

CORALIA

Raja Ampat Batanta and Dampier Strait

Sorong to Sorong | Dampier Strait, Yeben, Fam Islands and Batanta

Raja Ampat sits in the heart of the Coral Triangle, where many scientists believe the coral and fish diversity is the greatest in the world.

In the Dampier Strait the current meets the reef head on, and sharks, giant trevally and dogtooth tuna hunt huge schools of fusiliers and bigeye jacks.

Shallow coral bommies dot a white-sand bottom at Yeben, and in the mangroves of Yangeffo corals grow right among the roots of the trees.

Off Batanta, manta rays visit their cleaning stations, and at dusk Blyth's hornbills return to roost over the forested hills.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	EXPERIENCE
7 to 9 nights	Sorong	Sorong	Certified, all levels welcome







Your route

STOP 1

Sorong to Dampier Strait

Our crew will welcome you at Sorong airport.
You will then proceed to Sorong harbour, where our tenders will take you to Coralia.
Once all guests are on board, we will make the final arrangements with the port authorities and head out towards Waigeo, Raja Ampat.

STOP 1

Sorong to Dampier Strait (continued)

We may spend our first night on board around Mioskon, where we can watch the thousands of bats leaving the island at sunset.
Depending on the trip length, we will spend the first day or couple of days exploring the famous Dampier Strait.
This area offers a vast selection of world-class and adrenaline-packed dive sites, such as Cape Kri, Chicken Reef, Sardine Reef, Mioskon and Blue Magic, of which we will select the best options according to the current and weather conditions.
Our guides can take you to places where the current meets the reef head on, where you can witness predatory fish like blacktip, whitetip and grey reef sharks, giant trevally, Spanish mackerel and dogtooth tuna hunting huge schools of smaller fish like fusiliers and bigeye jacks.
On top of the abundant fish life, Central Raja Ampat offers fantastic macro dives, with chances to spot different species of pygmy seahorses, common seahorses, cuttlefish and octopuses.
Moving east to west in the Dampier Strait, we may visit dive sites around the islands of Kri, Mansuar and Arborek, where we hope to encounter schools of sweetlips, napoleon wrasse, bumphead parrotfish and the endemic tasselled wobbegong shark.
Sawandarek village lies on Mansuar Island and offers a spectacular reef and jetty dive.
Here we can witness Papua Explorers' successful coral restoration pro-ject and visit the resident turtles.
Arborek is a well-known jetty and night dive and boasts impressive marine life such as giant clams, schooling batfish and crocodile fish.
The well-known manta aggre-gation sites of Manta Sandy and Manta Ridge are also in this area.
For those interested, there might be an opportunity to walk around the village at Sawandarek or Arborek.

STOP 2

Yeben & Yangeffo

Next, we will head to Yeben area.
Expect beautiful coral bommies dotted around a white-sand bottom, which creates a unique scenery.
These healthy, shallow reefs attract an enormous amount of reef fish and give shelter to cuttlefish blending in, with blacktip reef sharks patrolling around.
Yangeffo Island is situated on the western tip of Gam Island and creates a sheltered bay.
This small area has multiple top-notch dive sites.
Famous ones like Citrus Ridge and Mayhem always amaze divers with their vibrancy and biodiversity.
The area here is probably so abundant due to the surrounding mangroves.
Beautiful hard and soft corals grow under and among the roots of the trees.
They create a distinctive environment and are home for species like archer fish, cardinal fish and different types of juvenile reef fish.
If the tides are right, we may visit this fragile ecosystem, which provides special photo opportunities.
Our crew will be happy to take you out in the tender to snorkel in the mangroves in between dives.

STOP 3

Fam Islands

The next day will be spent in Penemu area, where we offer three dives.
Famous Melissa's Garden awaits us with its spectacular, healthy, and wide-spread hard coral plateau, completely covered in colourful anthias and damsel fish.
At Keruo Wall, we can admire large gorgonian sea fans and lovely reef tops.
A short hike to Penemu viewpoint offers a spectacular view of the lagoons and its surrounding islands.
To cool off, we'll do a late afternoon dive at Batu Rufus, followed by a relaxed evening drinking cocktails and watching the sunset on deck.

STOP 4

Batanta to Sorong

Next, we head to Dayang on the northwest of Batanta.
Dayang is at the entrance to one of Batanta's many scenic bays, where we might come across more wobbegong sharks and get to see great macro life, including ribbon eels, ghost pipefish and unusual nudibranchs.
Dayang Island also offers a great chance to encounter manta rays, the gentle giants, at their cleaning stations.
Moving east along the northern coast of Batanta, there are some fantastic drift and pinnacle dives with schooling fish, lots of fusiliers, napoleon wrasse, turtles and reef sharks.
For the night, we may head inside a bay to a very special anchor spot.
As the sun drops, the surrounding forested hills become alive, and Blyth's Hornbills emerge to return to their roosting places.
After witnessing this spectacle, we can do a great macro night dive on a sandy slope.
We will go on a critter hunt, looking for weird and won-derful creatures such as octopus, ghost pipefish, juvenile batfish and juvenile barramundi cods.
Our last diving day will offer two more action-packed dives on Batanta or in the Dampier Strait, before we start travelling back to Sorong harbour, where we will spend the last evening and enjoy a special farewell dinner.
The next morning, our tenders will take you back ashore to catch your flights.

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