

The Spice Islands, Indonesia

10 Nights Itinerary

- **Embarkation:** Kalabahi Harbour, Alor at 13:00
- **Disembarkation:** Jembatan Amerika Negeri Laha, Ambon between 08:00 and 10:00

Flights and transfers information

- **Domestic Arrival Airport:** Alor Island Airport, also known as Mali Airport (ARD)
- **Domestic Departure Airport:** Pattimura International Airport Ambon (AMQ)

Domestic flights are not included in the liveboard price.

For your convenience, a free transfer will be provided on embarkation day from Alor Airport or local hotels to the embarkation point, and from Indo Master to Ambon Airport or hotels in the Laha area on the day of disembarkation.

Although we do not advise it, should you choose to arrive in Alor on the day of embarkation, an Indo Master representative will meet you near the baggage claim area (or by the exit) to assist with your luggage and arrange transfer to the harbour and liveboard.

- Transfer from Alor Airport to Kalabahi Harbour takes approximately 40 minutes.
- Transfer from Jembatan Amerika Negeri Laha to Ambon Airport is approximately 10 minutes.

International Arrival & Departure

You can book international flights into and out of Jakarta (CGK) or Bali (DPS) International Airport for this itinerary, although we suggest Jakarta for the easiest domestic connections. We strongly advise spending at least one day/night in Jakarta or Bali on either side of your liveboard dates to allow for possible changes to flight schedules and to ensure you are on time for your connections.

Regardless of which hub you book your international flights into and out of, [domestic flight options](#) in either direction are limited and some require at least one flight change en route to or from the embarkation and disembarkation locations.

Domestic flights

Check-in time for domestic flights in Indonesia is usually 2 hours before departure. Please bear this and transfer times in mind when booking disembarkation day flights.

IMPORTANT: As domestic flight schedule changes, delays and cancellations are common occurrences in Indonesia and can result in missed connections, we strongly recommend making allowances for this when arranging domestic flights.

Inbound to Alor

There are no direct flights from Jakarta or Bali to Alor Island. Both routes involve a flight change in Kupang (KOE).

- From Jakarta, connection time in Kupang is usually 2 hours
- From Bali, an overnight stop is required in Kupang

There are only two flights per day from Jakarta and Bali to Kupang and only one per day between Kupang and Alor.

We are unable to delay the liveboard's departure for individual late arrivals as this disrupts other guests and impacts the itinerary schedule and diving possibilities. Please be advised that, if your delayed arrival is after the liveboard has departed, *you may be charged the cost of arranging a speed boat transfer, or for additional fuel consumption* related to Indo Master having to return to port.

Outbound from Ambon

There are several direct flight options per day from Ambon to Jakarta; Ambon to Bali requires a flight change in either Makassar (UPG), Surabaya (SUB) or Jakarta.

Our team can help to arrange hotel accommodations and domestic flight connections between your international arrival and departure and the embarkation and disembarkation locations.

Diving Information

It is mandatory for all divers to have diving-specific insurance (e.g. DiveAssure, DAN, etc.) which covers all scuba diving activities, emergency evacuation and recompression chamber costs. Diving insurance will only cover accidents within the depth limit dictated by your certification level so you are required to remain well within those at all times.

The use of a dive computer is mandatory on all dives.

Due to the exposed nature of many of the areas covered on this itinerary, some of the diving is not suitable for inexperienced divers due to depths and strong currents.

Minimum dive certification and experience:

Divers joining a Spice Islands itinerary on Indo Master are **required** to have **PADI Advanced Open Water**, or equivalent certification, and a **minimum of 50 logged dives**. It is also strongly recommended that divers have *previous experience and are comfortable diving in currents*.

Guests who do not fulfil the minimum certification and experience requirements, or who our crew feel have insufficient skills for certain conditions may be denied participation in some or all dives.

Diving Emergencies

The route on this itinerary covers many remote and isolated diving locations. In the event of a diving accident or suspected DCI, transfer from Indo Master to a hospital or recompression chamber is likely to require a private speedboat, emergency air evacuation or both. While diving around Alor, the nearest recompression chamber is in Labuan Bajo (Komodo); Others are located in Manado (Sulawesi), Bali, Makassar and Jakarta.

It is your responsibility to ensure that your insurance will fully cover and reimburse all evacuation costs as well as recompression chamber and hospital treatment.

Water Temperature and Exposure Suits

We will be diving mainly in The Banda Sea on this itinerary, with water temperatures across the area ranging from 26°C (78°F) to 30°C (86°F). However, around Alor, temperatures can drop to 22°C at some locations.

For most divers, a 3mm wetsuit will suffice while others find they are comfortable diving with just swimwear and a hooded vest or rashguard. However, those prone to feeling cold after prolonged or multiple dives may prefer a 5mm wetsuit, or to use additional layers.

Itinerary Details

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

Marine Park & Port Fees: 200 USD* per person (to be paid on board).

**Marine park 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 before disembarkation.

Number of scheduled dives: Up to 32

This itinerary involves some long-distance travel and, while we endeavour to ensure the number of scheduled dives is fulfilled, this number is indicative only, and not guaranteed; bad weather and sea conditions can hinder the vessel's ability to reach or remain at specific dive sites and may impact the number of dives possible.

Included land visits

Due to the distances covered on The Spice Islands itinerary, land visits are generally only possible when the vessel is in the Banda Islands. You will have the opportunity to visit the nutmeg plantations of the Banda Islands and 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.

All safety and dive briefings are conducted in English. If you or any of your group do not speak or fully understand English, please let us know in advance.

Day 1: Embarkation is followed by introductions and boat and safety briefings. After this, you can assemble your equipment with help from the friendly crew and settle into your cabin. Indo Master will depart port while you relax and enjoy snacks then dinner.

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

Days 3-9: Your Cruise Manager will schedule up to 4 dives per day; 3 day dives and either a sunset or a night dive, typically 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 10: For your last full day on board, we usually schedule 2 morning dives* before Indo Master cruises to port, where she will remain at anchor overnight.

Day 11: Breakfast on board is followed by disembarkation between 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

*We kindly request that guests check their flight times to ensure they leave 24 hours between their final dive and their departure from Ambon.

While we wish to show you the very best diving possible, various factors determine which route the yacht takes and the dive sites we visit. ***Weather, tides, currents and sea conditions all play a part in the Cruise Manager's decision of where the Indo Master is heading, and which sites are chosen to dive.***

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

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

Alor - Pantar Strait

The Pantar Strait is equally known for critter diving and stunning reef walls where larger pelagic species can often be spotted. Strong currents are to be expected but these bring the nutrients which feed the reef and the inhabitants of the strait. There are a variety of dive sites and we chose the optimum sites based on the conditions. The water is often colder than other areas due to the flow of water from the south; expect temperatures of 22°C / 72°F.

The French Man's Window

A wall dive site in front of Alor Divers Resort, covered in a fantastic array of soft corals. Look closely to find a wide variety of nudibranchs; remember to watch in the blue as well as something big might swim past.

Clown Valley

Hundreds of anemones hosting the Clark's anemonefish cover the shallow reef slope on the south side of Pulau Pura. A stunning site but thermoclines can be expected so be prepared for some chilly water that may attract thresher sharks.

The Arch

Located at Pulau Reta, The Arch is famous for its overhangs and fissures providing stunning topography, as well as a home to schooling fusiliers and colourful anthias. Larger pelagic fish, including black-tip reef sharks, have been spotted here too.

Mucky Mosque

An iconic muck dive at the entrance of Kalabahi Bay where the attentive eye can find paddle-flap & frondosa's rhinopias, as well as ornate, robust and even halimeda and velvet ghost pipefish, frogfish, bobtail squid, long-arm octopus and for the lucky ones: wunderpus.

Wetar and Reong Islands

These tropical islands have walls covered with huge sponges and soft corals along with colourful reefs teeming with marine life, including eagle rays and turtles. The currents can be fairly robust in the channel between Wetar and Reong, therefore all divers are advised to carry reef hooks and remain within close range of a dive buddy or their dive guide. We usually schedule 3 dives around Wetar and Reong spread across one day to explore the area's varied diving sites.

Nyata and Terbang Islands

The islands of Pulau Nyata and Terbang offer unspoiled reefs for a great diving experience. At Nyata, rainbow-coloured soft corals and a myriad of hard corals dominate the landscape, whilst at Terbang we find dramatic walls with soft coral reef top gardens and plenty of bumphead parrotfish and schooling reef fish.

Nil Desperandum & Serua

Upwelling and currents around these islands bring the nutrient-rich waters and with them an abundance of marine life. We see many larger fish species in these little visited waters. Hammerhead sharks, tuna, napoleon wrasse and grouper are amongst the most common sightings, Schooling surgeonfish, bannerfish, and barracuda give divers a spectacular display. We usually schedule three dives to explore these rich reefs before moving northwards to Manuk.

Pulau Manuk

This tiny volcanic island offers stunning underwater topography covered with an amazing amount of soft and hard coral. This remote location in the middle of the Banda Sea is famed for being home to a multitude of sea snakes. Larger fish pass by on the outer walls including large numbers of barracuda, tunas and jacks with plenty of smaller creatures to be found amidst the pristine corals.

Banda (Spice) Islands

This group of islands boasts fantastic diving, with up to 40 metres of visibility. On land, from the top of Fort Belgica located in the historical town of Banda Neira and built by the Dutch in 1611, enjoy the view of neighbouring Gunung Api, a 640-metre-high active volcano.

Currents can be strong around these small islands so the dive sites will be chosen based on the best daily conditions from the following options:

Karang Hatta

A spectacular submerged reef with steep slopes surrounded by deep waters. Masses of red-tooth triggerfish, alongside fusiliers, Napoleon wrasse and hawksbill turtles populate this long reef. You might also be lucky enough 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 extending 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

Beautifully covered with colourful soft corals and gorgonian fans, a swim-through will take you through a sheer wall covered with leather corals. Numerous big Napoleon wrasses inhabit the reef and dogtooth tuna patrol the blue waters.

Batu Kapal

Named for its boat-like shape, this island is an exhilarating dive where curtains of red-tooth triggerfish, pyramid butterflyfish, fusiliers and surgeonfish merge into a multicolour fish soup. The walls are decorated with vibrant yellow soft corals and, on the rocky and sandy bottom, you can spot large groups of long-nose emperor fish hunting alongside bluefin trevallies and opportunistic Napoleon wrasses. Grey reef sharks patrol the surrounding blue while blackfin barracudas hover above the reef.

Laval Flow

In 1998 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 different story. From 3 metres to 40 metres, an extensive hard coral garden completely blankets the solidified lava flow.

Banda Jetty

Famed for the mandarin fish that can be observed at sunset, which can be seen just by looking from the jetty. In many places, these fishes are elusive, small and shy; Here, it's the opposite. When they have done with their mating rituals, a wide array of critters await discovery on the black sand, including colourful nudibranchs, octopus, cockatoo waspfish and frogfish.

Ambon Island

Northwest of the Banda Islands, in the heart of the Moluccas, are the famous dive sites of Ambon offering world-class muck diving, diverse marine ecosystems and dramatic seascapes.

Pintu Kota

This area boasts incredible underwater architecture, with a massive archway decorated with colourful soft corals hanging from its walls to ceilings. Many white and red polyp sea fans are dotted along the bottom, whilst shoals of fusiliers, bannerfish, and surgeonfish feed along the steep walls covered with huge barrel sponges.

Hukurila

Located in the Hukurila Coast region on the eastern side of Ambon Island, this underwater cave is a treasure trove of aquatic delights. Featuring a chimney, several canyons and caverns and other interesting geographical formations, marine life includes colourful corals, sponges, giant gorgonians and plenty of critters waiting to be discovered in their hidey-holes.

Twilight Zone

This renowned muck diving spot in the harbour of Laha is great to explore at night, or during the day. Amongst the detritus, countless species of nudibranchs, shrimps, crabs and bottom-dwelling fish wait to be discovered. During your treasure hunt, you may encounter flamboyant cuttlefish, ornate ghost pipefish, Donald Duck shrimps, tiger shrimps and starry octopuses.

Rhino City

So named for the number and variety of Rhinopias found here, Rhino City lies southwest of Twilight Zone and is an extension of the same sandy slope. Across the site, carpet, bulb-tip and long tentacle anemones play host to Clarke's anemonefish and a variety of commensal shrimps, porcelain crabs and hairy crabs. Ribbon eels and jawfish can be spotted in their sandy burrows, while short-snout and ornate ghost pipefish hide amidst the seagrass.

SS Duke of Sparta

The SS Duke of Sparta was a huge cargo ship built in West Hartlepool, England in 1940. In 1951 she was sold to the Italian Grimaldi Brothers and renamed SS Aquilo. In May 1958, while anchored near Ambon City, she was bombed by an unmarked Douglas B-26 Invader aircraft during a clandestine CIA operation conducted as part of the US initiative to quash perceived communist threats in Indonesia. The Aquilo eventually sank one month later, coming to rest almost completely intact on the seabed with her stern approximately 13 metres below the surface and her bow at 35-40 metres. She remains in great condition with her deck and masts covered with colourful soft corals and sponges. Across and around the whole wreck there is plenty of fish life, and her cargo holds offer some easy penetration possibilities.

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.