SEAHORSE

Ring of Fire and Raja Ampat

Ambon to Sorong | Banda Sea and Misool



This multi-destination trip combines some of the most iconic dive spots of the Banda Sea and Raja Ampat.

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

Suanggi is a hot spot for the hammerheads.

Along the lava flow of Gunung Api, the fire mountain, sulphur traces of volcanic activity show underwater, with sea snakes everywhere.

Misool in the south of Raja Ampat is excellent for wide angle shots, mantas and massive schools of fish.

Ashore, snorkel in a natural shark nursery where small blacktips swim in clear shallow water.

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







Your route

STOP 1

Nusa Laut

After a night of sailing, the cruise starts with a day at Nusa Laut.

STOP 2

Suanggi

Suanggi is a hot spot for hammerhead sharks.

STOP 3

Banda Islands

The diving around the Banda islands is very rewarding, with a dive along the lava flow of Gunung Api, the fire mountain, which last erupted in 1988.
You stop in Banda Neira for a land visit.

STOP 4

Manuk

Manuk is a small volcanic island where seabirds nest.
Underwater you can see sulphur traces of volcanic activity, and the signature is the abundance of sea snakes.
Hammerheads roam here too, usually single sharks or small groups.

STOP 5

Hatta and Koon

Hatta is known for hammerheads and much more.
After a night crossing, Koon, between the Banda Sea and the south of Raja Ampat, has two dives on a site called “Too Many Fishes Wall”, followed by a full night of sailing to Misool.

STOP 6

Misool

Four days are spent around Misool, then the boat sails overnight to Sorong.

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.

STOP 8

Misool on land

At the rangers' station you snorkel in front of their beach in a natural shark nursery, where small black tips swim in one metre of clear water.
A short hike leads to the viewpoint over the "love lagoon", a lagoon in the shape of a heart.







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.

Misool

Misool in the south of Raja Ampat is excellent for wide angle shots, encounters with mantas and massive schools of fish. The underwater landscape is mostly rocky with ridges and rock formations, and the colourful reefs show an abundance of soft corals and huge gorgonians. Macro subjects are plentiful too, with pygmy seahorses, tiny crabs and nudibranchs.

Dive count

A minimum of 33 dives, which is 3 dives per day, is offered, including at least 5 night dives.

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 Ambon before 12 noon. Seahorse can arrange pick up from the airport or your hotel.

Leaving the boat

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

Airports

Ambon (AMQ) at the start and Sorong (SOQ) 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