

OMBAK PUTIH

In Search of Wallace and His Living Treasures aboard Ombak Putih

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

Wallace's own forests, islands and reefs, from the Moluccas to Raja Ampat, come to life on this voyage.

On Bacan the Golden Birdwing, which Wallace called the finest butterfly in the world, flies in the forest where he made some of his greatest finds.

In Misool a maze of karst islets hides a jellyfish lake of many thousands of stingless animals, and prehistoric cave paintings thought to be 3,000 to 5,000 years old.

Snorkelling brings sea fans, juvenile blacktip reef sharks and a reef with hundreds of species.

At dawn you may watch the courtship display of a Bird of Paradise.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	HIGHLIGHTS
12 days / 11 nights	Ternate	Sorong	Wallace, Golden birdwing, Misool







Your route

STOP 1

Days 1 and 2

We will visit the Kedaton, the palace of the Sultan of Ternate, with its rich collection of heirlooms and a some old forts, the Portuguese-built Toluku and the Dutch-built Oranje, and the probable site of the house where Wallace was living when he posted his essay on natural selection to Charles Darwin in 1858.

STOP 1

Days 1 and 2 (continued)

Visit the village of Dodinga: the very place where Wallace was living when, in a fit of malarial delirium, he discovered the mechanism which drives evolutionary change - natural selection. Dodinga is a pretty little riverside village with friendly people, colourful houses and the ruins of an old Portuguese fort, and its importance in the history of science cannot be understated.
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 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.

STOP 3

Days 3 and 4

We will wake up off the western coast of Bacan, another of Indonesia's historic spice sultanates.
We go ashore to explore the forested slopes where Wallace made some of his greatest zoological discoveries, including the Moluccan Cuscus, the Standardwing Bird of Paradise, and the huge and magnificent Golden Birdwing Butterfly.
Wallace described the latter species as the "finest butterfly in the world".
We will also keep a close watch for these and a host of other animals, some of them endemic to these islands, including parrots, cockatoos, lorikeets, hornbills, the elusive cuscus and hopefully the endangered black-crested macaque – the only monkey in Maluku.
We pay a visit the Pisang Islands.
These tiny gems isolated in the vast waters of the Ceram Sea offer us a chance to relax and enjoy the sparkling white-sand beaches, clear waters, and vibrant reefs before making our way to the shores of West Misool.

STOP 5

Days 5 and 6

We will visit a seaside village in Misool, where we will visit the school and learn about the way Nature Conservancy is working with the village to empower with local women with a fishing practice called 'sasi'.
We will be snorkelling at a channel that divided two islands where sea fans are hanging in the drop offs and the current is rich in nutrients.
The afternoon will be a laid back day spend strolling the white-sandy beach and snorkel the reef where juvenile black tip reef sharks usually frequent.
You will also have the chance to play beach volleyball if you are interested.

STOP 7

Days 7 and 8

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.
The topography is typical of 'karst dissolution' featuring a great number of tiny islets whose bases have been eroded over time by the relentless motion of the tides.

STOP 7

Days 7 and 8 (continued)

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.
We use our tenders to explore more of this impressive maze of karst islands, both above and below the surface, complete with prehistoric cave paintings, estimated to be anything between 3,000 to 5,000 years old and depicting various human figures and huge human palms, fish, and plants, tools and vessels.

STOP 9

Days 9 and 10

We will visit a small island group for a short hilltop climb to take in the amazing views.
After some great snorkelling on the island's reefs, we will set course for a local village, where the local children will perform their traditional dances for us.
We can also walk around the village and gain a sense of the Asai culture, which is still kept very much alive by the villagers living in this isolated place.
There's a chance that we may get to see some manta rays as we snorkel, but there are no guarantees.
Today will present another opportunity for keen naturalists, as we rise early and walk into the forest on a pre-dawn quest to spot the remarkable Red Bird of Paradise, one of the species that Wallace was most anxious to collect.
With a little luck and the help of our knowledgeable guides, we will see this rare bird's elaborate courtship display as dawn breaks over the forest canopy.

STOP 11

Days 11 and 12

We will rise at 4.30am ready to head into the forest on a pre-dawn quest to spot the gorgeous Wilson's Bird of Paradise.
We hope that the efforts of our early start will pay off, enabling us to catch a rare and privileged sight of the bird's elaborate courtship dance as the day breaks over the forest canopy.
We will have an epic snorkel adventure on one of Raja Ampat's best reefs where hundreds of species can be found including large schools of fish of all sizes and a massive diversity of coral species.
The boat will then move a nearby island for more snorkelling and the opportunity to watch a multitude of bats flying overhead just after sunset.
Once at anchor we will say goodbye to George, our crew and our sea-based home, the Ombak Putih before taking the tenders ashore where you will be transferred to the airport for your onward travel.

THE VOYAGE

About the voyage

George Beccaloni, guests will learn about the journey and discoveries of Wallace, experience unique landscapes, snorkel rich and diverse reefs, see birds of paradise and hopefully black-crested macaques in their natural habitat (the only monkeys east of the Wallace Line), see one of the world's largest butterflies, view ancient cave art, meet and experience local customs with the wonderful people who live in these remote regions, and so much more.

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.


















