

CORALIA

Raja Ampat, Banda Islands and Ambon

Sorong to Ambon | Raja Ampat, Misool, Koon, Banda and Ambon Bay

From the adrenalin-packed currents of Raja Ampat to the muck diving of Ambon, this route crosses some of the best underwater scenery in Indonesia.

In the Dampier Strait, blacktip, whitetip and grey reef sharks, giant trevally and dogtooth tuna hunt huge schools of fusiliers, with manta rays gliding through.

Misool's small islands are a soft coral paradise, with forests of sea fans and walking sharks on night dives.

The Banda Islands have deep walls and seamounts, with hammerheads known to visit.

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







Your route

STOP 1

Sorong and the Dampier Strait

Starting from Sorong in West Papua we head to the south of Raja Ampat's largest island Waigeo to the famous Dampier Strait.
We will select the best dives sites for the experience of the divers and according to the current and weather conditions.

STOP 1

Sorong and the Dampier Strait (continued)

Here you can expect to dive at some world class, adrenalin-packed dive sites such as Cape Kri, Chicken Reef, Sleeping Barracuda, Sardine Reef, Mioskon and Blue Magic.
Our guides can take you to places where the current meets the reef head on, where you can witness predatory fish like for black tip, white tip and grey reef sharks, giant trevally, Spanish mackerel and dog tooth tuna hunting huge schools of smaller fish like fusiliers and big eye jacks. Sea mounts and long reefs offer this hunting action as well as sightings of bumphead parrotfish, napoleon wrasse, turtles and manta rays.
At the other end of the Dampier Strait is the island of Arborek with a great jetty dive.
Lalosi is a drift dive completely full of fusiliers and with a chance to see wobbegong sharks.
The well-known manta aggregation sites of Manta Sandy and Manta Ridge are also in this area.
Sawandarek is on the island of Mansuar and the dive on the reef and jetty in from of the village is a fantastic dive.
You can also visit Papua Explorer's coral restoration project here.
For those interested we can take a walk around the village at Sawandarek or Arborek.

STOP 2

Penemu

After a night dive on our first day of diving we will travel to Penemu.
Famous Melissa's Garden awaits us with its spectacular, healthy and wide-spread hard coral plateau in the shallows.
At Keruo Wall we can admire large gorgonian sea fans and lovely reef tops, and we might also explore My Reef and Batu Rufus.
A short hike to the viewpoint of Penemu offers a spectacular view of the lagoons and its surrounding islands.



STOP 3

Misool

Next, we head south to Misool.
Misool's small surrounding islands are soft coral paradise and another area of Raja Ampat.
With its abundance of stunning dive sites and the natural beauty of karst limestone, jungle clad islands, this area invites us to linger for several days.
Misool can be divided into many areas where we can spend the whole day at a selection of amazing dive sites.

STOP 3

Misool (continued)

Daram is in the very east of these islands and has inviting names such as Candy Store, Andiamo and Warna Berwarna (meaning Colourful Colour!) The sea fans forests here have to be seen to be believed!

STOP 4

Boo, Fiabecet and Yuliet

In the iconic areas of Boo, Fiabecet and Yuliet we look through the iconic Boo Windows, with tonnes of fish surrounding us.
We explore fabulous dive sites like Shadow Reef (aka Magic Mountain), Nudibranch Rock, Batu Kecil, Whale Rock, Boo West Corner and Yuliet Kecil.
And if we are lucky, we see the majestic Giant and Reef Manta rays around here.
Admire large coral heads covered in soft corals, maybe spotting the famous Santa Clause Pygmy Seahorse, while schools of Barracudas and Batfish might pass by.
Our eagle-eyed dive masters will look for a 'Walking Shark' (Epaulette Shark) on a night dive at Romeo.



STOP 5

Sagof, Wagmab and Farondi

Sagof, Wagmab, Farondi offer us stunning underwater walls, overhangs and cave structures plus amazing macro, such as Nudibranchs, Flatworms, Anemone Crabs and all kinds of shrimps.
In this area, we have the opportunity to visit the wonderful Lagoons, a must- see place, with its iconic bee-hive- shaped karst limestone formations and hard coral colonies at the bases of these amazing geological structures.
If the tide is high enough our crew will take you to the secret bay right at the back!

STOP 6

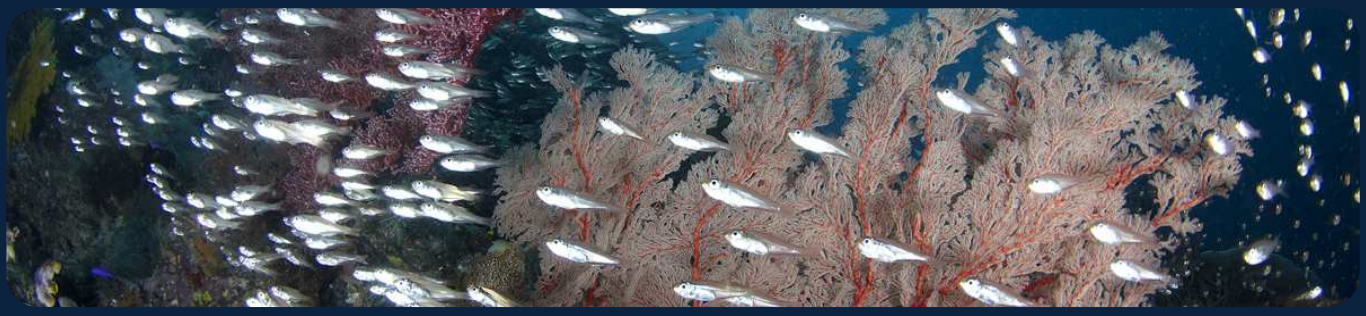
Wayilbatan lagoons

There are also lagoons at Wayilbatan, including the Love Lagoon.
The hike up the steep stairs is well worth the view.
A drift dive through a channel covered in sea fans at Neptune Fan Sea is the perfect place to cool off after the hot walk.
Wedding Cake and Barracuda Rock are other stunning dive sites in this area.

STOP 7

Crossing to Koon

It is a long crossing to Koon so on the last day of diving in Misool we will do two dives before heading south.
The dive site at Koon is called Too Many Fish which is all the explanation you need!
Large groupers hang out on the deep wall and there are large schools of jacks and snappers.
Reef sharks and even dolphins have been seen here.
We will do two dives here before cruising to the Banda Islands.



STOP 8

Banda Islands

At the Banda Islands, also known as the Spice Islands, the land excursion is fascinating.
Visit the museum, an old Dutch fort and a nutmeg plantation to learn about the incredible history of these remote islands.
The diving here includes the typical deep walls of the Banda Sea, as well as sea mounts and drift dive along fish packed reefs.
At Batu Kapal the whole pinnacle is covered in schooling Pyramid Butterfly Fish and Red-tooth Triggerfish which mix in with hundreds of fusiliers, creating a myriad of colour.
Hammerhead sharks have to been known to visit some of the reefs here, as well as turtles, bumphead parrotfish, eagle rays and napoleon wrasse.

STOP 9

Nusa Laut

Nusa Laut is a small island close to Ambon and the village here protects the fantastic dive site of Amet Reef.
Eagle rays, a huge school of jacks, hammerhead sharks and even a Dugong have all been seen here.
The reef is very healthy and it is common to see bumphead parrotfish feeding in the shallows.

STOP 10

Ambon Bay

The remainder of our adventure will be spent diving in Ambon Bay.
Ambon is a world class muck diving destination.
Inside the bay there are numerous dive sites full of critters galore!

STOP 10

Ambon Bay (continued)

The holy grail of fish Rhinopias can be seen here along with Frogfish, Ghost Pipefish, Nudibranchs, Leaf Fish, Zebra crabs, cuttlefish, all sorts of Pipefish, Mandarin Fish, Ribbon Eels, all sort of Eels and cute juveniles like the Barramundi Cod, Batfish and Harlequin Sweetlips.
Our eagle-eyed dive guides will be looking out for different types of shrimps such as Bumblebee Shrimp, Harlequin Shrimp, Tiger Shrimp and Coleman shrimps.
In the octopus family, we might see the very special Wunderpus or Mimic and at night the Coconut, Starry Night, White-V and Long Arm Octopus come out to hunt.
An excellent way to finish a trip!

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