

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

### Day 1: Saumlaki

Our team will pick you up at the airport for immediate boarding. Depending on the arrival time, we will have a check dive in the area.

### Day 2: Sermata

Sermata offers coral reefs with deep laying coral walls which are amazing to explore.

### Day 3: Nyata

Nyata, northeast of Romang Island, offers stunning landscapes with crystal clear waters and reefs on different levels, like in a theatre, with hard and soft coral gardens. Pelagic encounters are expected!

### Day 4: Damar

Usually we can expect easy but very fast drifts along marvelous coral drop-offs. Nuss Leur: several pinnacles with all the colorful life of coral reefs.

### Day 5: Serua, Nil Desperandum, Nila

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 see a school of hammerhead sharks.

### Day 6: Manuk, Snake Island

Manuk, the 'Snake Island', a non-active volcanic island 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.

### Day 7 - 9: Banda Neira

Arrive on Banda Neira, famous for its nutmeg plantation. You will also have a chance to visit the Maritime Museum and the historic forts. Of course this location also offers beautiful dive spots, including Lava Flow: after a volcano eruption in 1988, the existing coral got destroyed, but after 10 years new coral regrow and created this now beautiful dive spot. This dive spot is also home of the Mandarin Fish that lives exclusively around Banda Neira. They come out to perform their mating ritual nightly.

### Day 10: Pulau Suanggi

This is 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: The current attracts many fish: fusiliers, dogtooth tuna, eagle rays, barracudas and sharks. On the reef: soft corals, leather corals, big eye trevallies and turtles.

### Day 11: Nusa Laut & Molana

These rather picturesque islands of Maluku are popular dive destinations due to their diversity in reef fish species, ghost pipefish, frogfish and a variety of well-preserved hard corals. Flash News: we have seen sperm whales in the area on previous trips, so keep your eyes wide open.

### Day 12 & 13: Ambon

We will dive around Laha or Tulehu Bay: area known for its fabulous muck dives, probably among the best in the world for macro diving. On the last day, after a nice breakfast on board, our crew will organize transfer to the 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:** 29-32 dives including the night dives

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

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

**Fees:** Please note a fee of 155USD applies to this cruise because we will visit the island of Banda Neira.

**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. In this area it may happen that there are big waves and a strong wind.