The Spice Islands
and Beyond

UNDERWATER EDENS
OF EASTERN INDONESIA

September 29 to
October 15, 2014

a program of the stanford alumni association
Few places on earth are as ecologically and culturally diverse as Indonesia’s Spice Islands and the Raja Ampat Islands. With dramatic landscapes, lush rain forests, a profusion of land and marine flora and fauna, friendly islanders and incomparable coral reefs for underwater exploring, this little-traveled region offers an experience unequalled anywhere. There’s no better way to explore all of the riches of these remote islands than by small expedition ship, and our ship, the Oceanic Discoverer, more than fits the bill. As we ply the waters of the Banda and Ceram seas and New Guinea’s Cenderawasih Bay, soak up this wondrous amalgam of sea, sand, coral reefs, volcanoes and colorful cultures from the comfort of our state-of-the-art ship. Join us on this unforgettable adventure!

BRETT S. THOMPSON, ’83, DIRECTOR, STANFORD TRAVEL/STUDY

Highlights

SNORKEL or dive in the waters between Pulau Kur and Pulau Kaimer, known for having the best beaches in the Indonesian archipelago.

BE AWED by the sight of Wayag Island with its hundreds of gumdrop-shaped islets popping up out of turquoise-hued lagoons.

EXPLORE World War II wrecks while snorkeling or diving in the renowned crystal-clear waters off the Amsterdam Islands.

SEARCH in the island forests for the elusive Red Bird of Paradise, one of the world’s most colorful, whimsically plumed birds.
Itinerary

MONDAY TO WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29 TO OCTOBER 1
U.S./DARWIN, AUSTRALIA
Depart the U.S. on Monday and cross the international date line en route to Australia. Arrive in Darwin on Wednesday and transfer to our hotel before joining fellow travelers for a festive welcome reception and dinner. CROWNE PLAZA DARWIN (D)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2
DARWIN / EMBARK OCEANIC DISCOVERER
This morning tour the fascinating Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory and enjoy views above the harbor before transferring to Darwin’s Fort Hill Wharf for the start of our great adventure. After boarding Oceanic Discoverer, take some time to settle in and explore the ship before joining our traveling companions for sunset drinks. OCEANIC DISCOVERER (B,L,D)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3
AT SEA
Spend the day at leisure enjoying the ship’s amenities as we cross the Timor Sea. Join our expedition staff in the ship’s lounge for informative presentations in preparation for our first landing in the rarely visited Tanimbar Islands. This evening, join fellow travelers, the captain and his crew at the captain’s reception. OCEANIC DISCOVERER (B,L,D)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4
TANIMBAR ISLANDS, INDONESIA
Rise and shine as we approach Saumlaki on Yamdena Island, the main town in the Tanimbar Islands and our first Indonesian landfall. The islands are surrounded by pristine white sand beaches fringed with palm trees. The villagers of the Tanimbars are master carvers and their magnificent ebony wood carvings are considered to be the finest in the entire Indonesian archipelago. View the community’s traditional ritual ceremony and hear tales of how headhunting was practiced here until well into the 20th century. OCEANIC DISCOVERER (B,L,D)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5
KAI ISLANDS
The island of Kai Tanimbar is considered to be the birthplace of Kai Island culture. Today we cruise and explore the many small islands and communities located between Pulau Kur and Pulau Kaimere, recognized as having the best beaches in the Indonesian archipelago. Here we have the opportunity to practice our snorkeling and diving skills. As we pass between the islands, keep an eye out for the ancient petroglyphs that adorn the towering cliffs. Painted in ochre, black and white, the cliff drawings depict historic sailing boats and intricately decorated locals wearing tall headdresses. OCEANIC DISCOVERER (B,L,D)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 6
BANDA AND THE SPICE ISLANDS
In the middle of the Banda Sea lies an enchanted fragment of history, nine tiny islands that were the center of the Spice Island trade. Originally the world’s sole source of nutmeg and mace, these islands have attracted traders beginning at least 2,000 years ago. In the 16th century, European explorers, in their search for these islands, ended up discovering entire continents. Join an early morning hike to the top of “Fire Mountain” for spectacular views above the island’s main town of Bandia Neira. Then, become immersed in the colors and aromas of the Spice Islands on a stroll down the wide, tree-lined streets of Bandia Neira and past the remnants of mansions constructed during Dutch colonialism. Visit the fascinating museum, the former VOC Governor’s Mansion, the old church and Fort Belgica. Our exploration of Bandia Neira concludes with a visit to the town’s nutmeg gardens, shaded by wild almond trees. OCEANIC DISCOVERER (B,L,D)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7
PULAU GORONG
Continuing north we stop at the pristine island of Pulau Gorong, where we spend the day exploring its enchanting saltwater lagoon, home to a myriad of native bird species. Choose from a range of in-water activities, including guided snorkeling, scuba diving and a glass-bottom-boat tour. OCEANIC DISCOVERER (B,L,D)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8
MISOOL ISLANDS
The Misool Islands, one of the famed “Four Kings” island groups of the Raja Ampat region, are a gem-studded bracelet of islands and a mecca for snorkelers and divers. The islands boast dramatic scenery, with towering limestone pinnacles jutting out of the water and white sand beaches adorned with palm trees. Travel ashore and explore the region on a nature walk with the expedition staff. Snorkel or dive in the waters surrounding the island, which are home to at least three species of the pygmy seahorse, no larger than a fingernail, and the most splendid soft coral jungles, with their vibrant shades of orange, red, purple and pink. OCEANIC DISCOVERER (B,L,D)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9
DAMPIER STRAITS, RAJA AMPAT ISLANDS
Awaken as we cruise the Dampier Straits, named in honor of famed explorer William Dampier. Traveling ashore at Pulau Gam, we’ll be joined by a local Papuan guide on a walk through the shady forests around Sawinggrai village. Our guide’s local knowledge will hopefully allow us to catch a glimpse of one of nature’s finest creations, the ethereal Red Bird of Paradise. This afternoon soak up the natural beauty of the Raja Ampat Islands. On Arborek
Island a profusion of plankton attracts giant manta rays and we have the opportunity to swim among these majestic creatures. Aboard the ship’s Xplorer we’ll travel ashore to nearby Kri Island, which offers perhaps the best snorkeling and diving in the archipelago, if not the world. OCEANIC DISCOVERER (B,L,D)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11
AMSTERDAM ISLANDS
Our expedition leader and guides join us on an excursion to the Amsterdam Islands today. The beaches on these beautiful islands are a favorite egg-laying spot of the world’s largest species of sea turtles, the leatherback, and it may be possible to witness the remarkable world’s largest species of sea turtles, leatherbacks nesting. Later we’ll visit the “Junkyard” to explore the World War II wrecks that litter the shallows, or scuba dive over the reefs to view or swim among the profusion of fish found here, including barracudas. OCEANIC DISCOVERER (B,L,D)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 13
CENDERAWASHI BAY
Today we enter the marine life haven of Cenderawasih Marine Park in search of the biggest fish in the sea, the beautiful whale shark. This region is one of the few places in the world where it’s possible to swim, snorkel and dive among these majestic animals. Cenderawasih Bay also supports over 200 species of tropical fish, along with 50 square miles of pristine coral reef, which we snorkel over and discover on glass-bottom-boat tours. In the evening, join fellow travelers, the captain and his crew at the captain’s farewell event to reflect back on what has been an incredible journey. OCEANIC DISCOVERER (B,L,D)

NOTE: This itinerary provides a look at some of the islands, atolls and lagoons along our route as well as the type of activities we offer. While every effort will be made to follow the itinerary, we may need to make allowances for weather, tidal conditions and other unforeseen events. Our journey is rich with opportunities to interact with native wildlife, however, we cannot promise the sighting of particular species during our visit.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14
BIAK / DISEMBARK
OCEANIC DISCOVERER / DARWIN, AUSTRALIA
This morning we arrive in Biak and bid farewell to our captain and his staff. En route to our chartered jet for the flight back to Darwin, tour Biak and learn of its fascinating history. Later, upon arriving back in Australia, transfer to our overnight accommodations. CROWNE PLAZA DARWIN (B,L,D)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15
DARWIN / U.S.
Transfer to the airport this morning for international flights back to the U.S. (B)

Optional Post-trip Extension to Sydney

TOOCTOBER 15 TO 18, 2014

Spend three nights in Sydney starting with a behind-the-scenes visit to the Taronga Zoo, where we receive an introduction to Australia’s unusual wildlife and the wilderness of the Australian bushland. Enjoy ample opportunities to photograph koalas, kangaroos and echidnas. Explore Sydney’s historic Rocks district, a 19th-century village that today sits in the shadow of the Harbour Bridge, before spending the evening at the opera. Take a tour of the Sydney Opera House and enjoy a pre-theater dinner at the famed Guillaume at Bennelong restaurant prior to being seated at the night’s performance.

Additional details and pricing will be sent to confirmed passengers.
Oceanic Discoverer

The recently built Oceanic Discoverer comprises 36 spacious, modern staterooms, offering a choice of twin or junior king beds. All staterooms have an ocean view, en suite facilities, settee, large wardrobe, desk, luggage storage and individual air-conditioning control. Spacious and finely appointed public areas include a reference library, lecture lounge, purser’s desk, dive shop, large sun deck, spa pool and two bars. The restaurant offers buffet-style breakfast and lunch service and a three-course table d’hôte dinner service. Menus are “modern Australian,” with the chefs seeking out the freshest of local ingredients to prepare truly memorable dining experiences; all guests are accommodated at a single seating. The state-of-the-art Oceanic Discoverer is equipped with the latest technology, active stabilizers, wifi access and the Xplorer, its specially designed aluminium expedition vessel used for the majority of our excursions.

Program Cost*

Rates per person, based on double or single occupancy, as noted

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>DOUBLE</th>
<th>SINGLE**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bridge Deck, 195 sq. ft.</td>
<td>$14,895</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promenade Deck, 195 sq. ft.</td>
<td>$14,595</td>
<td>$19,595</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promenade Deck, 175 sq. ft.</td>
<td>$14,395</td>
<td>$18,895</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main Deck, 195 sq. ft.</td>
<td>$13,895</td>
<td>$18,095</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main Deck, 195 sq. ft.</td>
<td>$13,595</td>
<td>$17,795</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Association nonmembers add $200 per person.
**Single accommodations are limited at these rates.
DATES
September 29 to October 15, 2014 (17 days)

SIZE
Limited to 69 participants

INCLUDED
- 2 nights of deluxe hotel accommodations
- 12-night cruise aboard the Oceanic Discoverer
- 14 breakfasts, 12 lunches, and 14 dinners
- Welcome and farewell cocktail receptions
- Snorkeling experience is necessary and all participants should be
  able to swim in shallow waters. A prior snorkeling experience is
  not required.
- Educational program with lecture series and pre-departure materials, including recommended reading list, a selected book, map and travel information
- Services of our professional tour manager to assist you throughout the program

NOT INCLUDED
- International and U.S. domestic airfare
- Passport and visa fees
- Immunization costs
- Meals and beverages other than those specified as included
- Independent and private transfers
- Trip-cancellation/interruption and baggage insurance
- Excess-baggage charges
- Personal items such as internet access, telephone and fax calls, laundry and gratuities for nongroup services

AIR ARRANGEMENTS
- International and U.S. domestic airfare is not included in the program cost. Round-trip, economy-class airfare on Qantas Airways from San Francisco to and from Darwin, Australia, is approximately $2,200 as of April 2014 and is subject to change without notice. Information on recommended flight itineraries will be sent by our designated agent.
- Fuel Surcharge. Rates increase significantly, it may be necessary to institute a fuel surcharge.

WHAT TO EXPECT
- We consider this to be a mildly strenuous program. No prior snorkeling experience is necessary and all participants should be comfortable swimming unassisted in open water. Boarding our excursion vessel, the Xplorer, is safe and easy, you simply step aboard from the Main Deck and Oceanic Discoverer’s unique hydraulic platform will gently lower the excursion vessel into the water, ensuring that you don’t need to clamber aboard or get your feet wet. Ashore, you must be able to walk moderate distances, uaided, along beaches and sometimes over rough terrain, including steep and sandy trails. Participants must be physically fit, active and in good health. We welcome travelers 15 years of age and older on this program.

Deposit & Final Payment
A $1,000-per-person deposit is required to hold space for this program. An additional $200-per-person deposit is required to hold space for the optional post-trip extension. Complete and return the attached reservation form or sign up online. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure. As a condition of participation, all confirmed participants are required to sign a Release of Liability.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS
- Deposits and any payments are refundable, less a $500-per-person cancellation fee, until 120 days prior to departure. After that date, refunds can be made only if the program is sold out and your place(s) can be resold, in which case a $1,000-per-person cancellation fee will apply. We recommend trip-cancellation insurance; applications will be sent to you.

INFORMATION
- Stanford Travel/Study provides all travelers who are U.S. or Canadian citizens with minimal medical, accident and evacuation coverage under our group-travel insurance policy. Our group policy is intended to provide minimal levels of protection while you are traveling on this program. We strongly recommend that you subscribe to optional baggage and trip-cancellation insurance. A brochure offering such insurance will be mailed with your confirmation about one week before we receive your deposit. The product offered in this brochure includes special benefits if you postmark your insurance payment within a specified window: 15 days of the date listed on the confirmation letter for the Waiver of Pre-existing Conditions and coverage for Financial Insolvency: 21 days for the Cancel for Any Reason benefit.

ELIGIBILITY
- We encourage membership in the Alumni Association as the program cost for nonmembers is $200 more than the members’ price. Parents and their children under 21 may travel on one membership. For more information or to purchase a membership, visit alumni.stanford.edu/goto/membership or call (650) 725-0692.

California Seller of Travel Program Registration #2048 523-50

© COPYRIGHT 2013 STANFORD ALUMNI ASSOCIATION. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. PRINTED ON RECYCLED, FSC-CERTIFIED PAPER IN THE U.S.
Joel Simon, ’74, BS ’75, MS ’77, has two passions: photography and marine biology. His desire to investigate the content of Southern California tide pools at the age of 11 motivated him to build his own diving gear out of a one-liter soda bottle, surgical tubing and the gas valve off an old stove. Not long afterwards, he began taking his camera underwater. A seasoned travel operator, marine biologist, freelance photographer and writer with over 30 years of experience in leading group tours, he has designed and directed educational travel programs on all seven continents, and is a veteran of land-, ship-, train- and plane-based journeys in over 100 countries. Joel is the president of Sea for Yourself, a tour operator specializing in educational snorkeling programs. During his tenure as snorkeling editor for Skin Diver magazine, he published dozens of articles on snorkeling technique and destinations. His ongoing photographic work includes an extensive portfolio of Stanford University images. Joel has been a popular photography instructor with Stanford Continuing Studies since 2010.

Expedition Study Leader

Joining us aboard the Oceanic Discover to augment our lecture program is Dr. N’Deane Aaliyah Helajzen. She is currently a professor of anthropology at Melbourne University in Australia. Dr. Helajzen focuses her work on improving health conditions in remote communities and has spent significant time in the South Pacific, New Guinea and Indonesia conducting research. She received her bachelor of science and masters degrees in social health at Melbourne University and is involved in several professional organizations, for instance, the Australian Anthropology Association, the American Anthropological Association and the National Association for the Practice of Anthropology, to name just a few.

Reservation Form

The Spice Islands and Beyond

September 29 to October 15, 2014

I/We have read the Terms and Conditions for the program and agree to them.

Signature _________________________________________________________

If this is a reservation for one person, please indicate:

☐ I wish to have single accommodations.

OR ☐ I plan to share accommodations with __________________________

OR ☐ I’d like to know about possible roommates.

Category Preference:

1st choice: ____________________________
☐ Twin Beds ☐ Junior King

2nd choice: ____________________________
☐ Twin Beds ☐ Junior King

Here is my deposit of $________ ($1,000 per person) for ______ space(s), plus $________ ($200 per person) for the optional post-trip extension.

☐ Enclosed is my check (make payable to Stanford Alumni Association) OR

☐ Charge my deposit to my: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express

CARD # ___________ EXPIRES ___________

AUTHORIZED CARDHOLDER SIGNATURE ____________________ DATE ___________

Mail completed form to address on mail panel or fax to (650) 725-8675 or place your deposit online at alumni.stanford.edu/trip?spice2014. Please submit your reservation only once to avoid multiple charges to your account.
I was so pleased to find that there is such a great way for me to travel to more challenging destinations where I would not go on my own.”

PATRICIA LEICHER, ’70, STANFORD TRAVELER