

SEAHORSE

Ring of Fire and Forgotten Islands

Ambon to Saumlaki | Banda Sea and Tanimbar

Hammerheads are the prize of this Banda Sea route, with schools at Suanggi and Serua, where dives are early in the morning and late in the afternoon.

Along the lava flow of Gunung Api, which last erupted in 1988, corals and huge sponges have grown back.

Around Run, Hatta and Ai, the drop offs have great visibility and rich fish life.

Manuk is a volcanic island where seabirds nest, with sea snakes as the diving signature.

The Banda Islands were at the centre of the spice trade, and a village, fort and nutmeg plantation can be visited.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	EXPERIENCE
12 days, 11 nights	Ambon	Saumlaki	Advanced Open Water, 30 dives







Your route

STOP 1

Nusa Laut

After leaving Ambon you stop for one day at Nusa Laut for the dive sites of Ahmet.

STOP 2

Suanggi

About 20 nautical miles from Banda, Suanggi is a hot spot for hammerhead schools and great marine life.

STOP 3

Banda Islands

The diving includes a dive along the lava flow of Gunung Api, which last erupted in 1988, where corals and huge sponges have grown back.
Drop offs with great visibility, rich fish life and occasional hammerheads are found around Run, Hatta and Ai.
You stop in Banda Neira for a land visit.

STOP 4

Manuk and Serua

Manuk is a volcanic island where seabirds nest, with sea snakes as the diving signature.
Serua is two small islands in the middle of the Banda Sea, with a drop off that offers high chances of schooling hammerheads, so dives are early in the morning and late in the afternoon.



STOP 5

Nil Desperandum and Dai

Nil Desperandum is a large offshore reef with a drop off, great fish life and huge barrel sponges, and is also a hammerhead spot.
The last full diving day is at the Dai islands.

STOP 6

Babar

On the way to Saumlaki the last dive in the morning is at Babar island.

STOP 7

Banda Islands

The Banda islands, which are Banda Neira, Banda, Hatta, Ai and Run, were at the centre of the spice trade in the 16th century.
You visit the village, fort and museum on Banda Neira, and the nutmeg plantation on nearby Hatta.

GOOD TO KNOW

About the diving

The Banda Sea

The Banda Sea is one of the best Indonesian dive destinations, with steep drop offs, impressive hard corals, huge sponges, pastel black coral bushes and intense fish life. Tuna, Spanish mackerel, giant trevally and barracuda are part of the show, with hammerhead sharks either in small groups or big shoals, and critter dives, especially in the bay of Ambon.

Hammerheads

Hammerheads are in the Banda Sea from September to the end of November, linked to the upwellings that cool the upper layers of the sea. The best chance is when the water is coolest, from mid September to mid November.

Dive count

A minimum of 33 dives, which is 3 dives per day, is offered, including at least 5 night dives. The last dive is on the penultimate day at 8 AM.

How the diving works

Divers go in groups of up to four with a dive guide, with a briefing before every dive. Nitrox is free for certified divers, and divers are asked to stay within no deco limits, to a maximum depth of 35 metres.

Joining the boat

You are welcome on board in Ambon before 12 noon.
Seahorse can arrange pick up from the airport or your hotel.

Leaving the boat

The cruise ends in Saumlaki and you disembark before 12 noon.
Seahorse can arrange the drop off at the airport or your hotel.

Airports

Ambon (AMQ) at the start and Saumlaki (SXK) at the end of the trip.

INCLUDED

What your trip covers

INCLUDED IN THE TRIP PRICE

- Transfers between the boat and the closest airport
- Accommodation in a shared twin or double cabin
- All meals and snacks, drinking water, soft drinks and hot drinks
- All guided dives, with one guide for up to four divers
- Aluminium 12 litre tank, weights and belts
- Free nitrox for certified divers
- Two complimentary kayaks on board

NOT INCLUDED

- International and domestic flights
- Park and port fees and fuel surcharge, paid in cash on board
- Alcoholic beverages, which you can bring yourself
- Diving equipment rental and 100 cf (15 litre) tank
- Crew gratuities, usually 10% or more of the cruise rate
- Massages and laundry

BEFORE YOU GO

What to bring

ESSENTIALS

- Dive certification card and logbook (PADI Advanced Open Water or equivalent with at least 30 logged dives)
- Dive insurance covering medical evacuation and diving accidents
- Medical fitness statement for diving
- Dive computer and surface marker buoy
- Torch for night dives

AND ALSO

- Reef-safe sunscreen
- Swimwear, hat and sunglasses
- Cash for park and port fees, fuel surcharge, tips and extras
- Passport valid for at least 6 months after you leave Indonesia

WORTH KNOWING

Key notes

Good to know

The route can vary slightly with weather, currents, visibility and tides

Good to know

Payments on board are in cash only, in EUR, USD, AUD, CHF or IDR

Good to know

Most nationalities can get a 30 day visa on arrival

Good to know

Prices and trip dates are shown on our trip listings