

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

Check-in on board Mermaid I. Guests are required to arrive the day prior. 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. Cruise overnight to Kawula, 100 nautical miles.

dives

2**DAY 2**

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.

dives

4

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 Alor, 70 nautical miles.

DAY 3

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 Wetar, 95 nautical miles.

dives

4**DAY 4**

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 Gunung Api, 75 nautical miles.

dives

4**DAY 5**

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 Damar, 110 nautical miles.

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 Nila, 54 nautical miles. **dives 4**

DAY 7 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 Gili Manuk, 70 nautical miles. **dives 4**

DAY 8 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 the Banda Islands. **dives 3**

DAY 9-10 Banda Islands today! Walls, swim throughs, sponges and sea fans – good diving and great for wide angle. Several sites have swim throughs large enough for several people to go through at the same time and is especially nice for wide angle shots, as it is covered in soft corals. **dives 7**

Sites in the Bandas drop down thousands of metres, offering spectacular walls and stunning reef tops, with visibility usually in the 40-50 metre range.

The night dive is at the pier in front of an hotel! Black sand and volcanic rock with an unusual amount of large and not shy mandarin fish – also great for critters and one for the nudibranch fans.

For the second day here, in addition to three dives, you will go on land for an excursion on the island of Banda Neira visiting the local museum, Dutch fort, nutmeg plantation, local market and small but very old Chinese temple. You will even get to have breakfast at the nutmeg plantation! Cruise overnight to Nusa Laut, 75 nautical miles or Ambon, 110 nautical miles.

DAY 11 Today you will either do two dives at Nusa Laut – healthy reefs, chance for dugong...or onto Ambon for some fabulous muck dives with critters galore. This area is known for many rare and unusual species including the psychedelic frogfish and Ambon scorpion fish. **dives 2**

DAY 12

Disembark at 8 am. 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.

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TOTAL DIVES : 38