

## BALI E DINTORNI 2

Bali – Lombok – Sumbawa – Komodo – Flores – ( Bali )

### Day 1

Leaving in the morning, We transfer you from Sanur in the south of Bali to the anchorage of 'Katharina' off the village of Amed, in the north-east Bali, a pleasant and beautiful drive of about 2 hours. After we board the vessel and settle in, the captain gives the orders for the anchor to be lifted and we cross the Lombok Strait. This stretch of water between Bali and Lombok marks a very important ecological boundary, first described by Sir Alfred Russel Wallace, the British naturalist. He noticed that the flora and fauna of the islands to the west are home to Asiatic animal and plant species, whereas the islands to the east of that "line" have a greater similarity to species found in Australia. In the afternoon we make a first stop at one of the gili islands, just off the Lombok coast, for a couple of hours of swimming, snorkeling, and beachcombing.

### Day 2

Docked in Lombok, after breakfast we will board a local coach for a tour into the interior of east Lombok, untouched by the crowds. We will visit local traditional villages, and experience the culture of the Sasak people that are indigenous to the island. After re-embarkation if time allows we explore one of the local reefs close to the area.

### Day 3

We first go ashore at Pulau Bungin, a small settlement of 'sea-gypsies' (bajao) on the coast of Sumbawa. We stroll through narrow streets lined up by houses on stilts that are underwater at spring tides. Here we witness a first performance of traditional music and dance. Afterwards we continue to Pulau Moyo. At the Southern point of Moyo we spend a few hours relaxing, swimming and snorkeling.

### Day 4

Today we'll set foot on the island of Satonda with its stunning crater-lake and beautiful coral gardens along the coast line. Located just a couple of miles off the north-west coast of Sumbawa, Satonda is what remained of an extinct volcano of which the caldera was filled with water when nearby Mount Tambora erupted in 1815. This was the biggest volcanic eruption in the collective memory of mankind, much larger than Krakatoa. With an estimated volume of 160 cubic kilometers of rocks and ash ejected from the volcano the following year became known as the "year without a summer" because of the effect on North American and European weather. A highlight of our visit to Satonda is the sight of thousands of flying foxes that commute at dusk from the island to feed on the mainland, returning before first light the next day. Immediately after sunset, Katharina leaves for an overnight passage on a course due east.

### Day 5

Today we visit Wera on the east coast of the island of Sumbawa. Wera is a Buginese settlement famous for its boatbuilding. Here we will see all kinds of craft in various stages of construction, much the way the Katharina was built in 1998. During lunch we proceed to Gili Banta, an island uninhabited and a perfect place for some excellent swimming and snorkeling. During the night Katharina sails to Komodo Island.

### Day 6

We wake up with the boat at anchor off Komodo Island, one of 80 odd islands of Komodo National Park. We will go ashore at the ranger station in Loh Liang for an early morning ranger led trek through the Park searching for the Komodo Lizards.

In the setting of a dry and rugged landscape we will encounter, at a distance, these intimidating creatures that today comes close to anything existing from prehistoric times. After re-embarking we will sail to a beach, called 'red-beach' because of the particles of red coral mingled with the sand. Here we will swim and snorkel over one of the 'richest' reefs in Eastern Indonesia. We will be stunned by the incredible variety of coral and fish on display underneath our arms and legs.

### Day 7

Today we wake up in front of the island of Gili Lawa this is the northern most island in the Park. Here we can snorkel or hike to the summit of one of the islands hills to enjoy a look over the eighty islands of the Komodo Archipelago and the mainland of Flores. In the course of the afternoon we sail past Makassar reef to Rinca, In Rinca island the ranger will show us the dens and nests of the dragons and we learn a lot more about this mysterious creature. Apart from Komodo dragons, we may spot monkeys, wild buffaloes and deer. From the top of the hills, the scenery is spectacular.

### Day 8

This morning we will visit the island of Mesa to meet a settlement of the Bajau people. These 'Sea Gypsies' live in houses on stilts over the water. Originally from Sulawesi and formerly fully nomadic, living on their boats, nowadays the Bajau often occupy more permanent settlements. After a stroll through the village we will sail onwards to the island of Sabalon where in the evening our crew will prepare an evening beach barbecue under the breathtaking expanse of a star-studded night sky. Late in the evening we will sail to the bay of Labuhan Bajo.

### Day 9

After breakfast, we arrive at Labuan Bajo and making arrangements for luggage for the flight back to Bali, the group will travel by bus into the interior of west Flores, taking a winding road uphill to the village of Melo. Here local 'strongmen' will perform the whip-dance, typical for the region. After the performance we will transfer you to the airport for the flight back to Bali.

