

Komodo and Indonesia's Hidden Islands

*With Shirley Campbell, Rich Pagen, and Kristin Wornson
And optional pre-trip extension to Java*

INDONESIA | 17 DAYS | AUGUST 23 – SEPTEMBER 8, 2024



Receive \$1,000 off when booked with *Raja Ampat and the Spice Islands*, back-to-back voyages

Travel with Shirley, Rich, and Kristin



Shirley Campbell

SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGIST | AUTHOR

Shirley's passion for indigenous cultures has taken her from discovering ancient Native American artifacts in her native California to spending two years with the indigenous people in the Trobriand Islands, a tiny coral atoll in Papua New Guinea.

"I love travelling throughout this island nation, witnessing the vast cultural expressions of separate, ethnic identities still proudly alive and well despite Indonesia's portrayal as a modern national identity within the region."

MARINE BIOLOGIST | NATURALIST

Rich's career as a biologist has involved an array of fascinating wildlife fieldwork, both on land and at sea. Through it all, exploration and sharing nature with others has been his central passion.

"Indonesia is the perfect blend of impressive wildlife and natural history, both above and below the sea surface. It sits high on my list of my FAVORITE places to travel to."



Rich Pagen



Kristin Wornson

MARINE BIOLOGIST | ARTIST | NATURALIST

Kristin's love of beauty and wild things has taken her from skimming the surface of mudflats on a surfboard while researching nudibranch foraging behavior, to building a successful jewelry business that incorporates tiny plants and wildflowers.

"I'm delighted to be able to share the vivid beauty of Indonesia, and immerse ourselves in the wonderful curiosities of the natural world."

Komodo and Indonesia's Hidden Islands

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Embark on a captivating journey through Indonesia, where the rich tapestry of culture and nature awaits. Experience the wonders of Komodo National Park and embark on a special nature hike to encounter the majestic Komodo dragon, the world's largest lizard. Throughout your journey aboard the luxurious Aqua Blu, explore kaleidoscopic and biodiverse reef systems, sail along picturesque islands, trek to volcanic lakes, and partake in immersive local traditions.



Adventure highlights



- Search for the Komodo dragon, the world's largest lizard, in its native habitat on the islands of the Komodo National Park
- Join us on the most luxurious ship in the region, Aqua Blu, formerly the HMS Beagle
- Snorkel among dazzling tropical fish and colorful corals; these waters are some of the most biodiverse in the world
- Enjoy numerous nature walks and Zodiac cruises to discover stunning scenery, pristine beaches, and luxuriant tropical landscapes
- Visit small and seldom visited villages in this island chain to discover their unique histories and what it is like to live there
- Discover the legacy of the spice trade at the Dutch Fort Belgica, a UNESCO World Heritage Site

Itinerary

Join the pre-trip extension
to *Java* with Shirley!

FRIDAY, AUGUST 23 2024

Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia

Arrive in Bali and transfer to the Andaz Bali Hotel. This evening, join fellow travelers and your leaders for a welcome dinner and briefing.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24

Bali / Lubuan Bajo, Flores Island

After a relaxing morning, take a midday flight from Denpasar to stunning Flores and check into the beautiful Anaya Komodo Resort – A 5-star resort in the heart of Indonesia's most dramatic landscape.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25

Komodo National Park

Immerse yourself in a full day of exploration of local islands in Komodo National Park, with a highlight being Rinca Island. Among the three largest islands that make up the UNESCO-recognized Komodo National Park, Rinca stands out. While not all islands in the park are home to this majestic creature, Rinca Island proudly holds the title as the reigning kingdom of the mighty Komodo dragon.

MONDAY, AUGUST 26

Lubuan Bajo / Embark Aqua Blu

After a leisurely morning, enjoy lunch at the hotel before embarking the Aqua Blu in the afternoon. Aqua Blu, our home away from home, is a luxurious 15-suite vessel and former British Naval Explorer, HMS Beagle.



TUESDAY, AUGUST 27

Watublapi Village

After a morning at sea, we'll journey inland to explore the mountain village of Watublapi. Immerse yourself in the vibrant culture and lifestyle of the locals, and have the opportunity to meet with skilled artisans, particularly the renowned local women known for their exquisite Ikat textiles.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28

Lembata Island

Explore the picturesque bays of Lembata Island (north) and immerse yourself in the captivating charm of Lamalera Village. Take in the stunning scenery, with occasional views of smoke and dust rising from the nearby volcano, Lewotolo. Witness the stark contrast of the Bacatan headland, where a low-lying, treeless landscape meets an expansive coral reef system on the east side. Embark on a pleasant walk along the Lewotolo side of the bay, strolling along a serene country lane connecting two villages.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29

Kalabahi Bay, Alor Island

Arrive at Alor Island and disembark for a visit to a local village. Learn about the traditional free diving techniques of the locals and witness their unique homemade equipment. In the afternoon, immerse yourself in the rich cultural heritage of the Abui Tribe as they showcase centuries-old dance traditions.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 30

Wetar Island

After a morning at sea, arrive at far-flung Wetar Island. The rugged coastline features impressive walls that attract large schools of pelagic fish, a variety of sharks, majestic mantas, and mobula rays. After a relaxing snorkel, go ashore for a nature walk and meet with locals to learn about their lifestyle and traditions.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31

Forgotten Islands

The Forgotten Islands offer some of the best underwater experiences in all of Indonesia. Attractions include gin-clear waters, patch reefs and coral bommies, spectacular walls, and breathtaking drop-offs. Spend the morning snorkeling near Nyata Island to search for sharks and rays. In the afternoon go kayaking near Telang Island and search for rare silver-tip sharks while snorkeling.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

Damar Islands

Today, choose an exciting trek to the active volcanoes of Damar or spend the morning kayaking along a lagoon at Terbang Seletan. In the afternoon, swim or snorkel from the dazzling white sandy shore of Nusleur to explore the shallow fringing reef where you may spot bump-head parrotfish swimming among extremely healthy corals.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

Dawera and Dawaloor

Exploring the waters around Dawera & Dawaloor offers a tranquil experience, characterized by gentle currents, stunning walls, and expansive flat reefs. In the afternoon, take a scenic bike ride through the elevated settlements of Dawaloor and unwind on the island's pristine white sand beaches, surrounded by captivating coral reefs.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

Nil Desperandum Atoll & Serua Island

Located in the Banda Sea, Nil Desperandum is a small atoll with stunning hard coral formations. Immerse yourself in the underwater wonderland as majestic fish, like tuna and Spanish mackerel, gracefully pass by. Serua Island offers a snorkeling paradise, featuring impressive reefs, walls, and vibrant soft coral gardens. Keep watch for large fish and bustling schools, and you might even spot schooling hammerhead sharks.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

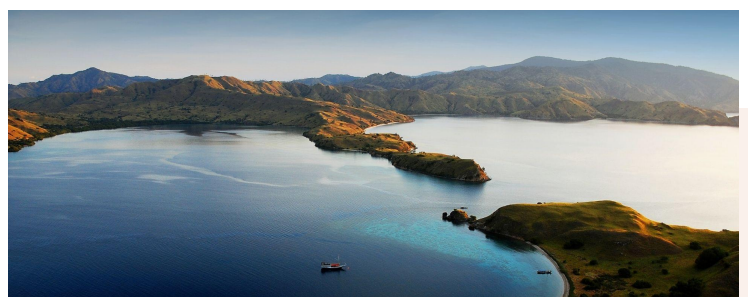
Manuk Island / Pulau Run

After a sunrise breakfast onboard, explore along the 900-foot-tall cliffs of Pulau Manuk, a volcanic island rising nearly 10,000 feet from the seabed. This is a haven for fish-hunting birds, as well as sea snakes and reef sharks that gather here to enjoy the area's underwater thermal springs. After sundown, cruise northwards to Pulau Run, a historic island traded by the British for New York's Manhattan Island in 1667.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

Banda Neira

This morning, be greeted by warriors in kora-kora war canoes upon our arrival at the Banda Islands. Uncover the rich history of the spice trade, initiated by the Portuguese in 1512 and later dominated by the Dutch in 1663. Explore the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Dutch Fort Belgica, and walk to the top of a tower for panoramic views of the harbor, lush spice plantations, and a majestic volcano.



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

Pulau Ai

Arrive at Pulau Ai with the sunrise and dive into the crystal-clear waters for a refreshing swim among the stunning coral gardens and colorful reef fish. Later, disembark onto Pulau Ai for a guided tour of Fort Revenge and its historic nutmeg storehouses. As the day progresses, we'll set sail northward overnight toward Ambon.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

Ambon / Disembark / Jakarta

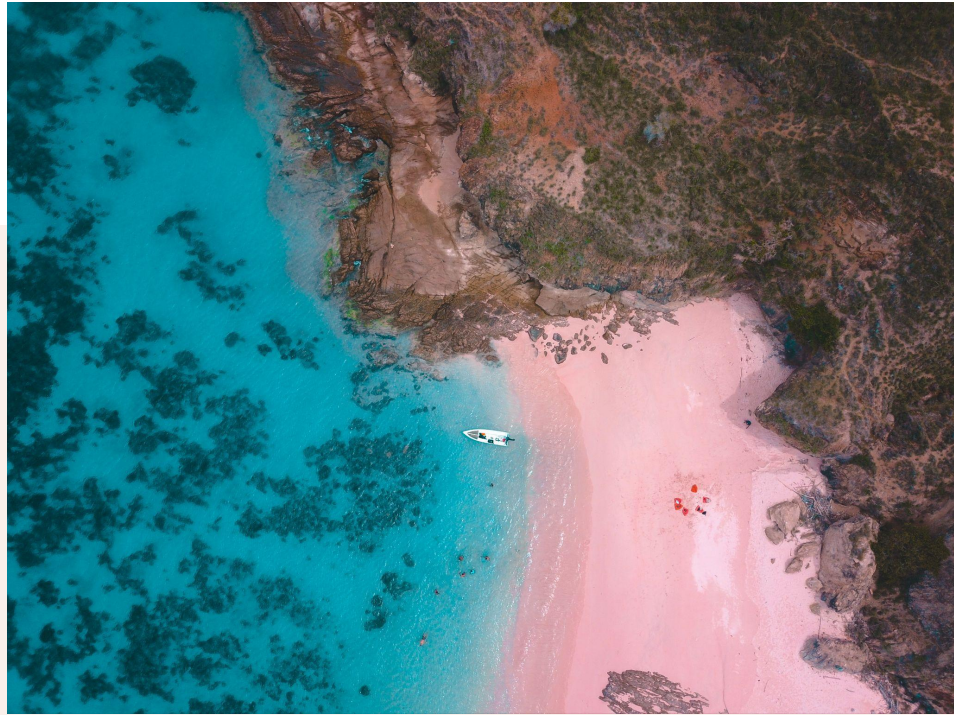
Disembark in Ambon this morning and fly to Jakarta. Check in to the Anara Airport Hotel with the rest of the day at leisure.

Those joining our next departure, Raja Ampat and the Spice Islands, will remain onboard.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Jakarta / Depart

Board your independent homeward flight.



Onboard Aqua Blu



Where modern luxury meets naval heritage

With a grand legacy as the former British Naval Explorer HMS Beagle, a 2019 refurbishment has transformed this vessel into a world-class luxury experience.



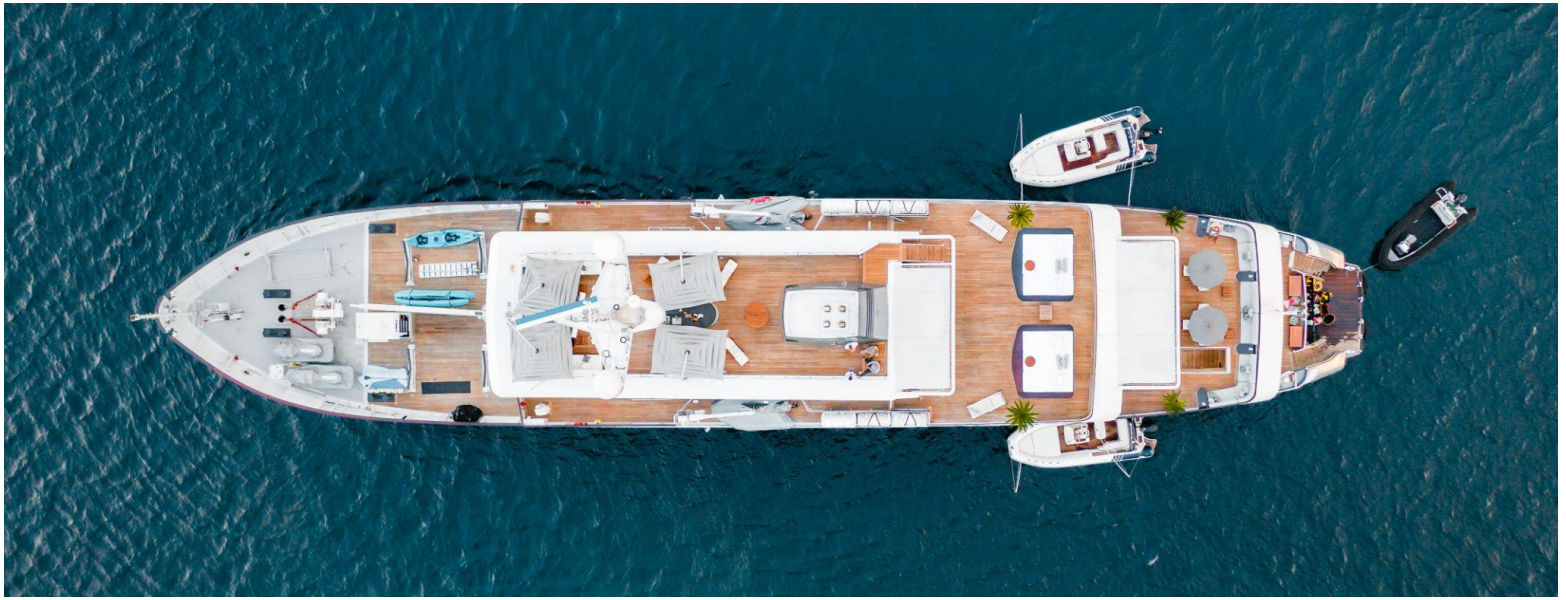
Refined Elegance

Beautifully designed for your comfort, the Aqua Blu is perfect to both relax and socialize after a thrilling day of adventure.

Built for Adventure

Carrying two 16-passenger private speedboats, all of your snorkel gear, kayaks and stand-up paddleboards, the ship is equipped with everything you'll need for an amazing experience.





Luxurious design to provide ultimate comfort

15 suites across 4 decks

Offering 3 categories from 14 sqm to 34 sqm with portholes or windows. All cabins have personal temperature control, organic bath amenities and ensuite bathrooms with a rain shower.



Cultural Java with Shirley Campbell

Optional pre-trip extension

JAVA | 6 DAYS | AUGUST 18– 23, 2024



Immerse yourself in the history and culture of Java while taking in the unique landscape of smoldering volcanoes, lush rice paddies, and ethereal temples. Visit the ninth-century Buddhist monument of Borobudur at sunrise – a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of the most inspiring sights in all of Asia. Stroll through peaceful Kauman Village learning about Indonesia's ancient art form of batik production. Visit the UNESCO World Heritage site of Prambanan, dedicated to the Hindu god Shiva and spend time wandering through the awe-inspiring complex containing 240 temples.

Pre-Trip Itinerary

SUNDAY, AUGUST 18, 2024

Jakarta, Indonesia

Arrive in Jakarta and transfer to Anara Airport Hotel, conveniently located in Terminal 3 of the airport. This evening, gather with Shirley and your fellow travelers for a welcome dinner.

MONDAY, AUGUST 19

Jakarta / Yogyakarta / Borobudur

After breakfast, return to the airport for our mid-morning flight to Yogyakarta. Upon arrival in Yogyakarta, enjoy lunch at a local restaurant, then depart overland for Borobudur. Check in to the Plataran Borobudur Resort & Spa with the rest of the day at leisure.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 20

Borobudur

Rise early to watch the sunrise over the Borobudur temple complex. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is the largest Buddhist structure in the world and one of Southeast Asia's greatest sites. After breakfast, spend the day touring the vast complex, famous for its precise geometric proportions, elaborately carved bas relief sculptures, and over 500 statues of Buddha.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21

Borobudur / Yogyakarta

Take a stroll through narrow streets flanked by historic Javanese and Dutch colonial buildings, and browse

the shops for high-quality, traditional fabrics. Then visit a local musician for a lesson on how to play the gamelan, an instrument unique to Java and Bali.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 22

Yogyakarta

After breakfast, visit Prambanan, a Hindu temple complex dating back to the ninth century. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is Indonesia's largest temple compound dedicated to Shiva, with over 240 distinct temples. Return to Yogyakarta, long considered the center for Javanese culture and fine arts. Visit the Sultan's Place, Kraton, a huge walled complex of pavilions, markets, shops, schools, and mosques that houses over 25,000 people. Tour the small museum with artifacts from the royal family and the former royal bath house.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 23

Yogyakarta / Denpasar

After a leisurely morning, return to the airport for our flight to Denpasar, Bali. Check in to the Andaz Bali Hotel and gather this evening with your leaders and main group for a briefing and welcome dinner.

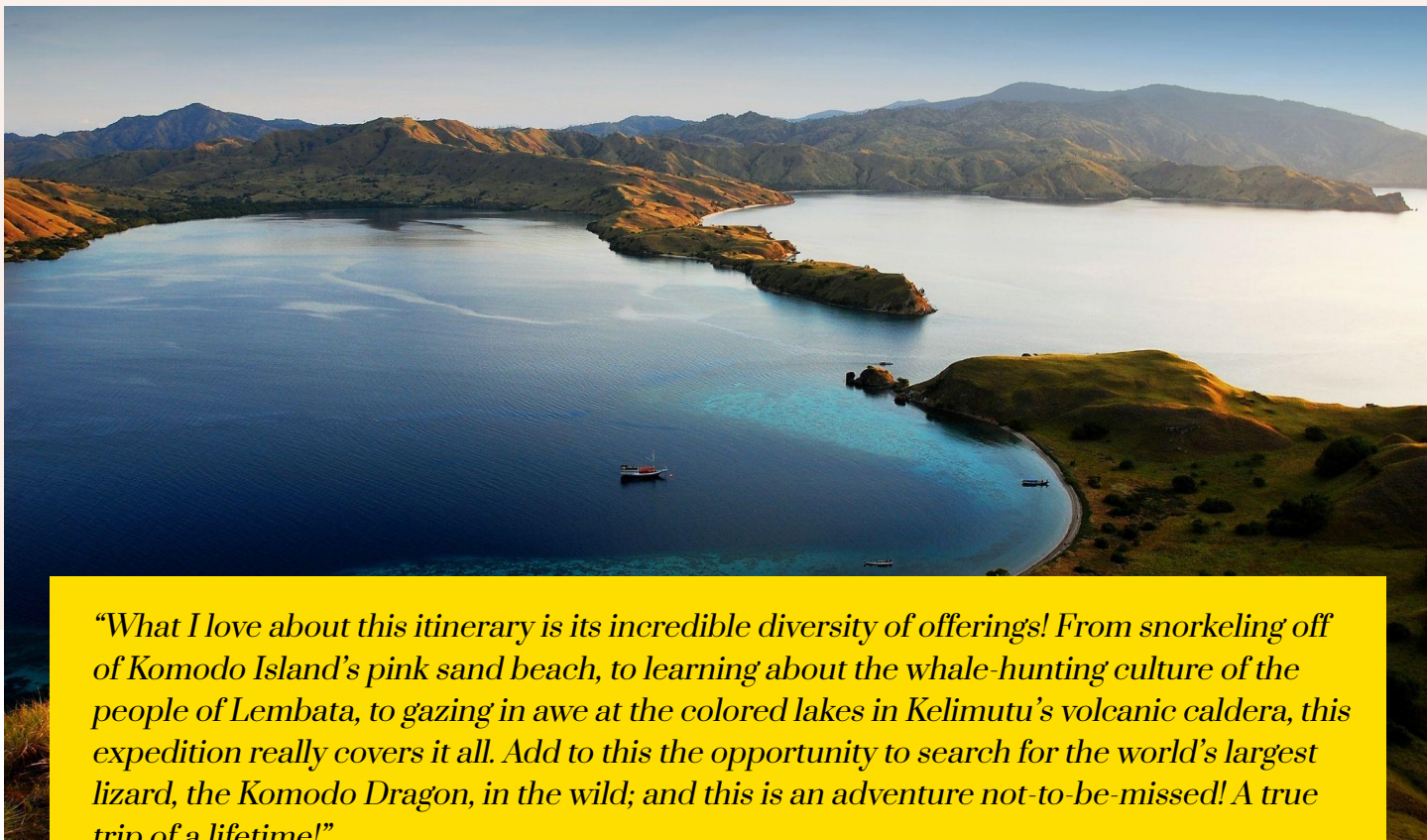
PRICE

\$3,090 per person | add \$990 for a single room

INCLUSIONS

- 5 nights accommodations with meals
- All excursions, transportation & local guides
- Entry fees and gratuities
- Internal program airfare

Why we love this trip



“What I love about this itinerary is its incredible diversity of offerings! From snorkeling off of Komodo Island’s pink sand beach, to learning about the whale-hunting culture of the people of Lembata, to gazing in awe at the colored lakes in Kelimutu’s volcanic caldera, this expedition really covers it all. Add to this the opportunity to search for the world’s largest lizard, the Komodo Dragon, in the wild; and this is an adventure not-to-be-missed! A true trip of a lifetime!”

Rich

PRICE

Category 1

\$25,990 pp | double occupancy

Category 2

\$23,990 pp | double occupancy

Category 3

\$19,990 pp | double occupancy

Deposit: \$2,000

Due to limited capacity, a single rate is not available for this departure.

Please inquire for more details.

INCLUSIONS

- 4 nights hotel accommodations
- 12 nights onboard the Aqua Blu
- All meals
- Non-alcoholic beverages with lunch and dinner, plus premium beer and house wine with meals while onboard *Aqua Blu*.
- All excursions, transportation, and local guides
- Internal flights within Indonesia
- Park fees, taxes, and permits
- Gratuities
- Arrival and departure transfers
- Snorkel equipment, kayaks, and stand up paddleboards



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