

# Eastern Banda Sea, Indonesia

## Itinerary - 12 Nights

- **Embarkation: Saumlaki Harbour, Yamdena Island. Time is flight dependant**
- **Disembarkation: Kaimana Harbour, West Papua at 10:00am**
- **Arrival Airport: Mathilda Batlayeri Airport, Saumlaki (SXX)**
- **Departure Airport: Kaimana Airport (KNG)**

For your convenience, a free transfer will be provided between the domestic airports and the Indo Siren yacht on the day of embarkation and disembarkation. Upon arrival in Saumlaki, a Siren Fleet representative welcomes you at the airport and arranges your onward transfer which will take around 10 minutes.

When flying in on embarkation day, it is advisable that your flight arrives before noon!

Disembarkation is at 10.00 hr in the morning. If your flight out of Kaimana departs later than 10.00 hr, we will transfer you to a cosy local restaurant near the airport where you can wait for your flight.

### **Marine & Port Fees:**

- 120 USD per person

Marine park fees can be paid in advance, or on board.

### **Minimum dive certification and experience:**

Divers are required to have **Advanced Open Water** certification\*, or equivalent, with a **minimum of 50 logged dives**.

\*Advanced Open Water courses can be completed on board.

Guests who do not fulfil the minimum certification and experience requirements may be denied participation in some or all dives. We have 3 permanent dive guides on board to enable small dive groups of 5-6.

It is a mandatory requirement for all divers to have insurance which covers scuba diving activities, including emergency evacuation and recompression chamber costs.

Participation in this liveboard itinerary is subject to acceptance of our Terms & Conditions as outlined here: [www.masterliveboards.com/terms-conditions](http://www.masterliveboards.com/terms-conditions).

## Number of scheduled dives:

- Up to 38

This itinerary involves some long distance travel and, whilst we attempt to ensure the number of dives we have scheduled is fulfilled, bad weather can hinder the yacht's ability to reach a specific dive site in good time.

While we wish to show you the very best diving possible, a number of factors determine which route the yacht takes and which dive sites we are able to visit. Weather, tides, currents and how many other dive vessels are at a particular site all play a part in the Cruise Director's decision of where the Indo Siren is heading to.

**Safety and dive briefings are conducted in English. If you, or any of your group do not speak or understand English, please contact us.**

The following is an example of the day-to-day itinerary.

Day 1: Embarkation followed by introductions and boat and safety briefings. After this you can settle into your cabin and assemble your equipment with help from the friendly crew. The vessel will depart for Adunara while you relax and enjoy snacks and dinner.

Day 2: Breakfast followed by a check dive, and up to 3 subsequent dives, as outlined below.

Days 3-12: Your Cruise Director will schedule up to 4 dives per day; 3 day dives and either a sunset or a night dive. A typical diving day is scheduled as follows:

- Light Breakfast followed by a briefing & Dive 1
- Full Breakfast, relaxation followed by briefing & Dive 2
- Lunch, relaxation followed by briefing & Dive 3
- Snack
- Briefing for Sunset or Night dive
- Dinner

Day before disembarkation:

For your last full day on board, we are able to schedule 2 dives\* before the boat cruises back to Kaimana Harbour, where it will remain at anchor overnight.

Disembarkation day: Following breakfast on board, disembarkation is scheduled between 8:00am and 10:00am.

\*We kindly request that guests check their flight departure times to ensure that they leave a minimum of 24 hours between their final dive and their flight home.

Following is a sample of dive sites which we may visit during your time aboard Indo Siren.

The safety of our guests is paramount and we always do our best to offer diving at alternate locations, should we be unable to visit those sites listed below.

Guests are welcome to suggest preferred dive sites to the Cruise Director. He/she will be happy to accommodate guests' wishes, providing it is possible and the schedule allows for it.

Dive sites we visit include but are not limited to:

## Dai & Dawera

On our way to Saumlaki, these islands have lots to offer from pristine shallow hard corals gardens, deep walls to rocky slopes covered with massive sponges. The seamounts are swarming with curtains of pyramid butterflyfishes and the friendliest longfin batfishes we have ever encountered.

Spiny lobsters hide in the numerous cracks and overhangs in Dai, while shoals of snappers, unicorn fishes and rivers of fusiliers inhabit the pristine reefs.

## Nil Desperandum & Serua

Upwelling and currents around these islands bring nutrient rich waters and with them an abundance of marine life. We see many larger fish species in these little visited waters. Hammerhead sharks, tunas, napoleon wrasse and groupers are amongst the most common sightings. Schooling surgeonfish, bannerfish and barracuda give divers a spectacular display.

## Manoek Island

Next we will voyage to this tiny island in the middle of the Banda Sea, which offers a wide variety of dive topography including walls, coral slopes and sandy areas. Famed as the home of a multitude of sea snakes and where you can witness the snakes hunting together. Larger fish pass by on the outer walls, including tunas and jacks, as well as smaller creatures that can be found amidst the pristine corals.

## Spice (Banda) Islands

This group of islands boasts fantastic diving, with up to 40 meters of visibility. On land, enjoy the view of Gunung Api, a 650-meter-high active volcano, from the top of Fort Belgica, built by the Dutch in 1611 and located in the historical town of Banda Neira. Clove, nutmeg, mace and cinnamon are still the main spices that are grown here.

There are various dive sites that we may visit:

## Karang Hatta

We will dive in a spectacular submerged reef south of Hatta, which offers steep slopes surrounded by deep waters. Loads of Redtooth Triggerfish, alongside fusiliers, napoleon wrasse and hawksbill turtles populate this long reef. You might also get the chance to spot a few rare creatures like devil rays or even a scalloped hammerhead shark during your dive. Keep your fingers crossed before you enter this wonderful dive site.

## Hatta Blue Hole

This site is formed by a widespread hard coral shallow plateau, which extends away from the island to a majestic drop off. A large opening on top of the reef opens to a swim through densely covered with huge vibrant gorgonian fans. Also, massive barrel sponges inhabited by tiny hairy squat lobsters decorate the wall.

## Pohon Miring

Stunningly covered with colourful soft corals and gorgonian fans, a swim through will take you through a sheer wall covered in Leather corals. Numerous big napoleon wrasses inhabit the reef and dogtooth tuna patrol the blue waters.

## Batu Kapal

This island is named for its boat-like shape and is an exhilarating dive. The walls are decorated with vibrant yellow soft corals. Curtains of redtooth triggerfish, pyramid butterflyfish, fusiliers and surgeonfish merge into a multicolour fish soup.

On the rocky and sandy bottom, you can spot large groups of long nose emperor fish hunting alongside bluefin trevallies and opportunistic napoleon wrasses. Look in the blue for grey reef sharks, while blackfin barracudas hover above the reef.

## Laval Flow

In 1998, the volcano on Naira Island erupted and the lava flow destroyed jungle and reefs in its wake. While only a few trees have grown on the basaltic rock, underwater it's a totally different story! From 3 meters to 40 meters an extensive hard coral garden completely blankets the solidified lava flow.

## Banda Jetty

Famous for the mandarin fish that can be observed at sunset, which you can see just by looking from the jetty. In many places, these fishes are elusive, small and shy. Here, it's the opposite. Once they have done their mating business, a wide array of critters awaits to be discovered on the black sand, including colourful nudibranchs, octopus, cockatoo waspfish and frogfish.

## Koon Island

Between the Ceram and Banda Seas lies Koon Island, an area that is projected to be the biggest coral fish breeding spot in eastern Indonesia. Its location between a shallow and a

deep sea attracts a variety of pelagic such pompanos, spanish mackerels, dogtooth tuna and rainbow runners. The reef boasts a great diversity of topography with white sandy bottoms, walls, steep slopes and long plateaus. We will have a full day of diving in this area, with three dives in this huge site.

## Sanggala Bay

Situated along the coast of the Fak Fak Province, Sanggala offers both great diving and breathtaking landscapes. Cool water from the Papuan's mountains flows through thick primary jungle to enter the turquoise waters of the Ceram Sea. It is not uncommon to see local ships refilling their water tanks at the foot of the waterfall.

If you walk about an hour upriver, a beautiful hidden turquoise lake lies in the heart of the forest, where Tree-Kangaroos occupy the area.

There are two special dive sites we may explore here:

### Mike's Mount

Hundreds of meters long, this seamount attracts large pelagics, such as oceanic manta rays, grey reef sharks and big dogtooth tuna. Large shoals of fusiliers and surgeonfish drift above extensive hard corals fields, such as staghorn and cabbage corals, which can live in depths of 40 meters. Masses of anthias and damselfishes inhabit these vibrant coral gardens.

### Mikado

Years ago during a storm, a ship transporting tree trunks had to release its cargo to avoid running aground the shallow seamount in the center of the bay. As a result, dozens of these trunks are littered forming a huge "Mikado" structure on the grey sand. This area is a good place to look for twinspot gobies and upside-down jellyfishes between the trunks. The seamount slopes are covered in hard corals where bumphead parrotfish and crocodile fish are among the usual suspects.

## South Aiduma & Dramai Islands

The strait between Aiduma and Papua is the heart of Triton Bay, where the nutrient rich current feeds some of the most diverse colourful Soft coral reefs in the whole of Indonesia. Because of the nutrients, visibility can be limited, but it is worth it. The sandy bays also offer great muck diving. We will spend a whole diving in these waters, in (some of) the following dive spots:

### 7th Heaven

Undoubtedly a well-earned name, as the walls are entirely covered with pastel and purple coloured soft corals. When there is a current flowing, the corals are pumped with water which releases a fantastic purple carpet cover on the rocks. We can also expect to see large schools of snappers, barracuda and fusiliers cruising around.

## Batu Jeruk

This site literally means 'orange rock' in Indonesian, which is not overstated. We will dive over a shallow rocky plateau and slope carpeted with orange soft corals where sweetlips, snappers and fusiliers hover. The numerous rocks also create small overhangs where wobbegongs and giant groupers often rest.

## Tim's Rock

Expect to see an array of boulders decorated with green black coral, a resting spot for sweetlips, snappers, and glass fishes. The white sand in between hosts numerous species of gobies and jawfish. Rocky slopes are densely covered with vibrant gorgonian fans, fully grown colorful soft corals and whip corals. There are even a few yellow gorgonians, in which the observant eye may find the elusive yellow bargibanti seahorse.

## La Ultima Frontera

Located on the outskirts of Triton Bay where the visibility is typically better, this small island is pierced by a large swim through near the surface. Regularly large schools of red snapper, surgeonfish, and fusiliers are seen, creating a real fish soup, where giant trevallies tour eagerly. Boulder clusters are adorned with hanging soft corals, creating a playground for wobbegong sharks, giant and honeycomb moray eel.

## Mauwera & Pelican Bay

Triton Bay also offers spectacular sights above the surface that can be explored, including white sand beaches, turquoise lagoons, mangroves, mushroom shaped islands, and even some pelicans for patient eyes.

## Pintu Arus, Saruneus Island

In the channel between Aiduma & Papua, this small island offers beautiful remote diving spots. The area is known for three specific dive sites: **Little Komodo**, **Larry's Heaven** and **Saruneus**. A true melting pot of diverse seascapes, including walls, rocky and sandy slopes, plateaus and boulders. You can spot a huge diversity and density of Soft corals of all colours and shapes.

## Little Komodo

Known as the penultimate dive site of Triton Bay, which boasts shallow boulders that are covered in colourful large Soft corals, this dive site is a true photographer's paradise.

Deeper down the slope, a large black coral forest with large gorgonian fans meets the sandy bottom. When the current hits the boulders, huge colonies of orange cup corals extend their polyps to feed on the nutrients carried by the current. Wobbegong sharks, spiny Lobsters, and pipefish hide beneath large table corals.

## Bitsyara Bay

Not far from Kaimana is this large shallow bay which contains bagans (local fishing platforms). Whale sharks are regularly spotted in this area, drawn in by the smell of deceased fish from the fishing boats.

Should you have any questions or queries concerning the dive sites or whether this itinerary is suitable for your experience level, please contact our reservations team [dive@masterliveboards.com](mailto:dive@masterliveboards.com) who will be pleased to assist and advise you.