



## Wallacea Newsletter N°2 October-

November-December 2014

---

All the staff members of Wallacea Dive Cruise are happy to present our second newsletter! You will find here our latest promotions on Atasita, the new destinations for Ambai and Calico Jack, updates on the new and improved cuisine on Ambai, and the latest projects that we are currently working on!

---

**PROMOTION: RAJA AMPAT ON ATASITA**

Come and cruise with us in Raja Ampat on this magnificent and luxurious “phinisi” in February and March 2015! 2 cruise schedules available.

This 40-meter long boat accommodates no more than 12 divers in 6 double cabins; all equipped with air-conditioning, Twin or Queen-Size beds, private bathroom and big windows with an amazing view of the sea.

On Atasita, you are guaranteed all the space you need for your comfort.

Nitrox available. Promotional rate for an 11-night cruise on February 13th-24th, 2015: **2790€.**

[Schedule,](#) [Rates](#) & [Itinerary](#)



---

## **AMBAI: END OF SEASON IN KOMODO**

**Ambai** has just happily ended her last cruise of the season in Komodo, with her friend the giant Mola-Mola. This year, our Komodo experience was exceptionally rich: at Castle Rock the profusion of marine life has never been more evident with chases of giant

trevallies and sharks and, on several occasions, also dolphins. At Manta Alley, the crowds of Mantas were entertaining throughout the whole season with their magical cosmic ballet



Batu Bolong, the famous rock lying in the middle of the strait that separates Tatawa and Komodo, is still and has always been an extraordinary dive site. Not to mention our prehistoric friends, the Komodo Dragons that are waiting for you. If you have never dived in Komodo, no need to think twice to put this destination on your to-do list. We will be cruising again in Komodo from July to October 2015 with Ambai for 8 to 11 nights, and with Calico Jack for 5 to 7 nights. [See cruise plans here...](#)



## NEW CRUISES AND DESTINATIONS IN 2015

**Alor & East Flores**

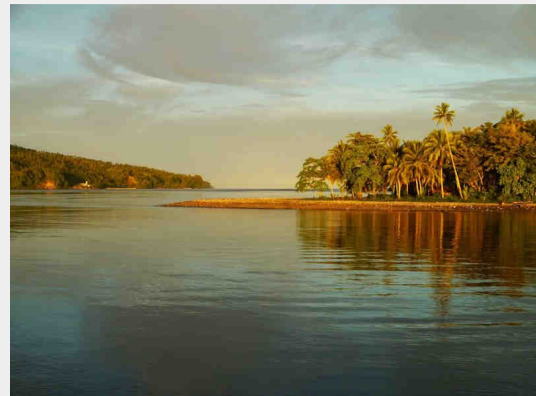
Enjoy our one unique 12-day cruise in the Alor Strait and East Flores in May 2015. Here you will find clear water packed with schools of fish of the Alor Strait and amazing macro diving. Explore a perfect combination of wonderful dive sites and magnificent sceneries!



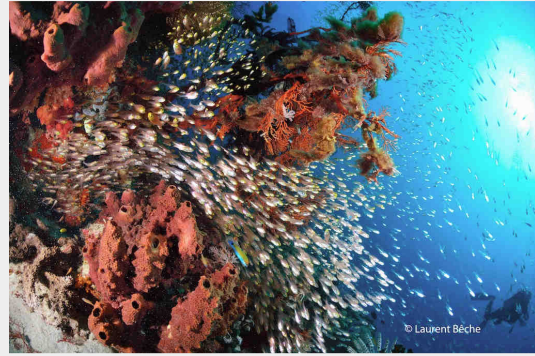
[Dates and details](#)

### **The Forgotten Islands**

Allow yourself the privilege of discovering new dive sites in the secluded part of East Indonesia—on Kai, Watubela and Tanimbar islands—with our selection of cruises on Ambai and Calico Jack in 2015. Our first trip to this region in May 2014 was undeniably amazing that we have no option but to offer you more of their wonders!



The staggering drop-offs, reefs lost in the sea, the pelagic zones, deserted islands: such a noble mix of sites, renowned for its beauty and the exploration opportunity around these majestic islands that we dearly call “The Forgotten Islands”.



For all our newsletter subscribers, get 5% off by mentioning the code “**baguette-fromage**”.

[Dates and details](#)

## AMBAI : THE NEW TASTE

Thierry Damilano, one of our favorite videographers who created Wallacea’s promotional video, is back on board to make new images for us on Ambai. Only this time, his purpose of visit is doubled. Apparently not satisfied with being *just* an excellent videographer, Thierry is also a remarkable culinary chef who has been running his own French gastronomy restaurant in Vancouver. He will be working his magic with Wallacea from October to December to enrich our cuisine and share some new recipes to our very own chef Anto, still in our signature Asian-European fusion style. On Ambai, even more than it is today, you will find that your pleasure doesn’t just disappear into the deep sea when you take your palms off, but will continue with your knives and forks!

## DID YOU KNOW?

### The Banggai Cardinalfish

That is the name of this small fish whose figure forms our logo. There is no doubt, some of you must have known about it, especially if you have had the chance to dive in the Lembeh strait or to visit the islands of Banggai with us.

It is indeed the Banggai Cardinalfish, *Pterapogon kauderni*, an endemic fish of the islands of Banggai in Central Sulawesi, exactly where we held our very first cruise! Extremely popular among aquarists, its population is now quite spread due to aquarium trade activities and their collection centers in North Sulawesi and Bali.

One of its unique features is that not only the Banggai Cardinalfish is a mouthbrooder with buccal incubation, it also performs a buccal hatching.



For about one month, the incubation, hatching and all larval stages of the fry take place in the mouth the male (who cannot feed themselves during this period of time). The juveniles are then released at the point where they are almost adults, except for their size. They will then immediately form a tight school around the first spines of sea urchins closest to them or the first tentacles of anemones that they encounter.



This reproductive strategy also explains how they manage to keep their population from spreading, since there is no planktonic larval stage in which stage many sea creatures venture to other areas. Putting aside the trading activities of the aquarists, it appears that this species will remain a local species of the Banggai islands.

Where does this little fish come from? Well, genetic researches have shown that its closest relative lives in Australia, on a tectonic plate from which a part broke millions of years ago and moved, forming the base of the Banggai islands. So this fish must have migrated along with one of the tectonic plates, the same ones that carried many terrestrial species so dear to our favorite naturalist, Alfred Russel Wallace!

---