

FROM RAJA AMPAT TO THE VOLCANOES OF MALUKU - FROM SORONG TO TERNATE

This 12-day cruise takes guests on a multi-faceted ocean adventure through the wonders of the Raja Ampat National Park and across the seas to the Spice Islands of North Maluku. Enjoy slow travel at its best, and we offer you daily snorkelling sessions on vibrant and colourful coral reefs, beautiful and unique landscapes, white-sand beaches, and picture postcard tropical islands, and trekking through tropical rainforests to see birds of paradise in the wild. You will see one of the world's largest butterflies, view ancient 5,000-year-old cave art, and learn about the spice trade of old, and hopefully we will see the unique-looking black-crested macaque (the only monkey east of the Wallace Line. Along the way, we will also visit and meet with the local people who live in the region, experience their customs and traditions, and enjoy their warm hospitality on a journey you will never forget.



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Day 1 & 2

You will be welcomed to the boat by your crew and tour leaders, and as you settle into your new home, we will raise the anchor and head out into the Raja Ampat National Park.

We go on a pre-dawn quest to spot the remarkable Red Bird of Paradise, where we hope to see this rare bird's elaborate courtship display high in the trees as dawn breaks over the forest canopy. After this, we will go to a different site to see the ground-dwelling Wilson's bird of paradise, and it's equally beautiful, but with a vastly different courtship display.

We will have an epic snorkel adventure on one of Raja Ampat's best reefs, where hundreds of species can be found, including



large schools of fish of all sizes and a massive diversity of coral species.

Day 3 & 4

We will visit a small island group for a short hilltop climb to take in the amazing views. After some great snorkelling on the island's reefs, we will set course for a local village, where the local children will perform their traditional dances for us.

We can also walk around the village and gain a sense of their culture, which is still kept very much alive by the villagers living in this isolated place. There's a chance that we may get to see some manta rays as we snorkel, but there are no guarantees.

Snorkel the Dampier Strait, home of some of Raja Ampat's premier reefs. If the currents are in our favour, we might see some of the area's larger specimens of marine life, which are attracted to the strait's nutrient-rich waters.

Day 5 & 6

Visit the chain of islands that make up the eastern part of the Misool archipelago in the south of Raja Ampat. The topography is typical of 'karst dissolution', featuring a great number of tiny islets whose bases have been eroded over time by the relentless motion of the tides.

We will swim in a mysterious stingless jellyfish lake amongst the many thousands of animals: undoubtedly one of Raja Ampat's most memorable activities. We use our tenders to explore more of this impressive maze of karst islands, both above and below the surface, complete with some prehistoric cave paintings, estimated to be between 3,000 to 5,000 years old and depicting various human figures and huge human hands, fish, and flowers.

Day 7 & 8

We visit the small seaside village of Aduwei on Misool, where we can stroll around and meet the local people. We visit the school to learn about the way the Nature Conservancy is working with the village to empower local women with a fishing practice called 'Sasi'.

We will be snorkelling at a channel that divides two islands, where sea fans hang in the drop-offs, and the current is rich in nutrients.

Spend the day strolling on a white-sandy beach and snorkel the reef where juvenile black-tip reef sharks usually frequent.

Day 9 & 10

We pay a visit to the Pisang Islands. These tiny gems isolated in the vast waters of the Ceram Sea offer us a chance to relax and enjoy the sparkling white-sand beaches, clear waters, and vibrant reefs before making our way to the shores of West Misool.

Visit Bacan, another of Indonesia's historic spice sultanates. We go ashore to explore the forested slopes where Wallace made some of his greatest zoological discoveries, including the Standardwing Bird of Paradise, and the huge and magnificent Golden Birdwing Butterfly. Wallace described the latter species as the "finest butterfly in the world".

We will also keep a close watch for these and a host of other animals, some of them endemic to these islands, including parrots, cockatoos, lorikeets, hornbills, the elusive cuscus, and



the endangered black macaque - the only monkey in Maluku. It's the wrong side of the Wallace Line for monkeys; these were introduced hundreds of years ago from North Sulawesi.

Day 11 & 12

Visit the Guraici Archipelago, a chain of islands with white sandy beaches, vibrant coral reefs, and some lovely local villages. We will spend a full day here snorkelling, swimming, and beachcombing. The islands are part of a government-controlled conservation area, designed to protect the reefs and the many beautiful marine species that live there.

Visit the village of Dodinga: the very place where Wallace was living when, in a fit of malarial delirium, he discovered the mechanism which drives evolutionary change - natural selection. Dodinga is a pretty little riverside village with friendly people, colourful houses, and the ruins of an old Portuguese fort, and its importance in the history of science cannot be understated.

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

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VESSEL TYPE:

LENGTH:

PASSENGER CAPACITY:

BUILT/REFURBISHED:

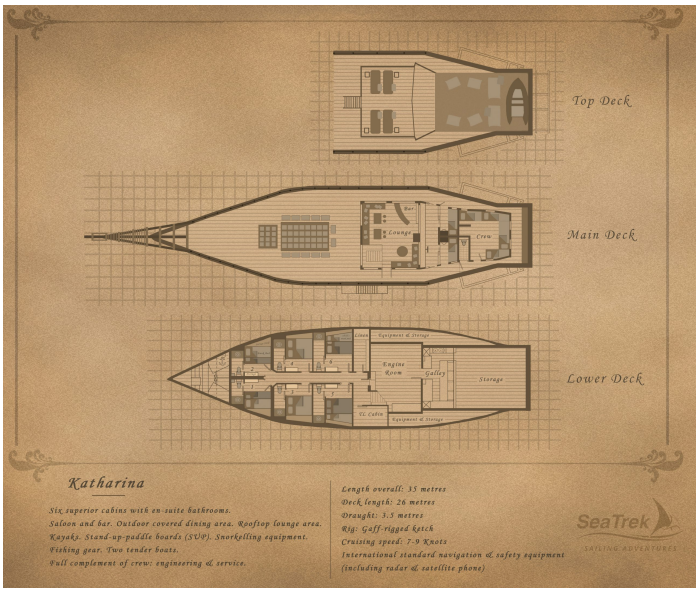
Katharina is a mix of traditional and modern design. Her hull and rigging are traditional, while the deck house and interior were custom designed to adapt to Western tastes of space, privacy and comfort. While Indonesian traditional sailing vessels are customarily referred to as Bugi Schooners, strictly 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

05-Feb-2027 to 16-Feb-2027

Stateroom	**£7895 GBP pp**

ADDITIONAL CHARGES: **Fuel Surcharge 2026 200 USD pp**