

## **13D/12N – HALMAHERA – BANDA SEA - AMBON**

### **Ternate – Halmahera – Banda Sea - Ambon**

Your journey with Tiare starts when you arrive at the airport where our crew will welcome you upon arrival. On your disembarkation day, you will be transferred back to the airport to say our goodbyes.

Tis is an exemplary itinerary for a cruise in HalmaHera – Banda Sea Ambon

The itinerary below has been carefully handpicked to allow you to have the maximum enjoyable momentum during your cruise with Tiare. However, it may change at any time without prior notice depending on the weather and sea condition. In that case, an alternative itinerary will be provided.

Embarkation Time: 12:00 PM & Disembarkation Time: 09:00 AM

Destination : HalmaHera – Banda sea - Ambon  
Embarkation : Ternate  
Disembarkation : Ambon

#### **Day 1: Embarkation In Ternate**

The flight usually arrives in Ternate in the morning and you will go directly to Tiare and make yourselves comfortable. You can complete a check out dive today depending on how you feel.

#### **Day 2: Goraici & Halmahera Sea**

Series of small islands, surprisingly good healthy reefs. This current rich location has a huge amount of schooling fish; surgeonfish, ocean triggerfish, snappers, fusiliers, rainbow runners, sharks and much more, we have seen in several occasions' mantas coming to feed in the shallow waters of a lagoon.

#### **Day 3: Bacan Island**

Begin the day with a dramatic wall dive off Tanjung Marengarango. Check out the schooling fish; barracuda, snapper, fusiliers and the potential for some great passing pelagics.

Spend the afternoon enjoying some excellent muck diving along the boat-building beach at Penambuan; excellent habitat amongst the variety of black sand, pebbles, algae and coral heads. Hunt for octopus, colourful nudibranchs, frogfish, seahorses, cuttlefish, unusual shrimp.

## **13D/12N – HALMAHERA – BANDA SEA - AMBON**

### **Ternate – Halmahera – Banda Sea - Ambon**

#### **Day 4: Misool - Wayil Batan**

Wedding Cake and Barracuda Rock are other stunning dive sites in this area. A drift dive through a channel covered in sea fans at Gorgonian Passage is the perfect view after the underwater seamount with full of fish and healthy coral in dive site called Four Kings.

There are also lagoons at Wayilbatan, including the Love Lagoon. The hike up the steep stairs is well worth the view.

#### **Day 5: Misool - Fiabacet & Boo Island**

This amazing string of small islands has a colourful array of great dives sites. The signature sites in the area include Boo Windows, Nudi Rock, Tank Rock and Whale Rock. The whole place is a delight for the eyes.

On a calm day you can visit the amazing seamount Magic Mountain and experience cruising sharks, schooling fish and mantas cleaning. A truly spectacular dive.

#### **Day 6: Misool – Daram Area**

Daram is the most easterly point of the islands we might visit in Misool. The reef at Andiamo is stunning and is large enough for at least two dives. There is a submerged pinnacle where sea fans are surrounded by schools of fusiliers and batfish. A short swim across a sandy bottom brings you to the main reef lush with soft corals. In between the two islets is a gap thick with sea fans and is excellent for wide-angle photography. Look out for black tip reef sharks and napoleon wrasse, if you can see them through all the fish! Candy Store is so named because the first divers to explore this reef felt like kids in a candy store. Huge sponges, beautiful soft corals and sea fans cover this dive site, especially in the valleys where schools of fusiliers, butterfly fish and sometimes barracuda gather. Warna Berwarna in Bahasa Indonesia means "Vibrant Colors". Expect to see sea fans in all possible colors and watch out for pygmy seahorses. On the northwestern side of the island there is a beautiful ridge coming out where tons of fusiliers and orange spotted trevallies hang out in the blue. The shallows are covered with healthy hard corals and often we get to see schooling bumphead parrotfishes.

#### **Day 7: Fak-Fak - Pisang Island**

Between Misool and South Halmahera there are two small rocks and two islands. This area is called Pisang Island. Here we will do two dives before traveling overnight to South Halmahera. If the current is running this area can be very fishy. They are large coral heads in the shallows and pretty soft corals in the deep. A school of bumphead parrotfish live here and we might see some passing pelagics like tuna or mackerel. Cruise overnight to the Strait of Patintie, 100 nautical miles.

## **13D/12N – HALMAHERA – BANDA SEA - AMBON**

### **Ternate – Halmahera – Banda Sea - Ambon**

#### **Day 8 : Koon**

Our next stop is Koon Island, located southeast of Seram Island and over a trench that goes down to more than 3000 meters. There is only one dive site here and its distinct name of "Too Many Fish" is aptly deserved. The reason for this name becomes obvious to anyone who dives here. Large schools of all kinds of fish are seen here especially black snappers, batfish, barracuda and fusiliers. The sloping reef is full of beautiful corals interspaced with white sandy patches, going into a steep wall at around 30m/100ft. In the deep look for large groupers, sharks or even a passing eagle ray. In the shallows schools of banner fish, Oceanic triggerfish and red snappers decorate the reef. With all the fish in the usually perfect visibility you probably won't be looking at the macro residents of this reef but if you do pygmies, leaf fish, nudis and ghost pipefish have been seen here. Depending on the phase of the moon, strong currents can make this dive site very challenging but unforgettable.

#### **Day 9: Run, Hatta & Banda Sea**

We'll first pass through the Island of Run for a dive before moving towards Hatta for the second dive. Both islands are sites that invites big ocean pelagic and great fish life. After the first 2 dives of the morning, we will spend some quality time around the Spice Islands in the shadow of Gunung Api volcano. There are a selection of unique dive sites including the hard coral at Lava Flow and the very fishy underwater pinnacles at Batu Kapal.

Late in the afternoon, we will go back in the water (sunset dive) for a world class mandarin dive experience.

#### **Day 10: Banda Neira Tour & Banda Sea**

Banda Neira, also known as the Spice Islands, the land excursion is fascinating. Explore Pulau Neira and spend the morning walking through its historic little town. The town is full of interesting houses dating back to the Dutch and English periods. There is also the well-preserved Fort Belgica with its fantastic views overlooking the waters around the island. We'll visit a traditional nutmeg plantation where you will see nutmeg, cinnamon and clove trees nestled around the plantation farmer's house.

Enjoy a plantation tea under the shade of cocoa trees and try nutmeg jam, candies, cake and cinnamon biscuits. Take a look at our Banda Islands photo album [here](#).

The diving here includes the typical deep walls of the Banda Sea, as well as sea mounts and drift dive along fish packed reefs. Hammerhead sharks have to been known to visit some of the reefs here, as well as turtles, bumphead parrotfish, eagle rays and napoleon wrasse.

After the tour we will do two more dives in the Banda Islands before heading north to Nusa Laut.

## **13D/12N – HALMAHERA – BANDA SEA - AMBON**

### **Ternate – Halmahera – Banda Sea - Ambon**

#### **Day 11: Nusa laut**

Nusa Laut is a small island close to Ambon and the village here protects the fantastic dive site of Amet

Reef. Eagle rays, a huge school of jacks, hammerhead sharks and even a Dugong have all been seen

here. The reef is very healthy and it is common to see bumphead parrotfish feeding in the shallows.

#### **Day 12: Ambon Bay**

The remainder of our adventure will be spent diving in Ambon Bay. Ambon is a world class muck diving destination. Inside the bay there are numerous dive sites full of critters galore!

The holy grail of fish Rhinopias can be seen here along with Frogfish, Ghost Pipefish, Nudibranchs, Leaf Fish, Zebra crabs, cuttlefish, all sorts of Pipefish, Mandarin Fish, Ribbon Eels, all sort of Eels and cute juveniles like the Barramundi Cod, Batfish and Harlequin

Sweetlips. Our eagle-eyed dive guides will be looking out for different types of shrimps such as Bumblebee Shrimp, Harlequin Shrimp, Tiger Shrimp and Coleman shrimps. In the

octopus family, we might see the very special Wunderpus or Mimic and at night the Coconut, Starry Night, White-V and Long Arm Octopus come out to hunt.

#### **Day 13: Disembarkation Ambon**

After breakfast and photo group with all the crew, at 09:00 we will help you transfer to the the Airport or Local hotel for your onward journey.