

FLORES AND THE SPICE ISLANDS



THIS JOURNEY CRUISES THROUGH A WIDE RANGE OF GEOLOGICAL LANDSCAPES AND FORMATIONS OF INDONESIA. FROM VOLCANIC ISLANDS TO LIMESTONE PINNACLES DEVELOPED FROM ANCIENT CORAL REEF. AS WE CRUISE ALONG THE NATURAL MIGRATORY PATHS AND PLAYGROUNDS OF MARINE MAMMALS SUCH WHALES AND DOLPHINS, THIS TRIP IS GUARANTEED TO PROVIDE AMAZING DIVERSITY AND BEAUTY BOTH ABOVE AND BELOW THE WATER.

Maumere is our cruise departure port, in east **Flores Island**. Before the cruise start is worth visit the nearest **Kelimutu** volcano which crater contains three stunning lakes, each one with different colored water.

In **Adonara Island** the people of the villages of **Lamalera** and **Lamakera** have been hunting whales for centuries. Their way of life hasn't changed for hundreds of years, after following a propitious ritual, a group of skilled fishermen using only their bodies and extraordinary bravery to catch 75ft-long sperm whales to provide enough food and materials for their whole village. It is all a far cry from the transnational whaling fleets, whose factory boats practices fishing on an industrial scale. Each year about 20-33 whales are taken, and are exclusively divided between the local people for food and oil. No whale meat or oil is ever sold for money. It is 'subsistence whaling', the poor, rugged and stony island has very little agriculture and the population depends on the sea, which is abundant with marlin, tuna, stingray, sea-turtles, octopus and lobster.

Alor is singularly amazing, with its smoldering volcanoes dropping down into crystal clear waters filled with pristine coral reefs, coconut fringed pure white sandy beaches and traditional villages built half way up mountains, the scenery is as spectacular above as it is below the waterline. Alor Island is so mountainous that it is almost impossible to pass from one side to the other and many of the villages on the island itself can only transport themselves via small wooden ferries. The eight distinct dialects and more than 50 sub-dialects spoken today, testifies to the diversity on Alor. This is the least visited and therefore the most unspoiled region of **Nusa Tenggara**. Trek to the rim of a volcano on **Pantar** or dive the straits of Alor and Pantar in a dive destination rated by all to be amongst the best in the world. Ponder on the existence of the moko drums, which are not found in large numbers anywhere else in Indonesia and can be traced back to the Dongson period in Vietnam around 350 BC and you start to realize that Alor is truly a land lost in time.



TRIP ADVISOR	
Airport	Arrival Airport Maumere. Departure Airport Ambon. International flights reach Bali or Jakarta, then domestic flight to Maumere. From Ambon domestic flight to Bali or Jakarta connecting international flight.
Best season	From March to April and from October to December. The months of March and April, and mid/late-September to early/mid-December are the best times for diving in the Banda Sea, based upon surface conditions.
Rainy season	From January to February and from June to August.
Temperature	27°-32°C
Water temperature	25°-30°C
Recommended length of stay	10-12 nights liveaboard cruise
Highlights	Tour of Ambon historic capital of the overseas colonies. Lamalera and Lamakera villages, very last traditional whaling community. Snorkeling in beautiful desert small islands of white empty coral beaches.
Supplementary Tours	Bali, island of gods. Inland excursion Trans Flores. Trekking at Kelimutu Volcano.

THE LIVEBOARDS OF FLORES AND THE SPICE ISLANDS

Click on the boat's name to see or download the boat's fact sheet



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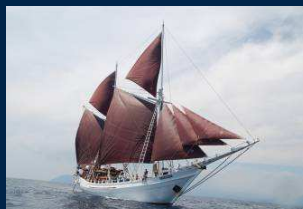
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Wetar is a large island (3.600 km²), with incredibly steep hilly-mountainous terrain that maintains extensive forest cover (c. 80%) ranging from tropical evergreen forest to tropical dry forest, as well as eucalyptus savannas and hill forests. Recent scientist investigations said of Wetar Island "for its size it ust be the single most pristine in South-east Asia". Beautiful beaches, great snorkeling and superlative diving.

Our trip continues to **Romang** for visiting the village and the beautiful desert small island of **Moapora** that offer white empty coral beaches.

Then, the small island of **Terbang** reveal us it spectacular blue lagoon, perfect for leisure.

When we land in **Serua Island**, at the villages of **Jerili**, we will be ecstatically greeted by the people and finding ourselves to be the major tourist attraction of the year!

Manuk Island is a rock in the middle of the Banda Sea, populated by thousands of frigate birds, terns and gannets, a real natural heaven. That last islands are probably the most remote and less visited of the entire Indonesian archipelago.

Our first stop in the **Banda Islad Group** will be **Ai Island**, one of the locations popular with the early colonialists for growing spices, notably the nutmeg. Behind the local village we may find **Fort Revenge**, a name testifying of the wars waged between colonial powers in the 17th century. Gorgeous reef gardens offshore the island. With the boat tied up to a local palm tree in front of a hacienda style hotel, we may stroll around the small colonial town with its restored planter's mansions, forts (such as Fort Belgica) and its churches. The population is an interesting mix of Malay, Arab, Dutch and Melanesian people.

Our cruise ends in the beautiful **Ambon** bay.



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