

Wild Earth Travel

Small Ships, Big Adventures

wildearth-travel.com

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CIRCUMNAVIGATION OF SUMATRA EXPEDITION CRUISE

Join us aboard the MS Island Sky as we circumnavigate Sumatra, the world's sixth-largest island. Separated from mainland Asia by the Strait of Malacca and from Java by the Strait of Sunda, Sumatra lies at the heart of geological and cultural crossroads. Spectacular volcanoes and mysterious calderas are many along the Barisan Mountains, the long spinal range of the island following Sumatra's west coast. Perpetual warmth and the presence of high peaks have made the natural environment of this large landmass one of the most diverse in the world: the many national parks of the island are an attempt to protect this increasingly endangered treasure.

With the Indian Ocean to the west and the southeast Asian archipelagos to the east, Sumatra's cultural history is rich and the island is home to many fascinating peoples. Our voyage will explore their cities, towns and villages, from the Aceh at the northwestern tip of the island, to the Bataks and Minangkabau of the central highlands, and the Nias community on Nias Island, off the west coast of northern Sumatra. Sumatra was revealed to the Western world by Marco Polo and is often referred to as the Isle of Gold: sailing around its diverse shores, exploring its coastal communities and occasionally venturing inland, we will be able to understand why. The privilege of exploring this remarkable land from a small ship and in the company of knowledgeable expedition team members and local guides is an opportunity not to be missed.



ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Singapore.

Fly by scheduled flight.

Day 2 Singapore.

Arrive and transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay. The remainder of the day and evening are at leisure.

Day 3 Singapore & Malacca Strait.

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After breakfast we will depart the hotel for a guided tour of Singapore which will include the National Orchid Garden. After lunch we will continue to the MS Island Sky and embark. Welcome drinks and dinner will be served as we sail the Malacca Strait, named after the Malacca Sultanate, that ruled over the archipelago between 1414 and 1511. It is from here that early traders from Arabia, Africa and Persia would trade glassware, camphor, ivory, sandalwood and perfumes and today the Strait is one of the most important shipping lanes in the world.

Day 4 Malacca, Malaysia.

Before setting off for Sumatra we spend the morning in the historic port of Malacca. With more than its fair share of colonisers from Malaysian princes, the Portuguese, Dutch, British and Japanese, this strategically placed city has a fascinating history brought vividly to life in the excellent Ethnographical Museum. Our guided tour will also include the 16th century Portuguese fortress, the former Dutch Governor's house and the impressive Christ Church. We will return to the MS Island Sky for lunch and continue up the Strait of Malacca this afternoon.

Day 5 Lake Toba, Sumatra, Indonesia.

We arrive on Sumatra at Kuala Tanjung, our base to visit the iconic Lake Toba. At over 1145 square kilometres it is the largest lake in southeast Asia found in the volcanic peaks of the island. After an early breakfast we will start our journey inland passing through the palm oil, rubber and cocoa plantations enroute to Parapat, the gateway town located in the beautiful and fertile volcanic basin at the northern end of the Bukit Barisan mountain range. The scenery is stunning and after lunch in a local restaurant we will board our boat to cruise across the lake to the central island of Samosir, passing lovely coves with white sandy beaches to where colourful Toba Batak villages cling to the shore. We will visit the beautiful traditional houses and ancient tombs of Laga Siallagan, the first king of Ambarita. In front of the traditional houses we find the Banyan tree with the stone chair of King Siallagan, the location where all important judicial and village matters were traditionally administered.

Day 6 Belawan.

There will be a choice of excursions today, choose a long but rewarding day as we leave the vessel at sunrise and drive inland to the eastern side of the Gunung Leuser National Park and visit the Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre at Bukit Lawang. This is now one of the world's most important conservation projects as orphaned orangutans are brought here to learn how to live in the wild again. We can watch them at play and feeding and learn how the six month rehabilitation programme works. We will enjoy lunch in a local restaurant before returning to the ship in the late afternoon. Alternatively explore the highlights of Medan, the nearby capital of North Sumatra. Here we visit the 19th century Maimoon Palace, a 30 room palace featuring Malay, Mogul and Italian influences before continuing to the Mesjid Raya (Grand Mosque). We will explore the collections at the Museum of Northern Sumatra including stone carvings from Nias Island and items from the Hindu, Buddhist, and Islamic periods as well as colonial and military history. Our guided tour will end at the Chinese pagoda before returning to the MS Island Sky.

Day 7 At Sea.

We have a day to relax as we cruise the coast to the northern tip of Sumatra. Maybe take in a lecture by the onboard experts or find a spot on deck.

Day 8 Pulau Weh & Banda Aceh.

This morning we anchor off Pulau Weh where our Zodiacs will take us to Gapang Beach. Here we have a chance to swim in the clear waters considered some of the best in Indonesia. Alternatively relax on the beach or take a walk through the small town. We will sail over lunch to Banda Aceh. Many will recall the destruction caused to this port on the northern tip of Sumatra by the 2004 Boxing Day Tsunami. Enormous effort has been made to rebuild since the fateful day and we will visit the Tsunami Museum, memorial and educational centre that document the impact. We will also visit the Aceh Cultural Museum and the Baiturrahman Mosque, one of the dominant landmarks in downtown Banda Aceh with seven domes and four towers with one main tower. It has a 4760 square metre Italian marble floor and can accommodate up to 9000 people.

Day 9 Simeulue Islands.

After a morning at sea we arrive in the archipelago of the Simeulue Islands at

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lunchtime. Located 100 miles from the Sumatran coast and with white sand beaches, vast coral reefs and a pristine blue sea dotted with a multitude of seamounts, atolls and small islets, Simeulue Island is well off the traditional tourist route. We will use our Zodiacs to land on one of the local beaches for swimming, snorkelling and nature walks.

Day 10 Pulau Nias.

We continue south and land on the island of Nias some 70 miles from the west coast of Sumatra. Its isolation has protected its cultural heritage and we will see some wonderful examples of tribal art and unique architecture. After an island drive we will witness a stone jumping demonstration in a traditional village. Here, talented local villagers leap over six foot tall stone megaliths in a rite of passage; the higher they jump, the better chance they have of acquiring a wife. However, the tradition originated to train them for warfare and defence. This colourful culture developed separately from Sumatra and the island has a history of headhunting, warfare, slaves and gold. After lunch on board we have the chance for a quick swim or snorkel before continuing our journey south in the late afternoon, crossing the equator this evening.

Day 11 Siberut & Pulau Karangmajat.

This morning we will anchor off the Mentawai archipelago. Like Nias, these islands have a unique culture, flora and fauna due to their isolation from the rest of the country. On arrival we travel through the tropical forest to a small village where we will be invited to the meeting house to enjoy a cultural performance. The island is rich in wildlife and we will keep an eye out for some of the 140 bird species and monkeys which frequent the forest. Over lunch we sail to the islands off the coast and will find a suitable landing site to enjoy a beach walk or snorkel over the island's fringing coral reefs.

Day 12 Padang for Bukittinggi.

We return to the Sumatran mainland today at the port of Padang, our base for a choice of excursions. This part of Western Sumatra is home to the Minangkabau people who despite their Islamic faith have the largest matrilineal society where the woman is the head of the house and controls family affairs. We will head inland passing the magnificent Anai valley and visit the breathtaking Ngari Sianok Canyon where we will see the tunnels built by the Japanese during the second world war before ending in Bukittinggi. Here

we will witness the cultural performances by the Minangkabau people and try some local delicacies. The region is also home to the world's largest flower, the Rafflesia Arnoldii which can grow to nearly one metre across and weigh up to 11 kilogrammes. These typically bloom between August and November, if we do arrive in season, we will arrange an alternative full day excursion visiting the Batang Paluph Nature Reserve where we will enjoy a series of walks in search of the flower.

Day 13 Bengkulu.

After a morning at sea we reach the southern half of the island and the city of Bengkulu. The British East India Company established a garrison here in 1685 but with little success until Sir Stamford Raffles arrived in 1818 and established a market in pepper, coffee and nutmeg. The British remained until 1824 when the city was traded with the Dutch for Melacca. On a city drive we will view Fort Marlborough, the British cemetery and explore the bustling local market.

Day 14 Pulau Krakatoa.

This afternoon we sail into the Sunda Strait and towards the island of Krakatoa. The volcano here famously exploded in 1883, killing 36,417 people. The explosion is considered to be the loudest sound ever heard in modern history, with reports of it being heard nearly 3,000 miles from its point of origin. If conditions permit, we will use our Zodiacs to land on the island where you can choose to join a nature walk at the base, climb up the lower slopes of the volcano or swim in the surrounding waters.

Day 15 Belitung Islands.

Arrive at lunchtime in the idyllic Belitung Islands, a group of islands off the coast of Sumatra famed for their long clean beaches and crystal clear seawater. We have the afternoon to enjoy the fine white sandy beaches and the wonderful coral reefs. Snorkelling platforms will allow us to swim with a multitude of colourful fish, molluscs, jellyfish and sea urchins. Meanwhile on nature walks we will explore the forest for birdlife, or you may prefer to simply relax on the beach.

Day 16 At Sea.

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Enjoy a relaxing final day on board as we cruise towards Singapore. Maybe join a lecture, relax with a book or find a spot on deck.

[Day 17 Singapore to London.](#)

Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight. Arrive this evening.

[Please note:](#)

Itineraries are subject to change.

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YOUR SHIP: ISLAND SKY

YOUR SHIP:	Island Sky
VESSEL TYPE:	Luxury Small Ship
LENGTH:	90 metres
PASSENGER CAPACITY:	116
BUILT/REFURBISHED:	1992 / 2010 / 2017

The MS Island Sky offers an intimate and luxurious cruising experience, designed for travelers who appreciate peace, high-quality service, and a relaxed atmosphere. The ship features elegant public spaces, including a main lounge for daily briefings and talks, The Club with a pianist and a 24-hour tea and coffee station, and a well-stocked library with internet access. Guests can enjoy al fresco dining on the Lido Deck, a walk-around promenade for scenic views, and a top-deck observation area ideal for relaxation and wildlife spotting. The ship also includes a small hair salon, a doctor on board, and a lift serving all decks for added convenience. Complimentary satellite Wi-Fi is available, though signal strength may vary.

Accommodations include 59 spacious and well-appointed suites, all with outside views, seating areas, and en-suite bathrooms. Some suites offer private balconies or sliding glass doors for enhanced ocean views. Amenities include a mini-fridge, flat-screen TV, Molton Brown toiletries, air-conditioning, and a safe. The Island Suite boasts an extended balcony, complimentary minibar, and laundry service. Dining is a refined yet relaxed affair, with an emphasis on fresh, locally sourced ingredients and a single open seating. Guests

can enjoy buffet-style breakfasts, a la carte lunches and dinners, daily afternoon tea, and included wines. The ship's culinary team creates exceptional meals, often incorporating local specialties, while the friendly staff ensures a welcoming and social dining experience.

Life onboard is serene, focusing on enriching experiences rather than organized entertainment. Guests can enjoy informative talks, port briefings, and casual evening music rather than large-scale shows or games. The ship is equipped with modern safety and navigation technology, including roll stabilizers for a smooth journey. The atmosphere is akin to a private yacht or boutique hotel, where like-minded travelers can immerse themselves in nature, history, and culture.



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PRICING

23-Jul-2026 to 08-Aug-2026

Magellan Deck Standard Suite	11495 GBP pp
Columbus Deck Superior Suite	11995 GBP pp
Marco Polo Deck Premium Suite	12495 GBP pp
Marco Polo Deck Corner Suite	12995 GBP pp
Magellan Deck Standard Single	13795 GBP pp
Columbus Deck Superior Single	14395 GBP pp
Erikson Deck Deluxe Balcony Suite	14395 GBP pp
Explorer Deck Owner's Balcony Suite	14995 GBP pp
Explorer Deck Island Suite	15995 GBP pp

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