

BLUE MANTA

Alor, Banda and Ambon

Alor to Ambon | Alor, the Banda Sea and Ambon

The Ring of Fire is remote and almost untouched, a chain of volcanic islands and stunning seamounts rising from deep water.

Scalloped hammerheads are the prize, along with many sea snakes, huge schools of fish, reef sharks, tunas and other pelagic superstars.

The Banda Islands bring excellent visibility, fantastic coral coverage and tremendous numbers of fish, plus a visit to one of the Spice Islands.

Around Alor, pristine coral reefs, fantastic macro life and schooling fish make for amazing diving far from the crowds, and pilot whales or dolphins may appear at the surface.

The trip finishes with muck diving in Ambon Bay.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	EXPERIENCE
11 days / 10 nights	Alor	Ambon	Intermediate to advanced







Your itinerary

DAY 1

Day 1

0-2 dives

1pm.
Our staff will meet you in Mali Airport or local hotel and transfer you to Blue Manta at Kalabahi Port.
Depending on arrival time, we do local check dive plus night dive.

DAY 2

Day 2

4 dives

Alor: diving around the best sites: Karl's Dream and Critters diving.
Beautiful reefs in (sometimes cold!) clear blue waters, great macro, and fish life.
Sail to Palau Wetar.

DAY 3

Day 3

3 dives

Wetar: excellent wall, pelagic life, and fantastic drop-offs.
Sail towards Ring of Fire overnight.

DAY 4

Days 4 to 7

3 dives a day

Ring of Fire: diving around Volcanic Islands and stunning seamounts in search of hammerheads, encounter many sea snakes, huge schools of fish, reef sharks, tunas, and other pelagic superstars.

DAY 8

Days 8 and 9

3 dives a day

Diving around Banda Islands with excellent visibility, fantastic coral coverage, and tremendous numbers of fish along with potential Hammerhead sightings, plus a visit to one of the Spice Islands.

DAY 10

Day 10

2 dives

Muck dives in Ambon Bay or Nusa Laut.
Sail back to Ambon where you spend last night on board.
Plenty of time to wash and dry equipment, rest and relaxation, and if need be an early flight the next day.

DAY 11

Day 11

No diving

Check out (between 5am-10am) after light breakfast and farewells, we transfer to local hotel or airport.
Take your pre-booked flight to Ujung Pandang, Jakarta, or Singapore

THE TRIP

Departure, return and timings

- Departure: 1pm, 1st day - Alor, East Nusa Tenggara. Or earlier if everyone arrives before and all trip preparations have been completed. Free pickup upon arrival from Mali Airport, Alor or local hotel (10am) to Port (transfer time around 1 hour) to Blue Manta on trip departure day.
- Return: 5am, last day - Ambon. After a light breakfast and fond farewells, we take you to local hotel* or Pattimura Airport, Ambon in time for check-in and flights (transfer time 10 mins). Note: Latest Blue Manta check-out at 10am, trip return day.
- Last dive ends: 12pm (midday), Penultimate Day. Plenty of time for R&R while we sail back to Ambon where we spend the last night on Blue Manta. This also allows for your minimum 18 hours' surface interval/ No Fly Time (as recommended by PADI) before flying the next day.







THE VOYAGE

About this trip

Heading towards the infamous Ring of Fire, let our experienced crew show you these remote and almost untouched locations with wonderful reefs and stunning drop-offs. Marine life here is in abundance from macro critters, sea snakes and schooling fish to the 'big fish' favourites such as manta rays, reef sharks and even the chance to encounter Scalloped Hammerheads

DIVING

Diving days and notes

- Note: All schedules are subject to changes according to weather, sea, diving, and local conditions.
- Diving days: 10 days (28 dives)
- Note: 3 dives are scheduled per diving day*. This is due to deeper dives and long distances covered between islands. Where possible a bonus night dive may be scheduled at the discretion of the Cruise Leader. *Except trip departure day and trip return day.

CONDITIONS

Dive site information

ALOR-RING-BANDA-AMBON

- Alor Water Temp: 22-26 degrees, it can be cold in the waters around Alor and we do recommend you bring extra exposure suit for this section of the cruise.
- Water Temp: 26-28 degrees Celsius, however deep-water upwelling and thermoclines especially in Sep- Nov can mean temps as low as 25C. Air Temp: 22-31 degrees Celsius
- Visibility: 20-30 metres
- Currents: mild to strong

- Level: intermediate to advanced.
- Best Time to Dive: March, April, and mid-September to early December

GETTING THERE

Getting to and from the boat

EMBARKATION AND DISEMBARKATION

- Alor (ARD), East Nusa Tenggara / Ambon (AMQ), Maluku

HOW TO GET TO ALOR (ARD), EAST NUSA TENGGARA

- To Alor (ARD): Early morning domestic flight from Jakarta (CGK) via Kupang (KOE) with Lion Wings and Batik Air. Then connect from Kupang to Alor with Lion Wings.
- Note: Alor is served by a small regional airport and airline delays and even cancellations ARE possible. For this reason, we STRONGLY recommend ALL guests arrive to Alor the day BEFORE trip departure and spend one night in Kalabahi area hotel where we will collect you on the morning of trip departure.

HOW TO GET FROM AMBON (AMQ), MALUKU

- To Jakarta. Direct morning flights with Batik Air or Citilink.
- To Bali. Morning flights with either Batik Air or Lion Air, both via Makassar (UPG, Ujung Pandang).





INCLUDED

What your trip covers

INCLUDED IN THE TRIP PRICE

- Land transfer from local hotel / airport from destination on trip start and end days (Alor/ Ambon) to boat
- All nights' accommodation on Blue Manta
- All meals (Western and Indonesian) snacks, hot beverages, coffee, tea, milo, soft drinks, towels, toiletries, cabin services
- FOC replacement if equipment breakdown
- 12-litre air tanks
- Weights and belt
- Warm towel and drink after every dive
- 6 dive guides (1x instructor, 5x dive master), 28 dives

NOT INCLUDED

- All flights, hotels
- Pickups outside the trip start and end dates (a fee applies per car)
- Marine park and harbour fee (paid in advance of the trip)
- Fuel surcharge (paid in advance of the trip)
- Dive and travel insurance
- Massage services
- Laundry services
- Nespresso coffee, alcohol: beer, wine, satellite wi-fi
- Diving equipment rental
- Nitrox (enriched air) fills