


GAIA LOVE

# Banda Sea

*Maumere to Ambon | Banda Islands and Ambon Bay*

The Banda Islands were once the most coveted destination on earth, and today their seas are prized for diving.

Steep drop offs, impressive hard coral and some fast currents make the area spectacular, with schools of jacks, large tuna, turtles, Napoleon wrasse, groupers, rays and sharks.

Large lobsters and sea snakes share the reefs, while Ambon Bay is special critter country for the macro enthusiast.

On the crossing you may see thousands of seabirds, including frigatebirds and boobies.

On land, the old fort, a nutmeg and spice farm and the old Dutch governor's mansion tell the story of the original Spice Islands.

| LENGTH | DEPARTURE PORT | ARRIVAL PORT | EXPERIENCE |
|---|---|---|---|
| 11 days / 10 nights | Maumere | Ambon | All levels, beginner to advanced |








## Your route

STOP 1

### The Banda Islands

The Banda Islands were once the most coveted destination on earth, sought by Columbus and Marco Polo and colonised by the Dutch and the Portuguese, who exported the nutmeg and cloves.
Today the seas around them are prized for diving and snorkelling.

STOP 2

## Diving

Steep drop offs, impressive hard coral and some fast currents make the area breathtaking. Schools of jacks are a familiar sight, as are large tuna, turtles, Napoleon wrasse, groupers, rays, sharks, large lobsters and sea snakes.
Sites around Ambon Bay are special critter sites for the macro enthusiast.

STOP 3

## On the crossing

Along the crossing you may see thousands of seabirds, including frigatebirds and boobies.

STOP 4

## Banda Neira

A land excursion covers the historical Banda Neira and the surrounding islands, with the local museum, the old fort up about 150 steps, a nutmeg and spice farm with cinnamon tea and nutmeg jam, and the old Dutch governor's mansion, the House of VOC, now a hotel.

STOP 5

## The route

Dive Gaia offers a trip that embarks in Maumere on Flores and disembarks in Ambon on Ceram. Part of the Banda Sea is also covered by the Tual, in the Kei Islands, to Ambon trip and by the Ambon to Sorong trip.

GOOD TO KNOW

# On land and on the way

### Seasons

The dry season is October to November, with periodic rain in the other months.

### Level

The area suits beginners, intermediate and advanced divers.

### Check in

Check in time depends on flight arrivals, and the boat arranges transfers to and from the port.

### Check out

Check out time depends on flight departures.

### Routes

The routes are a guide and can change.

INCLUDED

# What your trip covers

## INCLUDED IN THE TRIP PRICE

- Air-conditioned twin share accommodation with an attached bathroom
- All meals, snacks and non-alcoholic drinks
- Guided diving, up to 4 dives a day
- Use of 12 litre aluminium cylinders, weights and weight belts
- Shore activities and excursions organised by Dive Gaia
- Same day land transfers and airport transfers to and from the port
- A complimentary glass of wine per person at dinner
- Shared use of the camera room
- Government taxes

## NOT INCLUDED

- International and domestic flights, visas and other taxes or fees
- Harbour clearance, national park fees and fuel surcharge, shown on our trip listings
- Courses and certifications
- Nitrox, for certified divers, and equipment rental
- Alcoholic drinks unless stated otherwise
- Massages and spa treatments, laundry and onboard purchases
- Satellite internet on board
- Accommodation and meals before and after the cruise
- Crew gratuities

BEFORE YOU GO

# What to bring

## ESSENTIALS

- Dive certification card and logbook
- Dive insurance, which is mandatory
- Medical clearance from your doctor, if needed
- 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 an overview of the area and the routes can change

### Good to know

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

### Good to know

Non-divers receive a 10% discount off the listed rates