

Ombak Putih - Factsheet

This fact sheet briefly introduces our Sight Sailing cruises and Adventure Cruises with our traditional Buginese schooner, the Ombak Putih.

Welcome aboard

We invite you to set sail to one of the most stunning areas in the world: the Indonesian Islands. For centuries 'pinisis' have sailed the Indonesian waters and beyond. These schooners originate from South Sulawesi, home of the Buginese who are known as skilled shipbuilders and seafarers. Nowadays a few real sailing pinisis are left. The "Ombak Putih", or "white wave", revives the days that the waters in and around Indonesia were ruled by the Buginese. Welcome aboard, to discover Indonesia's hidden treasures!

Ship

Whenever possible more than six hundred square meters of sails are raised, but we rely on an engine to safeguard our schedule. We will sail you from island to island in traditional style blended with all modern comforts. The hull and deck house are completely made of wood. Below deck there are twelve spacious cabins, each with private bathroom and air-conditioning. The Ombak Putih is a forerunner in safety and environmental protection at sea. We combine tradition with modern technology and awareness of Indonesia's natural resources.

Ship specifications

Construction Kalimantan, Indonesia, 1996/7
Registry Indonesia
Length 36 meters (118 feet)
Beam 10 meters (33 feet)
Draft 3.5 meters (11.5 feet)
Decks 1 main deck, 1 sun deck, 1 cabin deck
Motor Detroit Diesel, 8 cylinder
Sails 2 masts, 7 sails, total 600 square meters
Max. speed 10-12 knots under sail
Crew 16 (Indonesians) plus one European cruise director
Capacity 12 cabins for 24 passengers
Safety inflatable life rafts, life buoys, life jackets (SOLAS)
Navigation radar, GPS, depth sounder
Speed boats 1

Accommodation

On deck, the spacious lounge overlooks the sea. You can decide to have your breakfast, lunch or dinner here or on the large table outside on deck. In the daytime you can relax in teak deck chairs, have some lazy hours under the canopy or on our sun deck. Below deck you can find privacy in a spacious cabin. Each of them offers touches of the old sailing days, bunk beds or double beds and antique styled furniture, all tastefully blended with modern comfortable facilities like individually controlled air-conditioning and an en suite bathroom with toilet and shower. The entire ship is yours to enjoy. Sing along with the crew in the rear of the ship or

contemplate the day above the waves at the bow. We have built the boat for you to experience Indonesia in a unique and safe way.

Destinations

Our itinerary focuses on the Eastern Islands of Indonesia. Avoiding the monsoon, the itinerary is divided into two main programs. From April until the end of October the Ombak Putih sails the waters of the Lesser Sundas (Bali, Lombok, Sumbawa and Komodo) during our Sight Sailing Cruises program and from November until end of January and March we sail along the more eastern coasts of Sumbawa, Komodo, Flores, Savu and Sumba during our Adventure Cruises program.

You can board for a 7 or 8 days cruise.

The Ombak Putih mostly sails in the afternoon or at night, so we leave you much time during the day to visit the islands, to enjoy the wealth of the various cultures and beautiful nature or to stay on board to relax.

We have been traveling these places for many years and we like to show you the very best on every island. Traveling by boat really gives you the opportunity to reach places "off the beaten track." From the feared Jurassic dragons and beautiful coral reefs at Komodo island to the rich traditional cultures and historical heritage of the Lesser Sunda Islands.

The Ombak Putih will take you there and show you the best.

Please note that due to unexpected weather and sea conditions, local authorities and government regulations, availability of safe anchorage and other factors beyond our control, itineraries might change.

Services

Indonesia is known all over the world for its food: our cook can compete with the best chefs. The ship's kitchen serves local and international specialties and we organize at least one barbecue at the beach during the cruise. All food is washed and cleaned with boiled water. Food, snacks and non-alcoholic beverages are included in the daily fare. Beer and Australian, Chilean or Balinese wine, several spirits and tropical cocktails are available at reasonable prices.

On board we have a laundry service. Two room boys take care of this service. We allow two pieces (complimentary) and other laundry needs can be paid on board according to the laundry price list.

We have snorkeling equipment on board for you to explore the fascinating underwater world. The speedboat can bring you to places where the Ombak Putih cannot go. Do you like fishing? Since our crew is seafaring people they can help you catch your evening meal. Our latest water sport activity service is two sea canoes. Try it out, it is real fun! Although we do not have diving equipment on board we can organize diving in Komodo National Park, via our sister ship, the dive liveaboard Ombak Biru. This is an optional service and has to be arranged in advance. Prices are on request.

Every trip is guided by an European tour leader. They live most of their time in Indonesia, speak the language and are very knowledgeable about the areas we visit.

They organize, in close cooperation with the office in Bali, the excursions and they are on the boat mainly to assist you and to answer any questions.

Daily radio contact with the office in Bali guarantees that both the guests and the crew are kept up to date with current events. Our office can also arrange domestic air tickets and can assist you in organizing your pre- and post cruise arrangements like accommodation, excursions or packages at most destinations. We also have a satellite phone on board.

Ombak Putih - Services

Spacious twin shared cabin with bunk beds or double bed

- Each cabin has a private bathroom with toilet and shower
- Washbasin and soap toiletries in your cabin
- Cabins has individually controlled air conditioning
- Towels and beach towels that are regularly cleaned
- Valuables and travel documents can be stored in our ship's safe
- Dining and relaxing in our spacious air conditioned lounge
- Teak wooden furniture in lounge, cabins and on deck
- Plenty of space for you on our sun and semi-covered decks
- Free tea and coffee making facilities, soft drinks and mineral water 24 hours a day
- Excellent food and snacks (vegetarian food on request)
- Excellent wine selection, cold beer and other alcoholic drinks for sale
- Fresh water on-deck shower after your return from the beach
- Our purser will pamper you with chilled towels and a welcome drink upon arrival
- You can sleep under the stars using our outdoor sleeping facilities
- Professional European cruise directors and guides
- You will be in the safe hands of our 16 well-qualified crew
- Large speedboat with 60 hp. outboard engine (max capacity of 10 pax)
- Unlimited use of our snorkeling equipment and sea canoes
- We can organize scuba diving in Komodo National Park (optional)
- Television, VCD and music centre in the lounge
- Land excursions on every day of your cruise
- Handouts with information about the islands you'll visit are provided
- Special honeymoon package
- Small "boatique" for T-shirts, sarongs, postcards and other souvenirs
- Small library for those who forgot to bring their book
- Complete first aid box, just in case
- And, some small surprises to take home with you.

Ombak Putih – Travel Information

Accommodation

On board the Ombak Putih there are 12 twin shared cabins with double beds and bunk beds. All cabins are air-conditioned and have a private shower and toilet attached. In case you would prefer to sleep on deck, blankets and mattresses are available.

Age and physical condition

The average age of our passengers lies between 30 and 65. There are no specific limits concerning age or physical condition. Please realize you'll be sailing on a (very comfortable) schooner and not on a big cruise ship, so being a good walker certainly is a 'pro'. The most important thing of all, however, is your mental flexibility. Weather, currents and tides sometimes force us to change the program. Your safety is our first priority. With your 'hotel room' constantly at hand, no packing and unpacking all the time, traveling at your own pace in a small group, these make up the ingredients of a very relaxing and adventurous trip.

Arrival on board

On arrival on board your travel guide will show you to your cabin. Shortly after departure there will be a 'safety drill'. During this drill you will be told where the life jackets and life rafts are situated and you will get further safety instructions. After this the 'house' regulations will be discussed. During your trip there will be a daily briefing in which your travel guide will give you information about the route, excursions, social, cultural, geographical and historical backgrounds etc. For cruises that start from and/or arrive in Bali transfers to and from the ship are NOT included.

Bar

We offer a wide variety of alcoholic beverages (imported/local wines and all sorts of other liqueurs and alcoholic drinks) for very reasonable prices.

Children onboard Ombak Putih

Ombak Putih has a great number of children onboard since its beginnings. Of all ages, from babies to toddlers and teenagers, Ombak Putih has seen them all and in large number. Our boat is practically "child safe". Our crew is quite used to handling children of all ages and will be of great help to you. The side railings are adapted at a higher level than on normal traditional buginese schooners. We advise you keep a close eye on toddlers in the lounge area especially where the stairs to the cabins can be steep. The boat was built by child safety conscious people and until now still has a clean bill of accident-free cruises. To keep things this way, we need the attention of parents. Although the crew is extremely helpful and supportive to parents and playful with children, we ask you to keep one thing in mind: Ombak Putih is still a boat. It is important for parents to remember to guard children at all times.

Climate and monsoon

Indonesia has a tropical climate with temperatures varying from 27° C to 32° C. The humidity is quite high: from 50% to 90% depending on the season. Indonesia has two monsoon periods and *Ombak Putih* has planned its trips according to these seasons. From May until the end of October we sail along the Lesser Sunda Islands, mostly a 7 days Bali-Komodo-Bali cruise; from November until the end of April we sail the more eastern islands (8 days Lombok-Komodo-Flores (and v.v.) and 8 days

Sumbawa-Savu-Sumbawa). In February we do not sail because the weather can be rather unfavourable and use this period for our annual docking. Spring cleaning time!

Conduct

Bear a few things in mind concerning social behavior in Indonesia. Most travelers experience great warmth and hospitality, but with it comes an open curiosity about personal matters. You should not be surprised by total strangers asking details of your job, income and family circumstances. Cleanliness and modesty are appreciated even in informal situations. Use your right hand for giving, taking, eating or shaking hands as the left is considered to be unclean. Don't pat a child on the head. In fact, never touch anybody's head. Most Indonesians see the head as the seat of the soul and therefore sacred. Nudity (or sunbathing topless) is not permitted on beaches and although there are some places where this ban is ignored, it often causes offence. Displays of intimacy are not considered suitable in public and will probably draw unwanted attention. Women should cover shoulders and legs in Islamic areas. However on board the Ombak Putih you can wear your bathing suit all time. Our crew is used to this.

Electricity

Voltage onboard is 220 volts. In your cabin there is a socket suitable for 2-way European plugs. The lounge also has sockets to charge you camera batteries.

Excursions

Excursions during your trip are inclusive. Your tour leader will offer various possibilities for day trips. Of course it's always up to you whether or not you join these trips.

Please note: Programs might change due to unexpected weather conditions, local authorities notifications and other causes which are beyond our control.

Please put in your day pack always: a bottle of water, a hat, a sun cream, mosquito repellent and some money if you want to buy a small souvenirs...

Fellow passengers

In general our passengers are a heterogeneous but well balanced group of people: couples, singles, men and women of various nationalities.

Guidebooks

You'll find good and up-to-date information about the areas to be visited by the Ombak Putih in:

- Periplus Travel Guides: Bali; East of Bali;
- Fodor's: Indonesia; Bali-Lombok
- Lonely Planet: Indonesia Travel Survival Kit.

On board we have a small library with all kind of books in several languages.

Hotels

Prior to the sailing trip our passengers usually stay in a hotel. Please let us know where we can reach you at least 3 days before departure. This enables us to give you last details concerning the cruise. In order to avoid misunderstandings concerning transfers we would also like to know about your plans after the sailing trip. We can help you find a good hotel or give you useful information about other (day) trips during your stay in Indonesia.

Hygiene

Onboard the *Ombak Putih* we only use boiled water for washing or preparing food. Therefore the risk of intestinal upsets is small. When ashore, please be careful of what you drink. We advise bottled drinks, tea or coffee. Never drink water from taps, also onboard.

Malaria

At sea there are no mosquitoes. Ashore, there will be. Protect yourself against mosquito bites when ashore. Cover up exposed skin at dusk or early evening, wear light colored long-sleeved clothes and mosquito repellent cream or gel.

Money

Indonesian currency is the Rupiah. Most traveler's checks in US dollars are accepted without difficulty at banks or money changers. Bring USD 100 ones because for USD 50-20-10-5-1 you get a lower rate. Euro-cheques are not accepted anywhere. Major credit cards are widely accepted in the main centers, though in smaller towns it is still rare to be able to pay by credit card. Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs) that accept foreign cards are widespread in the main centers and cities. The *Ombak Putih* will take you off the beaten track, so we advise you to bring cash (Rupiah) money along on board.

Phrase books

An Indonesian phrase book will come in quite handy. Not many Indonesians can speak basic English. We have a few onboard.

Seasickness

Some passengers are afraid that they could feel seasick on the boat. Of course the swell or the wind can sometimes be stronger than usual, possibly causing a mild form of seasickness. In that case, you can take a tablet available on the ship (ask your tour leader for Antimo). Once used to the movements of the ship, however, you probably won't get seasick at all.

Something that might help feel you better is to have a cup of fresh ginger tea. We also have homeopathic remedies for nausea, when available.

Shore visits

Some of your visits will require wet-landings when the speed boat brings you to shore. We try to find the easiest way out and our crew will assist you.

Single passengers

Single passengers are requested to share a cabin. Sex and age are used as criteria in this case. It is possible to book a single cabin with a surcharge.

Small cuts

The tiniest cut easily gets easily infected in a tropical climate. Whenever the skin is broken, clean it, treat it, and cover it. There is a well-equipped first-aid kit onboard.

Snorkeling

Snorkeling will be an almost daily highlight. The fascinating underwater world time and again offers an abundance of sights. Don't let this be spoiled by sunburn or small injuries. Always wear a T-shirt and plastic or rubber bathing shoes. Snorkeling equipment is readily available on board the *Ombak Putih*.

Sunburn and heat stroke

The burning power of the tropical sun is phenomenal, especially at high altitude. Always wear a hat or cap and use some form of (water-resistant) sun cream or lotion on untanned skin. Always wear a T-shirt when you go snorkeling. Glare from the sun can cause eye problems so wear sunglasses, especially on beaches. Avoid dehydration by drinking lots of non-alcoholic fluid. Put extra salt on your food.

The home front

Leave your holiday address with your friends or relatives. Just in case. You'll find our address at the end of the page. Your tour guide has daily radio communication with our Bali office.

Tipping

At the end of your trip your travel guide will ask you to tip the crew. Of course you are free to give what you consider suitable. We recommend a USD 25-35 tip per passenger. During your cruise you will visit villages where we support several small-scale community and environmental projects (renovation or/and improvement of village schools and other community facilities, preservation of cultural and natural heritage). We kindly ask you to donate to these projects for which more detailed information is available on board.

Travel insurance

We expect our passengers to have a personal travel insurance. A cancellation insurance is optional. Contact an insurance company or your travel agent.

Visas and documents

Two weeks before departure We or your travel agent will send you specific information concerning your trip

- a list of participants and tour guiding;
- possible changes of itinerary
- medical statement (confidential)

To avoid any unpleasantness on arrival, check your passport before leaving. Make sure it will be valid for at least 6 months after arrival. Also check at your local Indonesian embassy or consulate whether you need a visa. Please make 2 photocopies of the relevant pages of your passport on arrival and give these to your travel guide on board.

Changes in the Indonesian Tourist Visa Policy, as of February 1st 2004, should be carefully checked at the Indonesian Embassy of your country. Some nationalities are allowed to purchase the visa "on arrival" but several other nationalities must apply at home before departure.

What to take

The atmosphere on board the Ombak Putih is informal. Light cotton clothes are useful almost anywhere in Indonesia. When you are ashore, modest dress for both men and women is always advisable: loose-fitting non see-through clothes, covering the shoulders, and skirts, dresses or shorts (at least knee-length). It also a good idea to bring a pair of light and comfortable trekking shoes, sport shoes will do too. Long sleeves can be recommended for the evening as the wind can be chilly.

Checklist

- photocopies of essential documents;
- medical statement (confidential);
- light cotton clothes;
- long trousers and shorts or skirt;
- swim-suit;
- sweater or cardigan;
- bathing shoes (essential when you go snorkeling), casuals or sandals, walking shoes;
- high protection factor suntan lotion;
- insect repellent;
- torch, binoculars, camera, small backpack, umbrella (also against sunburn) or hat/cap, water bottle;
- your own first aid.

Your travel guide

Most of our travel guides are of Dutch nationality. They can speak both Indonesian and English (some speak French and German as well) and they live in Indonesia for most of the year. Their task is to act as an intermediary between our guests and the local population, the local guides, the authorities and the ship's crew. They are experienced and have a thorough knowledge of Indonesia. Sometimes we visit very remote areas, which involves quite a lot of improvisation on the part of your travel guide.

Finally we wish you very pleasant preparations for your trip and hope to welcome you on board the Ombak Putih!