

Eastern Banda Sea, Indonesia

12 Nights Itinerary

- **Embarkation:** Saumlaki Harbour, Yamdena Island at 12:00*
- **Disembarkation:** Kaimana Harbour, West Papua at 10:00**

**We strongly recommend arriving in Saumlaki the day before embarkation and arranging a hotel for the night.* (Please refer to [domestic flight information](#) below).

For your convenience, a free transfer will be provided to Saumlaki Harbour from your hotel, or the airport on embarkation day and from Kaimana Harbour to Kaimana Airport or local hotel on the day of disembarkation.

Pick-up time from local hotels is usually around 11:30-12:00 and will be confirmed by the local operations team the night before embarkation.

Transfer from Saumlaki Airport to Saumlaki Harbour, and from Kaimana Harbour to Kaimana Airport takes approximately 30 minutes

Flights

* To Saumlaki: There is only 1 flight per day to Saumlaki, which usually departs from Ambon around 07:25 am

** From Kaimana: There is only 1 flight per day from Kaimana to Sorong, which departs at 07:00 am or 12:40 pm, depending on the day of the week.

IMPORTANT: *Domestic flights in Indonesia are often subject to delays, schedule changes and cancellations which can result in missed connections and arriving after the designated embarkation time, or day.* We therefore advise making arrangements to arrive in Saumlaki the day before embarkation.

PLEASE NOTE: If your delayed arrival is after the vessel has departed, you may be charged for the cost of arranging a speedboat transfer or for additional fuel required for Indo Master to return to port. For this reason, we strongly recommend arranging flights to arrive the day before embarkation to allow for the possibility of flight delays or cancellations.

Minimum dive certification and experience:

Due to the exposed nature of many of the dive sites on this itinerary, conditions can be challenging even for experienced divers.

Master Liveboards requires divers to have **PADI Advanced Open Water certification*, or equivalent**, with a **minimum of 50 logged dives**.

*Advanced Open Water courses can usually be completed on board (pre-booking required - please contact our reservations team: dive@masterliveboards.com).

Guests who do not fulfil the minimum certification and experience requirements may be denied participation in some or all dives.

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

Itinerary Details

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

Marine Park & Port Fees: 230 USD per person (to be paid on board).

PLEASE NOTE: *Marine park and port fees are subject to change without notice.* The applicable amount at the time of departure will be added to your onboard extras to be paid prior to disembarkation.

Number of scheduled dives: Up to 34

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.

Included land visits

Due to the distances covered on the Eastern Banda Sea itinerary, land visit(s) will generally only be offered on this itinerary when the vessel is in the Banda Islands. Here you will have the opportunity to visit the nutmeg plantations as well as see the influence of colonialism from the days of the Dutch settlers and traders.

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

Day 1: Embarkation is followed by introductions and boat and safety briefings. After this you can settle into your cabin then assemble your equipment with help from the friendly crew before dinner is served.

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

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

Days 3-11: Your Cruise Manager 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 12: For your last full day on board, we usually schedule 2 morning dives* before the boat cruises back to Kaimana Harbour, where it will remain at anchor overnight.

Day 13: Following breakfast on board, disembarkation is scheduled between 8:00 and 10:00

*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.

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, sea conditions and how many other vessels are in a particular location all play a part in the Cruise Manager's decision of where the Indo Master is heading, and which sites are chosen to dive.***

Guests are welcome to suggest preferred dive sites to the Cruise Manager who will be happy to accommodate those wishes where possible, and if the schedule allows for it. Following is a sample of dive sites which we may visit during your time aboard Indo Master.

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 any of the sites listed below.

Dive sites we often visit include, but are not limited to:

Dai & Dawera

These two islands have lots to offer from pristine shallow hard coral 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; Tunas, Napoleon wrasse and groupers are amongst the most common sightings, while hammerhead sharks are also known to put in an appearance from time to time. Schooling surgeonfish, bannerfish and barracuda give divers a spectacular display.

Manoek Island

Located in the middle of the Banda Sea, this tiny island offers a wide variety of dive topography including walls, coral slopes and sandy areas. Famed as one of the best locations to see [sea snakes](#), which can often be seen hunting, larger fish including tunas and jacks pass by on the outer walls while smaller creatures and fish can be found amidst the pristine corals.

The Spice (Banda) Islands

This group of islands boasts fantastic diving, with up to 40 metres of visibility. On land, enjoy the view of Gunung Api, a 640-metre-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

Here we dive on a spectacular submerged reef south of Hatta, which offers steep slopes surrounded by deep waters. Masses 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 during your dive like devil rays or even scalloped hammerhead sharks, if you're lucky. 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 red-tooth 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 1988, the volcano on Naira Island erupted and the lava flow destroyed the 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 metres to 40 metres, 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 pelagics such as 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 usually 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 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 at Sanggala:

Mike's Mount

Hundreds of metres 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 coral fields, such as staghorn and cabbage corals, which can live in depths of 40 metres. 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 centre 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 jellyfish 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. We will spend a whole day diving in this area, which may include some of the following dive sites:

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's name literally means 'orange rock' in Indonesian, which is no understatement. Diving 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 can also often be found resting.

Tim's Rock

Expect to see an array of boulders decorated with black corals, a resting spot for sweetlips, snappers, and glass fishes with white sand in between hosting numerous species of gobies and jawfish. Rocky slopes are densely covered with vibrant gorgonian fans, fully grown colourful 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. Large schools of red snapper, surgeonfish, and fusiliers are regularly 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 morays and honeycomb morays.

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, drawn in by the smell of deceased fish from the fishing boats, are often spotted in this area although their presence is not guaranteed.

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.

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