

SEVEN SEAS

Banda Sea and Alor

Ambon to Alor | The Banda Sea and East of Flores and Alor

Steep drop-offs, impressive hard coral and fast currents fill the Banda Sea, with schools of jacks, giant tuna, turtles, Napoleon wrasse, rays, sharks and giant lobsters in excellent visibility.

Around an isolated volcanic peak, extraordinary numbers of banded kraits swarm through the water, which exudes sulphur above and below.

The tiny atolls of Lucipara are the tops of undersea mountains rising more than a mile from the ocean floor, with night diving among rare flashlight fish.

East of Flores and Alor, deep channels carry whales, dolphins and enormous schools of tuna.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	EXPERIENCE
13 days / 12 nights	Ambon	Alor	Certified divers







Your route

STOP 1

The Banda Sea

Dive the famous Spice Islands.
Once sought by Columbus and Marco Polo, the Banda Islands were the original Spice Islands and the most coveted destination on earth, particularly by the Dutch and Portuguese who colonised the islands and exported the indigenous nutmeg and cloves.

STOP 2

East of Flores and Alor

Unspoiled and remote.
Recognised as one of Asia's top 10 dive destinations, the archipelago east of Flores is one of the favourite areas to explore on a Seven Seas dive adventure.

DIVE THE FAMOUS SPICE ISLANDS

The Banda Sea

The Banda Sea is surrounded by islands from the large islands of Buru, Halmahera, Ambon and Seram in the north, towards Gorom, Kei and Aru in the east, the islands of Tanimbar, Wetar and Reong, and a series of smaller islands such as Babar and Moa, touching East Timor in the south.





ABOVE THE WATER

Gunung Api is an isolated volcanic peak rising from the heart of the Banda Sea. This uninhabited island is home to thousands of nesting seabirds, and exudes sulphur above and below the landmark. The 5 tiny atolls of Lucipara in the middle of the Banda Sea are the tops of undersea mountains rising more than a mile from the ocean floor, with uninhabited beaches that are ideal green turtle nesting sites.

THE DIVING

Steep drop-offs, impressive hard coral and some fast currents make the area breathtaking. Schools of jacks are a familiar sight, as are giant tuna, turtles, Napoleon wrasse, groupers, rays, sharks and giant lobsters. Excellent visibility is a blessing here, and there are also some special critter sites. Ambon Bay is host to some of Indonesia's best critter diving, and the nearby island of Halmahera is still largely unexplored and has recently produced some stunning sites.

At Gunung Api the water is home to extraordinary numbers of banded kraits (sea snakes), which have become a special attraction for divers; swarms of these non-aggressive snakes are not unusual. At Lucipara the reef drops off to ocean waters, ideal for diving and snorkelling, with a highlight of night diving with the rare flashlight fish.

CLIMATE AND CONDITIONS

- Dry season: May to November
- Rainy season: December to April, with high rainfall in January and February
- Air temperature: 27 to 32°C
- Water temperature: 27 to 30°C
- Best time to dive: October to December and March to April

Most of the climate is determined by monsoon winds. The northern area is more predictable than the south, with refreshing breezes onboard throughout most of the season.

UNSPOILED AND REMOTE

East of Flores and Alor

Recognised as one of Asia's top 10 dive destinations, the archipelago east of Flores is one of the favourite areas to explore on a Seven Seas dive adventure. With an endless horizon punctuated by the peaks of rugged volcanoes, ancient animist villages to visit, and dive sites ranging from macro and muck diving all the way up to the chance to glimpse the world's largest mammal, the voyage offers one of the most unique scuba diving and adventure travel experiences anywhere on earth.

Adunara, Solor, Lembata and Pantar, to the island of Alor in the east of Nusa Tenggara: the islands east of Flores and Komodo are some of the least explored in the entire Indonesian archipelago. The difficulty of reaching these islands by land means the chance to experience some of the world's top dive sites in relative solitude.

You wake up in a new, jaw-dropping destination every morning, spend the day diving, visiting villages or sea kayaking, then take in each new panorama from the upper lounge before sunset drinks and dinner under the stars.







ABOVE THE WATER

The archipelago is home to some of the most stunning landscapes on any liveaboard dive trip, with ancient volcanoes towering above villages inhabited by tribal cultures since the earliest days of recorded history. At certain times, weather permitting, the itinerary has ventured as far as Wetar, the next island east of Alor, where the legendary Forgotten Islands begin.

On the island of Alor you can join one of Indonesia's indigenous animist tribes in their ancient ceremonial dance and watch traditional weavers create their iconic ikat sarongs and fabrics. Coastal communities such as Lamalera and Lamakera have hunted whales with handmade spears for centuries, taking only what the village needs to eat and barter. Optional land tours include ikat weaving at Watubelapi on Flores, the three-coloured crater lakes of Kelimutu, and the Aboi hill tribe on Alor, with the Museum of a Thousand Mokos in Kalabahi.

THE DIVING

New dives are discovered on nearly every voyage here, from classic wall dives and panoramic gardens of hard and soft corals to newly discovered muck dives in Lembata and Pantar. Experienced divers can drift rocky corners, islets and pinnacles along the southern shores and in the straits between the islands, with the chance to see large pelagic species and schools of tuna.

Underwater naturalists can explore hard coral reefs, pinnacles and walls covered in hard and soft corals, sandy habitats, sea grass beds and even a few blue-water mangrove forests. At a fantastic muck dive in Lembata the rare Rhinopias, the weedy scorpionfish and the holy grail of underwater photography, has been found on every visit, along with frogfish and various octopus. Other critter sites include Maumere, the Brewery at Lembata, Beang Abeng at Pantar, Clownfish Alley at Pura and Ghost Town at Alor.

Deep channels between the islands are believed to play an essential role in the exchange of marine life between the Indian and Pacific oceans, and scientists have identified the area as an important migration route for whales, dolphins and enormous schools of tuna. Guests often spend a day watching whales and dolphins, with chances to see blue whales and sperm whales, and pods of playful dolphins.

CLIMATE AND CONDITIONS

- Dry season: May to November
- Rainy season: December to April
- Air temperature: 27 to 32°C
- Water temperature: 27°C on average but often colder in the south
- Best time to dive: All year round, with site selection based on the seasons