ONDINA

North Banda Sea & Kai Islands

Ambon to Tual | Ambon, the Banda Islands and the Kai Islands

From the muck diving of Ambon, this route runs through the Banda Islands, the historic Spice Islands, to the remote reefs of Koon and the Kai Islands.

A reef that local villagers have protected since old times lets fish spawn and spill over to nearby areas, and at dusk the mandarin fish put on their show.

At the eastern point of Koon, walls on both sides meet in a sandy plateau facing a deep trench, drawing large masses of fish and some pelagic sightings.

The Kai Islands look radically different from the volcanic Banda group, with low sandy islands, powder white beaches and coconut palms.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	EXPERIENCE
10 days / 9 nights	Ambon	Tual	Open Water, 50 logged dives







Your itinerary

DAY 1

Ambon

Check dive + night dive

Pick up at Ambon airport and transfer to the boat, with a welcome drink and time to settle into your cabin.
You have a check dive in the afternoon at the Twilight Zone in Ambon, which is muck diving, and a night dive.
Overnight sail to Nusa Laut.

DAY 2

Pulau Pombo and Ameth's Knoll

Dives + overnight sail

The first morning dive is at Pulau Pombo.
At noon and in the afternoon you dive the famous Ameth's Knoll, a reef parallel to the coast that local villagers have protected since old times, so that fish can spawn and spill over to nearby areas.
Overnight sail to Suanggi.

DAY 3

Pulau Suanggi and Bandaneira

3 dives + dusk dive

Three day dives at Pulau Suanggi, the northernmost island of the Banda group.
After the third dive the Ondina sails to Bandaneira, probably the most beautiful natural anchorage in Indonesia, where you have a dusk dive at the mandarin fish site and dinner in a restored colonial house.



DAY 4

Bandaneira

Dives + cultural visit

A cultural visit around Bandaneira, the heart of the Spice Islands, with Fort Rotterdam, the culture museum, the Governor's House and a nutmeg plantation.
After the visit you dive the famous places around Bandaneira, such as Batu Kapal, Pohon Mirin or the Lava Flows.

DAY 5

Pulau Hatta and Karang Hatta

3 dives + overnight sail

Three day dives around Pulau Hatta and Karang Hatta, in the south of the Banda group.
Overnight sail to Pulau Koon.

DAY 6

Pulau Koon

3 dives + overnight sail

Three day dives around the very strategic eastern point of Pulau Koon, where the walls on both sides of the island meet in a sandy plateau facing a deep trench, drawing large masses of fish and some pelagic sightings.
Overnight sail to Kurkap.



DAY 7

Kurkap Island

Full diving day

A full diving day at Kurkap, diving the main island and the reef to the north of it.
Both have pristine coral gardens and plenty of fish.
After the night dive the Ondina sails to Pulau Bui.

DAY 8

Pulau Bui

Dives + night dive

Two morning dives on different seamounts north of Pulau Bui, Villoch Reef and Ultima Frontera.
In the afternoon and night there is a dive on another reef next to Pulau Bui.
After the third dive you visit a beautiful white sand beach on the south of the island, a long sand bar surrounded by turquoise water.

DAY 9

Pulau Tayandu and Pasir Panjang

Two dives

Two morning dives north of Pulau Tayandu, first at Karang Rembang and then at Batu Guano.
In the afternoon you visit Pasir Panjang, a kilometre-plus stretch of white sand beach lined with coconut trees, on the way to Tual, and prepare for departure the next morning.

DAY 10

Disembark in Tual

After breakfast there is a transfer to the airport or your hotel.
Check out is at 9 am.

GOOD TO KNOW

On land and on the way

Bandaneira

Forts, a museum, the Governor's House and a nutmeg plantation.

Mandarin fish

A dusk dive at the mandarin fish site.

Pulau Koon

Walls meeting a sandy plateau and a deep trench.

Pasir Panjang

A long white sand beach lined with coconut trees.

Check in

The crew pick you up from the airport and take you to the boat for a welcome drink. Check in is at 11 am, and the transfers from the airport or your hotel are included.

Check out

The boat is in port the evening before, so you can prepare for departure. Check out is at 9 am, after breakfast, with a transfer to the airport or your hotel.

Last dive

The last dive is on the penultimate day of the trip. 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

- Airport or hotel transfers at embarkation and disembarkation
- Full board, with tea, coffee, snacks and a soft drink at lunch and dinner
- An average of 3 or 4 dives a day
- Land excursions where the plan includes them
- Tanks and weights for divers, and snorkelling gear for non-divers
- Library and music on board

NOT INCLUDED

- Flights
- Alcoholic drinks and tips
- Police or diving permits, tourist tax, harbour fees and fuel increases
- Marine park fees and port clearance fee
- Nitrox, charged per day for the full trip
- Rental dive gear and other on-board services
- 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 only an orientation and can be modified because of the weather, sea conditions and other external causes

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 Ambon to Tual. It is also sailed in reverse, from Tual to Ambon

Good to know

The Banda Sea is the most exposed of the inner seas, and these routes only run in October and November, between the monsoons, when the waters are more likely to be calm. Most nights are spent sailing