

# EAST FLORES

Witness Something Truly Majestic®

8<sup>th</sup>

SAFARI

**CORAL  
TRIANGLE**  
— SAFARIS



# THE MYSTICAL ARCHIPELAGO OF LEMBATA & ALOR

*Venture to the isolated archipelago where its myth,  
culture and wilderness are lost in time.*

Legend has it that after a particularly long drought in the Dolabang Village at Pura Island, a local man, Olangki, made a journey to Reta Village to borrow rice.

The following year, while on way to return the borrowed rice, he saw a pig on the top of Maru Mountain. He tried, but failed, to slay the pig. In his despair, he asked for help from Dewa "God" to give him water and in return he would give away his daughter, "Bui". The sky turned dark and with it came a big rain which flooded the village. After he gave his daughter to the God, the rain stopped. After a year, the villagers had enough food and water to live on. They celebrated their good fortune with the Lego-Lego Dance and invited Bui to join them. Bui was believed to be married to the God of the mountain. While dancing, Bui asked her mother to take care of her baby that was wrapped in a blanket. She told her mother not to open the blanket. Despite her request, the mother opened the blanket and found a big red fish. She could not resist eating one of the eyes. When Bui discovered that the mother had hurt her baby, she ran and locked herself inside Bitu Era cave at the top of the mountain.

She promised herself that there would be no more hunger and thirst for her family and village. To this day, water can always be found on top of the Maru Mountain despite any long dry season. It is believed that Bui Hangi, the human wife of the God, made this gift possible.

# FAST FACTS\*

Lembata & Alor Archipelago is within the Coral Triangle, and are part of the Lesser Sunda Islands.

The Lesser Sundas are an inner volcanic island arc created by the subduction and partial melting of the Australian tectonic plate below the Eurasian plate.

Pantar Strait lies in between Alor and Pantar. The water coming from the Pacific in the north is flowing through this strait to merge with the Indian Ocean in the south. This big “river” in the ocean is called the Indonesian Through Flow. Similar flow occurs in the Komodo Archipelago.

It is rated as the new world’s muck diving capital and recent exploration has found more creatures than the more-visited Lembeh Strait in North Celebes.

95 islands surround the archipelago encompassing 7,420 km<sup>2</sup> /2,865 miles<sup>2</sup> of land and water.

75 dive sites to choose from between Maumere Bay and Alor Island.

1,200 species of coral reef fish and 500 species of corals.

It is part of a biogeographic region known as Wallacea, which contains very distinctive fauna representing a mix of Asian and Australasian species including 273 bird species.

Indonesia straddles the equator. Therefore, the temperature during the year does not vary much. Expect temperatures between 22-33<sup>o</sup> Celsius (72-92<sup>o</sup> Fahrenheit). Precipitation does vary between the dry season (Apr-Nov) and wet season (Dec-Mar).

Best time to visit is May - September when the sea is calm and the visibility is optimal.

\*References:

<http://www.worldwildlife.org/>

<https://www.volcanodiscovery.com/>



## WHAT TO EXPECT

8-day/7-night  
Safari to the  
Mystical  
Archipelago where  
folklore, volcanoes  
and water shape  
culture.

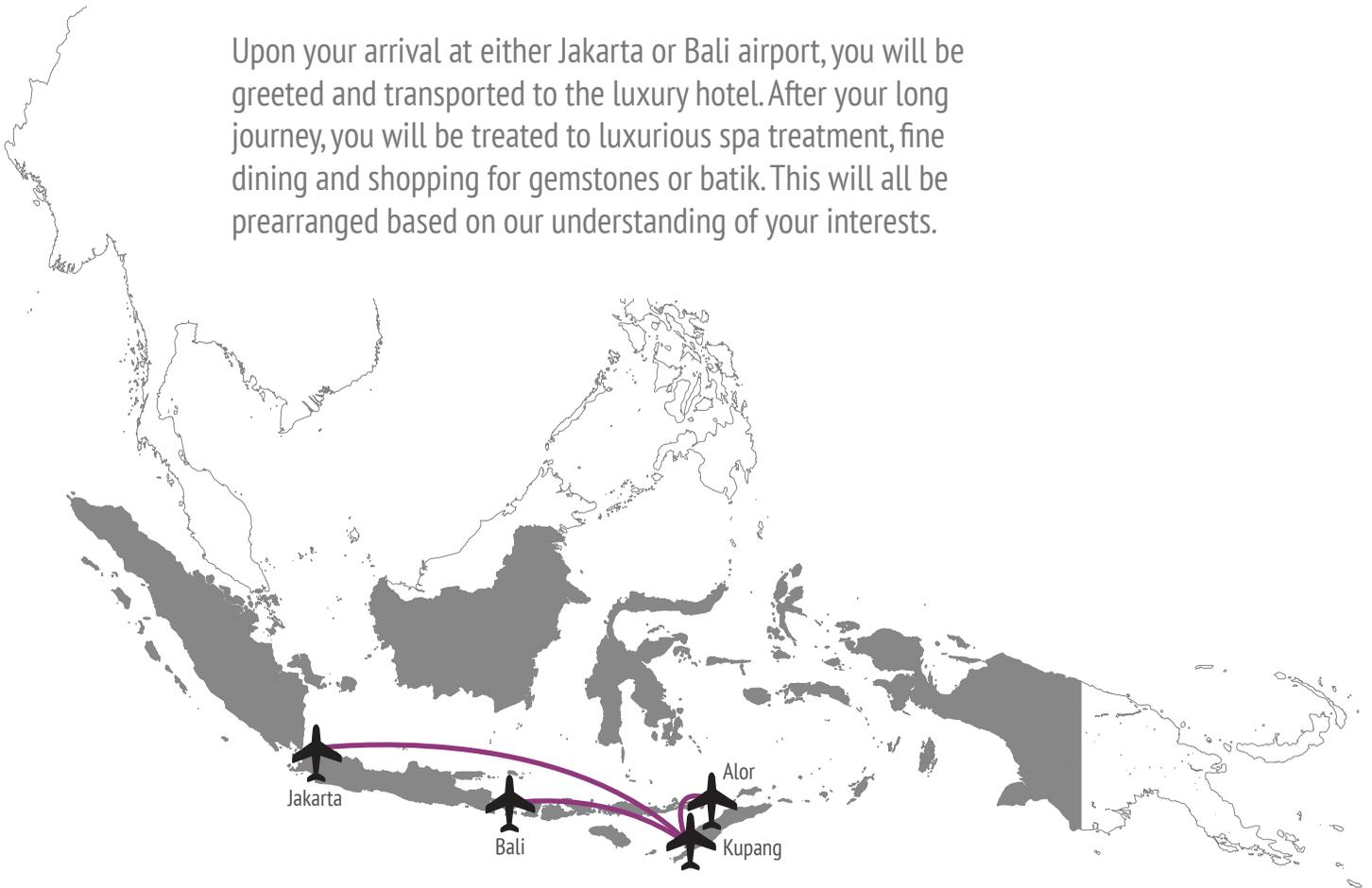


Day

0

## Jakarta or Bali

Upon your arrival at either Jakarta or Bali airport, you will be greeted and transported to the luxury hotel. After your long journey, you will be treated to luxurious spa treatment, fine dining and shopping for gemstones or batik. This will all be prearranged based on our understanding of your interests.





# CRUISE MAP

Cruising distance: 220 nm (253 miles/ 408 km)

Arrival Airport: Alor, Mali Airport (ARD)

Departure Airport: Maumere, Frans Xavier Seda Airport (MOF)



*Please be aware that all itineraries are subject to change at the discretion of the Captain due to weather and other safety considerations.*

Day

# 1

## Alor Island

After collecting your baggage, you will be transported the short distance to our yacht, *Sequoia*. Once on-board, the captain will provide you with a thorough safety briefing as well as a complete tour of the vessel. Once we receive your acknowledgment that you have everything to begin your adventure, we will set sail. We will be under engine and sail power for the **two-hour** journey to reach Pura Island.

Exotic volcanoes surrounded by crystal clear waters full of aquatic life, coconut fringed pure white sandy beaches and traditional fishing village scenery will welcome you this special archipelago.

Alor Island is full of life. You will see young kids use their handmade wooden goggles with glass bottle “lenses” to help them free-dive bare-footed. They peer through their homemade goggles to check their bamboo fish traps. This primitive fishing method has been handed down for generations.

You can spend your afternoon snorkeling and/or kayaking in the turquoise waters while waiting for the colorful ocean sunset. After sunset, we will set up a cinema on our sky deck for you to enjoy the stars against the blue sky of Alor followed by romantic dinner.



Day

# 2

## Pura Island

Pura Island is a small cone island that you can hike up and back in **4 hours**. Your reward will be breathtaking view of the Alor Archipelago and its volcanoes. It is believed that Bui Hangi, the human wife the God of the Maru Mountain, lives here.

There are 34 dive sites to choose from that surround the Alor Archipelago. Our favorites are: *The Old Cathedral* and *The Clown Valley*. Since some sites are located in front of a traditional fishing village, local kids normally join us in between dives. You can watch them fishing with their homemade goggles, hand made spears and traditional “bubu” bamboo fishing traps that are unique to Alor.

At *The Old Cathedral* in front of Motolang Village, huge jumbled rocks and boulders and a steep wall covered with both hard and soft corals will welcome you. You will see Bargibant’s seahorse and Pontoh’s pygmy

seahorse making Halimeda algae their home as well as blue ring octopus, leaf fish and scorpionfish. At 25 meters/ 82 feet, you will swim through a cave where we usually see a huge tawny nurse shark (*Ginglymostoma cirratum*). Bamboo sharks and large marbled rays are often seen cruising by in this crystal clear water.

In the afternoon, you will have an opportunity to immerse yourself in one of the most impressive site of Alor, *The Clown Valley*, just in front of Apuri Village. It is the most densely populated sea anemone site in the world. There is abundant Bulb-tentacle sea anemone, Clark’s anemonefish and Tomato clownfish. This is truly the world’s aquarium.



At The *Clown Valley*, you will also notice bubbles coming out from the volcanic sandy bottom which makes an ideal place for tiny critters to live: sea apples, yellow nudibranchs, shrimps, squat lobsters and crabs. Into the clear blue water, you may also find thresher sharks and the ocean sunfish or “Mola mola.”

Alor Archipelago is a great place for night dives. With the help of *Sequoia's* powerful underwater lights, you can venture out for a night-dive where you will witness a busy nightlife in this volcanic seabed from rare octopus to the iconic rhinopias at *Black Rhino* dive site.

In the afternoon, we will take you on the *Boston Whaler* for island exploration. There are many traditional Alor villages to explore, which are only accessible by foot. The highlight is the Takpala Village where local people have preserved their culture. You will join them in the lego-lego dance, a dance to thank the God for their good fortune.

Afterwards, you will visit a traditional market and the 1000 Moko Museum.

Across Indonesia, the textile and basketry arts are women's work, and over ninety percent of the weavers are women. These arts are still strongest in the poorest, most remote regions, where there are few alternative income opportunities. You will see and/or shop beautiful ikat textiles and/or basketry when we visit the traditional market.

Alor is known as the land of a thousand Moko. Moko is a prehistoric bronze drum. It was originally used as music instrument as well as the barter currency. Due to inflation, Dutch strictly regulated the circulation of Moko when they ruled Alor in 17th-20th century. The typical Moko “drum” of Alor is not found anywhere else in Indonesia. It can be traced back to the Dongson period of around 350 BC originating in North Vietnam. Today, Moko has different functions. The ownership of Moko shows social rank as well as a marriage gift from male to female family. No marriage can be made without Moko. Alor is truly a land lost in time.

In the evening, we will set sail for the **two-hour** journey to Beangabang Bay, Pantar Island.



Day

# 3

## Beangabang Bay

This Bay is located in the southeast of Pantar Island. The Sirung volcano, 862 meters/ 2,828 feet, which is truncated by a 1.2-km wide caldera, dominates the scenery. You can hike up to the crater rim from the nearby village, Kaka Mauta, where you can see a sulfur crater lake and active steam vents inside the caldera. A second area of fresh water hot springs can be found on the beach where it mixes with seawater.

Scuba diving with manta rays and sharks is definitely thrilling, however some of the most astonishing animals are also some of the smallest. You will find yourself questioning if the tiny bizarre alien-like creatures you are seeing are from outer space. “Macro” means “large-scale” but the term “macro diving” refers to the kind of lens underwater photographers use to capture smaller marine life. Some refer it as “muck diving” which is essentially diving in areas of sand “muck”.

This archipelago is a volcanic origin where the rich nutrients, warm water and volcanic sand make a perfect home for plenty of macro marine life.

There are more than ten dive sites to choose from. Our favorites are: *Hot Rocks*, *Ribbon Eel Run* and *Sea Apple Slopes*. Whichever you choose, you will see interesting critters like wonderpus octopus, mimic octopus, blue ring octopus, rhinopias and ghost pipefish as well as mantis shrimp, frogfish, devil fish, pegasus and Coleman shrimp.

At *Sea Apple Slopes*, you will find the rare filter-feeding sea cucumbers called sea apple (*Pseudocolochirus violaceus*). Sea apple is a filter feeder with tentacles, ovate body and tube-like feet. It releases a toxin into the water when stressed.

In the evening, we will cruise for **5 hours** to Rusa Island.



Day

# 4

## Rusa Island

This island is located in between Alor and Lembata Archipelago. It is a perfect midway point for a stopover.

The blue water will welcome you to Rusa or “Deer” Island while we serve you our signature Indonesian breakfast including exotic tropical fruits such as star fruit, dragon fruit and jackfruit depending upon the season.

You will start your adventures with scuba diving at *Watubalu*, *Alcatraz* followed by the *Rusa Pinnacle* dive site.

At *Alcatraz*, forests of one-meter/ three-foot tall burgundy-colored soft coral like trees emerge from the sand at 27 meters/ 90 feet. They create an otherworldly landscape, bizarre and beautiful.

*Rusa Pinnacle*, which is very rarely explored due to its remote location, is the most changeling dive site in the region. The reef scenery from the slope at 30 meters/100 feet all the way up to the pinnacle’s peak in 7 meters/20 feet make for a memorable dive.

Purple hydrocorals and bubblegum-pink cup corals seem to explode with color off the reef. A variety of angelfish species, emperors, damsels, bannerfish and legions of anthias hug the healthy hard corals and sea fans. Into the clear blue water, you may spot barracuda, dogtooth tuna and the ocean sunfish, “Mola mola.”

In between dives, you can explore the crystal clear blue waters and pristine golden sandy beaches with a kayak where you can observe the native deer in the wild.

We will utilize the *Boston Whaler* to bring you out of Marine Protection Area where you can go deep-sea fishing. Our chef will be happy to prepare your fresh catch for dinner.

We will set up a cinema for you on the beach, which you can enjoy after the sunset. The smell of a fresh catch seafood barbeque will entice you to dinner.

In the evening, we will cruise for **5 hours** to Suangi Island, with a stopover at Lamalera Village.



Day

# 5

## Suangi Island

East of Flores, Lembata features massive volcanoes where cliffs drop into the sea. It has the most severe droughts in the entire Indonesia Archipelago.

In the morning, we will take you to Lamalera village, on the rocky south coast of Lembata. It is known for its traditional whaling done from oar-powered boats using homemade harpoons.

During dry season from May to September, Lamalerans keep their eyes on the sperm whale. If a whale wanders close to shore, the villagers launch their boats and give chase under oar and sail.

When the whalers pull alongside a breathing whale, a hunter hurls himself from the boat's bow, harpoon in hand. A wounded whale often tows its hunters for miles or drags their boat down into the deeps.

Successful hunters distribute cuts of the catch according to clan and status. Oil from

the whale's blubber and head is saved for lamp fuel. Villagers cook the meat fresh or dry it in the sun. Dried whale stores well and always gets good value at the barter markets.

Every Tuesday, farmers from the interior gather at Ulon Doni to swap grain and vegetables for marine products like dried fish, whale, seaweed, and salt. At 4 am, Lamalera tradeswomen gather their loads for the **three-hour** walk to market. To this day, farmers still scratch a living from between the stones, foods and crafts at barter-only markets like Ulon Doni.

Lembata's dry climate does not allow them to cultivate rice fields. Families substitute carbohydrates from corn, sweet potatoes and cassava. Inland farmers get nearly all of their dietary protein through barter with coastal villages like Lamalera. Whale protein helps local children develop into healthier, more productive adults.



Despite sanctions from The United Nations to its whaling tradition, the locals are still-hunting whales, sharks and rays for the only protein source available. This activity has nothing to do with commercial fishing. It is a matter of survival.

After island exploration, we will take you for scuba diving at: *Lamalera Village* followed by *Suangi* dive site. Here the Indian Ocean stretches out south as far as the eye can see so these outlying islands provide shelter for different types of sharks, eagle rays and big schools of fish. In the shallow, you will find coral reef slopes with schools of fusilier, angelfish and parrotfish as well as gorgonian sea fans that host pygmy seahorses.

Lamelera is famous for their ikat weaving. Marriage rituals that bind the clans together require the gifting of handspun, natural-dyed cloth. From harvesting and spinning the cotton, through the final clack of the loom, a Lamaleran woman might require two years to produce a single “kwatek nai telo” textile. Motifs of manta rays and sharks’ teeth, scorpions and volcanoes, even the weaver’s shuttle or betel nut basket find a place in these exquisite artworks. The gift of a “kwatek” maintains the long peace between the clans.

In the evening, we will cruise for **7 hours** to Komba Island.



Day

# 6

## Komba Island

Your morning view will be dominated by the spectacular sunrise view of a smoking volcano against a backdrop of puffy pink buttermilk clouds.

The iconic Batu Tara Volcano lies on a young and thin oceanic crust shapes Komba Island. It is known locally as Betar, Gunung Hantu in Bahasa Indonesia, which means “The Ghost Mountain”. As we approach this island, you will see the indescribable sight of its molten lava making its way to the sea. Like a mythical dragon, you will also hear periodic thunderous booms as clouds of dust are blasted out from deep inside the island.

Batu Tara Volcano towers 748 meters/ 2,454 feet in the sky, while underwater it reaches 3,000 meters/ 9,843 feet below sea level. The scar on its eastern side is a flank collapse feature similar to the Sciara del Fuoco of Italy’s Stromboli. After 1.5 centuries of dormancy, this giant monster erupted in 2007.

There are several dive sites to choose from: *Volcano Pinnacle*, *Volcano Ridge*, *Komba*, *Alice in Wonderland* and *Smokey Point*. The surrounding waters harbor food-rich currents and cool waters. These are fantastic conditions for encounters with larger marine animals such as: whitetip reef shark, grey reef shark, school of giant groupers and manta rays. Its volcanic sand also makes an ideal place for tiny critters to flourish.

After viewing its spectacular sunset, *Sequoia* will cruise for a **seven-hour** journey to Serbete Reef.



Day

# 7

## Serbete Reef

You will notice a small lighthouse as a landmark indicating that we have entered Serbete Reef which is located in front of Adonara Island. Adonara “Lomblen”, Timor and Wetar were famous for sandalwood, a tree with an exotic fragrance. Portuguese traders first visited Adonara in 1512, which was later taken over by Dutch East India Company (VOC) in 1613. Adonara and its surrounding islands were handed over to the Indonesian government in 1962.

The Serbete reef has exquisite coral gardens in the shallower depths as well as fantastic walls, which make for a superb scuba diving and/or snorkeling site.

We will start your morning with a dive at *Tanjung Gedong* Reef, which will be followed, by a second dive at the *Serbete Wall*. We will end our water activities with a dive at *East Serbete*. You will encounter blue fin trevally, barrel sponges and elephant ear sponges.

In the afternoon, this shallow reef and crystal clear waters make an ideal place for on-the water sport adventure such as kayaking, tubing and water skiing.

In between dives, we will take you on the *Boston Whaler* to do island exploration at less-visited Adonara. You will notice a remarkable difference between Lembata and Adonara. Lembata is a dry barren land while Adonara is more fertile.

The hardship on Adonara is related to the absence of the men. Most Adonara men work in a neighboring country, Malaysia. An organization: PEKKA “The Women Headed Household Empowerment Program” works to support women who have been left by their husbands, sometimes for a few years and sometimes forever.



Adonara women keep their tradition of making ikat textiles. Almost all of the weavers believe that they may not make ikat motifs as part of the structure of their traditional textiles. They believe that if a weaver were to tie an ikat motif for her work, she would become blind.

The weavers of Adonara have a relationship with weavers in Ile Ape on Lembata whereby Adonara weavers may buy and weave into their own textiles sections of ikat motifs from the Ile Ape weavers!

There is one exception to this tradition within the Tua Wolo clan whereby weavers are allowed to put an ikat motif in their textiles but only if they wear that textile themselves. These textiles would not be allowed to be worn by another clan or be sold.

Weavers from Ile Boleng still use natural-dye and hand-spun cotton. An important ceremony that is still practiced today is called Reka Wuun, which is performed every year before beginning to initiate the red dye process. These textiles and ceremonies are evidence that the weavers of Ile Boleng are committed to preserve their precious art & culture.

In the evening, we will cruise for **7 hours** to reach Maumere Bay at Flores Island. We hope that this will leave you with fond memories of this isolated archipelago. It is truly a mystical place.



Day

# 8

## Maumere Bay

Maumere is the administrative city of Flores Island.

In 1512, after the capture of Malacca, Albuquerque sent three vessels: Santa Catarina, Sabaia and an unnamed caravel in search of primary source of clove in “Ternate Island” and nutmeg & mace in “Banda Islands.” These Portuguese sailors sailed the uncharted north coast of Java using only the rising volcanoes above terraced rice fields as landmarks. Sabaia hit the Madura Reef in East Java. The other two remaining ships continued eastward, past the Islands of Bali, Lombok, Sumbawa until reaching the Larantuka Cape. They named the island Cabo de Flores or “Cape of Flowers”, after the vivid red flamboyant trees that grow in abundance along the peninsula.

Volcanoes and mountains surround a laid-back Maumere Bay. The islands on the outer edge of the bay have nice coral reefs with steep walls covered with hard corals and large sea fans.

Pulau Besar, Dambilah and Pangabatang Islands form a barrier to the water flowing in and out of the bay. For this reason, the bay is calm at most time which make it an ideal place for dolphins, pilot whales, sperm whales and whale sharks to shelter throughout the year.

Rudie Hermann Kuitert, a famous underwater photographer and marine biologist captured more than 1,200 species of fish, including some new to science at Maumere Bay. Its underwater biodiversity is still waiting to be fully discovered.

You will spend the day relaxing on the beach, snorkeling and/or take a kayak around the calm waters of this beautiful bay. All you need is a good book and a glass of coconut water.



After a fresh delicious lunch, our crew will drive you to the airport and wave you a fond farewell as you board your aircraft for your transfer back to Jakarta or Bali. We hope that your eight-day safari was all that you dreamed and that we will see you once again for another *Coral Triangle Safari!*





## ALL-INCLUSIVE

*Ground transportation, food, non-alcoholic drinks, laundry, park fees, diving gear and sport equipment, PADI dive course up to advanced-level certification, DAN insurance, tax and service while onboard, Full Crew including Knowledgeable Cruise Director & Captain, Certified Dive Instructor & Dive Master, Butler and Chef.*

# EXPERIENCES

*Coral Triangle Safaris* experiences are filled with endless possibilities and memories.

Scuba Diving

Snorkeling

Kayaking

Water Skiing

Tubing

Paddle Boarding

Island Exploration

Beach Picnic

Deep Sea Fishing (outside MPA)

Cinema Under the Stars

Locavore

Kids Adventures

And much more ...

# THE YACHT

A new breed of modern yet classic wooden yacht, completed in 2017.

Named after the giant *Sequoia* tree – the largest and the oldest living organism on earth – in hope that her beauty can be enjoyed for generations to come.

Hand crafted by Indonesian carpenters, *Sequoia* is equipped with state of the art yachting technology from North America and Europe.

You will be able to choose from multiple activities while being spoiled with unforgettable food and tranquility.

The 6 Inter-Hull High Intensity Discharge Lamps provide both nighttime on-deck ambiance as well as an entrance into the sea below.

# *Sequoia*



## ACCOMODATION

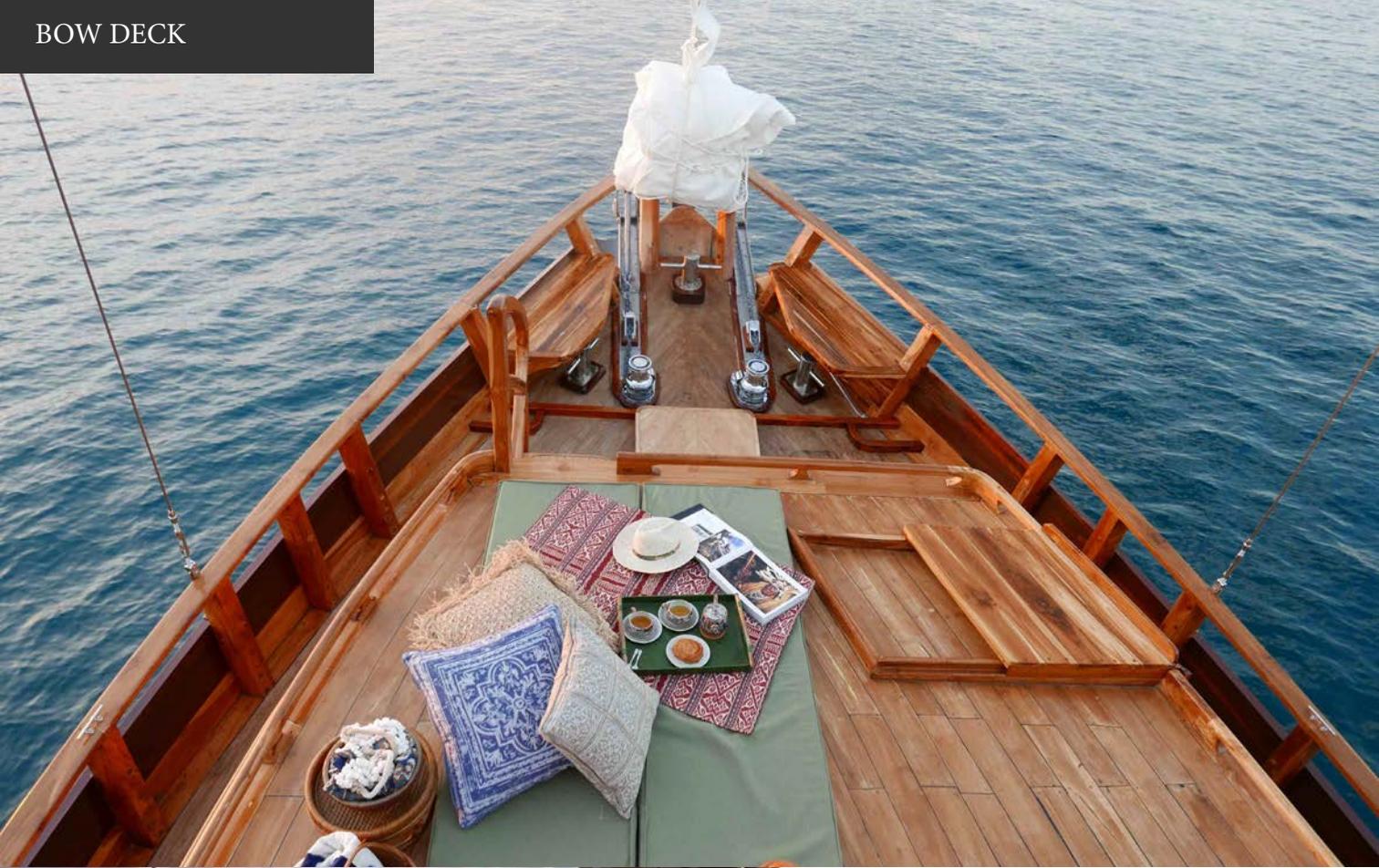
Defined by luxury, space and privacy, *Sequoia* has 2 deluxe cabins and a large galley.

The elegant modern amenities influenced by Indonesian design combine luxury and tradition.

From the vibrant textiles and the intricate teak and ironwood, every detail is custom-crafted for *Sequoia*.

Our large galley boasts 2 spacious decks furnished with beautiful outdoor dining tables and convertible sun lounges.

BOW DECK



SKY DECK



MASTER SUITE



GUEST SUITE



THE GREAT ROOM



# OUR SAFARI COLLECTION

1. The Wild Raja Ampat
2. The Bird's Head Seascape
3. The Twilight of Kaimana
4. The Forgotten Islands
5. The Spice Islands
6. The East Banda Sea
7. The Ring of Fire
8. The Mystical Archipelago of East Flores
9. The Lost World of the Dragon
10. Custom safari upon request...

# PLANNING YOUR SAFARI

Let us custom design your Coral Triangle Safari to suit your passions and interests.

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