

ADELAAR

# Banda Sea and Triton Bay

*Ambon to Kaimana | Banda Sea, Watubela and Triton Bay*

Schooling hammerhead sharks lead this route from the Banda Sea to the far reaches of Triton Bay.

Off Hatta, groups ranging from a handful to literally hundreds of majestic hammerheads are one of the main reasons the diving in the Banda Sea is so special.

In New Guinea, snappers, sweetlips and fusiliers are as dense as rush hour in a big city, with oceanic manta rays and squadrons of mobula rays passing through.

Triton Bay adds pygmy seahorses and the endemic walking shark on night dives.

Around new moon, fishing platforms off Namatote draw the majestic whale sharks the fishermen call mothers of fish.

| LENGTH | DEPARTURE PORT | ARRIVAL PORT | EXPERIENCE |
|---|---|---|---|
| 12 days / 11 nights | Ambon | Kaimana | Certified divers |







## Your itinerary

DAY 1

### Ambon

After boarding Adelaar in Ambon, you will enjoy your first day on board whilst cruising straight into the heart of the blue Banda Sea.

DAY 2

## Manukang

Our first stop is Manukang, a volcanic outcrop that according to Moluccan lore, is known to be haunted.
This we cannot judge, but what we do know, is that it attracts its fair share of pelagic visitors. Schooling hammerhead sharks swim along the underwater ridges that are covered in huge barrel sponges.
4-day dives

DAY 3

## Hatta

Hatta, the easternmost Island of the Banda archipelago, is named after Indonesia's first vice-president who spent time here in exile.
The diving off Hatta is dedicated solely to seeing schooling hammerhead sharks.
The sight of groups ranging from a handful to literally hundreds of those majestic animals is an unforgettable experience, and one of the main reasons the diving in the Banda Sea is so special.
4-day dives

DAY 4

## Watubela

The Watubela archipelago is also regularly visited by schooling hammerhead sharks.
However, this is not the only charm of these remote islands located at the border between the Banda and Seram Sea.
Spectacular white sandy beaches offer perfect locations for those postcard sunset drinks after a day's diving surrounded by schooling fish.
3-day dives




DAY 5

## Koon

Do you like diving with a lot of fish?
In that case Koon is the place for you.
Apart from having too many fish to list, there is also a spectacular land, or rather surface, activity nearby.
Depending on the tide we can enter a hidden system of marine lakes and canals for a snorkel and swim trek unlike any other!

DAY 5

## Koon (continued)

Typically, at the end of the trail you will be greeted by enthusiastic local village children.
3-day dives

DAY 6

## Momon

The Momon Area of New Guinea is without a doubt one of the highlights for photographers.
The very photogenic Kiti Kiti waterfall falls directly out of the vibrant jungle and into a turquoise sea.
For those who are up for a land excursion, there are opportunities to venture into the forest a jungle trek.
But first, there will be dives along the seamounts off the coast, known for their big schools of big eye trevallies, sharks, pelagic fish and oceanic manta rays.
3-day dives

DAY 7

## Aiduma

Along the coast of the karst island of Aiduma in the Aru Sea there are numerous little coves, islets and underwater formations with unique topography that are covered in dense soft coral growth.
Fish life is profuse and features schools of snappers, sweetlips and fusiliers as well as napoleon wrasses, large groupers and wobbegong sharks.
3-Day Dives, 1 Night Dive Born to explore



DAY 8

## Dramai

The eastern most point of our voyage is the island of Dramai.
The waters surrounding this island are a sheer fish lover's paradise.
Reminiscent of rush hours in a big city, schools of different species of snappers, sweetlips, surgeonfish, batfish, fusiliers, jacks and other species make it so dense, it is difficult for divers to get a glimpse of the unique topography.
The coral studded underwater formations include massive overhangs and swim throughs.
With a bit of luck, we may even encounter oceanic manta rays.3-Day Dives, 1 Night Dive

DAY 9

## Iris Strait

There is a regular through-flow of water in the Iris Strait between mainland New Guinea and Aiduma Island.
This steady supply of nutrients triggers a veritable explosion of coral growth.
Healthy areas dominated by enormous hard coral formations are interchanged with slopes covered in immense black coral bushes.
The surrounding area is literally invaded by the largest and most colourful soft coral gardens that exist.
All of this benthic life attracts schools of fish and squadrons of mobula rays.
3-Day Dives, 1-Night Dive

DAY 10

## Triton Bay

The diving in Triton Bay is unique, as the small islands act as fish magnets and feature exquisite coral growth of both hard and soft corals.
The bay is home to a plethora of critters such as pygmy seahorses, leopard and tiger shrimps, endemic flasher wrasses or rare cephalopods.
On night dives in this bay, be on the lookout for Triton Bay's endemic walking shark.
A structure resembling a huge underwater coral caldera is one of the topographic features of this area.
Another topside highlight is our speedboat tour through the maze of the large Triton Bay lagoon with its countless hidden bays and channels surrounded by unique karst rock formations.
3 -Day dives, 1-Night dive

DAY 11

## Namatote

If your trip happens to fall around a new moon, we will spend the day in the north of the island of Namatote.
There we visit the traditional outrigger fishing platforms that are regularly visited by what the fishermen refer to as 'mothers of fish', i.e. the world's largest fish, the majestic whale sharks.
Closer to full moon there are no fishermen and whale shark sightings are rare.
During such times we will concentrate on the dive sites south of Namatote with their pinnacles, caverns, swim-throughs, and black coral forests.
On one special rock cliff only visible by boat we can see prehistoric rock art, evidence of the culture of the region's earlier human inhabitants.
After Namatote we start the final passage of the trip in style, by hoisting Adelaar's set of sails!
2-Day dives

DAY 12

## Kaimana

After breakfast, it is time to say goodbye and disembark, until the next time.

GOOD TO KNOW

# On land and on the way

### Water sports

For non-divers, as well as snorkelling, the boat has stand-up paddle boards and a two-person kayak. Not every area is suitable, and the cruise manager finds the right times and places.

### Small groups

Adelaar takes a maximum of 8 guests, with a Western cruise manager who is also a PADI dive instructor, a divemaster and a crew of ten.

### Check in

Our team collects you from the airport or your hotel and takes you to the harbour where Adelaar is anchored. On the day before departure you can be taken to a hotel.

### Check out

After breakfast on the last day you disembark, with an airport or hotel transfer. Please arrange your flight with the no-fly rule in mind.

### Itinerary

All routes are examples, and the final plan depends on the weather, the sea conditions and any permissions.

INCLUDED

# What your trip covers

## INCLUDED IN THE TRIP PRICE

- Double or twin stateroom with private bathroom, bath towels and deck towels
- Fully crewed vessel, with all meals
- Coffee, tea, juices, soft drinks, drinking water and snacks
- The diving package described in the itinerary, with 12 litre tanks, weight belt and weights
- Land excursions described in the itinerary
- Transfers between the harbour and the nearest airport
- Stand-up paddle boards, a two-person kayak and a wakeboard
- Starlink Wi-Fi, up to 1 GB per guest
- Sensatia Botanicals toiletries

## NOT INCLUDED

- International and domestic flights, visas and transit hotels
- Port and park fees, prepaid
- Fuel surcharge, prepaid
- Nitrox and 15 litre tanks
- Dive and snorkel gear rental, a private dive guide and dive courses
- Compulsory dive insurance, and travel insurance is suggested
- Laundry, satellite phone use and crew tips, which are customary at 10 to 15%

BEFORE YOU GO

# What to bring

## ESSENTIALS

- Dive certification card and logbook
- Completed diver medical questionnaire
- Details of your dive and travel insurance
- Dive computer and surface marker buoy
- Torch for night dives

## AND ALSO

- Reef-safe sunscreen
- Swimwear, hat and sunglasses
- Light clothing and sandals
- Personal medication and toiletries
- Passport

WORTH KNOWING

# Key notes

### Good to know

The itinerary may vary depending on weather and sea conditions

### Good to know

All extra charges must be prepaid, and the fees are subject to change

### Good to know

Proof of dive certification and enough diving experience for the programme is required, and divers sign a liability waiver