

# Stanford **TRAVEL/STUDY**

## **SPICE ISLANDS AND RAJA AMPAT**

**November 25 to December 9, 2022**

Cruise aboard the privately chartered *Aqua Blu* to snorkel and dive among the remote Spice Islands (Moluccas) off the northwest coast of New Guinea and the Raja Ampat archipelago, a system of protected marine areas that harbors more than 75 percent of the world's coral and fish species.

### **FACULTY LEADER**

#### **Rob Dunbar**

Rob Dunbar is a professor in Stanford's Earth System Science department and a senior fellow at the Woods Institute for the Environment. His research interests span climate change, marine ecology, oceanography, and both coral and island conservation. Dunbar heads a Stanford research group that works on past, present and future climate change as well as its impacts on oceanic and coastal environments. He works regularly with the United Nations, the United Kingdom, Palau and other island nations to develop and implement solutions to environmental and resource problems. Professor Dunbar has been studying coral reefs throughout the Pacific and Indian Oceans since 1977. In 2009, 2015, 2017 and 2019, he led a group of Stanford's undergraduates on a 3,500-mile scientific sailing voyage from Tahiti through various island groups of the South Pacific. In 2016 he began several, multiyear projects working on coral reefs of the Chagos Archipelago, Palau, Mauritius, and the Seychelles. During our expedition, Professor Dunbar will speak about the islands, corals and marine environments of Indo-Pacific reef provinces. He will also address the geopolitics of sovereignty, fishing rights, and oil and gas exploration in the region we are visiting. Dunbar has twice visited Raja Ampat and nearby Indonesian reefs. He sees this region as the epicenter of coral reef biodiversity.

### **ITINERARY**

Friday, November 25

#### **Bali, Indonesia**

Arrive in Bali on Friday and transfer to the hotel in the beach resort area of Seminyak. This evening meet fellow travelers at a welcome reception and dinner. THE LEGIAN SEMINYAK (D)

Saturday, November 26

#### **Bali / Ambon Island**

After breakfast return to the airport for a domestic flight from Jakarta to Ambon. Board *Aqua Blu* at Laha, a famous muck-diving site on Ambon Bay. There are also opportunities for trekking and bird-watching inland. Enjoy a welcome dinner onboard with our group as we settle in to our 12-night cruise. AQUA BLU (B,D)

Sunday, November 27

#### **Saparua**

Early morning depart for the island outpost of Saparua, sailing along the scenic north coast of Ambon. Disembark en route at the coastal town of Hila to explore Fort Amsterdam, a 17th-century Dutch blockhouse. Continue on to Saparua, where a host of water activities awaits you, or discover pottery

making at Ouw Village, visit a local market, see European relics or seek out bird habitats. *AQUA BLU* (B,L,D)

Monday, November 28

**Banda Islands / Banda Neira**

Approach the harbor of the Banda Islands as the sun rises, greeted by kora-kora war canoes. Stroll through history at the Dutch Fort Belgica on Banda Neira, the most hotly contested island in the world in the 16th and 17th centuries, and learn about the colorful story of the old-world spice trade. *AQUA BLU* (B,L,D)

Tuesday, November 29

**Koon Island / Pulau Island**

Snorkel, swim, kayak and spearfish in the numerous blue pools and over the sparkling coral reefs on Koon Island, also known as a marine superhighway because of its location along a migratory route. Kayak along the coast of Gorong Island to view shallow reefs and deep drop-offs. Set sail to Misool after dinner. *AQUA BLU* (B,L,D)

Wednesday, November 30

**Misool**

The majestic seascape of Misool showcases some of the finest reefs on the planet. The land is no less alluring: Take an easy trek on small sandy coves near land-locked lakes. Snorkel, swim, kayak and spearfish in the numerous blue pools over the sparkling coral reefs. *AQUA BLU* (B,L,D)

Thursday, December 1

**Wayil**

Navigate Wayil's secret lagoons on *Aqua Blu's* tenders and admire the limestone peaks. Discover your own snorkeling or swimming spot. Relax on the tranquil beaches with cocktails at sunset. *AQUA BLU* (B,L,D)

Friday, December 2

**One Thousand Temples**

Journey through cave systems and to mysterious moon jellyfish lakes. Embark on unforgettable tender trips through karst island seascapes with the opportunity to marvel at ancient rock art. Venture into the inner sanctum of Tomolol Cave, Misool's famed river-sized waterway that flows through a massive interior. *AQUA BLU* (B,L,D)

Saturday, December 3

**Penemu Island**

View the mesmerizing terrain and explore the lagoons of Penemu Island from a tender. Snorkel at Melissa's Garden before ending the day at a pristine beach where a cocktail party awaits. *AQUA BLU* (B,L,D)

Sunday, December 4

**Pulau Wayag**

Watch the magnificence of Wayag Island's limestone islets and lagoons unveil before your eyes as the sun rises. Climb to the top of Mount Pindito for a bird's-eye view of the stunning surroundings and attempt to spot rare birds of paradise before making the lagoons and reefs your home for the day. *AQUA BLU* (B,L,D)

Monday, December 5

**Aljui Bay / Pulau Pef**

Visit a pearl farm in Aljui Bay, then cruise to Pef and Yangello Islands for snorkeling and water sports in the afternoon. Tour hidden lagoons and karst limestone islets aboard tenders or kayaks. Arrive at Dayang Island for dinner. *AQUA BLU* (B,L,D)

Tuesday, December 6

**Dayang Island**

Embark on a morning trek with our guides to look for birds of paradise in the lush forest. Dayang Island is known for an abundance of marine life, especially manta rays. Snorkeling is excellent at Wai along the bordering reef systems. Adventurous divers can survey the sunken wreckage of a World War II P-47D fighter plane and the beautiful reefs and seamounts of Tapok. *AQUA BLU* (B,L,D)

Wednesday, December 7

**Birie Island**

Explore Birie's bays and lagoons, which lie just off the coast of north Batanta. Discover mangrove-fringed bays and plenty of wildlife en route to the spectacular waterfall in Batanta mainland. We cruise eastward toward Sorong during our final dinner onboard. *AQUA BLU* (B,L,D)

Thursday, December 8

**Sorong / Bali**

Enjoy a sumptuous breakfast onboard in Sorong before your flight back to Bali. THE LEGIAN SEMINYAK (B)

Friday, December 9

**Bali / Home**

Transfer independently to the airport for flights home. (B)

## INFORMATION

### Covid-19 and Travel

With travel requirements and local Covid-19 conditions changing weekly, travel protocols for specific destinations will be shared with confirmed travelers closer to departure. To read more about Travel/Study's approach to ensuring traveler health and safety, visit our [Covid-19 Travel page](#).

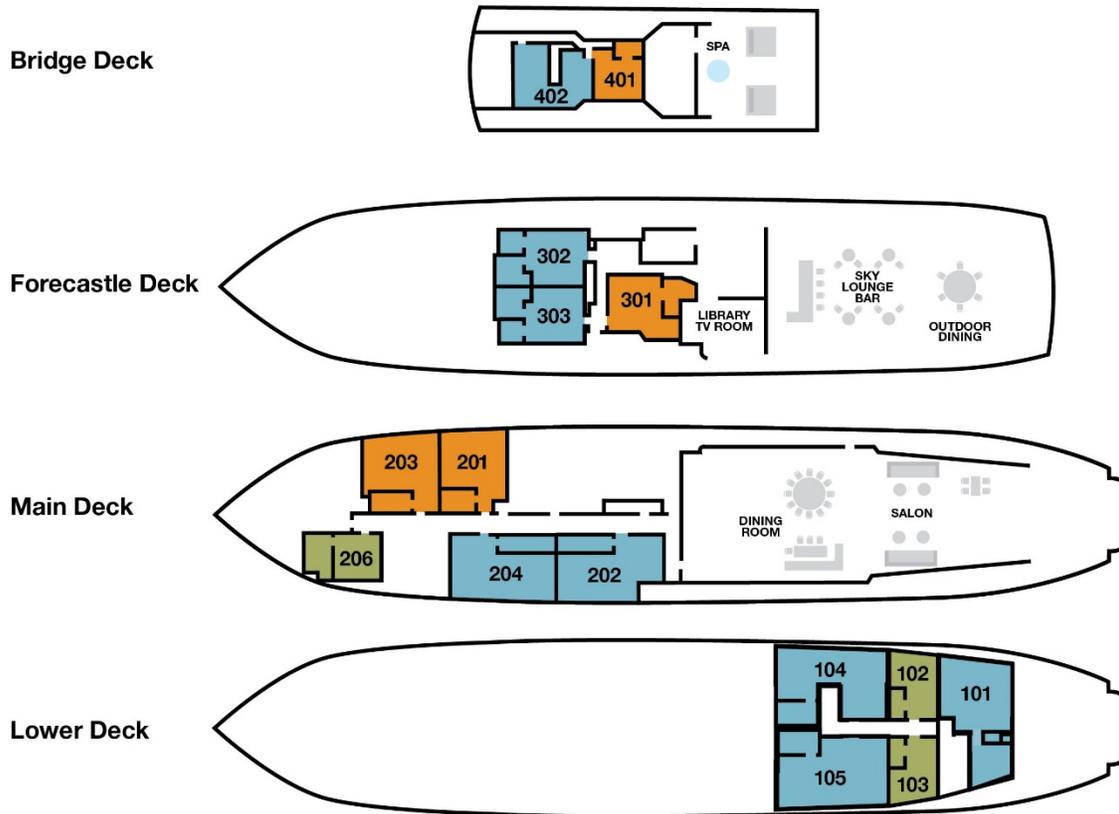
### Size

This trip is limited to 27 participants. Travel/Study is committed to providing a low-density experience on all programs and will implement protocols to do so, including social distancing on transportation as well as during lectures, meals and excursions. Single accommodations are limited.

### About our ship

With a grand legacy as the former British Royal Navy's HMS *Beagle* and later as the private yacht of a European aristocratic family, *Aqua Blu* is a compelling maritime statement. A 2019 refurbishment overseen by Dutch yacht design maestro Cor D. Rover brings the vessel to world-class cruising specifications. Guests can expect to embrace a distinguished sense of history and seafaring evolution when they set foot on this one-of-a-kind cruise ship. Inside the five-deck, 15-suite *Aqua Blu*, Rover has tastefully paired a brass-and-ivory interior theme with generous and inviting indoor and outdoor social

spaces, including a sun deck. Each cabin is equipped with portholes or windows with either a king-size bed or twin beds. The *Aqua Blu* dining experience promises refreshing and inspiring food, with its menu drawing inspiration from Indonesian, European and Mediterranean cuisines.



### Cost\*

Rates are per person, based on double or single occupancy, as specified. Detailed cabin descriptions will be provided to confirmed travelers.

Category	Double Rate	Single Rate
A	\$16,995	\$21,995
B	\$20,595	\$26,696
C	\$22,495	N/A

\*Stanford Alumni Association nonmembers add \$300 per person.

### Included

- Educational program with lecture series and predeparture materials, including an education resource list and travel information
- Services of our professional tour manager to assist you throughout the program
- All tours and excursions as described in the itinerary
- Snorkeling and diving excursions
- Use of kayaks and stand-up paddle boards
- Gratuities to guides, drivers and ship crew for all group activities
- 2 nights of deluxe hotel accommodations in Bali

- 12 nights aboard the *Aqua Blu*
- 14 breakfasts, 11 lunches and 13 dinners
- Internal flights in Indonesia on November 26 and December 8
- Welcome and farewell receptions
- Transfers and baggage handling on program arrival and departure days
- On-tour quarantine-related trip-cancellation, -interruption and -delay insurance coverage
- General medical, accident and evacuation insurance

#### **Not Included**

- Your personal flights to and from the program
- Passport and visa fees
- Immunization costs
- Meals and beverages other than those specified as included
- Independent and private transfers
- Nonquarantine-related trip-cancellation, -interruption and -delay insurance coverage
- Baggage insurance
- Excess-baggage charges
- Personal items such as internet access, telephone calls, laundry and gratuities for nongroup services

#### **Air Arrangements**

You are responsible for booking and purchasing airfare to the start location and from the end location of the program. These air purchases are NOT included in the program cost. To assist you in making these independent arrangements, we will send you details with your confirmation materials on when to arrive and depart.

#### **What to Expect**

We consider this program to be mildly strenuous. No prior snorkeling experience is necessary. All participants, however, should be comfortable swimming unassisted in open water. *Aqua Blu* boasts two Alson Flash private speedboats used for daily excursions to nearby islands, each with a capacity of 16 passengers. One tender with a capacity of eight divers is used exclusively for diving activities. You will board these private speedboats on the back of the ship. Ashore you must be able to walk moderate distances, unaided, along beaches and sometimes over rough terrain, including steep and sandy trails. Participants must be physically fit, active and in good health. We welcome travelers 15 years of age and older on this program.

#### **Snorkeling and Diving**

All snorkel and diving gear is provided for those who wish to participate in these water activities. You will be required to show certification from a recognized agency before participating (BSAC, NAUI, PADI, SSI), and anyone older than 55 will be required to show a medical certificate that allows you to dive. There will be one or two dives per a day (depending on the itinerary and the weather). The average dive time is 45 minutes. Each dive will begin with a comprehensive dive brief, and all divers will be assessed on their experience levels. One or two dive instructors will be on the boat, pending the number of divers we have participating.

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

### Eligibility

We encourage membership in the Stanford Alumni Association as the program cost for nonmembers is \$300 more than the members' price. The nonmember fee is waived for anyone traveling as a paid guest of a current member, as well as for emerita or emeritus faculty and staff. To purchase a membership, call (650) 725-0692 or [click here](#) for more information.

### Deposits, Payments and Cancellations

A \$2,000-per-person deposit is required to reserve space on this program. Final payment is due 120 days prior to program start. Deposits and any payments are refundable, less a \$1,000-per-person cancellation fee, until 120 days prior to program start. After that date, refunds can be made only if the program is sold out and we resell your place(s), in which case a \$2,000-per-person cancellation fee will apply.

### Insurance

Stanford Travel/Study provides all travelers who are U.S. or Canadian citizens with minimal medical, accident and evacuation coverage, as well as on-tour quarantine-related trip-cancellation, -interruption and -delay insurance coverage, under our group-travel insurance policy. Our group policy is intended to provide minimal levels of protection while you are traveling on this program. You may choose to subscribe to optional nonquarantine-related trip-cancellation, -interruption and -delay insurance coverage and/or baggage insurance. Information offering such insurance will be included in your confirmation materials. The product offered includes special benefits if you purchase your insurance within 14 days of receiving your welcome email.

### Responsibility

The Stanford Alumni Association, Stanford University and our operators act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and ship arrangements and exercise every care possible in doing so. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any automobile, motor coach, launch or any other conveyance used in carrying out this program or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the program. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, force majeure or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger, as tour rates include arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to this published itinerary as may be deemed necessary. We reserve the right to cancel any program prior to departure, in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. We also reserve the right to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the program. No refund will be made for an unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. Baggage is carried at the owner's risk entirely. It is understood that the ship's ticket, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the cruise company. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance. Neither the Stanford Alumni Association, nor Stanford University, nor our operators accept liability for any carrier's cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in connection with the tour. Program price is based on rates in effect at the time the brochure is published and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges. As a condition of participation, all confirmed participants are required to sign an Assumption of Risk.

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