



# Raja Ampat and the Spice Islands

*With Shirley Campbell, Rich Pagen, and Kristin Wornson*

INDONESIA | 15 DAYS | SEPTEMBER 6 – 20, 2024



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# Travel with Shirley, Rich, and Kristin

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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."



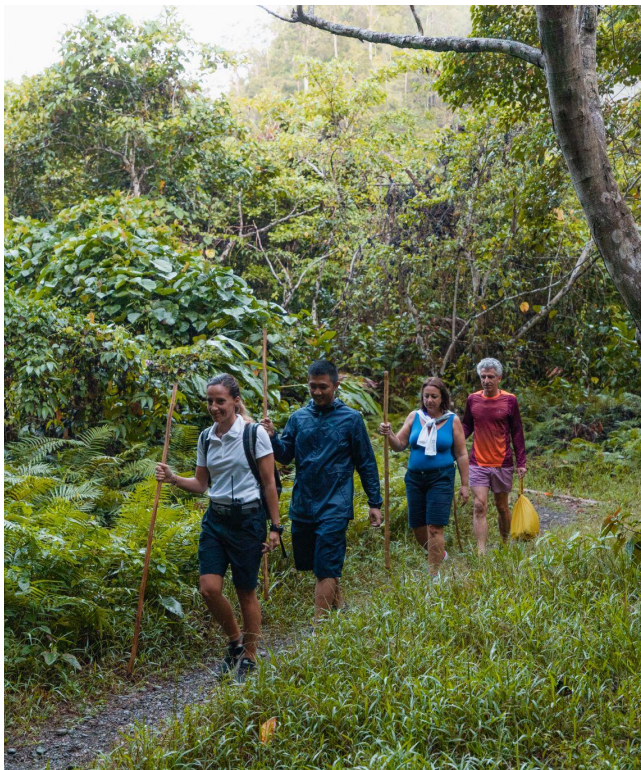
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The Spice Islands and Raja Ampat sit in the very heart of the Coral Triangle, the most biodiverse marine area in the world. New species are still regularly being discovered, adding to the already impressive totals of more than 1,400 fish species and over 550 species of reef-building corals, representing 75% of the world's coral species. The entire region has been designated as a Marine Protected Area by the Indonesia government, creating a safe haven for the abundant marine life, including nesting sea turtles and the rare dugong. Above the waterline, verdant islets, dramatic karst formations, turquoise lagoons, and white-sand beaches captivate the senses. It is here that famous 19th-century naturalist Alfred Russell Wallace discovered new bird of paradise species that exist nowhere else but this magical corner of the world.



## Adventure highlights



- Explore some of the world's most biodiverse seas and culturally diverse islands with an expedition dream team including Mike, Rich, and Shirley.
- Join us on the most luxurious ship in the region, Aqua Blu, formerly the HMS Beagle
- Enjoy frequent snorkel excursions to search for creatures large and small, from pygmy seahorses and colorful nudibranchs to manta rays, sea turtles, and whales.
- Photograph captivating tropical scenes such as white sand beaches framed with lush vegetation, craggy limestone formations carved into fantastical shapes, and postcard-perfect sunsets.
- Discover the legacy of the Old World Spice Trade with a stroll through history at Fort Belgica, the Dutch fort on Banda Neira – a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

# Itinerary

## **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 2024**

### **Jakarta, Indonesia**

Arrive in Jakarta and transfer to Anara Airport Hotel, conveniently located in Terminal 3 of the airport. After a chance to relax and freshen up, join your fellow travelers and expedition team for a welcome dinner and briefing.

## **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7**

### **Jakarta / Ambon / Embark the Aqua Blu**

Today, board our flight to Ambon, capital of the Maluku (Moluccas) Province, a region that was once known collectively as the Spice Islands. Enjoy lunch and upon arrival in Ambon embark the Aqua Blu, a luxurious 15-suite vessel and former British Naval Explorer, HMS Beagle.

## **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8**

### **Hila**

After breakfast onboard, embark on a journey to explore the historic Dutch fort, Fort Amsterdam, nestled in the coastal town of Hila. Immerse yourself in its fascinating history by joining an informative guided walk. In the afternoon, begin the lecture program onboard with our team of experts. Then, unwind with a delightful sundowner as Aqua Blu sets sail for the captivating Banda Islands.

## **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9**

### **Banda Neira, Banda Islands**

This morning, be greeted by warriors in kora-kora war canoes as you arrive at the Banda Islands. Delve into the fascinating history of the spice trade, which began with the Portuguese in 1512 and attracted the British, Dutch, Spanish, and Portuguese. After numerous conflicts, the Dutch emerged victorious in 1663, establishing a monopoly on nutmeg and cloves. Explore Banda Neira and visit the UNESCO World



Heritage Site, Dutch Fort Belgica, founded in the 1620s. Ascend to the top of one of the towers for panoramic views of the harbor, lush spice plantations, and a majestic volcano.

## **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10**

### **Pulau Koon / Pulau Gorong**

Pulau Koon is located along a migratory route for whales and other large marine species known as the Marine Superhighway. Spend the morning snorkeling or swimming through tranquil blue pools to discover abundant marine life and dazzling coral reefs. In the afternoon, kayak through the narrow entrance to Pulau Gorong's lagoon to view shallow reefs and deep drop-offs.

## **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11**

### **Misool**

Spend the day snorkeling, swimming, or kayaking among the kaleidoscopic reefs; and take a hike inland to visit a landlocked marine lake. In the afternoon, take a cruise among Wayil's labyrinth of lagoons and craggy limestone islets.

## **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12**

### **Wayil**

Spend the day snorkeling in and around Wayil's secret lagoons and hidden beaches, with time to enjoy nature walks and beachcombing. Discover your very own snorkeling and swimming spots, and relax on the beach this evening with sunset cocktails.



**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13**

## One Thousand Temples

Today, delve into the enchanting world of the One Thousand Temples, a mesmerizing collection of karst islets along the east coast of Misool. Explore ancient rock art amidst the intricate spires of varying shapes and sizes. Visit the Tomolol Cave nestled within a picturesque turquoise lagoon, surrounded by lush flora such as carnivorous pitcher plants and orchids. Cruise through a sea-carved tunnel to discover a subterranean lake adorned with stunning stalactite formations, where you can observe luminous moon jellyfish.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14**

## Dayang and Arborek

Arrive early at Dayang Island, renowned for its abundant marine life, including Reef Manta Rays and occasionally Oceanic Manta Rays. Experience the thrill of snorkeling alongside these majestic creatures at the Manta Cleaning Station. In the afternoon, journey to Airborek Island for a cultural immersion in the Papuan village. Conclude the day with a delightful dinner under the starlit sky aboard the ship.

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15**

## Pulau Wayag

Experience the breathtaking beauty of Wayag Island's limestone islets and tranquil lagoons as the sun rises. Start your day with a refreshing morning swim amidst the serene surroundings. Embark on a birdwatching adventure to catch a glimpse of rare birds of paradise before indulging in a hearty breakfast onboard. Then, embark on a thrilling snorkeling excursion to observe black tip reef sharks. Spend the afternoon exploring secluded lagoons aboard kayaks at "Castaway" beach.

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16**

## Aljui Bay and Wafoh Island

After breakfast, depart early for Aljui Bay, where to explore a local pearl farm and learn about the fascinating process of pearl cultivation. Later, we'll head to Wofoh Island for an afternoon of snorkeling and water sports. Relax and unwind at Aqua Blu's Beach Club on a secluded beach, indulging in signature cocktails and enjoying various activities as the sun sets.





**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17**

**Yangeffo Island and Cape Kri**

Wake up to the soothing sounds of birdsong and embark on an early tender tour of the stunning karsts in Kabui Bay. Afterward, savor breakfast while cruising to Cape Kri. Explore the underwater world through snorkeling at a site renowned for its rich biodiversity, holding the world record for the most species spotted in a single 90-minute dive. Conclude the day with a delightful dinner back onboard.

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18**

**Mayalibit Bay**

Rise before sunrise for an unforgettable hike to catch sight of the rare birds of paradise on Waigeo Island. Following breakfast, indulge in a leisurely snorkeling adventure at Friwinbonda

Island. In the afternoon, embrace your spirit of adventure with a journey inland on a local canoe, followed by a refreshing swim in the crystal-clear waters of the Kali Biru river.

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19**

**Sorong / Disembark / Jakarta**

After a final breakfast onboard, disembark in Sorong and board our flight for Jakarta. Check into the Anara Hotel, located in Terminal 3. Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure. Gather with your fellow travelers and leaders at the hotel this evening for a final farewell dinner.

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20**

**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

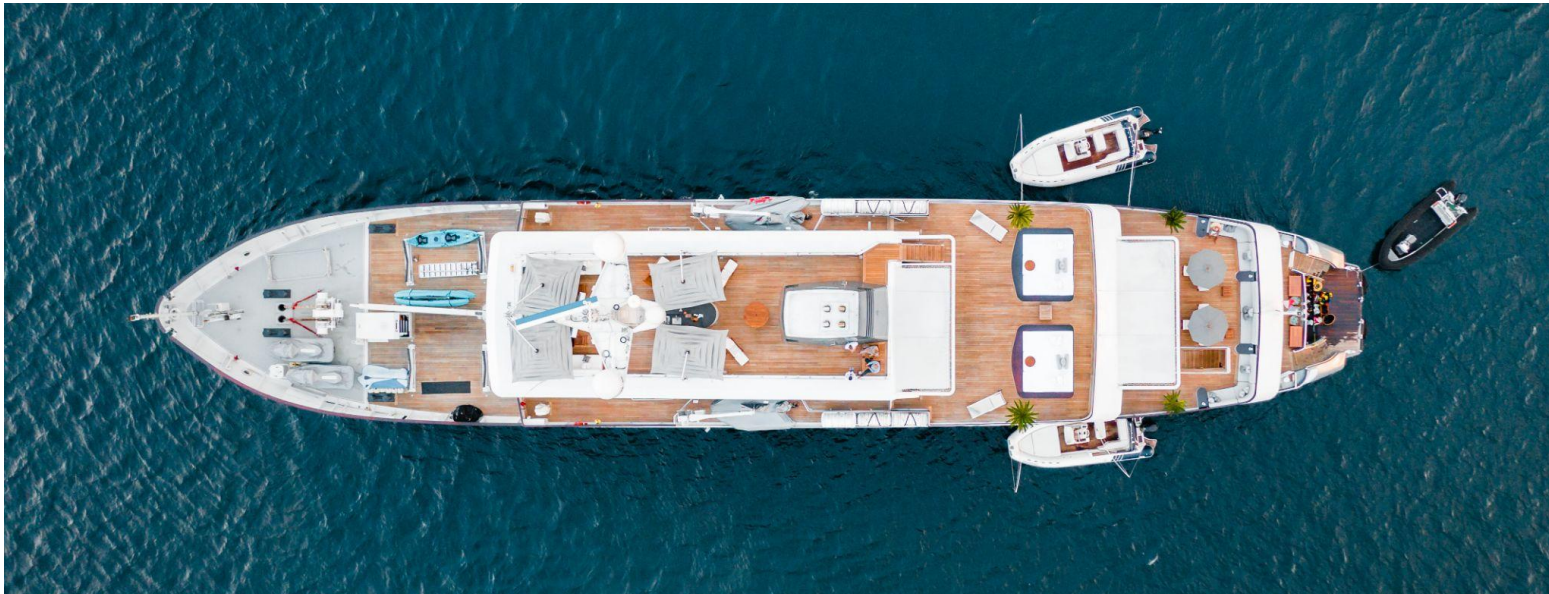
Beautifully designed for your comfort, the Aqua Blu is perfect to both relax and socialize after a thrilling day of adventure.

## 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

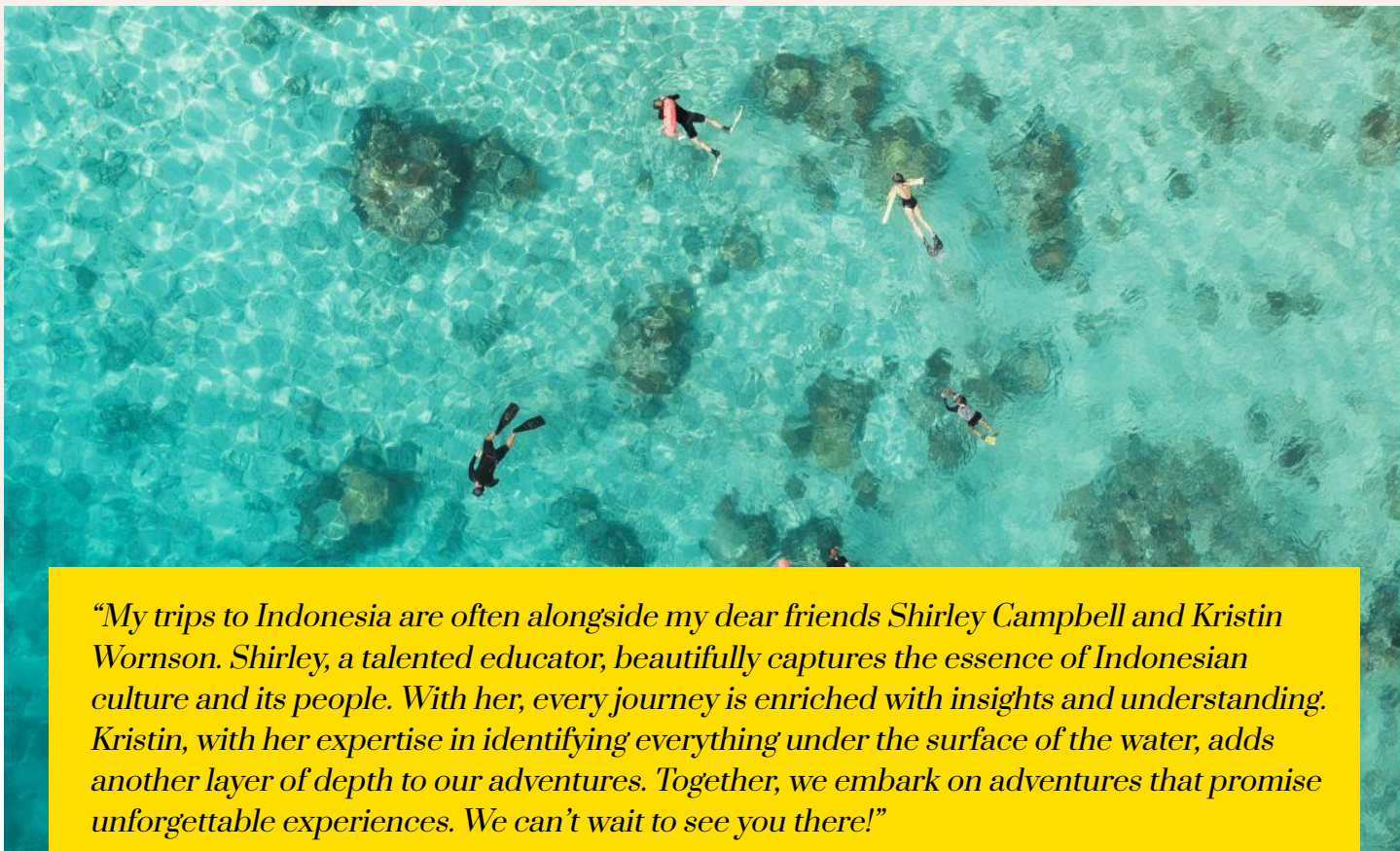
15 suites across 4 decks

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.





# Why we love this trip



*“My trips to Indonesia are often alongside my dear friends Shirley Campbell and Kristin Wornson. Shirley, a talented educator, beautifully captures the essence of Indonesian culture and its people. With her, every journey is enriched with insights and understanding. Kristin, with her expertise in identifying everything under the surface of the water, adds another layer of depth to our adventures. Together, we embark on adventures that promise unforgettable experiences. We can’t wait to see you there!”*

Rich

## PRICE

### Category 1

\$24,990 pp | double occupancy

### Category 2

\$22,990 pp | double occupancy

### Category 3

\$18,990 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

- 2 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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