



**Banda Neira**  
(Ambon - Raja Ampat)  
**Diving**  
**Cruise**

12 DAYS / 11 NIGHTS CRUISE

Anne Bonny Liveaboard



# Introduction

The sample itinerary below highlights what you can expect on one of our cruises to the Banda Sea. Each cruise is unique; navigation and dive sites may vary slightly due to weather conditions and visibility.

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The port of departure is Ambon harbour (Maluku Islands, Indonesia).

The port of arrival is Sorong harbour (West Papua, Indonesia).

We depart around noon time and arrive at the harbour on the late night of the day before last







## Dive Destination

Once sought by Columbus and Marco Polo, the Banda Islands were the original Spice Islands and the most coveted destination on earth, particularly by the Dutch and Portuguese who colonized the islands and exported the indigenous nutmeg and cloves. History tells of a violent past under colonial rule.

Now, the seas around these tropical paradise islands are coveted for their spectacular diving and snorkelling on some of the world's richest reefs, unspoiled corals, and large pelagic fish.

Steep drop offs, impressive hard coral and some fast currents make this area absolutely breathtaking. Schools of jacks are a familiar sight, as are large tuna, many turtles, Napoleon wrasse, groupers, rays, sharks and large lobsters. Great visibility is a blessing here, and there are also some special critter sites.







## Highlights

- 1) World-class diving in Misool
- 2) Diving near the underwater volcano
- 3) Diving with sea snakes
- 4) Opportunity to see the migration of hammerhead sharks and other large pelagic
- 5) Visit to historical Spice Islands
- 6) Visit to the Portuguese fortress and old town
- 7) Opportunity to see Mandarin fish
- 8) Diving in remote areas with pristine reef
- 9) BBQ on secluded beaches
- 10) Kayaking in the lagoons of Raja Ampat





## Daily Routine

Below is the approximate daily routine, which can change due to weather conditions, activities, and group requests.

6 am - Light breakfast

7 am - First Dive

8 am - Breakfast

11 am - Second Dive

1 pm - Lunch

4 pm - Snack

5 pm - Third Dive

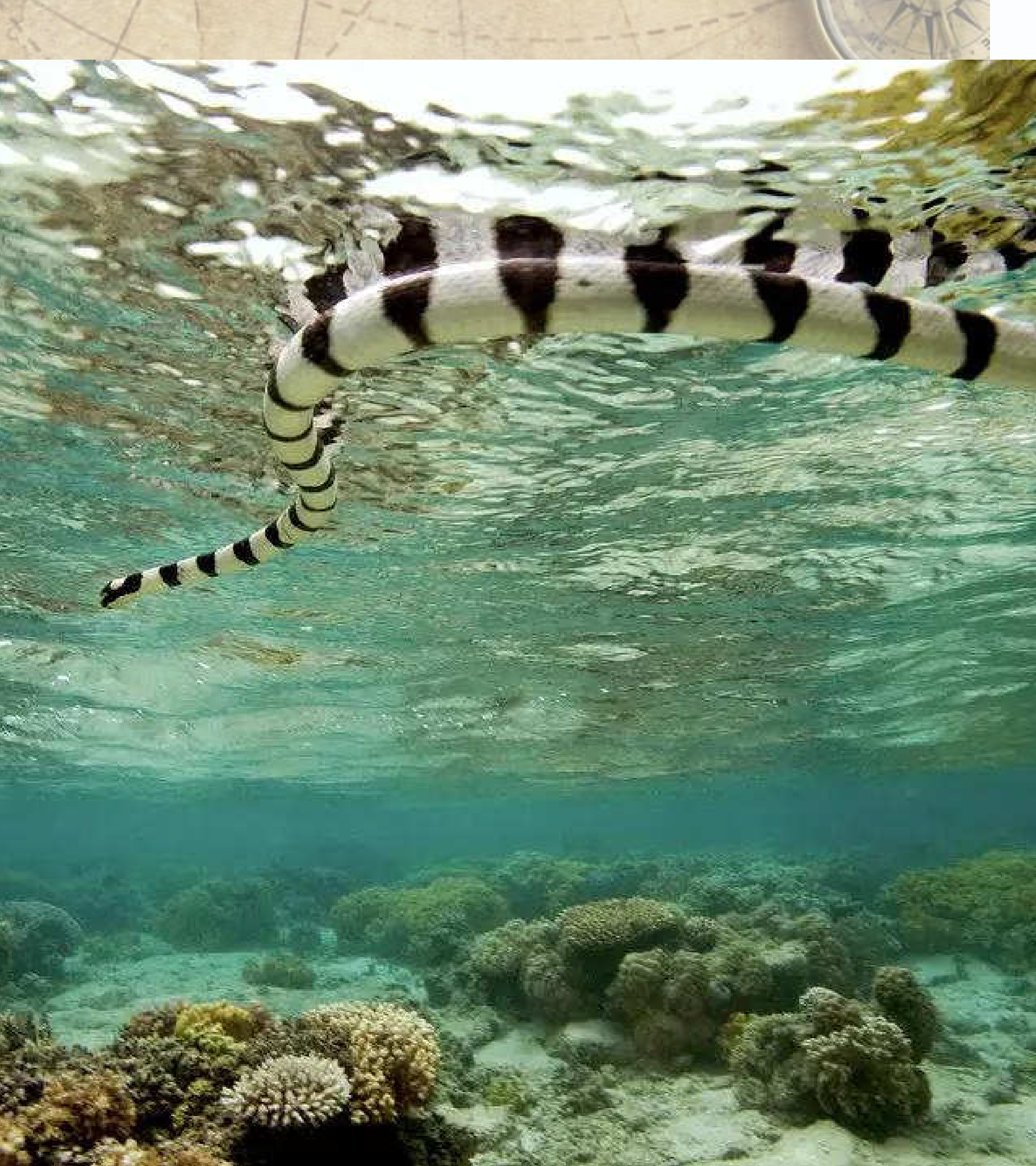
7 pm - Dinner and free time

or

7 pm - Night Dive

8.30 pm - Dinner





# Day 1 | Embarkation in Ambon, Maluku

## 1 Dive

We will pick you up at Ambon airport and take you to the harbor where our crew will welcome you onboard Calico Jack. Following refreshments and a short tour of the ship, you will be briefed on safety, diving operations, and life onboard.

You will be served a delicious lunch and have time to get acquainted with the ship, set up your dive gear & cameras, and meet and socialize with the other guests and friendly crew. We will do a check dive in the area later in the afternoon. Early morning we will navigate to Nusa Laut.



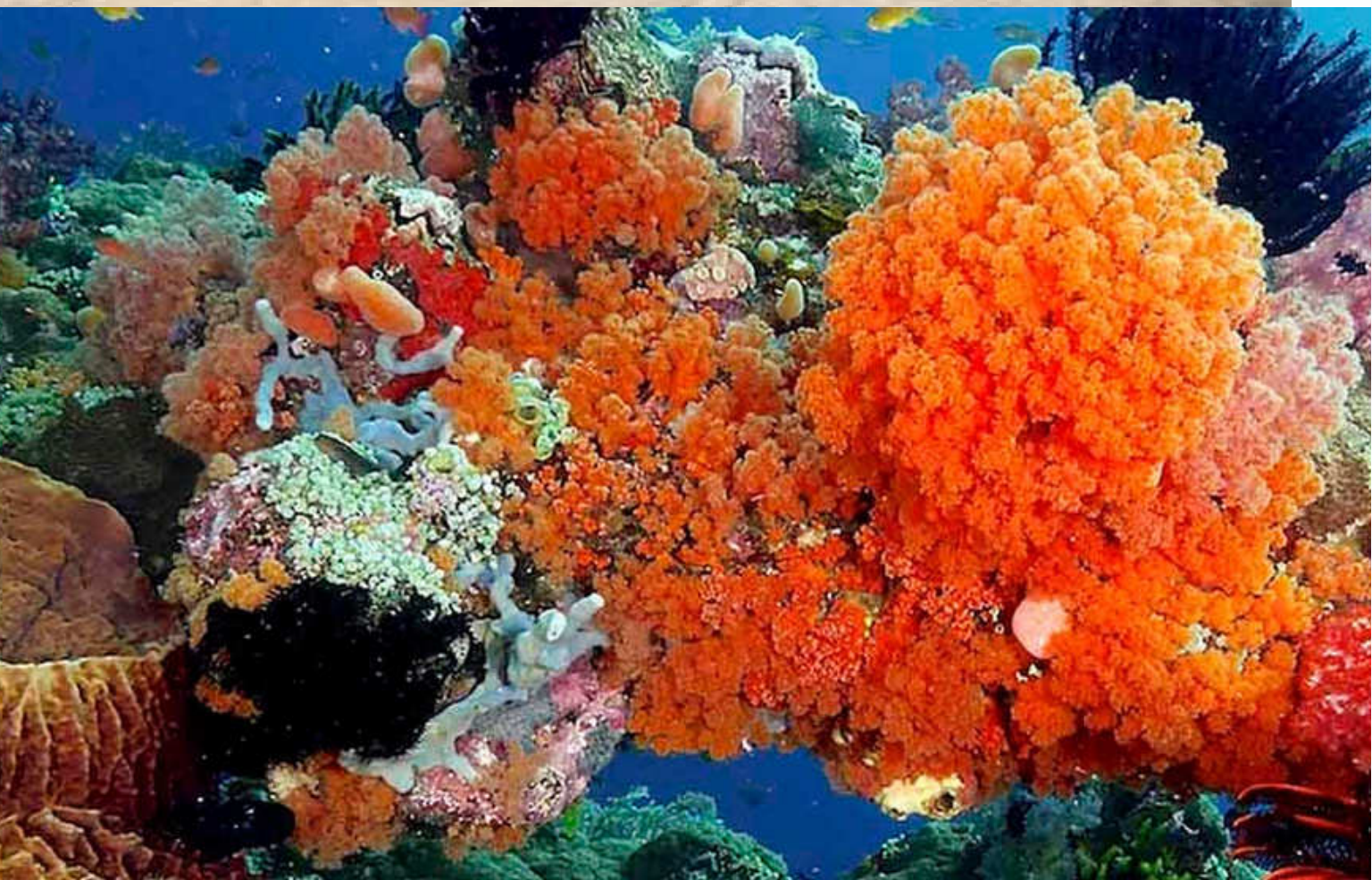
## Day 2 | Nusa Laut & Molana

### 3 Dives

Early morning, we arrive at the beautiful Amet Reef. Whilst situated only a few hours from Ambon, it is a great example of successful grass roots conservation efforts. The locals have instilled sustainable methods to protect their reef and as a result, the corals are outstanding and a favorite amongst dive enthusiasts. White tips and reef sharks patrol the depths and playful turtles can be spotted. For the incredibly lucky, hammerhead sharks and dugongs have also been spotted at this site.

After lunch, we will navigate to Molana Wall. The shallow wall breaks in places and in the sandy slopes, ribbon eels, small pipefish, and moray eels can be found. Above the reef, turtles are seen feeding in the beautiful coral garden. In the afternoon, we will navigate towards Pulau Ai & PulauRun (Banda Islands).





## Day 3 | Pulau Ai & Pulau Run Banda Islands

### 3 Dives

Early morning, we arrive in Pulau Ai. This dive site, on the island of Ai, translates to Umbrella Rock as there are many overhangs along the walls of the island. You will be able to drift along the wall and enjoy the view of thousands of tiny reef fish darting in and out of the cracks and crevices.



For the second dive of the day, we'll move onto Little Manhattan which is next to the island of Run. In 1667, the English traded the island of Run for Manhattan, giving the Dutch full control of the Banda archipelago. White sandy slopes interspaced with large coral heads and a healthy reef make this a very beautiful dive site. A resident school of bumphead parrotfish may be spotted here, as well as passing eagle rays.

The third dive for the day will be an exploratory dive off Pulau Run. This region is full of unexplored dive sites and the Banda Sea is the perfect location for the discovery of new underwater treasures.

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# Day 4 | Banda Neira Tour & Banda Islands

## 3 Dives

Early morning, we will head to Banda Neira where you will have the chance to explore the remaining remnants of the former lucrative spice trade as well as take in the historic and cultural legacies of the islands.

You will spend the morning walking through the town and be given the chance to observe the Dutch colonial architecture which remains to this day, as well as Fort Belgica with its incredible views overlooking the bay around the island.

Before lunch, you will dive at Batu Kapal, which when translated means 'boat rock'. A submerged pinnacle, the site has a rock breaking the surface of the water in the shape of a boat, hence the name.







## Day 4 | Banda Neira Tour & Banda Islands

### 3 Dives

Various types of fish are present here in vast numbers, along with huge gorgonian fans and some truly monumental sponges.

Your second dive will be at Pohon Miring. At this site, a large crack in the reef creates a deep swim-through which you can drift through and view the sponge-covered wall on the other side. Moral eels can be spotted at the top of the wall as well as schools of bumphead parrotfish.

Late in the afternoon, you will have a sunset dive at Banda's jetty. In the shallows and amongst the stones from collapsed sea walls and jetties, mandarin fish congregate. This particular spot is one of the best in the world to spot mandarin fish.

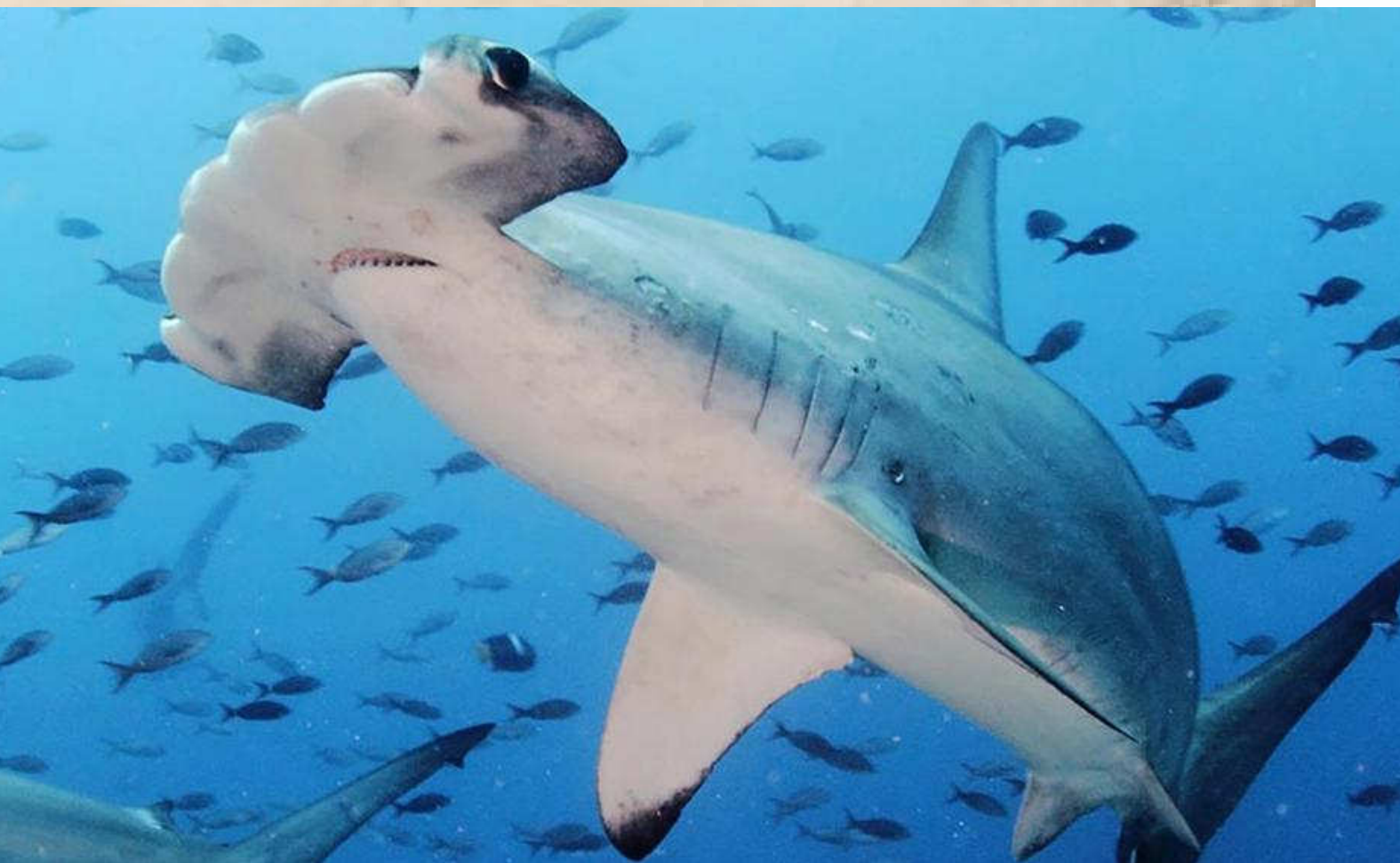




## Day 5 | Banda Islands

### 3 Dives

Karang Hatta is a reef located South East of Pulau Hatta. The dive sites in this region are closest to the 6,000-metre-deep Banda trench, making it an intriguing area as the chances of encountering pig pelagic species are quite high. Schooling trevallies, barracudas, tuna, turtles, as well as hammerhead and grey reef sharks can be spotted close to this underwater mount.



You will have two dives in this area, dependent upon the conditions, and then sail to the main island of Pulau Hatta where you will dive in front of the West shore beach where a 5-meter hole in the reef opens up to the sea. You can dive down through the hole and find yourself looking back to what appears to be a bridge in the reef.

The bridge is covered with soft corals, and large gorgonian fans underneath are home to various pigmy seahorses.

Overnight navigation to Pulau Koon.

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## Day 6 | Pulau Koon, Ceram

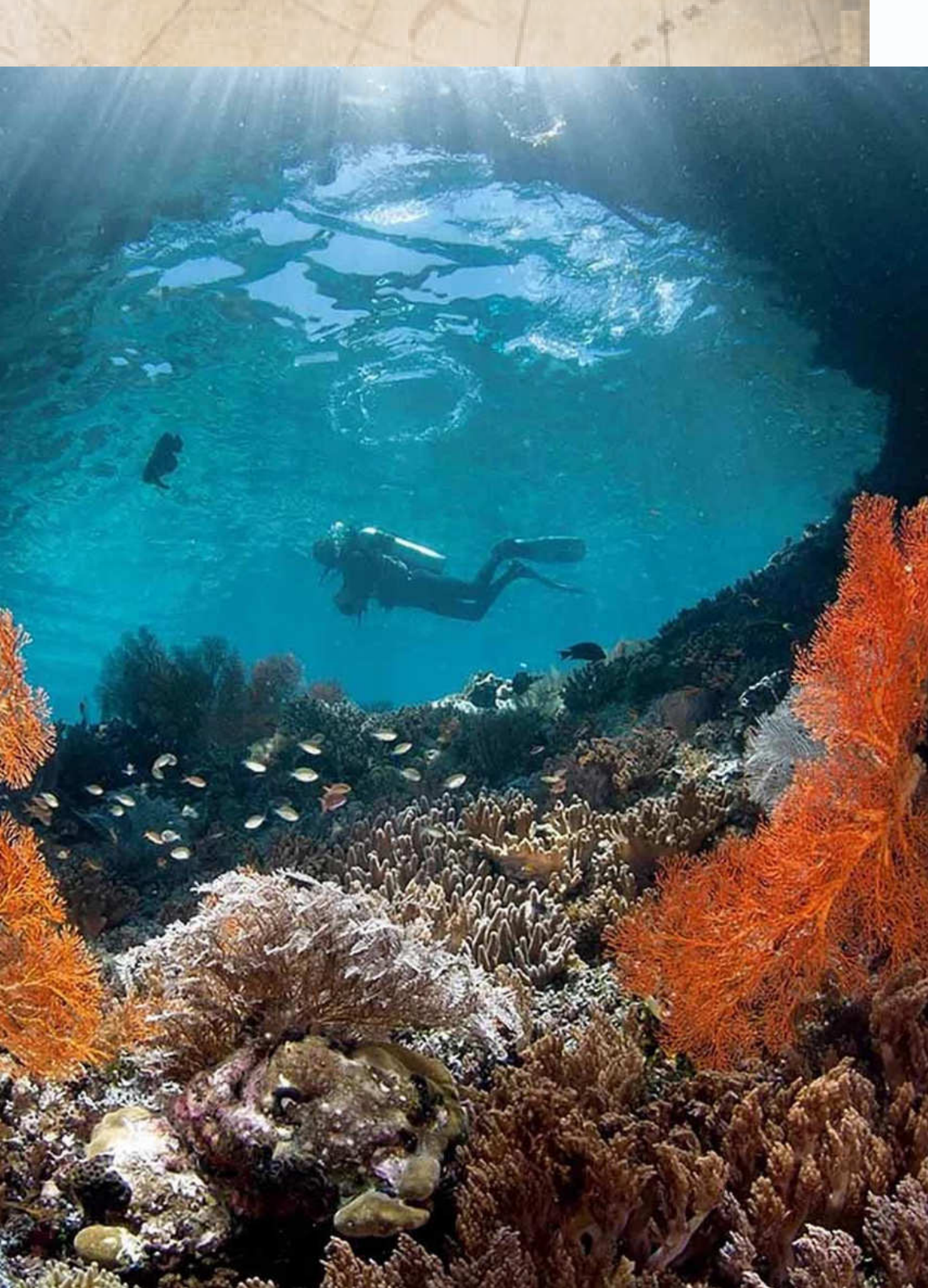
### 3 Dives

Pulau Koon is a small island on the southeast of Ceram, half way between Raja Ampat and the Banda Islands.

Underwater there are walls covered in soft corals and sandy slopes with hard coral bommies. But the most interesting feature of this island is the amount of schooling fish and pelagic, barracudas, bigeye trevallies, aggregation of red snappers, pompanos, batfish, and giant groupers.

3 great dives in this area before setting sailing towards Misool Raja Ampat.





## Days 7 - 11

### Southern Raja Ampat/Misool

16-18 Dives

Misool is located South of Raja Ampat and is famous for its steep rocks with vertical walls, profusion of soft, colourful corals, sea fans draped brilliantly over the reefs and plenty of fish.

The islands around East Misool are grouped by areas. These are the areas you can expect to visit (weather permitting) and the most popular dive sites we frequent:



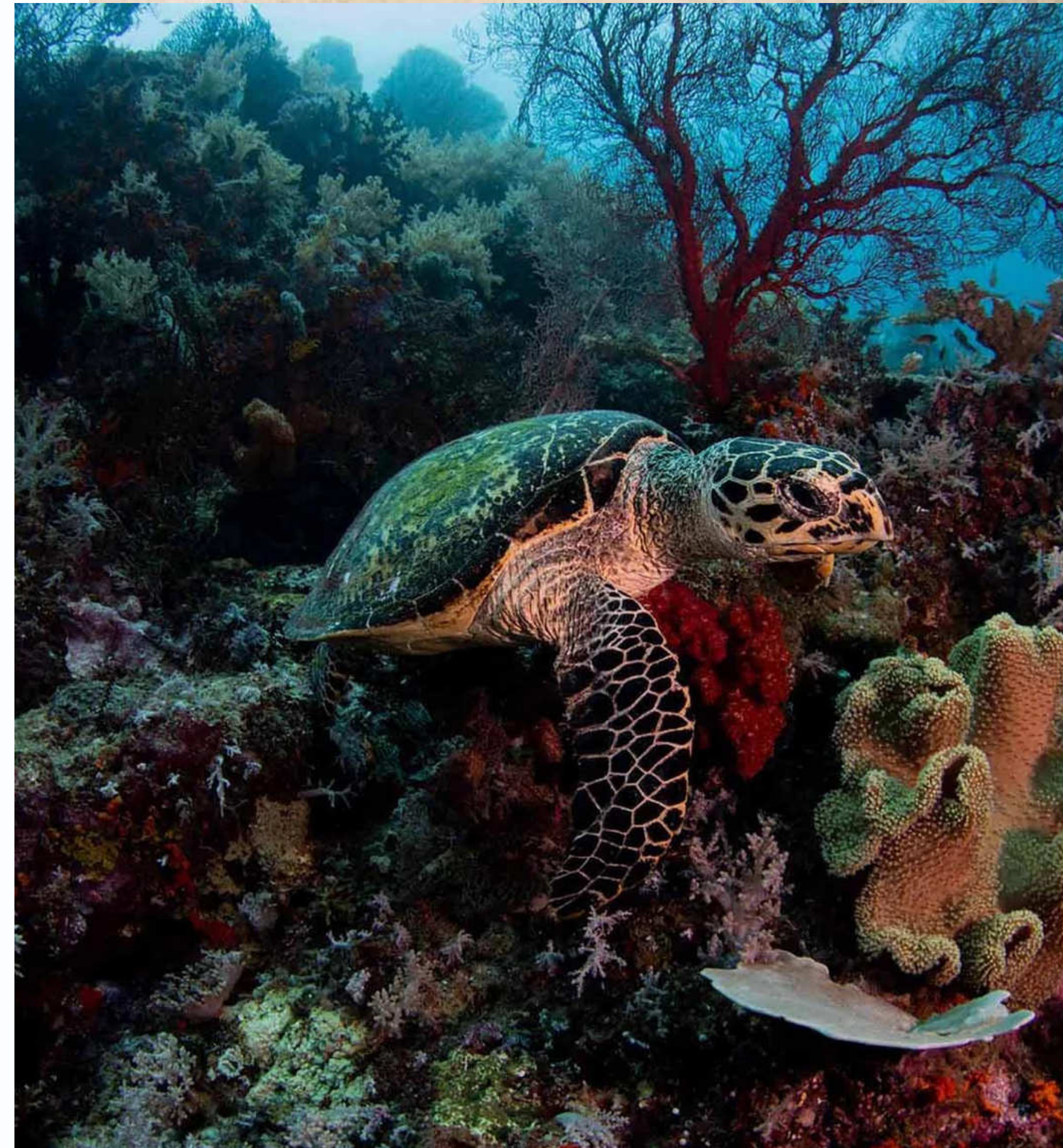
## Day 7 | Wayilbatan

Dunia Kecil, Barracuda Rock, Four Kings, Wedding Cake + Night Dive

The Wayilbatan area offers impressive dive sites with a remarkable range of marine diversity as well as topography. At Wedding Cake, schools of batfish, trevallies, barracuda, and pygmy seahorses congregate.

In the afternoon, you will have the opportunity to take in scenic landscapes with some kayaking and paddle boarding amongst the most spectacular hidden lagoons in the region.

Four Kings dive site is made up of four underwater pinnacles covered in soft coral and colorful tunicates. You can swim from one rock to the next, enjoying the soft corals, psychedelic colors, and abundant fish life. Be sure to look out for turtles here.







## Day 8 | Warokaraket/Boo Island

Shadow Reef, Jamur Boo, Yellit Kecil or Besar  
+ Night Dive

Shadow Reef, also known as Magic Mountain is one of the top-rated diving sites in Raja Ampat.

An offshore pinnacle with a long and narrow ridge, shoals of bannerfish, pyramid butterfly and yellow snappers can be seen cavorting on top of the ridge, persistently stalked by giant trevallies, orange-spotted jacks & longnose emperors.

The ridge goes progressively down, with yellowtail barracudas patrolling the upper sector and white tip and grey reef sharks found nestled under the large coral tables.

At the end of the peninsular is a cleaning station where oceanic manta rays come to be cleaned from parasites by wrasse and other reef fish.





## Day 8 | Warokaraket/Boo Island

Shadow Reef, Jamur Boo, Yellit Kecil or Besar  
+ Night Dive

Boo Rock or Jamur Boo is known for the “windows” or rounded openings on the end of the largest rock that completely pierce the reef from the surface down to five meters deep. Although the two rocks appear separate from the surface, they are in fact connected underwater by a magnificent reef draped in soft corals and brimming with fish. Reef sharks, parrotfish, surgeonfish, schooling batfish, fusiliers, snappers, and moray eels are all found here, as well as a wide variety of nudibranchs, unicornfish, octopus, and green turtles.

Yellit Kecil’s (whilst sharing all of the attributes of its neighboring sites) main characteristic is the large number of nembrotha nudibranchs that can be observed on the ridge.





## Day 9 | Yilliet

### Whale Rock, Nudi Rock, and Tank Rock

In the early morning, we will take short navigation to dive into the Fiabacet area, where colorful soft corals and beautiful sea fans smother the reefs.

A deep underwater ridge connects the islands of Boo in the East, to Kalig in the West. In certain areas, the ridge moves up shallower to form the most amazing dive sites of the park. These include Batu Kecil (also known as Tank Rock), Nudi Rock, and Whale Rock. Here you will find one of the most extensive reef systems in Raja Ampat; offering a fantastic range of marine diversity.

You can expect to see abundant and healthy fish life, a galore of pygmy seahorses, nudibranchs, colorful anemones, and reef sharks.





## Day 10 | Daram

Candy Store, Warna Berwana, Andiamo

Andiamo is a large, stunning reef with a submerged pinnacle covered in sea fans and surrounded by schools of fusiliers and batfish. Black tip reef sharks and napoleon wrasse can also be found here.

Candy Store, named so as the first divers to explore this reef felt like kids in a candy store, is covered in huge sponges, beautiful soft corals, and sea fans. In the valleys, schools of fusiliers, butterfly fish, and barracuda gather.





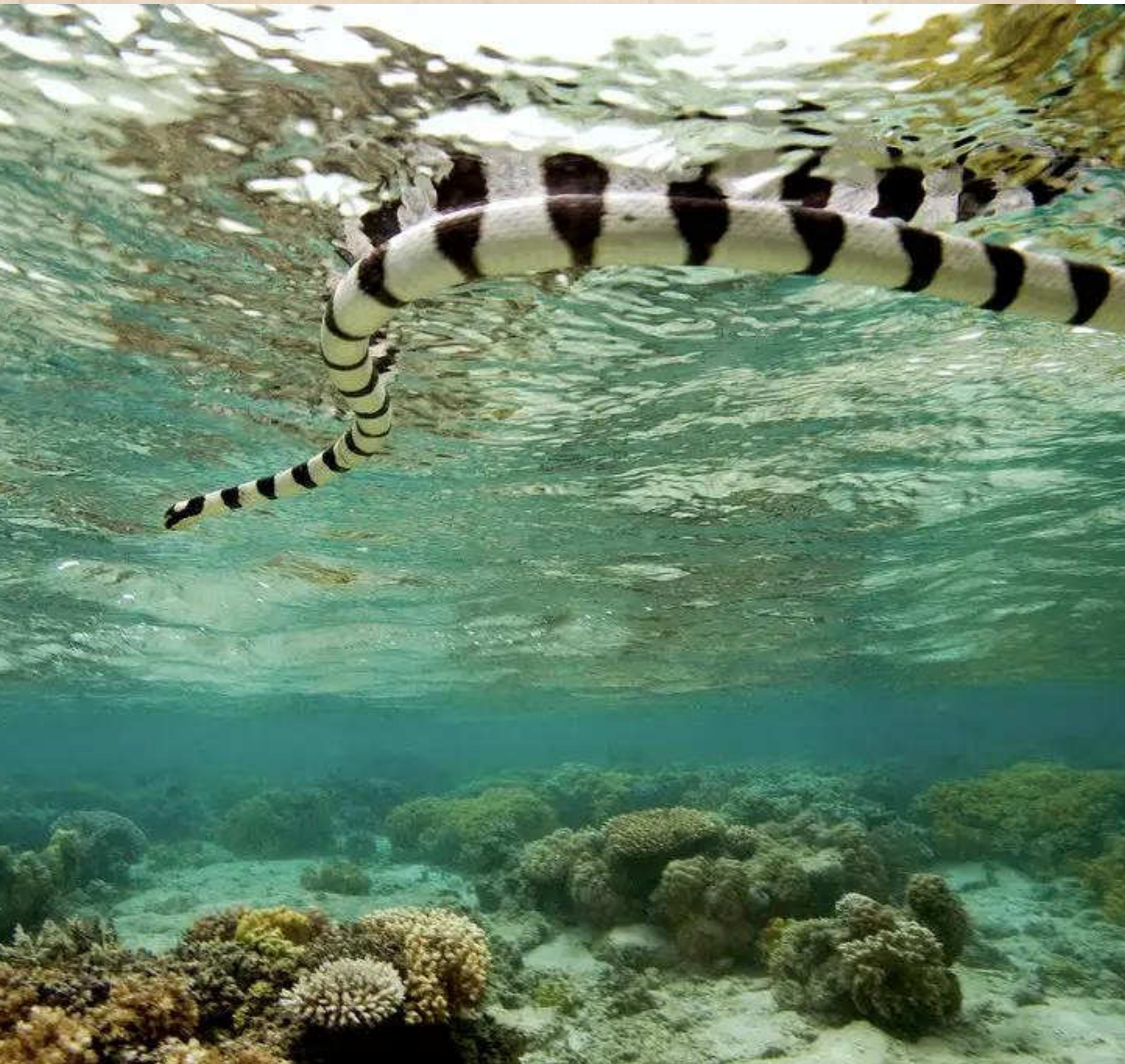
## Day 11 | Balbulol

No Contest, Love Potion, Number 9, Pet Rock

Schools of platax, snapper, and bump head parrotfish can be found at these dive sites, including barracudas and jacks surrounding the pinnacles. You will spend the afternoon in the hidden lagoon; a very special anchorage inside a narrow bay enclosed by towering rocks. We will take the dinghies to explore another lagoon located further into the rocks and as night falls, you will see and hear the magnificent Palm Cockatoos roosting along the rainforest edges.

Late in the afternoon, we will depart North and set sail for an overnight cruise back to Sorong ; navigation of approximately 12 hours.





## Day 12 | Disembarkation in Sorong

After breakfast and the last exchange of photos and memories, the crew and Anne Bonny will say our fondest farewells and transport you either to your hotel or the airport.

We are looking forward to welcoming you aboard.

Please contact for more info:  
[annebonnybookings@gmail.com](mailto:annebonnybookings@gmail.com)  
<http://www.calicojackcharters.com/>



# Mantra (Anne Bonny) Liveaboard

3 en-suite AC cabins with a hosting capacity of 8 adult passengers and 3 kids + nice finishing + Ideal for intimate trips.





# Anne Bonny Photo Gallery





# Anne Bonny Photo Gallery







*Welcome onboard!*

