



Cruise Itinerary Saumlaki – Maumere

No cruise on MV Samambaia is like the other. Every single trip is tailor-made to create a once-in-a-lifetime experience. The decision on the itinerary is made by the cruise director as we cruise along and is based on factors such as weather conditions, dive conditions, requests of guests and schedules of other liveaboards, which we are trying to stay away from.

There are however certain constants on every cruise which are:

- Three day dives of minimum 1 hour duration
- One sunset- or night dive (unless we have to cover a serious amount of miles over night)
- Activities during the surface intervals such as:
 - scenic rides through lagoons and coves in our tenders
 - trekking to breathtaking view points
 - visits of secluded perfect beaches
 - excursions to traditional villages
 - whale watching
 - water action such as wake boarding and water skiing

Based upon that, here is a potential itinerary for an 11 nights / 12 days cruise from Saumlaki/ Tanimbar to Maumere/Flores. This is just to give you a general idea and is subject to change due to weather- and other conditions. Popular dive sites are named. We do however have our secret spots as well, which you will learn about during the cruise.

Day 1: Embarkation

Arrival with plane to Saumlaki via Ambon. You will be picked up by crew members at the airport. Embarkation in the port of Saumlaki. A general orientation follows.

Day 2: Pulau Damera

After an initial general dive briefing, we will do our check dive with you at an easy and protected dive site. Check dive in the sense of you checking your gear and weights, making sure the camera housings are proper sealed and our guides checking your buoyancy. No skill demonstrations are required.

Super intact reefs, colourful and very fishy plus a pinnacle off the island make Damera yet another highlight on this cruise. A little village inhabited by very hospitable people gives us the opportunity for a inspiring land excursion.

Day 3: Pulau Dai

A stunningly beautiful wall and a very fishy slope are the two highlight dive sites of Dai. Expect schooling barracudas and many napoleon wrasses. The name of our favourite dive site, 'To Dai For', says it all, we believe.

Day 4: Pulau Kelapa

The final frontier of diving in the so called Forgotten Islands. Located in the most southern stretch of isles bordering the Banda Sea, this place is as remote as it is untouched. Pristine reefs and being that close to the deep waters of the Banda Sea, large pelagics tend to come by as well.

In November 2015 we visited a village and learned from the village chief that we were the third boat with westerners ever to come by this village. Close to the village there are also remains of an old fort of the colonial VOC, the Dutch East Indies Company, which until today just a few dozen people have ever visited.

Day 5: Amortaun

An uninhabited atoll that is home to many different shark species. We will spend a whole day of diving here at several very promising spots. Our favourite clearly is 'Amortaun 21'.

Days 6: Romang

Gentle slopes offer some beautiful and relaxed diving around the island group of Romang. Huge Gorgonians in various colours and big barrel sponges all around. Besides many reef fish, you may see some reef sharks or tuna passing by.

As we have got a long crossing ahead over night, there will be three day dives only.

Day 7: Reong

Our last stop before leaving the Banda Sea will be Reong, a small island just off the coast of Wetar. Very fishy wall diving with small caverns and overhangs in which nurse sharks like to chill out during the day. In the shallows we find a hard coral heaven that will delight every snorkeler.

Day 8: Alor

Time for some action packed current drift dives with potential for big stuff. All our dives are going to be either slope or wall dives. We have spotted here in the past: Oceanic Sunfish, Big Dogtooth Tuna and Thresher Sharks.

Popular dive sites here: School's Out, Anemone City, The Great Wall of Pantar

Day 9: Alor

Today we would like to show you what Alor is famous for. Some more current swept drift dives paired with some world class muck dives in the protected bay of Kalabahi.

'Mucky Mosque' is certainly one of our favourites here.

Day 10: Lembata / Komba

We will do three dives in daytime at a spot we call 'The Shark Wall' (the name says it all) and two other fantastic wall dives. In the afternoon we will head north towards the active volcano of Komba, which erupts every 15 to 20 minutes. A spectacular display of nature's power and free fireworks for us.

Day 11: Maumere Bay

Our last day before disembarkation we will spend at a beautifully quiet and protected anchorage in the bay of Maumere. In the morning we offer you a wreck dive ('Wodong Wreck') that turns in the shallows into a critter heaven: Pipehorses, Ghostpipefish, Nudibranchs. A beautiful dive with no time limit to finish this cruise. If your flight schedule permits our guides will happily take you on a second dive as well.

The afternoon we spend at this anchorage, filled with some in-water fun such as wakeboarding and waterskiing and the famous Floating Bar.

Day 12: Disembarkation in Maumere

Depending on your flight schedule, our crew will check your luggage in for you in advance so you can rest on board and let us shuttle you to the airport when your plane is ready to leave.

The chances to have close encounters with whales (Blue Whales, Sperm Whales, Pilot Whales and others) are very good whilst cruising the Banda Sea.

