

## Forgotten Islands 11 Night Itinerary (Ambon to Saumlaki)

### Day 1 & 2: Ambon

Our staff will pick you up at the airport for immediate boarding. Depending on the arrival time, we might do the check dive around Laha or Tulehu Bay and maybe even a night dive. Laha or Tulehu Bay: area known for its fabulous muck dives, probably among the best in the world for macro diving.

### Day 3: 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. We have seen sperm whales in the area on previous trips, so keep your eyes wide open.

### Day 4: Pulau Suanggi

At 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 5 & 6: Banda Neira

On the fifth day you will arrive on Banda Neira, famous for its nutmeg plantation. You will also have the chance to visit the Maritime Museum and the historic forts the island holds. . 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, a very colorful fish that exclusively lives around Banda Neira. Every single night they come out to perform their mating ritual.

### Day 7: Manuk, Snake Island

Manuk, the 'Snake Island', a non-active volcanic island takes its nickname from the large amount of sea snakes found there. The drop-offs here are amazing with sharks, mackerels, tunas and barracudas.

### Day 8: 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 amazing school of hammerhead sharks.

### Day 9: Damar

Terbang Utara / Terbang Selatan: 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 10: Nyata

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

### Day 11: Sermata

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

### Day 12: Saumlaki

After a nice breakfast on board, our crew will organize transfers to Saumlaki 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 than dependent weather conditions. It may happen that there are big waves and a strong wind.