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10 YACHT CHARTERS AND SMALL SHIP CRUISES TO BOOK NOW

Updated: June 30, 2022 | by Ann Abel

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There's something unmistakably dreamy about slowing down and taking in the world from a perch on the prow of a ship. Not necessarily a big cruise ship but, rather, a private, chartered yacht, or a small-ship expedition cruise that's so laid-back and intimate that it might as well be your own private sanctuary at sea.

The best of these go places that are difficult to access by land – Australia's rugged and unforgiving Kimberley coast, or the untamed banks of the Peruvian Amazon. Or they ply the waters of once-in-a-lifetime maritime destinations, like Turkey's famed Turquoise Coast, remote corners of the Indonesian archipelago, or the least-touched among the Greek isles.

VELA, INDONESIA



The people behind the sustainable hideaway Nirjhara in Tabanan, Bali, debuted their new Vela sailing yacht in summer 2022. The staff-to-guest ratio is impressive, with 18 staff (including a spa therapist) looking after a maximum of 12 people. The bespoke itineraries to some of the most remote corners of the Indonesian archipelago, from Komodo National Park to Raja Ampat, are as adventurous as the six cabins are comfortable and stylish, with modern interiors that contrast with the traditional phinisi style of yacht. There's an al fresco yoga deck, an outdoor gym set up on deck daily, a unique art collection, and indoor and outdoor dining spaces – for the nights when the crew isn't setting up a magical barbecue on a secret beach.