KATHARINA

The Wonders of North Maluku aboard Katharina

Ternate to Ternate | North Maluku: Ternate, Halmahera and Bacan

North Maluku is a world of remote islands, white sand beaches and rich coral gardens, with snorkelling every day.

Whitetipped reef sharks sometimes glide past, and manta rays are often found in the waters of the Guraici Archipelago, where vibrant coral reefs are protected.

On land there are giant waterfalls to bathe in, a waterfall cascading straight into the sea, and hot springs.

The forests hold the Wallace Standardwing Bird of Paradise and mohawk-sporting black-crested macaques.

The voyage crosses the Equator with a swim, one leg in each hemisphere.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	HIGHLIGHTS
13 days / 12 nights	Ternate	Ternate	Wallace, macaques, hot springs







Your route

STOP 1

Days 1 and 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.

STOP 1

Days 1 and 2 (continued)

We will pay a visit 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.

STOP 3

Days 3 and 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 and reefs and mangroves of two beautiful small island groups.
If we are lucky, we will see whitetipped reef sharks as we swim among the rich beautiful coral gardens.

STOP 5

Days 5 and 6

Beautiful rare and endemic wildlife if 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.

STOP 7

Days 7 and 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 separates the heavily forested islands of Bacan and Kasuruta.

STOP 7

Days 7 and 8 (continued)

At the head of the channel, we will stop at an uninhabited island to snorkel, paddle, kayak, swim and play.

STOP 9

Days 9 and 10

Another pristine island group awaits with white sandy beaches, crystal clear turquoise water, which is ideal for snorkelling and 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.

STOP 11

Days 11 and 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 countdown 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 and explore the island surrounds and reefs and experience the glorious us 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 forts as we circle the island by car.

STOP 13

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 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.

THE VOYAGE

About the voyage

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 and experiences combined with exploration by tender and on foot, lots of time on white-sand paradise beaches, and snorkelling on distant and unexplored reefs.

HIGHLIGHTS

Cruise highlights

- See birds of paradise in their natural habitat as the 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 the 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.

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.


























