

# KUDANIL EXPLORER

Private Adventure Yacht

INDONESIA

Crew Profile

# Thibaud Epstein

## Co-Founder and Managing Director

Hailing from a family of passionate sailors, Thibaud is a seasoned explorer with a talent for uncovering the hidden gems scattered throughout Eastern Indonesia. With an intimate knowledge of the archipelago's best-kept secrets, and the whims of the wind, the currents, and the weather, Thibaud often takes guests “off-itinerary” to experience the wonders of this extraordinary region, making every day different than the last and no two trips ever the same.



# The Deck Team

## I Wayan Widhyastya

### Master Captain

Born in Surabaya, Java, of Balinese descent in 1968, Wayan is an integral part of the Kudanil Explorer team and has been working with Remi, the owner, since 1995. During this time, he has worked as a captain on supply vessels in the oil industry in Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam, Japan, and Indonesia, achieving a perfect safety record. Before joining the Kudanil Explorer, Wayan worked for Dutch shipowner Wijsmuller and specialized in ship delivery all around the world.

#### Captain Wayan is assisted by:

- **Ali**, Chief Officer (East Java)
- **Sahrul**, Second Officer (Sulawesi)
- **Rici**, Deck Hand (Sulawesi)
- **Rizal**, Deck Hand (Sulawesi)
- **Sam**, Deck Hand (Lombok)



# The Engine Room Team

## Wilhelmus Yuniarta

### Chief Engineer

Born in 1965 in Magelang, Central Java, Wilhelmus brings over 30 years of experience navigating Indonesian waters, beginning his career with ferry and shipping companies. He joined us in 2005 while still serving as chief engineer on a safety standby vessel in the oil industry, more than a decade before our transformation into the luxury expedition yacht she is today.

#### Wilhelmus leads a dedicated team of four:

- **Yosep**, Second Chief Engineer (Sulawesi)
- **Fauzan**, Engine Room (Java)
- **Hasbi**, Engine Room (Sulawesi)
- **Sukirman**, Engine Room (Sulawesi)



# The Service Team

## Aji Ari Susanto

### Head Steward

Born in 1985 in Central Java, Aji has an extensive track record in the hospitality and cruise industries. He has worked as a steward on cruise ships sailing across the Asian, Mediterranean, and Caribbean seas. Before joining the Kudanil Explorer, Aji managed F&B operations at a boutique luxury resort in Java. Aji's warm personality and strong background in hospitality, both at resorts and onboard cruise ships, complement each other perfectly. In his leisure time, he enjoys playing football and exploring the Indonesian archipelago.

#### Aji leads a dedicated team of three:

- **Jun**, Bar & Service (Bali)
- **Toby**, Bar & Service (Lombok)
- **Riana**, Housekeeping & Service (Sulawesi)



# The Kitchen Team

## Adi Rochman

Head Chef

Born in 1988 in Central Java, Adi studied tourism and hospitality in Yogyakarta. After graduating, he worked in several hotels across Java before specializing in cooking, a field where he could fully express his creativity. Adi joined *The Waow*, a luxury dive boat, as a sous-chef in 2012 and was promoted to head chef after just 10 months. In May 2018, he became part of the Kudanil Explorer team. Adi's culinary style blends Indonesian and Western cuisine with refined presentation, making each meal an essential part of the guest experience. He regularly visits top-tier luxury resorts, such as Capella Ubud, to refine his techniques and expand his repertoire.

### Adi is assisted by:

- **Ketut**, Sous-Chef (Bali)
- **Teguh**, Kitchenhand (Lombok)



# The Activities Team

## Nico Novan

### Head of Diving & Activities

Born in 1990 in Malang, Java, Nico serves as our Head of Diving and Activities. Since he began diving in 2007, he has logged over 10,000 dives and is a fully licensed PADI Scuba Instructor. Before joining the Kudanil Explorer, Nico worked with renowned dive resorts such as Wakatobi and on prestigious liveaboards including the Mermaid fleet. His favorite dive locations include Raja Ampat, Triton Bay, and Komodo. In addition to being an exceptional dive guide, Nico is also a skilled photographer and videographer.

Nico is supported by Wayan Santika, our lead surf guide and senior instructor, who brings over 15 years of experience coaching surfers across Bali, Sumba, and Papua. Wayan has completed more than 500 surf expeditions aboard traditional phinisis and private charters, working with top resorts, seasoned surfers, and first-timers alike.

**Overall, the Kudanil Explorer hosts a dedicated crew of 21 to 23 members, ready to accompany you on your expedition and make the ultimate adventure come true.**



# The “Extended” Activities Team

Let’s be honest, no one can know it all. That’s why, in addition to our permanent crew onboard, we’ve built a network of experts in their respective fields, from surf guides and yoga instructors to lecturers and spear-fishing guides. Depending on our guests’ preferences, we team up with these specialists to enhance your experience. Allow us to introduce a few of them.



# Simon Maillard

Simon is a self-taught French chef with a passion for Southeast Asian street food and global flavors. He has spent years learning in family kitchens across India, Thailand, Indonesia, and beyond, absorbing traditions and rare techniques. His cuisine blends French roots with bold, multicultural influences. Simon has cooked at five-star hotels, with Michelin-starred chefs, and as a private chef at global events like the Cannes Film Festival. He is known not only for his refined dishes but also for his warmth and deep respect for culinary heritage.



# Dr. Lawrence Blair

Dr. Lawrence Blair is a public speaker, author, filmmaker, and seasoned explorer. Since 1978, he has led numerous marine expeditions across the Indonesian archipelago. He is also the writer, presenter, and co-producer (alongside his late brother Lorne) of the BBC TV adventure series Ring of Fire, which earned two EMMY Awards.



# Jeff Forsee

Jeff is an accomplished fishing guide with over a decade of global guiding experience. Now based in southern New Zealand, he leads wilderness float trips in Mongolia targeting the world's largest salmonid, the taimen. Jeff is also a passionate photographer, with his work featured in numerous fly-fishing publications, films, and television shows around the world.



# Sabine Templeton

Sabine is a marine scientist and conservation biologist with extensive field experience. She spent six years at Misool Resort – a globally renowned conservation-focused property – where she led The Coral Curation Initiative and the Manta Project. Today, Sabine specializes in luxury dive and snorkel experiences and is also an accomplished underwater photographer.



# Ready to explore?

Get in touch to start planning your private Indonesian adventure.

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## **Office hours**

Monday - Saturday

9am - 6pm GMT+8 hours

Bali, Indonesia

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