CORALIA

# Forgotten Islands, Banda and Ambon

*Saumlaki to Ambon | Forgotten Islands, Banda and Ambon Bay*

The remote, volcanic Forgotten Islands are known for the chance to see schooling hammerhead sharks, over deep walls, healthy reefs and giant sponges in crystal clear blue water.

At Dawera a hidden pinnacle is a profusion of colour, with every rock covered in coral and hundreds of fusiliers trying to avoid the hunting reef sharks.

Nusa Laut has eagle rays, a huge school of jacks, hammerheads and even a dugong.

The trip ends in Ambon Bay, a world class muck diving destination where the holy grail of fish, the rhinopias, turns up.

| LENGTH | DEPARTURE PORT | ARRIVAL PORT | EXPERIENCE |
|---|---|---|---|
| 12 days / 11 nights | Saumlaki | Ambon | Certified, all levels welcome |







## Your route

STOP 1

### The Forgotten Islands

The Forgotten Islands are an arc of islands that are part of a very remote archipelago in the east of the Banda Sea.
These islands are accessible only by liveaboard and offer a truly exciting adventure!

STOP 1

## The Forgotten Islands (continued)

The Banda Sea is famous for its deep walls, healthy reefs, giant sponges all in crystal clear blue water.
This area is also now known for the chance to see schooling Hammerhead Sharks!
Forgotten Island trips are not just about the 'big stuff'.
If you want to look for macro critters we can find things like Leaf Fish, Moray Eels, lots of different Nudibranchs, Ribbon Eels, Mantis Shrimps, as well the very special Dragon Shrimps and Leopard Shrimps.

STOP 2

## Saumlaki and the first islands

Starting from Saumlaki on the island of Tanimbar, we will head straight to our first stop Dawera.
You can dive just about anywhere around this island to find a fantastic dive site!
At one point there are so many soft corals we are reminded of the glorious reefs of Raja Ampat.
A huge school of Barracuda hang out on one point of the island.
There is a hidden pinnacle out from the island where the reef really is untouched.
The village of Dawera does not fish here because there are so many fish around their island, they have plenty to eat!
At the pinnacle the reef is a profusion of colour and each and every rock is covered in every type of coral!
Big schools of jacks and batfish, schooling pyramid fish and triggerfish and hundreds of fusiliers all try to avoid the hunting reef sharks and jacks.



STOP 3

## Terbang

North and South Terbang there are dramatic walls with large overhangs dripping with soft corals.
Damar is close by and has a great hard coral garden perfect for an afternoon and night dive.

STOP 4

## Nila and the seamounts

Close to the island of Nila are the sea mounts of Dusborgh and Nil Desparandum.
They are surrounded by very deep water so there is a chance to see large pelagics.
Here we will look out for now famous Banda Sea schooling hammerhead sharks.
Absolutely massive barrel sponges and expanses of hard corals make these reefs very impressive.

STOP 5

## Manuk

On trips from Saumlaki to Ambon we will visit Manuk.
This is the most easterly volcano in Indonesia and is home to lots of sea snakes.
They are very curious and divers will be approached by many snakes during the dives.
But don't worry they won't bite, they just take a look and keep on swimming!
The dramatic rocky dive sites here can be very fishy and there is a chance to spot hammerhead sharks.
Above the water frigate birds and brown boobies sour over the volcano.



STOP 6

## Banda Islands

This cruise will also include a few days in the Banda Islands.
Also known as the Spice Islands, the land excursion here is fascinating.
Visit the museum, an old Dutch fort and a nutmeg plantation to learn about the incredible history of these remote islands.
The diving here includes the typical deep walls of the Banda Sea, as well as sea mounts and drift dive along fish packed reefs.
At Batu Kapal the whole pinnacle is covered in schooling Pyramid Butterfly Fish and Red-tooth Triggerfish which mix in with hundreds of fusiliers, creating a myriad of colour.
Hammerhead sharks have to been known to visit some of the reefs here, as well as turtles, bumphead parrotfish, eagle rays and napoleon wrasse.

STOP 7

## Nusa Laut

Nusa Laut is a small island close to Ambon and the village here protects the fantastic dive site of Amet Reef.
Eagle rays, a huge school of jacks, hammerhead sharks and even a Dugong have all been seen here.
The reef is very healthy and it is common to see bumphead parrotfish feeding in the shallows.

STOP 8

## Ambon Bay

Ambon is a world class muck diving destination.
Inside the bay there are numerous dive sites full of critters galore!
The holy grail of fish Rhinopias can be seen here along with Frogfish, Ghost Pipefish, Nudibranchs, Leaf Fish, Zebra crabs, cuttlefish, all sorts of Pipefish, Mandarin Fish, Ribbon Eels, all sort of Eels and cute juveniles like the Barramundi Cod, Batfish and Harlequin Sweetlips.
Our eagle-eyed dive guides will be looking out for different types of shrimps such as Bumblebee Shrimp, Harlequin Shrimp, Tiger Shrimp and Coleman shrimps.
In the octopus family, we might see the very special Wunderpus or Mimic and at night the Coconut, Starry Night, White-V and Long Arm Octopus come out to hunt.
An excellent way to start or finish a trip!

STOP 9

## Last day in Ambon Bay

On the last full day on board we will do two dives in Ambon Bay and enjoy our goodbye dinner inside the harbour.

GOOD TO KNOW

# On land and on the way

### Cruise Directors

Cruise Directors may adapt the itinerary to guarantee the best experience in the weather conditions.

### Marine experts

On some cruises you hear presentations from marine scientists and other experts of the area.

### Check in

The crew welcome you at the airport, then the tenders take you to Coralia in the harbour, where the final arrangements are made with the port authorities.

### Check out

The last evening is spent in port with a farewell dinner, and the tenders take you ashore the next morning to catch your flights.

### Itinerary

This is a sample itinerary. Cruise Directors adapt the route to the weather and other conditions.





INCLUDED

# What your trip covers

## INCLUDED IN THE TRIP PRICE

- Cabin accommodation with daily housekeeping
- All meals, snacks and drinks
- Guided diving, with Nitrox free of charge
- Kayaks and stand-up paddle boards
- Free Starlink Wi-Fi, depending on local reception
- Presentations from marine scientists and other experts on some cruises

## NOT INCLUDED

- International and domestic flights
- Port, fuel and park fees, shown on our trip listings for each departure
- Dive and travel insurance
- Equipment rental and courses
- Massage, where offered
- Gratuities for the crew, which are optional

BEFORE YOU GO

# What to bring

## ESSENTIALS

- Dive certification card and logbook
- Dive and travel insurance
- Completed diver medical form
- Dive computer and surface marker buoy
- Torch for night dives

## AND ALSO

- Reef-safe sunscreen
- Swimwear, hat and sunglasses
- Light clothing and sandals
- Personal medication and toiletries
- Passport

WORTH KNOWING

# Key notes

### Good to know

This is a sample itinerary that may change without notice because of weather or other unforeseen circumstances

### Good to know

Port, fuel and park fees are paid in addition to the cruise price