

RARE SPECIES, REMOTE CULTURES & REMARKABLE CORALS WITH NICOLE, CORAL SPECIALIST

This is an outstanding sailing and snorkelling adventure that crosses from the original clove "spice Islands" of Maluku to North Sulawesi, visiting some of the most remote and least visited regions of Indonesia and snorkelling on some of the best reefs that the Coral Triangle has to offer. Led by marine biologist, Nicole Helgason and starting in Ternate, you will travel south following a long chain of conical active volcanoes to the island of Bacan, where you will see Wallace's Standardwing bird of paradise, and the world's largest butterfly, the Golden birdwing. Crossing the Sula Archipelago, you will travel where very few tourists ever venture, visiting local people and experiencing their unique island culture and way of life. Following on, you can look forward to a swim in a lake filled with stingless jellyfish, a visit to a giant clam restoration programme, a one-of-a-kind interaction with Maleo birds, babirusa (Indonesia's native pig), a visit with the Bajau 'sea gypsies', who live in communities built on the water and most famous for the 'Jago', the patriarch seen on the BBC, and the awesome experience of swimming with whale sharks before reaching your final destination after a glorious 14 days at sea. Ending in Bitung, Sulawesi, this trip offers the perfect opportunity to do a post-cruise add on land tour to visit the Tangkoko National Park to see tarsiers, black-crested macaques, and all manner of birds living wild in the rainforest. Contact us for more information.



ITINERARY

Day 1 & 2

Visit Dodinga Village, a pivotal place in scientific history, where the naturalist Alfred Russel Wallace first came up with the Theory of Evolution by Natural Selection.



Visit the Guraici Archipelago, a chain of islands with white sandy beaches and vibrant coral reefs, where we will spend time snorkelling, swimming, and also visit one of the villages to meet the local people. The islands are part of a government-controlled conservation area, designed to protect the reefs and the many beautiful marine species that live there.

It may also be possible to see manta rays here, and these protected waters also provide the perfect location for beginner or rusty snorkellers to become familiar with the water and to hone their skills for the many days of snorkelling that lie ahead.

Day 3 & 4

Explore the deep forest and rivers of Bacan Island, where Wallace first saw what he called 'the most beautiful butterfly in the world, the Golden Birdwing. During our trek, the other species that we might see here include cuscus, hornbills, and other birds, and maybe even an encounter with the black-crested macaque.

Snorkel on some spectacular coral reefs and visit a local hot spring where we encourage you take a warm dip.

Visit Belang Belang Island, which offers fantastic snorkelling both on the reefs and the mangroves, which act as a nursery to many marine species, including baby sharks and many kinds of school fish. We will explore the huge inland lagoon, which we can explore from the boat tender. The island is home to healthy populations of birds, including parrots, tree swifts, imperial pigeons, and many more.

Day 5 & 6

Time for snorkelling, culture, and history as we find ourselves in the middle of the Banda Sea in the remote and breathtaking Sulu Archipelago, where the reefs are teeming with fish and other marine life. True to the desert island locales, we will also kayak, paddle, swim, explore, and relax on the white-sand beaches.

Visit a local village market and see the ruins of a 17th-century Dutch fort, which once protected the spice trade along these routes. We will be treated to a traditional dance known as the 'cakalale', by local warriors. We will also have a chance to explore the local village and meet the people of this remote region.

Enjoy a beach BBQ for us, and they will regale us with traditional Indonesian folk songs and sea shanties as we party by firelight late into the night.

Day 7 & 8

The Bokan Islands are an area of unsurpassed beauty, and today will be a day of marine exploration and relaxation. We also have the rare privilege to swim in a small marine lake filled with stingless jellyfish, one of only 20 lakes of its kind in the world.

We will visit the bustling Indonesian island port town of Banggai, where we will visit the local market, the sultan's palace, and the Maleo bird egg 'museum', and all from our fleet of brightly-coloured motor rickshaws, which will be on the dock awaiting our arrival.

We will pay a hands-on visit to LINI, an NGO doing great work



with coral restoration on the surrounding reefs, in addition to working with local fishermen in finding sustainable solutions for supplying fish for overseas markets and the live aquarium fishing trade.

Day 9 & 10

Today you will have the chance to see possibly one of the strangest and most unique flightless birds found in the world - the Maleo. We visit a conservation project on the mainland where scores of Maleo live and breed. Entering in twos, we can watch them at their sandy nesting sites from a camouflaged hide as they go about their business.

We visit the Togean Islands National Park for some island hopping and spectacular snorkelling, wildlife, and culture. - Today will be your first encounter with the Bajau sea gypsies of Southeast Asia and their famous patriarch 'Jago', a people with a unique way of living with the sea. About 2,500 people live in this small village, and we will be welcomed into their world to meet and talk with them about their lives.

Day 11 & 12

Some great wildlife experiences await both in the water and the air, with birds, fish, Babirusa (Indonesia's rare native pig), and invertebrates as the main features. We will enjoy a snorkel on the lush reefs near the island of Malenge, before taking our snorkels and masks for a rare second swim with stingless jellyfish.

We will visit a local village and meet the people, and enjoy a late afternoon walk in the forest before being witness to a most amazing show of nature as flocks of hornbills come flying in to roost in the trees - a once-in-a-lifetime sight only accessible with SeaTrek.

Day 13 & 14

After an overnight crossing from Togean, we start the day with an early morning swim with whale sharks that congregate just off the coast at a small village in North Sulawesi. Swimming with these gentle giants is one of life's highlights and is not to be missed.

Visit Tangkoko National Park for a trek through the forest, a haven for many rare and endemic wildlife species, including spectral tarsiers, black-crested macaque, cuscus, and a wide variety of birds. This is where Wallace did a lot of his collecting, and we will visit a statue that celebrates this great man.

After a final swim and snorkel on the beach and then a short sail into Bitung Harbour, we will say a fond farewell to our crew and tour leaders and head to Manado City for your onward flights.

Please Note:

Whether it's swimming with whale sharks & mantas rays, or leisurely gliding along a stunning tropical reef surrounded by myriad fish and corals, snorkelling lies at the very heart of what we do at SeaTrek. We do it well and we do it often - usually twice a day for an hour or more at a time. No matter if you are a novice or a seasoned pro, our tour leaders will ensure that you have everything you need to have some of the best underwater experiences of your life.



YOUR SHIP: KATHARINA

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VESSEL TYPE:

LENGTH:

PASSENGER CAPACITY:

BUILT/REFURBISHED:

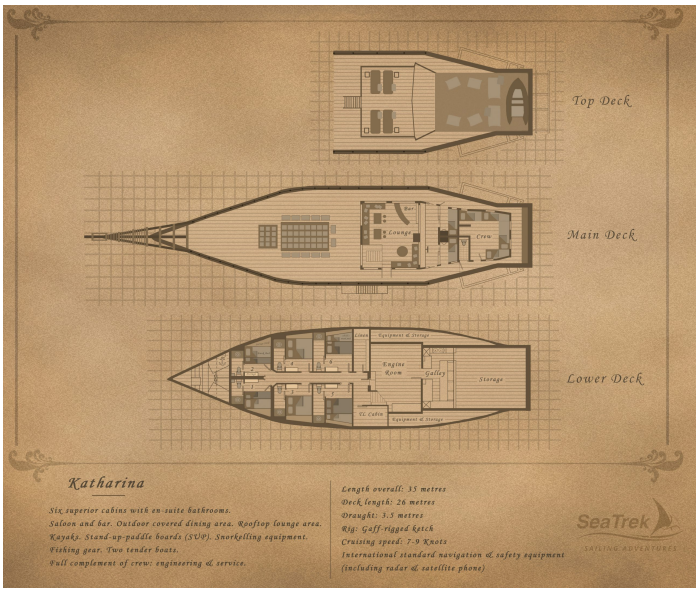
Katharina is a mix of traditional and modern design. Her hull and rigging are traditional, while the deck house and interior were custom designed to adapt to Western tastes of space, privacy and comfort. While Indonesian traditional sailing vessels are customarily referred to as Bugi Schooners, strictly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

23-Feb-2027 to 08-Mar-2027

Stateroom	**£8745 GBP pp**

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