

# Triton Bay and the Spice Islands, Indonesia

## 12 Nights Itinerary

- **Embarkation:** Kaimana Harbour, West Papua (time is dependent on flight schedule)\*
- **Disembarkation:** Jembatan Amerika Negeri Laha, Ambon at 10:00

***\*We strongly recommend making arrangements to arrive in Kaimana the day before embarkation and arranging a hotel for the night.***

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.

**IMPORTANT:** There is only one flight per day to Kaimana, which departs from Sorong and arrives at different times on alternating days.

*Delays, schedule changes and cancellations are common occurrences on domestic routes in Indonesia, which can result in missed connections. In such events, 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 Siren to return to port.*

Transfer from Kaimana Airport to Kaimana Harbour takes approximately 30 minutes, and from the disembarkation point in Laha to Ambon Airport is approximately 10 minutes.

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

**PLEASE NOTE:** *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 prior to disembarkation.

### Minimum dive certification and experience:

Divers are required 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 is required).*

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

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

**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 and sea conditions can hinder the yacht's ability to reach a specific area or dive site in good time.

### Included land visits

Due to the distances covered on the Triton Bay & Spice Islands 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 which you can settle into your cabin and assemble your equipment with help from the friendly crew and relax before dinner is served.

**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 Indo Siren cruises back to port, where she will remain at anchor overnight.

**Day 13:** Following breakfast on board, disembarkation and transfer to the airport 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.

Following is a sample of dive sites which we may visit during your time aboard Indo Siren. While we wish to show you the very best diving possible, a number of factors determine the exact route the yacht takes and which dive sites we are able to visit. ***Weather, tides, currents and sea conditions all play a part in the Cruise Manager's decision of where the Indo Siren is heading to 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 guests' wishes where possible and if the overall schedule allows for it.

***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:

## Saruenus Island

In the channel between Aiduma & 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 Larry's Heaven (also known as The Aquarium). The area boasts a diverse topography, including walls, rocky and sandy slopes, plateaus and boulders. You can spot a huge diversity and density of soft corals of all colours and forms.

We will be diving in **Little Komodo**, known as the penultimate dive site of Triton Bay, which boasts shallow boulders that are covered in colourful large soft corals, a true photographer's paradise. Deeper on 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 nutrient carried by the current. On top of this fantastic array of colours and shapes, wobbegongs, spiny lobsters and pipefishes hide beneath large table corals.

## Mauwera and 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.

## Bitsyara Bay

Not far from Kaimana, this large shallow bay contains many Bagans (local fishing platforms). Whale sharks are often seen around the area, as they are drawn by the smell of fish from the local 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 the most diverse colourful soft coral reefs in all of Indonesia. Because of this, we usually experience a lower visibility, but it is worth it. The sandy bays also offer great muck dive. We will spend a whole day diving in these waters, in 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 grouper often rest.

## Tim's Rock

You can 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 colourful soft corals and whip corals. There are even a few yellow gorgonians, where the observant eye can 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. Usual suspects include large schools of red snapper, surgeonfish, and fusiliers, creating a real fish soup, in which giant trevallies tour eagerly. Boulder clusters are adorned with hanging soft corals, creating a playground for Wobbegong sharks, Giant and Honeycomb Moray eel.

## 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 trees.

There are two special dive sites we will explore:

## Mike's Mount

Hundreds of metres long, this seamount attracts large pelagics, such as oceanic manta rays, grey reef sharks and big dogtooth tunas. 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 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 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 twin spot gobies and upside-down jellyfish between the trunks. The seamounts slopes are covered by hard corals where bumphead parrotfish & crocodile fish are often spotted.

## 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 a great diversity of topographies 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, built by the Dutch in 1611 and located in the historical town of Banda Neira, enjoy the view of Gunung Api, a 640-metre-high active volcano. Clove, nutmeg, mace and cinnamon are still the main spices that are grown on the islands. There are various dive sites that we may visit, including:

### 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 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 but, here, it's the opposite. Once they have finished their mating business, a wide array of critters awaits to be discovered on the black sand, including colourful nudibranchs, octopus, cockatoo waspfish and frogfish.

### **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.