

## The Itinerary

We've picked **TWO**  
Back - to - Back!

11 Nights Sorong (Raja Ampat) to Ternate  
Departs April 29th - May 9th, 2018

11 Nights Ternate to Lembeh  
Departs May 12th - May 23rd, 2018



One of the things we like best about Tambora is the owner's desire to explore new areas. While aboard, Peter and I had the opportunity to explore remote areas rarely dove by others. Halmahera was one of those destinations. It is such a unique chain of islands that we are excited to be able to offer back-to-back itineraries that include it. Because Tambora regularly sailed in the area we were able to find some pretty unique and diverse dive sites. It doesn't matter which itinerary you choose, and don't feel you have to choose only one, you'll get two storied destinations for the price of one!

Many of you already know that the diving in Raja Ampat is, quite simply, out of this world. The reefs are a painter's pallet of color and variety; home to over 1500 species of fish and more marine life than anywhere else on the planet. It is literally the center of marine biodiversity. Big animals are common here, with manta ray cleaning stations, shark sightings, schooling barracuda, and jacks. The reefs in Raja Ampat literally buzz with life. They are covered in sea fans, sponges, hard and soft corals; get ready for sensory overload. In addition to the amazing reefs and fish life, you'll discover nudibranch, crustaceans, pygmy seahorses, and cephalopods.

While making our way over to Halmahera we will have the opportunity to dive the Southwest of Raja Ampat and the waters south of Halmahera where there are numerous beautiful, fishy sites to choose from, including some that are remote and rarely dove. Our dive days in Halmahera will be filled with untouched reefs, unique underwater topography, schools of barracuda, jack, sharks, and a plethora of macro subjects on the black sand slopes of this volcanic chain. Tambora was recently in Halmahera and was happy to find a healthy shark population off the coast of Bacan. One of the coolest things about Halmahera is the diversity of dive sites. Our dives will include seamounts, pinnacles, underwater rock formations covered in sea life and towering volcano's with walls and black sand slopes, covered with critters. **The Raja Ampat / Halmahera combo is sure to please!**

In addition to even more stunning dive sites in Halmahera, our second trip takes us to Palau Tifore and beyond. The remote island of Tifore, located roughly in the middle of the strait separating Halmahera and Sulawesi, has two of the largest schools, one barracuda and one big-eye jacks, we have ever seen. We are super excited to dive this tiny, deserted island before heading on to Bangka for more stunning diving. Who knows, maybe we'll get lucky and see some resident dugongs. After Bangka, it's on to legendary Lembeh where countless crazy critters await us on the muck slopes of the Strait.

One of the big advantages of liveaboard diving is being able to sit back between dives, when you're not eating, and gaze out at the passing scenery. The limestone rock islands of Raja Ampat will give way to spectacular volcanic vistas in Halmahera. There will also be limited opportunities on both expeditions to join excursions including lagoon tours where orchids and pitcher plants grow out of the sides of the little islets and juvenile fish can be seen hiding from the predators. If we are lucky we may be able to make a stop on Bacan where we may have the opportunity to purchase some of their famous [semi precious stones](#).

Did we mention sunsets? The sunsets are reliably beautiful throughout the region and both expeditions will have travel days where a sunset party on deck will replace the night dive.

As a liveaboard owner who puts a lot of time, energy and expense into exploration Uwe rightfully holds his best finds close to the vest. While most boats head to Komodo at this time of year to join the dozens of boats already there, Tambora heads to Halmahera where it is rare to see other divers at all. She has plied these waters for the last 8 years and has spent time exploring with the result that, in addition to the well-known places, Tambora knows lots of amazing, fishy sites that other boats don't.

## The Ship



[MSY Tambora](#) – We worked on Tambora for 2 years so we know the owners (Uwe & Uchie) and crew well. Tambora is a 42m Phinisi, a traditional Indonesian ship design, which was built by master craftsmen on the island of Sulawesi. It is constructed entirely of ironwood and Javanese teak. Her cabins are spacious and well appointed. Her captain, who has just returned from marine school where he upgraded his license, and chef have been with Tambora since 2008. Guest safety, comfort and satisfaction are important to the captain, and Hamid's culinary delights, both western and Indonesian, are delicious. Tambora has

the most comfortable tenders in Indonesia with plenty of space for gear and cameras (we call them the Cadillac's of the sea). Dive groups are small offering a guest to guide ratio of 4:1.

## Let's GO Diving!

In 2008, when we arrived from the Caribbean, we had no idea we would spend 10 years in Indonesia diving some of the most amazing reefs in the world. The beauty both above and below the water took our breath away, and we have been in love with Indonesia ever since. During that time, we have been fortunate to meet, and dive with, many wonderful people. You received this email because you are among those people. Many times, we have been asked, "What is your favorite itinerary?" Well this is one of them, and we would really like to use this opportunity to reconnect, do some awesome diving and generally have a blast! Bring your favorite dive buddies, or just yourself, and come with us on the adventure of a lifetime. Check out the videos we'll be posting on the [Symbiosis Diving](#) page for a taste of the diving in Raja Ampat and Halmahera.



## Cruise Price

Includes 11 nights, diving (3-4 per day depending on transits) all meals and snacks while onboard, transfers to and from Tambora, juice, soda, water and beer comes to \$4,265 per person (Based on Double Occupancy). Nitrox is \$20 per day, gear is available for rent, and park fees are an additional \$140 for the first trip and \$60 for the second trip (approx. based on exchange rate).

## Back to Back Trips

Three nights between trips will be spent on the fabled island of Ternate. We are looking at a little villa there that averages about \$45 per night. Diving, trekking and relaxing by the pool are offered at the villa.

### Package Includes:

- Airport Transfers to/from ship
- 11 nights accommodations - Double Occ.
- Breakfast, lunch, dinner & snacks
- Up to 4 dives daily - schedule permitting
- Use of tanks, weights and belts
- Unlimited coffee, tea, soft drinks & beer
- Group Leaders - Peter & Kristine
- 30 day free visa on arrival

### Package does not include:

- Domestic Airfare
- Park Fees & Fuel Surcharge
- Additional beverages
- Gratuities
- Dive & Trip cancellation insurance
- Nitrox (USD 200)
- Airline Baggage fees
- Hotels pre/post cruise

**Please contact us at [peternkristine@gmail.com](mailto:peternkristine@gmail.com) for more information**