

Innovative conservation since 1903

IN THE WAKE OF ALFRED RUSSEL WALLACE

AN INDONESIAN VOYAGE IN ASSOCIATION WITH SEATREK BALI

3-13 JANUARY 2013



The Ombak Putih - a traditional phinisi schooner (Photo credit: T. Whitten/FFI)

ALFRED RUSSEL WALLACE

Alfred Russel Wallace was the David Attenborough of the Victorian era. With Darwin, he was the codiscoverer of the theory of evolution by natural selection. An extraordinary explorer and collector, a polymath, fêted and honoured – yet he is largely forgotten today.

Anticipating the 100th anniversary of Wallace's death in 2013, Fauna & Flora International (FFI) and Seatrek Bali – the oldest company offering adventure cruises on wonderful, hand-built phinisi schooners – are able to offer a number of berths to FFI supporters on a tailor-made cruise in eastern Indonesia.

The cruise will tell the story of Wallace and his assistants. We will navigate between and among remote and uninhabited islands to follow parts of his route, visit some of the most significant locations, see some of the most dramatic species, and give opportunities for you to observe and photograph the animals which Wallace studied.



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Heart ascidians Polycarpa aurata (Photo credit: T. Whitten / FFI)

Red bird of paradise (Photo credit: T. Whitten)

WILDLIFE & CULTURAL HIGHLIGHTS

The cruise will sail around the Raja Ampat Archipelago, Halmahera and Ternate. Raja Ampat is acknowledged as the richest reef area in the world – referred to as 'reefs on steroids'. Halmahera is one of the least-known major islands in Indonesia. Ternate is the island town which Wallace made his base and we will visit the house in which it is purported he lived. It is also the place from which he wrote his 'Letter from Ternate' to Darwin which set in motion the world-changing publications on evolution. Special postcards will be available so that guests can send their own 'letter from Ternate'.

Those joining the cruises can expect to see up to three species of birds of paradise, multitudes of parrots, cockatoos and lorikeets, various species of whales and dolphins, cuscus, many beetles and butterflies, lowland forests, mangroves and awe-inspiring coral reef systems. We will also visit Papuan, Melayu and Sea Gypsy communities. In Yenbeser village you will see a replica of Wallace's house which is illustrated in *Malay Archipelago* and which Seatrek helped to build. Indeed, Seatrek is partnering with a number of the villages you will visit to assist both their development and the conservation of the local biodiversity. Our guests will also be able to take part in the monitoring of coral reef health.

CRUISE ITINERARY *

Day 1: Your flight arrives in Sorong (capital of West Papua Province) and we transfer you directly to the Ombak Putih from the airport. We get settled in our rooms and enjoy lunch together while meeting the other passengers and crew. We weigh anchor and set sail to Waigeo Island to the north.

Day 2: We wake in the SW corner of Kabui Bay next to 'Wallace's Channel' where Wallace emerged after a very challenging sail from Seram, and which he thought was a vast lake. After breakfast we take dinghies through the narrow channel, examine the vegetation clinging to the limestone cliffs, and experience our first snorkelling at one or two contrasting sites. We return to the ship and sail out of the bay - with luck we may see groups of the off-white Indo-Pacific Hump-backed Dolphins, and we would be unlucky not to see spinner dolphins and even some small whales. We spend the afternoon in Yenbeser Village where Wallace spent some months. We will see and go inside a faithful replica of Wallace's small hut. Back on board the ship sails to Sawinggrai and anchors offshore.

Day 3: This morning we will rise early. The dinghy will carry us in the dark over to the village and a local guide will take us on a 20 minute walk into the forest. As dawn breaks in the forest canopy, we should catch sight of the remarkable Red bird of paradise, one of the species Wallace was most anxious to collect. Back in the village there will be time to meet with the community and perhaps visit the school. We will be back on the boat by mid-morning to travel over to Pef Island to snorkel and motor around the convoluted coast, and you will learn the myth explaining the prehistoric hand print still visible high on a limestone cliff. For those who are qualified and have given advance warning, there may be a chance to dive with the resort on the island, subject to space. In the evening we set sail for the southern coast of Batanta where we anchor in front of Wailebet village.

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* Guests should be aware that weather conditions can be unpredictable and exact programme details may have to change with little notice to take account of weather and currents etc.



Veranda of Wallace's house, Ternate (Photo credit: T. Whitten / FFI)



Male yellow -crested cockatoo near Tomolol, Misool (Photo credit: T. Whitten /

CRUISE ITINERARY (continued)

Day 4: For those who do not mind another early rise, the dinghy will be on standby to ferry us to Wailebet where we will meet with a local guide who will take us for a 1-1.5 hour walk into the forest to see the remarkable Wilson's Bird of Paradise, characterised by the startling patches of blue skin on its head. This species dances on the forest floor, not in the canopy. Wallace did not see this bird but he discusses it in his chapter on birds of paradise. Early afternoon finds us en route to the islands of Klaarbeck and Kommerrust. We are always watchful for an opportunity to snorkel and for spots to set up a beach barbeque as well.

Day 5: As we continue to work our way west and south toward our crossing to Halmahera Island, we pass through the islands of Klaarbeck and Kommerrust, where Wallace had great difficulty making his way to Waiago Island from Seram. A combination of misbehaving winds, fierce currents, difficult anchorages and lack of water sources found him unable to retrieve two crewmen and eventually, with much fear for them, was required to abandon their rescue. After making only fifty miles in ten days, he reached Waigeo, however it was another thirty days to rescue his much thinner men. In the evening there will be a short course on monitoring the health of coral reefs ready for the activity to follow. Wallace did not collect corals, but he took great delight in seeing their beautiful shapes and colours.

Day 6: This morning we arrive at the island of Torobi in the Kofiau Islands north of Misool. Here we will look for an opportunity to practice our lessons from the previous night. Those who want to join will do a first Reefcheck survey, while others just snorkel or relax on board. We continue to explore the area, passing through the Boo Islands where we may set foot as time allows. This is our last taste of the world famous Raja Ampat ('Four Kings'), heart of the Coral Triangle between the Philippines, New Guinea and Australia. We continue with a lengthy overnight sail headed west to the southern tip of Halmahera Island to Bacan Island.

Day 7: We will stop at the Bajau village on Dowora Lamo Island (east of Bacan) to meet a community of people from an interesting ethnic group encountered by Wallace. We will likely visit the school. We then move on to Sori Island to snorkel, and on to the east side of Bacan Island where Wallace stayed for several months. We go ashore and a local guide will take us for an exploration into the forest to search out interesting plants and animals. We will keep a look out for the famous Wallace's Golden Birdwing Butterfly.

Day 8: We wake offshore of Beruba-ruba village where the villagers will take us into the forest to see a lovely waterfall and to do a bit of Wallace-style foraging for beetles and other creepy-crawlies. After lunch we go north to Sidangoli with the beautiful chain of volcano islands of Makian, Moti, Mare, Tidore, Ternate and Hiri to our west. In the mid-afternoon, for all who wish, we will go ashore at Sidangoli and travel 30 minutes by local transport, followed by a walk of 30 minutes to a campsite where tents and sleeping mats will be provided. We will meet the legendary 'Pak Anu' who has been hosting small birding groups for two decades. His wife will cook us a simple dinner before we settle down for an early night.



Raja Ampat Island at sunset (Photo credit: T. Whitten / FFI)

CRUISE ITINERARY (continued)

Day 9: We rise at 4 am, have coffee and biscuits, and then walk into the forest so that, by 6 am, we are waiting quietly below the display trees used by the beautiful Wallace's Standard Wing, the only bird of paradise discovered by Wallace (or rather by his assistant, Ali). Back at Pak Anu's house by about 9 am, we eat a noodle breakfast and we are back on the ship by late morning. We move on to the Island of Tidore for a pleasant afternoon of historical attractions of this ancient spice trading sultanate. Unlike its bustling historical neighbour, Ternate, the capital of Tidore has the feeling of a sleepy village with streets full of flowers and white-washed houses. Some highlights will be the Sultan's Palace and museum, forts and mosques. We may spend our evening here or nearby, and in the morning arrive in the once powerful spice Sultanate of Ternate.

Day 10: After breakfast, we venture into Ternate, which has retained its commercial and political importance as the administrative main and 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. In town, an interesting place to wander about in itself, a highlight will be our visit to the old house said to have been lived in by Wallace over a period of years as his base for many specimen-gathering expeditions. We will also go and see the 'Afu', the oldest clove tree in the world surrounding which is a fascinating history of intrigue, greed and hope. We will likely stop off at a clove/nutmeg plantation, and go to a nutmeg buyer's warehouse to observe a spice merchant doing business. There will be an opportunity to post your own version of Wallace's renowned 'Letter from Ternate' on our specially-prepared postcards. Other various forts, mosques and museums can be toured as your time allows. This evening we will have our farewell dinner with captain and crew.

Day 11: After an early breakfast we say goodbye to the crew, take the dinghy ashore and have our transfer to the airport for our onward travel.

YOUR GUIDE TO WALLACE - DR. TONY WHITTEN

The cruise will be accompanied by Fauna & Flora International's Regional Director for Asia-Pacific, Dr.Tony Whitten.

Tony was always destined to work in conservation. Growing up following inspirational naturalists such as Sir Peter Scott and Sir David Attenborough, his mind was made up by the age of four. Tony went on to read Biology at the University of Southampton, and later gained his PhD from the University of Cambridge, studying endangered Kloss's gibbons on the remote Siberut Island, west of Sumatra.

This unwittingly set the course for the rest of his career, which has focused on the incredible diversity of wildlife in Indonesia and the Asia-Pacific region. He has written numerous books, from the ecology of Indonesia's islands to guides to freshwater fish and land snails. He also wrote the introduction chapter to the Periplus version of Wallace's famed, '*The Malay Archipelago*' – a fascinating account of the eight years Wallace spent in the region.

Tony joined FFI in 2010 as Regional Director for Asia-Pacific, where he oversees an incredibly broad range of projects, from tiger conservation in Sumatra to marine and coastal work in Cambodia and REDD+ projects in Kalimantan.

LIFE ABOARD THE OMBAK PUTIH

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 the schooner's day beds. Your accommodation is below decks, where you will find twelve air-conditioned 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 luggage and still move about with ease.

There will be short evening lectures both on and offshore and topics to be covered will include:

- Wallace's life before 'The Malay Archipelago'
- An overview of his travels and travails in the Malay Archipelago
- Wallace's collecting activities and species discoveries
- The 'Letter from Ternate' and the 'conspiracy theories'
- Wallace's life back in the UK and social activism

Tony can also set Wallace's work against the context of modern conservation challenges and describe FFI's current work and future plans in Indonesia and throughout the Asia Pacific region.



Four-toed skink. Pef Island , close to Gam Island (Photo credit: T. Whitten /

Fishing in the Raja Ampat archipelago (Photo credit: T. Whitten / FFI)

ABOUT SEATREK BALI

Seatrek has 25 years of experience of adventure cruising in Indonesia. Its ships have first-rate multilingual tour guides, are equipped with all manner of safety and navigation devices, has access to float planes in cases of medical emergency, and times its cruises so that sea conditions are at their kindest.

You can find out more about Seatrek Bali by visiting their website at http://www.seatrekbali.com/

Liz Eaton on +44 (0) 1223 579 338 or email liz.eaton@fauna-flora.org

Seatrek have agents in the UK who can assist with organising travel to and from the start of the cruise. Please contact Liz Eaton using the details below for more information.

If you have any questions or would like to express an interest in joining the cruise, please contact:



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Diving from the Ombak Putih, Indonesia (Photo credit: T. Whitten/ FFI)



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