

ISLAND TREASURES OF INDONESIA & EAST TIMOR LUXURY CRUISE

Timor, Flores, Sumbawa, Komodo, Banda Neira ... Just mentioning the names of these islands is enough to conjure up images of spectacular blooms, wide emerald-coloured bays, island-volcanoes, villages peopled with inhabitants who have preserved long-lasting traditions, prehistoric animals, hills covered in tropical forests, dazzling white sandy beaches, and waves crashing down on the coral. From the secret waterfalls gushing in the heart of luxuriant jungles to the peaceful lagoons edged with captivating coral reefs, the landscapes of the Indonesian archipelago and East Timor are like living paintings. In the gentle trade winds, set off to discover ancestral cultures and vibrant traditions. The villages of thatched houses, lulled by the soothing rhythm of the waves, invite you to discover welcoming communities and preserved know-how. _The encounters with the wildlife described above illustrate possible experiences only and cannot be guaranteed._



ITINERARY

Day 1 Darwin

Darwin is located in Australia's Northern Territory which is also known as the "Top End". It is the capital city and the most populated town of the Northern Territory. Darwin is a beautiful tropical city, a melting pot of people and cultures, over 50 different cultures live and work side by side that prides itself in its unique and friendly laid-back lifestyle. Come discover the town's still recent history through its emblematic buildings such as the new Parliamant House opened in 1994, a magnificent example of tropical architecture or Admiralty House declared heritage place, a tropical-style home elevated on stilts that has survived two cyclones and numerous air raids.



Day 2 At Sea

During your journey at sea, make the most of the many services and activities on board. Treat yourself to a moment of relaxation in the spa or stay in shape in the fitness centre. Depending on the season, let yourself be tempted by the swimming pool or a spot of sunbathing. This journey without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, depending on the activities offered, or to do some shopping in the boutique or to meet the PONANT photographers in their dedicated space. As for lovers of the open sea, they will be able to visit the ship's upper deck to admire the spectacle of the waves and perhaps be lucky enough to observe marine species. A truly enchanted interlude, combining comfort, rest and entertainment.

Day 3 Dili

Located on the northern coast of the island of Timor, along the narrow plains between the central mountains and the Ombai Strait, the seaside resort of **Dili** is the capital of East Timor, a former Portuguese colony that has been independent since May 2002. The uniqueness of this territory, still preserved from the tourist routes, is unveiled thanks to the beauty of its intact landscapes, with dense tropical forest covering undulating hills, coral reef and immaculate sandy beaches. You will be enchanted by this small and peaceful town with a distinctive Portuguese atmosphere, and will discover the riches of its historic and cultural heritage during your visit.

Day 4 Baucau

Located on the north coast of East Timor, not far from the Wetar Strait, the city of Baucau**inspires wanderlust**. The country's second-largest city, where the vestiges of a Portuguese colonial past spanning nearly four centuries can still be found, is a small corner of paradise known among diving enthusiasts. And with good reason: this earthly paradise, nestling between lush green hills and long white-sand beaches lining a turquoise sea, is particularly renowned for its Coral Triangle. The latter is home to **multiple protected marine species, some fifteen endemic corals, and 76% of the world 's coral reefs**.

Day 5 Banda Neira, Maluku Islands

From age-old traditional cultures and ancient vestiges, to coral reefs and lush green jungle... The attractions of the **remote Banda archipelago** seem endless. Better known as the legendary **" Spice Islands"** of the Ancient World, these small volcanic landmasses were the fabled prize of colonial powers for more than four centuries. Every colonial power of significance fought for control of these ten small islands that today have become largely forgotten. Walking the streets of **Banda Neira** is a surreal experience as your eyes are drawn to the eclectic**mix of Portuguese, Dutch and British architecture** , the remnants of a rich and tumultuous history. It is without doubt the most historically significant and interesting of all the "Spice Islands".

Day 6 Kitikiti Waterfall, Mommon

North of **Triton Bay** , in the Indonesian province of West Papua, lie the **Bomberai Peninsula** and **Sebakor** Bay. A real paradise for divers, this protected, authentic and very wild area boasts an exceptional biodiversity. Here, you will be able to admire the superb **Kitikiti Waterfall** where you could enjoy a swim or snorkel surrounded by lush nature, both on land and under water.

Day 7 Triton Bay, West Papua



Triton Bay is one of three regions in Indonesia's West Papua province that comprise the Bird's Head Seascape (the other two are Raja Ampat and Cenderawasih Bay), which is now considered by marine biologists to be the **epicentre of the Coral Triangle**. It contains more fish and coral species than anywhere else on the planet. Its unparalleled marine biodiversity and endemism, habitat richness, and relatively intact nature of its ecosystems are unique. Join your expedition team for a zodiac voyage through the spectacular rainforest capped karst islands. Later in the day enjoy the opportunity to explore the richness of the underwater realm.

Day 8 Kei Islands, Maluku Islands

The Kei Islands are blessed with kilometres of stunning, yet almost entirely empty, **white-sand beaches** and a deeply hospitable population. Beneath the mostly Christian facade, Kei culture is fascinatingly distinctive. Local history holds that ancestors of contemporary Kei islanders came from Bali, part of the expanding Hindu Majapahit kingdom from the western archipelago. Enjoy a day of **swimming and snorkelling** on an idyllic uninhabited picture **postcard tropical island**.

Day 9 Barat Daya Islands

If you are looking for exoticism and authenticity, then you will be captivated by the Barat Daya Islands, an Indonesian archipelago lying to the east of the Lesser Sunda Islands, bathed by the Banda Sea and surrounded by coral reefs. With their fine sandy beaches, marine environments, preserved nature and paddy fields, these islands in the Maluku archipelago are a **real concentration of the beauty South-East Asia** has to offer. A lush environment in which fauna and flora flourish. Notably, there are almost **162 different bird species** including four endemic ones and three endangered ones.

Day 10 Kalabahi, Alor

The unique culture of the Alorese continues among the Takpala indigenous group who have preserved their traditional architecture and ceremonies. The island of Alor is also known as the island of a Thousand Moko's. The Moko is a small bronze kettledrum which is believed to have originated from the Dong Son culture of Vietnam. However, it remains a mystery as to how these prehistoric Dong Son drums arrived in Alor. Local legend says that the Moko's were discovered buried in the ground, and indeed mokos are still being uncovered today. Join the expedition team and local guides for a tour by local transport to Takpala village, the Museum of a Thousand Mokos and the thriving main market of Kalabahi.

Day 11 Maumere, Flores

Floresians have an ancient culture stretching back millennia before the first arrival of Europeans in search of trade opportunities. Their history is shared through oral traditions and is recreated in song and dance. The mountainous terrain of Flores has preserved the diversity of cultures and Maumere serves as the capital of the Sikka district and main trading port. Few tourists make it to Maumere with most stopping at Labuan Bajo and heading west to the islands of Komodo. Consequently, Maumere and has kept its charming atmosphere, an eclectic mix of a bustling trading town and a coastal paradise. Join your expedition team and local guides for a tour by local transport to the markets and tribal villages in the hinterland of Maumere.

Day 12 17 Islands Marine Park, Flores

Off the northern coast of Flores Island, **17 Islands National Park** comprises a handful of islets set in crystal-clear waters,



home to heavenly beaches and rich biodiversity. Among them, **Tiga Island** stands out for its **gleaming white-sand beaches** and translucent waters ideal for swimming. In this small, unspoilt natural haven, the horizon blends into the turquoise of the sea, inviting relaxation and contemplation.

Day 13 Komodo National Park

Between the islands of Sumbawa and Flores, **Komodo National Park** welcomes you to discover its natural wonders. At the very heart of the Indonesian archipelago, the three islands that form it - Komodo, Rinca and Padar - owe their renown to the **famous eponymous dragons** , enormous lizards over two metres long, which live in its grassy savannah. This jagged and hilly volcanic territory belonging to the Sunda Islands is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** because of its incredible terrestrial and marine biodiversity. Admire its palette of colours, intermingling the sparkling whites of the beaches and the deep blues of the coral-filled water.

Day 14 Badas, Sumbawa

The port of Badas is part of the greater township of Sumbawa Besar, on the island of Sumbawa. Like most of Sumbawa the people hold their culture strong as a major part of their identity. The island has a strong influence from the Makassarese of Sulawesi, who over the centuries have introduced a lot of their culture into Sumbawa. Join your expedition team and local guides for a tour by bus to Pamulung Village where you will be welcomed by the head of the village and have the opportunity to witness first-hand the local traditions of rice pounding, weaving and also re-enactment of a traditional wedding procession. Your visit will conclude with an exciting Sumbawa buffalo race, an event that will be held in honour of our visit.

Day 15 Benoa, Bali

If it's a taste of exotic authenticity you're after, prepare to be spell-bound by the **island of Bali** , tucked away in the heart of the Indonesian **archipelago**. The beauty and diversity of its landscapes, the depth and richness of its cultural heritage and the plethora of activities on offer here make **Bali** a little slice of heaven on Earth. The island's southern coast enthrals with its white sand beaches, its picturesque little fishing villages such as **Benoa,** and its hills patchworked with terraced rice paddies further inland. Nicknamed 'the Island of Gods' for its sumptuous temples, Bali is the beating heart of Indonesian Hinduism.

Please note:

Itineraries are subject to change.



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YOUR SHIP: **Le Jacques Cartier**

VESSEL TYPE:

LENGTH:

PASSENGER CAPACITY:

BUILT/REFURBISHED:

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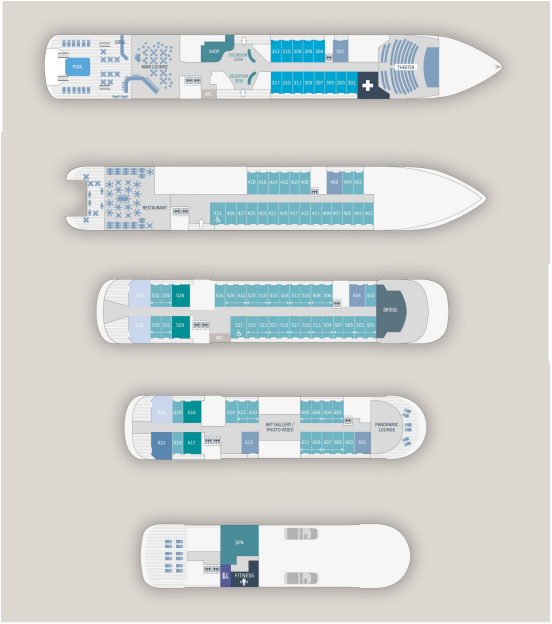


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