



# SPICE ISLAND TOUR

*with Janet DeNeefe*

4 November - 13 November 2025 | 9 Nights / 10 Days



“ The island can be smelled  
before it can be seen. From  
more than 10 miles out to sea  
a fragrance hangs in the air,  
and long before the  
bowler-hat mountain hoves  
into view you know you are  
nearing land. ”

*Nathaniel's Nutmeg*  
by Giles Milton



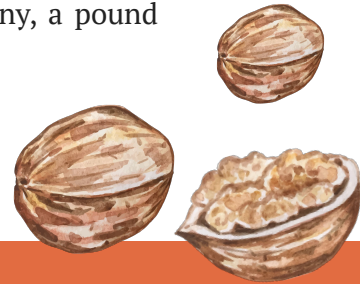




# BANDA NEIRA

Banda Neira lies in the middle of ten small, sun-drenched volcanic islands loosely scattered in the wind-swept Banda Seas, south-east of Ambon. Often omitted from maps, the tranquil port was once an important harbour and the town itself, a centre of trade and V.O.C base.

For more than 3,000 years, regional, Arab and Chinese merchants exchanged spices and other treasures with the Bandanese but the main attraction was the glamorous nutmeg. Before the birth of Christ, it had already reached China and India and by 500 AD it had arrived in the Mediterranean. Even Sinbad the Sailor from the Arabian Nights was lured by its charm. By the 14th-century, it was gracing the table of European aristocracy and by 15<sup>th</sup> century Germany, a pound was worth "seven fat oxen".





# ACTIVITIES...

**SNORKELING**



**SPICE TOUR**



**MARKET TOUR**



**ISLAND TOUR**





## Cooking Class with **JANET DENEEFE**

Join Janet DeNeeffe on an adventure to the **fabled spice islands, from Ambon to Banda Neira**, Eastern Indonesia. We sail on a teak Phinisi Boat and spend 9 unspoiled days trekking, snorkelling, exploring, swimming, **dining** and absorbing the **history** of this **fascinating part of Indonesia**.

Enjoy her **cooking classes** using the  **freshest ingredients** from the local market, cocktails under a thousand stars and feasts of **Janet DeNeeffe's favourite Indonesian food**.





*“ The trip was perfect Janet loved every minute. Great NEW friends and amazing food. You have the edge bringing your own staff to cook on the ship in all my sailing adventures in Indonesia the food was never as well planned and delish. The question is When and Where next year!!! “*

*Carol Dodge, Canada*



# THE BOAT

## *EcoXplorer*

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Previously known as Imbekwan, this ship has undergone a stunning transformation. Now featuring a unique Phinisi-shaped design, it embodies the rich cultural heritage of the Bugis tribe while fulfilling a greater mission. When you choose to sail with EcoXplorer you are directly contributing to the well-being of local and indigenous communities in eastern Indonesia. Run by the Eco Nusa Foundation, all profits generated go toward enhancing their welfare and safeguarding the natural wonders of this region.

EcoXplorer is not merely a ship; it serves as a catalyst for positive change. Their mission is to foster a harmonious relationship between humanity and the environment, and to stand as a testament to their dedication to uplift the eastern region of Indonesia, a vital area for climate and biodiversity. They are committed to protecting and preserving this invaluable ecosystem in partnership with local communities, ensuring a sustainable future for generations to come. The

- Dimensions: 6.5 meters in width.







- Dimension: 6.5 meters Width x 26 meters length
- 6-7 knots cruising speed
- 2 supporting 80 HP speed boats.
- EcoXplore independently produce fresh water by distilling seawater into fresh water.
- Research, training dan public awareness support facilities.
- Drones for forest monitoring, diving equipment and mobile data centres.
- Spacious open space including a sun deck.
- Convertible dining room equipped with a storage warehouse

### Rooms:

- 2 standard room (2 person each)
- 2 deluxe room (3 person each)
- 1 VIP Room (4 person)






# *THE PROGRAM*

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A close-up photograph of a bowl filled with almonds. The almonds are light brown and have a smooth, slightly glossy texture. They are piled together, with some showing their pointed ends and others showing their flat sides. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light color, possibly a tablecloth or a wall.

Can't stop thinking about the trip. It was so special to be in such remote and beautiful places with a history that is almost unbelievable if it weren't true. I feel so lucky to have been there and to share it with such a great bunch of people, guests and crew. Market trip today. Ginger, galangal, garlic, shallots, lemon grass and the Rhun spices that were cleared by quarantine. Yum.

*Mary Jose, Australia*









**DAY ONE | Tuesday, 4 November**

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## **Meeting Point: AMBON**

We meet up at **Natsepa Hotel and Resort, Ambon**, and **enjoy a dinner feast of local Maluku food** on the restaurant terrace.



## DAY TWO | Wednesday 5 November

### AMBON CITY TOUR

We explore the **bustling market of Tulehu** and see Maluku ingredients from papaya flowers, sago and lemon basil to green tomatoes, wild starfruit and fresh fish. Morning tea in the city is enjoyed at the **legendary café, Cibu-Cibu**, followed by a tour of the **Ambon War Cemetery** and statue of young freedom fighter, **Christina Tiahahu**.

**A long table lunch** at a local Ambon restaurant follows, with a Feast of traditional Maluku dishes, such as **papaya flowers, braised fish broth and seafood**. After our meal we board our ship and set sail across the Ambon Bay towards the open seas sharing stories, sipping cocktails and feasting on Indonesian snacks.





*“ Lots of great memories, thank you all for the company,  
witty conversation and an opportunity to share a very  
unique corner of the world “*

*Murray Taylor, UK*





## DAY THREE | Thursday 6 November

### SAPARUA

We explore Saparua Island, a former Dutch stronghold in colonial times and home of renowned Indonesian national hero, **Kapitan Pattimura**. The historic **Fort Duurstede**, located in the heart of Saparua, was established by the Dutch East Indies Company in 1691 and is now a small museum that tells a tale of colonial rule and freedom fighters.

We visit the village market to buy provisions for dinner and then see **traditional sago cakes** being made. A cooking class on deck follows. The cocktail hour includes a discussion about the region's history, and then, a **lavish dinner** under the stars will be presented by **Janet DeNeefe and team**.





## DAY FOUR | Friday 7 November

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### RUN ISLAND

We land on the fabled island of Rhun, made famous in Nathaniel's Nutmeg. Once a major producer of nutmeg during the colonial era, the spice trade on Rhun Island was lucrative but marked by exploitation and conflict. The demand for nutmeg led to fierce competition among European powers, shaping the island's history and economy. **Pulau Rhun was traded for Manhattan in the famous Treaty of Breda.**

On Rhun we are greeted by Bapak Burhan, head of Rhun's only school, who will lead us to the island's hillside nutmeg plantation and the ruins of Nathaniel Courthope cottage. **Morning tea of local sweets will be served with nutmeg juice and aromatic coffee.**

Snorkelling nearby will follow.





## DAY FOUR | Friday 7 November

### BANDA NEIRA

At dusk, we arrive in Banda Neira, a picturesque small island in the Banda Archipelago. This region was once the world's only source of nutmeg and mace.

**The Dutch secured the coveted nutmeg trade in the 17th Century,** thus, changing the course of Indonesian history, but not without resistance. **They also changed to course of world history.** Despite their illustrious past, Banda Neira is a place where time seems to have stood still. We spend the next two nights anchored off this charming town.





We visit Banda Besar and the nutmeg plantation of **Pongky Van den Broeke**, the **world's last perkeneer** followed by a visit to a nearby old nutmeg forest with breath-taking ocean views.

A cooking class back on deck follows, then snorkeling. Late afternoon we enjoy a walk around the charming Banda Neira township, visiting **Fort Belgica**, the **Hatta cottage** and the **Governor's Palace**. Dinner at the majestic **Maulana Hotel** follows where we meet Mita Alwi, grand daughter of the late Des Alwi, affectionately named the **'King' of Banda Neira**.

**DAY FIVE | Saturday, 8 November**

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## THE NUTMEG TOUR







*“Hello Gang! I miss you all already. 3pm will mean snorkeling to me for the near future. Thank you for becoming fond and cherished memories for me.”*

*Lory Johansson, USA*



**DAY SIX | Sunday, 9 November**

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## **BANDA NEIRA AND BANDA BESAR**

After a morning walk, exploring Banda Neira, we enjoy a cooking class at the **Nutmeg Tree Hotel** owned by local personality, Reza Tuasikal. **Papaya flowers, fish in light turmeric broth, eggplant with kenari nut sambal and mint-fish patties** are part of the menu.

Afternoon is for **relaxing and snorkeling**.







## DAY SEVEN | Monday, 10 November

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### BANDA NEIRA

Morning snorkelling in **Lava Flow**, one of Banda Neira's iconic spots. Cooking class on deck. Free time to **explore the island** and continue to one of the **best snorkelling spot in Hatta Island**



DAY EIGHT | Thursday, 11 November

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## HATTA ISLAND



We sail to nearby **Hatta Island** and enjoy a morning snorkel to enjoy this **pristine underwater garden**, followed by a stroll through this quiet village.

We sail overnight to Molana Island, a glorious deserted island.



## DAY NINE | Wednesday 12 November

### MOLANA ISLAND

We swim and snorkel at **Molana Island**.  
After our last cooking class on deck we enjoy a **bbq on the sand under the stars**. After dinner, we set sail back to Tulehu, Ambon.





**DAY TEN | Thursday, 13 November**

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## **BACK to AMBON**

After breakfast on deck, and **a wrap-up of our voyage into 17th century Indonesia**, we will say goodbye to the crew before transferring you to **Ambon airport** for your onward travel.



# MEET OUR TEAM



## Janet DeNeefe | Host

Janet DeNeefe our Host is Melbourne-born, Founder & Director of Ubud Food Festival and Ubud Writers & Readers Festival, has lived in Bali for more than three decades. Her latest book is Bali: Food of My Island Home, following her memoir Fragrant Rice. She is also the owner of Casa Luna, Indus Restaurant, and Honeymoon Guesthouse and Bakery in Ubud.

## Christina Arum H | Guest Relations

Arum will assist you during booking process and any inquiries related to the trip such as booking domestic flight to Ambon. She is person in charge for any information and questions about the trip, and you can contact her through email or phone. She will be on the trip with the group and happy to assist the guest needs.



## Leo Ukru | Local Tour Guide

Leo is our local tour guide, originally from Ambon. He's the person on the ground to guide you and explain you about the historical place, culture and he is the bridge to communicate with the local people. Leo has been more than 8 year experience being professional and certified guide in tourism industry, especially in Ambon

# SPICE ISLAND TOUR FEE

**7,500 AUD nett per person for Double Bed or Twin Shared**

***Includes:***

Accommodation, 2 people per room

One night at Natsepa Hotel and Resort.

8 nights/ 9 days on EcoXplorer

All Meals

Daily Cooking Class

Tour Program

Airport Transfer - Ambon Airport to Natsepa Hotel,

Natsepa Port to Ambon Airport.

***Not Including:***

Alcohol beverages & tipping for the crews

Domestic flights.





## *Flight to Ambon (Airlines: Garuda Indonesia)*

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### **Depart from Bali:**

Departure **07:00** Ngurah Rai (DPS) - Arrival **08:00** Soekarno Hatta International (CKG) | *Duration 02h00m*

Departure **09:40** Soekarno Hatta International (CKG) - Arrival **15:15** Pattimura (AMQ) | *Duration 03h35m*

***Total flight duration: 05h35m***

### **Depart from Jakarta**

Departure **09:40** Soekarno Hatta International (CKG) - Arrival **15:15** Pattimura (AMQ) | ***Duration 03h35m***

## *Return Flight (Airlines: Garuda Indonesia)*

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### **To Bali**

Departure **16:15** Pattimura (AMQ) - Arrival **17:50** Soekarno Hatta International (CKG) | *Duration 03h25m*

Departure **09:40** Soekarno Hatta International (CKG) - Arrival **12:45** Denpasar (DPS) | *Duration 02h05m*

***Total flight duration: 05h25m***

### **To Jakarta**

Departure **16:15** Pattimura (AMQ) - Arrival **17:50** Soekarno Hatta International (CKG) | *Duration 03h25m*

*If you need assistance booking flights to Ambon, please let us know.*



## DETAILS PAYMENT

To secure your place a 50% non-refundable deposit per person is required. Remaining payment of 50% is due 15 September 2025  
Deposits are non-refundable.

Account details are as follows:

### **BCA Account**

**Janet Mary DeNeefe**  
**Bank : BCA Branch Ubud**  
**Jl Raya Ubud No 10X**  
**Acc no:1350549117**  
**Swift Code: CENAIJJA**

### **ANZ Bank Account**

**Janet Mary De Neefe**  
**ANZ Bank branch: Northland**  
**BSB: 013 381**  
**Account No: 5588 43453**  
**Swift Code: ANZBAU3M**

When submitting payment, please make sure all details are correct.  
Please advise when the deposit has been made with a reference code







### **Payment Terms and Conditions**

Passengers are required to pay a 50% deposit at the time of booking. Until payment is received, the booking will not be confirmed. Remaining payment of 50% is to be made by 15 September 2025. Failure of payment within the stated period will automatically give us the rights to offer to participants on the waiting list.

### **Trip Cancellations**

In the event of a trip being canceled due to weather conditions or other factors beyond our reasonable control, deposits will be refunded in full within 20 business days. Otherwise, deposits are nonrefundable. We recommend that all passengers take out travel insurance to cover any losses that they may incur.

### **General Terms and Conditions**

All Passengers undertake the trip at entirely their own risk. We cannot be held responsible (save where prescribed by statute) for any injuries, illness, loss of property, theft or damage occurring during our trip.

Safety is always paramount whilst at sea. We require all passengers to wear a life jacket, when necessary, and conduct themselves in a manner which does not unduly endanger themselves or others.

Due to the ecological fragility of the islands that we visit, passengers are reminded that animals are strictly forbidden and visitors must depart the islands as they find them, taking nothing and leaving nothing.

All day trips are contingent upon suitable weather conditions for safety. Additionally, other variables may result in the cancellation of trips at short notice.

For more details please email:

**Christina Arum H**

[pa@janetdeneefe.com](mailto:pa@janetdeneefe.com) |+6281558809212



An aerial photograph of a tropical beach. The top left shows deep blue water transitioning into a shallow turquoise lagoon. A wide, white sandy beach curves along the shoreline. On the right side, there is a dense forest of lush green trees and palm trees. A small, thatched-roof hut is visible near the bottom right. Two small white boats are anchored in the shallow water near the top center. The text "Thank you!" is written in a white, cursive font in the bottom left corner.

*Thank you!*