

# Tribal Weavings of the Lesser Sunda Islands

The most exciting textile tour you are ever likely to find – the trip of a lifetime!

The remote ikat-weaving islands of eastern Indonesia have one of the most diverse textile cultures on the planet. Hand-woven cloth plays a pivotal role in the cohesion of all these societies, cementing clan alliances through complex gift exchanges, revealing tribal loyalties and underpinning the annual cycle of rituals. As some islanders emphasize: 'without cloth we cannot marry'.



Sadly the encroachment of the modern world means that the number of communities where women still continue to spin their own cotton, prepare their own natural dyes and weave on traditional back-tension looms is limited. Their numbers are dwindling and within a generation they could be gone.

Join British textile experts David and Sue Richardson for a fantastic, adventurous voyage on a traditionally designed Indonesian schooner. With a maximum of 22 passengers, our boat has all modern amenities with comfortable en-suite air-conditioned cabins, lots of shaded deck space, and an enclosed lounge and bar.

Our itinerary takes us along the coast of Flores and on to the islands of Lembata, Alor, Timor, Savu, and Sumba, returning via Rinca to visit the Komodo dragons. In village after village we will see every aspect of ikat production and natural dyeing and have the opportunity to purchase fabulous textiles directly from the women who made them. Our journey will take us through a dramatic volcanic landscape during which there will be time to write-up journals, relax, swim, snorkel, sunbathe, and beachcomb.



Our cruise begins at Maumere on the island of Flores on May 1, 2017 and ends at Labuan Bajo, also on Flores on May 12. Both places are connected to Bali by short direct flights. We will also lead a short land-based pre-cruise tour from April 29 to May 1.

For more information see our webpage: <http://www.asiantextilestudies.com/tour.html> For more background visit: <https://www.facebook.com/David.and.Sue.Richardson/287466518059>