



The Small Cruise  
Ship Collection

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## IN SEARCH OF WALLACE AND HIS LIVING TREASURES WITH DR GEORGE BECCALONI (TERNATE - SORONG)

Snorkelling and Sailing Adventures in Indonesia, See Coral Reefs, Birdwatch, Search for Rare Birds and Animals, Learn About Cultures and History, Explore or Just Relax with a Cool Drink and a Good Book. Generations of seafarers before you have sailed the trade winds of Indonesia, in quest of exotic cultures and their goods, charting the famous spice routes. SeaTrek's four sailing collections follow those same historic trade winds taking you on journeys of discovery to many of the still remote areas of the Indonesian archipelago. Come explore with us aboard authentic wooden sailing ships much like the ones used by those legendary adventurers.



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### ITINERARY

#### DAY 1

-Your flight arrives on the small island of Ternate, the capital of the North Maluku Province. You will be met at the airport and transferred to the stately Ombak Putih, moored off Ternate City. There will be time for you to get settled into your rooms, have a quick safety briefing, and enjoy an alfresco lunch while meeting the other passengers and the crew. -In the afternoon we will venture into the city, which has retained its commercial and political importance as the administrative and trading centre of North Maluku. Of the four historically powerful spice sultanates, Ternate is the only one where the sultanate has survived uninterrupted. -We will visit Fort Toluko built by the Portuguese and the 'Kedaton', the palace of the Sultan, with its rich collection of heirlooms. We will also see the impressive Fort Oranje built by the VOC (Dutch East India Company) and the probable site of the house where Wallace was living when he posted his essay on natural selection to Charles Darwin in 1858. After our tour we will move back to the boat ready to start

our journey.

#### DAY 2

-Today we will wake up off the coast of Halmahera, just across from Ternate, with the mighty peaks of Ternate and Tidore as our dawn backdrop. -After breakfast we will head to 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. Once he had recovered, he promptly wrote a detailed essay explaining his theory, which he posted to Charles Darwin as soon as he returned to his base on Ternate. His essay, which was published together with Darwin's thoughts on the subject in August 1858, prompted Darwin to publish his book Origin of Species in 1859, which explained the theory in greater detail. 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. -After spending some time with the villagers, sharing some fresh coconuts and enjoying their hospitality, we will head back to the boat for lunch and then go off for an afternoon of snorkelling and relaxation. We will head south later in the day ready for our first Bird of Paradise encounter the following morning.

#### DAY 3

\- This morning we will do a trek to a waterfall located in the central Halmahera, walking through towering coconut trees. After the trek, we will take a walk around the village and experience their hospitality by the beach. \- During lunch, we will make our way to an island just to the west of Halmahera where we will be snorkelling in the afternoon hopefully spotting unique marine life.

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### DAY 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, the world's largest bee *Megachile pluto*, and the huge and magnificent Golden Birdwing Butterfly. Wallace described the latter species as the "finest butterfly in the world". When he caught the first male in 1859 he wrote: "When I took it out of my net, and opened its gorgeous wings, I was nearer fainting with delight and excitement than I have ever been in my life; my heart beat violently, and the blood rushed to my head, leaving a headache for the rest of the day." Very few Westerners have ever seen this species alive and no groups of tourists have ever been taken to see it before. Of course there is no guarantee we will see it - but we will try very hard and will be employing as our guide the one person on Bacan who knows exactly where it can be found. -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 the endangered black macaque - the only monkey in Maluku. It's the wrong side of the Wallace Line for monkeys; these ones were introduced hundreds of years ago from North Sulawesi.

### DAY 5

- In the morning we make landfall at 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.

### DAY 6

-Today we will try our best to see the Lesser Birds of Paradise displaying in the wild, an unforgettable experience for anyone lucky enough to see them. We will rise around 4am and have a quick breakfast and go ashore at Kapatcol, where local guides will be waiting for us to take us through the forest to hopefully see the birds as they dance around in their 'lekking' (courtship display) trees. We can make no guarantees, however, as we do not have them on a leash. -We will have time for a look around the village and possibly a visit to the school and to learn about their way of life. Mid-afternoon we will set off to eastern side of Misool to Tomolol Bay.

### DAY 7

-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. -After an early breakfast, our tenders will take us into the heart of the bay to see this partially submerged cave where it is possible to swim, snorkel or simply float while gazing up at the cavernous grotto adorned with astonishing stalactites. The more adventurous can swim or paddle through the dark waters to the other mouth of the cave. -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. After returning to the ship, we will use our tenders to explore more of this impressive maze of karst islands, both above and below the surface, complete with mysterious skull cairns in sea-cave cemeteries, and 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.

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### DAY 8

-After our days of marine exploration, the jungle-clad island of Batanta offers us a change of scenery and a chance to stretch our legs on an adventurous trek into the island's interior. We anchor at the foot of Arefi Village, nestled on the north coast of the island, here we can visit the village and the school, and watch the children's performance. -For those who wish, IF THE TIDE IS RIGHT we will be able to take a short walk along the riverbed brings us to the first of two jungle waterfalls complete with a refreshing pool for cooling off. The fit and adventurous may choose to continue the uphill climb along the rocks to where a second, larger cascade awaits. After this, the boat will move to Dayang Island for another great snorkelling opportunity.

### DAY 9

-We will wake up in front of the island of Penemu, a dramatic location with a short hilltop climb to take in the amazing views. After some great snorkelling on the island's reefs, we will set course for the tiny Arborek Island, 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.

### DAY 10

-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. -After returning to the ship, we will turn our attention

from the sky to the sea as the Ombak Putih makes her way through the Dampier strait, home of some of Raja Ampat's premier reefs. If the currents are in our favour, we might see some of the area's larger specimens of marine life, which are attracted to the strait's nutrient-rich waters. -We will spend the afternoon in Yenbeser village where Wallace spent some months and (if the tides are right) we'll visit a faithful replica of Wallace's small hut, which was built by the villagers using plans from FFI (Fauna & Flora International) and a grant from SeaTrek. -We will also visit a nearby small island where a local man has set up a coconut crab 'sanctuary'. The island is home to a small number of these monsters (Birgus latro, the world's largest terrestrial arthropod), and you can get up close and personal with these magnificent yet docile beasts. Another late afternoon snorkel along a reef with some spectacular giant clams (the world's largest bivalve) will lead us into dinner at anchor on board, ready for an early morning venture for the Red Bird of Paradise.

### DAY 11

-Today we will rise at 4.30am, off Saporkren village. The dinghy will carry us across to the village in the dark and a local guide will take us on a short drive 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. -Back in the village there will be time to meet with the community and perhaps visit the school. We will be back on the boat by mid-morning and we will head to Yenbuba at Mansuar island for some snorkelling before lunch. This place known as the 'fish bowl' because the chance to see different types of fish around the bay. The boat will then

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move to Mioskon island for more snorkelling and the opportunity to watch a multitude of bats flying overhead just after sunset. Tonight we will have a farewell party.

#### DAY 12

-Today is the end of our adventure, but there is still one last chance for a swim and a snorkel at a small offshore island before we cruise into the port. Alternatively, we can explore Doom Island. -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.

Please Note:

Itineraries are subject to change.

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### YOUR SHIP: OMBAK PUTIH

**YOUR SHIP:** Ombak Putih

**VESSEL TYPE:**

**LENGTH:**

**PASSENGER CAPACITY:**

**BUILT/REFURBISHED:**

The Ombak Putih is a traditional Indonesian schooner custom built from Iron wood by Buginese ship builders. The Ombak Putih is 42 metres long and provides accommodation for up to 24 guests in 12 comfortable cabins. With approximately 400 square meters of public space divided over 2 main decks, the Ombak Putih offers both open and covered space in abundance, allowing for privacy and serene relaxing. All cabins are located below deck and offer private bathroom, portholes, individually controlled air conditioning, and ample storage space including safety deposit box. Led by Captain Feri, 14 dedicated crew members coming from all regions of the archipelago make your stay with us a memorable experience. Spacious twin shared cabin 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 Valuables and travel documents can be stored in the ship's safe Dining in spacious air conditioned lounge Teak wooden furniture in lounge, cabins and on deck Spacious sun and semi-covered decks Free tea, coffee and mineral water Excellent food and snacks (vegetarian food on

request) A selection of wines, cold beer and other alcoholic drinks are offered for sale Fresh water on-deck shower Outdoor sleeping facilities Professional cruise director Unlimited use of our snorkeling equipment and 2 sea canoes Television, DVD and music



center in lounge

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## PRICING

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04-Oct-2025 to 15-Oct-2025

Stateroom	£7880 GBP pp
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04-Oct-2026 to 15-Oct-2026

Stateroom	£8040 GBP pp
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