Indonesia's Coral Gardens and Komodo Dragons Aboard Aqua Blu

Discover remote Indonesian islands on a voyage that stretches nearly 2,000 miles, from the untamed realm of the world's largest lizard—the Komodo dragon—to the azure expanse of the Spice Islands and the enchanting Banda Sea. With the state-of-the-art *Aqua Blu* as your home base, snorkel through waters teeming with life and color, engage with local communities to learn about their time-honored traditions and actively explore the natural beauty of one of the world's most spectacular archipelagos.

From
$ 36,807 / per person
Does not include flights

DATES Oct	**DURATION** 15 Days
SHIPS *Aqua Blu*	
STARTS AT Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia →	**ENDS AT** Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia

Highlights

- Island hop through Indonesia in comfort and style aboard the Aqua Blu, an intimate vessel with just 14 cabins
- Snorkel the Coral Triangle's marine paradise, where dazzling schools of reef fish, countless coral gardens and megafauna like hammerhead sharks and rays thrive

BRUNEI
INDONESIA
Pulau Nusa Laut
Pulau Ai
Pulau Manuk
Nil Desperandum
Pulau Nyata
Pulau Wetar
Pantar Strait
Marine Park
Maumere
Komodo
Satonda
Denpasar
mapbox
© Mapbox, © OpenStreetMap

Day by day

■ DAY 1

Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia / Nusa Dua

Arrive in Bali, one of the cultural hubs of Indonesia, and transfer to the Hilton Bali Resort (or similar). Enjoy the hotel facilities and restaurants before your adventure.

◇ DAY 2

Bali / Embark Ship

Enjoy a leisurely morning at the hotel prior to a private presentation by Dr. Lawrence Blair, an English anthropologist who has spent decades living in Bali and leading expeditions throughout Indonesia's most remote regions. He is best known as the co-creator of the Emmy Award-winning PBS/BBC documentary series *Ring of Fire: An Indonesian Odyssey*, which chronicled a remarkable decade-long journey across the Indonesian archipelago.

After lunch, embark *Aqua Blu* in Benoa Harbor, Bali and settle into your cabin before a festive welcome reception and dinner on board as you set sail for Pulau Moyo and a restful night at sea.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 3

At Sea / Pulau Moyo

Enjoy onboard presentations by your expedition staff enroute to Pulau Moyo. After lunch, go ashore at Labuan Aji village for a scenic drive to Mata Jitu Waterfall, renowned for its crystal-clear turquoise pools, cascading limestone terraces and pristine rainforest setting. Known as the "Queen Waterfall" after Princess Diana's celebrated visit in 1993, it remains one of Indonesia's most enchanting natural treasures. Enjoy a refreshing swim amidst breathtaking scenery in this secluded oasis.

Freshen up on board before heading ashore to enjoy sunset drinks at a local resort before returning to *Aqua Blu* for dinner.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 4

Saleh Bay / Satonda Island

Begin your day with an unforgettable encounter in Saleh Bay on Sumbawa Island, where whale sharks gather each morning around traditional fishing platforms that have supported local communities for generations. As fishermen raise their nets, small fish attract these gentle giants, which are revered as symbols of good fortune and welcomed as part of a long-standing local tradition. Under carefully managed guidelines, guests will have the rare opportunity to snorkel alongside the world's largest fish in one of Indonesia's most remarkable wildlife experiences.

After lunch, enjoy a choice of adventures, from diving and snorkeling the vibrant reefs surrounding Satonda Island to kayaking across its unique volcanic crater lake. As *Aqua Blu* sails toward Komodo National Park, take in the island's dramatic landscapes and tranquil waters. At sunset, you may have the opportunity to witness one of nature's great spectacles as thousands of fruit bats emerge from Satonda Island and soar across the evening sky toward Sumbawa in search of food.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 5

Gili Lawa / Komodo Island

The waters surrounding Gili Lawa offer some of the finest snorkeling and diving in Komodo

National Park, renowned for their vibrant coral reefs, exceptional visibility, and remarkable marine biodiversity. Drift along nutrient-rich currents that attract reef sharks, turtles, rays and vast schools of tropical fish, while nearby world-class dive sites such as Castle Rock and Crystal Rock showcase the region's spectacular underwater life. Whether snorkeling in calm turquoise bays or exploring dramatic reef walls beneath the surface, Gili Lawa presents an unforgettable window into one of Indonesia's most celebrated marine ecosystems.

In the afternoon, explore Komodo Island, part of Komodo National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, in search of the legendary Komodo dragon. Embark on a hike accompanied by experienced park rangers to observe these ancient creatures in their natural habitat and gain insights into ongoing conservation initiatives. Capture images of these fascinating reptiles with the help of your National Geographic certified photo instructor.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 6

At Sea / Maumere, Flores / At Sea

Spend the morning enjoying the amenities aboard *Aqua Blu*, unwinding with a book, savoring a quiet moment by the sea or refining your photography skills with guidance from your National Geographic certified photo instructor. Arrive at Watublapi village, renowned for producing some of the world's most exquisite ikat weavings. Watch as master weavers continue the time-honored tradition of crafting designs using handspun cotton yarn and vibrant natural dyes derived from local plants. During your visit, you'll also experience a traditional dance performance that captures the spirit of their culture.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 7

Pantar Strait Marine Park

The morning calls for snorkel excursions in the dazzling waters of Pantar Strait Marine Park, one of Indonesia's most stunning aquatic areas thanks to the confluence of cold currents from Australia and warm Indonesian seas that foster an abundance of marine life. This afternoon, step ashore on Alor Island into the rich cultural tapestry of the Abui tribe. Experience their centuries-old traditions firsthand as the community welcomes you with their lego-lego dance, a rhythmic expression of unity and heritage. You'll also watch a demonstration of their bow-and-arrow skills, offering a glimpse into their ancestral way of life that continues to thrive in this remote corner of the world.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 8

Pulau Wetar

The rugged, untouched coastline of Wetar island beckons with a wealth of hidden treasures, waiting to be discovered. Beneath the surface is a thriving underwater world where you may encounter graceful sharks gliding through the depths, schools of shimmering pelagic fish and vivid cup corals. Keep your eyes peeled for majestic manta and mobula rays, a highlight of this remote and rarely explored marine paradise.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 9

Kepulauan Barat Daya

Nestled within the fabled "Wallacea" region, the Barat Daya islands are an archipelago—or "kepulauan" in Indonesian— isolated by deep oceanic straits from the Australian and Asian continental shelves. Plunge into the crystalline waters surrounding Pulau Nyata, where elusive hammerhead sharks and graceful rays glide through vibrant coral reefs. Continue south to Telang for more thrilling snorkeling and kayaking

adventures, keeping an eye out for the rare silver-tip shark.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 10

Nil Desperandum

Nil Desperandum—meaning "do not despair" in Latin—is a small, secluded atoll in the Banda Sea known for its hard coral formations and deep drop offs. Spend the day snorkeling among thriving coral and sponge gardens whose highlight includes a vibrant tapestry of brain and staghorn corals perfect for underwater photography enthusiasts. In these clear waters, you'll also be captivated by schools of formidable fish, including tuna and Spanish mackerel.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 11

Pulau Manuk

Begin your day with a sunrise breakfast aboard *Aqua Blu*, set against the dramatic silhouette of Pulau Manuk's towering cliffs—a volcanic island that rises three kilometers from the ocean floor. Uninhabited by humans, this isle provides a haven for nature's predators: fish-eating birds dive with precision into its pristine waters, and sea snakes and reef sharks gather at its underwater thermal springs. Be on the lookout for frigatebirds, gannets and other seabirds that nest in Manuk's verdant treetops. Enjoy swimming or kayaking in the ocean before taking part in a cooking demonstration aboard the ship.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 12

Banda Neira

Arrive at the Banda Islands at sunrise, welcomed by traditional Kora-Kora war canoes gliding through the harbor. Step ashore on Banda Neira, once the world's most fiercely contested island between the British and Dutch during the spice trade of the 16th and 17th centuries. Wander through the remnants of history at Dutch Fort Nassau, a military stronghold that now symbolizes the island's tumultuous past as the global epicenter of nutmeg production—a prized and lucrative spice traded across Europe and Asia. Spend the morning walking through its ancient passageways that tell of a complex bygone era. After lunch, don your snorkel gear and explore the marine life of this storied archipelago. Later on, toast the day with a sundowner and panoramic views of Banda Neira at Fort Belgica.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 13

Pulau Ai / Pulau Run

At Pulau Ai, one of the westernmost gems of the Banda Islands, immerse yourself in crystalline waters as you swim or snorkel among coral gardens full of reef fish. Afterward, step ashore for a guided tour of Ai where you'll learn about the island's storied past and visit its historic nutmeg storehouses, once vital to the lucrative spice trade. Be sure to keep your camera handy as you explore with your National Geographic certified photo instructor by your side. This afternoon, journey to the shores of Pulau Run, an idyllic island that was a center for nutmeg trade in the 17th century and was famously traded for Manhattan in 1667 by the British and Dutch. In the evening, enjoy a cocktail party on these historic sands, watching the sun sink gracefully into the sea.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 14

Pulau Nusa Laut / At Sea

Begin your day with an early morning swim in tranquil ocean waters, followed by snorkeling or kayaking excursions. On the northern shores of

Nusa Laut, explore the picturesque fishing villages of Ameth and Akon, where time seems to slow amidst the island's serene beauty. With luck, you'll spot the elusive dugong, the Southeast Asian cousin of the gentle American manatee, in its natural environment. As your journey continues toward Ambon, take part in a cooking lesson that brings the flavors of the Spice Islands to life. Enhance your day with insightful onboard presentations from your naturalist guides, deepening your connection to the landscapes, cultures and wildlife you've encountered along the way.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

DAY 15

Ambon, Maluku / Disembark Ship / Denpasar, Bali

Disembark in Ambon after breakfast and transfer to the airport to fly to Bali on our recommended flight*; transfers to the airport and luggage assistance will be provided. Upon arrival, connect to your flight home.

**If you are not purchasing the recommended group flight, please get in touch to confirm your arrangements.*

Meals included: breakfast

Expedition

Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia → Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia

2026 DEPARTURE DATES

Aboard *Aqua Blu*

26 Oct				

Aqua Blu

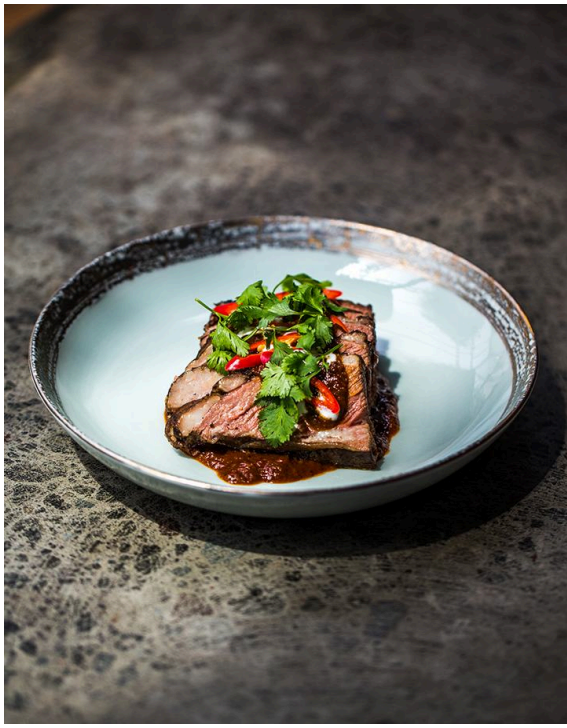
GUESTS	CABINS
28	14

A one-of-a-kind explorer yacht fully equipped for undersea and on-shore adventures

Just under 200 feet long and featuring 14 individually designed suites, the *Aqua Blu* offers an intimate environment that reflects its history as a former British naval explorer and a private yacht for a European aristocratic family. A 2019 refurbishment by renowned Dutch yacht designer Cor D. Rover brought this refined vessel up to world-class cruising specifications, blending modern luxury with ultimate comfort and safety .

Exceptional amenities, including an outdoor workout area and hot tub, a stylish lounge bar and a tranquil spa featuring Balinese massage and aromatherapy, elevate and enhance your time exploring this wild and stunningly beautiful region.

Enjoy an innovative menu curated by renowned chef Benjamin Cross, which draws inspiration from Indonesia's fabled spice trade route as well as European and Mediterranean cuisines.



Cabin Categories

Category 1

LOWER DECK **#102-103**

These cozy 146-square-foot cabins feature two twin beds. They each have two porthole windows and a compact bathroom. Amenities include a hair dryer, safe, beach bag, bathrobe and slippers.

Category 2

MAIN DECK **#201, 203**
FORECASTLE DECK **#301**
BRIDGE DECK **#401**

At an average of 259 square feet, these bright cabins feature a king-size bed and ample storage space—plenty of room for two. Select cabins have a sofa in addition to an armchair. Bathroom sizes vary across category 2 cabins; all optimize space for maximum comfort. Amenities include a hair dryer, safe, beach bag, tea/coffee facilities, bathrobe and slippers. Details about individual cabins can be found in the deck plan.

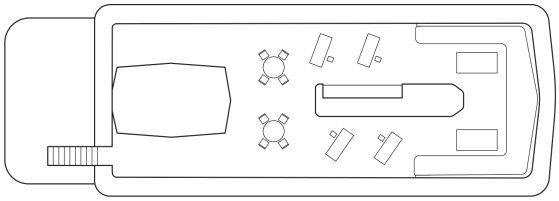
Category 3

LOWER DECK **#101, 104, 105**
MAIN DECK **#202, 204**
FORECASTLE DECK **#302, 303**
BRIDGE DECK **#402**

These light-filled cabins range from 269 to 363 square feet, averaging 317 square feet. They feature a king-size bed or two twin beds which can be configured as a king-size bed upon request. Most feature a sofa, armchair, coffee table, desk and ample storage and cupboard space. Depending on their deck location, these cabins have either portholes or large windows. The more spacious category 3 cabins offer a separate seating area and walk-in closet. Bathroom sizes vary, although the majority are large, and one has a soaking tub in addition to a shower. Amenities include a hair dryer, safe, beach bag, tea/coffee facilities, bathrobe and slippers. Details about individual cabins can be found in the deck plan.

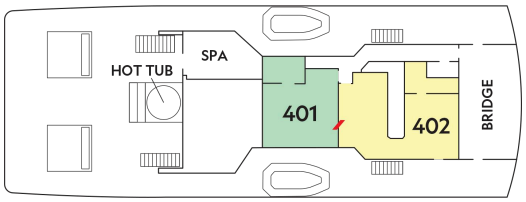
Deck Plans

Sun Deck



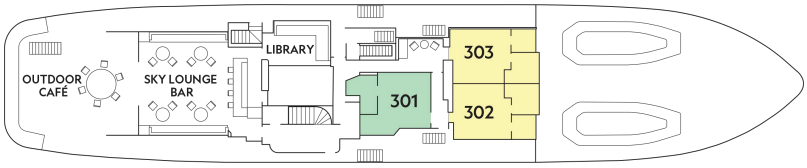
Bridge Deck

- Category 2
- Category 3



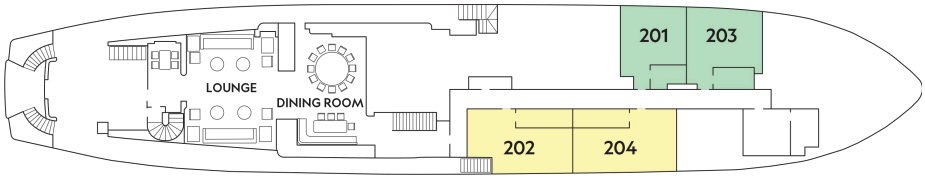
Forecastle Deck

- Category 2
- Category 3



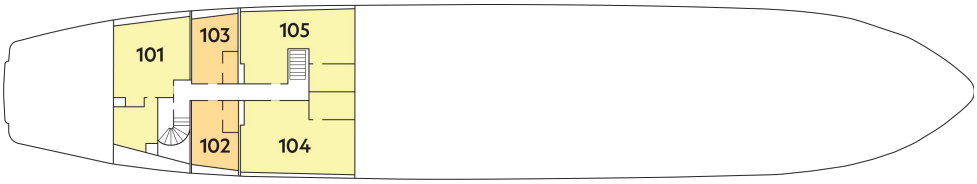
Main Deck

- Category 2
- Category 3



Lower Deck

- Category 1
- Category 3



Ship Amenities

Inviting Public Spaces

Spread across five decks, an array of inviting public spaces beckon guests to relax at sea and convene with their fellow travelers. Indoors, a Library and TV Room, and two lounges are all well-appointed in the ship's soothing brass and ivory decor scheme. Outdoors, guests can enjoy al-fresco dining, an exercise area with ocean views and an expansive sundeck with plush sunbeds ideal for sunset cocktails. Each private cabin lends a luxurious sense of home, offering the perfect respite after days filled with active adventures.

Tools for Exploration

Diving is offered on voyages aboard *Aqua Blu* at no extra cost. This option is limited to 10 experienced certified divers on a first-come-first-served basis. Non-divers can enjoy a range of other water activities, including snorkeling, swimming and kayaking. Call an Expedition Specialist for details.

Special Offers

10% OFF BACK-TO-BACK VOYAGES

Save 10% on consecutive departures, applicable on voyage fares only and not valid on extensions or airfare. Valid for new bookings only, subject to availability, and may not be combined with other offers. Call for details.

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.

CELEBRATE LIFE'S MILESTONES

Celebrate a milestone with a group of eight or more and enjoy a special amenity package including: 5% savings on voyage fares, custom group photo, US$150 shipboard credit for the group, and other special gifts. Milestone celebration to be communicated at time of booking.

SAVE 5% TRAVELING AS A GROUP

Save 5% when traveling as a group of 8 or more people. Valid for new bookings only on select departures, subject to availability, not applicable on extensions, and may not be combined with other offers. Call for details.

INCLUDED IN PRICE

All accommodations aboard ship and in hotels per itinerary; meals, hors d'oeuvres, snacks and beverages aboard ship (excluding certain premium brands of alcohol); meals on land as indicated, accompanied by nonalcoholic beverages; excursions per itinerary, including scuba diving; park entrance fees and photography fees; arrival and departure airport transfers to and from recommended flights, as indicated in the itinerary; gratuities to all service staff, including guides and ship's crew; guidance and company of leading expedition staff; assistance of a National Geographic certified photo instructor; presentations by expedition staff; Wi-Fi aboard ship; complimentary reusable water bottle; laundry services aboard the ship; and 24-hour access to lounge and other shared spaces onboard ship. Unused services or items included in our programs are non-refundable.

NOT INCLUDED IN PRICE

Airfare*; additional hotel nights; spa treatments, Wi-Fi in hotels (if not included by hotels), and phone services (except when indicated as included); travel protection plans; passport, visa, and immigration fees; and items of a personal nature, such as souvenirs, and laundry in hotels.

*Recommended flight costs include flight(s) that take place during the date range of your trip to transport travelers from one itinerary destination to another. This cost also includes ground transportation, luggage transfer, and airport assistance. If you prefer to arrange your own flights privately, have alternate means of transport, or wish to modify at a later time, please contact an Expedition Specialist. Additional costs associated with medical services outside onboard physician consultation.

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/

CANCELLATION POLICY

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