

THE REMOTE RING OF FIRE: EAST OF KOMODO - FROM ALOR TO KOMODO

Sail with us through the Komodo National Park, a World Heritage Site renowned for its rich marine biodiversity in Indonesia's Lesser Sunda Islands, to the Alor Archipelago, an undisturbed realm of white-sand beaches and mountainous landscapes, and rich, authentic culture. We've created an exclusive itinerary that explores the natural wonders and rich cultural traditions of these stunning islands in Indonesia's spectacular Pacific Ring of Fire where you will awaken to volcanic peaks jutting dramatically from the land and sea, seek out the famed Komodo dragon in the wild, snorkel in kaleidoscopic underwater seascapes specially chosen for their marine life, and explore ancient villages and their traditional crafts. Relaxing evenings will perfectly complement our active days as we enjoy the ship's exceptional level of service, fabulous onboard presentations, and tropical sunsets dipping below the horizon. 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 maximize trip safety and your overall enjoyment, so please come prepared to be flexible! IMPORTANT NOTE Because of the flight schedules to Alor from Bali, guests must fly to Alor the day before the journey and stay

in a local resort for one night. This overnight stay is included in the ticket price and will be booked on



your behalf.

ITINERARY

Day 1 Takpala village

You will be collected from your hotel in Kupang and taken to the airport for the short flight to Alor, where you will be met and taken straight to the boat. After settling in and receiving a safety briefing and orientation, we will have lunch.

We will visit the very traditional village of Takpala, where we will be greeted by the head man and his warriors for a fascinating





cultural performance. We will then travel by local boat out into the bay to look for the resident dugong named Mawar, who is looked after by a local man dedicated to Mawar's well-being. Sightings are common, so hopefully we will be in luck.

Back on the boat we can relax and unwind, as we raise anchor head west to Pura Island, where we will spend a quiet night at anchor.

Day 2 Clown Valley

After breakfast we will snorkel at a local reef called Clown Valley, home to many sea anemones and their resident guardian clown fish. It's a fantastic spot to see a wide variety of marine life among the corals.

In the early afternoon we will have a second snorkel at Buaya Island, a location with a beautiful wall drop-off and lots of fish.

We will then head to a local quiet bay to spend the night at anchor.

Day 3 Uma Pura

After breakfast we will visit the old Muslim village of Uma Pura, which is renowned for their creation of ikat textiles using many local materials including sea sponges and natural plants for the dyeing of their textiles.

We will stroll around, meet the friendly local people and witness the full production process and have the chance to view many of their finished textiles.

In the afternoon we will go snorkelling on a local reef and during dinner, we will depart overnight to the uninhabited active volcanic island of Komba.

Day 4 Komba Volcano

Waking up just off the active Komba Island, we will explore the (hopefully) belching volcano with our dinghies and then circumnavigate the island. We will then go for a snorkel on the island's southern point. In the late morning, we will spend some time on a beautiful white-sandy shoal where we will get out the paddle boards and umbrellas and spend some time on the beach.

After lunch, we will go ashore and drive to a local village to see some prehistoric 500-year-old rock art and maybe get to try some of the locally brewed arak alcohol with the villagers.

We will snorkel again and then at dusk we will have cocktails on the back deck as we watch the sunset over the active Ile Ape volcano. After dark and if the mountain activity is strong, we will be able to see the lava erupting from the top against the night sky.

Day 5 Solor Island

In the morning, we will explore the beautiful underwater reefs on the northeast of Adonara island.

We will head to Solor Island as we have lunch, enjoying the beautiful views of the volcanos and islands as we head through the stunning inland passage between the islands. On Solor, we will visit the local village and the ruins of a 16th-century Portuguese fort which used to guard this vital waypoint of the ancient spice trade.

Day 6 Maumere Bay





We wake up at anchor in Maumere Bay against the backdrop of an extinct volcano and enjoy a leisurely breakfast before the day's activities begin.

We will take a short drive to the scenic Iwang Gete highlands to visit the small village of Watublapi, where we will be met with singing and dancing by the local people. Famed for their unique textiles, we will be shown first-hand their ancient techniques of spinning, dyeing, and weaving their famous fabrics. Here we will have the chance to view (and purchase) some of the local textiles, try their betel nut, and brave their locally produced liquor.

In the late afternoon we will head off to Riung conservation area.

Day 7 Riung Conservation Area

Today we explore the beaches and the underwater world of the 17-island, Riung Conservation Area, home to many species of coral and abundant underwater life which we will snorkel through.

We will move between islands enjoying some great beach time along the way with the kayaks and paddle boards.

At around sunset, we will head east in the direction of the Komodo National Park.

Day 8 Komodo National Park

Today we are in the Komodo National Park, and after breakfast we will visit Hatamin Island for some snorkelling, where a local NGO is running a reef restoration programme, and we will create our very own coral racks to place in the sea. The island is home to many fish and is a nursery ground for black-tipped reef

sharks.

In the afternoon, we will look for manta rays and then visit the island of Gili Lawa Darat in the very north of the park. Here we can climb to the top of the island for majestic sweeping views of the park and all the surrounding islands. A spectacular drift snorkel in the narrow channel between the islands is not to be missed.

Day 9 Komodo island

We enjoy an early breakfast and go ashore on Rinca Island for one of the main highlights of trip - searching for the ancient and fearsome Komodo dragon. We will go for a ranger-led walk through the savannah and forest and will hopefully spot the dragons in the wild along with buffalo, deer, monkeys and many different kinds of birds.

Cruising to the richly diverse reefs of Siaba Besar Island, we will snorkel with thousands of fish and sea turtles that congregate in the area.

At dusk we will gather on the back deck at cocktail hour to witness a spectacular event: the evening departure of tens of thousands of fruit bats that fill the skies as they leave their forest homes to forage on the mainland

Day 10 Komodo

After a leisurely breakfast, we will visit a nearby island for some beach time.

Later in the morning, we will head back to port, where we will say goodbye to the crew and your fellow shipmates and head to the airport for the flights to your next destination.





Please note:

Itineraries are subject to change.



YOUR SHIP: KATHARINA

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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

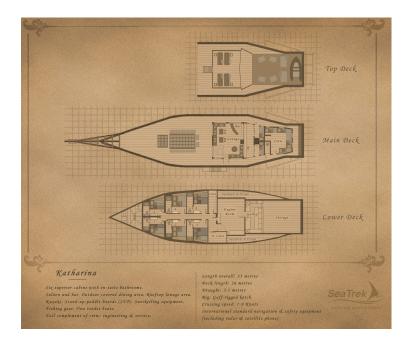




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