

Frequently Asked Questions

National Ships Registration

A current National Registration Certificate is required to obtain an outgoing Australian Customs Clearance in Darwin and Visas for entry into Indonesia.

More Information

http://www.amsa.gov.au/Shipping_Registration/

[Fact Sheet](#)

Automatic Identification System

An AIS transmitter & receiver are required by law for all foreign vessels in Indonesian waters. You will need the MMSI number associated with the unit. [Application form for AIS](#)

Outward Clearance from Australia

1. Australian Border Force and AQIS Officers will attend the RACE Briefing at DBCYA to discuss procedures and answer any questions.
2. Australian Border Force and Immigration Outward Clearance is done at DBCYA the Friday before the race.
3. All skippers & crew departing Australian waters by sailing vessel on Saturday 04 August MUST attend on Friday morning at the same time, with their passports.

Crew arriving into Darwin later on the Friday must make their own arrangements with Border Force/Immigration services directly and advise the RACE organisers or they will not be permitted to depart as part of the RACE.

Returning to Australia

Australian Customs require that yachts arriving in Australia must give notice of arrival at least 4 days before arrival at their first port in Australia.

Australian Customs office in Darwin is located at 26 Lindsay Street

Phone +61 1300 363 163 or +61 1300 558 282

Website www.customs.gov.au

Duty Free Fuel

In the event the skipper wishes to claim GST free fuel the skipper must present to the ABF Office at 21 Lindsay St to collect a *Form 43* that will need to be given to Bailey's Marine at Fisherman's Wharf.

If the Master wishes to claim the fuel excise refund, the fuel may be purchased at any fuel outlet (including Cullen Bay) prior to departure. A fuel excise claim back form will be given to all skippers prior to departure at the Race Briefing.

Duty Free

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL at least 24hrs in Advance.

Bailey's Marine Fuels
Fisherman's Wharf
Frances Bay Drive
08 8941 3320
0418 843 639

Non Duty Free

24 Hr Self Service

Cullen Bay Marina
Cullen Bay Wharf
0419 421 363
VHF Channel 11

Duty Free Goods

They will deliver to vessel upon request.

JR Duty Free – Darwin Airport
Ph: 08 8927 0255
8:30am – 4:30pm Monday to Friday.

Passports

All foreigners must have 6 months validity on their passports from the date of arrival for entry into Indonesia. A scanned copy of each crew members passport will be required as part of the entry process.

Visas

Everyone entering Indonesia is required to have 6 months validity on their passports from the time of arrival. Crews that do not meet this requirement will not have their entry processed.

Visa Free Short Stays

- Valid up to 30 days
- See [Visa Free countries](#)

Visa on Arrival

Not available in Ambon seaport

60 Day Social & Cultural Visa

- Valid up to 60 days
- \$70AUD on submission

The RACE Committee will organise the necessary Sponsor Letter for skippers and crew to obtain their Visas in Darwin. **This arrangement has been made with the Darwin Consular ONLY.**

Sponsor Letter will only be forwarded once entry is complete.

Any crew applying individually, or at another Embassy or Consulate may be refused. The Race Committee cannot assist or take responsibility for any crew applying for their Visas elsewhere. Costs for Visas for Indonesia are NOT included in the Entry Fee.

Visa Extensions

For those with a 60 Day Visa you are required to apply for an extension 5 days prior to expiry. This can only be done at a Class 1 Port. You will be required to go through the entire process again and often also fingerprinting at the immigration office. You will MAY require a new Sponsors Letter from a local. The cost of this letter can vary greatly.

The extension is good for 30 days, although if you require another extension you will have to repeat the previous process and ensure you apply 5 days prior to expiry (after 25 days).

Crew meeting your yacht in Indonesia

If additional crewmembers plan to arrive by air into Indonesia and join your yacht crew while you are in Indonesia please include their passport scans with your entry.

If a crew member arrives by air spends time with you on your yacht then leaves the country again by air –they do not have to be on your crew list.

If you have crew who are planning to arrive by air to join your yacht while you are in Indonesia and exit the country on your yacht, they will purchase a one way ticket into Indonesia and not have an air ticket out of Indonesia - the skipper must give them a letter stating that they are joining the yacht in Indonesia together with a copy of your Sailing Permit.

While you can buy a one way ticket online into Indonesia the problem sometimes occurs when the passenger gets to the airport to check in and the airline may make you buy a ticket out of Indonesia as Indonesian Immigration Regulations state you must have an ongoing ticket.

It is best if they apply for a Visa on Arrival at their point of entry and not mention they are joining a yacht unless asked, and only then should they produce the letter together with a copy of your Sailing Permit.

Adding crew to your yacht to leave Indonesia

In this situation, leaving the country with a crewmember on a yacht is not a problem as long as their Visas are in order and you make an updated crew list for Immigration.

If you have crewmembers listed on your Crew List who are not on your yacht in Indonesia at all times this will not be a problem.

Arrival Documents

Make many copies of the following documents as they are required on arrival in Ambon by Indonesian Customs, Immigration and Port Clearances.

1. Sailing Clearance.
2. Passports of all those travelling on the boat including photocopies of the page with each Indonesian Visa.
3. Ship's Registration Papers
4. Crew List
5. Keep your Australian Customs outgoing port clearance papers from Darwin, a copy of it must be given to the Customs when you arrive in Indonesia.

DO NOT give away any original documents.

Indonesian CIQP process

You cannot go ashore until you have been cleared.

Officials boarding your yacht will include Customs, Immigration and Quarantine. Your yacht will be inspected and paperwork will be collected at this time. It is a good idea to safely stow duty free goods, attractive items and any valuables out of sight. Foreign yachts are a cause of great curiosity, so be patient.

Ship Stamp

Indonesia runs on paperwork and countless forms will need to be signed and stamped. It is best to have a ship's stamp made that can be used each time you sign an official document to give it that official Indonesian style. If you don't already have a stamp there are many shops in Indonesia where you can have one made at a low cost.

Yellow Brick Trackers

Each participating yacht will be issued with a YBT which will send a signal every ten (10) minutes showing the position of all yachts on the tracking page. There will be a link from our website: www.darwinambonrace.com.au

Emergencies in NT waters

If you have a phone on-board your vessel, in the Northern Territory you may contact the police/search and rescue on 000 or 08 8922 1586 (this will be instantly diverted to 000 and recognised as a marine incident).

VHF Frequencies

Darwin Harbour Control maintains a continuous listening watch on channels 16 (Distress, Safety and Calling) and 10 (primary port operations working channel) – 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Below are the VHF channels used within the Darwin Port.

VHF 6	Francis Bay Lock
VHF 8	Tipperary Waters Lock
VHF 9	Darwin LNG
VHF 10	Darwin Harbour working channels
VHF 11	Cullen Bay Lock
VHF 12 & 13	Tugs
VHF 14 & 69	Navy working channels
VHF 16	All vessels – international distress
VHF 17	Hudson Creek vessels ship to shore
VHF 19	INPEX LNG
VHF 67	All vessels – Darwin Harbour Control weather & notice to mariners
VHF 68	Bayview Lock
VHF 72	All vessels – Ship to ship customs & quarantine
VHF 73	Yachts
VHF 74	Darwin Marine Supply Base

Race Office

The Race Office in Ambon will be located on the foreshore near the mooring area between **0800 and 1600 daily**. As soon as you come ashore, please contact the office for any messages and latest information. **The Race Office will also be on VHF Channel 73.**

Moorings

Moorings will be available for early yachts. Use at your own discretion, yachts arriving later may be required to anchor. Use plenty of chain.

Water Taxi

Bookings can be made on VHF 73 or in person through the Ambon Race Office. In the past this has cost 10,000Rp pp.

Money

In Indonesia CASH IS KING, it is most important that you get some Indonesian Rupiah before you leave Darwin so that you have local currency as soon as you come ashore. There will also be a money changer located next to the Race Office in Ambon.

Australian and US dollars can be easily exchanged in Indonesia. Damaged or notes with writing on them will not be accepted by the banks or moneychangers.

Don't forget to advise your bank of your intended travel overseas, as some cards/accounts require prior notification of international use.

There is usually a money changer near the Race Office & an ATM at the hotel in Amahusu.

Transport

In Ambon (and all large towns) the most effective means of transport are the local Bemos. The Race Office in Ambon will be able to assist you with securing transport from Amahusu. If you are staying in Ambon city this should not be a problem to source.

Fuel

The Race Office can assist in this process in Ambon if required.

Water

Water is available in most ports from the town water supply but as with all water supplies in Indonesia, do not drink this water unless it is boiled or treated. Details on availability will be given at Race Briefing.

Phone

The GSM phone system is available across Indonesia and you can use your own mobile phone if you wish, it is a simple and cheap option to purchase a local SIM card from one of the many phone shops. This is the best way to keep in touch with the folks at home, other yachts & the Race Officer.

In Ambon there will be free SIM card for participants. These can be collected from the Race Office and will need to have credit added to activate.

Interpreters

The Ambon Race Office will have interpreters available should you require something more complicated to be arranged. There will also be interpreters present for clearance procedures.

Security

Firstly, don't leave temptation on deck. It is always best to practice neighbourhood watch. Saying that in the past 10yrs there have not been any instances of theft to the yachts in Ambon.

Ambon is the capital of the Maluku Province. The island has an area of 775 km² and is mountainous, well-watered, and fertile. There is a university & airport.

Ambon Island lies off the southwest coast of the much larger Seram island on the north side of the Banda Sea. Wild areas of Ambon Island are covered by tropical rainforest, part of the Seram rainforests ecoregion.

Medical Services

In Indonesia, medical supplies are very reasonably priced and are available at most "Apotik" (chemist) stores. Take care with general prescription drugs as they may not have been stored correctly or may not be what is stated on the label.

Vaccinations

Depending on where you will be travelling and how long you plan on being away this will vary. The Travellers Medical and Vaccination Centre located at 43 Cavenagh Street in Darwin on the first floor of the Cavenagh Centre and they specialise in tropical medicine and vaccinations. Usually there is a few days wait for an appointment. darwin@traveldoctor.com.au

Travel Insurance

Make sure you have it!! In 2019 there was a participant who suffered a near heart attack and was not covered and was quoted \$50,000 for the Care Flight back to Australia. It's your responsibility.

Bureaucracy

Each local authority will have their own interpretation and implementation of regulations. They each have their own area of responsibility and often manage it with complete disregard for anyone else.

Since 2004, foreign flagged yachts are officially only required to check with Port Officials at their Ports of Entry & Exit. There is no requirement for yachts to check in and out of each intermediate port as was required in the past. However, this process in some places has been replaced by an "Anchoring Fee" for which there can be a cost of around \$5-10 USD at each stopover and you may be asked to produce your yacht's paperwork again and again. While these fees have no legal basis, they are "customary".

How you can help

You are going to meet some very poor people in Indonesia who will offer you enormous hospitality. Before you leave Darwin, we suggest go to a second hand shop and buy a bag of children's clothes that you can give away when you get the opportunity, or exercise books, writing pads, pens, and pencils for school children, reading glasses & sun glasses. Be sure to take a range of appropriate 'give away' supplies with you.

