



## Banda Sea 12 Night Itinerary (Maumere to Ambon)

### **Day 1: Maumere**

Our staff will welcome you at the airport and transfer for immediate boarding. Depending on the arrival time, we might do the check dive around Maumere and maybe even a night dive.

### **Day 2: East Flores**

Several great dive sites in this area. The choice will be based on our schedule. Serbete: shallows and sandbars with exquisite coral gardens are broken off into magnificent walls here and there. Pygmy seahorses, turtles, napoleon wrasses and reef sharks in one place. Tanjung Gedong: northeast Flores. The reef slopes down into a sandy area with large coral heads. The beautiful deep sections are decorated with soft corals and large table corals. Reef sharks, groupers and other encounters are to be expected. Kawula: In the western part of Kawula lies a huge bay, partially covered with mangroves. World class "muck dives" with lots of macro, ghost pipefish, frogfish and flying gurnard. The night dives are not to be missed, abundant wildlife with numerous shrimps, crabs and Spanish dancers.

### **Day 3: Komba**

We will dive around Komba, an active volcano. The sandy slopes are home to various fish species. On the rocks, nudibranchs and shells. After the dives, a guaranteed thrill with a tour close to the volcano. Eruptions occur every 20 to 30 minutes!

### **Day 4-5: Alor Strait**

Nusa Tenggara area, Timor. An incredibly rich biodiversity on land and underwater. The place offers all types of dives, from superb muck dives to magnificent drop-offs with sweeping currents. Pulau Pura and Pulau Ternate: clear and warm water with nice coral gardens and a huge marine wildlife. Superb macro to observe, especially the shy mandarin fish. An unusual and excellent bonus of diving here is the possibility of spotting pilot whales and dolphins from the surface. We will take you on a land excursion to see a forgotten tribe in a local village. An unforgettable cultural experience!

### **Day 6: Wetar**

Wetar is a large island north of Timor. Untouched landscapes with lush vegetation, the dives are not to be missed. Stunning drop-offs and pelagic life are waiting for you.

### **Day 7-9: Ring of Fire**

Manuk, the 'Snake Island', a volcanic island with lower interest on land. It takes its nickname from the large amount of sea snakes found there. You will surely see a lot! The drop-offs here are amazing and sharks, mackerels, tunas and barracudas are often observed. Nil Desperandum ('no despair') takes its name from a ship, stranded on the reef. This atoll is sometimes called 'the forgotten islands'. You may be lucky enough to come across hammerhead sharks.

### **Day 10: Banda Islands, outer reefs**

You will now arrive at the northern end of the outer reefs of the Banda Sea: Pulau Suanggi. The waters here are full of fish, reef sharks and tuna. As a small bonus for bird lovers, many species can be observed around the island: brown boobies, red-footed boobies and frigate birds. Pulau hatta / Karang hatta: We will dive both sloping reefs and vertical walls. The current attracts many fish: fusiliers, dogtooth tuna, eagle rays, barracudas and sometimes sharks. On the reef: soft corals, leather corals, big eye trevallies and turtles.

### **Day 11: Nusa Laut & Molana**

South of Seram, fantastic diving experiences on the reefs of Molana and Nusa Laut. These rather picturesque islands of Maluku are popular dive destinations due to their diversity of reef fish species, ghost pipefish, frogfish and the variety of well-preserved hard corals. We have seen sperm whales in the area so keep your eyes open.

### **Day 12: North East Ambon**

Laha or Tuleu Bay: area known for its fabulous muck dives, probably among the best in the world for the macro dive!

### **Day 13: Ambon**

After a nice breakfast on board, our crew will organize transfer to Ambon Airport according to your flight schedules. Unfortunately we have to say goodbye but we hope to see you again on board.

**Number of dives:** 35-40 dives including the night dives

**Dive Experience:** experienced Advanced Open Water Diver or level 2 (minimum 50 logged dives)

**When to go:** March to May or October to November

**Please note that this itinerary is a diving program and can be changed depending on many factors!**

In addition, we want to emphasize that this route, because of its great distance, is more dependent on weather conditions. It is possible to have big waves and a strong wind.