BAJAU

Bajau Sea Nomads and the Banggai Archipelago aboard Bajau

Luwuk to Kendari | Banggai Archipelago

The Banggai Archipelago lies at the far eastern tip of Central Sulawesi, a wild paradise that is tough to get to and rarely visited by foreigners.

Here the sea nomads still live in small villages with houses on stilts over the sea, and their livelihood depends entirely on the sea.

Watching them demonstrate their supernatural freediving ability is one of the highlights.

Snorkelling is exceptional on remote and pristine reefs, including a lagoon where spectacular reefs grow among mangrove trees and juvenile fish show in all their colours.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	HIGHLIGHTS
9 days / 8 nights	Luwuk	Kendari	Sea nomads, Banggai cardinal fish







Your route

STOP 1

Upon arrival at Luwuk Airport, we will transfer to the harbour where we embark on our vessel, while sailing, our cruise director will provide a briefing to familiarize you with the vessel and our safety procedures.

STOP 1

(continued)

In the late afternoon, we will make a stop at a charming beach.
As night falls, we will weigh anchor to continue our journey along the picturesque coast.

STOP 2

In the northeastern part of Banggai Island, we'll find the most breathtaking beaches in the archipelago.
Though we might not get to explore all of them, we'll definitely make a stop under the shade of a tree along the fine sandy shoreline.
Here, we can enjoy snorkelling around the superb reef.

STOP 3

This day promises exciting exploration with visits to "Bajo" villages, where you'll likely be the center of attention as it's a place rarely visited by foreigners.
In the early morning, weather permitting, we'll be on Toropot Island to explore two picturesque Bajau villages.
These communities primarily sustain themselves through the octopus trade and seagrass.
The highlight of the day will be snorkelling near the mangroves, offering a chance to spot the endemic "Banggai cardinal fish." We'll also go ashore and visit a traditional village in the interior, witnessing fishermen trading their daily catch.

STOP 4

In the morning, we'll reach a small island surrounded by beautiful white-sand beaches and turquoise waters in the Banggai Archipelago atoll.
Our day will be filled with snorkelling, swimming, and a barbecue on the lovely beach.
In the afternoon, we'll take a short sail to a tiny island to meet a small community called Bajau who live there.
We'll enjoy a bonfire with them on the beach as the sun sets.

STOP 5

At day break, the highlight of the day will be some snorkelling inside the lagoon where mangrove trees grow in crystal clear waters with spectacular reefs growing within the mangrove trees.
This is called the “blue” mangrove, where juvenile fish can be seen in all their kaleidoscopic colours.
In the afternoon, we explore rarely visited nearby islands where we indulge in the spirit of adventure that defines our slow cruises.
Spend a night on anchor place.

STOP 6

After getting back on board, we'll keep sailing to the next island, where we'll meet the Bugis and Bajau communities on the island of Nal and learn about how they connect with each other.
We will also have the chance to go snorkelling on a beautiful reef.
In the afternoon, we'll set sail for another island to enjoy a beautiful beach and more snorkelling.

STOP 7

This day, we'll make a stop at Bungintende, a small island boasting white sand beaches and turquoise waters.
Here, we'll have the opportunity to meet the Bajau community, known for their octopus-catching expertise.
Following this, we will snorkel around a nice reef.
Later, we'll head to a beautiful beach for a relaxing swim.

STOP 8

In the morning, we'll set sail for Pulau Tiga, a cluster of three islets home to Bajau communities.
Once there, we'll go ashore to visit the local school and village.
Afterward, we'll enjoy snorkelling around the beautiful reef.
During lunch, our journey will continue to Sambori Island, also known as "Little Raja 4." We'll spend the afternoon exploring numerous bays and coves using our Zodiac boat, followed by a refreshing swim.

STOP 9

We will arrive at the harbour of Kendari early morning.
After breakfast we say farewell to the crew and we will be transferred to the airport for the guest depart.

THE ROUTE

Route map



MEET THE BAJAU 'SEA NOMADS'

Known for their impressive ability to hold their breath underwater for an impressive period of time due to their larger spleens, the Bajau also possesses a unique traditional way of life. These communities still live a very traditional lifestyle in small villages with houses built on stilts over the sea, and their livelihood depends entirely on the sea. Our Banggai cruise will mostly call at small and remote islands where the Bajau people form the majority of the population. We will take you to some of their villages throughout your trip so that you can get up close and personal with these seafarers, watch them as they demonstrate their supernatural freediving ability, and see how they make their living from the sea. Be prepared for a once-in-a-lifetime experience with the Bajau!

BANGGAI ARCHIPELAGO

We propose the following itinerary, which aligns with our "slow travel" philosophy, focusing on local fishing communities, snorkelling in beautiful reefs, and relaxing on lovely beaches. A lot of these little islands are surrounded by a lagoon, and some of them can't be reached when the tide is low. So, the plan might change depending on the tide level.

HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights

- The warm hospitality of the Bajau communities
- Lunch and dinner barbecues on empty white sandy beaches
- Exceptional snorkelling on remote and pristine reefs.
- Highly recommended for photographers.





ACTIVITIES

Activities on board

- Snorkelling
- Kayaking
- Stand-up paddleboards
- Beach BBQ
- Fishing
- Alcoholic beverages
- Yoga
- Board games








INCLUDED

What your trip covers

INCLUDED IN THE TRIP PRICE

- Full board accommodation on a shared cruise
- Stand-up paddle board
- Kayak
- Yoga Mat
- Snorkelling gears
- Land excursions according to the safari program
- Three meals/day and snacks
- Water, Tea, Coffee, Softdrink
- Multilingual guides on board (English and Indonesian)
- Transfer from/to embarkation/disembarkation airport

NOT INCLUDED

- Harbour and park fees
- Alcoholic Beverage
- Travel Insurance
- Pickup from outlying hotels
- Onboard or local purchases
- Relocation fees if applicable
- Diving equipment (only on private cruise)
- Diving session (only on private cruise)
- Additional passenger
- Single supplement
- Crew and Cruise Director gratuities (Tips on board recommended 5% to 10% of published rates)