

MV AMBAI

Halmahera

Ternate to Ternate | Goraici, Patienti Strait and Bacan

Blacktip sharks patrol around on most dives in Halmahera, one of the best dive destinations in Indonesia.

Sea mounts and rocky islets are covered in large soft coral bommies in every colour, with tunas, Spanish mackerel and giant trevallies passing through.

Napoleon wrasses, bumphead parrotfish, groupers and schools of surgeonfish and spadefish fill the reefs.

In the strait, islands partly close the channel and force the water between them, so the currents bring a lot of life.

Great wall diving in the south of Bacan and famous critter dives at Labua complete the picture, among beautiful volcanic islands still largely covered in tropical forest.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	EXPERIENCE
10 days / 9 nights	Ternate	Ternate	Advanced Open Water, 30 logged dives







Your route

STOP 1

Ternate to Goraici

Starting from Ternate we will head south after our check dive, passing near the islands of Tidore, Moti, Makian, all of which are spectacular cone-shaped volcanic islands.
After a first night we will dive for 2 days in the area of Goroaici islands.
Sea-mounts and rocky islets form the dive sites, attracting a great marine life.

STOP 2

Sapiente Strait

Going South we will reach the north part of the Sapiente strait between Halmahera and Bacan island.
The 2 islands of Saleh and Kusu plus some other smaller ones partially close the strait, forcing the water between the islands with currents bringing a lot of life.

STOP 3

Sapiente Strait, continued

Many dive sites in this area, including sea mounts, rocks, drift dives along fringing reefs and quiet critter dives in bays.
We spend 2 days in this area.

STOP 4

Bacan and Labua

We keep going South and dive around the small islands of Pigajara, then turn around the south of Bacan islands where some great wall diving awaits us.
Going North West of Bacan island, the next stop is Labua for some famous critter dives an excursion on land.

STOP 5

Back to Ternate

From there we go back to Goraici area for one day of diving.
We then head back to Ternate with one stop on the way for a fort visit.

ROUTE MAP

Route map

The map shows the general cruise itinerary. It can slightly vary depending on weather conditions, currents, visibility, and tides. Crossings are not long and consist in a few hours between dives or at night.



THE DIVING

Diving and snorkelling

Many of the dive sites are sea mounts with a rocky substrate and plenty of large soft coral covered bommies in all different colors.

The fish life is intense: as an Halmahera signature, black tip sharks are seen patrolling around on most of the dives.

Tunas, Spanish mackerel, giant trevallies and other pelagic fish are part of the show. Napoleon wrasses, bumphead parrotfish, groupers, schools of surgeon and spadefish are also well represented.

Other type of dive site includes great critters dives and beautiful fringing reefs.

A minimum of 27 dives (3 dives per day) is offered during the trip, including at least 5 night dives.

The last dive is the Penultimate day at 8 am.

SNORKELLING

Our trips are open to snorkelers. Most of the dive sites offer great snorkeling opportunities with a lot to see in shallow waters, and we offer specific guidance for snorkelers.





ACTIVITIES

Activities

Besides the diving, we offer some activities along the trip according to weather conditions and the final trip itinerary.

Halmahera and it's satellites islands are truly beautiful. Ternate, Tidore, Moti, Makian are all volcanic, cone-shaped islands. They were part of the spices trade during the XV century. Some fortification remain and we will pay a short visit to some of them.

In Bacan, an afternoon excursion is on the program to visit the village and fort of Labuan as well as a short trip into the forest to admire a great variety of butterfies.

You can also ask a boatman to bring you ashore at any time, as long as the schedule allows it. Our four complementary kayaks and paddles are also available to go on shore or in the lagoons whenever the boat is anchored.

All these activities are subject to weather conditions as well as the planned daily schedule and itinerary.





CONDITIONS

Weather, visibility, temperature and currents

Weather

The weather is variable, with some sunny days and a few showers. The sea is generally calm, with eventually a bit of wind under the showers. Temperatures are around 27-30 °C.

Visibility

Generally very good with a blue clear water, it can be reduced in case of heavy rainfalls.

Temperature

The sea water temperature is between 27° and 30°C (80°-84°F).

Currents

Some of the dives can have consistent currents. However the crew has a long experience diving these sites and we pay close attention to diving in the right places at the right time, to avoid difficult or dangerous currents. Before each dive, our guides conduct current checks so that our briefings will always inform you about the up-to-the-minute diving conditions. If the currents are too strong on a site, we wait or shift to an alternative dive site.



DIVE ORGANISATION

How the diving is organised on Ambai

- Due to the large number of dives performed during the trip and the remoteness of the location, we urge divers to stay within no-deco limits, to not exceed a maximum depth of 35 meters, and to perform a safety stop at the end of every dive.
- Depending on the guests' dive experience, interests (photography, macro, etc), and use of Nitrox (free for certified divers), the Cruise Director will arrange the diving groups. These groups are made of up to four divers maximum and a dive guide. The dive guides are rotating on a daily basis. Each diver is given a dive tank (DIN & INT available, no need for adapters) and their own dive station for the duration of the cruise.
- A briefing will be conducted by the Cruise Director or one of the guides before each dive. It will describe the site topography, depths, currents, and potential hazards, as well as the marine life we expect to encounter.
- The staff carries your tank between the MV Ambai and the dinghies. Onboard the dinghies, the tanks are placed into slots and the guide will help you to gear up just before you back-roll into the water.
- Identification books of flora and local fauna are available on board, and the dive guides will always help you identify the animals you have seen during the dives.
- Some dive equipment are available for rent on board. However, all sizes are not necessarily available, so please book it prior to the cruise.
- Our cruises are open to divers with a Padi Advanced Open Water or equivalent with at least 30 logged dives. Less experienced divers can also participate with special supervision that needs to be arranged before the cruise.
- Insurance covering medical evacuation and diving accidents is highly recommended. Divers will be filling out a statement of medical fitness for dive activities onboard.

ON BOARD

Service and cuisine

SERVICE

Behind the MV Ambai's success, there is a professional, discreet, smiling, and very friendly crew. Our team will treat you with special attention, assist you with whatever you need, and of course carry your tank & gear. Most of our crew have been working with us for many years.

THE CUISINE

Mixing eastern and western specialties, our cuisine is a "fusion" of the best of both that will never let you go hungry.

Should you have specific requests, or a particular dietary need, (vegetarian or allergy, for example), our chefs will adapt the meals for your greatest pleasure.

THE TEAM AT YOUR SERVICE

- 1 cruise director / diving instructor
- 17 crew members including 4 dive guides

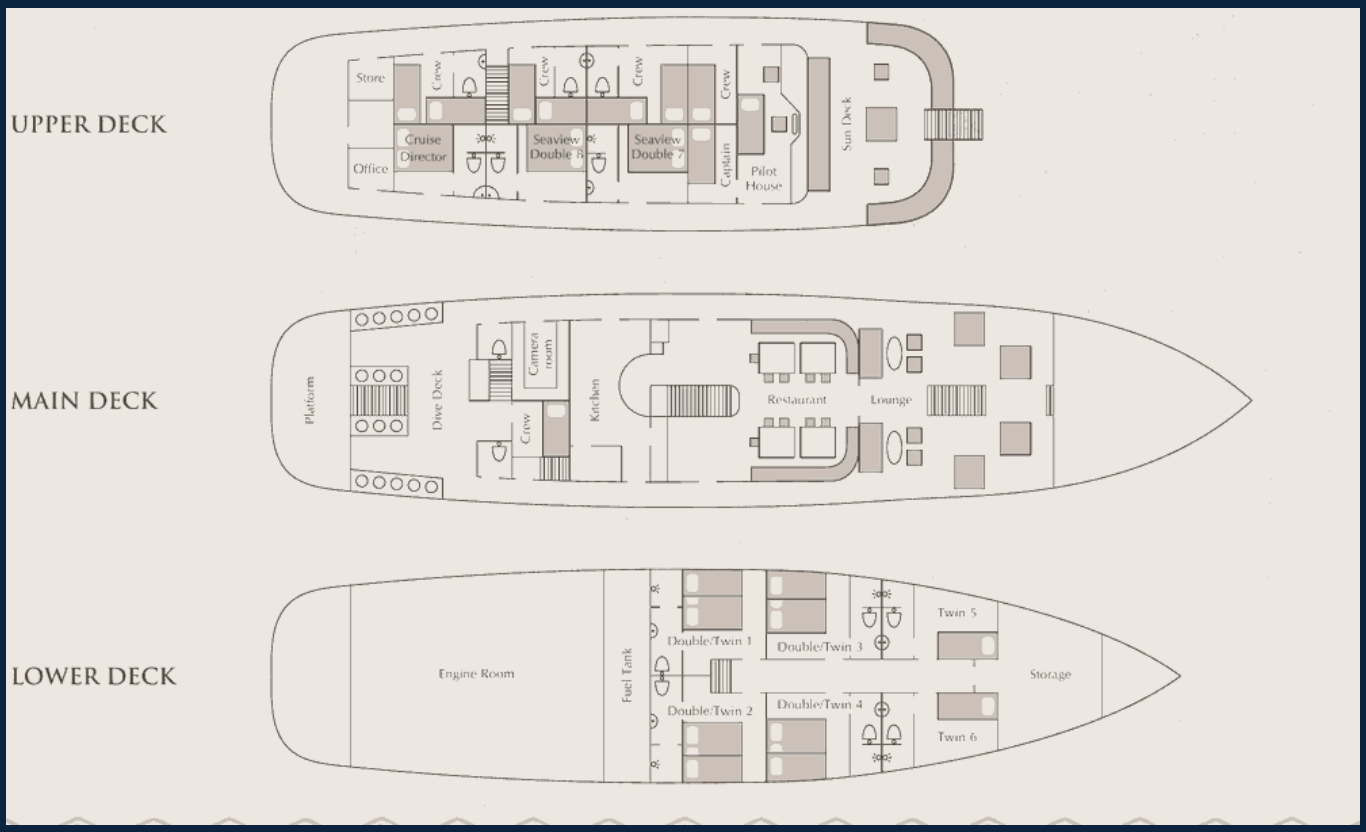






DECK PLANS

Deck plans



PAYMENTS

Payments on board

All payments on board are made in cash, as credit cards cannot be accepted. All major currencies are accepted (EUR, USD, AUD, CHF and IDR), and prepayment by wire transfer can be arranged.

The park and port fees and the fuel surcharge are mandatory and are paid on board.

Tips: tipping should reflect your level of satisfaction with the service on board. The usual amount in the industry is 10% or more of the cruise rate.

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 bed cabin
- All meals & snacks, drinking water, soft drinks and hot drinks
- All guided dives (1 guide /4 divers maximum)
- Aluminium tank (12 liters), weights, and belts
- Free Nitrox

NOT INCLUDED

- Park & port fees, fuel surcharge
- International and domestic flights
- Alcoholic beverages (you can bring your own)
- Diving equipment rental, 100 cf (15 L) tank
- Crew gratuities
- Massages
- Laundry