

Island treasures of Indonesia and East Timor

From **23/12/2025**
to **07/01/2026**

Ship: ***Le Jacques Cartier***

From **Benoa, Bali**
to **Benoa, Bali**



PONANT invites you to set sail on a **16-day tropical expedition cruise** aboard *Le Jacques Cartier* discovering the stunning scenery of the **Indonesian archipelago** and **East Timor**. It is on these islands, scattered like a string of pearls at the far west of South-East Asia, that the fascinating transition from Asia to Oceania is most powerfully felt, through the peoples and landscapes encountered.

Timor, Flores, Sumbawa, Komodo, Banda Neira... Just mentioning these names is enough to conjure up images of spectacular blooms, wide emerald-coloured bays, island-volcanoes, villages peopled with inhabitants who have preserved their perennial traditions, and prehistoric animals. Not to mention hills covered in savannah, tropical forests, dazzling white sandy beaches and waves crashing down on the coral.

Your first port of call will be **Flores**, the flower island, followed by the **Alor Archipelago**, two destinations where the locals have successfully preserved their ancient, traditional way of life.

In the **Moluccas (Maluku Islands)**, dubbed the Spice Islands, you will explore the island of **Banda Neira**, which was shaped by Dutch and Portuguese influences.

Le Jacques Cartier will continue on to the Indonesian province of West Papua to give you the opportunity to admire the **Kiti-Kiti Waterfall**. Surrounded by lush vegetation, you will undoubtedly be tempted to swim or snorkel at the foot of this stunning natural site.

Then, you will sail to the heart of **Triton Bay**. Located within a protected marine environment in the middle of the Coral Triangle, you will enjoy an unforgettable zodiac cruise through the spectacular rainforest-capped karst islands.

You will reach a former Portuguese colony, and call at **Baucau**, between Portuguese atmosphere and beautiful sandy beaches. During your port of call in the Timorese capital, **Dili** will reveal to you the beauty of its intact landscapes, between tropical forest and immaculate sandy beaches, and also the riches of its historic and cultural heritage.

Le Jacques Cartier will then make its way towards mysterious **Komodo**, a small, wild island whose national park is listed as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. Among other things, it is home to the famous Komodo dragons, gigantic monitor lizards that can grow more than three metres long. Here you will be able to see them in their natural environment.

Your ship will set sail for **Badas** on the island of Sumbawa. You will be welcomed by the inhabitants of Pamulung village, where you will be able to witness a traditional ceremony.

Your cruise will conclude in **Bali** – ‘the island of the gods’ – with its captivating charm and grace.

The encounters with the wildlife described above illustrate possible experiences only and cannot be guaranteed.



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YOUR STOPOVERS :

BENOA, BALI

Embarkation 23/12/2025 from 16:00 to 17:00

Departure 23/12/2025 at 18:00

If it's a taste of exotic authenticity you're after, prepare to be spell-bound by the **island of Bali**, tucked away in the heart of the Indonesian **archipelago**. The beauty and diversity of its landscapes, the depth and richness of its cultural heritage and the plethora of activities on offer here make **Bali** a little slice of heaven on Earth. The island's southern coast enthralls with its white sand beaches, its picturesque little fishing villages such as **Benoa**, and its hills patchworked with terraced rice paddies further inland. Nicknamed 'the Island of Gods' for its sumptuous temples, Bali is the beating heart of Indonesian Hinduism.

AT SEA

Arrival 24/12/2025

Departure 24/12/2025

During your journey at sea, make the most of the many services and activities on board. Treat yourself to a moment of relaxation in the spa or stay in shape in the fitness centre. Depending on the season, let yourself be tempted by the swimming pool or a spot of sunbathing. This journey without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, depending on the activities offered, or to do some shopping in the boutique or to meet the PONANT photographers in their dedicated space. As for lovers of the open sea, they will be able to visit the ship's upper deck to admire the spectacle of the waves and perhaps be lucky enough to observe marine species. A truly enchanted interlude, combining comfort, rest and entertainment.

MAUMERE, FLORES

Arrival 25/12/2025

Departure 25/12/2025

Floresians have an **ancient culture** stretching back millennia before the first arrival of Europeans in search of trade opportunities. Their history is shared through oral traditions and is recreated in song and dance. The mountainous terrain of Flores has preserved the diversity of cultures and **Maumere** serves as the capital of the Sikka district and main trading port. Few tourists make it to Maumere with most stopping at Labuan Bajo and heading west to the islands of Komodo. Consequently, Maumere has kept its **charming atmosphere**, an eclectic mix of a bustling trading town and a coastal paradise. Join your expedition team and local guides for a tour by local transport to the markets and tribal villages in the hinterland of Maumere.

KALABAH, ALOR

Arrival 26/12/2025

Departure 26/12/2025

The unique culture of the Alorese continues among the Takpala indigenous group who have preserved their traditional architecture and ceremonies. The island of Alor is also known as the island of a Thousand Moko's. The **Moko** is a small bronze kettledrum which is believed to have originated from the Dong Son culture of Vietnam. However, it remains a mystery as to how these prehistoric Dong Son drums arrived in Alor. Local legend says that the Moko's were discovered buried in the ground, and indeed mokos are still being uncovered today. Join the expedition team and local guides for a tour by local transport to Takpala village, **the Museum of a Thousand Mokos** and the thriving main market of Kalabahi.

AT SEA

Arrival 27/12/2025

Departure 27/12/2025

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BANDA NEIRA, MALUKU ISLANDS

Arrival 28/12/2025

Departure 28/12/2025

From age-old traditional cultures and ancient vestiges, to coral reefs and lush green jungle... The attractions of the **remote Banda archipelago** seem endless. Better known as the legendary "**Spice Islands**" of the Ancient World, these small volcanic landmasses were the fabled prize of colonial powers for more than four centuries. Every colonial power of significance fought for control of these ten small islands that today have become largely forgotten. Walking the streets of **Banda Neira** is a surreal experience as your eyes are drawn to the eclectic **mix of Portuguese, Dutch and British architecture**, the remnants of a rich and tumultuous history. It is without doubt the most historically significant and interesting of all the "Spice Islands".

KITIKITI WATERFALL, MOMMON

Arrival 29/12/2025

Departure 29/12/2025

North of **Triton Bay**, in the Indonesian province of West Papua, lie the **Bomberai Peninsula** and **Sebakor Bay**. A real paradise for divers, this protected, authentic and very wild area boasts an exceptional biodiversity. Here, you will be able to admire the superb **Kitikiti Waterfall** where you could enjoy a swim or snorkel surrounded by lush nature, both

on land and under water.

TRITON BAY, WEST PAPUA

Arrival 30/12/2025

Departure 30/12/2025

Triton Bay is one of three regions in Indonesia's West Papua province that comprise the Bird's Head Seascape (the other two are Raja Ampat and Cenderawasih Bay), which is now considered by marine biologists to be the **epicentre of the Coral Triangle**. It contains more fish and coral species than anywhere else on the planet. Its unparalleled marine biodiversity and endemism, habitat richness, and relatively intact nature of its ecosystems are unique. Join your expedition team for a zodiac voyage through the spectacular rainforest capped karst islands. Later in the day enjoy the opportunity to explore the richness of the underwater realm.

KEI ISLANDS, MALUKU ISLANDS

Arrival 31/12/2025

Departure 31/12/2025

The Kei Islands are blessed with kilometres of stunning, yet almost entirely empty, **white-sand beaches** and a deeply hospitable population. Beneath the mostly Christian facade, Kei culture is fascinatingly distinctive. Local history holds that ancestors of contemporary Kei islanders came from Bali, part of the expanding Hindu Majapahit kingdom from the western archipelago. Enjoy a day of **swimming and snorkelling** on an idyllic uninhabited picture **postcard tropical island**.

AT SEA

Arrival 01/01/2026

Departure 01/01/2026

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BAUCAU

Arrival 02/01/2026

Departure 02/01/2026

Located on the north coast of East Timor, not far from the Wetar Strait, the city of Baucau **inspires wanderlust**. The country's second-largest city, where the vestiges of a Portuguese colonial past spanning nearly four centuries can still

be found, is a small corner of paradise known among diving enthusiasts. And with good reason: this earthly paradise, nestling between lush green hills and long white-sand beaches lining a turquoise sea, is particularly renowned for its Coral Triangle. The latter is home to **multiple protected marine species, some fifteen endemic corals, and 76% of the world's coral reefs.**

DILI

Arrival 03/01/2026

Departure 03/01/2026

Located on the northern coast of the island of Timor, along the narrow plains between the central mountains and the Ombai Strait, the seaside resort of **Dili** is the capital of East Timor, a former Portuguese colony that has been independent since May 2002. The uniqueness of this territory, still preserved from the tourist routes, is unveiled thanks to the beauty of its intact landscapes, with dense tropical forest covering undulating hills, coral reef and immaculate sandy beaches. You will be enchanted by this small and peaceful town with a distinctive Portuguese atmosphere, and will discover the riches of its historic and cultural heritage during your visit.

AT SEA

Arrival 04/01/2026

Departure 04/01/2026

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KOMODO NATIONAL PARK

Arrival 05/01/2026

Departure 05/01/2026

Between the islands of Sumbawa and Florès, **Komodo National Park** welcomes you to discover its natural wonders. At the very heart of the Indonesian archipelago, the three islands that form it – Komodo, Rinca and Padar - owe their renown to the **famous eponymous dragons**, enormous lizards over two metres long, which live in its grassy savannah. This jagged and hilly volcanic territory belonging to the Sunda Islands is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** because of its incredible terrestrial and marine biodiversity. Admire its palette of colours, intermingling the sparkling whites of the beaches, the deep blues of the coral-filled water and the soft greens of its pastures.

BADAS, SUMBAWA

Arrival 06/01/2026

Departure 06/01/2026

The port of Badas is part of the greater township of Sumbawa Besar, on the island of Sumbawa. Like most of Sumbawa the people hold their culture strong as a major part of their identity. The island has a strong influence from the Makassarese of Sulawesi, who over the centuries have introduced a lot of their culture into Sumbawa. Join your expedition team and local guides for a tour by bus to Pamulung Village where you will be welcomed by the head of the village and have the opportunity to witness first-hand the local traditions of rice pounding, weaving and also witness a wedding procession. Your visit will conclude with an exciting Sumbawa buffalo race, an event that will be held in honour of our visit.

BENOA, BALI

Arrival 07/01/2026 early morning

Disembarkation 07/01/2026 at 07:00

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