

BLUE PEARL

Banda Sea

Ambon to Ambon | Suanggi, Banda Islands, Manuk and Lucipara

Dive deeper into the heart of the legendary Banda Sea on this extended 12-day liveaboard expedition.

Designed for the serious diver, this journey offers an unparalleled opportunity to answer the call of the wild and the whispers of history.

You visit the remote Suanggi seamount, maximizing your chances of witnessing the awe-inspiring spectacle of schooling hammerhead sharks.

From the fiery slopes of active volcanoes and the pristine reefs of Pulau Hatta to the colonial forts of the Spice Islands, this itinerary offers the perfect balance of relentless pelagic action, breathtaking coral landscapes, and profound cultural immersion.

This is the ultimate Banda Sea experience, crafted for those who refuse to settle for anything less.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	HIGHLIGHTS
12 days / 11 nights	Ambon	Ambon	Hammerheads







Your itinerary

DAY 1

Arrival in Ambon & Check Dive in Laha

Afternoon: Boarding at Ambon Harbor.
After a warm welcome, settle into your cabin and attend the crucial safety and expedition briefing.
Late Afternoon: Your underwater adventure begins with a check dive in world-famous Laha Bay. This muck diving paradise is your introduction to the region's incredible biodiversity, offering a high probability of spotting the legendary Ambon scorpionfish, rhinopias, and countless other rare macro wonders.
Evening: Welcome dinner as we set sail on our open-water crossing, leaving civilization behind.

DAY 2

Suanggi & Banda Island- The Hammerhead Quest &...

2 dives

Morning, 2 dives: We arrive at the iconic island of Suanggi, where we will spend the morning exploring its deep ridges and nutrient-rich current looking for the elusive Hammerhead sharks.
Afternoon: Go ashore for a cultural and historical immersion.
Trek up to the iconic Fort Belgica for a commanding view of the archipelago, and walk through history in the streets of Banda Neira.
A visit to a working nutmeg plantation reveals the spice that once shaped world empires.
Late afternoon dive after the trek.

DAY 3

Banda Islands and Pulau Hatta - Coral Cathedrals

4 dives

Morning, 2 dives: Dive the exceptional sites around Banda Neira.
Experience the pelagic action at Batu Kapal (The Ship Rock) and be humbled by the sheer grandeur of walls draped in giant gorgonian sea fans of Pohon Miring.
Afternoon, 2 dives: Discover the remote atoll of Pulau Hatta, an oasis of stunning beauty.
Immerse yourself in what feels like a flawless aquarium—spectacularly healthy reefs, dramatic drop-offs, and visibility that seems to have no end.
Expect dazzling hard corals, vast schools of fusiliers and snappers, and numerous reef sharks patrolling the vibrant blue.

DAY 4

Manuk Island - Volcanoes & Sea Snakes

3 to 4 dives

Full Day, 3-4 dives: Dive the slopes of another active volcano at Manuk Island.
The walls are draped in a kaleidoscope of soft corals and sea fans, attracting immense fish life.
The unique thrill here is diving alongside natural geothermal vents that release streams of warm bubbles from the seafloor.
Be on the lookout for the abundant and curiously graceful banded sea snakes that call this area home.



DAY 5

Serua Island and Nil Desperandum

3 to 4 dives

Morning, 2 dives: Explore the remote volcanic island of Serua, where the unexpected can be seen and exceptional dives await for the adventurous divers.
Afternoon, 1 or 2 dives: Visit the remote atoll of Nil Desperandum, a wild remote reef that is full with marine life and a hotspot for big pelagic action.
The quest for Hammerheads continues around the deep waters of this reef system.

DAY 6

Romang and Nyata Islands

3 to 4 dives

Full Day, 3-4 dives: Dive the Pristine reefs of Romang and Nyata island, part of the Forgotten islands, and our southern-most spot this trip.
Deep ridges, walls, and reef slopes are a common place to find pelagic life like sharks, tunas and schooling Barracudas.

DAY 7

Gunung Api - Snake Island

3 to 4 dives

Full Day, 3-4 dives: This time we are visiting an extremely remote and wild volcano in the middle of the Banda sea, Banded sea snakes, giant groupers, sharks, and schooling fish call the waters surrounding Gunung Api, home.
A rarely visited and dived island will give you a true sense of underwater exploration.

DAY 8

Lucipara Archipelago

3 to 4 dives

Full Day, 3-4 dives: Lucipara Archipelago is another very remote group of islands by the middle of the Banda sea, walls with stunning overhangs, reef slopes and extremely healthy coral reefs will make this day unforgettable.



DAY 9

Nusa Laut - Community-protected Marine Life

3 to 4 dives

Full Day, 3-4 dives: Enjoy the excellent visibility and conservation-led marine life at Nusa Laut. Known for its crystal-clear, calm waters and stunning coral gardens, this is the perfect place for a reflective and peaceful farewell to the Banda Sea, surrounded by clouds of colorful anthias.
Land Excursion: Beach BBQ on a secluded sandbar for a perfect meal in paradise.

DAY 10

Pintu Kota and Ambon Outer reefs

4 dives

Ambon is not only about Muck diving, today we will explore the incredible reefs outside Ambon Bay, featuring Pintu Kota which has a huge arch covered in colorful corals, and Hukurila Cave which has plenty of swim-throughs and stunning corals all around.
This is a place where pelagic life is not uncommon so keep your eyes open for a last chance to spot the bigger fish.
Night dive will be inside the bay, where we will look for alien-like creatures in this muck diving paradise.
Night dives can be arranged in days when conditions allow.

DAY 11

Ambon Bay: Unique End to the Expedition

2 dives

Morning, 2 dives: Conclude your diving adventure at the world-class muck diving capital, enjoying the macro photography haven under the piers.
Look for rare and bizarre critters like Frogfish, Rhinopias, and Ghost Pipefish.
Option to explore this massive, intact WWII shipwreck in the bay for a contrasting dive experience.
Land Excursion: Beach BBQ on a secluded sandbar for a perfect farewell celebration.
Evening: Bill Settlement with Cruise Director after dinner.

DAY 12

Disembarkation in Ambon

Morning: Enjoy a final breakfast on board before disembarking for your transfer to Pattimura Airport (AMQ).

GOOD TO KNOW

On land and on the way

Banda Neira

A cultural and historical tour with a trek up to Fort Belgica and a visit to a nutmeg plantation.

Beach barbecue

A barbecue on a secluded sandbar, with a second one for the farewell celebration.

Check in

Board the vessel in Ambon in the afternoon of Day 1, for the safety and expedition briefing.

Check out

Disembark at Ambon Harbor after breakfast, with a transfer to Pattimura Airport (AMQ).

INCLUDED

What your trip covers

INCLUDED IN THE TRIP PRICE

- Full-board accommodation with 3 meals a day, including light snacks and afternoon snacks, for every full day on board
- Free drinking water, coffee, tea and other hot beverages
- Complimentary airport transfers from Ambon Airport (AMQ) to the vessel on Day 1, and from the vessel to the airport on Day 12
- Up to 3 to 4 guided dives a day
- 12-litre tanks, weights and weight belts
- Free Nitrox tanks
- Water activities available on board, on request
- Free WiFi

NOT INCLUDED

- International flights
- Alcoholic beverages
- 15-litre tank rentals and other rental dive gear
- Spa treatments and massages
- Diving insurance, which can be purchased on board
- Special excursions and tours on land
- Crew gratuities

WORTH KNOWING

Key notes

Good to know

This is a sample itinerary, and it may change with the weather and sea conditions

Good to know

The cruise director and captain choose the route and dive sites each day, depending on weather, tides, currents and the number of other dive boats at a site

Good to know

The dive sites are not promised in any particular order, as the crew work with the weather to get the best conditions possible

Experience

Divers are recommended to have at least 50 logged dives, Nitrox certification and experience of diving in currents

Good to know

The itinerary includes a long overnight sail