

Triton Bay and the Spice Islands, Indonesia

12 Nights Itinerary

- **Embarkation:** Kaimana Harbour, West Papua between 12:30 and 13:00
- **Disembarkation:** Jembatan Amerika Negeri Laha, Ambon at 10:00

Flights and transfers information

Domestic flights to and from embarkation/disembarkation locations are not included in the liveboard price.

- **Domestic Arrival airport:** Utarom Airport, Kaimana (KNG)*
- **Domestic Departure airport:** Pattimura International Airport, Ambon (AMQ)

***IMPORTANT:** There is only one flight to Kaimana per day, which departs from Sorong.

For your convenience, a free transfer will be provided from your hotel in Kaimana (or Kaimana Airport) to the harbour on embarkation day, and from Jembatan Amerika Negeri Laha to Ambon Airport or hotels in the Laha area on the day of disembarkation.

Transfer from Kaimana Airport to the embarkation point, and from the disembarkation point to Ambon Airport takes approximately 30 minutes.

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.

International Arrival & Departure

There are no direct domestic flights from Jakarta or Bali to Kaimana or from Ambon to Bali. We recommend booking your international flights into and out of Jakarta International Airport (CGK) for the easiest domestic connections to Kaimana and from Ambon. We strongly advise you to spend at least one day in Jakarta 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. (See [domestic flight information](#) below).

Our reservations team can help to arrange hotel accommodations, airport transfers and domestic flight connections between your international arrival and departure and the liveboard embarkation and disembarkation points.

Domestic Flights

IMPORTANT: As domestic flight schedule changes, delays and cancellations which can result in missed connections are common occurrences in Indonesia, we strongly recommend taking this into consideration when booking domestic flights for embarkation in Kaimana to avoid missing your liveboard departure.

We are unable to delay the liveboard departure for individual late arrivals as this disrupts other guests and impacts the itinerary schedule and diving possibilities.

To Kaimana (KNG): There are no direct flights to Kaimana either from Jakarta or Bali.

From Jakarta to Kaimana involves a connection in Sorong and *there is only one flight per day between Sorong and Kaimana*. From Bali to Kaimana requires at least two flight changes (either Makassar and Sorong or Jakarta and Sorong).

We strongly advise making arrangements to arrive in either Sorong or Kaimana the day before embarkation and booking a hotel for the night. This not only ensures that you make your flight connection(s) and are well-rested before the start of your liveboard itinerary but will also allow time to make alternative flight arrangements should there be any changes to the ones you have booked.

Guests arriving after the boat has departed may be charged for the cost of arranging a speedboat transfer from the harbour to the liveboard, or for the extra fuel required for Indo Master to return to port to pick them up.

From Ambon (AMQ)

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

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.

Some of the diving on this itinerary is *not suitable for inexperienced divers* due to depths, strong currents and reduced visibility in some locations.

Minimum dive certification and experience:

Divers joining a Triton Bay & 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 recommended minimum requirements, or who the crew feel have insufficient experience in certain conditions, may be denied participation in some or all dives during the liveaboard.

The use of a dive computer is compulsory on 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 incident, transfer from Indo Master to a hospital or recompression chamber is likely to require a private speedboat, emergency air evacuation or both. Recompression chambers are located in Manado (North Sulawesi), Labuan Bajo (Komodo), 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

The majority of the diving on this itinerary is in the Banda Sea with water temperatures consistently between 27°- 29°C (80° to 84°F) across the area.

For most divers, a 3mm wetsuit will suffice while some are comfortable diving in 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.masterliveboards.com/terms-conditions.

Marine Park & Port Fees: 220 USD* per person (payable onboard only).

***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 36

This itinerary involves some long-distance travel and, while we endeavour to fulfil the number of scheduled dives, this is indicative only, and not guaranteed. Bad weather, sea conditions and other factors can hinder the vessel's ability to reach or remain at specific locations and may impact the number of dives possible.

Included land visits

Due to the distances covered on the Triton Bay & Spice Islands itinerary, land visit(s) will generally only be offered when the vessel is in the Banda Islands. Here you will have the opportunity to visit the nutmeg plantations 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.

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, boat and safety briefings after which you can assemble your equipment with help from the friendly crew, settle into your cabin and relax before dinner.

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

Days 3-11: Your Cruise Manager will plan 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 12: 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 13: Breakfast on board followed by disembarkation and transfer to the airport between 08:00 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 best diving possible, several factors determine the exact route the vessel takes and the dive sites visited. *Weather, tides, currents and sea conditions are just some of the considerations that influence the Cruise Manager's decision of which sites are chosen to dive.* Following is a sample of dive sites 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 alternative locations, should we be unable to visit any of the sites listed below, for any reason.

Bitsyara Bay

Not far from Kaimana, this large shallow bay contains many Bagans (local fishing platforms). Whale sharks are often spotted around the area, as they are drawn by the smell of dead fish from the fishing boats.

South Aiduma & Dramai Islands

The strait between Aiduma and Papua is the heart of Triton Bay, where the nutrient-rich current feeds some of Indonesia's most diverse colourful soft coral reefs. Because of this, we usually experience lower visibility than other areas, but it is worth it.

We will usually spend a full day diving around this area, although the sites may vary on each trip as many are dependent on sea conditions.

7th Heaven

Undoubtedly a well-earned name, the walls are covered with pastel-coloured and purple soft corals. When there is a current, the corals are pumped with water creating a fantastic purple carpet over the rocks. You can also expect to see large schools of snapper, barracuda, and fusiliers cruising around.

Batu Jeruk

The name of this site means 'orange rock' in Indonesian, which is not overstated. The dive is over a shallow rocky plateau and slope carpeted with orange-coloured 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 black corals, a resting spot for Sweetlips, snappers, and glassfish. The white sand in between hosts 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 eagle-eyed 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 cruise eagerly. Boulder clusters, adorned with hanging soft corals create a playground for wobbegong sharks, giant morays and honeycomb morays.

Saruenus Island

Also located in the channel between Aiduma Island and Papua, this small island locally nicknamed 'Pintu Arus' or 'Pulau Arus', meaning current island, is best known for two specific dive sites: Little Komodo and Aquarium (also known as Larry's Heaven).

The area boasts a varied topography, including walls, rocky and sandy slopes, plateaus and boulders with a huge diversity and density of soft corals of all colours and forms.

Little Komodo boasts shallow boulders blanketed in massive colourful soft corals, a true photographer's paradise. When the current hits the boulders, huge colonies of orange-cup corals extend their polyps to feed on the nutrients carried within the water. On the walls, a large black coral forest with large gorgonian fans meets the sandy bottom at 25 metres. On top of this fantastic array of colours and shapes, wobbegongs, spiny lobsters and pipefishes hide beneath large table corals.

Aquarium is a small dive site adjacent to Little Komodo. Similarly adorned with large black and soft coral bushes, the volume of fish and usually good visibility make diving here akin to being inside an aquarium. Bumphead parrotfish and schools of Yellowfin barracuda, anchovies, fusiliers, surgeonfish, rabbitfish and more create a smorgasbord of photogenic delights.

Sanggala Bay

Situated at the southern end of West Papua's Fakfak Regency, Sanggala offers both great diving and breathtaking landscapes. Cool water from the Papuan mountains flows through dense primary jungle to end up in 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.

There are two special dive sites to explore here:

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, down to 40 metres. Masses of anthias and damselfish 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 have formed a huge "Mikado" structure on the grey sand. This is a good place to look for twinspace gobies and upside-down jellyfish between the trunks. The seamount slopes are covered by hard corals where bumphead parrotfish and crocodile fish are some of the usual suspects.

Koon Island

The area around Koon Island, which lies in between the Ceram and Banda Seas, is projected to be the biggest coral fish breeding spot in eastern Indonesia. Its position between a shallow sea and a deep sea attracts a variety of pelagic such as pompanos, Spanish mackerel, dogtooth tuna, and rainbow runners. The reef boasts great topographical diversity with white sandy bottoms, walls, steep slopes and a long plateau. We will have a full day of diving in this area, with three dives in this huge site.

The Spice (Banda) 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. Clove, nutmeg, mace and cinnamon are still the main spices grown on the islands.

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

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

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 but 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.

Ai Island

West of Banda Neira and Gungung Api, **Pulau Ai** is an isolated, low-lying island featuring steep limestone walls, surrounded by deep water. Currents can be strong but these attract large pelagic species; Large numbers of barracuda, trevally and tuna all school here.

On the south side of Ai Island **Batu Udang**, also known as Shrimp Rock, the reef slopes gently to 13 metres then becomes a very steep decline to a depth of around 55 metres. Red-toothed and black triggerfish swarm across the entire reef while Hawksbill Turtles rest on the ledges and feed on sponges. Longfin Batfish, Black and White Snapper and Napoleon Wrasse are just some of the larger fish that reside here; The deeper sections feature brown, yellow and green soft corals and large lobe corals and are where you will find white-tip reef sharks, eagle rays and Blue-tail unicornfish.

Along the north-western shore, **Batu Payung**, which translates as Umbrella Rock, features a steep wall with lots of cracks and overhangs down to around 60 metres; The shallow parts of the reef are covered in barrel and vase sponges, gorgonians and a variety of corals which are teeming with a vast array of colourful fish.

Run Island

Due west of Banda Besar, **Pulau Run** offers exceptional dives on unspoilt reefs awash with fish life and deep walls decorated with huge Gorgonian sea fans. Measuring just 3 km in length, and less than 1 km wide, Run Island is one of the smallest of the Banda Islands and has an interesting history including being the first British overseas colony.

Like Pulau Ai, currents around the island can be strong; A gently sloping reef transitions into a dramatic wall which features several overhangs. Covered in beautiful corals and awash with colourful reef fish, schools of snapper, fusiliers, sweetlips, blue-spotted stingrays, and eagle rays are just a few examples of marine life that can be seen when diving here.

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. Sites we might dive at around Ambon include

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.