

# Notes on Indonesian Clearance 2022

Last Updated 03-May-2022, updates ongoing

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# 1 Late-Breaking News

Note: This doc was originally pulled together pre-covid, in 2016/2017, where you could get a visa on your own at an Indonesian Embassy. It originally was (and still is, a little bit) specifically oriented for yachts coming from Davao, Philippines. But if I get information from someone from a different locale, I will add it in.

Since COVID, it is not possible to visit a local embassy/consulate and get a visa.

I have left some of the original info in sections 1-9, as it is still somewhat applicable and is useful even if not applicable to understand "how it was before". I have also left the full original document on my website in the SE Asia section.

**Breaking News Late April 2022:** Single-Entry Visitor Visa (Index B211A, B211B, B211C) issued before 16 April 2022 can only be granted a one-time extension of the Stay Permit with a maximum of 60 (sixty) days. The applicant must apply at the immigration office and pay a Stay Permit fee of IDR 2,000,000.

Single-Entry Visitor Visa (Index B211A, B211B, B211C) issued from 16 April 2022 (valid for a stay of 60 or 180 days) cannot be granted a Stay Permit extension.

Visa on Arrival can only be granted a one-time extension of the Stay Permit with a maximum of 30 (thirty) days. The applicant must apply at the immigration office and pay a Stay Permit fee of IDR 500,000. <https://www.imigrasi.go.id/en/>

**Breaking News 03/2022:** Indonesia is discussing raising prices for visas, and perhaps implementing a true 6 month visa.

Single entry visit visas up to 60 days and will not be extendable will cost Rp1.5 million for tourism purposes and Rp2 million for all other purposes

Single entry visit visa up to 180 days will cost Rp6 million

Multiple entry visit visa with maximum stay up to 12 months with each visit a maximum of 180 days will cost Rp3 million

Visa on arrival for 30 days and non-extendable will cost Rp500k

Director General approval charge will be Rp200k

In-country stay permits will cost Rp2 million for 60 days and Rp6 million for 180 days, for pre-investment activities. More info, see this article:

<https://indonesiaexpat.id/news/new-visa-pricing-announced-more-details-expected-in-april/>

**Breaking News 03/2022:** Indonesia has dropped quarantine requirements for all incoming visitors.

<https://thediplomat.com/2022/03/indonesia-lifts-quarantine-requirements-for-international-travelers/>

## 2 Register & Fill Out Vessel Declaration

The Vessel Declaration is a Customs instrument that serves several purposes:

1. Document your boat information and equipment on board. The information you provide is verified by the Customs people on check-in, and on check-out. Make sure you don't sell or dispose of anything listed on your Declaration while in Indonesia!
2. Provide proof (besides an airplane ticket) that you have a way to leave the country
3. Provides a Notice of Arrival

Because of #2, most visa agents will want a copy of your VDS as part of the paperwork to acquire a visa. So it is usually the first step in the process of acquiring a visa.

Go to the [Vessel Declaration System \(aka Yachters\)](https://vds.beacukai.go.id/YachtOnline/login.html) website, and create a login.

<https://vds.beacukai.go.id/YachtOnline/login.html>

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** As of Dec 2021, when you register, they send you an email and you must confirm the email by clicking on the link in the email, in order to complete your registration. However, when they send this link out, it is DEFECTIVE!

When you click on the link to verify, it says it can't connect. But I found a work-around that will allow you to verify. If you click on the link in the email, and it works, skip the next paragraph.

In the email you receive, where it says "click HERE to verify your email address", copy that URL and paste it into your browser address bar. The URL you received will look something like this:

<http://10.161.5.191/Yacht?content=verify&key=xxx>

Change the first part so that it looks like this:

<https://vds.beacukai.go.id/?content=verify&key=xxx>

ie, erase everything before the first question mark and paste in the VDS URL. (Or just copy my line above and replace the "xxx" on the end with your key.)

Then fill out your captain's info, your boat info, and your cruise info. If you are not sure of the answers to some questions, put something in so you can complete the entire document. You don't have to complete it all at one sitting, as your login will let you back in to update your information.

You will need

1. A boat photo as a JPG file
2. The Captain's photo (ie passport type photo) as a JPG
3. A copy of your boat registration as a PDF file (jpg not accepted)
4. A copy of your vaccination certificate(s) as a PDF file.
5. Your planned arrival port and date in Indonesia
6. Once you create a login on this system, you can go in and change your crew and your entry/exit and Ports List plan right up until you submit it formally. Before (2017 and 2019), we even made modifications at the Customs office, as Customs has a terminal in their office in the "approved" entry ports—I don't know if this is the case now. In 2022, once I clicked SUBMIT, I could no longer access that document.
7. Write down your login somewhere!!! You will need to access the VDS while in Indonesia, to report to Customs your location (every 6 months, required).

The last page of this process asks for several items a normal yacht doesn't have, including an International Plant and Animal Quarantine Certificate, a Ship Sanitation Control Certificate, and an

International Certificate of Vaccination or Prophylaxis. I didn't do anything with that, and no one ever asked for those items (except during COVID, they will want to see your proof of vaccination).

I did download the Maritime Declaration of Health to fill out and present on arrival, to Quarantine.

There USED to be a Print to PDF function on the system, but there is no longer. I took a screen shot of each section and pasted it into a doc file to print as one document. This proved helpful on several occasions. (note, if this VDS process is too cumbersome for you, Raymond Lesmana will do it for you for a \$150 fee, and includes his help in ports of call throughout Indonesia—one reason to use Raymond as your agent).

Just before you leave your current country, when your schedule is somewhat certain, make sure you go back online and SEND the VDS to Customs. THIS IS YOUR NOTICE OF ARRIVAL, and should be submitted when you leave your last port before your Indo arrival port. Until you submit it, it is just a draft.

**Jan 22, 2022: WAIT!** Once you "submit" you can't even find it again. (I did eventually find what I had submitted under the "Browse" menu item, but it can't be changed.) (The old system would leave it there and let you amend it if needed).

We were told by our tourism contact in Bitung to "make sure if you have weapons aboard to declare them". And wanted to amend our declaration to include a flare gun and a BB pistol. I can't amend it. Customs said they would "reject" our submission, and then we can change it and re-submit.

**Printing out your Vessel Declaration:** If your visa sponsor wants a copy of the Vessel Declaration, do as I did and copy a screen shot of each section to a document. It would also be a good idea to print this so you have a paper copy, just in case...

### 3 Notes on Covid Vaccinations

To get a visa, you must submit a COVID vaccination certificate. One agent (Luan/Bali Visas) added this information (I have altered this a little as to my experience):

Additionally, you are required to register your vaccine certificate. Please follow the instructions below before entering Indonesia. Airline staff can assist you at the airports.

How to Register and Check Vaccine Certificates Overseas at pedulilindungi.id.

1. Please register your vaccination status by completing your personal data according to the verification account here: <https://vaksinln.dto.kemkes.go.id/sign/in>
  2. I suggest you write down exactly the info you used (your exact name format, and DOB... watch the DOB field as it is easy to enter your DOB with the current year).
  3. After about 24 hours, you should receive an email saying your certificate has been accepted.
3. After registering, please re-login to the pedulilindungi.id page
  4. Select the Check Certificate menu
  5. Wait for the vaccination certificate to appear
  6. Then, open the PeduliLindungi application (if you don't have it, please download it on the Play Store)

**My own personal experience:** I did the above and then couldn't get the app to recognize my certificate. I am told the app and QR scanning is mainly used in the big cities like Jakarta and Bali. Nobody ever asked us for anything (except the officials on check-in) in Bitung. But this may vary city by city.

To obtain our 22222 visas, we used the Philippines VAX Cert (a government website that verified our vaccinations and printed out an official QR-coded certificate). On arrival, the Q officials didn't give a rat's ass about the Vax Cert, what they wanted was an official yellow vaccination card showing the vaccination, which we also went to some trouble and a little expense to get in the Philippines.

## 4 Staying In Indonesia Longer than 30 Days

### 4.1 *Visa on Arrival Extended*

Most first-world country passport holders can get a free “visa on arrival” that is good for 30 days, but is NON-EXTENDABLE. To renew the free 30-day visa on arrival, you will need to exit Indonesia. There appears to be no way around this (though maybe an agent in Bali or Jakarta could figure it out).

However, I have heard/read that if you arrive at a proper check-in port, and do the visa on arrival properly, you can renew this visa for another 30 days. (I believe it is a matter of paying the \$35 fee on arrival vs accepting the “free” version, and you must do this on arrival.) It may matter where you check in.

Note: Not all of the 21 ports for yacht entry can issue a renewable Visa On Arrival. People who have checked in at both Sorong and Biak with a “visa on arrival” in 2016 and 2017, were only given 30 days, non-renewable. They were told it was possible to get an extendable one on arrival in Bitung, but not Sorong. Some of the Bali websites talk about how to pay the fee on arrival by air, I don’t know how it can be done when arriving by yacht.

To be sure you get a renewable visa, good for longer than 30 days, your best bet is to get what is known as a Social / Cultural Visa, or a B211 / 60 visa.

**Note: As of January 2022**, the ONLY visa you can get is the Business B211A visa. It is identical in duration and purpose as the Social/Cultural visa, but it is called a Business Visa. The agents just make something up for your “business reason to visit”.

**As of April 2022**, Visa on Arrival is again possible for some arrival ports and some countries. Check the Immigration website for updates, as this changes frequently.

### 4.2 *Social / Cultural Visa Extendable Up To 6 Months*

If you plan to arrive at a port that does not issue an extendable visa on arrival, or wish to stay longer than 2 months, you can apply for a Social Visa. This is sometimes known as a B211/60 visa. On the forms we filled out, it is also known as a “Visit Visa”, with subcategory of “Social Visa”.

A Social Visa gives you an initial 2 months, extendable in 1 month increments up to a total of 6 months. (changed April 2022)

#### 4.2.1 *What is a Sponsor and Why do I need One?*

To get anything other than a Visa on Arrival, you must have a “sponsor”. The sponsor can be either an Indonesian citizen family member, or an agent who guarantees both your behavior and the cost of deporting you if you need to be deported (or flown home for health reasons or in a casket).

Sponsorship used to be pretty cheap—on the order of about \$35 per passport. However, one of the things that fell out of COVID has raised the price of sponsorship.

Commercial agents who can sponsor you must register with Immigration and put up a \$10,000 USD bond.

#### 4.2.2 *Pre-Covid Version*

The last time we did this ourselves (up to 2019), you could get a visa in person at any Indonesian Consulate for \$50 USD. It required you to have a “sponsor letter” from an Indonesian citizen. *Some*

*Consulates would allow “proof of means” instead of a sponsor letter.* To get a sponsor letter, we contacted a visa agent (Ruth at Isle Marine) and paid around \$35 for 2 people on one boat. She emails you the sponsor letter and a copy of her ID. You then take the Sponsor Letter and a printed copy of your Vessel Declaration to the Indonesian Consulate and apply for a visa.

Here is what is required for each passport/visa:

1. Sponsor letter & Sponsor’s ID card
2. Visa Application form
3. Copy of the Vessel Declaration from YachtERS (see #1 above)
4. 2 passport photos
5. Passport with 6 months validity from the date of your planned arrival in Indonesia
6. Old passport, if you have recently renewed your passport and previously went to Indonesia.
7. P2,250 (About \$50 USD).

The visa is pasted into your passport. You must enter Indonesia within 90 days or the visa is invalid.

The Indonesian Consulate in Davao is on Ecoland Drive on the south side of Davao (about a P90 taxi ride from Chinatown). Both Google Maps and Maps.Me show it in the right place, and most taxis know where it is. WEAR RESPECTABLE CLOTHES (no flip flops, shorts, T-shirts, etc). People have been rejected for entry to various consulates because of their attire.

Because traffic is light at the Indonesian Consulate in Davao, and there were only two of us applying, we were able to get the visas done “while we waited”. We arrived at about 10am and were finished, with visa’s in our passports in by 11:30am. Normally, it requires a second visit the next day.

When you receive your passports back, verify that the visa is in each passport, and that it says B211 / 60. The Expiration Date on the visa is the date that you are required to check in to Indonesia by. The visa normally expires 90 days after you receive it. You must check in to Indonesia before the expiration date on the Visa. But this is not the expiration of your legal time period in Indonesia. The visa’s initial 60-day time period will START when you enter Indonesia.

#### **If there is No Indonesian Embassy or Consulate**

There is an Indonesian Embassy or Consulate in Singapore, Davao and Manilla, Philippines, and Penang and Johor Baru in Malaysia. These are the most common places where cruisers get their Social Visas. Also, I believe that s/v Totem got their Social Visas in Jayapura on arrival in Indonesia from PNG (with Ruth from Isle Marine’s help).

Cruisers coming from Palau, and wishing to check in in Sorong, have a problem, as the Visa on Arrival in Sorong is only good for 30 days, and is NOT extendable. Below are words from a 2010 SSCA bulletin article from s/v Dreamkeeper, who managed to get Social Visas in Palau.

Once you have been sent your Social Visa Sponsorship Letter from your Sponsor, you will need to get a Social Visa for your passport.

We found two ways to do this. Our German friends found someone to send their passports to in Manila, Philippines, and had their visas done there with little trouble. They were really crossing their fingers, though, and you will have to do the research to find a safe and reliable way to do this.

We sent our passports safely and easily to Travel Docs in San Francisco, CA, [www.traveldocs.com](http://www.traveldocs.com), and they did all the work for us at the Indonesian Consulate. I think we paid around \$75 per person for both the visa and their service, before shipping.

#### **4.2.3 Early 2022 Version**

Technically, the Social/Cultural Visa is not available. But there is a Business “Visit Visa” also called B211/A that is identical in function and purpose. The agents are now calling this an e-Visa.

The only way to do this currently is via an agent resident in Indonesia, who has access to the e-Visa system.

Various agents had various requirements, some much more hassle (and expense) than others.

The agent who secures your visa is technically responsible for your behavior and financial debts in Indonesia. Some agents (those who have been burned) therefore require you to submit proof of means, and proof of health/repatriation insurance. Others do not.

#### **4.2.4 After April 16 2022 Version**

This is changing and has not been completely defined. It appears that now you can get either a 60-day or 180-day visa that are **NON-Extendable**. You will still need a sponsor. There is no longer a visa that you get for 60 days that can be extended 4 times.

### **4.3 December 2021 Agent and Location Notes**

A more extensive comparison in spreadsheet form is on the website at

<http://svsoggypaws.com/files/#Indo>

Initially, we were trying to assess the feasibility and costs involved in cruising Indonesia in 2022. And which ports were really open for cruiser check-in. Initially it was declared officially that you could check in only at Batam (near Singapore) and Nunakan (NE end of Borneo). But we kept hearing that cruisers had checked in to other places. We wanted to check in at Bitung, NE Sulawesi, or Sorong, West Papua.

A group of us emailed Ayu in Sorong, Ruth in Bali, and Raymond Lesmana, Luan at Bali Visas, and Marina del Ray, asking about visa and clearance procedures under the latest rules, which are still (6 months later) changing weekly.

Below are pertinent notes from several back and forth from each person, interleaved with notes from me in italics. Plus we included a few other agents that others recommended as we went through the process.

**Who to use?** If you are not keen to bother learning Indonesian, and you plan to spend some time in Indonesia, using **Raymond Lesmana** as your agent is probably worth the extra expense. He has contacts all over Indonesia and has been great at hand-holding cruisers as they wander through Indonesia. Many cruisers who were being asked (in Indonesian) for something from an official, have called Raymond, handed the official the phone, and let Raymond handle the issue (and explain to the cruiser what was going on). That’s why Raymond’s fees are a little bit higher.

If you are really self-reliant, and expect to have to learn enough Indonesian to get by on your own, or are going to only stop for a short time in Indonesia, the low cost visa agents may be good value.

#### **4.3.1 Sorong / Ayu**

Ayu is Wick’s (Tampa Garam Marina and Helena Marina in Sorong) Administrative Assistant. She is a facilitator, not a registered/bonded Immigration agent. She cannot help with getting a visa and told us to get a visa via a registered agent. They have a registered agent in Jakarta they can work through if you need help with that.

As for checking in Sorong, on Sep 21, 2021 she wrote to us: “If Sorong is your first entry port, we can help with the clearance process in Quarantine, Immigration, Customs and Harbour Master.

- We will report to the authorities at least 2 days before your arrival
- I need some documents from you (Boat registration document, crew list, copy of your passport, port clearance, copy of your visa approval, vaccine certificate and you need to register the yacht to customs application <http://vds.beacukai.go.id/> and I need the print out of the registration form of vessel declaration.

Important: The Vessel Documentation website has changed and even if you had prior information in the system, you need to re-apply and re-enter all your boat information.

- Our handling fee for clearance process is IDR 6,000,000 (including cost to the authorities)
- For the quarantine clearance, we need your vaccine doc (complete) and PCR test result.

In an email in mid-November she told us that one boat had recently cleared in to Sorong, with some extra fees. (basically a fine/bribe by Immigration, see notes below). This seems to have been a one-time incident and has not been repeated.

Wick's marinas are open, and he is improving the haulout capabilities at Helena Marina.

Wick: [wick.eon@gmail.com](mailto:wick.eon@gmail.com) +62 811 485 371

Ayu Saraswati: [ayusaraswatikoreludji@gmail.com](mailto:ayusaraswatikoreludji@gmail.com) +62 823 9938 3203

#### **4.3.2 Ruth (Isle Marine, Agent in Bali)**

Isle Marine Services

Phone: +62 81 238 470 50

Mobile/WA: +62 896 8300 3762

Website: islemarine.com

Skype: islemarine.com

We used Ruth in 2017 to be our sponsor and help with visas. Then, she was reasonably priced, and fairly responsive to our questions and extensions. So naturally we reached out to her.

From an email to Mike on Meikyo, Sep 22, 2021:

During Pandemic, the only Visa available is Business Visa. For applying Business Visa, I will need some documents from you, such as:

- Photo/scan photo of passport page
- Photo/scan photo of passport cover page
- Copy of vaccination certificate

The price for the Visa is USD\$450/person. It will take 5 working days to process it.

When the 60 days near to expire, you can extend it every 30 days in the nearest Immigration office.

If when your 6 months near to finish, **and the countries around Indonesia are still closed**, then can apply for a renewal Visa without need to leave the country or known as Onshore Visa.

Our friends in early 2022 opted to use Ruth, and have found her to be very communicative and easy to work with.

##### **4.3.2.1 Visa Extensions**

Immigration recommended the passport holder to present themselves in Immigration when apply for Visa extension. Especially for the 1st extension, you will have to present yourself for photo and finger prints.

I will send Sponsor Letter and Guarantee letter for applying for Visa extension in the nearest Immigration office. The Sponsor Letter and Guarantee Letter price is Rp 250,000 (exclude shipping cost for original documents to Immigration office).

If you would like me to apply for you on your behalf, I will need a letter of attorney from you. The price for applying Visa extension on your behalf is Rp 850,000/passport/extension. But this not possible for the first extension, as for the first extension as my explanation above, you will have to present yourself in Immigration for photo and finger prints.

The Rp 850,000/passport/extension is the total cost per person extension included Immigration tax, Sponsor letter and my fee too.

In a 2<sup>nd</sup> email: For Visa extension, as per my explanation earlier, during pandemic Immigration required for the passport holder present themselves for applying for Visa extension. What I usually do is send the Sponsor and Guarantee letter for applying for Visa extension in the nearest Immigration office.

To apply for extension will need original passport and cannot use a photocopy only.

#### **4.3.2.2 Arrival Ports**

Based on Ministry of Transportation Letter, there are only two ports available for International arrival, Batam and Nunukan.

Oct 8 email from Ruth:

Yes, Nunukan is one of the entry port that officially open beside Batam during Pandemic for International arrival.

The process there:

- Quarantine on the boat for 8 days (with 2 times test at the 1st and 7th day)
- After quarantine 8 days, then will be followed by CIQP clearance procedures.

We do have our contact in Nunukan who can assist you during this process and I will oversee it for you.

#### **4.3.3 Raymond Lesmana**

The following information was emailed to Jon Hacking of s/v Ocelot from Raymond on Sep 18, 2021:

##### **4.3.3.1 Costs**

Visa (sponsored E Visa B211A) cost is USD \$500 per passport. It's just like before 60 days + 4 times extension @ 30 days. (*Raymond is NOT an agent. An agent has to put up a \$10,000 USD bond, so the visas are acquired through a friend of Raymond's who is an agent.*) At some later point in time, as we were questioning his cost, he mentioned he'd do it for \$400 with a two week turn-around vs 1 week.

Vessel declaration is USD \$150 per boat.

*Raymond later clarified that this is not just his fee for doing your vessel declaration online, but also for providing support during your 6 months in Indonesia. Many cruisers have leaned heavily on Raymond during their time in Indonesia, using him to help through officialdom issues at various ports.*

My fee and the agent fee is included in the cost of the visa and the vessel declaration.

Vaccine certificate is a must for visa application

- What is the procedure for getting these visas?

It is simple because we are using agents. The agent will be the sponsor, but they will not deal with your journey in Indonesia. Applying without an agent is almost impossible, because only 800 visas are issued every day and agents already book for it.

#### **4.3.3.2 How Long Do I Have after Visa Issued**

You must enter Indonesia within 60 days of the visa being issued. *(This is not true, the normal validity for the B211A Business e-Visa is 90 days)*

#### **4.3.3.3 Visa Extensions**

If you are going to do it by yourself - the agent will send you 'sponsor letter for visa extension' and it only cost 250,000 IDR per passport

Payment to the country is 500,000 IDR

You have to go at least twice to Immigration office

For the first extension (in 60 days) you will have to do photo and finger print at the immigration office.

If you are using local agent they might charge you around 1.200.000 IDR per passport

Here is the procedure:

1. Get the sponsor letter from the agent
2. Go to immigration office and get the forms to be filled
3. Fill and sign the form
4. Go back to the counter to submit and wait
5. They will give you direction to pay the fees to the country via ATM
6. Back to the office with proof of payment
7. Then they will tell you when to go back to pick up your passports.
8. Back to the immigration office as told and take the finish extended visa

#### **4.3.3.4 Clearance Fees**

Clearance in fee depends on where you enter. Typically a marina will charge more.

Common cost is about 1.500.000 IDR *(This is an "agent" fee for handling clearance. Actual clearance, if you can do it without an agent, is only a couple of hundred IDR). If you use an agent, make sure you know specifically what the agent's fee is, and whether it includes: PCR Tests, automobile/taxi fees for officials and/or agent, and official receipted clearance fees.*

#### **4.3.3.5 Renewing the B211A Visa after initial 6 months**

We only need passport and proof of vaccine. Cost at the moment is USD \$250. Length of stay is 150 days *(Important note that Ruth in Bali says "if countries around Indonesia are still not open" when she talks about this renewal).*

#### **4.3.3.6 Quarantine on Arrival**

You must arrive with a negative PCR test in hand from your prior port. Upon arrival, quarantine is 8 days on board and 2 PCR tests.

#### **4.3.3.7 Arrival Ports**

The original arrival ports for yachts was announced as Batam (near Singapore) and Nunaken (in NE Borneo on the Malaysian/Indonesian border).

The government is arranging entry point for yacht during this pandemic situation - hopefully will be announced soon.

Added by Jon / Ocelot a few days later: "Ray wrote to say that Kupang (SW Timor) & Tual (Kai Group) are now open, in addition to some in the west that aren't appropriate for us coming from Davao."

We know that clearance is possible at other ports... Bitung, and Sorong. Also we heard in Feb 2022 that Kupang is no longer open for clearance. We also heard at one point the Nunakan's Harbormaster said he did not want yachts coming in. So make sure you confirm before you leave "home" the latest status of the port you intend to clear in at.

#### **4.3.4 Luan in Bali (from Lynn/Amarula)**

December 2021: This is further info from Laun at Bali visas "Thank you for your enquiry regarding the B211A visa. The current categories that are listed under this visa for entry to Indonesia are business, tourist, study and charity.

Bali International Airport is reportedly open for visas and KITAS holders, but please check with your airlines for flights into Bali. Under the current regulations no visa on arrival or free visa is permitted to enter Indonesia.

##### **4.3.4.1 Costs**

The B211A business visa is for 60 days with the option of extending it 4 x 30 days with our agency. Each extension is 850,000.00 IDR. Once your visa is approved you have 90 days to enter Indonesia.

For the application of a visa, the following is required in addition to the usual documents.

A Passport Photo in colour 4 x 6 digital.

- Certificate / Card proof of have been received the full dose of covid-19 Vaccine
- Children under the age of 12 are not required to have the vaccine
- Children under the age of 12 are required to provide a Health certificate from a doctor stating they are fit and healthy to travel.

YOU WILL NEED TO QUARANTINE IN BALI OR JAKARTA FOR 5 DAYS, EVEN IF YOU HAVE THE VACCINE. (Note: length of quarantine time has fluctuated as the COVID waves hit Indonesia. As of 1 Feb 2022, it was 7 days).

Our pricing reflects the Immigration charges and fees they set, as of today:

Prices are subject to change.

Regular Processing – 3,500,000.00 (14 business days)

Express Processing – 3,950,000.00 (5 business days)

Express Processing – 7,250,000.00 (5 business days) and 4 x 30 days Regular Extensions.

Your application will start processing once we have received payment, documents are checked and will be emailed to you directly from services@balivisas.com.

JUST A REMINDER TO PLEASE DO NOT BOOK YOUR FLIGHTS UNTIL YOUR E-VISA IS EMAILED TO YOU.

PLEASE ONLY SEND RECEIPTS OF PAYMENT TO EMAIL: ACCOUNTING@BALIVISAS.COM.

MAKE YOUR APPLICATION ONLINE:

<https://www.balivisas.com/offshore-b211a/>

Put Laun down as referral so I can assist you with your process.

#### **4.3.4.2 Covid Vaccine Proof & PCR Testing Requirements**

Additionally, you are required to register your vaccine certificate. Please follow the instructions below before entering Indonesia. Airline staff can assist you at the airports.

How to Register and Check Vaccine Certificates Overseas at pedulilindungi.id.

1. Go to the pedulilindungi.id page
2. Please register by completing your personal data according to the verification account, which has been created at [vaksinIn.dto.kemkes.go.id](https://vaksinIn.dto.kemkes.go.id) to activate the vaccination status
3. After registering, please re-login to the pedulilindungi.id page
4. Select the Check Certificate menu
5. Wait for the vaccination certificate to appear
6. Then, open the PeduliLindungi application (if you don't have it, please download it on the Play Store)

You are also required to have a Valid RT-PCR Test Result Negative Certificate With QR-Code for Checking (Including children) when entering Indonesia, no older than 72 hours from your departing country.

You will then be required to complete another RT-PCR Test on arrival at the airport before being taken to your quarantine hotel. Please be prepared that this may take several hours and you may like to have snacks and drinks with you. Then on the 4th day of quarantine you will be required to complete another RT-PCR Test. Once this test is negative you will be able to onward travel to your destination in Indonesia.

Most Frequently asked questions.

<https://www.balivisas.com/home/most-frequent-questions/>

You will need to apply for the Single-Entry Business visa with our company as the sponsor. You can state that you are looking at investment property, investing in business or other potential business opportunities. Your sponsorship will state this when we provide it with your e-VISA when completed.

#### **4.3.4.3 Insurance**

If you need Insurance, follow these links.

<https://safetywing.com/nomad-insurance?referenceID=24757486>

<https://safetywing.com/remote-health?referenceID=24757486>

#### **4.3.4.4 Onward Travel Ticket**

Some immigration officers are now requesting an ongoing flight, as are airlines. So, to be on the safe side if you do not want to purchase an ongoing flight you can make one here.

<https://keyflight.io/fake>

FOR LATEST GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS:

<https://www.imigrasi.go.id/covid19/detail/1b645389/border-closures-and-exceptions>

BALI VISAS IS NOT A 24 HOUR CUSTOMER SERVICE BUSINESS. So please be patient and direct all your enquiries to [info@balivisas.com](mailto:info@balivisas.com).

#### **4.3.4.5 Lynn's Q&A**

**Q: As we're coming by boat from Cebu, Philippines our RT-PCR test will be more than 72 hours old?**

*I will check on this with the immigration (she confirmed that you depart within 72 hours. No problem with arrival date)*

**Q: As we'll be sailing in would we still need an onward ticket as we plan to sail away on our boat when we leave Indonesia.**

*You can just make the ticket on the link still, just in case*

**Q: We are fully vaccinated with Astra Zeneca, which was given by the local authority where we've been moored since Covid lockdown began in March 2020. I will send you a copy of our vaccination card. Please advise if it will be acceptable?**

*yes that will be acceptable*

**Q: Are you saying that we should state that we are potentially coming on business, not as tourists?**

*When you submit on our website, you can choose the option, it will not affect the visa*

**Q: Do you know if it is possible to enter at Bitung in Sulawesi?**

*You can only enter through port that listed*

**Q: I see p.7 Port 73 Samudera. Bitung. Sulawesi Utara. Does this mean that these ports are all open for entry?**

*If the name listed, yes it should be open with immigration check point in the harbour*

**Q: And what happens about quarantine & RT-PCR tests? Presumably they are done on arrival, with quarantine onboard in the harbour?? And another RT-PCR test 4 days later?**

*We will have a client on a sail boat arriving tomorrow, I will inform you on regard with the information as soon as we know, due to we have very little experience with clients arriving with their own boat since the current regulations being implemented*

#### **4.3.5 Marina Del Ray (from Sea Gate)**

##### **4.3.5.1 Cost Summary**

Getting the Visa (per passport): \$350 USD per passport (refund 80% if visa denied)

Extending the visa (per passport per extension): Free if extending while in Marina del Ray, not stated otherwise.

Clearance cost is \$ 210 USD/ boat (can pay when the arrival). Includes: Custom, immigration, Quarantine and Harbour master

##### **4.3.5.2 Visas**

The visa is the E-Visa (B211A) for Yachters

Visa 60 days and Extendable 4 times

Cost is \$350 USD/Person

This price does not include the extension cost, but Marina del Ray will provide free sponsor letter for visa extension for yachts staying at Marina del Ray

Visa application process will start when document and payment complete

Document requirements by Immigration of Indonesia for E-visa application :

1. Passport Cover
2. Copy of Passport
3. Boat Register
4. Bank Statement Balance \$10,000 USD (optional)

The new announcement advises that offshore visa applications will need to provide extra requirements for visa applications, these are:

1. EVIDENCE YOU HAVE RECEIVED DOSES OF THE VACCINE COVID 19 COMPLETELY
2. STATEMENT LETTER OF WILLING TO COMPLY WITH THE HEALTH PROTOCOLS IN INDONESIA

Notes:

1. Full Payment E-visa before start, via Wire Transfer
2. Refund 80% from total Payment if Visa didn't get it (Immigration Issue)
3. E-visa Validity period is 90 days

#### **4.3.5.3 Clearance into Indonesia**

Document Requirement for the clearance process is.

1. E-Visa (Get E-visa before sailing to Indonesia)
2. Completed Vaccinated Certificate of Covid-19
3. Temporary Vessel Declaration of Indonesia (VD)
4. Crew list
5. Boat registration
6. Passport copy of all crew and captain on board
7. Port clearance from the last port

Clearance cost is \$ 210 USD/ boat (can pay when the arrival)

Price includes Customs, immigration, Quarantine and Harbour master. Does not include PCR tests.

#### **4.3.5.4 Quarantine Procedures For Foreign Yacht**

1. 8 days Self-Quarantine onboard (*note the latest modification shortened this to 7 days*)
2. 2 times PCR-test of Covid-19 when the arrival. Cost for PCR is Rp 900.000

#### **4.3.5.5 Vessel Declaration (VD)**

You can submit Vessel Declaration on this website and register to

Terminal Khusus Marina Del Ray Lombok as Clearance port

<https://vds.beacukai.go.id>

#### **4.3.6 Bahalap Uras (from Screensaver)**

Alan on Screensaver used this agent to get his visa. So far there has been no issues with arrival or extensions.

Get your Business Offshore (B211A) Visa,  
to enter Bali, Indonesia

Net Price, including e-visa, sponsorship, and tax

I. Standard, 7-10 business days = IDR 3,200,000  
 II. Express, 5-6 business days = IDR 3,450,000  
 III. Premium, 3-4 business days = IDR 4,300,000

\*Delay might be happened due to immigration's system

The process requires:

- Photo of your passport valid for min. 12 months
- COVID-19 Vaccination Certificate

\*Not included quarantine's expenses

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TRUSTED & VERIFIED

On Facebook as <https://www.facebook.com/BahalapUrasBali>

#### 4.3.7 Lureta Visa Bali – Rudi

We got this contact from another cruising friend. Rudi at Lureta Visa handled all of their boat/visa needs in 2020/2021, to get checked in from Guam and to cruise throughout Indonesia. My friend said Rudi was great to work with.

Their published price on the website was 3M Rp, and I contacted Rudi via the WhatsApp number my friend gave me. We supplied the required documentation via WhatsApp, paid the fee via Wise, and received our e-visa 7 calendar days later. The visa includes a “must use by” date that is 90 days from date of issuance. It is the same B211A “Business” visa that everyone else is doing.

Notably, he did not require any “onward ticket”. He did not require any proof of insurance. He did not require any proof of “means”. Just vaccination proof, passport photo, and passport page.

Rudi was very “terse”. I.e, no long explanations. If you want someone to explain everything and hold your hand, I suggest you use a different agent.

We had no problems with his visa on entry. We have yet to extend our visa, so cannot comment on his capability in that respect, though my friend was emphatic about how great Rudi was.

#### 4.3.8 Helen Delima

We did not contact Helen Delima (aka Helene de Lima), who is an agent that at least one boat recommends (on Sail SE Asia FB Group) weekly. So we don’t know her prices or requirements. The one boat that used her said she got them out of several situations with officials, and they continually raved about how good an agent she was.

Another boat we know used Helen de Lima for visas and clearance help at Nunakan in late 2021, and had nothing good to say about that experience (and relied on the other boat’s relationship with Raymond to complete their clearance). We could not get specifics as to what their issue with her was.

Another boat (in April 2022) said that Helen was working out well for them, and helped them get a visa extension at an Immigration office that did not do extensions.

## 5 Checking Out of the Country You are leaving

### 5.1 From Davao Philippines

**2022 Update:** Customs in Davao REQUIRED a piece of paper from Quarantine called Quarantine Clearance for Outgoing Vessels and Aircraft, before doing Customs clearance.

Also, both Customs and Immigration wanted to see the negative PCR test result before issuing our clearance paperwork.

Make SURE you have both a full course of COVID vaccine, with paperwork to prove it, AND a negative PCR test taken within 24 hours of departure. Best to get a certificate from <http://vaxcert.doh.gov.ph> or the "Yellow Card" from Dept of Quarantine. (The Q people in Bitung wanted only the Yellow Card (official International Certificate of Vaccination)—they were not interested in the VaxCert.

In Davao, there is a PCR test place a 5 minute walk toward G-Mall from Immigration (on the opposite side of the street). A PCR test there costs P2300 and results are emailed within 24 hours. You can also go to the Health office in Pena Plata, but that seemed more difficult than a 5 minute walk from Immigration.

Below is as of clearing out January 2022

Clearing out of Davao is pretty standard, pretty easy, with two exceptions:

1. If you have been in the Philippines for 6 months or more, you must get an extra piece of exit paperwork. This is called an ECC. In Davao December 2021, this is done on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.
  - a. They want the following:
    - 1) Copy of Passport Data page
    - 2) Copy of your entry stamp page
    - 3) Copy of your most recent visa renewal proof
    - 4) 3 2"x2" passport photos.
    - 5) P1210
    - 6) An airplane ticket (leaving by boat, just tell them "private yacht" and take boat papers in case they want proof).
  - b. All crew must be there at some point, as there is a need to sign the form (in the beginning) and sign the final document and get your thumbprints on the document (at the end). In between, there was a ~1 hour wait. At least one cruiser was told to come back another day because the computers in Manila were down.
  - c. Payment required taking the invoices downstairs and paying at the normal Immigration payment window (after a short wait), then taking the payment confirmations next door to a copy shop and getting a copy made of each one, and then taking the copies back to the 3rd floor. The form has a notary form at the bottom but the guy told me this is no longer required, thank God.
  - d. When you are finished, he hands you a form (filled out) with your passport picture and your thumbprints, indicating there are no derogatory records on file for you.
  - e. You need this whether you are leaving by boat or by air. You give it to Immigration on check-out. They will seriously turn you back at the airport if you don't have it. They say you should apply for it a week in advance, but with patience and running back and forth to the copy / photo shop, we got it done in one day, while-u-wait.

2. If you have a Filipina crew member, you will need to get an extra exit clearance for the Filipina. The one cruiser that I talked to that did this, took boat papers, a picture of the boat, and wrote an affidavit stating the cruise plan, and stating firm plans for returning the crew member to the Philippines. He did not get this notarized, but stamped it with his official looking boat stamp and signed it with a flourish. This seemed to suffice. Ask at Immigration (specifically with the people on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor in Davao that does yacht clearances) exactly what is required.

Cruisers have historically cleared out of Davao only with Immigration and Customs, when going to Indonesia, but 98% of these clearances have been when going with a Rally in the past. A Port Captain clearance was never required—however one recent cruiser suggested we should also get port clearance paperwork from the port captain (the Port Authority office is near Customs). When we asked at Customs about this in Jan 2022, the Customs officer said it was not necessary, as we were at Samal Island, not actually AT the Davao Port.

As stated above, in 2022, both Immigration and Customs required a Quarantine clearance from Quarantine before they would do your clearance. The Q clearance required a visit to the Quarantine office on Magsaysay. We filled out a Maritime Declaration of Health (provided by the officer), and a fee of P5,000. When we balked at this amount, it was immediately reduced to P2,500 (approx. \$50 USD).

When we have cleared into Indonesia (2016, 2017, 2019) and both Customs and Port Captain asked for our “port clearance”, we just gave both the same document that came from Customs (make 2 copies). In 2022, we told them we didn’t have a Harbormaster port clearance because we were in a marina, not in the port. They seemed to accept that.

## **6 Pre-Arrival Notification**

2021: The Vessel Declaration function IS your pre-arrival notification. Try to make it as accurate as possible, but they understand that it’s hard to predict the weather.

## **7 Checking in to Indonesia**

### **7.1 The Official Procedure**

Here is what the VDS website “Recommendations for Foreign Yachts” document, downloaded from the Vessel Declaration website in Oct 2021, says about checking in:

A minimum of 24 hours must be given prior to the arrival so that harbor master, immigration, quarantine and customs are notified of your arrival and have the prepared documentation. This process should enable the entry process to be completed within two hours.

On arrival, code flag (Q) must be raised. Yachts should anchor or moor at their nominated port of entry specified on the vessel declaration after completing the yachts registration online.

The yachts owners or appointed representative should then report to quarantine and provide a completed medical declaration.

The captain and crew should then report to the nearest immigration office and provide 3 (three) copies of a crew list, valid passports and vessel declaration ready to be stamped.

The captain must then report to customs and provide 2 (two) copies of the signed vessel declaration certificate and passport copies.

Customs officers will inspect the vessel and then provide a stamped copy of the vessel declaration and a customs clearance certificate.

The harbor master should then be given the stamped vessel declaration and customs clearance certificate and signed crew list from immigration.

Once this procedure is complete your yacht is free to move about Indonesia without reporting to another harbor masters until you are ready to exit from Indonesia permanently.

Yachts are free to move about the Indonesian archipelago up to 3 years but the captain or his representative is required to report to customs by email at the entry port of first arrival every six months.

## **7.2 What Really Happened (Bitung 2022)**

**The sequence: Quarantine -> (PCR Test(s)+Quarantine)->Immigration -> Customs -> Harbor Master**

In 2017 (Bitung) and 2019 (Biak) we arrived with Q flag hoisted, and took our dinghy in and visited all the offices ourselves. We couldn't find Quarantine in Biak initially (it's not near the port), so did that last. Pre-COVID, Quarantine was just a formality.

In 2022, because of COVID regulations, you cannot get off the boat until the PCR test(s) and Quarantine are completed. So you need some kind of local contact—an official agent (\$\$) or a “yachties friend” to manage the process while you are in quarantine.

In Bitung, January 2022, we were fortunate to make contact with a representative from the Bitung Mayor's Office of Tourism. We communicated with him via Whatsapp, and he arranged for each office to come visit the boat in person.

Each office except Quarantine brought at least 4 officials to the boat. Because we chose to anchor so far out of town (off Solitude Dive Resort at the north end of Lembah Strait), we paid transportation fees for some officials (Quarantine and Immigration—Customs has their own car and did not charge any fees). It is about a 30 minute drive on a narrow and winding road to get to Solitude from the harbor area. Finding a place nearer the harbor where you can collect officials in your dinghy would make things much easier and cheaper.

As in earlier years, Customs did a thorough inspection of the boat, taking photos of key items, including our medicine cabinet, our engines, our electronics equipment, our dive equipment, and our liquor locker. They opened a few cabinets, and asked about a few things. It seemed apparent that they are now more worried about guns and drugs than they are about yachties selling off their boat equipment while in Indonesia. If you have any containers of white powder aboard, I suggest you label them clearly as to the content and purpose.

Customs made a big deal about our air-powered BB pistol. Fortunately we had a lockable box that they could put a seal on. They instructed us to make sure that box was not breached during our time in Indonesia, and Customs would inspect it and remove the seal when we cleared out.

Later, we visited the Immigration Office ourselves to pick up our Immigration Clearance (stamped copies of crew list), and Customs Office to pick up our final Vessel Declaration. The Harbor Master wanted copies of each of these documents to complete our clearance.

Current (Feb 2022) requirements for entry into Indonesia are a 7-day quarantine with 2 negative COVID tests on Day 1 and Day 6. Bitung's mayor has made an exception to this for arriving yachts, requiring only 1 PCR test (on arrival) and no quarantine period.

In Bitung 2021, neither Immigration nor Quarantine wanted to release our clearance paperwork until we were ready to leave Bitung for another port. This was confusing to us! We thought at first we had a communications issue, but it was clearly explained that they understood we were leaving Bitung for another Indonesian port, not for another country. They instructed us to visit Immigration and

Quarantine in Sorong (our next major port) and present our paperwork. Harbor Master too. Customs did not require this. We have never cleared port-to-port in Indonesia before now. This may be only due to Bitung's low level of familiarity with yachts.

Some other notes:

1. **Quarantine and the "Green Book":** Some cruisers and Noonsite claim we do not need a "green book" (Ship's Health Book). However, when we checked in in Bitung in 2017, it was required. It was also required in Biak in 2019. And they asked for it again in 2022. If you do not already have a "green book" (Ship's Health Book) Quarantine will provide one at a very modest (<\$5 USD) cost.
2. **Immigration Clearance:** We ended up with a visa stamp in our passport that has Date of Entry and Valid Until that is 60 days (not 2 months!) after our Date of Entry. The Visa Type says "Visit Extendable". They told us clearly to begin the visa extension process one week ahead of the end of the 60 days. We also have a dated and stamped Crew List.

**No charge at Immigration (2017, 2019). Transport charge only in 2022.**

Always be sure to check the stamps in your passport, and if you are NOT given a date 60 days in the future, question it. Make sure you understand when your current visa expires.

**Customs:** You (usually) cannot collect your completed Vessel Declaration until the next day. When you go to collect it at the Customs office, be SURE to bring your boat stamp. They will want you to sign and stamp both their copy and our copy of the document while there.

**No charge for Customs (2017, 2019, 2022).**

Part of the Customs clearance paper is a half-page list of things the Captain is agreeing to, and the Captain has to sign and stamp that he agrees to this list.

3. **Lots of copies.** Every officer that visited our boat (4 total offices...Immigration, Customs, Port Captain, Health, I think) wanted copies of our Boat Registration/Documentation and Passports and/or Crew List, plus whatever clearance paperwork we got from our previous port. So make sure you have plenty of copies. It's also a good practice to copy or scan your port clearances from the previous port (before you arrive in a new port) and make sure you keep one entire set. (Several times we've given up a clearance document to one guy only to be asked for it again by the next guy).
4. **More Copies.** Once you've cleared in, it's a good idea to make copies of the new paperwork you've been given, and keep one set secure. This makes sure that you don't give away a piece of paper in a later interaction with an official that you might be asked for by someone else later.

### **7.3 The Cell Phone Issue (A Big PITA!)**

New since 2020...Cell Phones... If you do not have a cell phone bought in Indonesia, or one used in Indonesia prior to 2020, just popping in an Indonesian sim card will not work—and it appears that trying to roam using a Philippines sim on roaming didn't work either.

You need to register your phone at a Telkomsel office before the sim card will work. For fly-in tourists, there is a procedure whereby you can register online and then present Customs at the airport with a registration QR code, and get the phone registered that way. There may be a \$35 fee per phone for doing this.

But our yacht customs guys said they could not do this. We had to go to the Telkomsel office. This is free and lasts 90 days, and can be done every 90 days. After 90 days, your phone will show a signal, but will not work for calls, SMS, or data.

## **7.4 Helpful Hints on Checking In**

1. Before you enter Indonesia, make sure you have a boat stamp. Customs especially wants the captain to both sign AND STAMP documents. On the other hand, not having a proper rubber boat stamp in 2016, we used the one we had previously made for our old boat (same boat name), with the wrong hailing port and wrong registration number, and no one seemed to notice.
2. Before you leave internet in your port of departure, pre-download stuff to your smartphone
  - a. Google Translate with the pre-downloaded dictionary for Indonesian.
  - b. Google Maps for your port of entry. The maps help a lot to locate offices and ATM's, before you get a sim card in Indonesia.
  - c. The first 10-12 podcasts from LearningIndonesian.com (it is very helpful to know the important phrases and basic numbers). Though the officials all have at least one person who speaks good English, often the common people have NO English except "Hello Mister."
3. Cash...Few places, except big hotels and resorts, accept credit cards, at least in the Eastern Indonesia cruising grounds. So you will be using primarily cash.

There are ATM's everywhere in Indonesia. Previously, our Visa-backed credit and debit cards didn't seem to work in the BRI and BNI ATM's (the most common ATM's). I have had good success with Mandiri ATM's, but they aren't as plentiful as the BRI's. I was able to use these same cards at BNI ATM's in Bitung in 2022, but NOT BRI.

Having a small amount of Indonesian Rupiah on arrival makes everything easier (gives you something to pay for taxi/bemo before you find the first ATM).

In Davao, the only place to get Indonesian Rupiah is from a money changer near the Marco Polo Hotel. Philippine Banks won't be able to give you Indonesian money. Also ask other cruisers for their Indo cash, sim cards, and cell phones.

The most cash you can get in one transaction from an Indonesian ATM is Rp 2,500,000 in Rp 100,000 bills (about US \$185 at current exchange rates). Many of the ATM's will only dispense 1,250,000 in Rp 50,000 bills. This is a limitation of the ATM, not of your credit card, so you can make multiple transactions on one of these ATMs until you reach your bank limit. Look for ATM's marked 100,000 on the face. Those marked 50,000 will only dispense 1,250,000.

## **7.5 Some Notes on One Boat's Check-in Nov 2021 at Nunaken**

I spoke to one boat who used Raymond as their agent and a local agent at Nunaken to get them checked in. May have been the first boats to check in there during Covid restrictions. Two boats from Philippines.

Basically this "local agent" arranged by Raymond cost \$120 to \$150 USD (it is not clear which number it ended up being) and facilitated the check-in, including getting each boat a wifi hotspot, sim cards, beer, and cigarettes while the boats were under quarantine. But also fetching officials, getting the PCR tests arranged, etc.

This boat, after it was all over, had used Raymond and felt very good about strongly recommending we use Raymond and his network of contacts. The other boat with them had used Helen de Lima and had nothing good to say about that experience (and relied on the other boat's relationship with Raymond to complete their clearance).

There are a couple of boats, however,

## 8 Inter-Country Clearances at Other Ports

I have understood from other cruisers that we no longer need to clear in and out of every port as we move around in Indonesia. And the “Recommendations from Foreign Yachters” pdf file we downloaded from the Customs Vessel Documentation site CLEARLY state that we do not have to check in and out at each Indonesian port. Helpful to download and print this document, from here:

[https://vds.beacukai.go.id/YachtOnline/doc/Recommendations\\_for\\_Foreign\\_Yachters.pdf](https://vds.beacukai.go.id/YachtOnline/doc/Recommendations_for_Foreign_Yachters.pdf)

We stopped in a small port that yachts typically don't visit in March 2022 and the Harbormaster came out and demanded our paperwork, and wanted to know why we didn't have clearance papers from Sorong. We explained that “yachts don't have to clear in and out from every port”. She had never heard of this but had probably never had a yacht visit her port. She took our papers and spent a day questioning superiors. Eventually our paperwork was returned with a smile and no more problems. This happens occasionally across Indonesia, and is one of the reasons having Raymond Lesmana signed up as your agent is worth the extra money.

In 2017 and 2022, we DID clear OUT of our arrival port, Bitung. We did this in case some other Port Captain wanted to see our clearance paperwork.

Then, we put Ambon as our next destination (which was our next planned port) when we did the clear out paperwork in Bitung. But since then, we went to Ambon and Tual twice, and did not clear in and out in those ports. Nobody has hassled us, except we had a Navy RIB visit us while we were in Tual (after we'd been there a week). Apparently they were just practicing/curious/justifying their existence. They were very friendly, asked a few questions, filled out a piece of paper, and that was it.

In 2022, as previously stated, Immigration, Quarantine, and Harbor Master in our arrival port all wanted to “clear” to a specific port. We told them Sorong, our next port. When we visited Sorong, we did not “clear in” or out in Sorong.

## 9 Keeping in Touch with Customs

**2022:** The current Vessel Declaration (Yachters) (Customs website for yachts) has a “Location” function. This is likely to enable you to check in with your yacht's location periodically. We haven't used it yet.

**Prior:** I understand that the normal yacht clearance in Indonesia now gives you up to 3 years with your yacht in the country. But I heard that you need to continue to let the Customs office at your initial clearance port know that you are still in the country (after 6 months?). We forgot to ask about that when we cleared in.

Our Customs clearance included two email addresses for Bitung Customs.

After 3 months in Indonesia in 2017, we got an email from Bitung Customs telling us that we needed to keep our AIS on, and failure to do so was a violation of the terms of our agreement. (It had been on, all the time we were underway, but we had been in some really out of the way places, so there had been no updates to our position on MarineTraffic.com in a couple of months). We emailed them back with that information, with our current location, and our plans for the next couple of months. The response from them was, “Thank you, sorry to bother you, but we do need to keep track of the yachts.”

Marine Traffic also has an app called OnCourse that can be used to submit your position update via Marine Traffic when you aren't getting picked up by any land relay stations.

If you have not otherwise heard from the Customs office from your port of entry, and you plan to keep your boat in Indonesia for more than 6 months, be sure to contact the Customs office from your port of entry. Being off the boat is not an excuse. Some boats have been fined for not checking in with Customs every 6 months.

## 10 Visa Extensions

**April 2022:** It appears that Immigration is doing away with the typical B211A Visa that gave you 60 days on entry and then was extendable in 30-day increments 4 more times. That ended up being a major hassle for everyone. Now you either get a 60-day visa or a 180-day visa and no extensions are possible.

**2021:** *Immigration is/was requiring an ORIGINAL PIECE OF PAPER for the Sponsor Letter to do an extension (likely because people were photoshopping theirs). The agent MUST either be a local agent, or MAIL (yes, snail mail) a paper copy to the Immigration office you plan to renew at. So this requires advance notification and some coordination with your visa agent. But in 2022, in Sorong, we were able to renew with no sponsor letter at all. This seems to be a Sorong-specific situation, as other Immigration offices are still requiring a sponsor letter specific to that renewal, and sometimes also a “local agent”.*

**2022 Visa Extension:** Be sure to start your extension process approximately 1 week before your initial 60 days is up.

IF a sponsor letter is required, your social visa sponsor will need to send you a new sponsor letter for your renewal, and there is usually a separate fee for that. There is also a fee you must pay at Immigration—in 2022 it was Rp 500,000 (about US \$35) per passport.

Here is the paperwork you will require:

1. Copy of Visa and every extension stamp to date
2. Copy of current Vessel Declaration (the paper you received from Customs on check-in)
3. Copy of Sponsor letter for the office you are renewing in (not needed in Sorong 3/2022)
4. Copy of ID of Sponsor (not needed in Sorong 3/2022)
5. Copy of Boat registration
6. Copy of crew list
7. Your passport
8. Rp 500,000 (2022)
9. An “Address”. There was an extra form we filled out, I think in lieu of the sponsor letter. One of the things they wanted on this form was your Indonesian address. In the marina at Tampa Garam (Sorong), we put “s/v Soggy Paws, Tampa Garam Marina, Sorong”. This form also had spots for filling out your sponsor’s information, but the officer told us just to put a dash in that field.

In 2022, the visa extension turnaround time we were told was “3 days”. That’s 3 days AFTER you submit the paperwork. So, turn it in on Monday and get it back on Thursday. I believe you might be able to shorten the time a little, but not on a regular basis.

After they enter the information in the computer, they will print out a paper that you then take to a bank or the Post Office to pay the fee. Then you bring the receipt back when you go to pick up your passports.

**Biometrics on the First Extension:** The first extension, you submit your paperwork, and after they have had a chance to look it over, you will need to report to the Immigration office for a photo and fingerprint. For us, in Sorong, the photo/fingerprint session happened the day after we submitted the initial paperwork. Another cruiser in Sorong did the fingerprint/photo the same day they submitted the paperwork. All crew must be present for the initial submission (there is a signature required on the form) and for the photo/fingerprint session, but I think one person can pick up the passports.

## **10.1 2022 Update – Comments from Cruisers on Sail SE Asia FB Group**

**Soggy Paws – April 2022 – Tual:** We weren't sure whether we needed a Sponsor letter or a local sponsor for Tual. After reading the comments from Sail SE Asia FB group (below), we arranged for both, because we wouldn't arrive in Tual with enough time left on our visa to mess around. We had the Sponsor letter information couriered from our agent to our local contact in Tual. The total cost was about \$45 USD including the agent and courier fee, and took 7-10 days from Bali to Tual.

The Immigration guys in Tual were friendly and easy to work with. We paid the 500,000 Rp fee at the Post Office the afternoon after we submitted our paperwork, and received an email receipt. And the next day we received an email from the Immigration system that our visa extensions had been approved.

**Soggy Paws – March 2022 – Sorong:** Sorong, West Papua, Indonesia. Happy to report that our first 1 month extension of our B211A visa has gone very smoothly, and WE DIDN'T NEED A SPONSOR/SPONSOR LETTER. Not sure if this is just a Sorong thing or has been implemented system-wide. Apparently, they are acting like owning a \$100K+ USD yacht provides some amount of surety, therefore no need to buy surety from an agent. (I think). You just need to prove you are on a yacht and the yacht is in Indonesia.

Cost of extension 500,000 Rp per person, paid to the post office or bank.

The only thing that could have been a little better was the turnaround time. They say 3 days, but in Sorong that means start the process on Monday and you can pick up your passport with new visa on Thursday, which to me is 4 days. Friends begged and got theirs a little quicker but were told "not again". I don't know if an agent or an "expedite fee" could turn this into a 24 hour turnaround or not. It was all done via computer system connected to Jakarta.

For the first extension, after submitting the paperwork, a day or so later you have to go back into Immigration and do the "biometrics". That is a photograph and fingerprints. This only applies to the first extension. Then a day or so later, you take your receipt from the payment back and pick up your passport with the new visa stamp in it. So 3 trips to the Immigration office for your first extension. We got the guy who processed our paper's Whatsapp number, so it made it easy to communication with him, and reduced the frustration level. (For example, we arrived at 9am on Monday morning, and they were all in a meeting. I messaged him and asked him to let us know when they were out of the meeting. Then we could go off and do something else productive vs sitting waiting for who knows how long). FWIW, it seems like most government offices hold a meeting on Monday morning. Plan for it. They were done by about 9:30.

In addition to the crew list and vessel documentation, they wanted to see our boat on AIS (ie a screen shot of your boat name on Marine Traffic, printed out). The AIS requirement could be a problem if you don't have a way to get your boat's AIS to show up on Marine Traffic (there's an App for that! See Marine Traffic's website and follow the link to the OnCourse app).

Sorong will only process an extension within two weeks of your current visa period ending. (For a friend, Bitung, Sulawesi was very nice and processed the first extension almost a month ahead of when it was due.)

**Sail SE Asia – 2022 – Ambon:** Ambon extension was fairly straight forward- but we had to have sponsor letter, (which was late in arriving). They sent our friend away and he had to get a local sponsor pretty fast.

**Sail SE Asia – 2022 – Lombok:** Lombok we needed local sponsor not just a sponsor letter.

**Sail SE Asia – 2022 – Nias (Island on W Coast of N Sumatra):** You need a sponsor letter at Nias Immigration and it must be an original (ie mailed paper copy), not an emailed one.

## **10.2 December 2018 Update – Comments from Cruisers on Sail SE Asia FB Group**

**Belitung – October 2018:** We went to get a Visa extension in Belitung. They would NOT accept our emailed sponsor letters from Raymond. They insisted that the signatures had to be in ink not electronic. So they phoned Raymond's friend John and had him rewrite the letters and sign them in person. Basically they want your sponsor to be a local here I guess.

Returning to the office tomorrow for pick up. Hopefully there will be no other issues. They said only takes 48 hrs so that was good. Drop off Monday, pick up Wednesday.

**Various Places – Posted October 2018:** Our experience earlier this year was different, confusing and took 5-20 days depending on the office accessed! We thought it was us!!

We extended in Bali, Labuan Bajo, Wangiwangi, and Ambon. Each had different requirements.

Our original sponsor was from Ambon. When in Bali, our sponsor was in Australia (hence a hold up) we requested change to a local. That was rejected. Had to wait.

In Wangiwangi, our sponsor was in Jakarta. Wangiwangi accepted a local. Our local in Wangiwangi then gave us papers prepared for Ambon.

In Ambon they rejected the Wangiwangi sponsor and we had to revert to original sponsor.

Make your own conclusions.

What we concluded re sponsor letters earlier this year was that at each extension they required a new recent sponsor letter with new real stamp (no electronic copies) with sponsor signature. The expected way to do this was to inform the sponsor in advance who would then send (mail?) this to the specific Immigration office that you plan to extend your visa in.

With weather, postal and planning issues that resulted in a 20 day wait on one occasion. Fortunately our sponsor didn't charge at all--neither an original cost, nor ongoing for the necessary letters. It is ludicrous. And ridiculous.

*Sherry's note: It may be that the sponsors are required to enter their sponsorship information into the Immigration website, and depending on the sponsor, this may not be getting done, or maybe Raymond's habit of granting sponsorship well in advance of actual extension has caused problems. In 2017, we didn't have any problems using Ruth from Bali as a sponsor in several places, but each time she had to make and email us a new sponsor letter (which we paid a small amount for).*

**Lombok – Posted October 2018:** We just renewed in Lombok...lots of local sponsor B.S. But got our extension done in 4 working days. I love that just next to the sign saying they are trying to be a corrupt free zone is where you can buy an "Indonesian friend". Our guy (local sponsor) started out wanting 5 million....when we laughed hysterically he dropped it to 1.5 million each...we finally ended up at 1.3 million for both of us.

**Lovina, Bali – Posted October 2018:** Same thing happened in Lovina Bali to us—they wouldn't accept Raymond's emailed letter. They wanted an original, so we had to use the local sponsor who he recommended here who charges 1,000,000 for extension. Not happy when you pay for Raymond's letters then they don't work in certain places!

## **11 References**

Indonesian Immigration Site: <http://www.imigrasi.go.id/index.php/en/>

Indonesian COVID rules site:

Indonesian Customs Site: <https://www.beacukai.go.id/>

## **11.1 Bitung Contact Information**

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### **Immigration**

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### **Health/Quarantine**

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### **Harbor Master**

Lt. Bogar +62 852 4057 8143 (WA)

### **PCR Test**

Laboratorium Klinik Medylab (where the sample was taken)

Lab: Galaksi Medika Perkasa

[www.labgalaxy.co.id](http://www.labgalaxy.co.id)

[cs@labgalaxy.co.id](mailto:cs@labgalaxy.co.id)

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