



Coastline of Manado, Sulawesi Island

In the Footsteps of Wallace in the Malay Archipelago, Borneo, Singapore and Indonesia 20 Sept – 4 Oct 2026

4 nights Borneo – 1 night Singapore –
4 nights Sulawesi – 3 nights Ternate – 2 nights Bali



Level 4
ACTIVE





Gibbons in Bako Park

The snake-like Malay Archipelago is the world's largest collection of geologically active islands and is home to a diverse mix of cultures and extraordinary biodiversity. Located at the crossroads of global trade, Malaysia and Indonesia have long been a vital hub in the Southeast Asian spice route.

This tour follows in the footsteps of the remarkable naturalist, Alfred Russel Wallace, from Sarawak in Borneo to Singapore, across to northern Sulawesi, to the spice island of Ternate, before ending in Bali by the Wallace Line.

Alfred Russel Wallace was one of the greatest - and most fascinating - intellectuals of the nineteenth century. He developed the theory of evolution through natural selection in the Malay Archipelago, independently of Charles Darwin. He was known as the greatest living authority on this region, particularly of its zoogeography, and discovered what is now known as the

Wallace Line - a dividing line between Asian and Australasian animal species that extends between the islands of Bali and Lombok and between Borneo and Sulawesi. Wallace was passionately engaged in social issues and made significant contributions in areas ranging from land reform to astrobiology.

The tour is led by Jan Beccaloni, a world-renowned authority on Wallace. An expert naturalist, Jan is also highly knowledgeable about this region, with a number of unique personal contacts.

THE TOUR IS CLASSED AS:

Level 4 | Active



Longer and fuller days. Significant levels of walking, covering longer distances, requiring very good fitness and mobility.

Tour Leader

Jan Beccaloni has been an arachnid expert for more than twenty years. She is a museum curator specialising in spiders and their relatives and has been involved with exhibition development, marketing and publishing projects. She has participated in internal museum events such as night safaris and science shows, as well as giving external lectures to natural history societies, school events and radio programmes.

She is also Secretary of the Wallace Memorial Fund, the Meetings Secretary of the British Arachnological Society, and the author of the acclaimed book, "Arachnids".

Jan enjoys travelling and has conducted scientific fieldwork in the UK, Brunei, Madagascar and Costa Rica. She has also previously led a number of successful Wallace tours.



Jan with her spider collection

“Jan Beccaloni was a delight, knowledgeable, funny, friendly, modest about her considerable achievements and an interesting lecturer.”

Valerie and Michael Knight (*Ecuador and Galapagos, May 19*)



Sarawak River from above

4 nights Borneo – 1 night Singapore – 4 nights Sulawesi – 3 nights Ternate – 2 nights Bali



Day 1: Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia **D** (Sun, 20 Sept)

Pm Arrive in Kuching, a bustling city set on the Sarawak River. Check into the Raneer Hotel and at leisure.

Day 2: Kuching (Mon, 21 Sept) **B D**

Am Alfred Russel Wallace came to Sarawak in 1855 at the invitation of the 'White Rajah' Brooke. A collector for museums of the day, Wallace travelled extensively around Sarawak. Visit the Sarawak Museum to learn about the peoples of Borneo and gain insight to Wallace's contemporary experience of the city.

Pm Visit Fort Margherita, built by Charles Brooke, the second Rajah of Sarawak. Experience the onsite Brooke Gallery, which tells the fascinating history of Sarawak and its White Rajahs.

Eve Overview of the tour and hear a talk on Wallace before a welcome dinner at the Kuching Old Courthouse.

Day 3: Kuching (Tues, 22 Sept) **B L D**

Am Drive to Bako for a boat journey into the beautiful Bako National Park. Encompassing seven distinct ecosystems,

it is one of the best locations in Sarawak to experience biodiversity. Look out for longtailed macaques, water monitors, wild boar, gibbons, and the proboscis monkey.

Pm In the late afternoon visit Siniwan, where you will enjoy an al fresco dinner. In Wallace's day, this town provided a stop for the boats plying their trade from Kuching to Busu. The old shops hark back to the days when the town was a trading centre and a major gold producing area.

Day 4: Kuching (Wed, 23 Sept) **B L D**

Am Visit Semenggoh Wildlife Centre, dedicated to the rehabilitation and reintroduction of formerly captive orangutans into the wild. Visitors have the rare opportunity to observe these remarkable primates up close within their natural habitat. In Wallace's day there was a huge demand for these fascinating creatures.

Pm Continue to the longhouse village of Annah Rais for a local lunch. This community was visited by Wallace during one of his collecting forays. As with us, Annah Rais provided a Wallace with a relaxing stop in the journey across the

Sadong River and a chance to experience Bidayuh hospitality. Return to Kuching.
Eve Dinner at the Junk Restaurant.

Day 5: Kuching / Singapore (Thurs, 24 Sept)

B D

Am Fly from Kuching to Singapore.
Pm Arrive and explore the cultures of Singapore from little India to Kampong Glam and the Malay quarter. Continue to Arab Street and onto China Town and transfer to the Mondrian Duxton Hotel.
Eve Enjoy a local dinner in the area.

Day 6: Singapore / Manado, Indonesia (Fri, 25 Sept)

B D

Am Fly to Manado in northern Sulawesi.
Pm Arrive early afternoon and check in to your hotel.

Day 7: Manado (Sat, 26 Sept)

B L D

Am Travel into the Minahasa Highlands, a cool retreat away from the coast, visited by Wallace in 1859. Tour the cemetery and see its ancient monuments and pottery.
Pm Lunch by the lake overlooking the water. The rest of the day is at leisure.

Day 8: Manado (Sun, 27 Sept)

B L D

Am Explore Tangkoko National Park, where you'll have the chance to encounter Sulawesi's endemic black crested macaques, vibrant hornbills and colourful kingfishers. At dusk keep an eye out for the tiny nocturnal tarsier—small enough to fit in the palm of your hand.
Pm Enjoy a packed lunch on the beach. Return to the hotel.

Sunset on Kuching River





Cleaner Shrimp (Top); Spot the tiny tarsier in Manado

Day 9: Manado (Mon, 28 Sept)

B L D

- Am** Take a boat trip out to the nearby islands, where you can relax on pristine beaches or snorkel in Bunaken National Marine Park. Located at the heart of the Coral Triangle, it is one of the world's premier destinations for reef diving and snorkeling.
- Pm** Enjoy lunch with ocean views at the Sea Garden.

Day 10: Manado (Tues, 29 Sept)

B L D

- Am** Fly to the dramatic cone shaped island of Ternate next morning. Ternate was the most important of the "Spice Islands" of Maluku, once the world's single major producer of cloves. From here, Wallace posted his famous "Ternate Essay", his pioneering account of evolution by natural selection, to Charles Darwin in 1858. Darwin had it published alongside his own account of the theory, without Wallace's knowledge.
- Pm** Spend the afternoon exploring the island and its history, including historic Fort Oranje, where you will learn about the history of the Dutch in the Moluccas, and the probable site of Wallace's house.

Day 11: Ternate / Tidore / Ternate (Wed, 30 Sept)

B L D

- Am** Travel by boat to the neighbouring island of Tidore. See sago cakes being created and visit a spice plantation, a weaving workshop and the Portuguese Fortress. See the Sultan's palace and the blacksmith and explore the colourful market. Enjoy lunch at a restaurant on the coast before returning by boat to Ternate.

Day 12: Ternate / Halmahera / Ternate (Thurs, 1 Oct)

B L D

- Am** Take a boat across to Halmahera and drive to Dodinga village to visit the older part of the village, where Wallace lived. Visit the old fort and enjoy coconut milk from coconuts cut fresh from the tree.
- Pm** Return by speedboat to Ternate.

Day 13: Ternate / Bali (Fri, 2 Oct) B D

- Am** Fly to Makassar in southwest Sulawesi, which Wallace visited in 1856 and 1857. Here he collected tiger beetles and wrote to Darwin for the first time.
- Pm** Fly to Bali and transfer to the beachfront Hotel in Sanur. At leisure to enjoy the hotel facilities.

Day 14: Bali (Sat, 3 Oct) B D

- Am** Drive out to view the Wallace Line, which runs between Bali and Lombok and between Borneo and Sulawesi.
- Pm** Return to Sanur and at leisure.
- Eve** Farewell dinner.

Day 15: Bali (Sun, 4 Oct) B

- Am/Pm** Depart for the airport or extend.

All itineraries are subject to change according to local conditions.

View the Wallace Line from Bali





Halmahera

Hotels

Ranee Hotel (Kuching, Sarawak)

Overlooking the Sarawak River, this elegant, centrally located hotel in two converted 19th-century shop houses has a period feel. There is the option of booking one of four exclusive suites at the Ranee (Margaret, Sylvia, Valerie and Elizabeth), with private terraces. Please contact us if you would like to upgrade to a suite.

Mondrian Singapore Duxton (Singapore)

Mondrian Singapore Duxton is a luxury design-forward hotel. Rooms are well appointed, blending contemporary style and Singaporean heritage. There is a rooftop pool with skyline views and a stylish bar, a gym and a range of dining options.

Cocotinos Manado (Manado, Sulawesi)

This attractive boutique dive resort is located within Wori Bay, overlooking Bunaken National Marine Park, located on a volcanic beach with magnificent volcano views. There is the option of upgrading to a Water's Edge room or a two-room Ocean View suite. Please contact us for details.

Villa Ma'Rasai (Ternate)

Located in the rainforest with stunning sea and volcano views, the intimate Villa Ma'Rasai is surrounded by clove and muscat trees and has a swimming pool. Rooms have a private balcony with seating area and its restaurant serves fresh seafood and local dishes.

Segara Village Hotel (Sanur, Bali)

Segara Village Hotel is a charming beachfront resort set within tropical gardens, offering a blend of traditional Balinese ambience with modern comforts. It offers three swimming pools, a range of dining options and spacious, bright and air-conditioned rooms.

“Fascinating places and interesting guides”

Linda Salmon (*Wallace tour, 2022*)



Green Turtle at Bunaken taken by tour leader Jan Beccaloni (top); Orangutans in Semenggoh Wildlife Centre; The Spice Islands of Ternate and Tidore (above)

The cost of the tour sharing is US \$5,772 per person

The cost of the tour with a room to yourself is US \$6,816

The cost does not include international flights or transfers on arrival and departure. Those taking the ground only package should start the tour in Kuching and end in Bali.

The cost includes:

- 14 nights' accommodation in 4-star and boutique hotels, lodges and in more remote areas the best accommodation available
- The services of tour leader, Jan Beccaloni
- The services of local English-speaking national guides throughout
- Comprehensive briefing notes
- A full programme of tours and specialist visits as per the itinerary
- Breakfasts daily and other meals as indicated on itinerary
- All transport, including flights from Kuching to Singapore, Singapore to Manado, Manado to Ternate, Ternate to Bali (via Makassar).
- All admission fees, tips and taxes

The cost excludes:

- International flights and transfers on arrival and departure
- Meals not mentioned
- Drinks with meals
- All optional excursions, tours and visits; all personal extras such as portage, laundry and inoculation fees; travel insurance and visas

Room preferences are subject to availability.

NB: Due to the nature of the tour, places are strictly limited.

About Us

To travel with us is to dig below the surface, revealing the deeper destination. Of course, you will visit the great historical sites; marvel at the wonders of architecture and engineering; be moved by the riches of culture and art; and experience the most spectacular landscapes in the world. What we also do is make sure that you see the country as it is today, giving you privileged access that independent travel and other tour companies rarely get close to. We give you a variety of experiences, from the sublime to the humble, in the company of intelligent, curious, like-minded people. And while we can be worthy, we also make sure that you have a lot of fun.

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Head-hunters of Annah Rais (top); Proboscis Monkey in Bako National Park, Sarawak; The lush terraces of Bali (above)



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TOURS**

