

**DAY****ITINERARY WITH MV MERMAID I BIODIVERSITY SPECIAL RING OF FIRE – AMBON – BANDA SEA – ALOR- MAUMERE****DIVES****DAY 1**

Check-in on board Mermaid I. After arriving at Ambon and a safety briefing. You will do two dives at Ambon Bay in some fabulous muck dives with critters galore. This area is known for many rare and unusual species including the psychedelic frogfish and Rhinopias.

dives

**2****DAY 2-3**

The next two days will be spent in the Banda Islands, formerly known as the Spice Islands. Many of the dive sites around the Banda islands are wall dives. The walls are covered in massive gorgonians, soft corals, barrel sponges and have some very interesting swim throughs. But there are other attractive dive sites such as pinnacles with enormous groups of schooling pyramid butterflyfish, triggerfish and pelagic fishes such as tunas passing through, spectacular hard coral reefs next to the volcano, and great muck dives with lots of mandarin fish at the local jetty.

The Banda Islands are much more than diving. It is also a cultural and historical experience. You will spend one morning walking around the village of Banda Neira the main island, with a local guide, visiting the local museum, the old Dutch fort, the old colonial governor's house, the local fish market and a nutmeg plantation, where you will have breakfast.

dives

**7****DAY 4**

Manuk – Snake Volcano – sometimes has more snakes than Gunung Api. Still no need to be afraid! The site also offers a black sand reef dive with loads of fish and pretty hard corals. If sharks were present at all at Nila, there is a chance to stay there today instead – doing three dives then travelling through to Nila.

dives

**3****DAY 5**

Surrounding the island of Nila there are two atolls, Dusborgh and Nil Desperandum. It's at these two atolls that there is a good chance of seeing hammerhead sharks. Even without the hammerheads, the reefs are fabulous, with healthy walls and 50+ metre visibility. Cruise overnight to Damar.

dives

**4****DAY 6**

Today you will dive several small islands – Neus Leur, Terbang Seletan, Terbang Utara and Damar. The island of Damar and its three surrounding small islands have spectacular diving. Like many dives in the Banda Sea, there is crystal clear water and beautiful walls covered in massive sponges and beautiful soft corals. Cruise a few hours to Gunung Api.

dives

**4**

**DAY 7** Gunung Api – during October and November you have the chance to see the schooling hammerheads this area is becoming famous for. Gunung Api is already a rare and unusual dive site consisting mainly of sea snakes – mostly Chinese green snakes with a few banded sea snakes as well. No need to be scared but be prepared to have some awesome dives!!! Overnight to Wetar. dives **4**

**DAY 8** In Wetar you will do four dives at the small island of Reong and at Cape Nunukae. Pulau Reong is a small island on the northwest coast of Wetar and separated by a small channel only 700 metres wide. More walls, like many of the dive sites in the Banda Sea, covered in small soft corals but of a great variety of colours, with zillions of triggerfish of every species. Cape Nunukae, about 6 nautical miles southwest of Pulau Reong, is a large ridge with slopes on both sides, covered with a hard coral reef on the shallow area of the ridge, with soft corals on the slopes in the deeper areas. There can be strong currents at the end of the ridge, where large aggregations of schooling fish can be found. Cruise overnight to Alor. dives **4**

**DAY 9** Alor is a favourite dive spot for divers coming to dive Indonesia year after year due to its variety of dive sites. Healthy reefs, pinnacles, walls, great muck dives, cold water, warm water, strong currents and protected areas. Alor has it all. Cruise overnight to Bacatan. dives **4**

**DAY 10** Dive Cape Bacatan and the bay of Lewaling at the island of Kawula. Three dives along walls and ledges covered in sea fans and soft corals – chance for pygmy seahorse and critters here as well. Cape Bacatan is a good place to spot whitetips, blacktips and occasionally, grey reef sharks. Also a popular spot for eagle rays and Napoleon wrasse with loads of schooling fish. A great muck night dive will be done in front of a traditional fishing village. Cruise overnight to Maumere. dives **4**

**DAY 11** You will do two dives today. One dive at the fabulous critter sanctuary provided by the pier and another super reef dive just a few hours from Maumere. dives **2**

**DAY 12** Disembark after breakfast. Mermaid I staff will transfer you to the airport. dives **-**  
**This is a sample itinerary and is subject to changes beyond the operator's control. The exact itinerary for your cruise may be adapted to best suit the weather conditions, tides and currents, season and other prevailing events.**

TOTAL DIVES : 38