

BLUE PEARL

# Banda Sea

*Ambon to Ambon | Suanggi, Manuk, Pulau Hatta and the Banda Islands*

Dive deeper into the heart of the legendary Banda Sea on this extended 9-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 get an extra day at 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 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 9 days / 8 nights | Ambon | Ambon | Two Suanggi visits, Hatta and Banda |







# 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 - The Hammerhead Quest Begins

3 dives

Full Day, 3 dives: We arrive at the submerged volcano of Suanggi, one of Indonesia's most famed pelagic arenas.
Spend the day immersed in the blue, exploring its deep walls and nutrient-rich currents.
This is the first of two dedicated days to search for schooling hammerhead sharks.
Encounters with eagle rays, dogtooth tuna, and sharks make every descent into the blue a heart-pounding experience.

DAY 3

## 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.
Late Afternoon: Opportunity to land on the island for a short hike or to relax in a natural hot spring pool.



DAY 4

## Pulau Hatta - The Pristine Atoll

4 dives

Full Day, 4 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 5

## Banda Islands - Coral Cathedrals & Colonial History

3 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.
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, 1 dive: A final afternoon dive in the Bandas, perhaps at the beautiful Lava Flow site.

DAY 6

## Ai & Run Islands - The Forgotten Frontiers

3 dives

Full Day, 3 dives: Explore the less-visited islands of Ai and Run.
These sites offer a profound sense of discovery, with incredibly vibrant soft corals, deep walls, and a fantastic diversity of marine life.
The remoteness and raw, untouched nature of these reefs are a true privilege to experience.



DAY 7

## Suanggi - The Hammerhead Grand Finale

3 dives

Full Day, 3 dives: We return to Suanggi for a second round of exhilarating shark action.
With a full day of diving at this legendary site, your understanding of its currents and pelagic patterns will be deepened, significantly increasing your odds of that ultimate, life-changing encounter with a massive school of hammerheads.
This is the grand pelagic finale of your expedition.

DAY 8

## Nusa Laut - A Serene Farewell

2 dives

Morning, 2 dives: Conclude your diving adventure with two relaxed and beautiful dives 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.
We land on a secluded beach for a classic barbecue celebration, a perfect way to reflect on the week's adventures.
Evening: Bill Settlement with Cruise Director after dinner.

DAY 9

## Disembarkation in Ambon

Morning: Enjoy one last delicious breakfast on board.
After Breakfast (approx.
9:00 AM): Disembark at Ambon harbor.
Transfer to Pattimura Airport (AMQ) for your flight home, carrying memories of hammerheads, volcanoes, and history that will last a lifetime.

GOOD TO KNOW

# On land and on the way

### Manuk Island

A short hike on the island, or a soak in a natural hot spring pool.

### Banda Neira

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

### Beach barbecue

A classic barbecue on a secluded beach, to celebrate the trip.

### 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 9
- 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