

MALAILLO

Ambon and Banda Neira

Ambon to Ambon | Ambon and the Banda Sea

The Banda Sea is one of the most reliable places for schooling hammerhead sharks, and this trip returns to them again and again.

Remote volcanic islands rise steeply from the sea, and nutrient-rich waters attract large schools of fusiliers, trevallies and dogtooth tuna.

One volcanic island is renowned for its dense population of sea snakes, often seen in large numbers throughout the dives.

The trip starts with muck diving famous for its exceptional macro biodiversity.

It finishes at one of the Banda Sea's most remote oceanic atolls, with steep drop-offs, strong currents, pristine reefs and excellent visibility.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	EXPERIENCE
9 days / 8 nights	Ambon	Ambon	50+ dives suggested







Your itinerary

DAY 1

Embarkation, Ambon

Guests board the vessel in Ambon (AMQ) before 14:00 for check-in, cabin allocation, safety briefing, and dive orientation.
Depending on arrival time and sea conditions, a check dive will be conducted in Laha Bay, one of Ambon’s most famous muck diving sites, known for its exceptional macro biodiversity.

DAY 2

Pulau Suanggi and Banda Naira

4 dives

Begin the expedition at Pulau Suanggi, one of the Banda Sea's most reliable sites for encounters with schooling hammerhead sharks.
The dives feature healthy reef systems, strong pelagic influence, and abundant fish life, including large schools of fusiliers, trevallies, and dogtooth tuna.
In the evening, enjoy a night dive in the waters surrounding Banda Neira, offering a different perspective of the reef after sunset.

DAY 3

Banda Naira Exploration and Batu Kapal

3 dives

Start the day with two dives at: Batu Kapal: A striking pinnacle and ridge system featuring excellent coral coverage and abundant reef fish.
Pohon Miring: A beautiful wall dive with swim-throughs, healthy coral growth, and occasional pelagic sightings.
In the afternoon, guests will enjoy a guided excursion to a historic Dutch fortress, followed by a night dive inside Banda Neira Bay.

DAY 4

Pulau Manuk

3 dives

Dive the unique volcanic island of Pulau Manuk, one of the Banda Sea's most distinctive dive locations.
Manuk is renowned for its dense population of sea snakes, often seen in large numbers throughout the dives.
The surrounding waters also offer strong pelagic potential, including occasional sightings of schooling hammerhead sharks.

DAY 5

Pulau Serua

4 dives

Spend a full day diving around Pulau Serua, a remote volcanic island rising steeply from the Banda Sea.
The site offers dramatic underwater landscapes, healthy coral reefs, and nutrient-rich waters that attract pelagic species.
Conditions often provide opportunities for hammerhead shark encounters, along with schooling reef fish and large pelagic visitors.

DAY 6

Karang Nil Desperandum

3 dives

Explore one of the Banda Sea's most remote oceanic atolls.
Karang Nil Desperandum features steep drop-offs, strong currents, and pristine reef systems.
The area is known for its excellent visibility and high likelihood of pelagic encounters, including schooling hammerhead sharks under the right conditions.

DAY 7

Karang Hatta and Hatta Island

4 dives

Begin the day at Karang Hatta Atoll, a nutrient-rich reef system known for its vibrant coral growth and diverse marine life.
Continue with two additional dives around Hatta Island, featuring dramatic reef structures and healthy fish populations.
The day concludes with a night dive in the Banda Sea region.

DAY 8

Amet (Seram) or Pulau Suanggi

2 dives

Depending on weather and ocean conditions, the final diving day will take place either at Amet (Seram Island), known for healthy reefs and macro life, or at Pulau Suanggi, offering another chance to encounter schooling hammerhead sharks.
The Captain and Cruise Director will select the optimal site to ensure the best diving experience.

DAY 9

Disembarkation (Ambon)

Please note that the latest disembarkation from Malaillo is 11:00 AM.
Guests with later departing flights will be transferred directly to the Airport at 11:00 AM, while guests with confirmed transit hotel reservations will be transferred to their respective hotels following disembarkation.
No onboard stay is available after 11:00 AM.

THE TRIP

About this trip

Highlights include the historic Banda Neira region, the remote seamounts of Karang Nil Desperandum and Karang Hatta, the volcanic island of Manuk famous for its sea snakes, and the pristine reefs of Suanggi and Serua. This itinerary offers a perfect balance of pelagic encounters, healthy coral ecosystems, and dramatic underwater topography.







FOOD AND SERVICE

Food and drink

Meals on Malaillo are served buffet style, with Asian and Mediterranean dishes and vegan and vegetarian options. Full board covers breakfast, lunch and dinner, with snacks and fruit through the day, and one barbecue night is included on every cruise.

Water, coffee, tea and juices are always available at no extra charge, and guests have fresh towels, hot water and help with transfers on arrival and departure days.





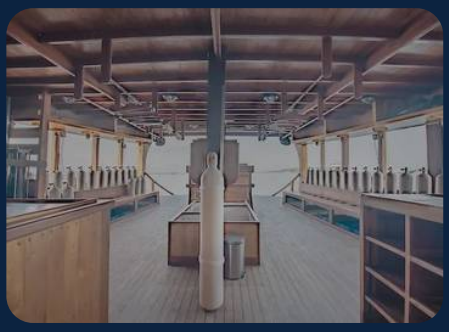


DIVING

How the diving is organised

Malaillo has a dedicated dive deck with a personal station for every guest, tank storage and refilling on board, and easy access to the tenders. Diving follows PADI standards, and the dive guides are professionally trained, with a maximum of four divers per guide.

Nitrox of around 32 percent is available free of charge to certified divers. Safety equipment on board includes a VHF radio, GPS, first aid and emergency oxygen kits and an AED, and the crew also look after spare gear on the dive deck.







GOOD TO KNOW

Worth knowing

- Flying After Diving: The last dive of the trip will take place on Day 8. Divers are strongly advised to observe a 24-hour surface interval before flying.
- This itinerary is a sample and may be adjusted due to weather conditions, sea conditions, local regulations, or other operational considerations. The final route, timing, dive sites, and activities remain at the discretion of the Captain and Cruise Director, who will always prioritize guest safety while striving to deliver the best possible experience.