

MERMAID I

Biodiversity Special Ring of Fire - Maumere - Alor - Banda Sea - Ambon

Maumere to Ambon | Flores, Alor, the Banda Sea and Ambon

The walls of the Banda Islands drop thousands of metres, with swim-throughs big enough for several people at once, covered in soft corals and sponges, and visibility usually 40 to 50 metres.

Schooling hammerhead sharks are the draw at one of the most emblematic spots in the Banda Sea, and two nearby atolls give a good chance of more.

Wetar's walls are covered in small soft corals of many colours, with triggerfish of every species.

The trip ends with a chance of dugong on healthy reefs, or muck diving with psychedelic frogfish.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	EXPERIENCE
12 days / 11 nights	Maumere	Ambon	Open Water, 4 training dives







Your itinerary

DAY 1

Maumere

Check in

Check in on board Mermaid I.
We recommend all guests arrive the day before the cruise.
After everyone has settled into their cabins and set up their diving equipment, the boat cruises overnight to Kawula Island.

DAY 2

Kawula Island

3 dives + night dive

Dive Cape Bacatan and Lewaling Bay at Kawula, with three daylight dives along walls and ledges covered in sea fans and soft corals, and a chance for pygmy seahorses and critters.
Cape Bacatan is a good place to spot whitetip, blacktip and the occasional grey reef shark, and is popular with eagle rays, Napoleon wrasse and schooling fish.
A great muck night dive in front of a traditional fishing village.
Cruise overnight to Alor.

DAY 3

Alor

Dives

Alor is a favourite with divers who come to Indonesia year after year because of its variety of dive sites: healthy reefs, pinnacles, walls, great muck dives, cold water, warm water, strong currents and protected areas.
Cruise overnight to Wetar.



DAY 4

Wetar

Dives

Dives at the small island of Reong and Cape Nunukae.
Pulau Reong is on the north-west coast of Wetar, separated by a channel only 700 metres wide, with walls covered in small soft corals of many colours and triggerfish of every species.
Cape Nunukae is a large ridge with hard corals in the shallows and soft corals on the slopes, with strong currents at its end and large aggregations of schooling fish.
Cruise overnight to the Damar Islands.

DAY 5

Damar Islands

Dives

Dive several small islands: Nus Leur, Terbang Selatan and Terbang Utara.
Damar and its three surrounding islands have spectacular diving, with crystal-clear water and beautiful walls covered in massive sponges and soft corals.
Cruise a few hours to Nila.

DAY 6

Nila atolls

Dives

Around Nila Island there are two atolls, Dusborgh and Nil Desperandum, where there is a good chance of seeing hammerhead sharks.
Even without them the reefs are fabulous, with healthy walls and big schools of fish.
Cruise to Serua Island.



DAY 7

Serua

Dives

Serua Island is probably one of the most emblematic spots in the Banda Sea to see schooling hammerhead sharks, and an amazing site for schooling fish such as bigeye trevally and pinjalo snappers.
Cruise to Manuk.

DAY 8

Manuk

4 dives

Manuk, also known as the Snake Volcano.
The site also offers a black sand reef dive with loads of fish and pretty hard and soft corals.
You spend the whole day here doing four day dives, and then cruise to the Banda Islands.

DAY 9-10

Banda Islands

Dives + cultural visit

Two days in the Banda Islands, with walls, swim-throughs, sponges and sea fans, good for wide angle.
Several sites have swim-throughs large enough for several people at once, covered in soft corals and sponges, and the dive sites drop thousands of metres, with spectacular walls and stunning reef tops and visibility usually 40 to 50 metres.
The sunset dive is at the pier in front of an old colonial hotel, with black sand and volcanic rock and an unusual number of large, unshy mandarinfish.
On the second day you go ashore on Banda Neira to visit the museum, the Dutch fort, a nutmeg plantation and the local market, with breakfast at the plantation.
Cruise overnight to Nusa Laut or Ambon.



DAY 11

Nusa Laut or Ambon

Dives

Either two dives at Nusa Laut, with healthy reefs and a chance of dugong, or on to Ambon for fabulous muck dives with critters galore.
The area is known for many rare and unusual species, including the psychedelic frogfish and the Ambon scorpionfish.

DAY 12

Disembark in Ambon

After breakfast there is a transfer to the airport or your hotel.
Disembark is at 8 am.

GOOD TO KNOW

On land and on the way

Serua and Nila

Schooling hammerhead sharks.

Manuk

The Snake Volcano.

Banda Neira

Fort, museum and nutmeg plantation.

Ambon

Muck diving with rare critters.

Check in

Check in on board is on the day of departure. We recommend arriving the day before the cruise, so you can settle into your cabin and set up your equipment before the boat leaves.

Check out

Disembark after breakfast at 8 am, with a transfer to the airport or your hotel.

Last dive

Divers should wait at least 24 hours after their last dive before flying, so please keep to the no-flying rule when you book your flight home.

INCLUDED

What your trip covers

INCLUDED IN THE TRIP PRICE

- Transfers to and from the boat: anywhere in southern Bali on Komodo trips, and Sorong airport on Raja Ampat trips
- All meals and snacks, fruit, coffee, tea, hot chocolate, soft drinks and drinking water
- All dives, with tanks, weights and weight belts
- Diving with experienced divemasters and instructors
- Land visits to villages, beaches, viewpoints and wildlife where the plan includes them
- 3 GB of Starlink internet on board

NOT INCLUDED

- Flights, including any domestic flight
- Nitrox fills
- Rental equipment and on board courses
- Alcoholic drinks
- Marine park fees, port and national park fees (subject to change with government regulation)
- Dive and travel insurance

BEFORE YOU GO

What to bring

ESSENTIALS

- Dive certification card and logbook
- Completed diver medical questionnaire
- Details of your dive and travel insurance
- 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

Itineraries are a sample and can be changed because of the weather, tides, currents, season and other events beyond our control

Good to know

Divers should wait at least 24 hours after their last dive before flying

Insurance

Please arrange dive and travel insurance before you travel

Good to know

This itinerary runs from Maumere to Ambon