



ULTIMATE YACHTS

# AMBON TO MAUMERE

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*13-night itinerary*





THE ULTIMATE INDONESIAN YACHTS TEAM IS PASSIONATE ABOUT EXPLORING SOUTH EAST ASIA'S MOST COMPELLING COASTLINES. WE BELIEVE THAT CHARTERING A PRIVATE YACHT IS THE PERFECT WAY TO EXPERIENCE THE SECRETS OF OUR BLUE PLANET.

Our handpicked collection of luxury and expedition charter yachts offers an unrivalled means of experiencing both land & sea from the comfort of boutique accommodation on the waves. Our yachts combine tradition, elegance and modern conveniences, and each one comes with a skilled crew including an expert captain, a cruise host and a private chef.

We know our niche inside out and we take pride in our longstanding relationships with clients, yacht owners and agents alike. We will take the time to truly know everything about each yacht, from the cruise director's strengths to the cuisine and service onboard.



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### DAY 1: AMBON

Upon arrival at Ambon airport, you will be collected by your private yacht's crew and driven to the harbour, where you will board your vessel. Once onboard, let your voyage to relaxation begin. Following a general briefing by the cruise director to familiarise you with the vessel and its safety procedures, the yacht will cast off and cruise towards Nusa Laut Island. Say goodbye to land as you enjoy cocktails in the breeze on the upper deck. Nusa Laut is the smallest inhabited island in the Lease Islands, known for beautiful reefs with rich fish life lying just on the doorstep of a small village. Turtles, sharks, schooling trevallies and all types of reef fish make this a great dive - or snorkel - spot. On the surface, dolphins and pilot whales can often be observed. The yacht will make the long crossing overnight to the Banda Islands.

### DAY 2: BANDA NEIRA

Our arrival in the renowned Banda Archipelago generates a true sense of historical excitement. These islands, which were once the world's only source of nutmeg and mace, are among the highlights of Indonesia; famous for their beauty and cultural heritage from the time of the Dutch and English colonisation. In the 15th and 16th centuries, the demand for the aromatic nutmeg, which was believed to be a cure for the bubonic plague, spurred exploration and shaped colonial empires with European traders. The natural splendour of these islands contradicts the brutality that engulfed them during the 17th century when the Dutch sought a total monopoly on the nutmeg trade and the local people resisted. Despite their illustrious and well-documented history, the Banda Islands are a place that time seems to have forgotten. Today they retain an aura of mystery, allure and astonishing remoteness, with a quiet colonial ambience and an exceptional biodiversity that makes this destination truly special. We will anchor in a sheltered bay off Gunung Api and then go by tender to visit Banda Neira, the major village in the Bandas, and stroll through the old town visiting fortresses and admiring plantation mansions.





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### DAY 3 5: BANDA ISLANDS

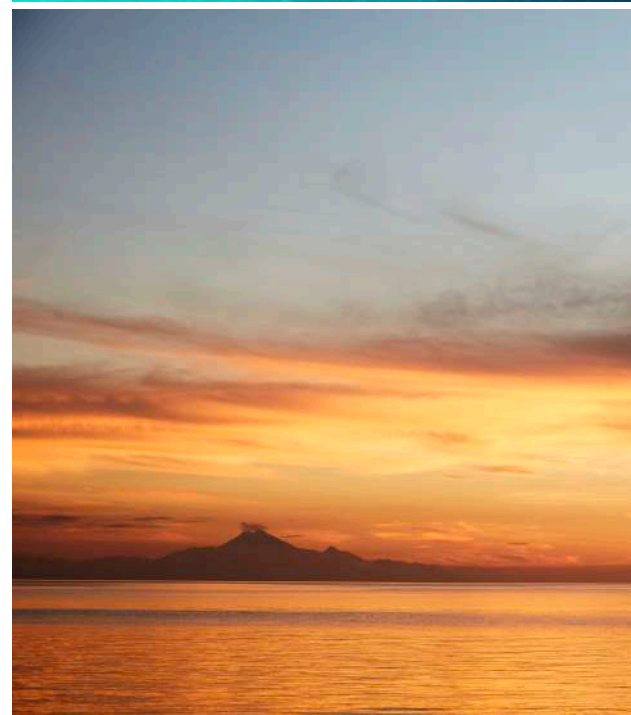
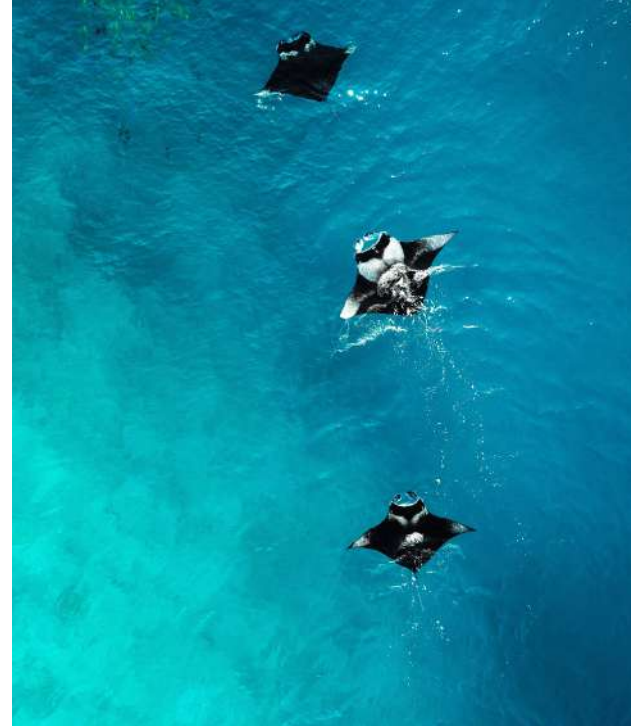
These days will be filled with visits to a few of the other islands in the group, perhaps the very small island of Run – which the English traded with the Dutch for Manhattan – as well as the islands of Ai and Hatta, where we will see what remains of the Dutch colonial houses and land parcels known as ‘perken’ that were handed to Dutch planters – ‘perkeniers’ – to manage. We will see more forts, as well as churches, cemeteries and nutmeg plantations. Here, the evergreen nutmeg trees – identifiable by the hundreds of ripening yellow fruits that hang from their branches – grow randomly in the shade of the magnificent kenari trees, which themselves yield an almond-like nut locally used in confectionary and sauces. In these rocky backwaters, we will feel on a par with the pioneering adventurers; nutmeg and mace can be seen drying in the sun outside nearly every village home. Being in the middle of the Coral Triangle we will also have several opportunities to explore the pristine waters and bountiful reefs of the islands. We invite the fit and ambitious to make an early morning ascent of Banda’s Gunung Api volcano. This is perhaps the most famous of the Banda Sea ‘Ring of Fire’ volcanos. First recorded in the 14th century, it last erupted in 1988. While this is a challenging climb up a narrow track to an elevation of about 640 metres, the reward when reaching the top of the ‘Fire Mountain’ is well worth the effort and you can revel in a stunning and unforgettable view.

### DAY 6: LUCIPARA

The Lucipara Archipelago consists of a group of four wooded islands, which are uninhabited, but occasionally visited by fishermen from Buru and Ambon. These volcanic outcroppings in the northeastern part of the Banda Sea are populated by terns and spoonbills and several other bird species including the orange-footed scrub fowl, the Nicobar pigeon and the pink-headed imperial pigeon, as well as salamanders, crabs and butterflies.

### DAY 7: NIL DESPERANDUM

Nil Desperandum means “don’t despair”, possibly referring to a ship wrecked here centuries ago. It is a big atoll with very deep drop-offs. Schooling sharks have been spotted in the deep here with a chance to see hammerhead, silky and grey reef sharks.







### DAY 8: ROMANG & TERBANG

Romang and Terbang Islands offer unspoiled reefs for a great underwater experience. At Romang, rainbow-coloured soft corals and a myriad of hard corals dominate the landscape, while sandy slopes feature soft corals and plenty of tiny creatures such as ghost pipe fish. Bumphead parrotfish may also be seen here.

### DAY 9: WETAR

Wake up and set foot on the island of Wetar. From here, we will make our way to the tiny islet of Reong and trek to the mainland. In the afternoon, you may visit a traditional village sparsely populated with hunter-gatherers. Afterwards, return to the yacht and enjoy the beautiful landscape as we sail to the north coast of the island. There are a variety of diving opportunities here, and the offshore islet of Reong features impressive wall dives. Further down the coast, there is the chance to come across majestic manta and mobular rays feeding and cleaning in the current. Reong Wall features impressive coral and a chance to spot sharks, barracuda and schooling fish.



### DAY 10 & 11: ALOR

For the next two days, the yacht will sail around the island of Alor. Here, you can enjoy an early dive and visit the local village on Pura, and enjoy a relaxing afternoon in the eastern reaches of the majestic Alor archipelago. The straits of Alor are rated by all divers to be amongst the best dive destinations in the world. All the dive sites in the area have an outstanding underwater biodiversity. There are a great number of different coral species with strong currents that attract big fish like white tips, huge grey reef sharks, tuna, grouper, sunfish, manta rays, and whale sharks to be seen if you are lucky. Also, snorkelling with pilot whales that are found in the waters between Pantar and Alor is possible. Visibility is excellent and temperature can drop to 22°C.



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### DAY 12: KAWULA

The yacht will continue to sail west towards Kawula Island, where you can do a morning dive on a stunning wall in Waienga Bay, home to schooling fish, turtles and eagle rays, in the shadow of Ile Ape volcano. You can then head ashore to Ionata village, where you can see 30m blue whale skeletal remains, which remains a sacred icon to the villagers. From this village, you will be driven to Kampung Lama at the base of le Ape volcano, where you can see the remains of old artefacts and houses.

### DAY 13: SERBETE

This morning you can take the opportunity to do some final dives or snorkel at Serbete East Wall and Serbete West Wall. These two sites offer spectacular drop offs covered in gorgonian sea fans and fish life. This afternoon, the yacht will continue to Tanjung Gedong towards Flores. In this picturesque bay you can relax onboard or do some snorkelling, before the overnight passage to Maumere.

### DAY 14: MAUMERE

Today you will arrive at Maumere harbour, where your adventure will come to an end. After breakfast onboard you will wave farewell to your crew and be transferred to the airport to catch your flight.





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## INDONESIA DESTINATIONS

- |   |                         |   |                      |
|---|-------------------------|---|----------------------|
| 1 | KOMODO<br>NATIONAL PARK | 4 | THE SPICE<br>ISLANDS |
| 2 | RAJA AMPAT              | 5 | WEST PAPUA           |
| 3 | ALOR<br>ARCHIPELAGO     | 6 | NORTH MALUKU         |





## OUR TEAM

*Eddie Widnall, Founder, Charter Manager and Indonesia Expert*

*Annie Biziou, Partner, Marketing Manager and Travel Specialist*

*Kim Guenier, Sales, Marketing and Indonesia Operations*

*Yoann Martin, Sales and Burma Operations*

*Alexander Gadaev, Moscow-based Travel Specialist*

*Emma Lowther, Guest Services*

*Rosie Redman, Guest Services*

*Rachel Horler, Accounting*

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