

SPICE ISLANDS

SOLAR ECLIPSE SAILING ADVENTURE

HOSTED BY JEFFREY MELLEFONT
(Updated: 12/12/15)



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Itinerary Overview

The solar eclipse of Wednesday 9 March 2016 tracks directly over the Equator in the beautiful, remote Maluku (or Moluccas) island group of the Indonesian archipelago. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to experience a total solar eclipse in the fabled ‘Spice Islands’ aboard the 24-passenger phinisi Ombak Putih, a traditional two-masted Indonesian expedition ship. Cruising in the luxury sailing ship under the path of the eclipse you’ll experience its totality in sheltered seas surrounded by towering volcanoes. Guided day excursions and evening lectures by escort and guest lecturer Jeffrey Mellefont, research associate of the Australian National Maritime Museum, enhance the on-board experience of the rich natural history, cultures and customs in the archipelago.

Flying out of Bali and embarking in Ternate, we set sail across the equator encountering the diverse cultures and pristine island habitats, while re-discovering the dramatic history of this fascinating maritime world sought after by fortune hunters and adventurers for its exotic cloves, nutmeg and mace. Hidden for centuries by the same remoteness that keeps them unspoiled today, we set anchor in turquoise colored coves to visit isolated villages and spice plantations, ancient forts and trading posts, and to snorkel over stunning coral reefs. The loveliest and most remote of the islands is kept till last – the glorious Banda group – which you’ll visit before disembarking on historic Ambon. Snorkels, kayaks, and paddleboards are kept on board and free to use whenever you feel the urge to go play in the warm, vibrant water.

DAY	DATE	LOCATION	ACCOMMODATION	MEALS	HIGHLIGHTS
1	Mon, Mar 7	TERNATE	Ombak Putih	LD	Arrive Ternate; check in with ship and in the afternoon visit Wallace’s house ‘Afu’ the oldest clove tree in the world.
2	Tue, Mar 8	TIDORE	Ombak Putih	BLD	4x4 exploration of island
3	Wed, Mar 9	TIDORE	Ombak Putih	BLD	Solar eclipse. Swimming on the equator and crossing the line
4	Thu, Mar 10	BACAN	Ombak Putih	BLD	Birding, hiking on Bacan Island, transfer to Bajau village on Dowora Lamo Island. Snorkeling off the southern tip of Halmahera.
5	Fri, Mar 11	OBI LATU	Ombak Putih	BLD	Village visit
6	Sat, Mar 12	MANIPA	Ombak Putih	BLD	Walking tour of island – agriculture and distillery. Afternoon water activities off the tip of Ambon.
7	Sun, Mar 13	NUSA LAUT	Ombak Putih	BLD	Go ashore to visit this colonial Christian island. Beach dinner prepared by community
8	Mon, Mar 14	SAPARUA	Ombak Putih	BLD	Bemo bus tour including the local Rajas home and a Portuguese fort
9-11	Tue-Thu Mar 15-17	BANDA ISLANDS	Ombak Putih	BLD	Banda archipelago. Explore the colonial cities, spice gardens, and some of the smaller islands – each with their own unique personality
12	Fri, Mar 18	AMBON	Ombak Putih	B	Early breakfast and transfer to Ambon.

Itinerary in Detail

DAY 1: ARRIVAL IN TERNATE

After arriving in Ternate, meet your guide just outside customs and transfer directly to the Ombak Putih. Enjoy lunch on board then venture into Ternate which has retained its commercial and political importance as the main administrative trading centre of North Maluku. Of the four historically powerful spice sultanates, Ternate is the only one where the institution of the sultanate has survived uninterrupted. A visit to the old house of Alfred Russel Wallace is an opportunity to learn more about the British naturalist and explorer who spent many years based here exploring the archipelago and independently conceiving the theory of evolution through natural selection when Darwin was in the Galapagos. Meet 'Afu', the oldest clove tree in the world, representing a fascinating history of intrigue, greed and hope. Overnight on the **Ombak Putih**. [BLD]

DAY 2: TIDORE AND PORT SOA SIU

Weigh anchor and head to the neighboring island of Tidore, another perfect volcanic cone rising from tropical seas, its slopes covered by plantations of the graceful clove tree. Originating only in these few islands, visit clove plantations once so valued that local sultans and European nations fought for centuries to monopolize them. Visit the picturesque port Soa Siu which is dominated by two strongholds: the Portuguese Fort Torre built in the 1570s, and Fort Tahula, established by the Spanish in 1610 to menace their Dutch rivals across the strait. Nearby a seashore monument marks the 1521 visit of Magellan's battered fleet on the first circumnavigation of the world. Overnight on the **Ombak Putih**. [BLD]



DAY 3: TIDORE TOTAL ECLIPSE

The long-anticipated eclipse-viewing begins as the Ombak cruises into position in the strait between the clove-growing islands of Moti and Makian. They're part of a perfect chain of volcanic cones that emerge from the sea and stretch north to Tidore and Ternate. Anchor at 0.4° N, 127.4° E, just 24 nautical miles north of the Equator and centered directly beneath the track of the umbra, or moon's shadow, to experience the sun's 100 percent occultation for the longest possible time. The partial eclipse commences at 08:35 am local time (23:35:45 UTC + 9), with total eclipse starting at 9.51 am. Maximum eclipse is at 9:52:38, and on Ombak Putih the total eclipse lasts for three minutes and 16 seconds.

Will you see Bailey's Beads? The Diamond Ring? The Corona? The shadow bands? Will stars appear? Of course we can't guarantee the weather and state of the sky, but we can guarantee that you will be plunged into eerie eclipse darkness as day turns to night. And if that's not enough, a few hours later you stop right on the Equator for a swim where the Indonesian crew performs their own, exotic Crossing-The-Line ceremony. You may have crossed the Equator at sea before, but never like this! Overnight on the **Ombak Putih**. [BLD]

DAY 4: BACAN ISLAND AND BAJAU VILLAGE

Awaken in the southern hemisphere offshore Bacan Island where you head ashore to explore the coastal forest environs. This is the island where Wallace discovered the Golden Birdwing Butterfly and the eponymous Wallace's Giant Bee. Although it's difficult to find these rare species there are always interesting endemic plants and animals to discover. Continuing South, stop at the Bajau village on Dowora Lamo Island to meet the community; an interesting ethnic group also encountered by Wallace during his travels. In the soft light of late afternoon jump overboard to snorkel near Joronga and Damar Islands off the extreme southern tip of Halmahera, where there are few signs of humans. Overnight on the **Ombak Putih**. [BLD]

DAY 5: OBI LATU ISLAND VILLAGE AND SNORKELING

Go ashore to visit the village of Manatahan on Obi Latu Island, where mountains clad in forest and clove plantations plunge spectacularly into the sea. These migrant Butungese are from Sulawesi Tenggara, hundreds of miles to the west. Migration is not unusual in this island archipelago where people have moved about by boat for centuries dispersing over many islands many of which remain little-populated. The picturesque channels around Obi, like all of those we have just cruised through, were once dotted with the sails of local spice traders, Portuguese caravels, Spanish galleons, Dutch jachts and English pinnaces. Here you begin to encounter communities of friendly fisherfolk and their little outrigger craft, or quaint timber island-trading vessels. Overnight on the **Ombak Putih**. [BLD]

DAY 6: THE MYSTERIOUS ISLAND OF MANIPA

The mysterious island of Manipa is reputed to have magical powers because the Portuguese, the Dutch, and the Japanese never set foot on it despite occupying the surrounding islands. The quaint village you explore blossoms with tropical foliage, prolific gardens, groves, and forests yielding produce such as cashew nuts and the sago palm. Visit a distillery producing 'kayu putih' oil – a universal panacea extracted from Melaleuca tree leaves that no Indonesian household is without, used as a topical for aches and pains, an inhalant for colds, and a remedy for stomach upsets. After lunch relocate for some exceptional swimming, snorkeling, paddle boarding, kayaking, and beach combing at a trio of tiny islands off the tip of Ambon. Overnight on the **Ombak Putih**. [BLD]

DAY 7: NUSA LAUT SPICE ISLANDS

Although by this time you may have lost track of time and place, the captain and crew have delivered you on schedule to Nusa Laut, the smallest of the Lease Islands (pronounced 'Lay-ar-say'), which includes Ambon and Saparua. Rarely visited by outsiders, Nusa Laut is one of a minority of Christian islands where early colonial missionaries established their faith before the arrival of Islam, which was also spreading through the archipelago in the same centuries. This fertile island cultivates cloves, nutmeg, cinnamon, sago palms and an abundance of fruits. The villagers may well prepare a feast of local dishes right on the beach – including 'papeda,' the most famous of the many sago-flour dishes. Overnight on the **Ombak Putih**. [BLD]



DAY 8: SAPARUA

The picturesque anchorage of Saparua Island is in the shadow of Fort Duurstede which protected spice shipping routes and housed the Dutch administration in 1691. It was stormed and its garrison conquered in 1817 in a revolt led by Kapitan Pattimura, one of the heroes of Indonesia. This bitter anti-colonial struggle is depicted in dioramas in the museum. A fleet of brightly painted 'bemo' mini-buses take you with your crew through clove-tree-lined roads where fragrant clove buds dry in the sun, to the vibrant morning market to restock your galley with fresh and exotic ingredients for an evening culinary adventure. If he is at home, visit the local Raja Pattisahusiwa in his palace-cum-museum. Nearby are the remains of an even older Portuguese fort where today local families – including potters – make their homes in the shade of its crumbling walls. Overnight on the **Ombak Putih**. [BLD]

DAY 9: IDYLIC BANDA ISLANDS

The Banda Archipelago, raw in natural beauty, warm local heart, and rich in cultural history, are quite simply one of Indonesia's idyllic island environs. The natural splendor of these islands contradicts the brutality that engulfed them during the 17th century when the Dutch sought a total monopoly on the nutmeg trade and the local people resisted. Despite their illustrious and well-documented history, the

Banda Islands are a place that time seems to have forgotten. Today they retain an aura of mystery, allure and astonishing remoteness, with a quiet colonial ambience and an exceptional biodiversity that makes this destination truly special. Stroll through the old port streets of Banda Neira visiting distinguished colonial residences, plantation mansions, churches, and waterfront markets. Brooding over it all is the inevitable fortress, the rather mediaeval-looking Fort Belgica, its five bastions now handsomely restored. Even more impressive, just across the waterfront, is Banda's perfect, jungle-clad volcanic cone Gunung Api. Overnight on the **Ombak Putih**. [BLD]



DAYS 10-11: OUTLYING BANDA ARCHIPELAGO

Sail into the tranquility of the other small islands of the Banda Archipelago –Lonthoir, Ai, Run, and Hatta – each one with its own picturesque villages, raw beauty, and remnants of old plantations, cemeteries, and fortifications. You will most certainly visit the tiny outlying island of Run, the location of an unbelievable 18th-century real estate deal: In 1667, under the Treaty of Breda, this small island was ceded by the English to the Dutch in exchange for a far-away American island now called Manhattan! You will be escorted into the tranquil beauty of a nutmeg grove, where the shapely nutmeg fruit-bearing trees grow in the shelter of towering, gigantic 'kenari' or native almond trees. Observe the age-old technique of harvesting by hand, and taste baked goods, condiments and jams flavored with fresh mace, nutmeg, or their fruit casing. Whenever leaving Banda visitors are typically escorted by a ceremonial canoe called a 'kora-kora,' propelled by banks of warrior-oarsmen, an apropos departure from paradise. Overnight on the **Ombak Putih**. [BLD]

DAY 12: DEPARTURE

Say goodbye to your crew this morning and transfer to Ambon for your departing flight.

END OF SERVICES

Please note that due to weather conditions, vessel operation, and delay in processing harbor clearances, cruise itineraries are subject to change. Yacht operators reserve the right to change vessels prior to departure due to maintenance or replacement. The cruise director and captain of the vessel will adjust the program accordingly in the best interest of all.



ESCORT- Jeffrey Mellefont

Jeffrey Mellefont, research associate of the Australian National Maritime Museum, is a former blue-water mariner and navigator; a writer, photographer and editor who has made a lifetime study of the fascinating maritime world of Asia and in particular of Indonesia. Along with regular host and guide, Frans Huneker, special guest and fluent Indonesian speaker, Jeffrey Mellefont will guide the group ashore. At the end of each day, in the comfort of the Ombak Putih, Jeffrey will reveal more of this amazing maritime realm.

PRICING AND DATES:

March 7-18, 2016

Pricing: \$6,495 per person less \$1,000* discount = \$5,495

**Discounted price must be booked before February 1, 2016*

INCLUDED SERVICES

- Land and sea transportation where indicated
- Guided tours and excursions including entrance fees
- Specialist escort and local on-site guides
- Meals as indicated [B-Breakfast, L-Lunch, D-Dinner] including tea, coffee, bottled water, snacks, soft drinks.
- Limited laundry services
- Snorkeling gear
- Wildland Adventures travel consultation and pre-departure services

NOT INCLUDED SERVICES

- International and domestic airfares
- Tips and gratuities
- Airport-hotel transfers
- Beer, wine and alcoholic beverages; meals not listed above
- Personal expenses for extra services, optional activities, or changes in your itinerary for reasons beyond our control
- Travel insurance for trip cancellation, medical services, or evacuation
- Any other items not mentioned above

ACCOMMODATIONS

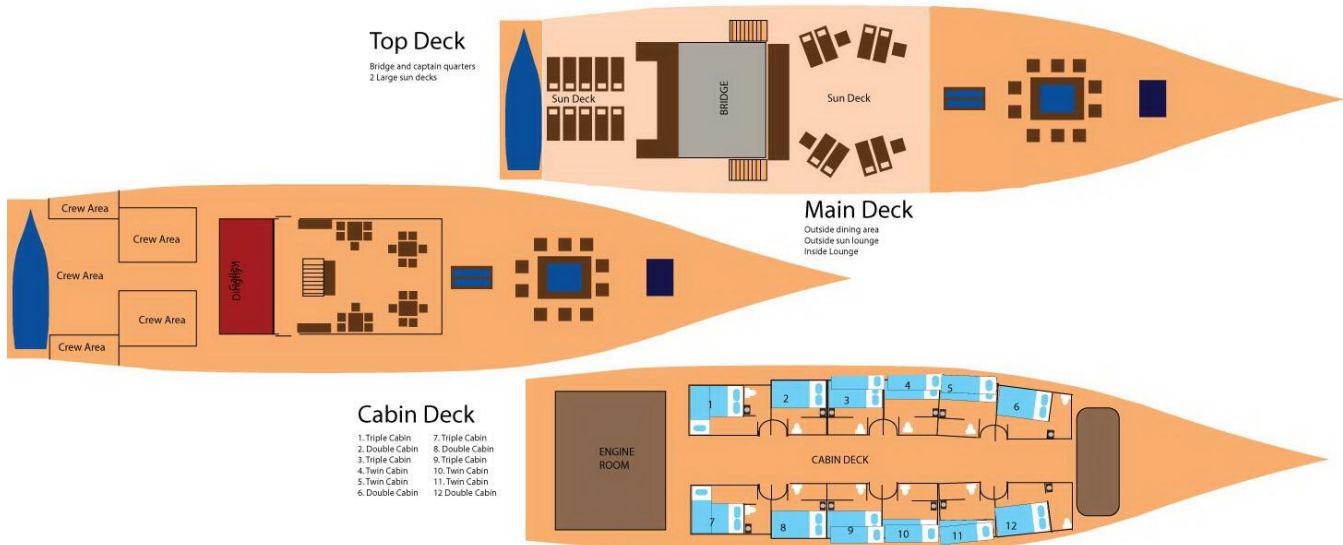


OMBAK PUTIH

The Ombak Putih is a mix of traditional and modern design. Her hull and rigging are traditional, while the deck house and interior were custom designed to adapt to Western tastes of space, privacy, and comfort. While Indonesian traditional sailing vessels are customarily referred to as Bugi Schooners, strictly speaking she is rigged as a Ketch, the foremast being higher than the aft mast.

Ombak Putih's main deck is dominated by the 25m tall mainmast and a large deck table where you can have dinner under the stars. On the deck house level on the aft side of the boat, a spacious sun deck (with canopy for some shade) overlooks the sea. Here you can read in a comfortable deck chair or dream away on one of our comfortable day beds. Your accommodation is below decks, where you will find twelve cabins, four with double beds and four configured as twin-bunks and four configured as triple, with a double and an extra single bed. Unlike typical ship accommodation, your cabin provides ample space to store your stuff and still move about with ease. All cabins are air-conditioned (individually controlled) and have private bathrooms with warm and cold

water. Standard hotel amenities are provided. Discover the pleasure of sleeping under the stars in the tropic if you wish. There is plenty of room to on the upper deck and mattresses as well as light blankets are available for that purpose.



Booking your Wildland Adventure

HOW TO RESERVE A TRIP

You can book online using our [Reserve a Trip form](#) or by calling 1-800-345-4453. Your space on a trip is confirmed once we receive your reservation form and initial trip deposit. All travelers must sign and submit a [Release of Liability](#).

Deposit requirements are as follows:

- 25% per person non-refundable deposit (\$1350 per person)

CUSTOM TRAVEL

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PAYMENTS, CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS

Full payment of the trip balance is due 90 days prior to departure. If you must cancel before departure, money will be returned less the cancellation fees charged by WA Inc. plus any additional non-refundable cancellation fees and payments already advanced to airlines, hotels and local operators:

Days Prior to Departure:	Fee per person
91 or more:	initial deposit
61-90 days:	50% of total cruise cost
60 or less:	100% of cruise cost

PRE-DEPARTURE SERVICES

Upon receipt of your deposit and completed reservation form, we will send you a comprehensive Pre-departure Dossier. This contains important information to help you prepare including immunizations, visas, trip insurance, packing checklist, reading list, maps, cross-cultural information, optional trip extensions and more. You will receive a final trip packet including Final Reminders and local contact information in your destination 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

REFERENCES AND QUESTIONS

Have any questions or concerns? Call us a 1-800-345-4453 or email info@wildland.com. We're here to help and are happy to provide you with references from previous Wildland travelers.

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