

SCUBASPA ZEN

Banda Islands

Ambon to Ambon | Banda Islands and the Banda Sea

The Banda Sea has crystal clear water and sheer walls hung with soft corals, sea fans and sponges, in dive sites that only a boat can reach.

Ambon starts the trip with the top macro diving on the northern coast, with frogfish, ghost pipefish and rhinopias.

Run Island has sloping coral walls full of fish and sea fans, and Ai Island brings pelagic visitors and pristine reefs.

The outer reefs bring reef sharks, silky sharks and tuna, and in season the elusive hammerhead sharks.

Banda Neira sits under the Banda Api volcano, a village walk away from the walls.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	EXPERIENCE
11 days / 10 nights	Ambon	Ambon	Intermediate to advanced







Your itinerary

DAY 1

Ambon

Macro diving

The cruise begins in Ambon, and the first site is Laha, the top macro site on the northern coast, with frogfish, ghost pipefish and rhinopias.

DAY 2

Nusa Laut, Run and Ai

Dives and snorkelling

Snorkelling and water sports at Nusa Laut, then Run Island, with sloping coral walls full of fish and sea fans, and Ai Island for pelagic visitors and pristine reefs.

DAY 3

Banda Neira

Walls and volcano

Morning yoga and a walk through the village under the Banda Api volcano, with dives at Batu Kapal and Pohon Miring.

DAY 4

Outer Banda Sea

Big fish

The outer reefs at Pulau Suanggi bring reef sharks, silky sharks and tuna, and in season the elusive hammerhead sharks.

DAY 5

Back to Ambon

The cruise ends in Ambon, where guests are escorted to the airport.

THE ROUTE

An outline of the cruise

This is an outline of the route. The detailed day plan, sites and timings are set by the captain and the dive team to suit the weather, the tides and the guests on board, and are confirmed before you sail.

THE DIVING

How the diving is organised

The dive centre is a dedicated dive boat with plenty of room, well equipped dive stations, several entry points, a toilet and shower and a sun deck platform. Dives are tailored to each diver's level, with beginners and experienced divers both looked after, and up to four dives a day are possible. Courses run from introductory dives to advanced and Nitrox certification, with multilingual instructors.

Dives are limited to 40 metres. A dive computer is compulsory, diving alone and decompression dives are not allowed, and night dives and dives deeper than 18 metres are for advanced certified divers. Many sites have strong currents, so good buoyancy control is needed.







THE SPA

Treatments at the quiet end of the boat

The five star spa sits at the stern, the quietest part of the yacht, and welcomes couples as well as solo guests. The menu offers Balinese, Swedish, Shiatsu, sports, hot stone and Hawaiian Lomi Lomi massage, aromatherapy, foot reflexology, a back and shoulder massage, facials, body scrubs and masks, an after sun aloe vera treatment, a foot scrub, and a Dive Delight massage designed for after a dive.

The products are made exclusively in Bali for the boat, from organic ingredients, botanical extracts and essential oils. Yoga is held every morning on the sun deck.







ON THE TABLE

Food, drink and celebrations

Breakfast and lunch are buffets, and dinner is an à la carte menu served in the al fresco restaurant on the main deck. Live cooking evenings blend Asian, Mediterranean and Continental cuisine, and the chefs share the recipes so you can recreate them at home. Special diets are looked after.

The bar, next to the restaurant with views from the bow, serves wines, champagnes and handcrafted cocktails, with a happy hour every day. Beach barbecues are held on a deserted island, and the team plans birthdays, engagements and anniversaries, from a private dinner under the stars to sunset cocktails.







PACKAGES

Choose how you spend the cruise

Every guest chooses one of three packages. Dives cannot be swapped for spa treatments, and the dive package is for certified divers only.

Scuba

Up to 26 dives over the cruise, with spa treatments bookable on board for an extra charge when there is space.

Scuba and spa

14 dives and 7 spa treatments over the cruise.

Spa and active wellness

11 spa treatments and guided snorkelling. A Discover Scuba Diving course can be added if you would like to try diving.

CONDITIONS

Season, water and what to expect

The Banda Sea has crystal clear water and sheer walls hung with soft corals, sea fans and sponges, in dive sites that only a liveaboard can reach. Surface water is 26 to 29 degrees, but upwellings can bring cool water of 21 to 22 degrees, so a full 5 mm wetsuit is recommended. The season runs from March to April and from September to October, and October brings a chance of schooling hammerhead sharks.

INCLUDED

What your trip covers

INCLUDED IN THE TRIP PRICE

- Suite accommodation with three meals a day
- Welcome drink, drinking water, coffee and tea
- Airport transfers at the start and end of the cruise
- Yoga classes every morning
- Snorkelling, with equipment included
- A barbecue on a deserted island and the excursions in the programme
- The diving or spa treatments of the package you choose
- Wi-Fi, with a 1 GB allowance per person

NOT INCLUDED

- International and domestic flights
- Service and administration charge and the national park and port fees, shown on our trip listings
- Dive and travel insurance
- Dive equipment rental
- Drinks from the bar and extra spa treatments
- Crew gratuities, which are optional