

MV AMBAI

Raja Ampat - Halmahera - Lembeh

Sorong to Bitung | Misool, Halmahera and North Sulawesi

Misool, Halmahera and the Lembeh Strait are three of the best-known dive areas in Indonesia, joined in one trip.

Misool is among the hottest spots of Indonesian diving, with intense fish life, great soft corals and gorgonians, and an isolated island where millions of triggerfish and schools of bumphead parrotfish are passed by tunas and Spanish mackerel.

Halmahera brings stunning coral reefs, amazing macro, billions of reef fish, lots of reef sharks and a huge school of barracudas.

The finale is the Lembeh Strait, a legendary muck diving mecca where black sand is home to frogfish, rhinopias, flamboyant cuttlefish and mimic octopus.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	EXPERIENCE
13 days / 12 nights	Sorong	Bitung	Advanced Open Water, 30 dives







Your route

STOP 1

Misool

Leaving from Sorong, we go directly to Misool, where we spend 3-4 days depending on the conditions.
Intense fish life, great soft corals and gorgonians.

STOP 2

Pisang

From Misool, we head to the small islets of Pisang for one day of diving.
This isolated island with a few satellite rocks is home to intense underwater life: millions of trigger fish, schools of surgeonfish, bump head parrotfish, Spanish mackerels and tunas passing by.

STOP 3

South Halmahera and Bacan

We then reach the South of Halmahera on the following day.
We will dive the South tip of Bacan, then enter the Patiniente Strait between Bacan and Halmahera.
The diving take place around the islands of Kusu and Saleh, where the water in forced in narrow straits bringing an intense fish life.
We then start cruising north to the Goraichi islands.
Stunning coral reefs, amazing macro, billions of reef fishes and lots of reef sharks inhabits these areas.

STOP 4

Tifore

At mid- way between Halmahera and Sulawesi lays the islands of Tifore, where we spend one day.
The dive site is famous for it’s huge school of barracudas.
In North Sulawesi, we will dive the Lembeh strait and it’s legendary muck dive sites -and eventually a few sites around Bangka islands, offering a mix of critters and reef dives-.

STOP 5

Disembarking in Bitung

We disembark in Bitung and transfer to Manado airport by a 45 minutes road trip.

ROUTE MAP

Route map

The below map shows the planned itinerary. It can varies, depending on weather conditions, currents, visibility and tides.



THE DIVING

Diving and snorkelling

Misool, South Raja Ampat Misool is among the hottest spot of Indonesian diving. The abundance of sea life, both fixed fauna such as corals and gorgonians along the lush reef, as well as the stunning quantity and diversity of fish swimming above is just astonishing. The dive sites' underwater topographies are also varied and interesting, filled with dramatic pinnacles, long ridges, walls, hidden caves, rock formations, azure lagoons and much more. The fauna ranges from the tiny Pygmy Seahorse to the oceanic manta ray. Raja Ampat's signature are the huge schools of fish: clouds of fusiliers and balls of baitfish that attract predators like tunas, trevallies and barracudas; schools of the inquisitive spadefish, schools of sweetlips, groups of bumphead parrotfish, napoleon wrasses, etc. Reef sharks are very much present on the reefs; the carpet shark or wobegon is ubiquitous, laying on a coral or under a rock behind a cloud of glass-fish.

Halmahera is one of the best Indonesian dive destinations. It offers a great variety of dive sites among beautiful islands still largely covered with tropical forests.

Many of the dive sites are sea mounts with a rocky substrate and plenty of bommies covered with soft corals 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. Other type of dive site includes great critters dives and beautiful fringing reefs The last days of the trip will be in Sulawesi, in the Lembeh strait and eventually Bangka islands. Lembeh strait is well known as critter and muck diving Meca. Black sands are home for many kind kind of frogfish, rhinopias, flamboyant cuttlefish, mimic octopus and many more. Bangka is a mix of critters and beautiful reefs dives, with colorful soft corals.

A minimum of 36 dives is offered during the trip, including at least 6 night dives.

SNORKELLING

Our trips are open to snorkelers. Most of the dive sites offer great snorkeling opportunities with a lot to see in shallow waters. 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.

In Misool, we will visit the ranger's station and snorkel in front of their beach in a natural shark nursery where small black tips are swimming around in one meter of crystal clear water. A short trek to the view point of the "love lagoon" (a lagoon in shape of a heart!) will be offered. We may also visit a cave near Farondi.

In Halmahera we can visit some of the local village, and experience some hot springs.

In Sulawesi, on the last afternoon, we visit the National Park of Tankoko, a preserved forest where we can see macaques and Tarsiers.

During the trip you are welcome to ask a boatman to bring you to shore at any time, as long as the schedule allows it. Our complementary kayaks are also available to go on shore and to visit the lagoons whenever the boat is anchored. All these activities are subject to weather conditions and to the planned daily schedule.





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 good in Misool,excellent in Halmahera and good in North Sulawesi.

Temperature

The sea water temperature is between 28° 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 NBOEBUPSZ. Divers will be filling out a statement of medical fitness for dive activitiesonboard.

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

