

In the Wake of Wallace: Indonesia & Borneo

Denpasar, Indonesia, Asia to Singapore, Singapore, Asia (WAL)

Day 1 Arrive in Denpasar

Having made your way to Denpasar, you will be met by a representative of Aurora Expeditions and transferred to our group hotel. Upon arrival at your included hotel, please visit the welcome desk where you can collect your luggage cabin tags and speak with our ground operations team, who may have information to share with you about pre-embarkation or to provide you with information about where to dine, withdraw cash or purchase last minute items from a local pharmacy or supermarket. The remainder of your time is at leisure. All meals today are at your own expense. Accommodation: Hyatt Regency Bali, Sanur (or similar)



Day 2 Fly to Sorong, embarkation

This morning, please ensure your cabin luggage is fitted with cabin tags clearly labelled with your name and cabin number. Any valuables or personal items should be kept on you throughout the day. After breakfast at the hotel, we board a morning charter flight to Sorong, where our vessel the Greg Mortimer awaits. Transfer to the port for embarkation. You will have time to settle into your cabin before our important briefings begin. Enjoy the thrill of departure as we 'throw the lines' and set sail for Raja Ampat. Meet your Expedition Team and crew at the Captain's Welcome Dinner.

Day 3 Misool, Raja Ampat

Located in the 'Coral Triangle,' Raja Ampat archipelago has been described as a marine 'species factory,' and a Mission Blue Hope Spot. Believed to contain the most biodiverse marine habitat on the planet, the waters surrounding Raja Ampat are home to 600 species of hard coral and 1,500 types of fish – more than anywhere else in the world – which makes for exceptional diving and snorkelling experience. Misool, a pristine corner of Raja Ampat, is renowned for its breathtaking natural beauty and extraordinary marine biodiversity. Established in 2005, the Misool Marine Reserve safeguards a vast 300,000-acre expanse, protecting it from destructive fishing practices. This pioneering conservation effort has yielded remarkable results. A scientific study between 2007 and 2013 revealed a staggering 250% increase in fish biomass within the reserve, with some areas experiencing a phenomenal 600% recovery. This extraordinary transformation underscores the power of effective marine conservation. Beyond its ecological significance, Misool offers unparalleled opportunities for exploration and adventure. Relax in the crystal-clear waters, teeming with vibrant coral reefs and diverse marine life. Hike to the summit of Dafalen Peak for breathtaking panoramic views or discover the island's rich cultural heritage through ancient rock art sites.

Day 4 Buru Island & Fogi Island

In Buru Island, your adventure begins with a Zodiac ride to Tomahu Island, where a warm cultural welcome awaits. Explore the nearby Pasir Putih village, immersing yourself in the local way of life. Later, discover the underwater wonderland of Fogi Island. Snorkelers and divers can marvel at the vibrant coral reefs teeming with marine life, including turtles, seahorses, and a dazzling array of fish. Kayakers can paddle through picturesque waterways, surrounded by lush mangroves. For those seeking relaxation, unwind on the pristine beaches, soak up the sun, and explore the island's natural beauty. After lunch, embark on another adventure, whether it's beach time, snorkelling, or exploring a different island.

Day 5 Wakatobi National Park, Southeast Sulawesi

Wakatobi, a UNESCO-protected marine paradise, boasts an extraordinary array of marine life. Home to 750 of the world's 850 coral species and 942 fish species, this archipelago offers unparalleled diving and snorkelling experiences. Explore the vast coral reefs, teeming with vibrant colours and exotic creatures. For those who prefer land-based adventures, Hoga Island offers a serene escape. Embark on a guided nature walk to discover the island's unique flora and fauna, or simply relax on the pristine beaches. Birdwatchers can explore the island in search of resident and migratory birdlife. Subject to change due to pending regulatory and permitting approvals.

Day 6 Taka Bonerate National Park, Flores Sea

Taka Bonerate National Park, located south of Sulawesi, is a marine paradise renowned for its exceptional biodiversity. This vast atoll system, the third largest in the world, boasts crystal-clear waters teeming with life. Explore vibrant coral reefs, home to a dazzling array of fish species. Tinabo Island, the park's heart, offers a glimpse into local life and opportunities to contribute to conservation efforts through tree planting, coral transplantation, or turtle release. For nature enthusiasts, guided walks reveal the island's unique flora and fauna, while birdwatchers can spot a variety of avian species. Beyond the island, the underwater world beckons with its diverse ecosystems, from barrier reefs to steep drop-offs. Subject to change due to pending regulatory and permitting approvals.

Days 7-8 UNESCO World Heritage Komodo National Park

Komodo National Park, established in 1980, safeguards the iconic Komodo dragon and its habitat. These prehistoric creatures, among the world's largest lizards, inhabit Komodo Island and neighbouring islets. Located in Indonesia's Wallace Region, a global conservation priority, the park is a natural treasure trove. Encounter the Komodo dragon on a guided walk through open woodland, observing these magnificent creatures in their natural environment. Alternatively, explore the ranger station or discover the island's rich birdlife. Pink Beach, renowned for its unique rosy hue, is a highlight. Composed of crushed coral, this stunning stretch of coast offers relaxation, snorkelling, and breathtaking views. Join our expedition team for an unforgettable encounter at Manta Alley - the thrill of encountering majestic manta rays in their natural habitat. If sea conditions permit, we'll explore other nearby reefs, offering diverse snorkelling opportunities. Alternatively, relax on a pristine beach, soaking up the sun and enjoying the tranquil atmosphere. Subject to change due to pending regulatory and permitting approvals.

Day 9 Saleh Bay, Sumbawa Besar

Saleh Bay, nestled on the island of Sumbawa, is a hidden gem that promises an opportunity of a lifetime. This expansive body of water is renowned for its pristine marine environment and as a haven for one of the ocean's most majestic creatures: the whale shark. Saleh Bay is characterised by its calm waters and rich biodiversity, making it an ideal habitat for a variety of marine life. The surrounding landscape is a picturesque blend of lush greenery and sandy beaches, offering a serene backdrop to your adventure. The highlight of your visit will undoubtedly be the opportunity to snorkel with whale sharks. These gentle giants, the largest fish in the world, congregate in Saleh Bay due to the abundant food supply provided by local fishing activities. Snorkelling alongside these peaceful creatures is an experience that will leave you awe-inspired. As you glide through the water, you'll be captivated by their immense size and graceful movements. It's crucial to remember that whale sharks are protected species. Your expedition will adhere to strict guidelines to ensure minimal disturbance to these magnificent animals. By observing these guidelines and maintaining a respectful distance, you can contribute to their conservation while enjoying an unforgettable encounter. While sightings are never guaranteed, the chance to encounter these majestic creatures in such pristine waters is truly unforgettable. The experience of sharing the ocean with such an extraordinary creature is a privilege that will stay with you long after your journey ends. Subject to change due to pending regulatory and permitting approvals.

Day 10 Sumbawa Island

The day begins as your ship anchors off Kencana Beach near Badas, Sumbawa Island. Disembark via Zodiac for a wet beach landing, where your local guides will warmly greet you and lead you on an immersive journey into the cultural and natural richness of Sumbawa. From the beach, a short walk brings you to your local coaches for a scenic drive to Pamulung Village. Upon arrival, the villagers will welcome you at the entrance before leading you into their community. As you stroll through the village paths, you can observe daily life and admire their traditional pole-style houses, ingeniously designed to withstand earthquakes. Engaging conversations with the villagers offer you an opportunity to learn about their customs, traditional practices, and the medicinal plants they have relied on for generations to treat various ailments. Your journey continues with a visit to the Dalam Loka Old Palace. Constructed in 1885 by Sultan Muhammad Jalaluddin Syah III, this remarkable teakwood structure reflects the grandeur of the Sumbawa Sultanate and serves as a cultural heritage site. Nearby, the Bala Kuning Palace, once the residence of Sultan Muhammad Kaharuddin III, offers further insight into the island's royal history. Its yellow-adorned exterior symbolises the sultanate's greatness, while the interior houses an impressive collection of heirlooms, including traditional clothing, weapons, thrones, and a hand-written Al-Quran dating back to 1784. After an enriching day of cultural and historical exploration, you will return to your coaches for the journey back to Kencana Beach, where your Zodiacs await to shuttle you back to your ship. As the day draws to a close, the comforts of your vessel provide the perfect setting to reflect on the beauty, history, and vibrant traditions of Sumbawa. Subject to change due to pending regulatory and permitting approvals.

Day 11 At Sea & Kumai, Central Kalimantan, Borneo

Take time to unwind on the sea crossing to Central Kalimantan. Enjoy informative talks from our team of experts, get to know your fellow expeditioners, stay active in the gym or treat yourself to a massage in the wellness centre. In the late afternoon we arrive at the heart of Central Kalimantan, Kumai. As your expedition vessel arrives, you'll be greeted by the lush tapestry of Borneo's rainforest. This evening, we hope to experience the magic of the night as you glide through the tranquil waters of the Sekonyer River. This enchanting nocturnal adventure offers a glimpse into the hidden world of the Borneo rainforest. Keep a watchful eye for elusive creatures as you navigate the river. The rhythmic symphony of the jungle, punctuated by the twinkling lights of fireflies among the nipa palms, creates an unforgettable ambiance. Subject to change due to pending regulatory and permitting approvals and tidal conditions.

Days 12-13 Tanjung Puting National Park

Immerse yourself in the ecological wonders of Tanjung Puting National Park, a treasure trove of biodiversity located in the heart of Kalimantan, Indonesian Borneo. This UNESCO-recognised reserve spans mangrove swamps, lowland rainforests, and dense highland jungles, showcasing one of the world's most ancient ecosystems. Towering dipterocarp trees, precious ebony, and ironwood trees define the forest, while the park is alive with vibrant flora and fauna that have thrived for millennia. The wildlife is unparalleled, with Tanjung Puting hosting endangered orangutans, found only in Borneo and Sumatra, alongside proboscis monkeys, clouded leopards, macaques, and pangolins. The forest is also a paradise for bird enthusiasts, featuring over 600 bird species, including hornbills, cockatoos, and sunbirds. Crocodiles, pythons, and monitor lizards add to the park's rich tapestry of life, making it a haven for nature lovers and adventurers alike. Tanjung Puting's story would be incomplete without recognising the groundbreaking work of Dr. Biruté Mary Galdikas, President and Founder of Orangutan Foundation International and one of the legendary "Trimates," alongside Jane Goodall and Dian Fossey. Dr. Biruté began her pioneering study of orangutans in the Bornean jungles at Camp Leakey, dedicating her life to understanding and protecting one of humankind's closest living relatives. Her tireless efforts have saved thousands of orangutans, ensuring the survival of these incredible primates and their rainforest habitat for future generations. Navigate the Sekonyer River aboard a traditional klotok boat, a perfect vantage point for observing the region's incredible wildlife. Over the next two days we hope to visit Pondok Tanggui, a rehabilitation centre where young orangutans adapt to life in the wild, and the world-famous Camp Leakey, established in 1971 as Indonesia's first orangutan rehabilitation centre, where semi-wild and wild orangutans roam amidst the pristine rainforest. Discover the conservation efforts that protect these magnificent creatures and observe them during their feeding sessions, while encountering proboscis monkeys, long-tailed macaques, and a kaleidoscope of birdlife along the riverbanks. Returning to the comfort of your ship each evening, this immersive journey offers not only close encounters with incredible wildlife but also a profound appreciation for the importance of preserving our natural world. Subject to change due to pending regulatory and permitting approvals.

Day 14 Belitung Islands, Sumatra, Indonesia.

Your adventure begins with a scenic Zodiac arrival at Tanjung Kelayang Beach, a stunning stretch of soft white sand and crystal-clear waters. As you step ashore, you'll be welcomed by the beauty of Belitung, an island renowned for its breathtaking coastal landscapes and unique geological formations. A short drive takes you to one of Belitung's most iconic beaches, where massive granite boulders, sculpted by nature over millions of years, rise dramatically from the sea. These formations create a striking contrast against the turquoise waters, offering extraordinary photo opportunities and a chance to immerse yourself in the island's natural beauty. From the coast, your journey continues into the heart of Belitung's culture and history with a visit to Tanjung Pandan, home to the traditional house of the Melayu people. Here, you'll be greeted with the "Sekapur Sirih" performance, a warm and symbolic Belitung welcome. Dancers in vibrant traditional attire will present a betel nut offering, a gesture of hospitality and respect deeply rooted in the island's heritage. This experience provides a glimpse into the customs and traditions of Belitung, offering a meaningful connection to its people and their way of life. Subject to change due to pending regulatory and permitting approvals.

Day 15 At Sea

Enjoy the sea crossing to Singapore. Engage in informative talks from our team of experts, get to know your fellow expeditioners, stay active in the gym or treat yourself to a massage in the wellness centre.

Day 16 Disembark in Singapore

Disembark in the early morning and bid a fond farewell to fellow travellers before a transfer to the airport to continue your journey.