

BLUE PEARL

Banda Sea and the Forgotten Islands

Ambon to Saumlaki | Banda Sea and the Forgotten Islands

Venture beyond the map on a 9-day expedition to the "Forgotten Islands" (Kepulauan Tenggara), one of Indonesia's last true frontiers.

This remote archipelago, stretching southeast of the Banda Sea, remains shrouded in mystery, its pristine ecosystems untouched by mass tourism.

Your journey begins in Ambon and plunges directly into this isolated world, where traditional villages cling to ancient ways of life, and the reefs thrive in spectacular isolation.

You will dive virgin walls teeming with fish, explore islands rarely visited by outsiders, and feel the raw power of the open ocean.

This is not just a dive trip; it's a genuine exploration for adventurers seeking to write their own chapter in the story of one of the world's last undiscovered marine wildernesses.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	HIGHLIGHTS
9 days / 8 nights	Ambon	Saumlaki	Remote walls, villages and pelagics







Your itinerary

DAY 1

Arrival in Ambon & Check Dive

1 dive

Afternoon: Board the vessel in Ambon.
After a comprehensive safety and expedition briefing, we set sail towards the southeast.
Late Afternoon, 1 dive: A check dive at a sheltered site to ensure all gear is functioning perfectly and to acclimatize to the water.
Evening: Welcome dinner as we begin our journey into the remote archipelago.

DAY 2

The Gateway - Suanggi

3 to 4 dives

Full Day, 3-4 dives: We dive at either the submerged volcano of Suanggi, searching for hammerhead sharks and other pelagic life.
This serves as our dramatic introduction to the power of the Banda Sea.
Evening: Overnight cruise deeper into the Forgotten Islands chain.

DAY 3

Banda Islands - History & Coral Cathedrals

3 dives

Morning, 2 dives: Dive the exceptional sites around Banda Neira.
Explore Batu Kapal (The Ship Rock), a pinnacle that acts as a magnet for pelagic fish, and the stunning walls draped in giant gorgonian sea fans.
Afternoon: Go ashore for a cultural and historical tour.
Trek up to the iconic Fort Belgica for a panoramic view of the islands, and learn about the Spice Wars that once made this tiny archipelago the center of the world.
Visit a local nutmeg plantation to understand the history firsthand.
Late Afternoon, 1 dive: A final afternoon dive in the Banda Islands, perhaps at a site like Lava Flow.



DAY 4

Manuk Island - The Volcano & Hot Springs

3 to 4 dives

Full Day, 3-4 dives: Dive right by an active volcanic island.
Manuk's walls are covered in a stunning array of colorful soft corals and sea fans, attracting immense fish life.
The unique draw here is the chance to dive in natural hot springs on the seafloor, where bubbles and warmer water create a unique environment.
Keep an eye out for sea snakes, which are abundant in the area, and with luck Hammerhead sharks will come around!

DAY 5

Babar Archipelago - Remote Islands & Culture

3 dives

Morning, 2 dives: Dive the stunning reefs surrounding the Babar Islands, a large volcanic archipelago fringed by beautiful atolls.
Afternoon: Land Excursion.
Visit a village on Babar Island, known for its unique traditional architecture and strong cultural identity.
Late Afternoon, 1 dive: An evening dive to explore the nocturnal marine life.

DAY 6

The Southern Frontier - Sermata and Pulau Kelapa

3 to 4 dives

Full Day, 3-4 dives: Continue south to the Semata island groups.
These are some of the most remote islands on our route, promising truly exploratory dives on reefs that may never have been dived before.



DAY 7

The Remote Dawera, Daweloor, and Masela Islands

3 to 4 dives

Full Day, 3-4 dives: Explore the reefs around those remote islands.
Dive sites here are influenced by different currents and showcase a unique blend of Banda Sea and Arafura Sea marine life.
Evening: Enjoy the final sunset at sea in this remote paradise.

DAY 8

Barasadi Atoll and Beach BBQ at Pulau Nustabung

2 dives

Morning, 2 dives: Conduct your final dives on an offshore reef system in the Tanimbar Islands, a final farewell to the incredible underwater wilderness of the Forgotten Islands.
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 Saumlaki

Morning: Enjoy a final breakfast on board.
After Breakfast: Disembark at Saumlaki Harbor.
Transfer to Saumlaki Airport (SXK) for your flight, marking the end of an unforgettable journey to the edge of the map.

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.

Babar Island village

A visit to a village known for its traditional architecture and strong cultural identity.

Beach barbecue

A barbecue on a secluded beach at Pulau Nustabung.

Check in

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

Check out

Disembark at Saumlaki Harbor after breakfast, with a transfer to Saumlaki Airport (SXK).





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 Saumlaki Airport (SXK) 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