DEWI NUSANTARA

The Forgotten Islands, Historic Banda and Ambon

Saumlaki to Ambon | Dawera and Daweloor, Dai Island, Nila Island and Offshore Reefs and more

The Forgotten Islands are one of Indonesia's last great wilderness areas, remote and largely uncharted.

Sheer coral walls and deep drop-offs teem with life, with vast schools of bumphead parrotfish, swirling clouds of big-eye trevallies, giant trevallies, Spanish mackerel and barracudas.

Hammerhead and whale sharks make their ghostly appearances.

The Banda Islands bring the dazzling mandarin fish, and the Lease Islands add slopes lined with soft corals, giant sea fans and towering sponges.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	EXPERIENCE
11 days / 10 nights	Saumlaki	Ambon	Certified divers







Your route

THE TRIP

About this trip

across the southern borders of the deep blue Banda Sea, the Forgotten Islands form an extensive chain stretching over 1,000 kilometres between Timor and West Papua

Officially known as Maluku Tenggara (the south-east Maluku), this remote and largely uncharted region remains one of the country’s most pristine natural frontiers. Isolated from major settlements and untouched by mainstream tourism, these islands offer a rare glimpse into a world where nature and tradition thrive undisturbed.

The geography of this vast archipelago is strikingly diverse. Towering volcanic peaks, dense rainforests, and rugged

limestone terraces define the Inner and Outer Banda Arcs, while the distant Aru and Kei islands feature sprawling savannah, mangrove forests, and flat, open landscapes. The interplay of land and sea has shaped a breathtaking environment where each island tells its own geological story.

As part of the Wallacea biogeographical region, this area serves as a bridge between Asia and Australia- New Guinea, fostering an extraordinary mix of wildlife. The easternmost islands, in particular, share remarkable ecological similarities with New Guinea, making them a haven for unique species found nowhere else on Earth.

Culturally, the people of Maluku Tenggara are deeply connected to their Austronesian heritage. Across the islands, ancient traditions endure through masterful wood carvings, striking ikat textiles, and woven bamboo crafts. Mythology, ancestral worship, and storytelling remain integral to local communities, preserving a rich and enduring legacy.

Beneath the waves, the Forgotten Islands boast some of the most spectacular diving in the Indonesian archipelago. The marine environment is a paradise for explorers, featuring sheer coral walls, vibrant reef systems, and deep ocean drop-offs teeming with life. Divers have encountered vast schools of bumphead parrotfish, swirling clouds of big-eye trevallies, powerful giant trevallies, sleek Spanish mackerel, and

formidable barracudas. In these waters, even hammerhead and whale sharks make their ghostly appearances, adding to the sense of unspoiled wonder.

For divers seeking adventure in its purest form, the Forgotten Islands offer an unparalleled journey into Indonesia’s last great wilderness - where land, sea, and culture remain as they have for centuries.

Rising majestically from the depths of the Banda Sea, the legendary Banda Islands exude an irresistible allure, unmatched by any other destination in the Indonesian archipelago. While their rich and tumultuous history as the epicentre of the global spice trade is well known, it is their extraordinary marine environment that is now taking centre stage.

The Banda Sea plunges to staggering depths, and within this vast expanse lies a secluded chain of islands perched atop an underwater mountain range. At the heart of this cluster are Banda Neira, Lontar, and the awe-inspiring Gunung Api volcano. These three islands form the core of the Bandas, offering world-class critter diving, particularly for those eager to spot the elusive and dazzling Mandarin fish.

Venturing beyond lie the islands of Run, Ai, Hatta, and the stunning Skaru Reef. Further still, the remote outcrop of Suangi stands as a beacon for marine life. Here, dramatic drop-offs, sheer walls, and vibrant coral gardens flourish in crystal-clear waters, teeming with a kaleidoscope of reef fish and frequented by larger pelagic species, including majestic hammerhead sharks.

Diving in the Banda Islands is nothing short of spectacular, offering a rare blend of macro and pelagic encounters. Beneath the waves, every dive promises a discovery - whether it’s the intricate beauty of a tiny nudibranch or the exhilarating presence of schooling barracuda. Above the surface, the islands’ historical charm adds yet another layer of magic to the experience, making every moment in this remote paradise truly unforgettable.

Sitting below the vast landmass of Ceram, in the deep waters of the Banda Sea, the Lease Islands - Haruku, Saparua, Nusa Laut, and Molana - offer a spectacular and diverse scuba diving experience. Located in Indonesia’s Central Maluku province, these islands are known for their stunning coral gardens, dramatic underwater topography, and thriving marine ecosystems, making them a top destination for divers seeking adventure and beauty beneath the waves.

These islands feature an array of dive sites with breathtaking coral gardens, steep drop-offs, and vibrant marine biodiversity. Schools of colourful reef fish, turtles, and even reef sharks can often be spotted gliding through the crystal-clear waters. The reefs here are adorned with impressive steep slopes lined with cup corals, soft corals, giant sea fans, and towering sponges. The sheer diversity of coral formations creates a dazzling marine seascape.

One favourite site is the reef at Ameth, on the north-east tip of Nusa Laut, considered one of the finest dive spots in

the area. Its pristine condition and extraordinary biodiversity make it a must-visit for serious divers.

When combined with the stellar critter or muck diving at Laha, diving in the Lease Islands promises an exciting array of marine life encounters. Divers can expect to see reef sharks patrolling the depths, graceful sea turtles drifting through the currents, and a whole host of smaller critters hiding among the corals and rubble. The nutrient-rich waters also support an incredible variety of reef fish, adding to the vibrancy of this underwater paradise.

THE ROUTE

Your route, anchorage by anchorage

Areas are shown in the order visited. Sites and dives change with weather, sea conditions and the captain's decisions.

DAWERA AND DAWELOOR

Located in Indonesia's remote South Maluku province, just 78 nautical miles north-west of Saumlaki - the regional capital of the Tanimbar Islands - the twin islands of Dawera and Daweloor are two of the most pristine and awe-inspiring dive destinations on Dewi Nusantara's Forgotten Islands itineraries. Each island spans just over three nautical miles in length and showcases the dramatic limestone topography characteristic of the southern Forgotten Islands, with rugged terraces rising over 500 meters. Small traditional villages dot both islands, including an elevated settlement on Daweloor perched atop one of its striking limestone terraces.

Far from the well-trodden tourist routes, Dawera and Daweloor offer divers an unparalleled opportunity to explore thriving coral reefs, teeming marine life, and crystal-clear waters. Their isolation has preserved their underwater ecosystems in near-perfect condition, allowing vibrant coral gardens to flourish and a remarkable

array of marine species to thrive. Divers can experience breathtaking wall dives, sprawling reef plateaus, and fish-laden seamounts nestled in the channel between the islands. While many sites feature gentle currents and easy diving conditions, they remain exceptionally colourful and full of life - making them ideal for divers of all experience levels.

The islands underwater landscapes are sculpted by ancient volcanic activity, forming dramatic coral-covered walls, sweeping reef slopes, and hidden macro havens. One of the region's biggest draws is its sheer biodiversity. Divers can expect to encounter a dazzling array of marine life, from vivid reef fish to a wide range of elusive macro critters. For those seeking larger marine encounters, seasonal sightings of pelagic species such as reef sharks, eagle rays, and even hammerhead sharks add to the thrill of diving in these waters.

With water temperatures ranging from a comfortable 26-29°C (79-84°F) and visibility often exceeding 30 metres (100 feet), conditions around Dawera and Daweloor are nothing short of spectacular. Currents vary by site, offering everything from serene drift dives along coral-encrusted walls to more dynamic challenges that attract seasoned divers eager for exhilarating encounters with schooling fish and apex predators.

Due to their remote location, Dawera and Daweloor remain free from large-scale dive resorts or commercial operations, enhancing the sense of adventure. Every dive here feels like an expedition into an untouched underwater paradise. For those in search of extraordinary biodiversity, pristine coral ecosystems, and an exclusive, off-the-grid diving experience, these twin islands stand out as two of Indonesia's best-kept secrets.

Dive sites: North Point, Stoney Cove, Staghorn Slopes, Karang Kecil, Karang Besar, Colosseum.

DAI ISLAND

One of the smaller islands in the Forgotten Islands archipelago, Dai Island lies in the open sea, approximately 13 nautical miles north of Babar Island. It shares a similar geology with the twin islands of Dawera and Dawloor to the southeast, featuring high limestone cliffs, ledges, and terraces. This contrasts sharply with the volcanic rock islands of the Damar Ridge further north, giving Dai a distinct and rugged landscape.

The reefs surrounding Dai Island offer some of the most pristine and exhilarating scuba diving experiences in the region. Known for its untouched coral ecosystems, thriving marine biodiversity, and dramatic underwater topography,

this remote island is a remote treasure for divers. Due to its isolation and the lack of human activity, the waters here remain remarkably clear, often boasting visibility beyond 30 meters. Drift diving is a major highlight, as the nutrient-rich currents not only support flourishing coral reefs but also attract an abundance of pelagic life.

Divers can expect an incredible mix of steep walls, sloping reefs, pinnacles, and vibrant coral gardens teeming with marine life. The reefs are alive with giant trevallies, schooling barracudas, enormous groupers, eagle rays, and massive Napoleon wrasses, along with swirling clouds of fusiliers and surgeonfish. Sharks are also a common sight, with blacktip, whitetip, and grey reef sharks frequently patrolling the waters. Hammerhead sharks occasionally visit, adding to the thrill of diving in these waters. Dai Island's location along a major migration route means that divers may even encounter dolphins and whales passing through.

Past expeditions have uncovered several spectacular dive sites, particularly around the northeast and southeast points of the island. A long, prominent ridge extending from the south-eastern corner is especially rich in marine life, with enormous schools of fish and a variety of pelagic species congregating around the site.

Due to the island's remoteness, liveaboards are the only practical way to access its waters. This exclusivity ensures that the dive sites remain uncrowded and in near-perfect condition. For those seeking an adventurous, world-class underwater experience in one of the most remote corners of the Indonesian archipelago, Dai Island is a sensational diving destination.

Dive sites: North-West Point, Laina, Lontar Slope, Lontar Point, Lontar Wall, Kira Kira Wall, Kira Kira Ridge, Tanjung Tertu!





NILA ISLAND AND OFFSHORE REEFS

Perched majestically atop the Damar Ridge, Nila is a breathtaking volcanic island in the heart of the Forgotten Islands. Its rugged picturesque coastline is a haven for adventure-seekers, offering pristine shallow coral reefs perfect for snorkelling and diving. These vibrant reefs teem with marine life, providing an underwater spectacle of dazzling corals and tropical fish. On the island's southern side, an inviting lagoon awaits, ideal for exploration by kayak or paddleboard, allowing visitors to immerse themselves in the island's tranquil beauty.

Just a short journey to the north-west of Nila, the stunning Dusborgh Reef emerges from the depths - a vast, surface-breaking atoll ringed by an explosion of colourful corals, dramatic walls, and sloping reefs. This remote reef boasts multiple dive sites, each offering unique encounters with the region's diverse marine life. Known as a hotspot for big fish action, Dusborgh is one of those rare places in the Forgotten Islands where anything can

Further to the northeast, the legendary Griffin Reef rises from the depths of the Banda Sea, mirroring the striking features of Dusborgh. At its heart lies the intriguingly named Nil Desperandum - Latin for Do Not Despair - a site that captivates even the most seasoned divers. Here, the north-western drop-off and sloping reef showcase some of Indonesia's most spectacular coral growth, forming a thriving marine metropolis. Swirling schools of pelagic fish roam the blue, and, for those with patience and a keen eye, hammerhead sharks frequently grace the site, making it one of Indonesia's premier locations for encounters with these awe-inspiring predators.

Exploring these remote reefs is the very definition of frontier diving - venturing into uncharted waters where few have ever descended. Each dive promises thrill, mystery, and discovery, set against the backdrop of one of the world's last true underwater wildernesses.

Dive sites: Nil Desperandum, Griffi n East, Desperado, Dusborgh East, Dusborgh Lagoon, Due South, Karang Nila,

Tanjung Kaliatutnu, Sandy Canyon, Oriental Wall, South Nila.

SERUA AND KEKEH

Serua Island, sometimes marked as Legatala on maritime charts, rises dramatically from the depths of the Banda Sea near the eastern tip of the Damar Ridge. This remote volcanic island, standing over 600 meters tall, is a captivating fusion of rugged terrain, verdant forests, and deep sapphire waters. With its steep slopes cloaked in lush greenery and its shores kissed by the waves of the open sea, Serua exudes an air of both mystery and raw, untamed beauty.

A scattering of small villages and seasonal fishing camps dot the island's coastline, where the rhythms of life remain deeply intertwined with nature. Dominated by its towering active volcano, Serua's dramatic landscape tells a story of fire and water, past eruptions having shaped its jagged cliffs and black-sand shores. Steam vents and hot springs dot the island, hinting at the geothermal forces simmering beneath its surface.

Just off Serua's north-western coast, the satellite islands of Kekeh and Kekeh Kecil rise from the

ocean like emerald jewels set in a sea of blue. These secluded isles, blanketed in dense tropical foliage, are surrounded by coral reefs bursting with life. Beneath the waves, an astonishing underwater world awaits - where sprawling coral gardens, steep drop-offs, and intricate reef systems create an aquatic paradise. The Kekeh Islands offer a blank canvas for marine explorers, promising a kaleidoscope of colours and an ecosystem teeming with biodiversity.

For those who venture deeper into the sea, Serua's waters unveil a realm of extraordinary beauty. Pristine coral formations slope to the ocean floor, while towering underwater cliffs plummet into the abyss, providing shelter for an astonishing array of marine life. The island's nutrient-rich currents attract huge schools of barracuda and jackfish and, for the fortunate few, the awe-inspiring spectacle of hammerhead sharks moving in synchronised formation. Renowned among divers for its untouched reefs and thrilling encounters, Serua's submerged landscapes are a marine explorer's dream.

Remote, untouched, and brimming with natural wonders, Serua Island remains a destination for those who seek the extraordinary, a place where adventure and discovery go hand in hand. For those willing to journey beyond the familiar, this isolated paradise offers a rare and unforgettable escape into the wild.

Dive sites: Hammer Ridge, Paisley Park, Dive Site Right, Rockface, Chasm, Mamas Rock, Kekeh Kecil.





MANUK VOLCANO

The BBC wildlife documentary "Island of the Snakes" brought global attention to Manuk's mysterious volcanic island, a place as captivating as it is remote. As dawn breaks and a yacht approaches its rugged shores, the air grows thick with the unmistakable scent of sulphur, a tell-tale sign of the island's ongoing geothermal activity. Though modest in height - rising just under 300 meters - Manuk plays host to an extraordinary array of seabirds. Frigates and boobies dominate the skies, creating a breathtaking spectacle of avian life.

Encircled by a jagged, rocky coastline devoid of beaches, Manuk presents a strikingly raw and untamed landscape. The sparse vegetation struggles to cling to life above the short tree line, leaving much of the terrain exposed in its stark volcanic glory. Scattered across the island, sulphur-encrusted fumaroles vent wisps of steam, adding an ethereal quality to the scenery. For those with an adventurous spirit, a handful of

rugged entry points may offer the chance to step ashore for an exploratory trek, though the island remains largely untouched and inhospitable.

Beneath the waves, Manuk offers one of the most unique diving experiences in the region. Its geothermal activity is believed to attract a thriving population of sea snakes, with the olive sea snake being the most prevalent. Divers exploring the island's waters are often treated to close encounters with these sleek, enigmatic creatures.

Manuk Ridge, the island's signature dive site on the south-eastern corner, is a favourite among underwater explorers - and, on occasion, schooling hammerhead sharks. Meanwhile, the island's western side features gently sloping reefs adorned with vibrant coral gardens, creating a haven for marine life. Here, sea snakes gather in such remarkable numbers that even the most seasoned divers may find the experience both exhilarating and somewhat unnerving.

From its dramatic volcanic landscapes to its teeming underwater world, Manuk is a destination that few will ever visit - but those who do will never forget.

Dive sites: Coconut Point, Snake Pit, Eigth Wonder, Warm Sand, Twin Ridge, Bubble Reef.

THE HISTORIC BANDA ISLANDS

A Timeless Treasure in the Banda Sea.

Far out in the remote reaches of the vast Banda Sea, south of the huge landmass of Ceram, lies a small island group steeped in history and natural wonder - the Banda Islands. These islands, once the epicentre of the global spice trade, still whisper stories of their storied past, offering a rare blend of cultural intrigue and breathtaking landscapes.

The principal island, Banda Neira, transports visitors back in time to an era when these islands were among the most significant in the world. European remnants of this bygone age still grace the streets - quaint churches, a charming post office, a rustic museum, and street lamps (though no longer in operation) stand as echoes of colonial influence. Towering above it all is Fort Belgica, an imposing 17th-century stronghold that offers panoramic views and a fascinating glimpse into the region's tumultuous history. Wandering through Banda Neira's narrow streets and alleyways is nothing short of spellbinding.

Just across from Banda Neira's bustling harbour, the striking 600-meter-high volcano island, Banda Api, looms over the seascape. Though its last eruption was in May 1988, the rugged terrain continues to captivate

adventurers who take on the demanding trek to its summit, guided by seasoned locals. For those seeking a more leisurely experience, a tranquil stroll through the fragrant nutmeg groves of Lontar Island offers a peaceful alternative.

While the inner islands boast pleasant snorkelling spots, the real thrill for visiting yachts comes in the form of a friendly yet fierce rowing competition between islanders and crew members. Racing in traditional kora-kora longboats, the islanders almost always claim victory, leaving visitors with an unforgettable experience and their rowing crews exhausted.

Beneath the waves, the Banda Sea reveals its true magic. These islands, the peaks of an immense underwater mountain range, are surrounded by deep, pristine blue waters teeming with marine life. From vibrant coral walls to rare critter dives, the Banda Islands offer some of the most exhilarating scuba diving experiences in the world, making them a dream destination for underwater explorers.

For visiting yachts, the most favoured anchorage lies in the sheltered waterway between Banda Neira harbour and the towering Banda Api volcano. Here, amidst the serene beauty

of the islands, sailors find a perfect haven to rest, explore, and immerse themselves in the extraordinary blend of history, adventure, and natural splendour that defines the Banda Islands.

Whether you're a history enthusiast, an adventurer, or a diver seeking untouched underwater realms, the Banda Islands promise an experience unlike any other - an enchanting journey through time and nature in one of the world's most remote and captivating destinations.

Dive sites: A Land of Contrasts, Adventures on Land and Sea, Safe Haven in a Remote Paradise, The Banda Islands.





HATTA AND SKARU REEF

Located just over 10 nautical miles south-east of the central harbour of the Banda Islands at Banda Neira, Hatta Island offers scuba divers an unparalleled underwater adventure. With its crystal-clear waters and an abundance of marine life, the island is a haven for divers seeking both beauty and biodiversity beneath the surface.

From dramatic drop-offs and thriving coral gardens to arches and mysterious underwater caves, Hatta Island's seascape is as diverse as it is stunning. The vibrant ecosystem teems with colourful tropical fish, graceful turtles, reef sharks, and even occasional encounters with majestic manta rays and playful dolphins. For those seeking a truly exhilarating experience, the deeper waters around the island are known to attract schools of hammerhead sharks, offering an unforgettable and rare diving spectacle.

Just two nautical miles south, the awe-inspiring Skaru Reef (Karang Hatta) awaits. This towering marine mountain, that barely breaks the ocean's

surface at low tide, features a network of shimmering shallows that plunge into the deep, creating thrilling big fish dive sites. The reef's unique topography and nutrient-rich waters attract pelagic species, making it a must-visit for those hoping to encounter sharks, barracudas, and other ocean giants in their natural habitat.

Whether you're an adventurous diver chasing adrenaline-fuelled drift dives or a nature enthusiast eager to witness marine life in its pristine habitat, Hatta Island promises an extraordinary diving experience like no other.

Dive sites: Ha! a Arch, Hammers Head, Skaru Ridge, Skaru Wall, Barat Corner, Hammer Point.

BANDA NEIRA

During our time in the Banda Islands, Dewi Nusantara has explored the outer island of Hatta and the magnificent reef plateau of Skaru. Now, it's time to venture into the heart of this stunning archipelago. A variety of diverse dive sites await, beginning with the remarkable critter dive at Mandarin Hotel.

At first glance, this stretch of rocks and sand - nestled along the border of the colonial Molana Hotel's picturesque gardens - may seem unassuming. However, beneath the surface, it reveals an extraordinary spectacle. In the shallow waters, a vibrant population of mandarin fish, some impressively large, engage in their intricate mating displays at dusk. Unlike in coral-rich environments, these mesmerising creatures must perform their ritual in the open, making them exceptionally photogenic for underwater photographers.

the skyline of Banda Neira, the principal island. Its most recent eruption in 1988 sent a dramatic lava flow cascading into the sea on the mountain's northeast side. In the years since, this once-barren expanse has transformed into a thriving coral garden, a breathtaking testament to nature's resilience and the rapid regrowth of marine ecosystems. This dive site is a must-visit, offering a rare opportunity to witness the astonishing speed at which coral reefs can recover after a volcanic eruption.

Beyond the protective embrace of Banda's natural harbour, even more exhilarating dive sites beckon. One standout is Batu Kapal, an offshore seamount teeming with marine life. Here, honeycomb moray eels weave through the reef, while immense schools of fish move in perfect synchronicity - a truly unforgettable underwater experience.

Dive sites: Batu Kapal, Lava Flow, Pohon Miring.



RUN AND SUANGGI

Diving around the breathtaking island of Run and its smaller, remote neighbour, Suanggi, offers an extraordinary underwater adventure that seamlessly blends history, natural beauty, and exhilarating marine encounters.

Located in the northern reaches of the Banda Sea over 100 nautical miles south-east of Ambon, Suanggi is a rugged, rocky outpost that stands as a gateway to the Banda Islands. Despite its small size and isolated position, this hidden gem is rapidly making a name for itself as one of the Indonesian archipelago's top diving destinations. It is one of the few places where divers have the thrilling opportunity to witness the awe-inspiring spectacle of schooling hammerhead sharks - a bucket-list experience for any underwater enthusiast.

Meanwhile, the dive sites surrounding Run Island boast an astonishing variety of marine life and topographical wonders. Vibrant coral gardens flourish alongside sheer, dramatic drop-offs, creating an awe-inspiring seascape teeming with

biodiversity. Schools of brilliantly coloured reef fish dart through the reefs, while graceful pelagic species glide effortlessly through the crystal-clear waters. And, just like Suanggi, Run offers divers the exhilarating chance to encounter the elusive hammerhead sharks in their natural habitat.

With visibility often exceeding 40 metres, the waters surrounding Run and Suanggi provide an exceptional environment for underwater photography, allowing divers to capture the rich marine life in stunning detail. Adding to the allure of this extraordinary diving destination is Run Island's fascinating history. Once a crucial hub in the global spice trade, the island's past is intertwined with tales of explorers, merchants, and colonial powers, lending an intriguing cultural dimension to every dive.

Whether you are a seasoned diver seeking new thrills or a beginner eager to explore an untouched marine paradise, the waters of Run and Suanggi promise an unforgettable experience - one where history, adventure, and the wonders of the deep come together in perfect harmony.

Dive sites: Lailaka Wall, Suanggi Seamount, Suanggi Ridge, Suanggi Slope, Run Village, Tanjung Noret, Hammer Time.

NUSA LAUT

Nusa Laut, the easternmost jewel in the Lease Islands archipelago - which also includes Saparua, Haruku, and Ambon - offers an unspoiled paradise both above and below the sea's surface. The island's landscape is lush with a high-rising interior, fringed by picturesque bays and dotted with small fishing villages that exude charm and tranquillity. The northern bays, in particular, provide a sanctuary for dugongs - the elusive Southeast Asian relatives of the manatee - adding to the island's natural allure.

A testament to the power of community-led conservation, the villages of Ameth and Akon on Nusa Laut's northeast coast stand as shining examples of grassroots environmental stewardship. Captains of visiting yachts are required to report to the village head in Ameth, a minor formality in exchange for experiencing one of the region's most well-protected marine environments. The vigilant efforts of the local community in safeguarding their coastline from

illegal fishing have resulted in thriving fish populations and pristine coral reefs, making the waters of Nusa Laut a paradise for visiting divers.

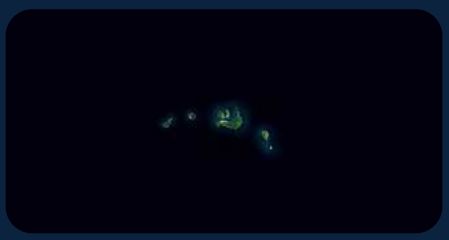
Beneath the surface, the island boasts spectacular wall and reef dives, but the true highlight lies in the vibrant reef on its north-western coast. Here, stunning coral formations and abundant marine life create a mesmerising underwater

landscape. Adding to the thrill, divers sometimes encounter schools of majestic hammerhead sharks in the deep blue beyond the reef - an unforgettable sight for any underwater explorer. For those seeking even more adventure, a breathtaking underwater arch at Akon on the island's eastern side awaits, just beneath the surface, offering a glimpse into the raw beauty of Nusa Laut's marine wonders.

With its thriving ecosystems, dedicated local guardians, and world-class diving opportunities, Nusa Laut is a hidden treasure in the heart of Indonesia's Maluku region, inviting travellers to experience nature at its most pristine.

Dive sites: Ameth Slope, Nahalia Slope, Amed, Nahalia Village, Ameth Village, Akon Arch, Akon Village.







LAHA (AMBON)

Not far from Ambon airport, along the northern shore of the Ambon Inlet, the village of Laha is renowned for hosting some of the most extraordinary muck diving sites in the world. Most of the dive points are clustered fairly close together, with names such as Middle Point, Mandarin City, Rhino City, and the one that started it all, the aptly named Twilight Zone. This legendary dive site, located close to as well as underneath the fishing boat piers, is a haven for macro photographers and critter enthusiasts seeking rare and unusual marine life.

What makes The Twilight Zone so exceptional is the unique interplay of natural and human elements. Over time, local fishing activities have contributed organic debris to the sandy, silty, and gravel-strewn seabed, inadvertently creating an ideal microhabitat for an astonishing variety of marine species. Divers venturing into these waters are rewarded with encounters with some of the ocean's most bizarre and captivating creatures,

In recent years, the discovery of additional dive sites a little further afield along this thriving stretch of shoreline has further cemented Ambon's reputation as a world-class muck diving destination. Notably, it was here that the psychedelic frogfish, one of the rarest and most visually striking marine species, was first documented - an extraordinary testament to the area's biodiversity. With ongoing exploration, there is no doubt that more ground breaking discoveries await.

For those seeking a contrasting yet equally thrilling dive experience, the Duke of Sparta shipwreck offers an entirely different underwater adventure. Resting in deeper waters further into the bay, closer to the city, this massive and remarkably intact wreck invites divers to explore its hauntingly beautiful remains - a striking juxtaposition to the critter-filled world of The Twilight Zone.

Dive sites: Duke of Sparta, Ambon City, Ambon Airport.

ROUTE MAP

Cruise route



CRUISE NOTES

Cruise notes

- Flexible Itineraries: Our cruise routes are intentionally adaptable. Throughout the journey, the captain and cruise director continuously assess sea conditions, weather, and tides to ensure the best possible experience. Guest preferences for specific dive sites are always considered whenever feasible.
- More Than Is Listed: The locations featured in these itineraries represent only a portion of what's possible. Numerous additional anchorages and activity options are available along the way, making each voyage truly unique.
- Simplified for Clarity: The destinations shown in our presentations are not necessarily listed in the order they will be visited. They are organized for clarity and to help guests visualize the overall routing.
- Extended Stays: If a particular anchorage offers exceptional experiences, guests may opt to linger a bit longer. The captain and cruise director have the flexibility to accommodate such preferences, provided they align with the overall cruise schedule.
- Overnight Passages: To maximize daylight hours at our most spectacular destinations, longer transits between anchorages are typically conducted overnight.
- Escape the Crowds: With the exception of embarkation and disembarkation points, our itineraries are carefully crafted to avoid congested areas and busy commercial ports, allowing for a more tranquil and immersive experience.
- Beyond the Dive: Many of our anchorages offer more than just diving and snorkelling. Guests can enjoy kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding, and occasional visits to local villages and cultural sites — adding even more richness to the journey.