

THE
LUXURY
Voyage

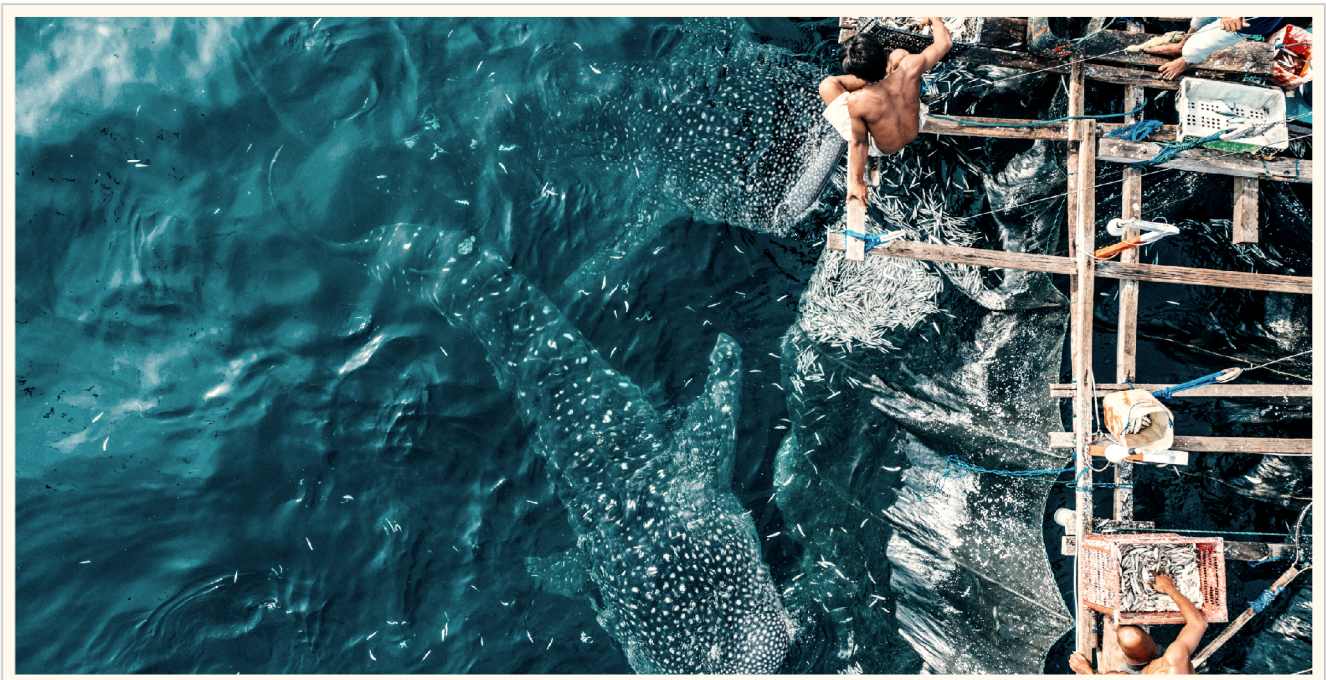
EASTERN INDONESIA · CRUISING GROUNDS

Kaimana to Ambon

Papua & the Spice Islands

12 DAYS & 11 NIGHTS · KAIMANA → AMBON

*Whale sharks and waterfalls in Papua, then west
across the Banda Sea into the islands that once
redrew the map of the world.*



Wallacea

THE BEST OF IT, IN ONE
PASSAGE

Three

ANCHORAGES INSIDE
TRITON BAY

Rhun

TRADED FOR MANHATTAN

THE REGION

Papua & the spiceries

The unique, endemic flora and fauna of Papua were key to Wallace's understanding of the evolution of species. This fascinating biodiversity that holds the secret to our existence can still be witnessed today. Experience spectacular diving among pristine coral, magnificent marine life and fascinating historical wrecks. Discover underwater caves, mountains, rainforest, beach-combing, mangroves, and picture-perfect bays.

The 'spiceries' were for centuries the most sought-after islands in the world, capturing the European imagination and inspiring Columbus to undertake his famous journey westward. Relive the voyages of adventurers throughout history and discover the best of Wallacea, a region that is a key contributor to the mega biodiversity of the Indonesian archipelago. A waypoint for migratory birds and marine life.

Snorkel in remote waters, see diverse species of birds and set anchor at the legendary Banda Islands. Travel back in time among nutmeg and cinnamon plantations and colonial architecture. One of the Banda Islands, Pulau Rhun, was 'exchanged' by the British in the seventeenth century for another island, a place known today as Manhattan.

Highlights at a glance

Triton Bay — zodiac raids through karst passages, salt-water lakes and river convoys.

Whale sharks at Namatote — met with the help of the fishermen working their bagans.

Kiti-Kiti falls — a waterfall tumbling down the Kumafa slopes onto white sand and into the sea.

Oceanic mantas — the outer reefs around Kiti-Kiti hold a cleaning station they return to.

Pulau Koon — on the border of Maluku and Papua, and a dive site called Too Many Fish.

Gunung Api — a pre-dawn climb above the Banda chain, or the lava flows below it.

When to go

SEASON	CONDITIONS
Sep – Apr	Prime cruising. Settled Banda Sea and reliable long crossings.
Dec – Mar	Richest, greenest water in Papua; the best window for whale sharks at the bagans.
Jun – Aug	Stronger south-easterlies; the open crossings become uncomfortable.

This route makes two long open-water passages — Kiti-Kiti to Koon, and Banda to Ambon — both usually overnight. Flights into Kaimana are limited, so allow a spare night at the start.

Diving & snorkelling notes

Triton Bay dives differently to Raja Ampat. The water is greener and visibility lower, because it is thick with the nutrients that put the fish there in the first place: soft coral gardens in extraordinary density, and a good chance of a whale shark on the safety stop. The outer reefs around Kiti-Kiti hold a manta cleaning station.

Banda Neira — European forts, colonial mansions, the Dutch church and the Chinese temple.

Laha Bay, Ambon — the ‘twilight zone’, one of the world’s great muck dives, to finish.

Getting there

Embark at Kaimana (KNG)
A small regional airport, usually routed via Sorong or Ambon.

Disembark at Ambon (AMQ)
Pattimura Airport, connecting through Jakarta or Makassar.

One-way route
Open-jaw flights are needed. Regional permits for Kaimana waters are arranged by the yacht.

The Banda half is the clear-water counterpoint, diving as walls and pinnacles: hammerheads off the northwest corner of Rhun, the Hatta reefs with turtles and pelagics, and Lava Flow below Gunung Api, where an eruption destroyed the reef and it regrew into a hard coral garden. Ambon harbour at the finish is the opposite discipline again — black sand and slow searching.

Kaimana to Ambon

Three days exploring Triton Bay, then the whale sharks at Namatote, a village waterfall and the falls at Kiti-Kiti, before crossing west by Pulau Koon into the Banda Islands and on to Ambon.



NUMBERED ANCHORAGES FOLLOW THE DAY-BY-DAY BELOW. COASTLINES FROM NATURAL EARTH.

DAY 1

Arrival, Kaimana

After arrival at Kaimana Airport and the transfer to the boat, we depart into the waters of the Kaimana Marine Protected Area. Settle in onboard as the ship makes its way towards Triton Bay, and enjoy the first sunset over the impressive peaks of the Papuan mainland.

DAYS 2-3

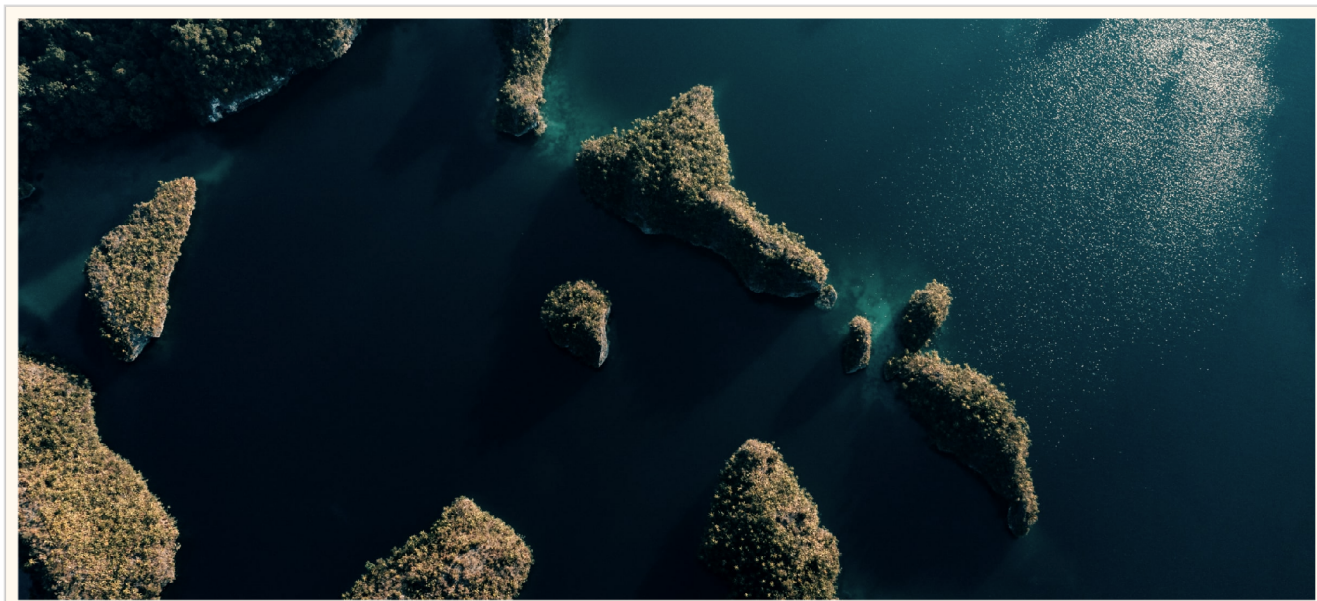
Exploring Triton

Between three anchorages, a world to discover: whether waterskiing, wakeboarding, paddle-boarding, canoeing, trekking through inland forest or diving just outside the bay. Zodiac raids through a maze of passages in karstic formation, stopping to swim on paradise beaches. Discover salt water lakes within forests, form a convoy with long boats to journey up the river, through the mangrove and rainforest, spying birds, crocodiles and villages along the way. In the early evenings, aperitifs on the beach.

DAY 4

Swimming with whale sharks

At Namatote, we meet the fishermen on their bagan and with their help find the whale sharks. Speed over a calm sea along the cliffs of Namatote, wander through the local village. Snorkel at the southern tip of Sagin before moving onward along the Kumafa coast, where we anchor for the night.



KAIMANA · TRITON BAY · NAMATOTE

DAY 5

Waterfall

Over the past years, we made friends with a remote village whose locals will welcome us and be excited to escort us inland to a spectacular, gushing waterfall. Enjoy an afternoon full of watersports, be it on our SUPs, kayaks, wakeboards or enjoy sunset drinks at our inflatable pool.

DAY 6

Chasing water

Awake to the refreshing sight of Kiti-Kiti waterfall tumbling down the Kumafa slopes to a white sand beach into the sea. The outer reefs around Kiti-Kiti are home to spectacular dive sites offering the chance to see oceanic manta rays as they return to their 'cleaning station'. Venture into the mangroves and nearby lagoons by tender and explore the Papuan rainforest. As the sun sets, we begin the crossing west.

DAY 7

Desert islands

Pulau Koon is located right on the ‘border’ of the Spice Islands and Papua and is home to a dive site — for good reason — called ‘Too Many Fish’, including plenty of pelagic. As the tide comes in, we can find our way on kayaks through the coral and enjoy the picture-perfect white sandy beaches, with its powder sand, turquoise waters, and palm trees. In the afternoon, we will also have the chance to visit a nearby island with very welcoming locals, excited to escort us to their inland lakes. For those who dare, it offers a chance to go rock jumping off the surrounding cliffs. As the sun sets, we cross overnight to the Banda Islands.



THE VILLAGE WATERFALL · KITI-KITI · PULAU KOON

DAY 8

A spice adventure

A midday sail to the Hatta Islands where amazing reefs, turtles and pelagic species await, followed by a morning trail through spice plantations and villages. Journey on towards Banda Neira as the light goes.

DAY 9

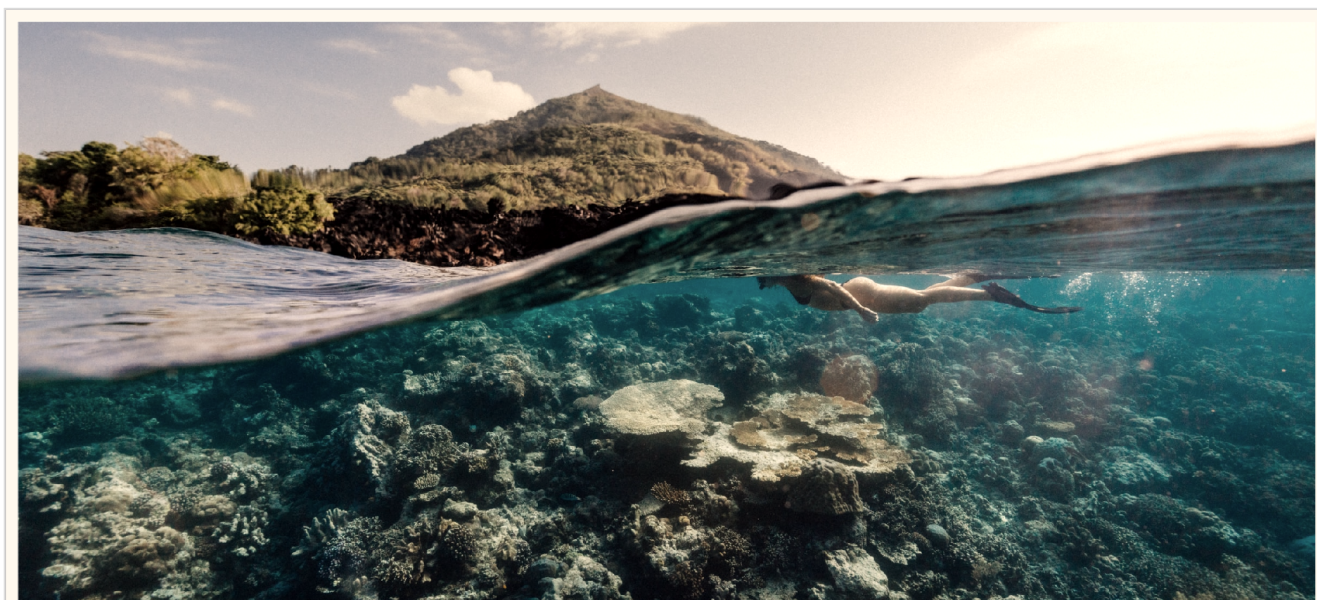
Under the volcano

Ascend the summit of Gunung Api in the cool early morning for spectacular views of the Banda chain, or descend to the underwater world where lava flows have created a unique coral environment. Walk through Banda Neira in the afternoon to discover centuries of international influences, from European-built forts to colonial mansions, the Dutch church and the Chinese temple.

DAY 10

Introduction to the Spice Islands

Wake up in Pulau Rhun, the island that was once famously traded for another island called 'New Amsterdam', today much better known as Manhattan. Snorkel and dive on the northwest corner of the island, enjoy the beautiful coral, and look out for hammerhead sharks. In the afternoon, when the tide is high enough, we find our way above the reef and explore the village. Our charismatic local guide Pak Purhan will introduce us to the treasures as well as the way of life of the Spice Islands and what once made these islands the most valuable part of the world: nutmeg and mace. Soak in the hilltop views and get acquainted with this stunning part of the Indonesian archipelago.



PULAU HATTA · BANDA NEIRA · PULAU RHUN

DAY 11

Into the Banda Sea

A final morning among the Banda Islands before we set course for Ambon. As we cross the Banda Sea, keep a lookout for migrating whales as well as schools of dolphins. On arrival there is time to dive Laha Bay, one of the world's most famous muck diving sites known as the 'twilight zone', with some of the rarest and most unique marine life anywhere in the world.

DAY 12

Ambon · disembarkation

After breakfast, pack and prepare to disembark from Ambon Airport.



THE BANDA SEA · AMBON

All itineraries are sample itineraries and can often be adjusted further to your preferences. Please note that sometimes itineraries have to be adjusted due to weather or other unforeseen reasons. Whale shark encounters depend on the fishermen and on the season, and can never be guaranteed.



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