

CORALIA

Cenderawasih Bay start in Sorong

Sorong to Manokwari | Cenderawasih Bay National Park and Kwatisore whale sharks

Indonesia's largest national park is unspoiled and almost uninhabited, and its highlight for many is the whale shark encounters at Kwatisore.

The whale sharks have learnt that sucking on the fishing nets makes the catch come out of the holes, and they have been known to stay with divers for hours.

One site is completely covered in soft coral, with barracuda, trevally and fusiliers, and manta rays, mobula rays and sharks out in the blue.

Roon has sloping walls with sea fans and colourful soft corals, bumphead parrotfish, reef sharks and turtles.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	EXPERIENCE
13 days / 12 nights	Sorong	Manokwari	Certified, all levels welcome







Your route

STOP 1

Sorong to Cenderawasih Bay

Starting from Sorong in West Papua we immediately make our way to Cenderawasih Bay.
An overnight crossing brings us to The Junkyard.
This dive site is on the south corner of Pulau Amsterdam.

STOP 1

Sorong to Cenderawasih Bay (continued)

Here small boats and barges were scuttled and they have now turned into a nice artificial reef.
We will do two dives here before cruising overnight to our next stop, Manokwari, to check in with the local authorities.

STOP 2

Manokwari

During World War II Manokwari was occupied by the Japanese and there are some excellent wrecks that we can explore here.
There is a huge Japanese freighter and a former coastal patrol boat that are now encrusted in corals and home to lots of marine life.
Once we have checked in we can dive right in Manokwari harbour.

STOP 3

Cenderawasih Bay

Cenderawasih Bay western edge is a National Park and Indonesia's largest.
This area is part of the Bird's Head Seascape, along with Raja Ampat and Triton Bay.
It is a new dive destination, complete with the highlight for many, the whale shark encounters.
The entire area is unspoiled and has a very small population, with many parts uninhabited.
In the Bay there are over 500 different species of corals and you will see some of the healthiest hard coral gardens.
There are dramatic walks full of sponges and atolls full of schooling fish.



STOP 4

Pulau Purup

From Manokwari we will head out into the National Park.
There are some critter dive sites that we can explore either at the start or at the end of the trip.
At Pulau Purup there are several dive sites and we will spend the whole day here.
On the southeast tip there is a sloping reef with many elephant ear sponges and other soft corals.
Here we could get our first glance of an endemic fish only found in Cenderawasih Bay – a flasher wrasse Paracheilinus walton.
At the other sites you can see schooling fish, especially fusiliers, barracuda and another endemic fish, this time in the damselfish family Chrysiptera pricei.
Reef sharks can also be seen cruising the shallow hard coral reefs.

STOP 5

Roon

Roon is our next stop.
There are ridges lined with hard corals and sloping walls with sea fans and colourful soft corals.
Divers can look for bumphead parrotfish, reef sharks, schools of fusiliers and turtles.
There is even a small waterfall on the beach that flows into the sea.

STOP 6

Pulau Rippon

Close to Roon is Pulau Rippon.
There is a wreck of a World War II plane with the rest of the dive site forming a slope with pretty corals.
At another spot the white sandy bottom rises up into stunning coral patches covered with soft corals and elephant ear sponges.
There are turtles, schools of surgeon fish and barracuda alongside some interesting macro subjects.
Yet another endemic fish can be seen around Pulau Rippon.
A dottyback Pictichromis caitlinae can be found in cracks and crevices.

STOP 7

Tanjung Mangguar

Tanjung Mangguar has one of the most beautiful dives in Cenderawasih Bay.
The site is completely covered in soft coral and attracts a lot of fish life.
A school of barracuda hangs out here, along with trevally, fusiliers and surgeonfish.
Look out into the blue for possible sightings of manta rays, mobula rays and sharks.
The shallows here are also impressive.
There is a good night here too.



STOP 8

Kwatisore and the whale sharks

Next we will go to Kwatisore Bay for the chance to see whale sharks.
The whale sharks come to feed at the bagans (fishing platforms) here.
This is a natural behaviour, the whale sharks have learnt that if they suck on the fishing nets the fishermen's catch comes out of the holes!
The fishermen believe these huge fish bring them good luck.
They throw handfuls of fish to the whale sharks to keep them close to their bagan.
We will arrive in the area in the late afternoon to ask the fishermen who have seen whale sharks that day.
We can then arrange to visit early the next morning.
If we get lucky we might see more than one whale shark and they have been known to stay with us for hours!
Having close-up encounters as the whale sharks circle round and round, opening their mouths wide and sucking in the fish, is one of the most incredible experience you can have.

STOP 9

Tridacna Atoll

On the way back up to Manokwari we will spend some time at the Tridacna Atoll.
There are several dive sites in this area.
Here we dive at deep drop-offs and fringing reefs carpeted in soft corals, large barrel sponges, sea whips and massive elephant ear sponges.
The surrounding deep ocean means that the dive sites here are some of the fishiest in the Bay.

STOP 10

Last day

On the last full day on board we will do two dives before heading back into Manokwari to enjoy our goodbye dinner inside the harbour.

GOOD TO KNOW

On land and on the way

Cruise Directors

Cruise Directors may adapt the itinerary to guarantee the best experience in the weather conditions.

Marine experts

On some cruises you hear presentations from marine scientists and other experts of the area.

Check in

The crew welcome you at the airport, then the tenders take you to Coralia in the harbour, where the final arrangements are made with the port authorities.

Check out

The last evening is spent in port with a farewell dinner, and the tenders take you ashore the next morning to catch your flights.

Itinerary

This is a sample itinerary. Cruise Directors adapt the route to the weather and other conditions.

INCLUDED

What your trip covers

INCLUDED IN THE TRIP PRICE

- Cabin accommodation with daily housekeeping
- All meals, snacks and drinks
- Guided diving, with Nitrox free of charge
- Kayaks and stand-up paddle boards
- Free Starlink Wi-Fi, depending on local reception
- Presentations from marine scientists and other experts on some cruises

NOT INCLUDED

- International and domestic flights
- Port, fuel and park fees, shown on our trip listings for each departure
- Dive and travel insurance
- Equipment rental and courses
- Massage, where offered
- Gratuities for the crew, which are optional

BEFORE YOU GO

What to bring

ESSENTIALS

- Dive certification card and logbook
- Dive and travel insurance
- Completed diver medical form
- Dive computer and surface marker buoy
- Torch for night dives

AND ALSO

- Reef-safe sunscreen
- Swimwear, hat and sunglasses
- Light clothing and sandals
- Personal medication and toiletries
- Passport

WORTH KNOWING

Key notes

Good to know

This is a sample itinerary that may change without notice because of weather or other unforeseen circumstances

Good to know

Port, fuel and park fees are paid in addition to the cruise price