

SAMAMBAIA

Triton Bay and Banda Sea

Kaimana to Ambon | Triton Bay and the Banda Sea

Triton Bay and the Banda Sea join an unspoiled bay full of whale sharks to volcanic islands and limestone pinnacles.

In Triton Bay, whale sharks gather around the traditional fishing platforms near Namatota Island, and the reefs are rich in black coral and soft coral gardens.

The Banda Sea has vertical walls, barrel sponges big enough for a diver to fit inside and visibility of about 36 metres.

Banded and olive sea snakes gather around the warm volcanic vents of Gunung Api, curious but docile.

Banda Neira has a hard coral garden that has grown back since the eruption, and a pier dive for mandarin fish and frogfish.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	HIGHLIGHTS
12 days / 11 nights	Kaimana	Ambon	Triton Bay, whale sharks, Banda







Your route

STOP 1

Embarkation in Kaimana

Arrival by plane in Kaimana.
You are picked up by crew members at the airport and embark in the port of Kaimana.
A general orientation follows.

STOP 2

Days 2 to 11

The Cruise Director plans the route day by day, and the stops and dive sites depend on the weather, the dive conditions, the requests of guests and the schedules of other liveaboards. The constants on every cruise are listed under How a Samambaia cruise works.

STOP 12

Disembarkation in Ambon

Depending on your flight schedule, the crew checks your luggage in for you in advance, so you can rest on board and be taken to the airport when your plane is ready to leave.

THE TRIP

How a Samambaia cruise works

No cruise on Samambaia is like the other, and every trip is tailor-made. The Cruise Director plans the route day by day for the eleven night cruise from Kaimana to Ambon.

The decision on the itinerary is made by the Cruise Director as the boat cruises, and is based on the weather, the dive conditions, the requests of guests and the schedules of other liveaboards, which the boat tries to stay away from. There are some constants on every cruise:

- Three day dives of at least one hour each
- One sunset or night dive, unless the boat has a serious number of miles to cover overnight
- Scenic rides through lagoons and coves in the tenders
- Trekking to breathtaking viewpoints
- Visits to secluded beaches
- Excursions to traditional villages
- Whale watching
- Water action such as wake boarding and water skiing

THE DIVING

Diving and snorkelling

HOW THE DIVING WORKS

The Cruise Director leads the diving programme and four dive masters go with guests on the dives, usually with one guide to every four divers. All dives are no decompression dives within your certification level, and solo diving is not allowed. Nitrox is included.

Every diver carries a GPS marine rescue device for the whole trip, the dive staff are trained in Emergency First Response and oxygen is on board. Two tenders take the divers to the sites and the crew looks after the transfer of dive gear by speedboat.

THE AREA AND THE CONDITIONS

Triton Bay in far eastern Indonesia is a quieter diving destination with an extraordinary fish to human ratio, more space and unspoiled reefs. The Kaimana Marine Protected Area includes Triton Bay, Aiduma Island and many smaller islets, and the reefs have black coral, plate corals and soft coral gardens.

Whale sharks gather around the traditional fishing platforms, called bagans, near Namatota Island, where the fishermen's nets attract anchovies. In the Iris Strait, which separates Triton Bay from Aiduma Island, nutrient-rich currents feed the reefs, and at Batu Dramai schools of pinjalo snapper gather with fusiliers, surgeonfish and other species. Christmas Rock nearby is known for its biodiversity.

For macro enthusiasts the area is a species factory, with the walking shark and the Nursalim flasher wrasse among the favourites. The season runs from October to early June, the water is 26 to 29 C, visibility is relatively reduced on average and varies with conditions. Most dives are between 5 and 20 metres.

The Banda Sea route passes volcanic islands and limestone pinnacles formed from ancient coral reefs, along migratory routes used by whales and dolphins. Some areas of the Banda Sea are cooler, with water at 20 to 25 C.

At Lucipara the visibility is over 120 feet, about 36 metres, with very mild currents, vertical walls and barrel sponges big enough for a diver to fit inside. At Gunung Api the banded and olive sea snakes gather around warm volcanic vents and are curious but docile, and on the west coast of Wetar there are drop-offs, colourful reefs and a good chance of pelagics.

Banda Neira was the only source of nutmeg and mace for centuries, and the old fort, the governor's house, the church and the nutmeg plantations are still there. At Lava Flow, the hard coral garden that has grown back since the Gunung Api eruption has very large table corals and extensive staghorn coral. The dive under the Banda Neira pier is known for mandarin fish, cockatoo waspfish, flying gurnards and frogfish.

WATER TEMPERATURE

Water temperature across Indonesia is typically 26 to 30 C all year. During the monsoon, from December to February, it is about 27 to 29 C. A 3 or 5 mm wetsuit is usually enough, and a hood helps to avoid ear problems.

SNORKELLING

Indonesia's warm waters suit snorkelling.







ON BOARD

Food, service and the team

CUISINE

Meals blend continental, Indonesian and Italian dishes, cooked with fresh, locally sourced ingredients. Expect Indonesian favourites such as nasi goreng, satay and rendang alongside Italian pasta, pizza and tiramisu. The chef cooks for dietary needs, including vegan and gluten-free.

SERVICE AND THE TEAM

The Cruise Director and the instructors guide the diving, and the crew is made up of the captain, four dive masters, a chef engineer and a cook. Free Wi-Fi is available throughout the boat, although the mobile signal depends on the itinerary. An inflatable kayak is included, and there is one free wakeboard trial.

DECK PLAN

The upper deck has the sun deck and the speedboat. On the main deck are the restaurant, the dive deck, the camera room and the wheelhouse.

INCLUDED

What is included

- Nitrox
- Weights and weight belts
- 12 litre tanks
- Inflatable kayak
- Beer, soft drinks, juices, Italian coffee, premium tea and snacks
- Transfers between the airport and the harbour in both directions
- Guided diving with the Cruise Director and dive masters

Not included are flights and hotels, wine and spirits, massages and laundry. The boat leaves before 1 pm on the first day, and on the last night it returns to the end harbour so guests can catch early domestic flights.





