

MV AMBAI

Raja Ampat South and Center

Sorong to Sorong | Misool and Dampier Strait

Misool is excellent for wide angle photography, with mantas and massive schools of fish.

Its colourful reefs are full of soft corals and huge gorgonians, and the macro life is just as good, with pygmy seahorses, tiny crabs and nudibranchs everywhere.

Between the north and the south, one stop has what is called the best coral garden of Raja Ampat, and another is known for its barracuda school and numerous wobbegongs.

The Dampier Strait is famous for its impressive amount of fish, and the walking shark can often be seen on night dives.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	EXPERIENCE
10 days / 9 nights	Sorong	Sorong	Advanced Open Water, 30 logged dives







Your route

STOP 1

Misool

Misool is excellent for taking wide angle shots, encounters with mantas, and massive schools of fish.
The underwater topography is predominantly rocky with ridges and rock formations.

STOP 1

Misool (continued)

The colorful reefs display an abundance of soft corals and huge gorgonians.
Macro subjects are plenty as well: pygmy seahorses, tiny crabs, nudibranchs, and other rare photogenic life are everywhere.

STOP 2

Fam - Penemu

We spend one day on these islands between the North and the South area.
The dives include the site “Melissa garden” which has the best coral garden of the Raja Ampat and “My reef” well known for its barracuda school and numerous Wobbegongs.

STOP 3

Dampier Strait

We usually spend one or two days there to visit its famous dive sites around Kri with their impressive amount of fish.

ROUTE MAP

Route map

The map shows the general cruise itinerary. It can slightly vary depending on weather conditions, currents, visibility, and tides. Distances are not long: there are only two overnight crossings, the other navigations are taking place between dives or in the early morning. We usually start the trips by going South and then making our way up to the North.



THE DIVING

Diving and snorkelling

The abundance of sea life, both fixed fauna such as corals and gorgonians along the lush reef, as well as the stunning quantity and diversity of fish swimming above is just astonishing. The dive sites' underwater topographies are also varied and interesting, filled with dramatic pinnacles, long ridges, walls, hidden caves, rock formations, azure lagoons and much more.

The fauna ranges from the tiny Pygmy Seahorse to the oceanic manta ray. Raja Ampat's signature are the huge schools of fish: clouds of fusiliers that attract predators like tunas and trevallies, barracudas, schools of the inquisitive spadefish, schools of sweetlips, groups of bumphead parrotfish, napoleon wrasses, etc.

Reef sharks are very much present on the reefs; the carpet shark or Wobegon is ubiquitous, laying on a coral or under a rock behind a cloud of glass-fish. The walking shark (Epaulette shark) can often be seen during night dives. Mantas are often seen on three different dive sites.

The Wallacea typical "Raja Ampat ultimate" 9 days trip covers the area of Misool in the South and the Dampier Strait. We then choose the dive sites according to the prevailing conditions during the trip.

A minimum of 27 dives (3 dives per day) is offered during the trip, including at least 5 night dives.

SNORKELLING

Our trips are open to snorkelers. Most of the dive sites offer great snorkeling opportunities with a lot to see in shallow waters, and we offer specific guidance for snorkelers.





ACTIVITIES

Activities

Besides the diving, we offer some activities along the trip according to weather conditions and the final trip itinerary.

In Misool, we will visit the ranger's station and snorkel in front of their beach in a natural shark nursery where small black tips are swimming around in one meter of cristal clear water. A short trek to the view point of the "love lagoon" (a lagoon in the shape of a heart!) will be offered. In Farondi, we will use the dinghies to navigate inside some hidden lagoons and go for a walk into a cave.

In Penemu we will visit the famous lagoon and hike the stairs to the view point.

You can also ask a boatman to bring you ashore at any time, as long as the schedule allows it. Our four complementary kayaks and paddles are also available to go on shore or in the lagoons whenever the boat is anchored. All these activities are subject to weather conditions as well as the planned daily schedule and itinerary.





CONDITIONS

Weather, visibility, temperature and currents

Weather

The weather is variable, even during the "dry" season, in this part of Indonesia, rain showers often happen. The sea is generally calm, with a few temporary storms, and sometimes light swell in the northern parts. Temperatures are around 30 °C.

Visibility

Raja Ampat's waters are dense with life and visibility can be limited. It is typically in the range of 10-20 meters, depending on the local condition that can vary from one dive to another.

Temperature

The ocean temperature all year long is between 28° and 30°C (82°-84°F).

Currents

Raja Ampat is well known for its consistent currents that bring incredible life. the crew has a long experience diving these sites. We pay close attention to diving in the right places at the right time, to avoid difficult or dangerous currents. Before each dive, our guides conduct current checks so that our briefings will always inform you about the up-to-the-minute diving conditions.



DIVE ORGANISATION

How the diving is organised on Ambai

- Due to the large number of dives performed during the trip and the remoteness of the location, we urge divers to stay within no-deco limits, to not exceed a maximum depth of 35 meters, and to perform a safety stop at the end of every dive.
- Depending on the guests' dive experience, interests (photography, macro, etc), and use of Nitrox (free for certified divers), the Cruise Director will arrange the diving groups. These groups are made of up to four divers maximum and a dive guide. The dive guides are rotating on a daily basis. Each diver is given a dive tank (DIN & INT available, no need for adapters) and their own dive station for the duration of the cruise.
- A briefing will be conducted by the Cruise Director or one of the guides before each dive. It will describe the site topography, depths, currents, and potential hazards, as well as the marine life we expect to encounter.
- The staff carries your tank between the MV Ambai and the dinghies. Onboard the dinghies, the tanks are placed into slots and the guide will help you to gear up just before you back-roll into the water.
- Identification books of flora and local fauna are available on board, and the dive guides will always help you identify the animals you have seen during the dives.
- Some dive equipment are available for rent on board. However, all sizes are not necessarily available, so please book it prior to the cruise.
- Our cruises are open to divers with a Padi Advanced Open Water or equivalent with at least 30 logged dives. Less experienced divers can also participate with special supervision that needs to be arranged before the cruise.
- Insurance covering medical evacuation and diving accidents is highly recommended. Divers will be filling out a statement of medical fitness for dive activities onboard.

ON BOARD

Service and cuisine

SERVICE

Behind the MV Ambai's success, there is a professional, discreet, smiling, and very friendly crew. Our team will treat you with special attention, assist you with whatever you need, and of course carry your tank & gear. Most of our crew have been working with us for many years.

THE CUISINE

Mixing eastern and western specialties, our cuisine is a "fusion" of the best of both that will never let you go hungry.

Should you have specific requests, or a particular dietary need, (vegetarian or allergy, for example), our chefs will adapt the meals for your greatest pleasure.

THE TEAM AT YOUR SERVICE

- 1 cruise director / diving instructor
- 17 crew members including 4 dive guides

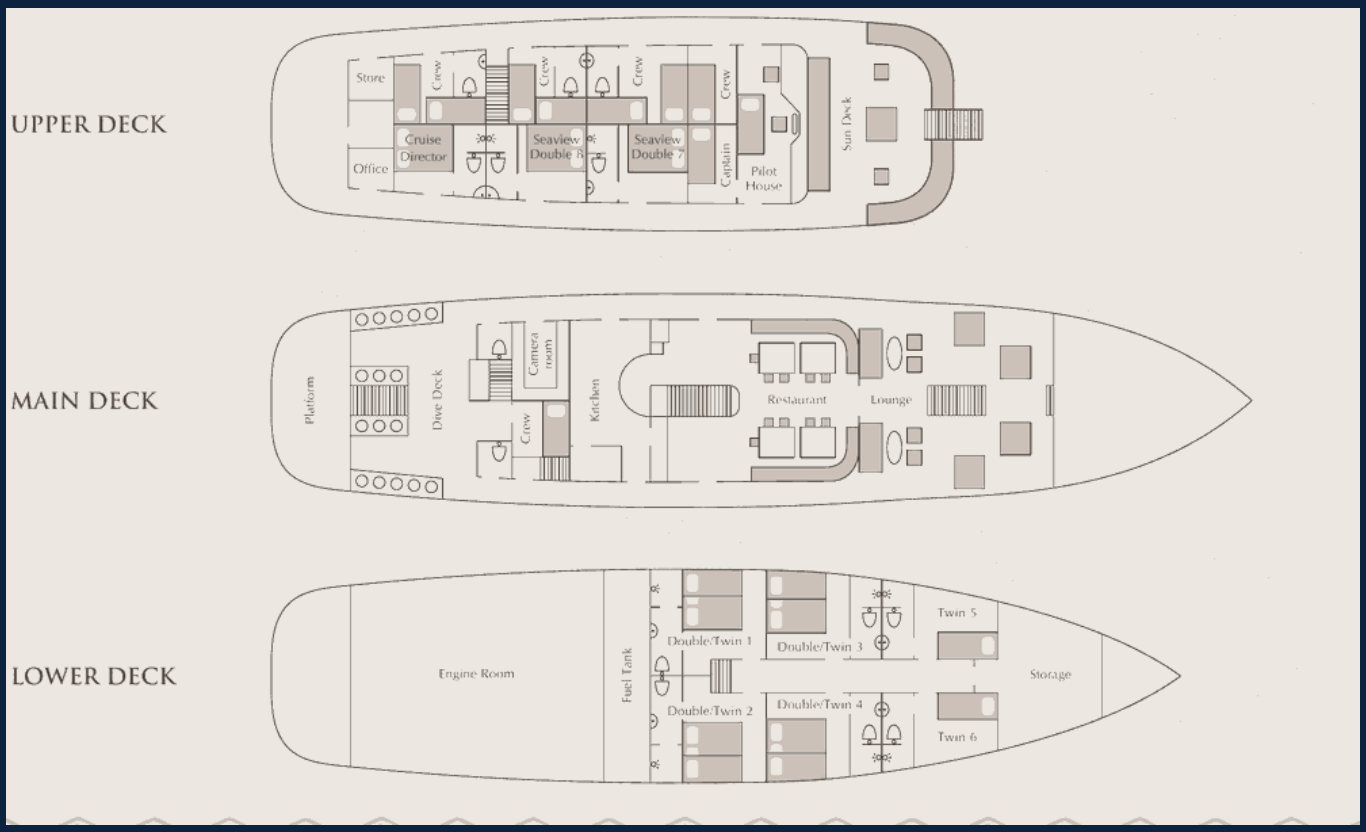






DECK PLANS

Deck plans



PAYMENTS

Payments on board

All payments on board are made in cash, as credit cards cannot be accepted. All major currencies are accepted (EUR, USD, AUD, CHF and IDR), and prepayment by wire transfer can be arranged.

The park and port fees and the fuel surcharge are mandatory and are paid on board.

Tips: tipping should reflect your level of satisfaction with the service on board. The usual amount in the industry is 10% or more of the cruise rate.

INCLUDED

What your trip covers

INCLUDED IN THE TRIP PRICE

- Transfers between the boat and the closest airport
- Accommodation in a shared twin or double bed cabin
- All meals & snacks, drinking water, soft drinks and hot drinks
- All guided dives (1 guide /4 divers maximum)
- Aluminium tank (12 liters), weights, and belts
- Free Nitrox

NOT INCLUDED

- Park & port fees, fuel surcharge
- International and domestic flights
- Alcoholic beverages (you can bring your own)
- Diving equipment rental, 100 cf (15 L) tank
- Crew gratuities
- Massages
- Laundry