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ENCOUNTERS WITH WHALE SHARKS, DRAGONS AND MYSTIC CULTURES - INDONESIA LUXURY CRUISE

Journey through the enchanting landscapes of East Indonesia, where each moment unfolds as a testament to the country's rich cultural tapestry. Here's a glimpse of the extraordinary highlights that await you. Join us on this luxurious expedition where every encounter is a celebration of Indonesia's cultural treasures and natural wonders, promising an experience that transcends the boundaries of ordinary travel.



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Perched on the southwestern corner of the island of Timor, lies the provincial capital of Kupang. Formerly known as Koepang, it is the largest city and port on the island of Timor with a population of just under 500,000 people. It was an important port and trading post during the Portuguese and Dutch colonial eras, and many ruins and remnants of the colonial presence remain today. During the twentieth century the city was used for landing and refuelling by long-distance flights between Europe and Australia. It was under Japanese occupation between 1942 and 1945, and much of the Old Town was destroyed by Allied bombing during that time.

DAY 3 Kalabahi, Alor. East Nusa Tenggara. Indonesia.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Embarkation | Dili. Timor Leste

Lying on the northern coast of the island of Timor, along the narrow plains between the central mountains and the Ombai Strait, the laidback seaside city of Dili was thrust into the role of a national capital when Timor Leste became an independent country in May 2002. The peaceful city has a small-town vibe with a distinct Portuguese flavour.

DAY 2 Kupang. West Timor. East Nusa Tenggara. Indonesia.

The unique culture of the Alorese continues among the Takpala indigenous group, who have preserved their traditional housing construction that resembles a pyramid, covered with coconut leaves, bamboo plaited walls, and four main wooden pillars. The island of Alor is also known as the island of a Thousand Moko's. The Moko is a small bronze kettledrum which is believed to have originated from the Dong Son culture of Vietnam. However, it remains a mystery as to how these prehistoric Dong Son drums arrived in Alor. Local legend says that the Moko's were discovered buried in the ground, and indeed Moko's are still being uncovered today.

DAY 4 Lamalera, Lembata. East Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia.

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Located on the south coast of the island of Lembata, Lamalera remains one of the last traditional whaling villages on earth. As traditional tools and methods are used, the whale hunts are exempt from the international ban on whaling. Whaling is essential to the continued subsistence existence of this rarely visited remote village. The island is dry and barren, so very little food can be grown on its soil. Villagers depend almost entirely on what the sea provides.

DAY 5 Maumere, Flores. East Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia.

Floresians have an ancient culture stretching back millennia before the first arrival of Europeans in search of trade opportunities. Their history is shared through oral traditions and is recreated in song and dance. The mountainous terrain of Flores has preserved the diversity of cultures, and Maumere has kept its charming atmosphere, an eclectic mix of a bustling trading town and a coastal paradise.

DAY 6 Seventeen Islands Marine Park, Flores. East Nusa Tenggara. Indonesia.

This diverse string of islands sit just off the northern coastline of the island of Flores. Ironically, there are in fact 23 small Islands

that comprise the archipelago, but government authorities decided on the number 17 as a convenient tie-in with Indonesia's Independence Day which is 17 August 1945. Largely uninhabited, except for the odd fishermen's camp, the islands boast spectacular white sand beaches and turquoise waters surrounded by colourful coral reefs.

DAYS 7-8 Komodo National Park. East Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia.

Komodo National Park was granted UNESCO World Heritage status in 1989. With one of the lowest rainfalls in Indonesia, its climate provides the perfect habitat for the exotic wildlife of Wallacea. Dense monsoon forests in the protected gullies give way to open grassland savannas, studded with prickly Ziziphus trees providing the perfect habitat for the infamous Komodo dragon. Originally designed to provide refuge for the Komodo dragon, the park now protects one of the richest marine ecosystems. This has resulted in an abundance of world class snorkelling and diving locations available to the traveller.

DAY 9 Saleh Bay, Sumbawa Besar. West Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia.

Enclosed by Moyo Island and the imposing Tembora Peninsula, the serene Saleh Bay is far from the regular tourist trail. In 2017, Conservation International assisted in the development of eco-tourism ventures focused on swimming with the world's largest fish. Still in its infancy, visitors can swim with the whale

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sharks in the clear calm waters of Saleh Bay all year round. In addition to the presence of these majestic marine creatures, numerous uninhabited islands, fringed by coral reefs are scattered across the azure waters of the bay.

Itineraries are subject to change.

DAY 10 Badas, Sumbawa Besar. West Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia

The port of Badas is part of the greater township of Sumbawa Besar, on the island of Sumbawa. Like most of Sumbawa, the people hold their culture strong as a major part of their identity. The island has a strong influence from the Makassarese of Sulawesi, who over the centuries have introduced a lot of their culture into Sumbawa.

DAY 11 Disembarkation | Benoa. Bali, Indonesia

Bali is known for its forested volcanic mountains, iconic rice paddies and beaches. The island is home to many striking Hindu temples, such as the cliff side Uluwatu Temple, Tanah Lot, Goa Gajah in Ubud and the spectacular Ulun Danu Beratan Temple in Bedugul. The beachside strip from Kuta to Legian offer lively bars and a multitude of dining choices, while Seminyak, Sanur and Nusa Dua are popular resort areas.

PASPALEY PEARL will be alongside at Benoa Harbour, Bali.

Please note:



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