



Hammerheads, macro & cetaceans



BANDA SEA & KAI ISLANDS

11-20 OCT 2025

Join us on a journey through the rich history & untouched reefs of the remote Banda Sea & Kai islands.



After a hugely successful trip to the Banda Sea last year, we're excited to return—this time with an extra twist. We're adding the Kai Islands – known for its leatherback turtle population – to the itinerary, bringing even more **remoteness and unique diving** experiences to the adventure.

Over the years, we've immersed ourselves in the Banda Sea—soaking in the rich historical stories of our **Bandanese friends**, venturing into remote waters with local fishermen, and forging lasting **connections with conservationists** on the ground. This trip is designed from that firsthand experience, blending thrilling **pelagic encounters**, volcanic dive sites featuring **snakes**, and **island history** told by the people who live it. And to top it off, we've timed the journey with a **coral spawning event**—right in the middle of **hammerhead shark season**.

Leading this expedition are the founders of Expedition Biru, conservationists Wendy Mitchell and Iris Uijttewaal. With **over a decade of experience** managing conservation-focused diving operations in Indonesia's most remote corners, Wendy and Iris are not only **fluent in Bahasa Indonesia** but also deeply knowledgeable about **hidden dive sites and local culture**. With extensive expertise in marine conservation, diving, and photography, they love sharing their knowledge—whether through workshops or casual conversations after a dive.



“This region has it all: fascinating history, great cetacean life and the most thrilling diving in Indonesia.”

“The Banda Sea is one of my favourite regions in Indonesia, and offers a true off-the-beaten-path experience we can't wait to share with you. Learning about Indonesian history through books and conversation, it seems the story of the Banda Islands might well be the most astonishing. When I finally visited, the region touched my heart in a unique way. Since the fall of the VOC (Dutch East India Company), time moved past as the Banda Islands lay forgotten. Luckily, its fringing coral reefs somehow remained untouched when history was made on land, as did the kind hearts of the Bandanese. I'm looking forward to introducing you to my Bandanese friends on this trip.”



Iris

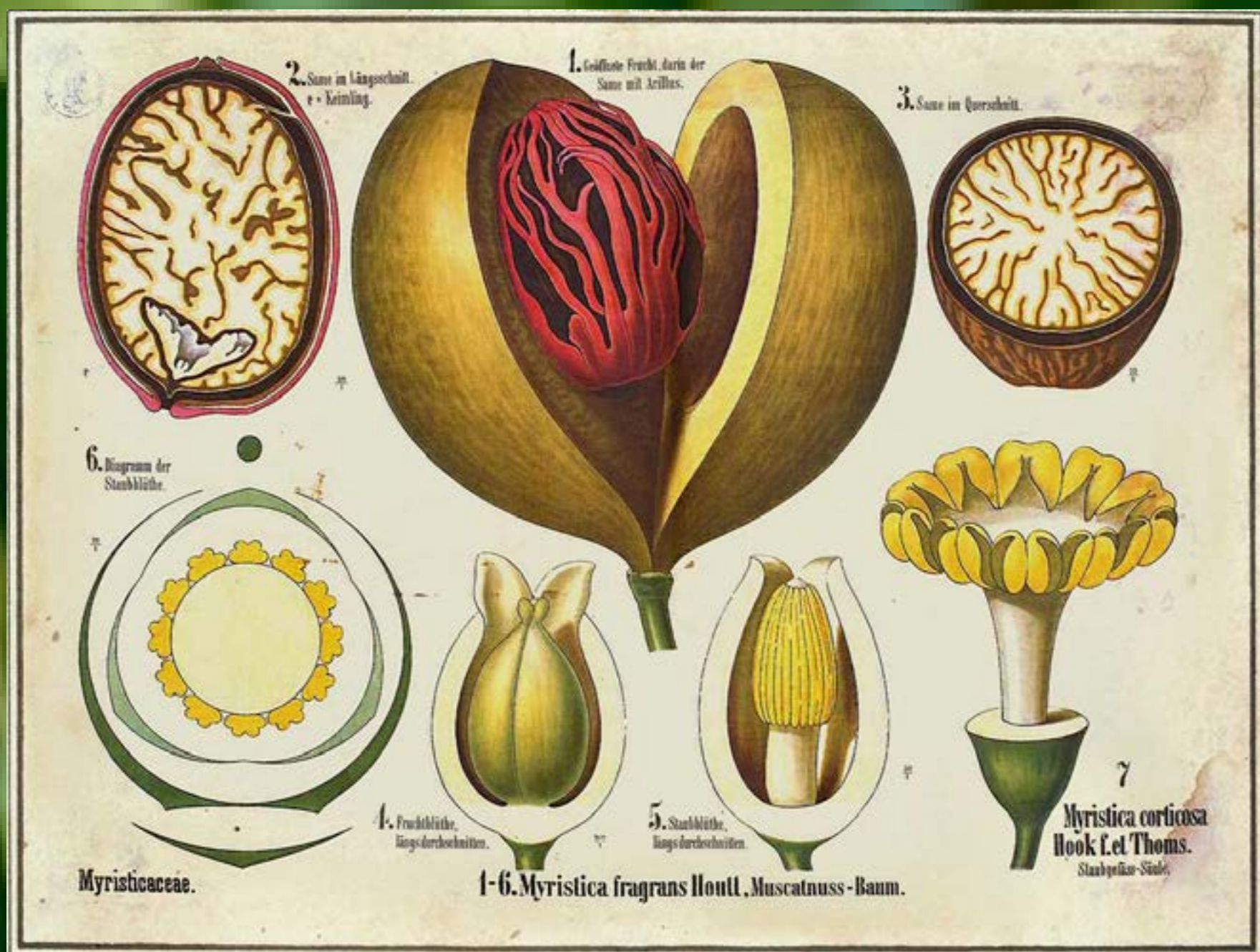
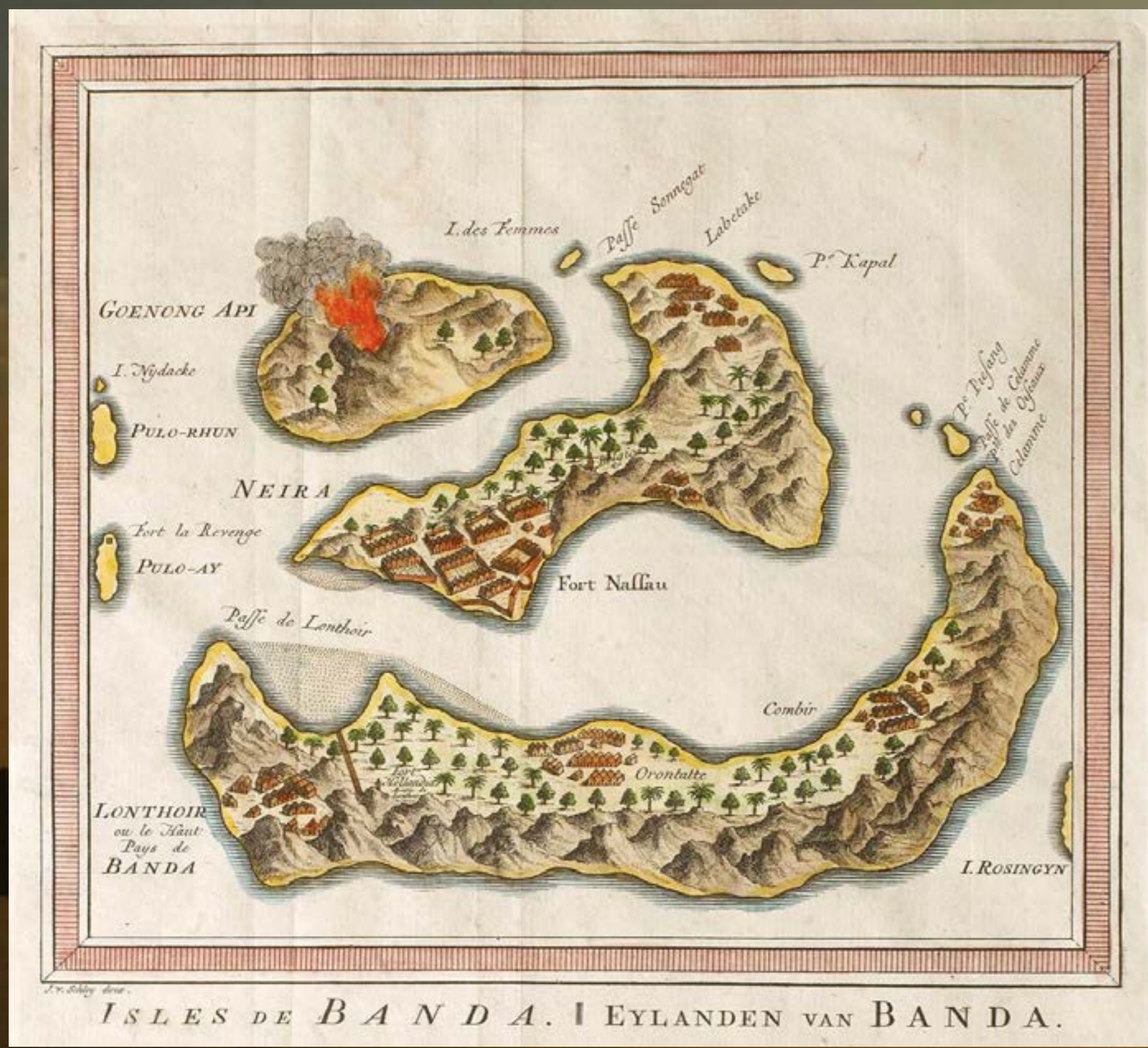
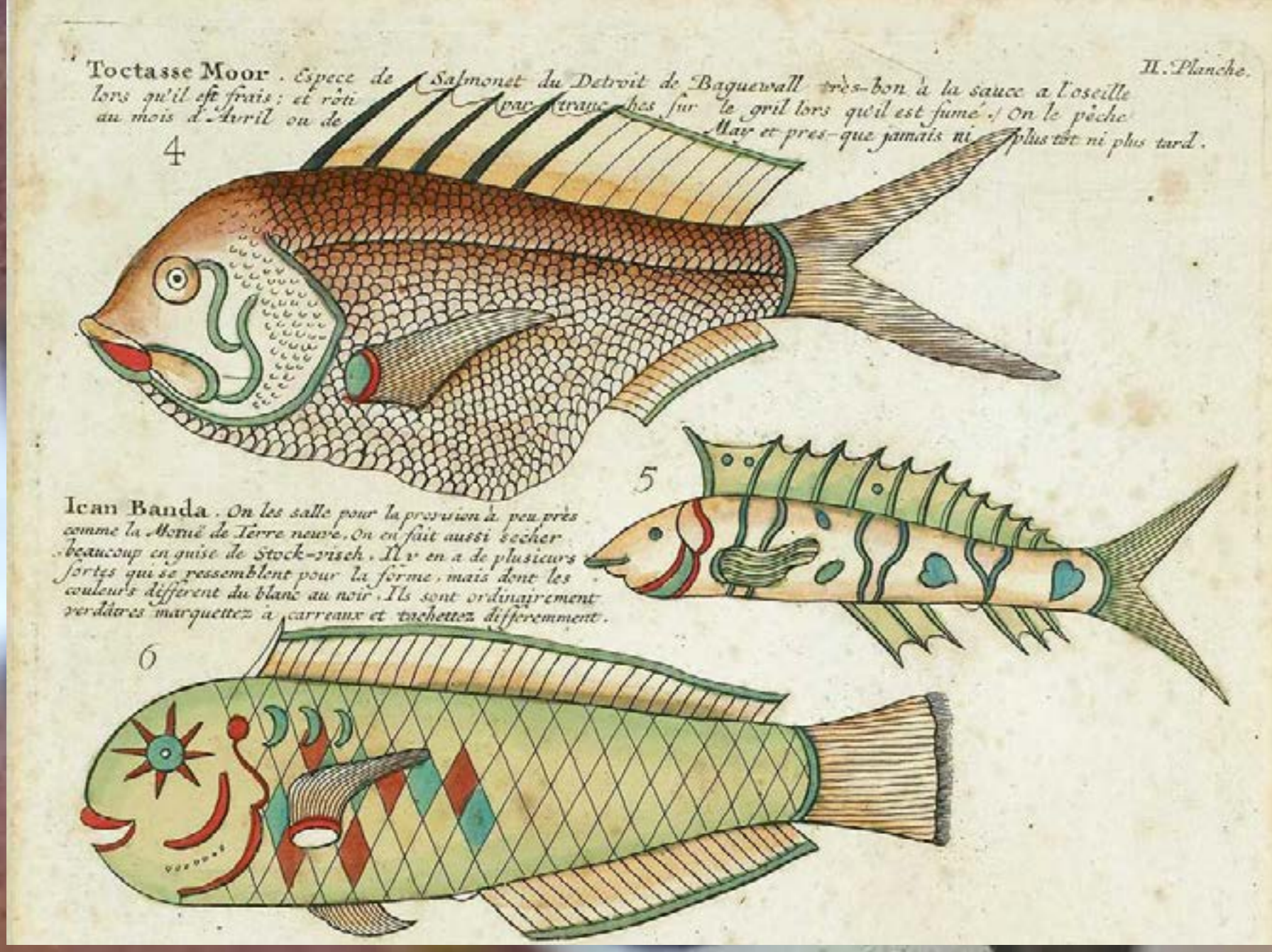
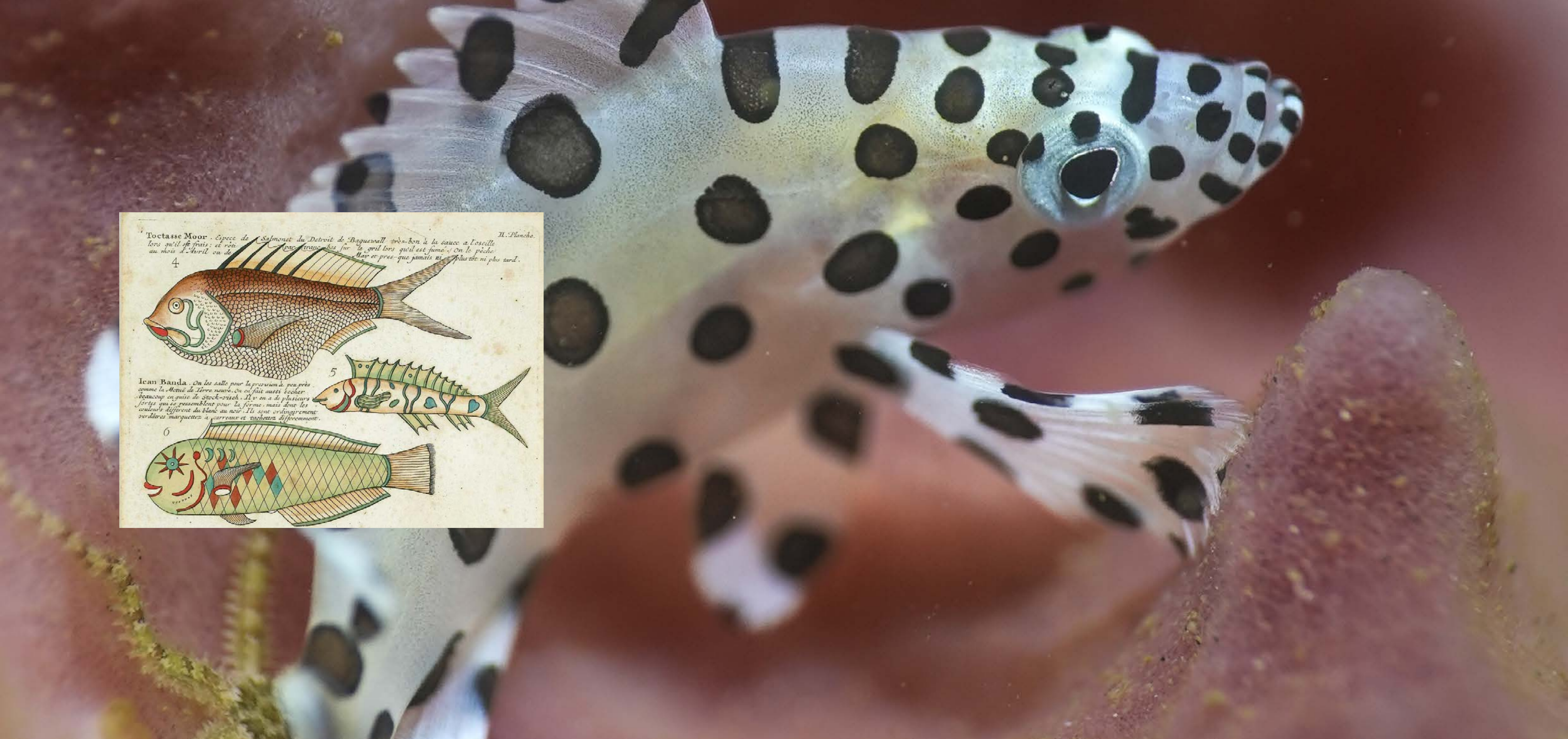
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“Visiting the Banda Islands offers an incredible mix of wildlife, history, and culture, and I truly cannot wait to share this with you. Cruising through the Kai Islands, I was mesmerized by the raw, untouched nature—towering limestone cliffs, hidden lagoons, and reefs teeming with life. Here, the ocean remains as wild as ever, offering encounters with hammerheads, turtles, and schooling fish in breathtaking underwater landscapes. I am excited to document the beauty of this region, immersing ourselves in its rich history, and connecting with the people who call these islands home. This is a truly special region.”



Wendy

+61-455263236



Quick facts, included/excluded

<10 guests

11-20 October, 2025 (10D/9N)

On: Tual – Off: Ambon

USD\$ 4.050 / GBP£ 3150 / EUR€ 3700 / AUS\$ 6425 per person

INCLUSIONS

Approximately 25 dives

All meals, drinking water, coffee, tea

Welcome cocktail

Special Expedition Biru Cheeseboard

Airport/hotel transfer to/from the liveaboard

History tour on Banda Neira (nutmeg plantation, fort Belgica, museum)

Shark conservation lecture

Banda Islands history lecture

Coral spawning lecture

Shark biology & conservation lecture

Underwater photography mentoring

Folder of underwater photos of all guests

Indonesian language class

EXCLUSIONS

Flights

Nitrox \$90 per trip

Dive insurance

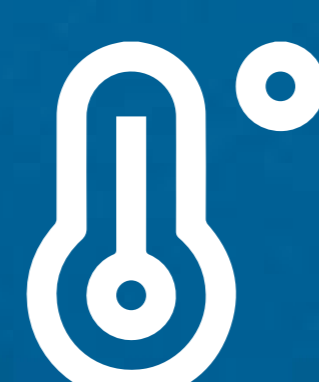
National Park fee (\$200)

Rental gear

Port fees, fuel charge (roughly \$155)

Alcoholic beverages

Starlink WiFi \$110 / 15GB



WATER: 26-28 °C
LAND: 28-31 °C



VISA ON ARRIVAL
30 USD\$



NITROX AVAILABLE



INTERNET
AT EXTRA COST



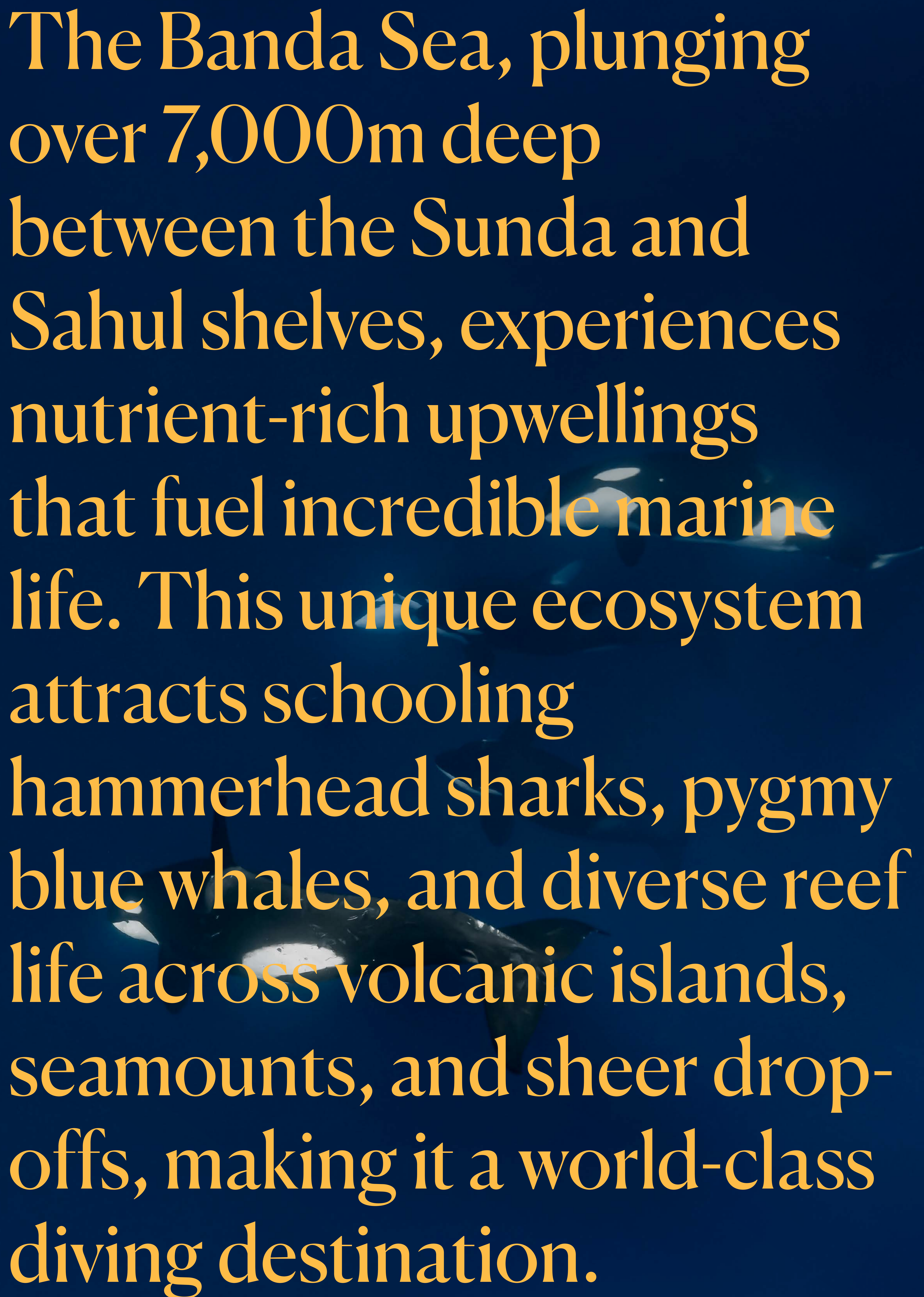


The phinisi

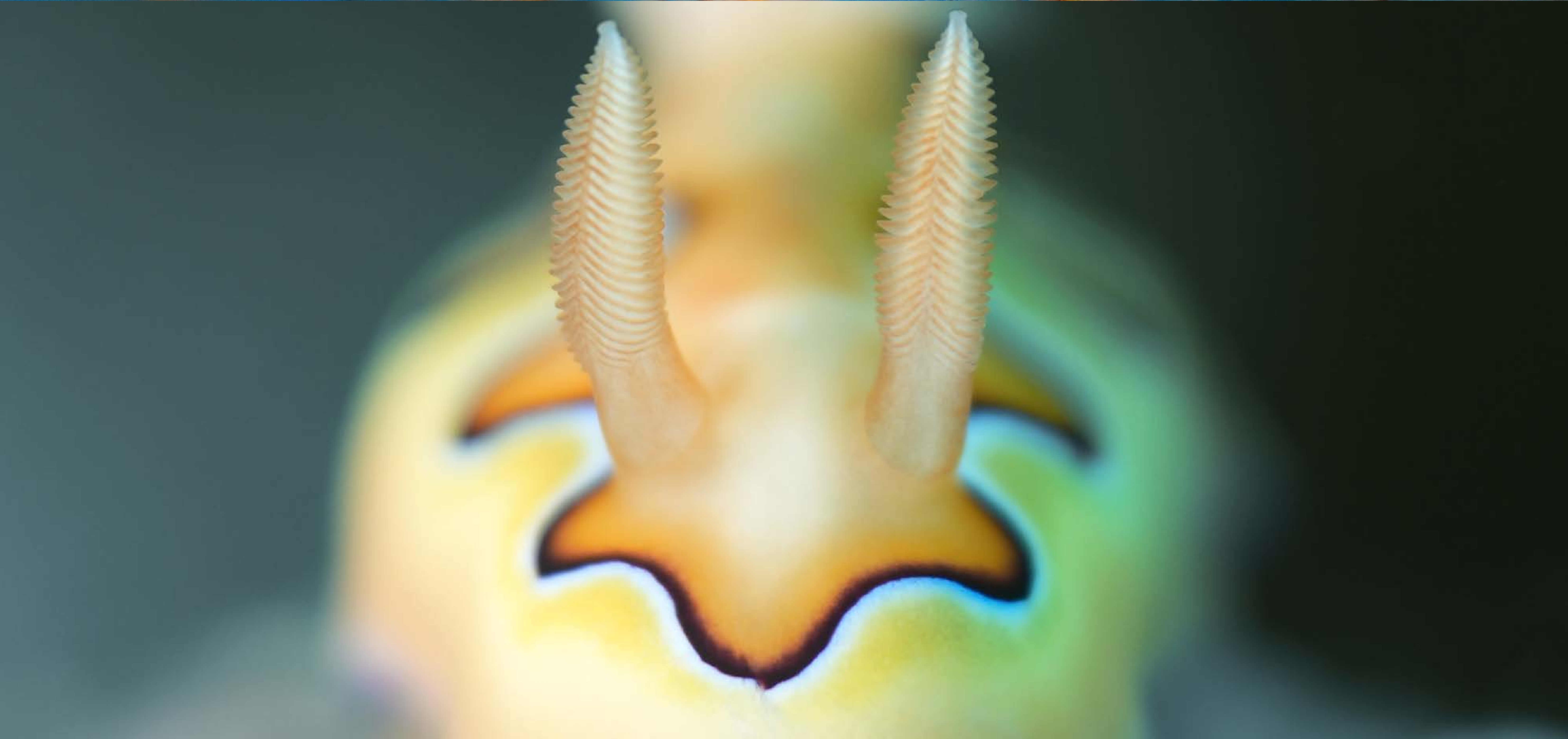
This traditionally-built phinisi liveaboard caters to just 14 guests in 8 cabins. Each cabin has air-conditioning, private ensuite bathrooms, and port holes. Social areas include an indoor seating area and a spacious sundeck with loungers and hammocks - the perfect place to relax in-between dives or unwind with a cocktail at the end of the day whilst enjoying the spectacular Indonesian sunsets. The onboard chef freshly prepares meals - a mix of Indonesian and international cuisine, which will be served in either the salon with an open kitchen or the outdoor seating area protected from the wind. Two tenders will take you to the dive sites. The boat is equipped with Nitrox (extra charge), a dedicated camera station and a large dive deck at the front of the boat with outside showers.





A school of hammerhead sharks swimming in deep blue water. The sharks are seen from above, their dark bodies and white undersides creating a rhythmic pattern as they move through the water. The background is a deep, dark blue, suggesting a deep-sea environment.

The Banda Sea, plunging over 7,000m deep between the Sunda and Sahul shelves, experiences nutrient-rich upwellings that fuel incredible marine life. This unique ecosystem attracts schooling hammerhead sharks, pygmy blue whales, and diverse reef life across volcanic islands, seamounts, and sheer drop-offs, making it a world-class diving destination.



Our 'why'

Raja Ampat, often called 'the last paradise,' may be one of the last places where coral reefs remain so vibrant and full of life. Yet, with climate change affecting marine ecosystems, Raja Ampat is changing. Having lived here for years, we've seen these shifts firsthand—cyanobacteria smothering coral, declining fish populations at dive sites, and fewer oceanic manta rays (**M. birostris**).

Witnessing these subtle but significant changes inspired us to create special liveaboard trips that fund the training of female dive masters—women who not only understand the reef but are equipped to protect it through knowledge, skills, and proper equipment. We hope this is the start of something bigger—a ripple effect.

Having lived among the Arborek community for years, we immediately knew the right candidates: young women passionate about the ocean with a positive, can-do mentality. We personally train them and provide ongoing mentorship, even after their certification. By joining an Expedition Biru trip, you help bring this vision to life. Every booking expands our capacity, allowing us to train more women, faster. Thank you.



Training local women to become ocean advocates via dive and marine science training.







“Our program provides young women of Raja Ampat the training, mentorship and pathways to open the door of marine conservation careers and lead the way as stewards of their own region”

Secure your spot today

Get in touch via email:
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Limited spots available.

Or WhatsApp us:
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We answer within 48h