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THE SAILING SWEET SPOT

Indonesia

Like galleons, 'galleons' is a fact: most that come into the world's waters – to capture cargo or discover the hairy delights of a hobby almost these traditional two-masted Indonesian sailing ships. Hand-crafted on the beach using local woods and used for carrying spices and cargo, some of the original vessels have now been converted to provide slick accommodations. The majority of the luxury vessels now available in the area, however, have been purpose-built with modern comforts, motors and substantially bigger yachts. Since the first of these was launched in 2008, several larger vessels have taken to the water to explore the remote Raja Ampat archipelago and other isolated islands. While for yachtsmen all alone these have left an all-white Yacht Club that takes just two guests into the remote islands, groups might prefer the new **Lamima** and the recently launched **Banta-Banta** (pictured above, far left and centre), both of which accommodate up to 14 guests on journeys from the shores of the island to the peaks of Irian Jaya. In January the **GOZ Banaul**, with five contemporary tropical cabins, will also set sail from Bali, offering private charters throughout the southern sea.

Abul, from £200 per night for two at www.abul.com; **Lamima**, from £2,800 per cabin per week, www.lamima.com; **Dava Bana**, from £20,000 per night at www.dava.com; **Banta-Banta**, from £3,800 per night at www.banta-banta.com