

CIRCUMNAVIGATION OF SUMATRA

AN IN-DEPTH EXPLORATION OF
SUMATRA ABOARD THE MS ISLAND SKY

23RD JULY TO 8TH AUGUST 2026

SPECIAL
OFFER - SAVE
£500
PER PERSON

NOBLE CALEDONIA



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.



EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Full circumnavigation of the sixth largest island on Earth.
- Great natural world experiences including opportunities to see Orangutans in Bukit Lawang, searching for the world's largest flower near Bukittinggi and snorkelling amongst fish and corals in Pulau Weh, the Mentawai and Belitung Islands.
- Cruise by and hopefully land on the slopes of Krakatoa volcano.
- Visit remote tribal cultures in Siberut and Nias.
- Spend an afternoon in the historically significant port of Bengkulu where Raffles once governed.
- Explore remote islands including Simeulue which is well off the traditional tourist route.

EXPLORING ASHORE

During our expedition, many days will feature Zodiac landings and several of the excursions will involve hikes or walks in forests or small remote village communities. We will be exploring some remote regions and will utilise a range of modes of transport ashore including minibuses, rickshaws and local boats. There will be opportunities to swim and snorkel and throughout our journey our expedition team will endeavour to arrange a selection of walks to include longer and shorter options to cater for different abilities and interests. However, many days will involve walking for extended periods in hot and humid conditions. To best enjoy this itinerary, we do recommend a good level of mobility and if you would like to discuss the level of fitness required, please contact us.



Dutch Square, Malacca



Thomas's Leaf Monkey



Baiturrahman Mosque, Banda Aceh

The 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. 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 en route 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.

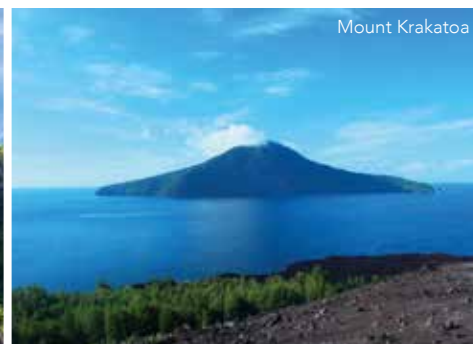
Day 9 Simeulue Islands. After a morning at sea we arrive in the archipelago of the Simeulue Islands at lunchtime. Located 100 miles from the Sumatran coast and with white sand beaches, vast coral reefs and a pristine blue sea dotted with a multitude of seamounts, atolls and small islets, Simeulue Island 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.



Ngari Sianok Canyon, Bukittinggi



Mount Krakatoa



Rafflesia Arnoldii flower

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 Suna 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. 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.



Belitung Islands

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £500 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Magellan	Standard	£11495	£10995
Columbus	Superior	£11995	£11495
Marco Polo	Premium	£12495	£11995
Marco Polo	Corner	£12995	£12495
Erikson	Deluxe Balcony	£14395	£13895
Explorer	Owner's Balcony Suites	£14995	£14495
Explorer	Island Suite	£15995	£15495
Magellan	Standard for sole use	£13795	£13295
Columbus	Superior for sole use	£14395	£13895

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • Overnight hotel accommodation in Singapore with breakfast • 14 nights aboard the MS Island Sky on a full board basis • House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Noble Caledonia expedition team • Gratuities • Shore excursions • Transfers • Airport taxes • Port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, Indonesian visa, dinner in Singapore on day 2.

Pre-cruise Singapore & Wild Malaysia Extension including the Eastern & Oriental Express

18th to 24th July 2026

Before embarking the MS Island Sky we are offering a five night extension with three nights aboard the Eastern & Oriental Express private train and an overnight in Singapore before and after your journey. Step aboard in Singapore and enjoy relaxing in your comfortable surroundings as you travel up through the lush jungles of Malaysia and watch the marvellous scenery unfold beyond the windows. Experience "tiger territory" on a wildlife excursion in Taman Negara National Park and explore Penang Island, Malaysia's cultural melting pot, before returning to Singapore where there will be time to explore this vibrant city.

Eastern & Oriental Express, A Belmond Train

The Eastern & Oriental Express has been narrating adventures since its inaugural journey from Bangkok to Singapore in 1993. The signature cream and green exterior gives way to polished wood-panelled corridors and silken furnishings with a hint of Asian designs. All accommodation on board is fully air-conditioned with en-suite shower and toilet. Public areas include the Bar Car, the social hub of the train where an elegant yet relaxed ambience reigns. Located at the rear of the train the Observation Car is the perfect place to sit back and relax under the moonlit sky, its panelled walls and teak floors evoke a bygone era. Exquisite fine dining is offered in the two dining cars, courtesy of chef André Chiang's modern take on Southeast Asian cuisine. After a delicious dinner, retreat to the piano bar for a nightcap and join your fellow guests in reminiscing about the day's adventures.

The Itinerary

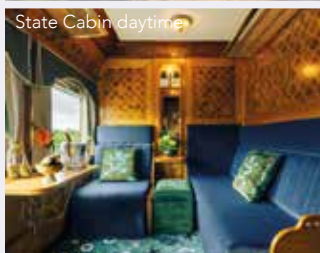
Day 1 London to Singapore. Fly by scheduled flight.

Day 2 Singapore. Arrive and transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay. The remainder of the day and evening is under your own arrangements.

Day 3 Embark the Eastern & Oriental Express. Today we board the striking green and cream carriages of the Eastern & Oriental Express at Woodlands Station, Singapore. Settle into your air-conditioned cabin, a sanctuary of cherrywood panelling, Thai silks and Malaysian embroidery. As the train travels through lush, green landscapes, it sets the scene for your immersion into wild Malaysia. Weave through tangled jungle, rubber and palm plantations, soaking up the vistas as your steward serves afternoon tea. As evening falls join your fellow guests in the Dining Car for a dinner of sustainable specialities enhanced with herbs and plants sourced from remote regions. Afterwards, enjoy the onboard entertainment with a nightcap. (B, L, D)

Day 4 Taman Negara, Malaysia. After breakfast in your cabin, admire the views of the Jungle Line as the train courses through some of the most remote parts of Malaysia. Following lunch on board, we will arrive at Merapoh station and alight for an extraordinary experience. Conservation is at the heart of the Eastern & Oriental Express philosophy and as part of an ongoing partnership with Save Wild Tigers, you can discover the "tiger territory" of Taman Negara National Park, meeting local villagers and organisations who are working on the ground to protect this noble, critically endangered wild cat and its habitat. Taman Negara was formed 130 million years ago, making it one of the oldest tropical rainforests in the world. The dense jungle, wide rivers and lush mountains are home to wildlife ranging from water buffalo to macaques, tapirs to hornbills – a true explorer's paradise. Returning to the train, a lively evening with local entertainment awaits in the Piano Bar Car, preceded by a delicious dinner. (B, L, D)

Day 5 Penang Island. Enjoy breakfast and lunch on board, before alighting for the crossing to Penang Island. Here, there will be a choice of tours to make the most of Malaysia's cultural melting pot. Art lovers can explore Georgetown's Old Quarter with a guide, delving into temples, a contemporary studio and an opera and puppet house whilst food aficionados can embark on a discovery of Peranakan cooking, purchasing specialities from spice and grocery stores before mastering delicious local dishes in a cookery class. Alternatively, for those who prefer to explore independently, a tri-shaw, a driver and a map will be available to you so that you can wind through Georgetown's enchanting streets and



visit its attractions at your own pace. Re-join the train at Butterworth for a convivial final evening on board with delicious cuisine and fabulous entertainment. (B, L, D)

Day 6 Singapore. Arrive back in Singapore over breakfast and join a morning city tour which will start in Little India including the magnificent Sultan Mosque. Continue to the bright colours and vibrant hues in Singapore's exciting Chinatown. Narrow streets centered on the pagoda lead you to a treasure trove of apothecary shops, quaint teahouses and a cornucopia of stalls selling trinkets as well as the oldest Hindu temple in Singapore, Sri Mariamman. Here we join a bumboat for a cruise along the Singapore River sailing past a mix of colonial buildings and modern skyscrapers ending at Merlion Park. After lunch we transfer to our hotel and the remainder of the day is at leisure to explore independently. (B, L)

Day 7 Singapore. Enjoy a free day to explore at your own pace and continue as per Day 2 of the main itinerary. (B)

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Pullman Twin (upper & lower berth):	£5295
State Cabin Twin:	£6595
Pullman Twin for sole use:	£9195

Price Includes: Two nights hotel accommodation in Singapore, three nights aboard the Eastern & Oriental Express on a full board basis, house wines, spirits, beers and soft drinks whilst on the train, meals as stated (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner), excursions as described, gratuities, transfers.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

MS ISLAND SKY



Friendly Service



Deluxe Balcony Suite



The Restaurant

The much loved MS Island Sky is one of our two flagships and sister vessel to the MS Hebridean Sky. Both vessels were built in the same shipyard in Italy at similar times and share the same excellent attributes that make them two of the finest small ships in the world. With a maximum passenger capacity of only 118, a vessel of her size is capable of carrying many more but instead the MS Island Sky has the benefit of unusually large suites, luxuriously appointed public areas and spacious outside decks.

Your Suite

On board there are 59 exceptionally spacious and well-designed suites. All feature a seating area and some have private balconies, whilst those on the Marco Polo Deck feature tinted, sliding glass doors allowing greatly enhanced viewing opportunities and quick access to the deck. The feeling of luxury is enhanced by the wood panelling and brass, which predominates throughout the vessel conveying the atmosphere of a private yacht. The passenger accommodation is arranged over five decks and each suite affords considerable comfort with en-suite bathroom featuring marble-topped vanity unit with sink and walk-in shower, a large wardrobe, dressing table and excellent storage. There is a mini-fridge, television and a telephone in each suite. Refillable water bottles, dressing gowns and slippers are also provided for your comfort. Other facilities include a safe, hairdryer, assorted Noble Isle toiletries, air-conditioning and heating. The comfortable beds in each suite can be configured as either double or twin.

Your Dining

With only one sitting and a maximum of just over 100 passengers, the cuisine on board the MS Island Sky is of a consistent superior quality that befits such a vessel. In keeping with the informal atmosphere on board, when dining you are able to choose your seating arrangements and choice of restaurants at your leisure; whether that be joining a table of four to six other passengers in the elegant à la carte Restaurant or outside buffet-style on the Lido Deck in the evening sunshine. In the main Restaurant, breakfast is served buffet-style, with certain items cooked to order on request. Lunch and dinner menus offer plenty of choice, often reflecting the daily catch and local delicacies. The Welcome and Farewell dinners are a sumptuous five course affair. To enhance your dining experience further a selection of wines is included with both meals. Afternoon tea and pre-dinner canapés take place in either the comfort of the Lounge or Club. Tea and coffee are also available 24 hours a day. Special diets can be catered for with sufficient notice.



Superior Suite



The Club



The Library

Your Space

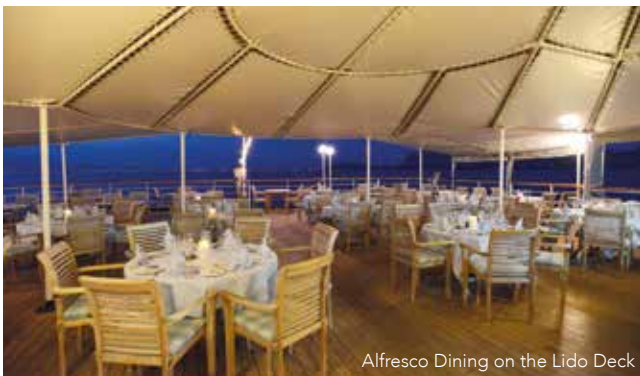
The spacious and finely decorated public rooms include a large Lounge on the Columbus Deck featuring a selection of seating options from individual armchairs and sofas to side cushioned benches. Daily briefings given by the Cruise Director and talks from Guest Speakers and expedition staff take place in the Lounge. In addition to the main Lounge, there is also The Club, located on the Marco Polo Deck which features the main bar. The Club also features a 24-hour tea and coffee station. Towards the aft of the ship on the Columbus Deck is the Library. Well stocked with reference books pertaining to the destinations the vessel is visiting and a selection of essential reads, you will not find yourself short of excellent literature on board. A collection of games as well as devices to access the internet via the ship's satellite can also be found in the Library. Access to the ship's satellite Wi-Fi via your own device is complimentary on board (*signal strength varies depending on location and demand*). The main Restaurant, which can seat all guests at one sitting, is located on the Magellan Deck, and outside there is a rear Lido Deck located on the Erikson Deck where meals are served in warm weather under shade. Further to this on the top Explorer Deck there is an observation area ideal for spotting wildlife, complete with sun loungers for sunbathing, relaxing with a book or catching up with fellow travellers. The Promenade Deck wraps around the whole ship giving outstanding views. There is also a small beauty salon on board with appointments made on request.

Your Comfort

The MS Island Sky is equipped with the latest safety, navigation and communications equipment along with roll stabilisers to minimise the ship's motion. During your voyage we hope to offer you the opportunity to visit the Captain and Officers on the Bridge to check the vessel's progress by charts and learn more about your journey. On board you will also find a clinic and Doctor and a lift that serves all decks. When at anchor our nimble Zodiacs will ferry you ashore or, on select cruises, enjoy Zodiac cruises getting you closer to the natural world.



During this voyage you will be visiting out of the way destinations and will be accompanied by an expedition team. Landings and excursions will be made by Zodiac landing craft. This cruise will appeal to the more adventurous and those who enjoy the natural world.

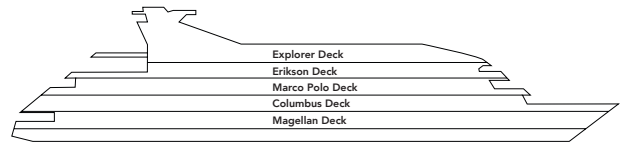


Alfresco Dining on the Lido Deck

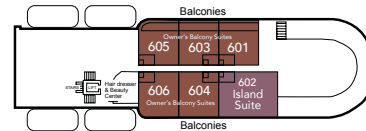
Your Life On Board

The atmosphere on board is warm and convivial and more akin to a private yacht or country hotel in which you can learn more about wonderful destinations you are visiting in the company of like-minded people. There is a high ratio of crew to passengers and our friendly crew of 75 are mainly Filipino and Eastern European and our Captains are experienced mariners. After a day ashore you will return to the comfort and peace of a well-run and exceedingly comfortable ship where peace, high quality of service and attention to detail are the order of the day. A little music in the Lounge after dinner, Guest Speakers and informative port briefings and of course good food, all contribute to make any voyage aboard this wonderful vessel a memorable and joyful experience.

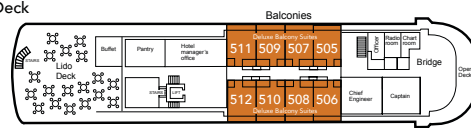
MS ISLAND SKY DECK PLAN



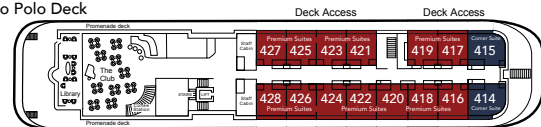
Explorer Deck



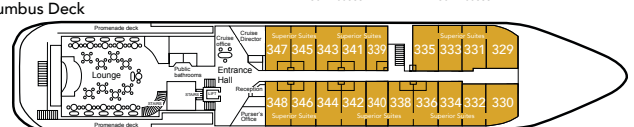
Erikson Deck



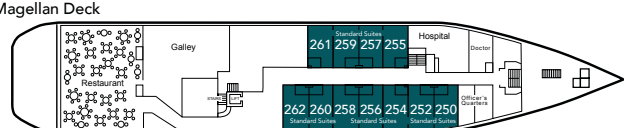
Marco Polo Deck



Columbus Deck



Magellan Deck



- Standard Suites
- Corner Suites with Deck Access
- Owner's Balcony Suites
- Superior Suites
- Deluxe Balcony Suites
- Island Suite
- Premium Suites with Deck Access



Mentawai archipelago



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All special offers are subject to availability. Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.
 Cover image: Orangutan, Gunung Leuser National Park.