

# AMELIA DALTON<sup>LTD</sup>

## TRAVEL

### *SPICE ISLANDS of the MOLUCCA SEA* *Wildlife, Ports & Forts of the Trade Routes*



***BIRDS of PARADISE, GOLDEN BIRDWINGED BUTTERFLIES, lush JUNGLES,  
SNORKELLING in the Coral Triangle & Historic Colonial Forts.***

***Sailing in style and escape to sunshine & warmth in***

***FEBRUARY 2022***

***"Islands green and tangled, jungly piles of exotic forest, set in a sea so clear and so blue  
it could be cut up for necklaces or used to construct a kingfisher..... " Peter Hughes***







Escaping February's chills, we embark in the Spice Island Sultanate of **Ternate** for our specially designed unique itinerary, exploring the ancient trade routes and islands of the **Molucca Sea**. We sail in the company of **outriggers, dugouts, sampans** and an occasional old trading sloop as we voyage these abundant crystal waters.

Fought over throughout the sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries, we see the evocative ruins of **Portuguese, Dutch and Spanish forts**. On **Halmahera**, we visit **Weda Bay**, to walk quietly through the forests under trees used by males of Wallace's **Birds of Paradise** for their courtship displays. We venture into island interiors searching for the **Golden Birdwing butterfly**, deemed by Wallace to be "*the finest butterfly in the world*". **Bacan Island** offers a host of species, many endemic, from the

**world's largest bee** to **cockatoos, lorikeets, hornbills** and the **elusive cuscus**. We anchor off deserted, white-sand beaches, such as **Goro-Goro** and **Kajao** to swim and snorkel in the crystal waters or play on the ship's paddle boards and kayaks. On tiny **Dowara Island**, we visit the school and learn about **sea-gypsy** life in stilt houses above the clear waters. We explore deep into carefully preserved forest with our island guides from the port of **Labuan** enjoying the abundant birdlife and looking out for deer and monkeys.

Throughout our voyage, the stunning **sparkling, soft-sand beaches** of the world-famous '**Coral Triangle**', frequented by **turtles**, vibrant **reef fish** offer the most **glorious snorkeling**. We expect to see **whale sharks**, and **manta rays** amongst the **coral gardens**. The **clove and nutmeg plantations** of **Dojinga**, where **Wallace** realized the intricacies of Natural Selection, spurring Darwin's famous publication, will be our final island visit amongst these romantic and scented islands.

*Explore forests, spot endemic birds and butterflies.*

*Stroll empty soft coral sand beaches.*

*Snorkel, swim, kayak, paddleboard or simply relax.*

*Days are busy or relaxed – the choice is yours!*

Our itinerary may be adapted as we sail to allow for any local sightings or weather.







**6<sup>th</sup> Feb: TERNATE:** after a night in Ternate, we embark today on our beautiful ketch to sail south as we begin to immerse ourselves in the culture of the Moluccas, stopping first close to **Halmahera island** for a refreshing swim and our initial snorkel.

**7<sup>th</sup> Feb: Halmahera & Kajao:** we transfer across the island to Weda Bay, where the local community manages a foundation for education and conservation of the primary forest and its wildlife. The **protected 700 hectares** are home to **Wallace's standard-wing Bird of Paradise**, plus many other species. An early start enables us to be quietly below the trees used by males for their communal courtship display. Other species such as **hornbills, giant cuckoos, parrots**, and possibly the **paradise-crow** as well as other less-spectacular species of **Bird of Paradise** may also enrich the day, plus there will be more opportunities for birdwatching in the forests of Kajao.

**8<sup>th</sup> Feb: Kajao & Western Bacan:** After an early morning forest walk, we celebrate on deck as we cross the **Equator** to arrive at Bacan for village visits and an enjoyable swim or snorkel in the warm, inviting sea.

**9<sup>th</sup> Feb: Goro-Goro Village.** With local guides to assist us, we explore Goro-Goro, walking through limestone karst scenery into a rainforest-clad valley. Bacan is where Alfred Russel Wallace discovered the **Golden Birdwing Butterfly** and the **world's largest bee, Megachile pluto**. We'll keep a close watch for these and a host of other species, some of them endemic, including **parrots, cockatoos, lorikeets, hornbills**, the **elusive cuscus** and a rare **black macaque** – the only monkey in Maluku.

**10<sup>nd</sup> Feb: Dowara to Labuan (Overnight Passage).** After a lazy morning at sea, we arrive at the **sea-gypsy village** on Dowara, with its stilt houses and busy school. Later, we move to a nearby reef for a lazy afternoon amongst the warm waters to snorkel, kayak or simply read on deck before our overnight passage.

**11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> Feb: Labuan & Kasurita.** From the small port of Labuan, we set forth with our local guides to explore the carefully controlled forest in search of **golden-wing butterflies, deer and birdlife**. After a more active morning, we return by car to the ship. Our afternoon and following day are flexible to allow us to take advantage of the most enjoyable local options. We will sail the maze of channels, visit the myriad of small nearby islands having time to walk ashore, explore, swim and absorb the history, wildlife and charms of these distant island chains.

**13<sup>th</sup> Feb: Mauri & Tomilau** are remote and rarely-visited, ours to enjoy with **forest walks** on Mauri and time to snorkel, swim, relax with a book, or take the opportunity to enjoy stand-up-paddle boarding or kayaking in the clear waters. We continue through the island channels gently moving north and east to our next island archipelago.



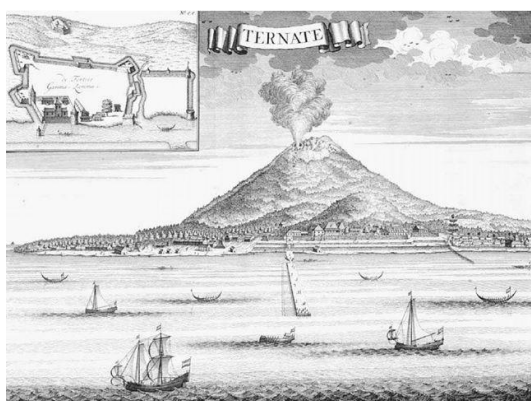
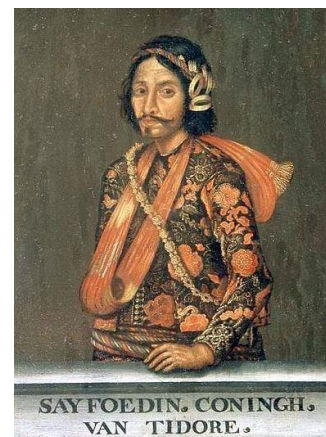


**14<sup>th</sup> Feb: Tolimau & Gunange** A two-hour cruise takes us to Tolimau with its many reefs, pristine beaches and calm waters. We meet the local fishermen, tour the lagoon using our zodiacs and have time at **dusk to go bird spotting ashore** before dinner on deck.

**15<sup>th</sup> Feb: Makian & Tidore anchorage** Now at the southern end of the Ternate island chain, this is a day of history and culture. We visit the ruins of an old **Dutch fort**, walk through the once-sought after **clove plantations**, villagers entertain us with a performance of their **'togonal' music with flutes and stringed instruments**. An afternoon's visit to the reef gives us time for a swim before we cruise to anchor off Tidore.

**16<sup>th</sup> Feb: Tidore** Today our tour (by car) takes us to the Sultan's well-preserved **Spanish fort**. We explore the **vibrant local market** where the islanders go about their everyday lives. Over lunch Ombak Putih relocates north, allowing time for snorkeling en route before our quiet overnight anchorage off Dojinga with our farewell dinner.

**17<sup>th</sup> Feb: Dojina & TERNATE** A short walk in the pretty riverside village takes us to where **Alfred Russel Wallace lived** and penned his essay 'On the Tendency of Varieties to Depart Indefinitely from the Original Type'. We meet the cheerful locals and visit the ruins of a **Portuguese fort** before a short sail over lunch returns us to Ternate, where we disembark.



*This is an 'exploring' itinerary designed between myself & the Seatrek team providing time for alterations to take advantage of wildlife conditions and sightings.*

**OMBAK PUTIH** is a traditional Indonesian schooner custom built from Iron wood by Buginese ship builders, with a large saloon with covered seating and dining, as well as additional covered deck-dining. A major attraction are the wide areas of deck space with different comfortable 'lounging' spaces, both shaded and in the sun. There are 12 en suite cabins with portholes, each has individually controlled a/c, USB charging and ample storage. Shower rooms, en suite, are tiled and well designed. I was on board her in 2019 planning this itinerary and checking out generally, below are some of my photos. Strolling the decks barefoot, listening to the swish of the water and enjoying the peace, sunshine, food and snorkeling were magical.



**GUIDES:** the voyage will have two on-board guides:

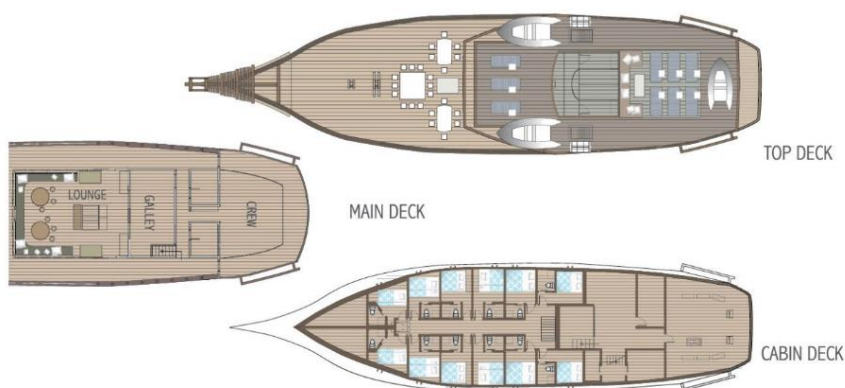


**Arie Pakaga** is Seatrek's most experienced tour leader/guide and has sailed these waters for over 25 years finding new destinations and cementing local relationships for Seatrek from the early days, he is a good snorkeller and comes from Flores.

**Amelia Dalton:** having operated my own expedition vessel, I have designed and operated many expeditions at sea including around Indonesia, Borneo, Sumatra, Java and Komodo. My aim is to provide an experience characterized by purpose, adventure and joie de vivre, managed with competence and professionalism.







**VOYAGE: approx. 265 nautical miles**

**COST £9,895 per person, based on two sharing a double cabin.**

**COST £8,795 per person sharing in a stepped bunk cabin.**

**Single cabins available – please enquire.**

**FEBRUARY 2022: depart UK 5<sup>th</sup>, embark 6<sup>th</sup>. Disembark 17<sup>th</sup>**

**COST includes:**

- Arrival and departure transfers in Ternate, Indonesia.
- Accommodation on a full board basis, in double en suite cabin
- Alcohol pp of: -  
*1 local beer with lunch: 1 x pre-dinner drink (using well-known spirit brands) with ½ a bottle of 'house' wine with dinner*
- Non-alcoholic beverages onboard
- Itinerary as described including entrance fees & taxes,
- Local guides & rangers
- Kayaking, snorkeling and paddle-boarding (equipment provided)
- Daily housekeeping services & laundry

**Cost does NOT include:**

- Additional alcoholic beverages.
- Arrival at or Departure from Ternate, Indonesia.
- Indonesia visa (if applicable)
- Gratuities
- Travel insurance.

**LIMITED AVAILABILITY, transferred from 2021**

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