

The Spice Islands, Indonesia

Itinerary - 13 Nights

- **Embarkation: Laha Harbour, Ambon. Time is flight dependant**
- **Disembarkation: Kalabahi Harbour, Alor at 10:00am**
- **Arrival Airport: Pattimura International Airport Ambon (AMQ)**
- **Departure Airport: Alor Island Airport (ARD)**

For your convenience, a free transfer will be provided between the airport and Indo Siren on the day of embarkation and disembarkation.

Upon arrival in Ambon, a Siren Fleet representative welcomes you at the airport and arranges your onward transfer. The transfer to Indo Siren takes approximately 10 minutes.

Disembarkation is at 10.00 in the morning at Kalabahi Harbour. The transfer to Alor airport takes approximately 40 minutes.

Marine & Port Fees:

- 200 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.

Number of scheduled dives:

- Up to 42

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 port 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 13: For your last full day on board, we are able to schedule 2 dives* before Indo Siren cruises back to port, where she 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:

Ambon Island

Situated 7 miles off the southwestern coast of the island of Ceram, in the heart of the Moluccas, are the famous dive sites of Ambon, which will be our final stop. It offers 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 polyps red sea fans are dotted along the bottom, whilst shoals of fusiliers, bannerfish, and surgeonfish feed along the steep walls covered with huge barrel sponges.

Twilight Zone

At night or during the day, we will explore this renowned muck diving spot in the harbour of Laha. Amongst detritus, countless species of nudibranchs, shrimps, crabs, and dwelling fish are waiting to be discovered. During your treasure hunt, you may come across flamboyant cuttlefish, ornate ghost pipefish, donald duck shrimps, tiger shrimps, starry octopus, and even rhinopias.

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.

Pulau Manuk

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

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 spend three dives exploring these rich reefs before moving northwards to Manuk.

Nyata and Terbang Islands

Further to the east of Wetar 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 corals reef top gardens and plenty of bumphead parrotfish and schooling reef fish.

Wetar and Reong Islands

We will make 3 dives here and spend the day exploring a variety of sites that the islands offer. The walls are covered with huge sponges and soft corals. Drop offs and colourful reefs with healthy marine life including sightings of eagle rays and turtles. However, currents can be fairly robust, particularly in the channel between Reong & Wetar, therefore divers are advised to carry reef hooks and stay within close range of their buddy and/or the dive guide.

Pantar Strait

The Pantar Strait is known for both critter diving and stunning reef walls where larger pelagic species can be spotted. Some stronger currents are to be expected but the currents bring the nutrients which feed the reef and the inhabitants of the strait. There are a variety of dive sites here and we chose the optimum sites based on the conditions of the day. The water temperature experienced is often colder than other regions due to the flow of water from the south, expect temperatures of 22°C / 72°F. After our third dive on trip day five we begin our long crossing to Wetar Island.

The French Man's Window

A wall dive site in front of Alor's 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

Pak Yan's Village

An excellent muck diving spot to find Pegasus sea moths, dragonets, scorpion fish, ghost pipefish and bargibanti seahorses too.

Clown Valley

Hundreds, if not thousands of anemones cover the shallow reef slope on the south side of Pulau Pura, all hosting the clark's anemone fish. 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.

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 who will be pleased to assist and advise you.