KATHARINA

From Raja Ampat to the Volcanoes of Maluku aboard Katharina

Sorong to Ternate | Raja Ampat, Halmahera and the Maluku volcanoes

This route brings you face to face with all the natural beauty of Indonesia, from the reefs of Raja Ampat to the volcanoes of Maluku.

In Raja Ampat the snorkelling takes in one of the most diverse and rich reefs, with many hundreds of species, and chances to see manta rays.

In Misool you can float in a cavernous grotto hung with stalactites, swim among thousands of stingless jellyfish, and pass prehistoric cave paintings.

Birds of paradise dance in the forest at dawn, and thousands of giant fruit bats leave the trees at dusk.

The Guraici Archipelago adds white sand beaches and vibrant coral reefs.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	HIGHLIGHTS
12 days / 11 nights	Sorong	Ternate	Birds of paradise, volcanoes







Your route

STOP 1

Day 1

We will pick you up at the airport or your hotel and we will transfer you to the harbour where the boat will be waiting at anchor.
Once settled into your cabin, your cruise tour leaders will familiarise you with the vessel's facilities and safety procedures.

STOP 1

Day 1 (continued)

We will weigh anchor, leave the harbour behind and head out into the park on our way to our first snorkel of the trip.
Later that day, we will make our way to Mioskon Island where we can enjoy another great snorkel before watching thousands of giant fruit bats emerge from the forest to forage at dusk.

STOP 2

Day 2

Today we will rise very early and head off in the tenders to a small village on Waisai, where local guides will take us on a walk into the forest to spot both the Wilson's and Red birds of paradise.
Back in the village there will be time to meet with the community and perhaps visit the school.
We will be back on the boat by midmorning and if time permits we'll travel over to Friwin Island to snorkel, and then to Yenbesir to see a recreation of AR Wallace's 19th century forest house.
In the afternoon, we will go snorkelling on the beautiful reefs that fill this area.

STOP 3

Day 3

After breakfast, we will snorkel at the famous "Fish Bowl" at Yenuba village, one of the most diverse and rich sites in all of Raja Ampat with many hundreds of species and fish of all sizes.
During lunch, we will cruise to nearby Arborek village, where we will be entertained by the local school children with traditional dance and music.
We will also snorkel on the local reef where we hope to maybe see manta rays.
This evening, we will also be presented with a presentation on manta rays by the BareFoot Community, and NGO working closely with these giants of the deep.

STOP 4

Day 4

Today we wake up in Piaynemo in the Fam islands, where we will go for a snorkel after breakfast and then make a climb to the viewpoint to look down over this magnificent island chain.
We will visit the nearby Andau island, where we have another chance to hopefully spot another group of manta rays.
Later that afternoon, we will head south in the direction of Misool

STOP 5

Day 5

This morning we will wake to see the sun rise over the picturesque chain of islands that makes up the eastern part of the Misool archipelago.
Our tenders will take us to a large cave where it is possible to swim, snorkel or simply float while gazing up at the cavernous grotto adorned with stalactites.
We will then move on to a mysterious jellyfish lake and swim amongst the many thousands of stingless animals: undoubtedly one of Raja Ampat's most memorable activities.

STOP 5

Day 5 (continued)

In the afternoon, we will use our tenders to explore more of this impressive maze of karst islands, both above and below the surface, complete with mysterious skull cairns in sea-cave cemeteries, and prehistoric cave paintings, estimated to be anything between 3,000 to 5,000 years old.

STOP 6

Day 6

After breakfast, we will do our snorkelling gear for a swim through the Gorgonian Passage, an area rich in large corals and abundant fish life.
We will explore the local island chain by tender and have some beach time in the afternoon where we can kayak, paddle board, snorkel and swim.

STOP 7

Day 7

We will wake early once again and go ashore in Katpacol village, where local guides will be waiting for us to take us through the forest to hopefully see the Lesser Bird of Paradise as they dance around in their 'lekking' trees.
On the way back, we have time for a stroll around the village and possibly a visit to the school and to learn about the way Nature Conservancy is working with the village to empower with local women with a fishing practice called 'sasi'.

STOP 8

Day 8

Today we will find ourselves off the extreme southern tip of Halmahera Island at Pisang island, where we will go snorkelling and visit a local Bajau sea gypsy village and learn about their way of life.
During lunch, we will head west again in the direction of Bacan island.

STOP 9

Day 9

We will wake up off the western coast of Bacan and go ashore to explore the forested slopes in search of Wallace's Giant Bee and the huge and magnificent Golden Birdwing Butterfly.
During this trip we might see some of other endemic animals of these islands, including parrots, cockatoos, lorikeets, hornbills, the elusive cuscus and the endangered Black-crested Macaque.

STOP 10

Day 10

Today we will visit the Guraici Archipelago, a chain of islands with white sandy beaches, vibrant coral reefs and some lovely local villages.
We will spend a full day here snorkelling, swimming, kayaking and paddle boarding, and pay a visit to 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.

STOP 11

Day 11

After breakfast, we will go ashore on Tidore island, where we will visit a local blacksmith village and an old 16th century Spanish fort.
In the afternoon we will head across the strait to Halmahera to visit the village of Dodinga: the very place where AR Wallace was living when he discovered the mechanism which drives evolutionary change - natural selection.
His Letter to Charles Darwin was the catalyst that prompted Darwin to publish his book Origin of Species in 1859, which explained the theory in greater detail.

STOP 12

Day 12

Today marks the end of our adventure, but first we will head out for a tour of the city, which has retained its commercial and political importance as the administrative and trading centre of North Maluku.
We will visit a couple of old Portuguese and Dutch forts and pay a visit to the Sultan's Palace with its rich collection of heirlooms.
In the early afternoon, we will drop everyone at the airport for their onward flights.

THE VOYAGE

About the voyage

Guests will learn about the journey and discoveries of Wallace, experience unique landscapes, snorkel rich and diverse reefs, see birds of paradise and black-crested macaques in their natural habitat, see one of the world's largest butterflies, view ancient cave art, meet experience local customs with the wonderful people who live in these remote regions, visit the northern Moluccan spice islands, and snorkel to their hearts; content each day on exquisite and vibrant coral reefs.

SNORKELLING

Snorkelling on this trip

Whether it's swimming with whale sharks and manta 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. 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.







FLEXIBILITY

Be prepared to be flexible

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 maximise trip safety and your overall enjoyment, so please come prepared to be flexible!

THE MORE YOU KNOW, THE MORE YOU SEE

Our tour leaders are a wealth of information on the regions we visit and will prepare you for each activity with on board talks and presentations to give you a greater understanding of the different experiences you will have each day. They will also act as your cross cultural bridges to all the people we meet along the way, so feel free to ask them to translate when talking to local Indonesian people on your travels. NOTE: We prefer guests to arrive in Sorong a day before the cruise and overnight just in case there are any delays with flights that arrive on the day of the cruise. Please consult with the us team prior to booking flights.

















