WHITE MANTA

Ambon, Banda and Raja Ampat

Ambon to Sorong | Ambon, the Banda Sea and Raja Ampat

A once in a lifetime diving safari that crosses the Banda Sea and finishes in Raja Ampat, one of the most biodiverse diving destinations in the world.

It starts with muck diving in Ambon, then reaches the remote, almost untouched Banda Islands, with excellent visibility, fantastic coral coverage and the chance of scalloped hammerheads.

In the Ring of Fire, volcanic islands and stunning seamounts hold many sea snakes, huge schools of fish, reef sharks and tuna.

West Seram and Pulau Koon bring wide angle diving with vibrant corals and a profusion of fish life.

The trip ends in Misool, in Raja Ampat, a fitting finale to the voyage.

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

Your itinerary

DAY 1

Day 1

0-2 dives

2pm.
Our staff will meet you upon your arrival to Pattimura Airport, Ambon or local hotel and transfer you to the awaiting White Manta.

DAY 1

Day 1 (continued)

0-2 dives

Arrivals before midday are best so we can make check dive(s) in Ambon Bay before we get underway by 2pm for overnight sail.

DAY 2

Days 2 and 3

3 dives a day

Diving around Banda Islands with excellent visibility, fantastic coral coverage and tremendous numbers of fish along with potential Hammerhead sightings, plus a visit to one of the Spice Islands.

DAY 4

Days 4 to 6

3 dives a day

Ring of Fire: diving around Volcanic Islands and stunning seamounts in search of hammerheads, encounter many sea snakes, huge schools of fish, reef sharks, tunas, and other pelagic superstars.

DAY 7

Day 7

3 dives

West Seram, Pulau Koon full days diving.
Wide angle diving with vibrant corals and a profusion of fish life.
Sail to Misool.

DAY 8

Days 8 and 9

3-4 dives a day

Misool: Wayil, Fiabacet, and Boo area.

DAY 10

Day 10

2 dives

Misool.
Sail back to Usahamina pier, Sorong where you spend last night on board.
Plenty of time to wash and dry equipment, have lunch, rest and relaxation, and if need be an early flight the next day.

DAY 11

Day 11

No diving

Check out (between 5am-10am) after light breakfast and farewells, we transfer to local hotel or airport.
Departure from Sorong to Manado/ Makassar/ Jakarta/ Denpasar.

THE TRIP

Departure, return and timings

- Departure: 2pm, 1st day - Laha Bay, Ambon. Or earlier if everyone arrives before and if all trip preparations are completed. Free pickup upon arrival from Pattimura Airport, Ambon or local hotel* (10am) to White Manta on trip departure day (transfer time 10 mins).
- Return: 5am, last day, Sorong, West Papua. After a light breakfast and fond farewells, we take you to the local hotel or Domine Edward Osok Airport, Sorong in time for check-in and flight. Note: Latest White Manta check-out at 10am, trip return day.
- Last dive ends: 12pm (midday), penultimate day. Plenty of time for R&R while we sail back to Sorong where we spend the last night on White Manta. This also allows for your minimum 18 hours surface interval/ No Fly Time (as recommended by PADI) before flying the next day.

THE VOYAGE

About this trip

Marine life here is in abundance from macro critters, sea snakes and schooling fish to the ‘big fish’ favourites such as manta rays, reef sharks and even the chance to encounter scalloped Hammerheads. We complete this once in a lifetime diving safari in stunning Raja Ampat, one of the most biodiverse diving destinations in the world.

DIVING

Diving days and notes

- Note: All schedules are subject to changes according to weather, sea, diving, and local conditions.
- Diving days: 10 days (28 dives)
- Note: 3 dives are scheduled per diving day in Banda Sea*. This is due to deeper dives and long distances covered between islands. Where possible a bonus night dive may be scheduled at the discretion of the Cruise Leader.
  *Except trip departure day and trip return day.

CONDITIONS

Dive site information

AMBON-BANDA-RING OF FIRE

- Water Temp: 26-28 degrees Celsius, however deep-water upwelling's and thermoclines especially in Sept-Nov can mean temps as low as 25C. Air Temp: 22-31 degrees Celsius
- Visibility: 20-30 metres
- Currents: Medium to strong
- Level: Intermediate to advanced.
- Best Time to Dive: March, April, and mid-September to early December

RAJA AMPAT

- Water Temp: 27-30 degrees Celsius
- Air Temp: 27-32 degrees Celsius
- Visibility: 15-30 metres
- Currents: Medium to strong
- Level: Intermediate to advanced
- Best Time to Dive: October to April (less rain and much less wind: perfect for diving)

GETTING THERE

Getting to and from the boat

EMBARKATION AND DISEMBARKATION

- Ambon (AMQ) / Sorong (SOQ), West Papua

HOW TO GET TO AMBON (AMQ)

- Lion Air daily flights from Bali via Makassar or Manado, Garuda Indonesia or Sriwijaya Air from Jakarta via Makassar, and Batik Air direct to Ambon (flight time around 3 hours).

HOW TO GET FROM SORONG (SOQ), WEST PAPUA

- It is easiest to fly through to and from Sorong (SOQ) via Jakarta (CGK), Makassar (UPG Ujung Pandang), Bali (DPS, Denpasar), or Manado (MDC).
- To Jakarta: Early morning direct daily flights, with Batik Air / Garuda Indonesia, which should allow enough time to schedule your international flight home. Lion Air also offer flights.

INCLUDED

What your trip covers

INCLUDED IN THE TRIP PRICE

- Land transfer from local hotel / airport from destination on trip start and end days (Ambon/ Sorong) to boat
- All nights' accommodation on White Manta
- All meals (Western and Indonesian) snacks, hot beverages, coffee, tea, milo, soft drinks, towels, toiletries, cabin services
- FOC replacement if equipment breakdown
- 12-litre air tanks
- Weights and belt
- Warm towel and drink after every dive
- 6 dive guides (1x instructor, 5x dive master), 28 dives

NOT INCLUDED

- All flights, hotels
- Pickups outside the trip start and end dates (a fee applies per car)
- Marine park and harbour fee (paid in advance of the trip)
- Fuel surcharge (paid in advance of the trip)
- Dive and travel insurance
- Massage services
- Laundry services
- Nespresso coffee, alcohol: beer, wine, satellite wi-fi
- Diving equipment rental
- Nitrox (enriched air) fills