

INDO MASTER

Banda Sea Ring of Fire

Ambon to Ambon | Suanggi, Banda Islands and Nusa Laut

Scalloped hammerhead sharks, the walls of the Banda Islands and the muck diving of Ambon make this a round trip through the Banda Sea Ring of Fire.

The Spice Islands boast fantastic diving, with visibility usually 40 to 50 metres.

Reefs are covered in colourful soft corals and gorgonian fans, dogtooth tuna patrol the blue, and curtains of triggerfish, butterflyfish and fusiliers merge into a multicolour fish soup.

Nusa Laut is famous for its dugongs and pristine reefs.

At sunset the mandarin fish are not shy at all, and Ambon finishes the trip with muck diving.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	EXPERIENCE
6, 7 or 10 nights	Ambon	Ambon	Advanced, 30 dives







Your route

STOP 1

Day 1

Embarkation is followed by introductions and boat and safety briefings.
You then assemble your equipment, settle into your cabin and have a late afternoon check dive before dinner, then an overnight cruise to Suanggi.

STOP 2

Days 2 to 9

Up to 4 dives a day

Your Cruise Manager schedules up to 4 dives a day, three day dives and either a sunset or a night dive.

STOP 3

Last full day

2 morning dives

Two morning dives around Ambon before the boat cruises to the harbour, where it stays at anchor overnight.

STOP 4

Disembarkation

Breakfast on board, then disembarkation between 08:00 and 10:00.



STOP 5

Pulau Suanggi

Dive site

Suanggi, also known as Pulau Manukan, is a small uninhabited island about 12 nautical miles (22 kilometres) northwest of Banda Neira, the capital of the Banda Islands.

STOP 6

The Banda Islands

Dive site

The Banda group of islands, sometimes referred to as the Spice Islands, boasts fantastic diving with visibility usually ranging from 40-50 metres.

STOP 7

Pohon Miring

Dive site

Stunningly covered with colourful soft corals and gorgonian fans, a swim-through will take you through a sheer wall covered in Leather corals.
Numerous big Napoleon wrasses inhabit the reef and dogtooth tuna patrol the blue waters.

STOP 8

Lava Flow

Dive site

In 1998 the volcano on Naira Island erupted and the lava flow destroyed the jungle and reefs in its wake.



STOP 9

Banda Jetty

Dive site

Famed for the mandarin fish that can be observed at sunset, which can be seen just by looking from the jetty.
In many places, these fishes are elusive, small and shy; Here, it's the opposite.

STOP 10

Batu Kapal

Dive site

Named for its boat-like shape, this island is an exhilarating dive where curtains of red-tooth triggerfish, pyramid butterflyfish, fusiliers and surgeonfish merge into a multicolour fish soup.

STOP 11

Karang Hatta

Dive site

Just South of Hatta Island, this is a spectacular submerged reef with steep slopes surrounded by deep waters.

STOP 12

Goa Hatta, a.k.a. 'Hole in the Wall'

Dive site

Along the Northern shoreline of Hatta Island, a 5-metre wide sinkhole has created an opening on top of the reef which extends down roughly 4 metres through the reef forming a stunning archway where it exits on the seaward wall.



STOP 13

Pulau Ai

Dive site

West of Banda Neira and Gungung Api, Ai Island is an isolated, low-lying island featuring steep limestone walls, surrounded by deep water.

STOP 14

Pulau Run

Dive site

Due west of Banda Besar, Run Island offers exceptional dives on deep walls decorated with huge Gorgonian sea fans and unspoilt reefs rich with fish life.

STOP 15

Pulau Manuk

Dive site

This tiny volcanic island offers stunning underwater topography blanketed with an amazing amount of soft and hard coral.

STOP 16

Nil Desperandum & Serua

Dive site

Upwelling and currents around these islands bring nutrient-rich waters and with them an abundance of marine life.

STOP 17

Nusa Laut

Dive site

Famous for its dugong population, Nusa Laut epitomises the benefits of proactive community conservation.
Protected by the local villagers following customary laws known as Sasi, the reefs are pristine and teeming with biodiversity.

STOP 18

Ambon

Dive site

In the heart of the Moluccas, the famous dive sites of Ambon offer world-class muck diving, diverse marine ecosystems and dramatic seascapes.
Sites we might dive at around Ambon include:

STOP 19

Pintu Kota

Dive site

This area boasts incredible underwater architecture, with a massive archway decorated with colourful soft corals hanging from its walls to ceilings.

STOP 20

Hukurila

Dive site

Located in the Hukurila Coast region on the eastern side of Ambon Island, this underwater cave is a treasure trove of aquatic delights.

STOP 21

Twilight Zone

Dive site

This renowned muck diving spot Laha Harbour is great to explore at night or during the day.

STOP 22

Rhino City

Dive site

So named for the number and variety of Rhinopias found here, Rhino City lies southwest of Twilight Zone and is an extension of the same sandy slope.

STOP 23

SS Duke of Sparta

Dive site

The SS Duke of Sparta was a huge cargo ship built in West Hartlepool, England in 1940. In 1951 she was sold to the Italian Grimaldi Brothers and renamed SS Aquilo.

GOOD TO KNOW

On land and on the way

Banda Islands

Land visits are offered only in the Banda Islands, where you can visit the nutmeg plantations and see the influence of the Dutch settlers and traders.

A typical diving day

Light breakfast, briefing and dive 1. Full breakfast, relaxation, briefing and dive 2. Lunch, relaxation, briefing and dive 3. A snack, then a briefing for a sunset or night dive where possible, and dinner.

Who can join

Divers need PADI Advanced Open Water or equivalent and at least 30 logged dives. Safety and dive briefings are given in English.

No-fly time

Leave at least 24 hours between your final dive and your flight home.

Check in

Embarkation is at Laha harbour, Ambon, at 13:00. We recommend arriving in Ambon the day before and staying a night in a hotel.

Check out

Disembarkation is at Laha harbour at 10:00, and the airport is Pattimura International Airport, Ambon (AMQ).

Transfers

Shared transfers between hotels along the route from the airport to the Swiss-Belhotel, or the airport, and the harbour are free on embarkation and disembarkation days only.

INCLUDED

What your trip covers

INCLUDED IN THE TRIP PRICE

- Transfers between the nearest domestic airport or local hotel and the boat on embarkation and disembarkation days only
- En-suite air-conditioned cabin with towels, bed linen and shower gel
- Full board, with snacks, drinking water, soft drinks, fruit juices, tea and coffee
- Up to 4 guided dives a day
- 11 litre cylinder, weights and air fills
- Deck towels
- Land visits as described in the itinerary

NOT INCLUDED

- International and domestic flights, and hotel stays or day rooms
- Marine park and port fees, paid on board
- Travel and dive insurance, which is compulsory
- Alcoholic drinks, with beer, wine and spirits sold on board
- Equipment rental and 13 litre cylinders
- Nitrox up to 32%, at an extra charge
- Wi-Fi and laundry, at an extra charge
- Crew and dive guide gratuities

BEFORE YOU GO

What to bring

ESSENTIALS

- Dive certification card, Advanced Open Water or equivalent, and logbook
- Dive insurance, which is mandatory and must cover evacuation and recompression
- Marine park entry card, if you already have one
- Dive computer and surface marker buoy
- Torch for night dives

AND ALSO

- 3 mm wetsuit, or a 5 mm suit if you feel the cold
- Reef-safe sunscreen
- Swimwear, hat and sunglasses
- Light clothing and sandals
- Passport and personal medication

WORTH KNOWING

Key notes

Good to know

The itinerary is an example, and the route and dive sites depend on weather, tides, currents and sea conditions, as decided by the Cruise Manager

Good to know

The number of dives depends on the weather and on how far the boat has to cruise

Good to know

Marine park and port fees are paid on board and can change without notice