of the spice trade in the 16th century.
You visit the village, fort and museum on Banda Neira, and the nutmeg plantation on nearby Hatta.

GOOD TO KNOW

On land and on the way

The Banda Sea

The Banda Sea is one of the best Indonesian dive destinations, with steep drop offs, impressive hard corals, huge sponges, pastel black coral bushes and intense fish life. Tuna, Spanish mackerel, giant trevally and barracuda are part of the show, with hammerhead sharks either in small groups or big shoals, and critter dives, especially in the bay of Ambon.

Hammerheads

Hammerheads are in the Banda Sea from September to the end of November, linked to the upwellings that cool the upper layers of the sea. The best chance is when the water is coolest, from mid September to mid November.

Dive count

A minimum of 33 dives, which is 3 dives per day, is offered, including at least 5 night dives. The last dive is on the penultimate day at 8 AM.

How the diving works

Divers go in groups of up to four with a dive guide, with a briefing before every dive. Nitrox is free for certified divers, and divers are asked to stay within no deco limits, to a maximum depth of 35 metres.

Joining the boat

You are welcome on board in Saumlaki before 12 noon. Seahorse can arrange pick up from the airport or your hotel.

Leaving the boat

The cruise ends in Ambon and you disembark before 12 noon. Seahorse can arrange the drop off at the airport or your hotel.

Airports

Saumlaki (SXK) at the start and Ambon (AMQ) at the end of the trip.







INCLUDED

What your trip covers

INCLUDED IN THE TRIP PRICE

- Transfers between the boat and the closest airport
- Accommodation in a shared twin or double cabin
- All meals and snacks, drinking water, soft drinks and hot drinks
- All guided dives, with one guide for up to four divers
- Aluminium 12 litre tank, weights and belts
- Free nitrox for certified divers
- Two complimentary kayaks on board

NOT INCLUDED

- International and domestic flights
- Park and port fees and fuel surcharge, paid in cash on board
- Alcoholic beverages, which you can bring yourself
- Diving equipment rental and 100 cf (15 litre) tank
- Crew tips, which are customary
- Massages and laundry

BEFORE YOU GO

What to bring

ESSENTIALS

- Dive certification card and logbook (PADI Advanced Open Water or equivalent with at least 30 logged dives)
- Dive insurance covering medical evacuation and diving accidents
- Medical fitness statement for diving
- Dive computer and surface marker buoy
- Torch for night dives

AND ALSO

- Reef-safe sunscreen
- Swimwear, hat and sunglasses
- Cash for park and port fees, fuel surcharge, tips and extras
- Passport valid for at least 6 months after you leave Indonesia

WORTH KNOWING

Key notes

Good to know

The route can vary slightly with weather, currents, visibility and tides

Good to know

Payments on board are in cash only, in euros, US dollars, Australian dollars, Swiss francs or Indonesian rupiah

Good to know

Most nationalities can get a 30 day visa on arrival

Good to know

Prices and trip dates are shown on our trip listings