



## The Small Cruise Ship Collection

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## INDONESIA'S CORAL GARDENS AND KOMODO DRAGONS

Discover remote Indonesian islands on a voyage that stretches nearly 2,000 miles, from the untamed realm of the world's largest lizard--the Komodo dragon--to the azure expanse of the Spice Islands and the enchanting Banda Sea. With the state-of-the-art *Aqua Blu* as your home base, dive or snorkel through waters teeming with life and color, engage with local communities to learn about their time-honored traditions and actively explore the natural beauty of one of the world's most spectacular archipelagos.



### ITINERARY

Day 1 Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia / Nusa Dua

Arrive in Bali, one of the cultural hubs of Indonesia, and transfer to the Hilton Bali Resort (or similar). Enjoy the hotel facilities and restaurants before your adventure.

Day 2 Bali / Labuan Bajo, Flores / Embark Ship

Travel by air from Bali to Labuan Bajo on our recommended flight\*; transfers to the airport and luggage assistance will be provided. Embark *Aqua Blu* in the afternoon and settle into your cabin before a welcome reception and dinner on board.



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\*If you are not purchasing the recommended flight, please get in touch to confirm your arrangements.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### Day 3 Komodo / At Sea

Enjoy breakfast with views of Komodo Bay's contrasting landscapes: dramatic peaks set against turquoise waters. Venture into Komodo National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, in search of the legendary Komodo dragon, the world's largest living lizard. Embark on a hike accompanied by experienced park rangers to observe these ancient creatures in their natural habitat and gain insights into ongoing conservation initiatives. Capture images of these fascinating reptiles with the help of your National Geographic certified photo instructor. In the afternoon, set sail for Taka Bonerate National Park. Along the way, attend engaging talks with onboard experts, delving into the extraordinary wildlife, ecosystems and geology that will shape your journey.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### Day 4 Taka Bonerate National Park

Taka Bonerate--loosely translated from the Bugis language as "coral piled on sand"--is a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and national park that is home to the third largest atoll in the world. Immerse yourself in a day of exploration beneath crystal-clear waters in an untouched realm teeming with life. Start the morning with a swim or set out on a kayak excursion. As you

snorkel and dive, you may encounter playful dolphins, intricate gorgonian fans, black corals and an array of other marine creatures, including tuna, napoleon wrasse, scorpionfish and more.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### Day 5 At Sea / Maumere, Flores

Spend the morning enjoying the amenities aboard Aqua Blu, unwinding with a book, savoring a quiet moment by the sea or refining your photography skills with guidance from your National Geographic certified photo instructor. Arrive at Watublapi village, renowned for producing some of the world's most exquisite ikat weavings. Watch as master weavers continue the time-honored tradition of crafting designs using handspun cotton yarn and vibrant natural dyes derived from local plants. During your visit, you'll also experience a traditional dance performance that captures the spirit of their culture.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### Day 6 Pantar Strait Marine Park

The morning calls for snorkel and dive excursions in the dazzling waters of Pantar Strait Marine Park, one of Indonesia's most stunning aquatic areas thanks to the confluence of cold currents from Australia and warm Indonesian seas that foster an abundance of marine life. This afternoon, step ashore on Alor Island into the rich cultural tapestry of the Abui tribe. Experience their centuries-old traditions firsthand as the community welcomes you with their lego-lego dance, a rhythmic expression of unity and heritage. You'll also watch a demonstration of their



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bow-and-arrow skills, offering a glimpse into their ancestral way of life that continues to thrive in this remote corner of the world.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### Day 7 Pulau Wetar

The rugged, untouched coastline of Wetar island beckons with a wealth of hidden treasures, waiting to be discovered. Beneath the surface, impressive wall dives reveal a thriving underwater world where you may encounter graceful sharks gliding through the depths, schools of shimmering pelagic fish and vivid cup corals. Whether you're diving or snorkeling, keep your eyes peeled for majestic manta and mobula rays, a highlight of this remote and rarely explored marine paradise.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### Day 8 Kepulauan Barat Daya

Nestled within the fabled "Wallacea" region, the Barat Daya islands are an archipelago--or "kepulauan" in Indonesian--isolated by deep oceanic straits from the Australian and Asian continental shelves. Plunge into the crystalline waters surrounding Pulau Nyata, where elusive hammerhead sharks and graceful rays glide through vibrant coral reefs. Continue south to Telang for more thrilling snorkeling and kayaking adventures, keeping an eye out for the rare silver-tip shark.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### Day 9 Nil Desperandum

Nil Desperandum--meaning "do not despair" in Latin--is a small, secluded atoll in the Banda Sea known for its hard coral formations and deep drop offs. Spend the day diving or snorkeling among thriving coral and sponge gardens whose highlight includes a vibrant tapestry of brain and staghorn corals perfect for underwater photography enthusiasts. In these clear waters, you'll also be captivated by schools of formidable fish, including tuna and Spanish mackerel.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### Day 10 Pulau Serua

Serua, like many destinations on this voyage, lies within Indonesia's remote "Forgotten Islands," a scattered chain stretching hundreds of miles from Timor to Papua. Formed by millennia of volcanic eruptions, Serua is a towering stratovolcano that rises thousands of feet above the Banda Sea floor. Set out on an early morning kayaking excursion, then snorkel and dive to discover stunning reefs, dramatic walls and soft coral gardens. Marvel at schools of fish swiftly darting among the corals and watch for the hammerhead sharks known to congregate in larger numbers here. This afternoon, head out on a steep hike to visit a local village, immersing yourself in the culture and traditions of the people who call this volcanic island home.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### Day 11 Pulau Manuk

Begin your day with a sunrise breakfast aboard Aqua Blu, set



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against the dramatic silhouette of Pulau Manuk's towering cliffs--a volcanic island that rises three kilometers from the ocean floor. Uninhabited by humans, this isle provides a haven for nature's predators: fish-eating birds dive with precision into its pristine waters, and sea snakes and reef sharks gather at its underwater thermal springs. Be on the lookout for frigatebirds, gannets and other seabirds that nest in Manuk's verdant treetops. Enjoy swimming or kayaking in the ocean before taking part in a cooking demonstration aboard the ship.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### Day 12 Banda Neira

Arrive at the Banda Islands at sunrise, welcomed by traditional Kora-Kora war canoes gliding through the harbor. Step ashore on Banda Neira, once the world's most fiercely contested island between the British and Dutch during the spice trade of the 16th and 17th centuries. Wander through the remnants of history at Dutch Fort Nassau, a military stronghold that now symbolizes the island's tumultuous past as the global epicenter of nutmeg production--a prized and lucrative spice traded across Europe and Asia. Spend the morning walking through its ancient passageways that tell of a complex bygone era. After lunch, don your snorkel or dive gear and explore the marine life of this storied archipelago. Later on, toast the day with a sundowner and panoramic views of Banda Neira at Fort Belgica.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### Day 13 Pulau Ai / Pulau Run

At Pulau Ai, one of the westernmost gems of the Banda Islands,

immerse yourself in crystalline waters as you swim, snorkel or dive among coral gardens full of reef fish. Afterward, step ashore for a guided tour of Ai where you'll learn about the island's storied past and visit its historic nutmeg storehouses, once vital to the lucrative spice trade. Be sure to keep your camera handy as you explore with your National Geographic certified photo instructor by your side. This afternoon, journey to the shores of Pulau Run, an idyllic island that was a center for nutmeg trade in the 17th century and was famously traded for Manhattan in 1667 by the British and Dutch. In the evening, enjoy a cocktail party on these historic sands, watching the sun sink gracefully into the sea.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### Day 14 Pulau Nusa Laut / At Sea

Begin your day with an early morning swim in tranquil ocean waters, followed by snorkeling, diving or kayaking excursions. On the northern shores of Nusa Laut, explore the picturesque fishing villages of Ameth and Akon, where time seems to slow amidst the island's serene beauty. With luck, you'll spot the elusive dugong, the Southeast Asian cousin of the gentle American manatee, in its natural environment. As your journey continues toward Ambon, take part in a cooking lesson that brings the flavors of the Spice Islands to life. Enhance your day with insightful onboard presentations from your naturalist guides, deepening your connection to the landscapes, cultures and wildlife you've encountered along the way.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### Day 15 Ambon, Maluku / Disembark Ship / Denpasar, Bali



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Disembark in Ambon after breakfast and transfer to the airport to fly to Bali on our recommended flight\*; transfers to the airport and luggage assistance will be provided. Upon arrival, connect to your flight home.

\*If you are not purchasing the recommended group flight, please get in touch to confirm your arrangements.

Meals Included: Breakfast

Please note:

Itineraries are subject to change.



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### YOUR SHIP: AQUA BLU

YOUR SHIP:	Aqua Blu
VESSEL TYPE:	Yacht
LENGTH:	198 feet / 60 meters
PASSENGER CAPACITY:	30
BUILT/REFURBISHED:	1968/2006/2019

Presenting a brand-new cruise experience in the pristine East Indonesian Archipelago, Aqua Blu is a long-range explorer yacht sailing the region's most prized destinations, including Komodo National Park, Spice Islands and Raja Ampat on unforgettable 7- and 12-night itineraries. Where modern luxury meets naval heritage With a grand legacy as the former British Naval Explorer HMS Beagle and later as the private yacht of a European aristocratic family, Aqua Blu is a compelling maritime statement. A 2019 refurbishment overseen by Dutch yacht design maestro Cor D. Rover brings the vessel to world-class cruising specifications. Guests can expect to embrace an distinguished sense of history and seafaring evolution when they set foot on this one-of-a-kind cruise ship. Inside the four-deck, 15-suite Aqua Blu, Cor has tastefully paired with a brass-and-ivory interior theme with generous and inviting indoor and outdoor social spaces, including a sun deck. Unlocking access to the Earth's most intriguing destinations Faster, further, greater safety and comfort -- Aqua Blu's naval pedigree makes it the perfect vessel to navigate East Indonesia's vast seas. Having attained the highest international classifications (RINA, SOLAS, ISM) in safety, the vessel is additionally equipped with Quantum

Zero Speed stabilizers for optimal comfort at rest or while sailing. Aqua Blu's range stands heads and shoulders above that of its peers in East Indonesia. Able to cover vast distances in a short span of time -- and in any sea condition -- the vessel enables explorers on board to experience the most varied, enjoyable and rewarding coastal cruise itineraries in this wild and stunningly beautiful region of the world. On Board Living and Social Areas Sun Deck with Outdoor Seating, Lounge Sofa and Barbecue Bridge Deck with Jacuzzi, Outdoor Lounge Area, Spa and Exercise Zone Forecastle Deck with Outdoor Dining and Seating Area, Indoor Lounge Bar, Library and TV Room Main Deck with Outdoor Seating, Salon and



Dining Room



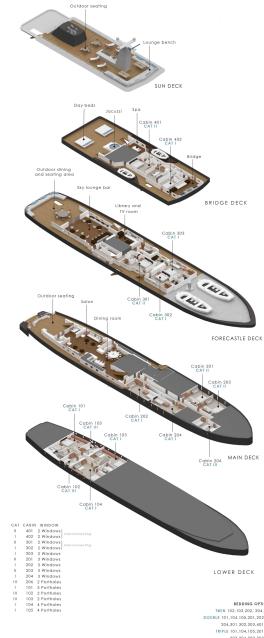
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## INSIDE YOUR SHIP



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## PRICING

**26-Oct-2026 to 09-Nov-2026**

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