

## **Itinerary**

### **Banda Sea - Raja Ampat (Ambon-Sorong) 12D/11N**

In October/November and April/May large schools of Hammerhead sharks gather around the Ring of Fire in the Banda Sea. Whales and large pelagic fish such as Mola Mola, dogtooth tuna and sailfish are frequently spotted, too. Most of these dive sites can only be visited by liveaboard due to their remote location. Along the way we visit the original spice islands of Banda with their rich and at times tragic history as well as many other beautiful small islands and dive along their walls and coral gardens. The season is short as the area can only be dived during the change of the Monsoon winds.

This cruise combines the fantastic experience of diving the Banda Sea with some of the best dives in Raja Ampat: The coral gardens of extreme biodiversity east of Misool Island. The reefs surrounding this large island are a diver's dream. They offer pristine hard and soft coral as well as vast numbers of fish gorging on frequent upwelling in nutrient rich waters. You may share these fantastic coral gardens with mantas, sharks, schools of jacks, tuna and fusiliers.

**Inclusions:** A bed in a double or twin cabin, full board accommodation, fresh towels and linen, typically 3 dives a day plus a night dive twice a week, limited or no diving on departure and arrival days as well when making longer passages, free nitrox on all dives, tanks and weights, land excursions as offered, self-service of drinking water, coffee and tea, government taxes, port clearance fees.

**Exclusions:** Flights, transport and accommodation before and after the cruise, excess luggage fees, national and marine park entry fees, diving courses (limited to Nitrox Diver and only on request), rental diving gear (please ask for price list), dive insurance (mandatory), alcoholic beverages and canned soft drinks (offered at reasonable prices on board), tips for dive guides and crew (5-20% of cruise rate recommended). All payments on board in cash please. We prefer Indonesian Rupiah but will also accept USD and Euro in new and clean banknotes.

#### **Travel to GAYA BARU INDAH**

Indonesia's traffic system is often less than ideal. Delays and cancellations happen all the time. We find Garuda Indonesia to be the most reliable domestic airline. Other airlines may offer cheaper rates but they often cancel on very short notice and allow less baggage. We advise to schedule flights for arrival one or several days before the start of the cruise. We will need information of our guests' flight numbers and arrival times, if they wish to be picked up from the airport. If guests wish to be picked up from a hotel in the town of our ship's departure, we will need that information to make arrangements. Guests can check in on the ship between 8:00 and 10:00 on departure day.

#### **Transfer in Ambon**

Transfers from Ambon Airport or a hotel in Ambon on the ship's departure date are available free of charge. For a hotel pick up by car the guest should be ready for pick up at 8am in the hotel lobby. The actual pick up will be between 8am and 9am depending on the number of pickups we do on that day.

For a pick up from Ambon Airport the guest should be booked on a flight which arrives no later than 8:00. A member of our team will meet the guest at the Ambon Airport Terminal exit gate, help with the luggage and accompany her/him to the GAYA BARU INDAH by car. The ship's departure is scheduled for 10:00.

#### **Transfer in Sorong**

The ship will arrive in Sorong harbour at 14:00 on arrival day. Disembarkation will begin right away and we will organise our guest's transfer to a hotel in Sorong or to Sorong Airport. The transfer is free of charge.

**Make sure to carry the following when you check in on board**

- Passport
- Diver certification card (Advanced or higher, Nitrox)
- Proof of mandatory dive insurance (DAN or similar)

**Some places we visit during this cruise:**

Nusa Laut, Pulau Suanggi, Banda Neira (visit Portuguese and Dutch fortresses, nutmeg forest and dive the surrounding beautiful reefs), Pulau Hatta, Pulau Koon, Pulau Misool with magic Mountain, the Daram group (dive: Andiamo, The Candy Store ...). and more in Misool.

**DAY 1**

Check in on board in Ambon harbor between 8:00 – 10:00

Have a welcome drink, move to your cabin, do paperwork, arrange and check your dive gear

We depart from Ambon harbor and reach our first dive site in the afternoon

**Day 2-11** (typical diving days look like this, diving will be reduced to 1 or 2 dives when the ship does long passages)

6:00 Wake up call, coffee, tea, snack, toast

6:30 Dive briefing

7:00 1. dive

9:00 Breakfast

10:30 Dive briefing

11:00 2. dive

13:00 Lunch

14:30 Dive briefing

15:00 3. dive

17:00 Snacks

19:00 Dinner

Night dives will be made available at suitable locations during the cruise.

**Day 12**

No diving on arrival day

The ship will reach Sorong harbour by 14:00.

Please note that all itineraries and dive sites are subject to various unpredictable changes, including weather changes and changes in local and national government approval. We will make every effort to select the best available sites on all cruises.

All time information is based on a 24 hour clock

**Divers should obey a 24hrs no-flight time between the last dive of the cruise and boarding an aircraft. Plan your continuing voyage accordingly.**