

DEPARTURES BEYOND

WINTER 2023





IN GOOD TIME

*A handcrafted ship brings Indonesia's panoramas
and the present moment into sharp focus.*

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There's a certain feeling you only get at sea. Your senses are whetted. Your equilibrium sways. The surrounding water constantly changes, its color and shape engaging in an otherworldly dance. Pay close attention; you can see time shift in a way that escapes us on land.

That's the state I found myself in one June day after three flights transported me nearly 9,000 miles from Los Angeles to Indonesia. Specifically, it was on Flores Island (a short hop from Bali), where I boarded the 148-foot *Celestia*, an Indonesian phinisi, becoming one of the first passengers to set sail on the bespoke, handcrafted ship. Over five days and four nights, the vessel transported us around Komodo National Park, a remote area of outsized beauty among the country's more than 17,000 islands.

On several mornings, we awoke in peaceful seclusion — enveloped only by the ocean's solitude — a feeling seemingly from a different era. This blending of past and present directly reflects the vision of siblings Jasmine Chong and Jason Tabalujan, the boat's owners, who commissioned Bugis shipbuilders to craft the vessel from ironwood and honey-tinged teak using UNESCO-recognized techniques unique to South Sulawesi. "Indonesia is so stunning, we wanted *Celestia* to complement it, not compete with it," Chong explained.

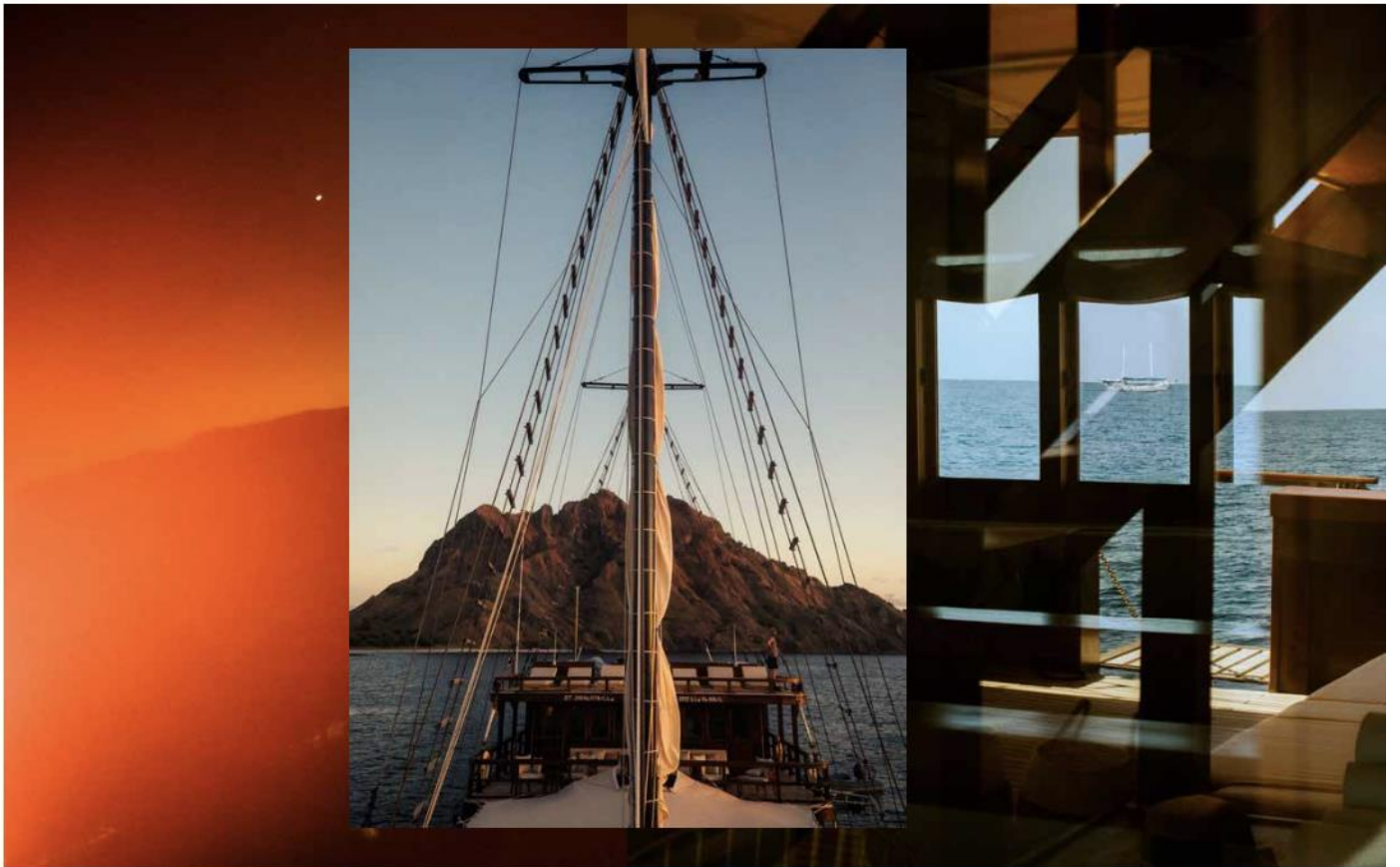
This philosophy was on display in the main stateroom, where I stayed and where panoramic sea-view windows resided alongside an evocative mix of locally sourced, highly curated materials that celebrate the

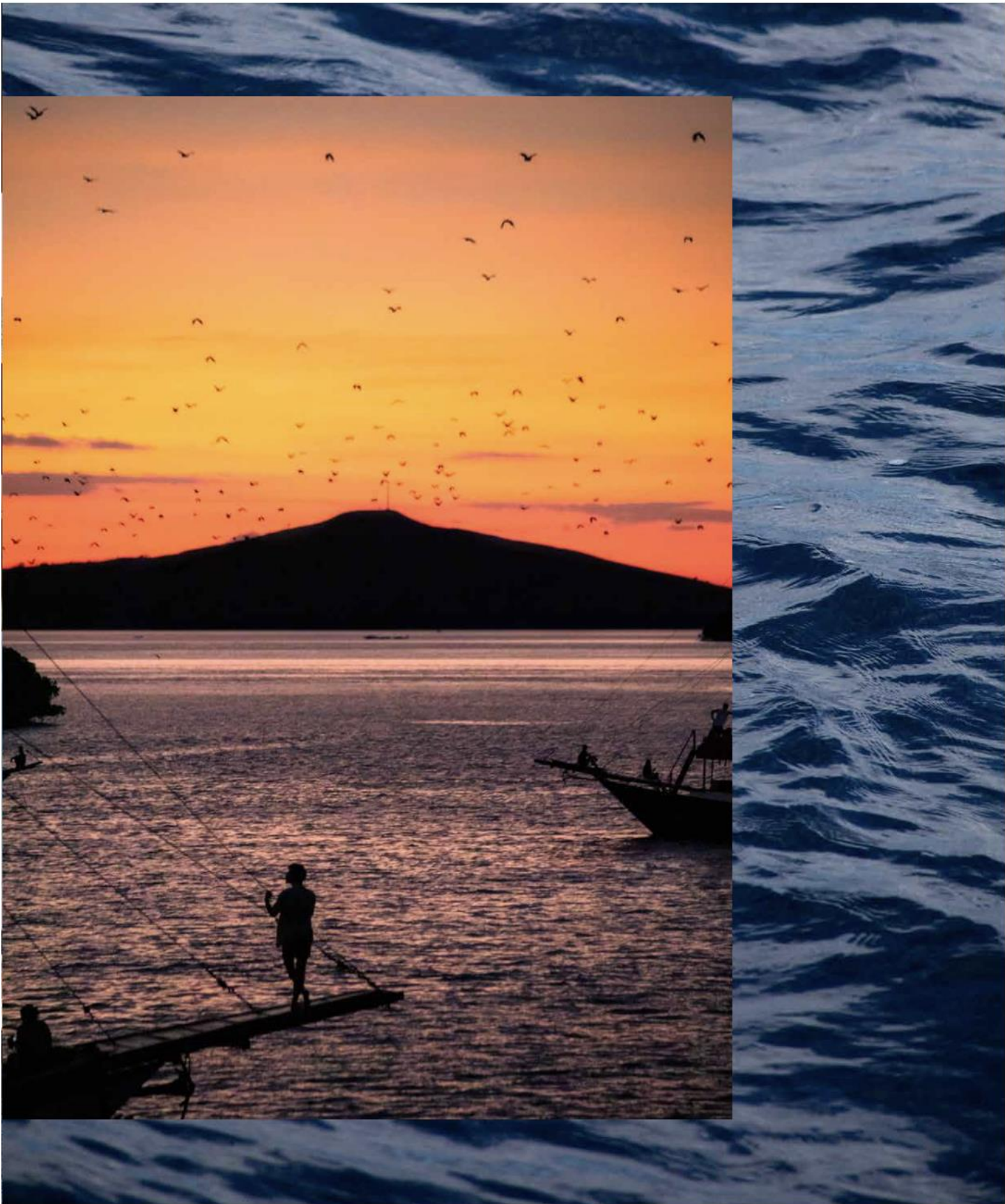
region's rich heritage, including hand-glazed Balinese blue tiles, and modern amenities, such as rain showers. The boat's interior, with elegant wooden desks, cabinets adorned with chicken-eye rattan, and curved, chunky armchairs, were custom-built by Balinese artisans or sourced from young Indonesian designers.

Chong and Tabalujan's commitment to honoring their country was also underscored by the trip's expert crew of 18, all from Indonesia. They included cruise director Jennifer Tan, who shared her great knowledge of the island nation's culture and environment, and chef Wayan Kresna Yasa, who trained at New York's Blue Hill at Stone Barns and who prepared regional meals simply, but with sneaky nuance and lingering, cerebral flavors.

On the island of Rinca, I communed with several of the world's largest lizards, the endangered creatures from which Komodo National Park, which lies between the Indian and Pacific Oceans, takes its name. I also snorkeled mere feet above large swaths of porous coral in intensely clear water. Neon reef fish juttled about, and I joined a school for a few unforgettable seconds. When the ship's diving guide spotted a giant sea turtle gracefully swimming toward the ocean floor, I followed, my mind wholly freed from reality above water.

One evening, the scene that played around us was similarly eternal: Tens of thousands of flying foxes — large fruit bats — poured from Kalong Island's mangrove forest and, illuminated by the ivory moon, filled the peach sky. For a moment, time was suspended; everything just felt like now.

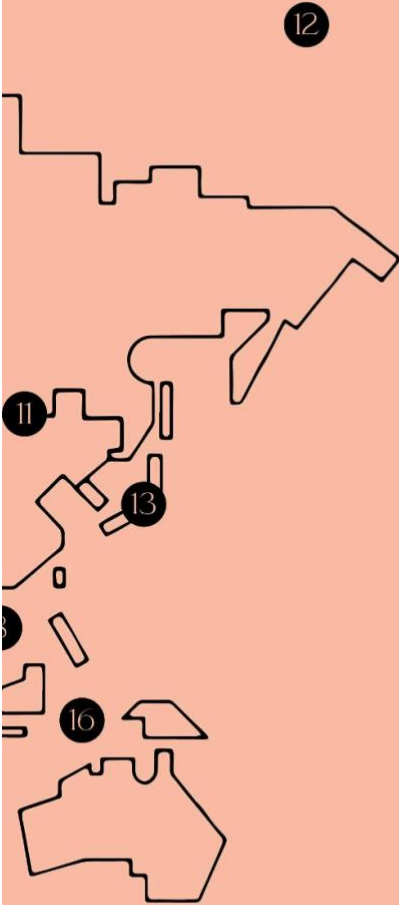






DEPARTURES BEYOND





1 **WONDER OF ONE'S OWN**
WORLDWIDE Page 22

To have an intimate experience of a public space is the epitome of luxury, concludes Departures editor-in-chief Skye Parrott, as she recalls viewing the world's most visited places — from the Hall of Mirrors in Versailles to the Louvre Museum — alone.

2 **THE LONG RUN**
IN NATURE Page 24

Renowned aesthetics expert and anti-inflammatory pioneer Dr. Barbara Sturm shares her longevity philosophy, a combination of nature and nurture that includes lots of sleep, a healthy diet, stress reduction, and a strong connection to the world around us.

3 **AN ARTFUL TABLE**
LIMA, PERU Page 26

A meal at Peru's Central (The World's Best Restaurant 2023) is designed to impart a felt sense of the country's landscape and art, with each dish in its 16-course tasting menu juxtaposing vibrant colors and astonishing flavors to take diners on a journey from the Andes to the Amazon.

4 **PAIN WITH GAIN**
CALIFORNIA, USA Page 28

Legendary athletes Gabby Reece and Laird Hamilton's signature three-day XPT Experiences — hosted in Kausi, Costa Rica, or the couple's home in California — teach a select few how to push the body in service of the mind, or as Hamilton puts it: to prune the rosebush so it blooms.

5 **QUILL AND QUIRK**
LONDON, UK Page 30

Master Storytellers believes that behind every life is a story, which is why it pairs everyone from business titans to war veterans to beloved family members with best-selling, internationally acclaimed authors who pen their subjects' intriguing tell-alls in just 10 to 12 weeks.

6 **IN VINO VERITAS**
SAN FRANCISCO, USA Page 32

Expert sommelier Thatcher Baker-Briggs considers the future of wine, specifically the rise of small-production, properly farmed wines, and why he believes in new winemakers who are revitalizing traditional styles with youth and energy.

7 **SCENTS OF MEMORY**
VERSAILLES, FRANCE Page 33

On the tree-lined Rue du Parc de Clagny in Versailles, the Osmothèque archives trace the history of perfume via over 4,000 scents, raw ingredients, and elaborate formulations that serve as both a laboratory for master perfumers and a living catalog of olfactory memories.

8 **NO PLACE ON EARTH**
QUANG BINH PROVINCE, VIETNAM Page 34

In Hong Son Doong, the world's largest natural cave, Ramdane Touhami encounters the most dangerous yet perhaps best experience he's ever had, prompting him to ponder the value of risking one's life for an exquisitely good anecdote.

9 **THE WEIGHT OF ICE**
ANTARCTICA Page 36

A travel writer recounts why his favorite destination is the highest, driest, windiest, and southernmost continent: Antarctica, where fjords and mountains vie for attention above frozen seas, whale exhalations echo off glaciers, and platoons of albatrosses stand in regal splendor.

10 **PEAKS AND VALLEYS**
FRENCH ALPS Page 40

A passionate cyclist confronts both Alpine peaks and her inner resolve when riding L'Étape du Tour de France, a road race that offers amateurs a scenic yet challenging taste of the sport's most prestigious competition, the Tour de France.

11 **PAST PRESENT**
ORKHON VALLEY, MONGOLIA Page 42

In the Orkhon Valley, a seasonal resort offers a rural tonic for modern living that takes cues from the nomadic tribes that have alighted there for centuries — through slow-cooked open-fire meals, horseback riding, and a simpler way of being, it reveals that we just might be looking at life all wrong.

12 **IN ORBIT**
SPACE Page 44

Space is the inevitable next frontier of travel, according to Sir Richard Branson, whose own voyage beyond the stratosphere aboard Virgin Galactic's Unity 22 convinced him that comic tourism has the power to change the destiny of both our planet and our species.

13 **RITE OF PASSAGE**
TOYAMA, JAPAN Page 46

Takamagahara, Japan's most remote *onsen*, is the pinnacle of a four-day pilgrimage that traverses rolling green valleys, the country's Alps, and crystal-clear rivers, providing visitors with the opportunity to commune with nature and oneself.

14 **OF THE ESSENCE**
UTAH, USA Page 48

From an extinct volcano transformed into a celestial observatory to a manmade lightning field in the middle of the desert, America's land art offers a unique perspective of nature and places us in dialogue with its varying ecosystems: local, regional, planetary, cosmic.

15 **BY HAND AND HEART**
GEE'S BEND, USA Page 50

Down a rural Alabama road resides an American treasure: the quilts of Gee's Bend, who have been transforming history into art for generations, their work recognized by world-renowned museums and collectors, who can now commission bespoke textiles that reflect their personal histories.

16 **IN GOOD TIME**
LESSER SUNDA ISLANDS, INDONESIA Page 54

A voyage on the Celestia, a 148-foot phinisi (traditionally crafted Indonesian ship), to some of the country's more remote islands is a journey suspended in time, past underwater coral forests and Komodo dragon-inhabited islands into cotton candy-hued sunsets.

17 **SHIFTING GEARS**
MALIBU, USA Page 58

The forgotten Sunday drive delivers a visceral, leisurely escape from the everyday that — coupled with a unique vintage car, such as an Alfa Romeo Montreal — takes on a decadent analog dimension.

18 **MOUNTAIN HIGH**
FAR WEST, USA Page 67

For those in eternal pursuit of alpine euphoria, this roundup of the best off-the-radar powder terrain in the U.S. offers pristine snow and unspoiled slopes, along with their nearest general aviation runways.

