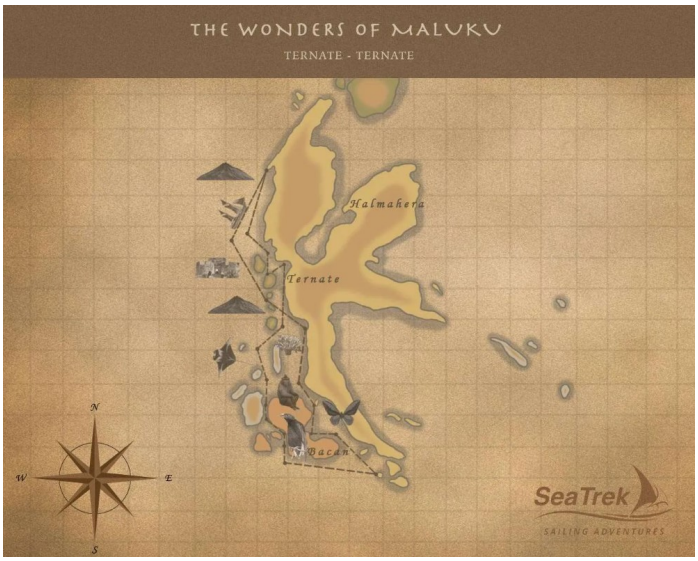


THE WONDERS OF NORTH MALUKU - A SNORKELLING, WILDLIFE & CULTURAL ADVENTURE

This 13-day cruise has been designed with a strong emphasis on snorkelling and for people who prefer shorter crossings and nights at anchor, leaving more time for local exploration. On this journey, we will explore the many islands, forests, villages, reefs, and shoals of North Maluku at a slower pace than normal, with lots of cultural and wildlife experiences combined with exploration by tender and on foot, lots of time on white-sand paradise beaches, and snorkelling on distant and unexplored reefs. - See birds of paradise in their natural habitat as they perform their elaborate courtship rituals high in the forest canopy. - Visit Ternate and Tidore Islands, rich former sultanates that are home to the clove plant, and once some of the most valuable real estate on earth that was fought over by European powers for control of the spice trade. - Visit Dodinga, the small village where Victorian adventurer and naturalist Alfred Russel Wallace first formulated the theory of evolution by natural selection. - Enjoy daily snorkelling sessions on beautifully rich and abundant coral reefs, and explore uninhabited islands with white sand beaches, hidden coves and bays, and spend long hours swimming and playing in the warm tropical waters - Experience the age-old ritual of crossing the equator by ship, where we will swim with one leg in each hemisphere.



ITINERARY

Day 1 & 2

After settling into your cabins, we will set course north for about 90 minutes and enjoy our first snorkel of many on a lovely coral reef.

Explore a remote and forested set of islets renowned for its



limestone outcrops and a large and dramatic waterfall, which cascades directly into the sea in a beautiful bay.

We will pay a visit to Dodinga Village, a seminal place in the history of science, where Victorian explorer and naturalist Alfred Russel Wallace first formulated the Theory of Evolution through Natural Selection, which was later published together with Charles Darwin.

Day 3 & 4

Go ashore to the village of Bastiong on Halmahera, where we will be welcomed by the friendly residents and guided through their fruit plantations and forests to a giant waterfall, where we can bathe in its cool, clear waters. On our way back, the villagers will likely get their musical instruments out and invite us all to sing and dance together.

Snorkel, paddle board, kayak, and explore the beaches, reefs, and mangroves of two beautiful small island groups. If we are lucky, we will see white-tipped reef sharks as we swim among the rich beautiful coral gardens.

Day 5 & 6

Beautiful, rare, and endemic wildlife is what awaits us on our visit to Bacan Island as we go see the Golden-birdwing butterfly, one of nature's biggest and most beautiful specimens. We also hope to see the stylishly quaffed black-crested macaques, mohawk-sporting monkeys that live in the forests.

Visit a copra processing plant and learn how the villagers make their living from their coconut plantations, and visit a local hot spring to bathe in the thermal waters.

Visit a large settlement of the famed Bajau 'Sea Gypsy" people, who spend their entire lives living on, above, and near the water. We will be welcomed into the community by the village head and shown around to see their way of life and how they make their living from the ocean. Expect lots of wonderful smiling and excited kids to accompany us as we move around the village - always a huge treat.

Day 7 & 8

There will be an early wake-up and a quick breakfast as we go ashore in search of one of the highlights of the trip, the Wallace Standardwing Bird of Paradise, which inhabits the deep forests in the interior. We will also have a second chance to see the Black-crested macaques as we return to the boat later in the morning.

Go ashore to the town of Labuha, the capital of Bacan, a large and vibrant fishing and trading port, which offers a great insight into the economy of eastern Indonesia's islands.

Cruise the fascinating, tight passage north through the narrow, island-filled channels that separate the heavily forested islands of Bacan and Kasuruta. At the head of the channel, we will stop at an uninhabited island to snorkel, paddle, kayak, swim, and play.

Day 9 & 10

Another pristine island group awaits with white sandy beaches, crystal clear turquoise water, which is ideal for snorkelling, swimming, and exploring with its limestone formations and very picturesque setting.



We get to explore the beautiful Guraici Archipelago, another 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. We will also have the chance to see manta rays, which are often found in these waters.

Day 11 & 12

We will cross the Equator in the daytime and partake in a centuries-old seafaring ritual for novices to celebrate their first crossing. The crew dress up in gaudy costumes, and we will count down to 'zero' on the GPS as we approach the Equator, and then all take a swim in the sea with one leg in each hemisphere to celebrate.

Go ashore to visit the Equator monument, explore the island surrounds and reefs, and experience the glorious SeaTrek tradition of a beach BBQ and party under the stars with our crew.

Visit Tidore, an island dominated by a massive volcanic cone, and once a rival sultanate to Ternate just across the bay, for its highly valued cloves. Highlights include a visit to a local blacksmith and an old Spanish fort as we circle the island by car.

Day 13

Today marks the end of our cruise adventure, but not before we take you on a short tour of the town of Ternate, the provincial capital. This and the neighbouring islands were once the world's only source of cloves and were highly contested by European powers. We will visit the Sultan's palace, the market, and an 17th Century Dutch fort, a remnant of Indonesia's colonial past.

We will say farewell to our crew before taking you to your hotel or the airport for the next leg of your journey.

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:

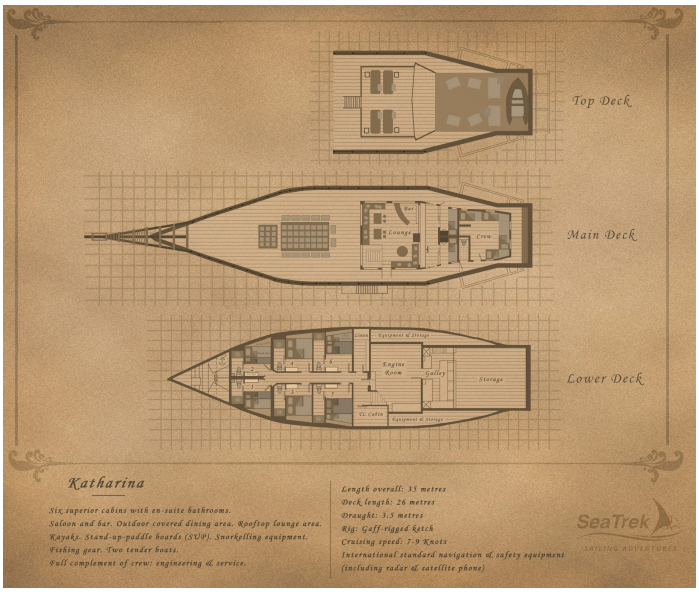
Katharina is a mix of traditional and modern design. Her hull and rigging are traditional, while the deck house and interior were custom designed to adapt to Western tastes of space, privacy and comfort. While Indonesian traditional sailing vessels are customarily referred to as Bugi Schooners, strictly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

19-Feb-2027 to 03-Mar-2027

Stateroom	**£8165 GBP pp**

19-Feb-2028 to 02-Mar-2028

Stateroom	**£9145 GBP pp**

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