SPICE ISLANDS & ASMAT TRIBE EXPEDITION

This captivating cruise from Ambon and back unveils the enchanting diversity of Indonesia's eastern islands, blending rich history with breathtaking natural beauty. Travelers will journey through the legendary Banda Islands, famed for their spice trade legacy, and dive into the pristine waters of Triton Bay, a marine paradise framed by towering cliffs. The itinerary weaves through remote gems like the Aru and Kei Islands, offering serene beaches and cultural encounters, while Pulau Manuk's volcanic landscapes and seabird colonies provide a dramatic highlight. From the tranquil Arafura Sea to the hidden wonders of Pulau Ai and Run, this voyage showcases Indonesia's untouched wilderness and vibrant heritage, bookended by the lively hub of Ambon.

ITINERARY

Day 1 Indonesia Ambon

Arrive to a warm welcome in Ambon, and board Aqua Blu. After settling in, bid farewell to the harbor as we set sail towards the Banda Islands.

Day 2 Indonesia Banda Islands & Banda Neira

Approach the Banda Islands at sunrise, greeted by Kora-Kora war canoes at the harbor. Stroll through history at the Dutch Fort Nassau on Banda Neira - which used to be the most hotly contested island in the world back in the 16th and 17th century. Walk through ancient passageways now bustling with modern life yet still showcasing a treasure trove of history. After lunch, head out for a snorkeling or diving excursion, and end the evening with a sundowner at Fort Belgica.

Day 3 Indonesia Pulau Koon

Spend the day exploring some of the finest reefs on the planet. Off the remote island of Koon, divers and snorkelers can look forward to visiting 'Too Many Fish', an aptly named site with plenty of reef fish sightings as well as occasional pop-ins by leopard sharks and hammerhead sharks.

Day 4 Indonesia Triton Bay

Head out early in the morning for a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to swim with whale sharks in crystal-clear waters that make up Triton Bay. This region features sublime dive sites, home to a wealth of rare marine life and reefs decorated with some of the finest soft corals in the world. Over on land, the scenery consists of forest-covered limestone cliffs and prehistoric artwork high up on the rocky walls.

Day 5 Indonesia Sailing The Arafura Sea

Spend the day exploring the luxurious Aqua Blu and enjoy its variety of social spaces - a jacuzzi, spa and exercise area, sky lounge bar, and a sun deck offering panoramic views of the vast seas. Gain a deeper insight into Indonesian culture through onboard cooking demonstrations and presentations from our expert guides.

Day 6 Indonesia Yuan Yufri

Arrive in the uncharted Asmat region - a remote part of West Papua which very few have ever had the opportunity to visit. On board private speedboats, head down the Lorentz River deep into the jungle to visit the village of Yuan Yufri. Enjoy a friendly welcome as the tribal members pass by in their handcrafted canoes. Spend the afternoon interacting with the locals, viewing their art, and learning about their daily lives. End the day with sundowners as we sail to Biwar Laut.

Day 7 Indonesia Biwar Laut & Ouws

Today, we continue our exploration of the Asmat region and gain a deeper insight into the traditions of the locals. Enjoy a scenic skiff ride to the village of Biwar Laut, escorted by tribal members in their canoes. Upon arrival, witness the traditional Spirit Mask ceremony, which is conducted by the Asmat people to honor their ancestors. After lunch on Aqua Blu, head over to the nearby village of Ouws to witness the Mbis Pole Ceremony which depicts how, after death, a soul manifests as a spirit in the image of a bird.

Day 8 Indonesia Aru Islands

Enjoy a relaxing morning at sea before we arrive at the shores of the Aru Islands. Take the plunge and go on a snorkeling and diving excursion in the island's sparkling waters. Afterwards, unwind on the island's tranquil beach, drinks in hand, as you take in the breathtaking sunset.

Day 9 Indonesia Kei Islands

Discover the remote white-sand beaches of the Kei Islands, known to be some of the most pristine in East Indonesia. Swim and snorkel from the shore in the crystal-clear waters, home to marine life including pygmy seahorses and olive sea snakes.

Day 10 Indonesia Pulau Manuk

Savor a sunrise breakfast onboard against the backdrop of 300-meter-tall cliffs of Pulau Manuk, a volcanic island rising 3 kilometers from the seabed. This is a haven for fish-hunting birds, as well as sea snakes and reef sharks flocking to enjoy the area's underwater thermal springs.

Day 11 Indonesia Pulau Ai & Pulau Run

Arrive at Pulau Ai & Pulau Run, the westernmost of the Banda Islands, at sunrise. Swim, snorkel, and dive in the crystal-clear waters, where you'll discover stunning coral gardens and reef fish. Afterwards, head ashore to Pulau Ai for a guided tour of Fort Revenge and its nutmeg store houses. Spend the afternoon at a pristine beach on Pulau Run, which was traded for the island of Manhattan in 1667 by the British and the Dutch. Witness the sun setting into the sea while enjoying a cocktail party on these historic sands.

Day 12 Indonesia Nusa Laut

Head out for an early morning ocean swim, followed by a diving or snorkeling excursion. On the north side of Nusa Laut, discover the scenic fishing villages of Ameth and Akon. This is also home of the dugong, the Southeast Asian cousin of the American manatee. In the afternoon, we sail towards Ambon.

Day 13 Indonesia Ambon

Awake to the bustle of Ambon and disembark after breakfast for your outbound flight.

Please note:

Itineraries are subject to change.

YOUR SHIP: AQUA BLU

YOUR SHIP:	**Aqua Blu**
VESSEL TYPE:	**Yacht**
LENGTH:	**198 feet / 60 meters**
PASSENGER CAPACITY:	**30**
BUILT/REFURBISHED:	**1968/2006/2019**

Presenting a brand-new cruise experience in the pristine East Indonesian Archipelago, Aqua Blu is a long-range explorer yacht sailing the region's most prized destinations, including Komodo National Park, Spice Islands and Raja Ampat on unforgettable 7- and 12-night itineraries. Where modern luxury meets naval heritage With a grand legacy as the former British Naval Explorer HMS Beagle and later as the private yacht of a European aristocratic family, Aqua Blu is a compelling maritime statement. A 2019 refurbishment overseen by Dutch yacht design maestro Cor D. Rover brings the vessel to world-class cruising specifications. Guests can expect to embrace an distinguished sense of history and seafaring evolution when they set foot on this one-of-a-kind cruise ship. Inside the four-deck, 15-suite Aqua Blu, Cor has tastefully paired with a brass-and-ivory interior theme with generous and inviting indoor and outdoor social spaces, including a sun deck. Unlocking access to the Earth's most intriguing destinations Faster, further, greater safety and comfort -- Aqua Blu's naval pedigree makes it the perfect vessel to navigate East Indonesia's vast seas. Having attained the highest international classifications (RINA, SOLAS, ISM) in safety, the vessel is additionally equipped with Quantum Zero Speed stabilizers for optimal comfort at rest or while sailing. Aqua Blu's range stands heads and shoulders above that of its peers in East Indonesia. Able to cover vast distances in a short span of time -- and in any sea condition -- the vessel enables explorers on board to experience the most varied, enjoyable and rewarding coastal cruise itineraries in this wild and stunningly beautiful region of the world. On Board Living and Social Areas Sun Deck with Outdoor Seating, Lounge Sofa and Barbecue Bridge Deck with Jacuzzi, Outdoor Lounge Area, Spa and Exercise Zone Forecastle Deck with Outdoor Dining and Seating Area, Indoor Lounge Bar, Library and TV Room Main Deck with Outdoor Seating, Salon and

Dining Room

INSIDE YOUR SHIP

Cabin. From

PRICING

17-Nov-2027 to 29-Nov-2027

Cabin. From	**£17165 GBP pp**

29-Nov-2027 to 11-Dec-2027

Cabin. From	**£17165 GBP pp**