BLUE MANTA

Ambon, Banda and Ambon

Ambon to Ambon | Ambon and the Banda Sea

The trip starts with muck diving in Ambon, then crosses the Banda Sea, tracing the perimeter of remote and almost untouched islands.

Marine life 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 of scalloped hammerheads.

In the Ring of Fire, volcanic islands and stunning seamounts are home to huge schools of fish, tunas and other pelagic superstars.

The Banda Islands add excellent visibility, fantastic coral coverage and tremendous numbers of fish, and a visit to one of the Spice Islands rounds it off.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	EXPERIENCE
9 days / 8 nights	Ambon	Ambon	Intermediate to advanced







Your itinerary

DAY 1

Day 1

0-2 dives

2pm.
Our staff will meet you upon your arrival to Pattimura Airport, Ambon or local hotel and transfer you to the awaiting Blue Manta.

DAY 1

Day 1 (continued)

0-2 dives

Arrivals before midday are best so we can make check dive(s) in Ambon Bay before we get underway by 2pm for overnight sail.

DAY 2

Days 2 and 3

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 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

Day 8

2 dives

Hukurila Cave and Molana.
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 9

Day 9

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 (aka Makassar), Jakarta or Singapore

THE TRIP

Departure, return and timings

- Departure: 2pm, 1st day - Laha Bay, Ambon. Or earlier if everyone arrives before and if all trip preparations are completed. Free pickup upon arrival from Pattimura Airport, Ambon or local hotel* (10am) to Blue Manta on trip departure day (transfer time 10 mins).
- Return: 5am, last day - Laha Bay, Ambon. After a light breakfast and fond farewells, we take you to local hotel or Pattimura Airport, Ambon in time for check-in and flight (transfer time 10 mins). Note: Latest Blue Manta check-out 10am, trip return day.
- Last dive ends: 12pm, 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

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: 8 days (22 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

AMBON-BANDA

- Water Temp: 26-28 degrees Celsius, however deep-water upwelling's and thermoclines especially in Sept-Nov can mean temps as low as 25C. Air Temp: 22-31 degrees Celsius
- Visibility: 20-30 metres
- Currents: Medium to strong
- Level: Intermediate to advanced.
- Best Time to Dive: March, April, and mid-Sept to early December

GETTING THERE

Getting to and from the boat

EMBARKATION AND DISEMBARKATION

- Ambon (AMQ) / Ambon (AMQ)

HOW TO GET TO AMBON (AMQ)

- Lion Air daily flights from Bali via Makassar or Manado, Garuda Indonesia or Sriwijaya Air from Jakarta via Makassar, and Batik Air direct to Ambon (flight time around 3 hours).

HOW TO GET FROM AMBON (AMQ)

- Lion Air daily flights from Ambon to Bali, or with Garuda Indonesia or Sriwijaya Air to Jakarta via Makassar or direct to Jakarta with Batik Air. Early morning flights should give you the best chance of making connecting international

flights (flight time around 3 hours).





INCLUDED

What your trip covers

INCLUDED IN THE TRIP PRICE

- Land transfer from local hotel / airport from destination on trip start and end days (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), 22 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