



MAHODAYA

9 Night Historic Banda Neira Expedition (Kaimana – Ambon)

Day One

After being greeted by the team at the airport, travel to the harbor and embark **MAHODAYA**. Anchoring close to the small frontier town of Kaimana, we'll visit the bagans – *large traditional fishing vessels where whale sharks often congregate*. The local fishermen believe it brings good luck to feed whale sharks, and this unique relationship has grown and developed over the generations. Snorkel with these huge and majestic animals as they congregate around these unique vessels before returning on board.

In the afternoon visit the nearby island of Namatota and take a dinghy ride to shore to view ancient rock art by native aboriginals on the cliffs here. Once back onboard anchorage in Triton Bay is within an hour's sail.

Day Two

Triton Bay is slowly becoming more famous as a mind-blowing hot spot of endemic and macro species that many divers only dream about. From bobtail squid to many different species of pygmy seahorse, to the endemic and unique Triton Bay Walking Shark, countless species of nudibranch, undescribed species of squid and cuttlefish, schooling fish and jacks, trevallies, tunas and turtles. The potential here is almost unrivalled. Dive here just before sunset to catch a glimpse of the Triton Bay Walking Shark.

Make a morning dive on Macro Rock or White Rock. Enjoy a relaxing afternoon on one of the many pristine beaches and enjoy a beach set up in remotest Papua. See and hear the abundant bird life or snorkel direct from the beach. Enjoy a celebratory dinner on board before we lift anchor and move the short distance north back to Kaimana.

Day Three

Dive Christmas Rock, Three Rocks, and more if you've still got the energy! Walkers Rock for a night dive is a special site, with all manner of wonderful macro species as well as wobbegong sharks and more, then visit Little Komodo and Aiduma Wall.



Day Four

Awaking in Karas, a group of two small islands just off the Papuan mainland. Still exceptionally remote, there are two small villages on the island here. Beaches are available but better to depart for a snorkel or dive in the area before continuing south through lunch. In the afternoon visit the Kiti Kiti waterfall – a unique waterfall that falls directly in to the sea. You can swim or snorkel at the foot of the waterfall, take some memorable pictures, and even walk behind the waterfall to enjoy the view out to sea. From here the journey continues south and eastwards to Kaimana.

Day Five

The remote Pisang islands are the next point of call, **MAHODAYA** will arrive and anchor here before sunrise. A group of small islands grouped around one larger island; this location is rarely visited due to its remoteness. On a clear day the Papuan mainland is just visible to the south east. Housing breathtaking beaches and a strange geological effect on the main island making it look like an abandoned city - the horizontal layered rocks split perfectly to look like bricks all along the coast. Take a dinghy tour to explore further, look out for diverse coverings of orchids all around while also making sure to take full advantage to dive these pristine surrounding reefs. Either spend an extra day here to explore further, or depart south in the evening.

Day Six

Awake next to the sprawling sandbanks of Pulau Koon that continue almost as far as the eye can see at low tide. This Maldivian landscape truly is spectacular, as is the range and diversity of the fish & coral life in the gateway between the Banda and Arafura Sea, the strong currents meaning food is never far away! Snorkel or dive here, or visit the beach if the tide is high. In the late afternoon, depart westwards once more. Enjoy the sunset off the stern, while keeping your eyes peeled for passing whales.

Day Seven

Awake next to Banda Besar where you can snorkel, dive or enjoy a beach set up on the north point. In the afternoon take the dinghy to the west of Banda Besar and enjoy a guided walk up to view the crumbling Fort Hollandia to enjoy stunning views of Banda Api, Banda Naira and the kaleidoscopic colors of the waters between. Walk later through the plantations on the largest of the Banda Islands, then after dinner on board depart eastwards through the night.

The adventurous minded are able to depart before sunrise to climb the 667m Banda Api, to enjoy the most spectacular panoramic views of all of the Banda Islands. Alternatively enjoy breakfast under the shadow of Banda Api before walking around this picturesque village. Visit all of the landmarks including the museum, the Governor's palace as well as the two forts. Snorkel around the north lava flow for some of the



most spectacular hard coral coverage you'll see. In the evening enjoy a regal BBQ on the rear porch of the Governor's palace, surrounded by the shadows and inescapable colonial history.

Day Eight

Awake next to the island of Run, the westernmost of the fabled Spice Islands. Enjoy a beach set up on the small sandy spit at Nailaka. Many diving opportunities exist here also, with chances to spot hammerhead sharks at a number of dive sites around this small rocky island.

A short journey away from Run lies the island of Ai. Enjoy a walk accompanied by a local guide to see the crumbling old Fort Revenge. See the colourful and tidy village while being greeted by the friendly locals. Take a walk in to the plantations to see how nutmeg, mace, cinnamon, cloves and more are cultivated and collected. More excellent diving & snorkeling opportunities surround this island. In the afternoon sail the short distance east to Banda Naira, following in the wake of the most famous explorers through history as you enter the perfect natural harbour beneath the shadow of the active Banda Api – or Banda volcano.

Day Nine

Cruise east towards Nusa Laut. This location offers both excellent snorkeling and diving, with a possibility of sighting an elusive dugong. Once complete, sail south in to the Banda Sea. Enjoy the sunset from the upper deck with cocktails & canapés while looking out for dolphins and whales.

Day Ten

Enjoy breakfast onboard in-between packing your suitcases. After a farewell from your crew in Ambon, we will escort you to the airport in advance of your departing flight.

**Itinerary can be changed based on sea conditions and discussions with the team when the guest onboard.*