CORALIA

Raja Ampat Misool, Dampier Strait and Wayag

Sorong to Sorong | Misool, Wofoh, Kawe, Wayag and Dampier Strait

From the soft coral islands of Misool to world-famous Wayag in the far north, this route crosses the equator through the best of Raja Ampat.

Misool has sea fan forests that have to be seen to be believed, giant and reef manta rays, and walking sharks on night dives.

Wofoh has stunning black coral forests where schooling fish are on the constant run from larger predators.

In the Dampier Strait sharks, giant trevally and dogtooth tuna hunt huge schools of fusiliers.

Uninhabited and incredibly picturesque, Wayag has beautiful atolls and lagoons and karst islands that resemble mushrooms sprouting from the sea.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	EXPERIENCE
9 to 12 nights	Sorong	Sorong	Certified, all levels welcome







Your route

STOP 1

Sorong to Misool

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 south to Misool.

STOP 1

Sorong to Misool (continued)

Misool's small surrounding islands are a soft-coral paradise and a famous part of Raja Ampat. With its abundance of stunning dive sites and the natural beauty of karst limestone and jungle-clad islands, this area invites us to linger for a couple, or depending on the trip length, even several days.
Misool can be divided into many areas, where we can spend the whole day at a selection of amazing dive sites.
Daram is in the very east of these islands and has inviting names such as Candy Store, An-diamo and Warna Berwarna (meaning Colourful Colour!).
The sea fan forests here have to be seen to be believed!
In the iconic areas of Boo, Fiabecet and Yuliet, we may look through the iconic Boo Windows, with tonnes of fish surrounding us.
We might explore fabulous dive sites like Shadow Reef (aka Magic Moun-tain), Nudibranch Rock, Batu Kecil, Whale Rock, Boo West Corner and Yuliet Kecil.
And if we are lucky, we see the majestic giant and/or reef manta rays around here.
Admire large coral heads covered in soft corals, maybe spotting the famous Santa Claus pygmy seahorse, while schools of barracudas and batfish might pass by.
Our eagle-eyed dive masters will look for the endemic walking shark (epaulette shark) on a night dive at Romeo or Yuliet Besar.
The areas of Sagof, Wagmab and Farondi offer us stunning underwater walls, overhangs and cave structures, plus amazing macro life, 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 in Misool.
These amazing geological structures come in iconic bee-hive-shaped karst limestone formations and hard-coral colonies at their base.
If the tide is high enough, our crew will take you to the secret bay right at the back!
There are also lagoons at Wayilbatan, one of them is the Love Lagoon.
If we visit this lagoon, we will do three dives on that day.
The hike up the steep stairs is well worth the view – a blue heart shape.
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 2

Misool to Dayang to Fam Islands

It is a long crossing up to Dayang, so on the last day of diving in Misool, we will do two dives before heading north.
Dayang on the northwest of Batanta is at the entrance of a bay and a perfect place to split up the journey.
Here, we might come across wobbegong sharks and get to see great macro life, including ribbon eels, ghost pipefish and unusual nudibranchs.
Dayang Island also offers another great chance to encounter manta rays, the gentle giants, at their cleaning stations.
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.



STOP 2

Misool to Dayang to Fam Islands (continued)

A short hike to Penemu viewpoint offers a spectacular view of the lagoons and its surrounding islands.
On the day we visit the viewpoint, we will do three dives.
To cool off, we might do a late afternoon dive at Batu Rufus, followed by a relaxed evening drinking cocktails and watching the sunset on deck.

STOP 3

Wofoh & Aljui Bay

We will then move up to Wofoh, an incredibly scenic area with unique dive sites.
On one side, we will have the backdrop of Wofoh and Taman Wofoh, two small islands with pristine white-sand beaches, and on the other side we can take in vistas of the forested mountains and valleys of West Waigeo.
The dive sites at Wofoh are famous for stunning black coral forests, where schooling fish are on the constant run from larger predatory fish.
The walls are interesting with ledges and shallow caverns, where it is not uncommon to find wobbegong sharks.
Next, we might head into beautiful and secluded Aljui Bay, which is famous for its outstanding macro diving and plentiful purple soft corals.
There may also an opportunity to take a little tour to visit the pearl farm and learn all about how pearls are grown.
During the night dive, it is not unusual to find macro favourites like special octopus and cuttlefish species, colourful nudibranchs and epaulette walking sharks.

STOP 4

Kawe & Wayag

The next day, we offer two dives close to the island of Kawe.
Eagle Rock is our first stop and is named after the majestic eagles circling above the small, rocky islands.
Underwater, divers can encounter creatures like wobbegong sharks, bamboo sharks, batfish, schooling fusiliers and, if we get lucky, even the occasional manta ray!
At Black Rock, soft corals bloom in a variety of colours from the rocky outcrops, amazing us as Raja Ampat's full abundance comes to life in a most vibrant display.
Schooling surgeon fish await us together with sweetlips, whitetip reef sharks and dogtooth tunas on the hunt.



STOP 4

Kawe & Wayag (continued)

We continue our journey north towards world-famous Wayag, which is in the very north and across the equator in the northern hemisphere.
Uninhabited and incredibly picturesque, Wayag Island is an icon of Raja Ampat.
Covering a total area of 155,000 hectares, it is known for its beautiful atolls and lagoons.
Breathtaking at every turn, in Wayag you will find pristine beaches and the unique Karst islands that resemble mushrooms sprouting from the sea.
The fit and adventurous can climb to the top of Mount Pindito for the fantastic views.
In the late afternoon, we will go for a scenic lagoon tour in the speedboats.
Look for baby manta rays and turtles as we cruise around.
At the ranger station, we can look for blacktip reef sharks swimming over the sand in the shallows.

STOP 5

Yeben & Yangeffo

We will then head down again towards 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 6

Dampier Strait to Sorong

The remainder of our adventure will be spent diving in the famous Dampier Strait.
Moving west to east in the Dampier Strait, we may visit dive sites around the islands of Arborek, Mansuar and Kri, 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 project 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 aggregation 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.
The central and eastern part of Dampier Strait offer 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.
Our last diving day will offer two more action-packed dives in the Dampier Strait, before we start trav-elling 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