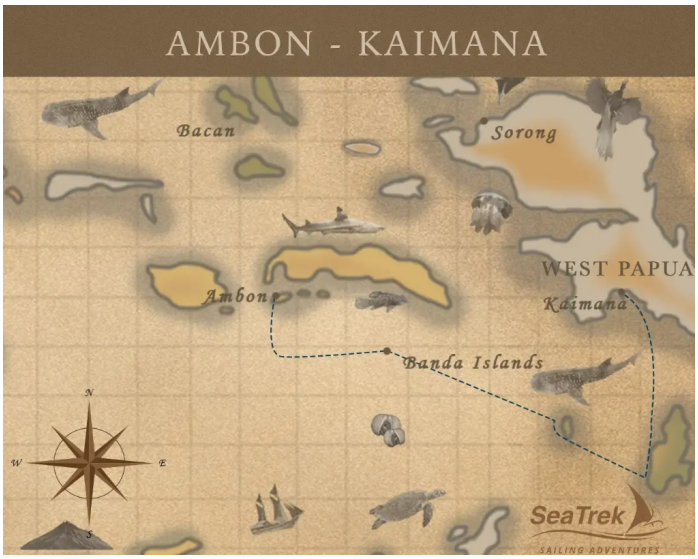


FROM THE SPICE ISLANDS TO THE WHALE SHARKS - FROM AMBON TO KAIMANA

This is a brand-new route we are pioneering for 2026, and it promises to be an adventure of epic proportions. Starting in the southern Moluccan capital city of Ambon, we will set sail in a southerly direction to the fabled Banda Archipelago, original home to the nutmeg plant. After a few days exploring the islands, we will then head east into territory both familiar and new to SeaTrek, with the Kei and Aru Islands falling into the latter category. After exploring these remote islands, we will then head north towards Papua where we will swim with whale sharks and take you on a journey through Triton Bay where we will swim with whale sharks before heading to the beautiful Namatote region, an incredibly beautiful part of the world. Expect lots of culture, history, beach time, friendly encounters with local people, and lots of snorkelling on pristine coral reefs. All mixed in with the great company that you will certainly have for this voyage. Your tour leader will be Anastasia, a native of Ambon and an all-round incredible woman and talented tour guide. She and the crew will be making sure that you have the best possible time as we scout out the very best and most interesting locations along our route. Between now and the trip, SeaTrek will be delving deep into all the possibilities along the way, including some ground-based reconnaissance.



ITINERARY

Day 1

On the first day of your adventure, you will be collected from your hotel after breakfast by our tour leaders and taken directly to the boat, which will be waiting at anchor in Ambon Harbour.

As soon as everyone is settled in and the captain gets clearance



from the harbour master, we will raise anchor and head south across the open sea, crossing to the legendary Banda Archipelago.

Days 2-4

We wake up in the Banda Islands. Famous for their natural beauty and cultural heritage, and the well-preserved remnants of an extraordinary history of imperialist rivalry, these islands are quite simply one of Indonesia's highlights. Banda was originally the world's only source of nutmeg and mace, valued for their rarity and high cost by aristocrats and elites.

On the main island of Banda Neira, we will stroll through the quaint colonial outpost's characterful streets, inspecting notable residences, a museum, forts, churches, and a waterfront market. Just across the harbour is Banda's perfect, jungle-clad volcanic cone Gunung Api 'Fire Mountain).

We will visit the tiny outlying island of Run, which was the subject of an unbelievable real estate deal when, in 1667, under the Treaty of Breda, it was ceded by the English to the Dutch in exchange for Manhattan. Yes, the Manhattan where New York stands.

There are some excellent coral reefs nearby, and we should see some amazing marine life whilst snorkelling. At dusk, we have a chance to see arguably the world's most stunning fish, the small but jewel-like Mandarin Fish.

Day 5 & 6

We will wake up off the coast of Ceram, and go ashore to walk through some inland lakes, as well as some trekking, snorkelling, kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding, and beach activities.

We will do some dinghy exploration through karsts around Bair Island, snorkel, and spend time on the beach with the SUPs and kayaks.

Back to the boat, depart for a small chain of islands for an afternoon of snorkelling and water activities. This is a great location for a beach BBQ, so if the weather is right, it's party time.

Day 7-10

Here we have a chance to explore this very remote island chain of Kei and Aru, located in the easternmost corner of Maluku, just off the southwest coast of Papua.

We can visit a beautiful white sand beach and a large sea cave, where we can swim inside. Later, we can visit Masbait Hill, which marks the highest point in Kei Kecil. It is known for its rotating statue of Christ, which many Catholics visit for pilgrimage.

The Aru islands are rich in Papuan fauna, which includes tree kangaroos, palm cockatoos, and four species of birds of paradise. Marine life is also very rich, and Aru's capital, Dobo, situated on the small island of Wamar, has long been a busy regional trading centre for pearls, sea cucumbers, and the like

Day 11 & 12

We wake up off the coast of Papua to a most serene and primal scene of a jungle waterfall where a roaring river surrounded by virgin rainforest pours into the sea.



Triton Bay is a place of unsurpassed natural splendour, where time and tides have sliced the limestone landscape into tall cliffs and numerous islands separated by lagoons and narrow channels. It is also home to fishermen who collect baitfish and keep them in nets attached to specially built platforms, also known as 'bagans'. It is these and their fish that attract whale sharks. We will head out in the tenders to see if the sharks are around, and if we are lucky, we will spend a couple of hours in the water with these magnificent creatures.

We will explore the bays and limestone outcrops by tender, kayak, paddleboard, and swim and snorkel from the beautiful white-sand beaches.

Days 13 & 14

Cruise through the undisturbed coves, caves, and lagoons before heading north through the Namatote Passage, where there is an impressive collection of ancient cave paintings high up on the cliffs. Take a short walk into the forest to see a most spectacular jungle waterfall surrounded by virgin rainforest, and take a dip in its cool refreshing waters.

Enjoy more snorkelling, swimming, kayaking, and paddling as we relax amidst the beauty of the surrounding jungle-covered islands. We will spend our final evening on the ship resting at anchor and enjoying a farewell dinner with our captain and crew.

On our last day, we will find ourselves at anchor in the harbour of Kaimana, and after an early breakfast, our tenders will take you ashore for your transfer to the airport for your onward travel.

Please note:

Our mission is to provide the best experience possible for our guests given the current conditions and when unexpected opportunities for adventure may present themselves along our cruise routes. Sometimes weather conditions, tides or other local factors dictate that we need to vary from the published route, and at times there are special opportunities to explore and discover new locations, events and activities. These explorations will always be a definite enhancement to the published itinerary and will be undertaken after discussion and agreement among guests. Ultimately, the boat captains and your tour leader will make decisions to maximize trip safety and your overall enjoyment, so please come prepared to be flexible!



YOUR SHIP: KATHARINA

YOUR SHIP: **Katharina**

VESSEL TYPE:

LENGTH:

PASSENGER CAPACITY:

BUILT/REFURBISHED:

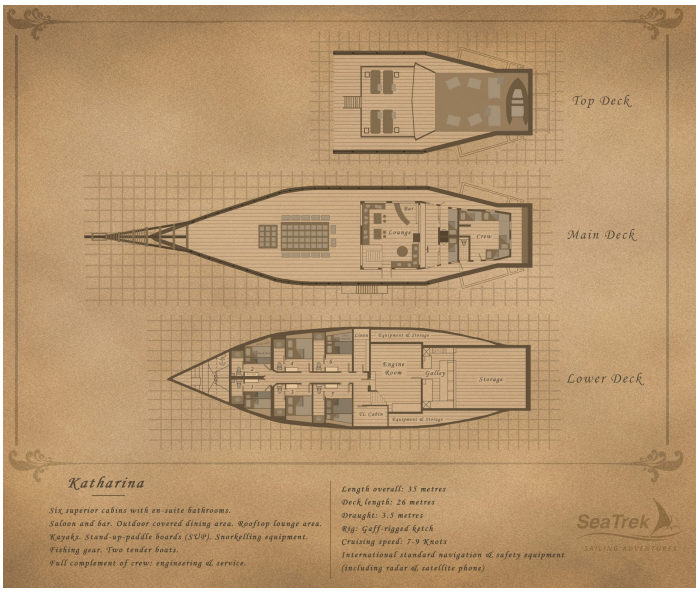
Katharina is a mix of traditional and modern design. Her hull and rigging are traditional, while the deck house and interior were custom designed to adapt to Western tastes of space, privacy and comfort. While Indonesian traditional sailing vessels are customarily referred to as Bugi Schooners, strictly speaking Katharina is rigged as a Ketch, the foremast being higher than the aft mast. The deck area of Katharina is dominated by the 25m tall main and top masts and a large central table around which we enjoy our meals alfresco. Just aft is the main lounge and bar, accessible on the port side. On top of this main cabin there is a sun deck, where you find several additional deck chairs and comfortable day beds. Below decks there are 4 double cabins (with one extra single upper berth) and 2 twin cabins (upper/lower berth). All cabins are air-conditioned (individually controlled) and have private bathrooms with warm and cold water. Obviously, we provide all hotel amenities you may require. Each cabin has a wardrobe, a built-in mini safe, individually controlled cooling systems and soft lightning. All cabins have their own private bathroom with shower and toilet. Unlike typical ship accommodation, your cabin provides ample space to store your stuff and still move about with ease. We know from experience that during a cruise in the tropics some of our guests discover the pleasure of sleeping under the stars and there is plenty of room to sleep on the upper deck. Mattresses as well as light blankets are available for that purpose. Spacious twin shared cabins with twin bunk beds or double bed Each cabin has a private bathroom with toilet and hot shower Washbasin and soap toiletries in your cabin Cabins have individually controlled air conditioning Towels and beach towels that are regularly changed each cabin has an individual minisafe for valuables and travel documents Free tea, coffee and mineral water Excellent food and snacks (vegetarian food on request) Excellent wine selection, cold beer and other alcoholic drinks for sale Chilled towels and a welcome drink upon arrival Outdoor sleeping facilities Unlimited use of our snorkeling equipment and 2 sea canoes Television, DVD and music



centre in lounge



INSIDE YOUR SHIP



Stateroom





PRICING

20-Sep-2027 to 03-Oct-2027

Stateroom	**£8745 GBP pp**

20-Sep-2028 to 03-Oct-2028

Stateroom	**£9789 GBP pp**