



Cruise Itinerary Ambon – Kalabahi

No cruise on MV Samambaia is like the other. Every single trip is tailor-made to create a once-in-a-lifetime experience. The decision on the itinerary is made by the cruise director as we cruise along and is based on factors such as weather conditions, dive conditions, requests of guests and schedules of other liveaboards, which we are trying to stay away from.

There are however certain constants on every cruise which are:

- Three day dives of minimum 1 hour duration
- One sunset- or night dive (unless we have to cover a serious amount of miles over night)
- Activities during the surface intervals such as:
 - scenic rides through lagoons and coves in our tenders
 - trekking to breathtaking view points
 - visits of secluded perfect beaches
 - excursions to traditional villages
 - whale watching
 - water action such as wake boarding and water skiing

Based upon that, here is a potential itinerary for an 11 nights / 12 days cruise from Ambon/ Seram to Kalabahi/Alor. This is just to give you a general idea and is subject to change due to weather- and other conditions. Popular dive sites are named. We do however have our secret spots as well, which you will learn about during the cruise.

Day 1: Embarkation

Arrival with plane to Ambon. You will be picked up by crew members at the airport. Embarkation in the port of Ambon. A general orientation follows.

Day 2: Ambon

After an initial general dive briefing, we will do our check dive with you at an easy and protected dive site. Check dive in the sense of you checking your gear and weights, making sure the camera housings are proper sealed and our guides checking your buoyancy. No skill demonstrations are required. We will thereafter offer two more dives in the bay of Ambon. One in the afternoon and one for sunset. All of these days will be muck dives. World class critter hunting. That's what Ambon is famous for. Rhinopias, Frogfish, Ghostpipefish, Harlequin Shrimps and if you are really lucky: the Psychedelic Frogfish that has been very recently found here again.

Day 3: Lucipara

A group of seven paradise islands in the middle of the Banda Sea. All dives are steep wall dives. The Dutch seafarers named this island group the Schildpad Islands as we have not only find nesting grounds but also a healthy population of sea turtles here.

Day 4: Gunung Api

Also referred to as one of the two Snake Islands in the Banda Sea. Be prepared to meet dozens of sea snakes. In a single dive. Besides snakes we have seen Silvertip Sharks and Hammerheads here. Usually the waters around here are gin clear so make sure you look out into the blue not to miss something big passing by.

Day 5: Reong

Reong, a small island just off the coast of Wetar. Very fishy wall diving with small caverns and overhangs in which nurse sharks like to chill out during the day. In the shallows we find a hard coral heaven that will also delight every snorkeler. Be on the look out for big Grey Reef Sharks patrolling their reefs.

Days 6: Alor

Today we fill with an equal part of blue water wide angle dives and some macro critter delights.

We start in the north of Alor with some relaxed wall diving, to move for the afternoon and night dive into the bay of Kalabahi.

With a little bit of luck our dive guides might show you the 'Holy Grail of Critter Hunters', the Rhinopias, already on your first day of diving. Other than that you can expect: Frogfish, Ghostpipefish, all sorts of cephalopods and Crustaceans as well as colourful Nudibranchs. Popular dive sites here: Mucky Mosque, Black Rhino, Pertamina Pier

Day 7: Alor / Pura

Time for some action packed current drift dives with potential for big stuff. All our dives are going to be either slope or wall dives. We have spotted here in the past: Oceanic Sunfish, Big Dogtooth Tuna and Thresher Sharks.

Popular dive sites here: School's Out, Anemone City, The Great Wall of Pantar

Day 8: Beangabang

A protected bay which is said to have a better macro life than the famous Lembeh Strait. Be prepared for some cold water upwellings which will not stop you from having extended bottom times if you are a critter lover. No time limit here on the night dive.

Day 9: Pantar Selatan / Kambing

Facing the Savu Sea the southern coast of Pantar and Pulau Kambing are exposed to strong upwellings and swells full of nutrition from the deep. Hence the marine life here is mind boggling with potential for large pelagics. Besides the known sites around Pulau Kambing our favourites here are our secret spots.

Day 10: Alor Central

Relocating the ship into the Marine Protected Area around Alor we once more will go for some action packed drift dives. In this region you never know what shows up next. Even whales are sometimes seen during the dives.

Day 11: Kalabahi Bay

We finish this cruise with the finest muck diving at our favourite secret spots in the bay of Kalabahi. Two dives in the morning. In the afternoon we fill the diving gap of the mandatory 18 h break before flying with a land excursion to visit a traditional village of the indigenous people of Alor, the Kabui tribe.

Day 12: Kalabahi - Disembarkation

Depending on your flight schedule, our crew will check your luggage in for you in advance so you can rest on board and let us shuttle you to the airport when your plane is ready to leave.

The chances to have close encounters with whales (Blue Whales, Sperm Whales, Pilot Whales and others) are very good whilst cruising the Banda Sea.

