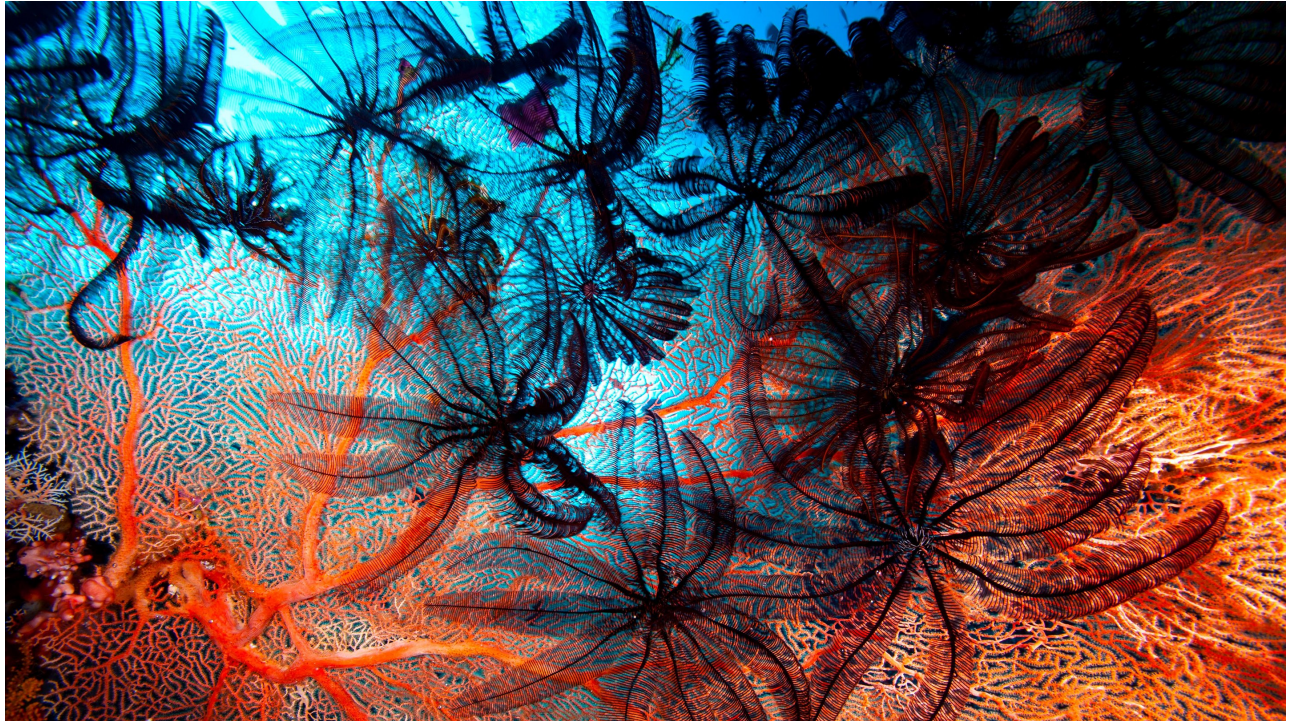


# EXPLORING INDONESIA: BALI, RAJA AMPAT AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA

2024 (Standard) route: Bali, Indonesia to Honiara, Solomon Islands

Expeditions in: May/Sep |



### **DAY 1: Bali, Indonesia**

Arrive in Bali and transfer to our hotel. Meet your fellow travelers this evening at our welcome reception. (D)

### **DAY 2: Bali / Embark**

This morning we check out of the hotel and head off into the countryside and the artist's town of Ubud—famous for silver working, wood carving, and batik. As we wind our way up into the hills, we'll pass exquisite Hindu temples, lush forests, small villages, and the terraced rice fields cut into the cliffs. From water buffalo, to ducks, to harvest, learn how all the pieces of rice production flow together and nothing is wasted. Following lunch, and free time to wander through the galleries in Ubud, we'll head back to Benoa where we embark the National Geographic Orion. (B,L,D)

### **DAY 3: Satonda/Sumbawa, Lesser Sunda Islands**

Our first stop is the uninhabited Indonesian island of Satonda – a small circular island that is an ancient volcanic cone. Spend the morning snorkeling or diving the vibrant reefs or hike inland to the island's sacred lake. This afternoon visit the island of Sumbawa, where villagers welcome us with a lively cultural display. (B,L,D)

### **DAY 4: Komodo Island**

Explore Komodo National Park, home to the world's largest living lizard—the Komodo dragon. Learn about the conservation of these prehistoric giants from park rangers, who will join us on a hike to spot the lizards in their natural habitat. Then enjoy an afternoon of swimming, snorkeling, or beachcombing at "Pink Beach," named for the coral fragments that lend their color to the sand. (B,L,D)

### **DAY 5-6: Flores Island / At Sea**

Flores was once an important Portuguese trading center for sandalwood. Known for producing some of the finest ikat weaving in the world, we'll meet the people of this arid island when we travel inland from Maumere to the weaving village of Watublapi. Whereas many other local weaving communities switched to industrially spun yarn and chemical dyes for the sake of saving time and money, the weavers of Watublapi still use the traditional, handspun yarn made out of local cotton, as well as local natural dyes. We'll also see a cultural dance presentation. (B,L,D)

### **DAY 7: Banda Neira, Banda Islands, Moluccas**

Sail into the Molucca archipelago, also known as Maluku or the Spice Islands. In the heart of the Moluccas lay the Banda Islands, where a kora kora, or traditional war canoe, escorts us to the enchanted isle of Pulau Naira. Neighboring Banda Neira was once the center of the Spice Island trade and a hub of the Dutch East India Company. Stroll past Dutch architecture and visit Fort Belgica, built to protect the profitable spice trade. Next to Bandanaira, the near perfect conical volcano of Banda Api will be visible, quietly steaming away, and the crystal-clear waters

### **Sample Airfares:**

Economy(round-trip Los Angeles/Bali, Brisbane/Los Angeles): from \$3,350  
Business(round-trip Los Angeles/Bali, Brisbane/Los Angeles): from \$9,750  
Charter(one way Honiara/Benoa): from \$510  
Airfares are subject to change

### **Cost Includes:**

All accommodations aboard ship or in hotels per itinerary or similar; all meals and alcoholic beverages aboard ship (excepting certain super-premium brands) and tips (including to ship's crew); meals on land as indicated, accompanied by nonalcoholic beverages; shore excursions; sightseeing and entrance fees; special access permits; transfers to and from designated flights; use of snorkeling equipment and wetsuits (where applicable); use of kayaks and/or stand-up paddleboards (where applicable); taxes and service charges; services of a ship physician and services of our expedition staff. Unused services or items included in our programs are non-refundable.

### **Cost Not Included:**

Air transportation (except where specified as included), charter airfare (where applicable), extensions, passport, visa, immigration fees, meals not indicated, scuba diving aboard National Geographic Orion for pre-qualified divers (available at additional cost); travel protection plan, items of a personal nature, such as internet access and laundry.

provide us with some great swimming and snorkeling. (B,L,D)

#### **DAY 8-9: Exploring Raja Ampat**

Snorkel and dive one of the richest and most intricate marine regions in the world. Explore the steep coral walls and drop offs that are brimming with amazing life – colorful corals, giant clams and literally hundreds of different fish species. Above sea level, the experiences are just as amazing, with lush islands, towering limestone pinnacles jutting out of the water, and hidden white-sand coves to discover by Zodiac or kayak. On Gam Island birders may join a pre-dawn nature walk to try to catch a glimpse of the ethereal red bird-of-paradise. (B,L,D)

#### **DAY 10: Maccleur Gulf / Kokas**

Soaring mountains, pristine rain forest, and dozens of the most ancient, primal tribes on the planet can be found on this amazing section of Indonesia. Use Zodiacs to get up close to 20,000-year-old rock art near the fishing village of Kokas. Explore the fascinating skull caves and rock art of the Macassan culture. See the remains of the secret underground Japanese bunkers built here during World War II. Witness the traditional gabagaba, or stick dance, and learn about the myriad cultures that have passed through this region. (B,L,D)

#### **DAY 11-13: At Sea / Asmat**

Arrive in the enchanting Asmat region, which spreads across mud flats and mangrove forests, with raised wooden boardwalks linking one village to the next. Elaborately painted “warriors” escort us to one of the stilt villages on shore, where we’ll attend a fascinating welcome ceremony. Our subsequent exploration will be dictated by the tides, as we venture to neighboring villages by Zodiac and encounter the ancient culture of the Asmat people, who are renowned for their woodcarving. (B,L,D)

#### **DAY 14-16: At Sea / Gulf of Papua**

We leave the Asmat region and sail through the Aru and Arafura Seas. During the last ice age, when sea levels were over 100 meters lower than they are today, this region was a land bridge between Australia and New Guinea. We transit the shallow, island-strewn Torres Strait, which separates Australia from New Guinea, to enter the Gulf of Papua. We’ll explore the coast and scattered islands looking for that perfect place to spend some time on a deserted beach or snorkeling through a reef bursting with color and life. (B,L,D)

#### **DAY 17-18: Samarai / At Sea**

It’s hard to imagine today that Samarai Island was once a bustling trading port and the second largest city in Papua New Guinea. The town was evacuated at the onset of the Pacific War and many of its buildings deliberately destroyed. When the war ended, Samarai never regained its earlier importance. Life is much slower paced nowadays, and we’ll have a chance to meet and be greeted by the town’s residents. As we depart, be sure to

### **Special Offers**

#### **CELEBRATE LIFE'S MILESTONES**

Join us and celebrate your great milestones, including birthdays, anniversaries, family reunions, retirements, and more. Beginning in 2023, groups of 8 or more traveling together in celebration receive 5% off and a complimentary group photograph, while the cabin-of-honor receives onboard ship credit, beautiful cake, and more onboard celebrations. Milestone celebration must be communicated at time of booking. Milestone amenity package is one per group, intended for the guest celebrating the Milestone event. Group discount is applicable to cruise portion only, and does not apply towards additional services such as hotels, extensions, airfare, etc. Group cancellation terms also apply. Not combinable with certain offers.

#### **BACK-TO-BACK SAVINGS**

Save 10% on any consecutive journeys taken on board one of our expedition ships. This savings is applicable on voyage fares only, and are not valid on extensions or airfare.

#### **BRINGING THE KIDS**

We believe sharing an expedition with your kids or grandkids is a life-enhancing experience. So take \$500 off for each child under the age of 18.

#### **TRAVELING AS A GROUP**

Save 5% when traveling as a group of 8 or more people. Take advantage of these great savings, while enjoying traveling with your friends and family. This savings is applicable to voyage fares only, and is not valid on extensions or airfare. Deposit, final payments, and cancellation policies for group travel vary from our regular policies.

#### **COMBINING OFFERS**

Certain offers may be combinable, up to two savings opportunities, except where noted otherwise. For example, travel with a group of 8 or more on back-to-back expeditions, and take advantage of both savings.



be out on deck as the ship cruises through the beautiful neighboring islands.

**DAY 19: Honiara, Solomon Islands /  
Disembark / Brisbane, Australia**

Our expedition concludes in Honiara, a former U.S. supply depot and a strategic WWII battleground. Tour around the outskirts of the city to see sites well known from the Battle of Guadalcanal in 1942-43. See the shores of Red Beach and the vital airbase at Henderson Field. Visit the hills above Honiara where some of the fiercest battles took place. Then, transfer to the airport for our flight to Brisbane, where we will overnight at a local hotel. (B,L)

**DAY 20: Brisbane**

Transfer this morning to the airport for your flight home. (B)



\* See our website at <https://www.expeditions.com/> for the most up-to-date pricing, which may vary by departure date. Prices are subject to modification, and are not guaranteed until booking and required deposits are made. For best pricing, book early.

**(1) Travel Protection Plan**

We strongly recommend our guests to take advantage of our Travel Protection Plan. This plan offers comprehensive coverage to protect you from cancellation fees, costs incurred due to trip delays/interruption, damage or loss of baggage, medical assistance, and evacuation during your travels. Our Travel Protection Plan is available for U.S. residents only, and may be purchased any time prior to final payment due date, Travel Protection premiums are non-refundable once plan is purchased.

Learn more about our Travel Protection "Plus" Plan: <https://www.expeditions.com/terms-conditions/travel-protection-plan/>

**(2) Cancellation Policy**

Review our cancellation policy: <https://www.expeditions.com/cancellation-policy/>