



THE SPICE ISLANDS AMBON – BANDA – AMBON

OCTOBER – NOVEMBER
MARCH – APRIL

6 NIGHTS


RASCAL
VOYAGES



A BUCKET-LIST TRIP FOR SNORKELLERS AND DIVERS

This exclusive voyage is available only twice a year during the short windows of October to November and March to April.

Traversing the spectacular Spice Islands, it gives unique access to the extraordinary underwater wonders of the Banda Sea, where the vibrant coral reefs are alive with a wealth of marine life including hawksbill turtles, moray eels, spotted eagle rays and hammerhead sharks.





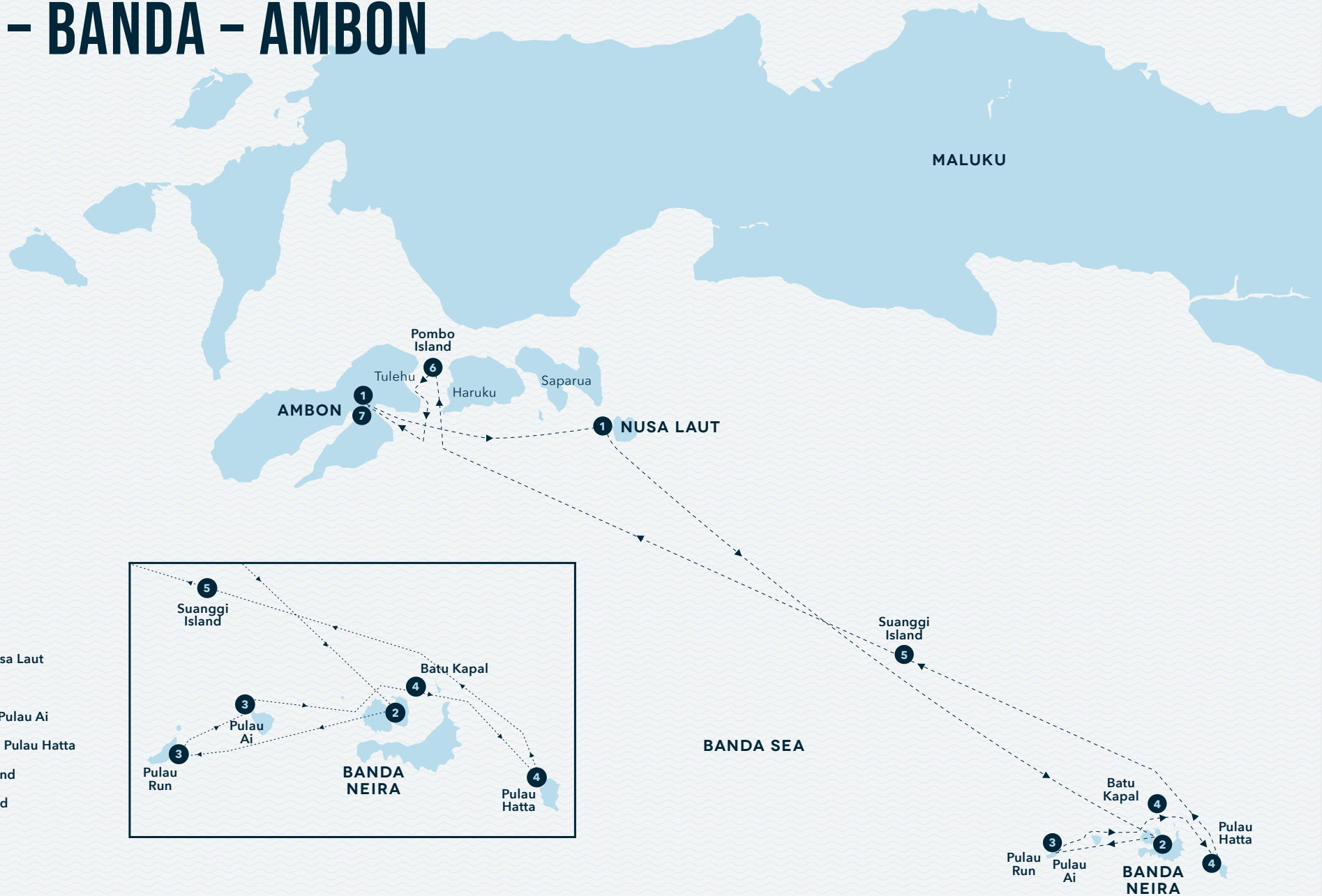
TIME TRAVEL IN STYLE

Between the 16th and 18th centuries, the Spice Islands were the centre of the known world - as the only source of mace, cinnamon, cloves and nutmeg, the latter a commodity considered more valuable than gold.

There is a palpable sense of history to be found here that dates back to the era of the Spice Wars when European empires fought for control of the lucrative spice trade, and when the Dutch famously swapped Manhattan with the British in return for nutmeg-covered Run Island.

SPICE ISLANDS

AMBON – BANDA – AMBON





DAY 1

WHERE WE GO

Ambon to Nusa Laut, a small inhabited island east of Ambon.

WHAT YOU'LL DO

Snorkel or dive the majestic reef of Nusa Laut which is protected by the locals; visit the sustainable fishing village of Ameth - with permission from the local king.

WHAT YOU'LL SEE

A jaw-dropping array of hard corals including fan corals, metre-wide sponge corals and even larger plate corals that are home to a diverse range of colourful reef fish, including angelfish and butterflyfish.

THE HIGHLIGHT

Head to the roof deck to enjoy your first Rascal sunset (and sundowner) in the middle of the Banda Sea; from here, you'll be able to spot pods of dolphins - sometimes in their hundreds.

TRY YOUR HAND AT

After a gourmet lunch, learn how to make Rascal's world-famous sambal (an addictively spicy condiment) from one of our two private onboard chefs.





DAY 2

WHERE WE GO

Banda Neira, the main island of the Banda archipelago.

WHAT YOU'LL DO

Explore the main town with its lively fish market, spice plantations and fascinating historical monuments; snorkel and dive a beautiful offshore hard coral garden nourished by the surrounding volcanic rock.

WHAT YOU'LL SEE

On land: locals using gai pala (nutmeg pickers) to pull down the fruit; the imposing hilltop Fort Belgica, built by the Dutch in the 17th century. Underwater: the wealth of marine life including endemic black butterflyfish, crocodilefish, spotted eagle rays and broadclub cuttlefish.

THE HIGHLIGHT

Enjoying an exclusive pop-up dinner under the stars atop Fort Belgica.

TRY YOUR HAND AT

Tasting mace jam, cinnamon tea, and our favourite freshly grated nutmeg on a Painkiller cocktail - a delicious blend of rum, cream of coconut, pineapple and orange juice served on the rocks.



DAY 3

WHERE WE GO

The island of Ai which boasts just one village surrounded by nutmeg and almond plantations, and the historic Run Island.

WHAT YOU'LL DO

Ai and Run are both superb sites for snorkelling and diving, with a mix of shallow reefs, sheer coral walls and deep waters that are abundant with marine life.

WHAT YOU'LL SEE

Eagle rays, reef sharks, dogtooth tuna, trevallies, wahoo, rays, bumphead parrotfish and black snappers, amongst many others.

THE HIGHLIGHT

If you're lucky, being checked out by curious - but friendly - hammerhead sharks as you join them in the deep blue.

TRY YOUR HAND AT

A sunset snorkel or dive at the Banda Neira Jetty to try and spot the elaborate courtship ritual of the mandarin fish - when pairs rise up through the water together cheek-to-cheek as if slow dancing.





DAY 4

WHERE WE GO

The snorkelling and diving hotspots of Hatta Island and Batu Kapal (Batu means 'stone' and Kapal means 'ship' – the perfect description of this tiny island shaped like a ship).

WHAT YOU'LL DO

Explore the islands' various underwater landscapes: the coral formations at Batu Kapal are spectacular, with a stunning variety of hard and soft corals; while Hatta is famous for its vibrant and very steep coral reef drop-offs.

WHAT YOU'LL SEE

Spotted soapfish, barracudas, grey reef sharks, angelfish, pyramid butterflyfish, surgeonfish and green chromis.

THE HIGHLIGHT

Watching the fascinating moray eels emerge from their hiding spots at the same time. At first they might appear dangerous because they constantly open their large mouths, but this is not a hostile gesture, simply the way they breathe.

TRY YOUR HAND AT

Practice your free diving skills by holding your breath for up to 3 minutes, then dive in.



DAY 5

WHERE WE GO

Suanggi Island. Its name might translate as Evil Spirit Island, but it's in fact a stand-out snorkelling and dive site, with a spectacularly beautiful coral reef.

WHAT YOU'LL DO

Snorkel or dive the waters off Suanggi Island, well-known for the diverse underwater topography including vibrant shallows, steep sloping reefs, ridges, pinnacles and walls.

WHAT YOU'LL SEE

An incredibly rich marine micro-ecosystem, home to schools of fusiliers, whitetip reef sharks, moray eels, day octopus, and if you're lucky, solitary or schooling hammerhead sharks.

THE HIGHLIGHT

The remoteness of an island where few travellers get to venture. Apart from Suanggi's marine treasures, there is superb birdwatching here too.

TRY YOUR HAND AT

A brand-new watersport - whether it's stand-up paddleboarding, kayaking or trying to break the Rascal record of holding on to the flying mattress for as long as possible.





DAY 6

WHERE WE GO

Pombo Island, an uninhabited paradise island surrounded by a rocky coral atoll.

WHAT YOU'LL DO

Enjoy a leisurely day on the island, part of the Pombo Island Marine Recreation Park, which encompasses 1,000 hectares of white-sand beaches, virgin jungle and crystal-clear waters.

WHAT YOU'LL SEE

A wealth of marine life including moray eels, spotted eagle rays, hawksbill turtles and reef octopus.

THE HIGHLIGHT

Your very own private, pop-up beach club complete with sun loungers, parasols, ice-cold face towels and fresh coconut water.

TRY YOUR HAND AT

Take a guided jungle safari to try and spot the exotic birds that perch on the tree branches.



DAY 7

WHERE WE GO

Port of Telehu, Ambon.

WHAT YOU'LL DO

Enjoy a final gourmet breakfast before saying goodbye to your Rascal family.

WHAT YOU'LL SEE

The view from the bridge as you take the ship's wheel and the captain gives you a quick lesson in navigation.

THE HIGHLIGHT

The pods of dolphins surfacing - and sometimes breaching - ahead of the ship as you sail back to port.

TRY YOUR HAND AT

Booking your next Rascal voyage to another incredible part of Indonesia.





EXTEND YOUR VOYAGE

We recommend a **minimum of 7 nights** to discover the Spice Islands, but the region can easily be explored for longer by those seeking more underwater and cultural adventures, or if you're looking for more time to relax in between excursions.

+1 NIGHT

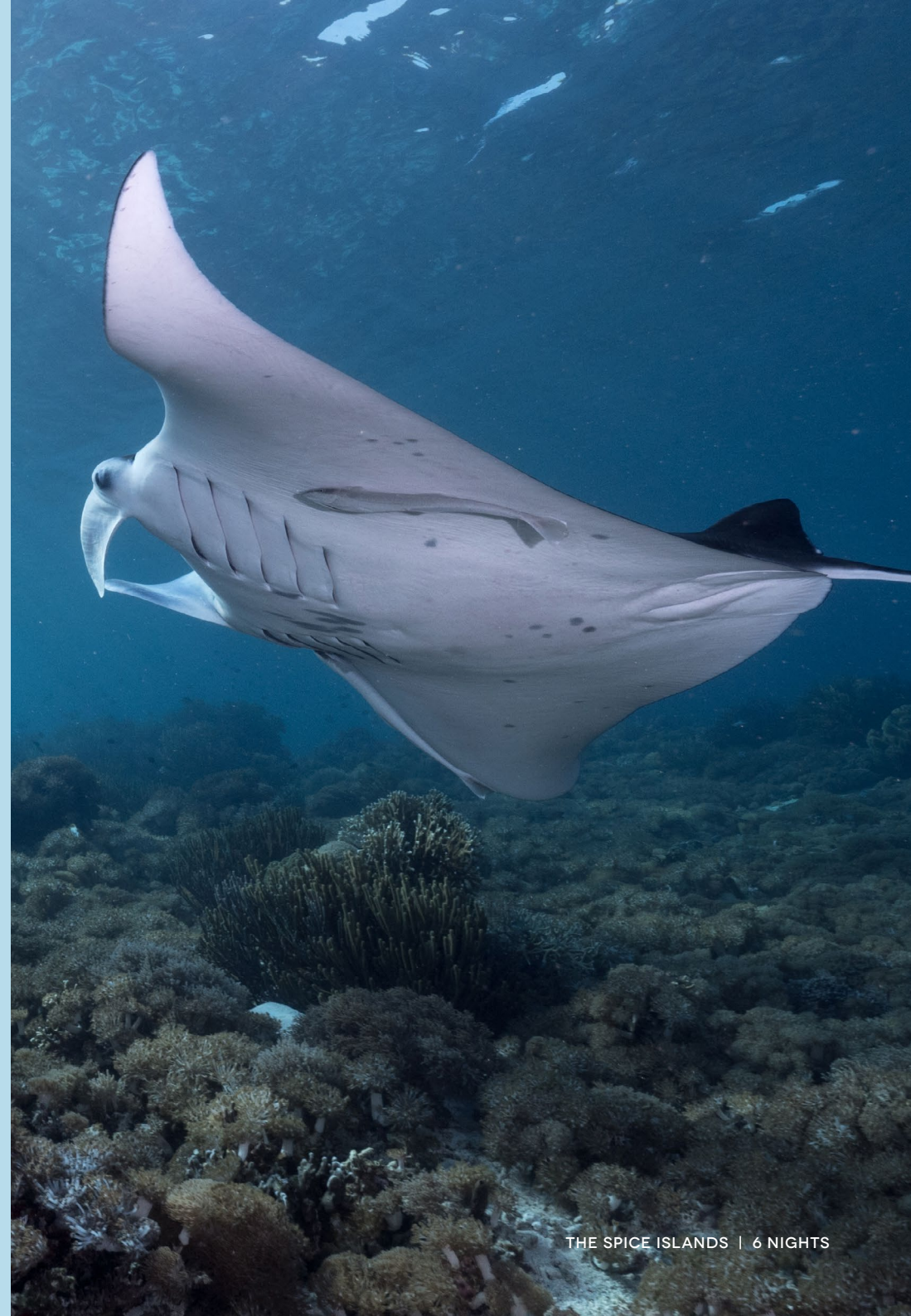
Sail to the most remote island of the Banda Sea: the uninhabited, volcanic Manuk Island. Once the source of sulphur extracted by Chinese traders, it is now better known for its hundreds of friendly Chinese sea snakes, vibrant corals and hammerhead sharks.

+3 NIGHTS

Cruise to Misool, home to the finest soft coral gardens and most abundant reef life in the world; see the spectacular 3,000 to 5,000-year-old ochre petroglyphs (rock paintings) which are amazingly well preserved. This extension finishes in Sorong (West Papua).

+5 NIGHTS

The ultimate Spice Islands crossing culminating with the highlights of Raja Ampat: Misool and the Dampier Strait - a world-renowned dive site, which also boasts beautiful mangroves. This extension finishes in Sorong (West Papua).





THE SPICE ISLANDS | 6 NIGHTS



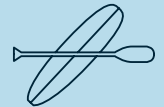
ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE



SNORKELLING



KAYAKING



PADDLEBOARDING



TREKKING



BIRDWATCHING



WAKEBOARDING



VILLAGE
TOURS



DIVING AND
CERTIFICATION



BEACH
VOLLEYBALL



POP-UP BEACH
RESTAURANT



POP-UP
BEACH CLUB



TREASURE
HUNTING



PRICING

Our pricing structure is simple and transparent, with no hidden extras.

Price includes overnight yacht accommodation, airport transfers, all activities, park fees and excursions – with the exception of alcoholic drinks.

Please ask us for a full price list for both private and cabin voyages for your selected dates.





DINING

At Rascal, we understand how good food is key to making your travels special; that's why our international and Asian-inspired menus are a pillar of the Rascal experience - each one specially designed in our beautiful Bali test kitchen, so that on board we can serve you some of the finest and most flavourful food you'll find on the high seas. Whether it's breakfast eggs with a side of our famous spicy sambal, a perfectly grilled red snapper fillet served with a crisp glass of Chablis or a simple cheeseburger on the beach, we cater to every taste and make sure it's delivered to Rascal perfection.



GETTING THERE

This special Spice Islands voyage begins and ends in Ambon.

There are multiple weekly flights from Jakarta to Ambon's Pattimura International Airport, which is a short 25-minute drive away from Telehu, the port of embarkation. Our crew will collect you from the airport or your accommodation in Ambon.

The voyage begins at 8am on the first day and ends at 11am on the final day, so flights should be scheduled accordingly.

If you require assistance with flight schedules, flight bookings (including both commercial and private), and itinerary extensions, please don't hesitate to ask our friendly team who will be more than happy to make your travel plans as seamless as possible.





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For more information, contact Sharifah Khadijah, Head of Sales & Customer Delight at +65 8785 3122 or enquiries@rascalvoyages.com