



Dewi Nusantara

CRUISING ITINERARY 06

CENDERAWASIH BAY & THE BIRDSHEAD PENSINSULA

MANIM - MIOSAURI - KWATISORE - ROON - DORE BAY - PULAU AMSTERDAM

(MANOKWARI TO SORONG)



MANIM - MIOSAURI - KWATISORE - ROON - DORE BAY - PULAU AMSTERDAM

DEWI NUSANTARA ITINERARIES

CENDERAWASIH BAY & THE BIRDSHEAD PENINSULA

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The Indonesian Archipelago

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CENDERAWASIH BAY & THE BIRDSEAD PENINSULA

MALAYSIA

PACIFIC OCEAN

SINGAPORE

KALIMANTAN

SUMATRA

MANADO

TERNATE

HALMAHERA

SORONG

MANOKWARI

SULAWESI

CERAM

AMBON

KAIMANA

WEST PAPUA

BALI SEA

MAKASSAR

BANDA SEA

TUAL

ARU

INDIAN OCEAN

JAKARTA

JAVA

FLORES SEA

BALI

DENPASAR

SUMBAWA

LABUAN BAJO

FLORES

MAUMERE

KALABAHI

EAST TIMOR

SAUMLAKI

SUMBA

WEST TIMOR

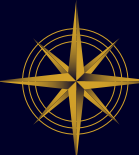
KUPANG

SAVU SEA

ARAFURA SEA

AUSTRALIA

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M A N I M - M I O S A U R I - K W A T I S O R E - R O O N - D O R E B A Y - P U L A U A M S T E R D A M

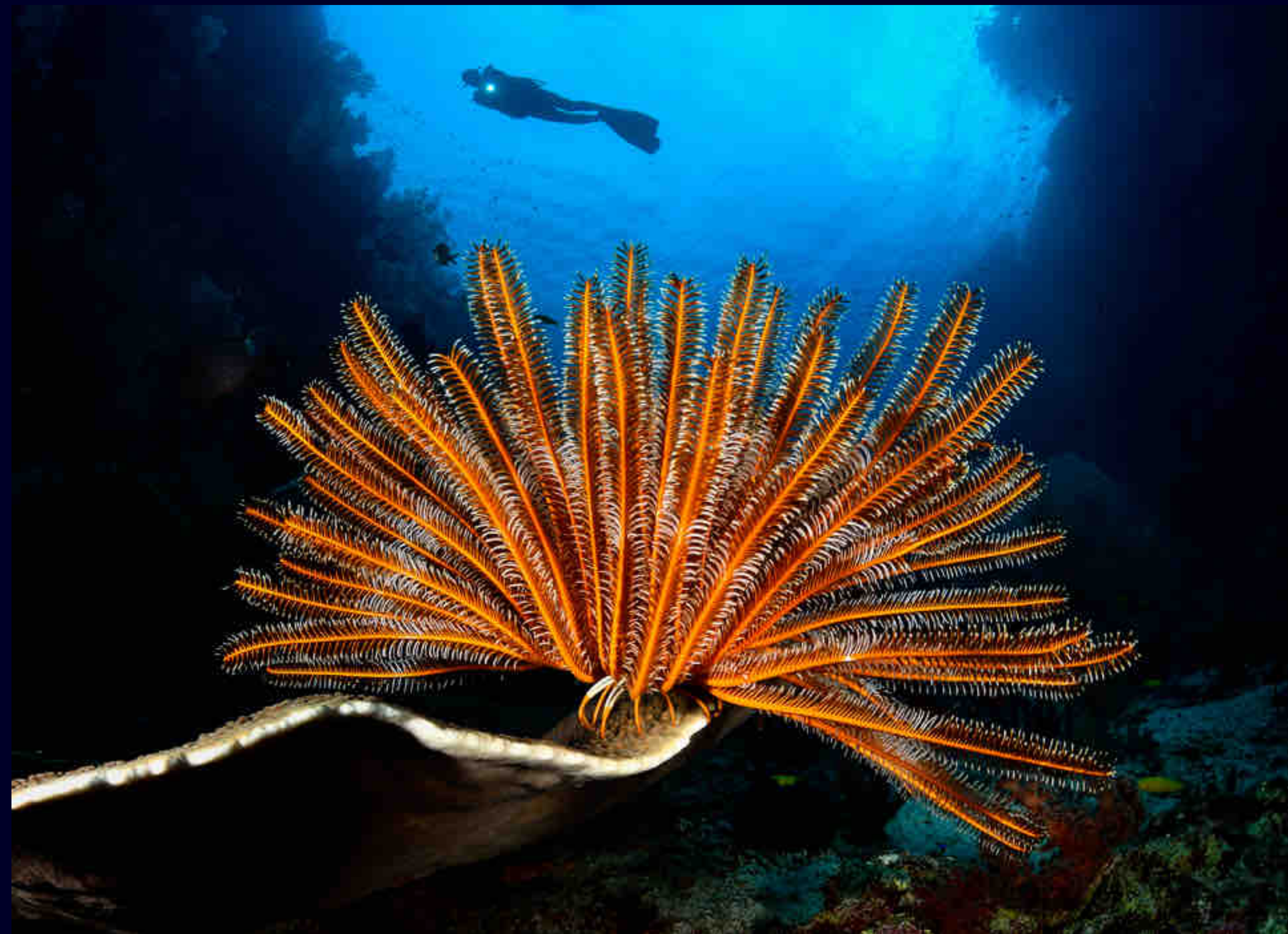
Cenderawasih Bay & The Birdshead Peninsula

Located along the northern coastline of West Papua, Cenderawasih Bay, Indonesia's largest marine national park, makes up part of what is known as the Bird's Head Seascape. Relatively new to the Southeast Asian scuba diving community, Cenderawasih Bay is one of the latest additions to the Indonesian archipelago's already outstanding portfolio of cruise itineraries.

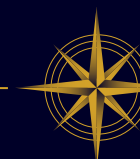
The remote islands and strikingly colourful coral reef systems scattered inside the bay are astonishing areas to explore. Rising from the deep blue sea, the crystal-clear waters and sparkling reefs teem with marine life. The picture-perfect beaches that surround many of the tiny tropical islands appear to have been man-made for some grand advertising campaign, creating unbelievable locations for a wide range of watersports and other exciting activities.

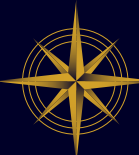
The bay harbours a natural beauty, becoming a south-Pacific paradise. The surrounding Papuan mainland and islands are home to a host of rare creatures. Some of them are endemic to the region, such as forest wallabies, possums, and bandicoots, as well as the sleepy and secretive cuscus, which inhabit the lowlands, gorges, and hilly forests. The continental-sized island of Papua, along with the Amazon, has the largest concentration of bird species on the planet, and Cenderawasih Bay is home to many of them, including the rare and elusive "Birds of Paradise."

The list of native species is not limited to land-based animals; the bay is also home to numerous indigenous marine species. Cenderawasih Bay is geologically separated from the south-west reaches of the Pacific Ocean by a deep marine ridge stretching across its northern border. It features many creatures not found at other destinations, making it a unique and unusual cruising ground for adventurous scuba diving exploration and budding marine biologists.



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The main attraction, however, and the stars of a Cenderawasih Bay expedition, are the awe-inspiring, up-close-and-personal whaleshark encounters deep inside the bay at Kwatisore. Snorkelling with these impressive creatures in the wild is a humbling experience, and Cenderawasih Bay features an excursion second to none. At night, the local fishermen sling nets underneath their tethered fishing platforms to catch baitfish. This activity has attracted the attention of the local whaleshark population. These gigantic fish like to gather below the nets to suck up a free meal. Numerous whalesharks are often observed during a single excursion, creating a truly spectacular experience for snorkellers and divers alike.

Get On-Board with Dewi Nusantara

For selected expeditions in her busy cruising season, Dewi Nusantara will venture into the remote eastern Indonesian region of Cenderawasih Bay, offering guests exclusive access to some of the area's most exceptional dive sites. The journey will then continue along the North Papua coastline, concluding in Sorong.

Begin your next scuba adventure on board the Indonesian archipelago's premier liveaboard and experience the best that Indonesia has to offer, along with Dewi Nusantara's outstanding service, exceptional facilities, and her highly experienced crew.

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Destinations: Cenderawasih Bay & The Birdshead Peninsula

Cruise Route ➡

Miosauri ➡

Roon ➡

The Wandammen Peninsula ➡

Tanjung Mangguar ➡

Kwatisore ➡

Rorebo Atoll ➡

Sewandeh ➡

Manim ➡

Manokwari (Dore Bay) ➡

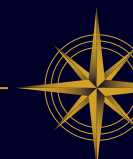
Pulau Amsterdam ➡

Cruise Notes ➡

Key: ➡= To destination. 🔍= Back to this page



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THE
PACIFIC
OCEAN

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SORONG

MANOKWARI

DORE BAY

NUMFOR

MANIM

BIAK

THE
BIRDSHEAD
PENINSULA

SEWANDEH
NUM

YAPEN

CENDERAWASIH
BAY

MIOSAURI

ROON

THE
NUMAMUREN
STRAIT

ROREBO

TANJUNG MANGGUAR

KWATISORE

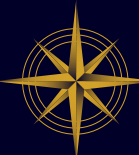
THE
BOMBERAI
PENINSULA

WEST
PAPUA

Cruise Route: Cenderawasih Bay
& The Birdsheads Peninsula

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Miosauri

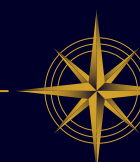
Miosauri is the collective name for a group of islands out in opens sea 35 nautical miles from the east coast of Birdshead Peninsula, formed on and around a massive undersea ridge that rises from the abyssal depths of the Cenderawasih.

Once described as one of the most picturesque anchorages on the planet, this stunning collection of rarely visited sandy islands combines to make Miosauri an outstanding and incredibly scenic location to drop the hook. Topside is a wonderland of channels and spits, surrounded by sand and coral-bottomed bays filled with crystal-clear water.

The most popular areas for diving are the shallow reefs and endless walls on the western side of the island group. Before plunging into the blue, the coral gardens extend quite a distance from the land. The shallow gaps between the islands are also great places for an easy dive or snorkel, as they teem with marine life and feature many very pretty coral heads.



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Roon

The ridges, reefs, and seamounts around Roon form an interesting topography, ranging from critter-filled sand and coral head sites to pretty sloping reefs and small islets.

A favourite dive around Roon is Pulau Auri. This is an exposed green-topped rocky islet that boasts some strangely shaped rock formations, seemingly sculpted by a giant stone cutter for an ancient monument due to their concise angles.

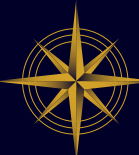
Huge slabs and blocks of rock, some substantial enough to form mini-walls, dominate the scenery around the site. Many of them feature 90-degree corners and large flat surfaces, which serve as ideal locations for surgeonfish schools. Additionally, groups of small trevally and red-toothed triggerfish are common.

Dive Sites: **Roon**



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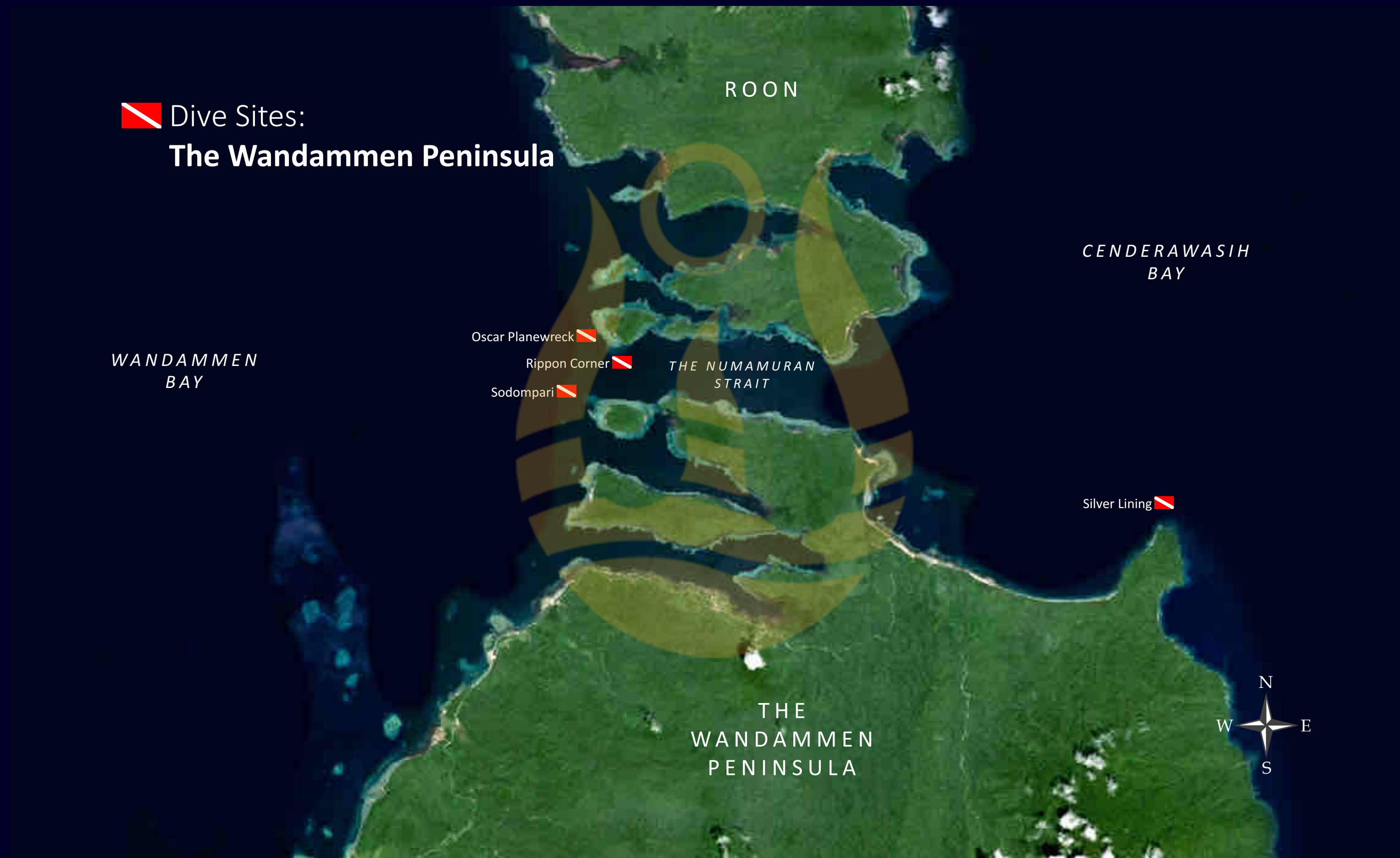


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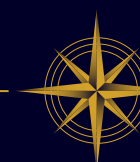
The Wandammen Peninsula

The impressive Wandammen Peninsula extends northwards from the Papuan mainland and, at points, reaches up to an elevation of over 2,000 metres. There is a mix of different dive sites clustered around the northern tip, where it meets the Numamuran Strait and Roon Island. The dives from the pretty anchorage range from a collection of undulating seamounts at Silver Lining to sloping reefs, mini-walls, and even, on the Roon side of the strait, the wreck of a Japanese Oscar fighter plane brought down during World War II.

Gomorra, a huge reef that extends westward from Sodompari Rock, is the area's signature site. The gently sloping seabed gradually gets deeper as divers swim westward. On the northern side, there is a mini wall that drops down to 30 metres, but all across the top, there are sandy highways that separate the numerous and well-grown coral heads that support an eye-opening collection of smaller marine life. Further up in the water column, there is the chance to observe schooling snapper and jacks, and the sandy areas support some very large stingrays. There is even the chance of bumping into a dugong, the Indonesian cousin of the manatee, during a dive here as well.



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Tanjung Mangguar

Collectively known as Batu Wunderbar, Tanjung Mangguar's prime dive sites are located on the peninsula's seaward-facing eastern side and consist of a series of surface-breaking rocks and reefs extending away from the mainland. The currents can be strong in and around these small rocky islets, but there are plenty of places to hide and lots to see.

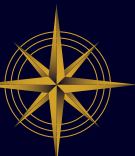
A huge sandy half-bowl has formed in the deeper parts of the eastern side of the rocks, 600 metres south-west of the northernmost tip. This spot has produced some very exciting dives and is a great place to observe some of the larger marine life that visit the area, including manta rays, several species of sharks, and large tunas.

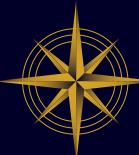
There is also the opportunity for more diving around the small islands at the western tip of the peninsula, as well as some productive night dives in the bay close to Napan Village.

Dive Sites: **Tanjung Mangguar**



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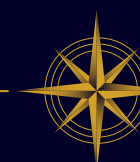
Kwatisore

While Kwatisore is best known for its exhilarating whale shark encounters, the region offers far more beneath the surface. At the southern end of the bay, divers can explore an array of exceptional dive sites, including the shoreline of the Maniburu Peninsula and clusters of submerged offshore reefs. These sites are particularly well-suited for critter and night diving, where lucky visitors might spot the elusive and endemic Cenderawasih walking sharks patrolling the area's reefs.

One of the standout dive sites is Nutabari - a tiny, idyllic island located to the northeast. From its shores, a shallow reef extends westward, culminating in a striking point adorned with vibrant, shallow hard coral gardens. The reef is fringed by dramatic, vertical rocky walls that plunge into the depths, creating a dynamic underwater landscape. This thriving habitat draws large schools of fish and is known for sightings of impressive dogtooth tuna, especially toward the western tip when there is a tidal current running.



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Kwatisore Whale Sharks

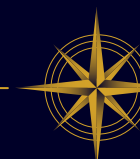
Anyone who has ever encountered a whale shark during a dive or snorkelling experience knows what an awe-inspiring experience it can be. Like the graceful manta ray, whalesharks are also big favourites with divers. They effortlessly glide through the water, feeding on microscopic plankton and other small organisms, while all the diver has to do is keep up with them to capture a photograph or video - which is no mean feat in itself.

Deep inside Cenderawasih Bay, however, things are a little bit different. In this area, fishermen use anchored longboats known as bagans, outfitted with an array of walkways and outriggers extending from both sides. From these elaborate contraptions, they catch small fish fry, which are a key food source in Southeast Asia. They generally fish at night, using lighting arrays to attract tiny baitfish. During the day, there is little activity aside from some rod and line fishing. What they have found, however, is that the whalesharks are attracted to the nets and will actually suck on them to get at the fry for a free meal. Surprisingly, the fishermen see this as a sign of good luck and have been encouraging these huge animals to feed on small handfuls of food known as puri. Over time, they have struck up a relationship with them, to the point where they can now hand-feed the sharks pretty much the same as you would a large pet or any other domestic animal.

As an extension of the fishermen's interaction with these animals, liveaboard dive yachts are now visiting the bagans. The fishermen allow snorkellers and divers to join them in the water, allowing them to observe and photograph these majestic beasts at their leisure. We will spend up to two days at Kwatisore, and have an open-deck policy. This means that divers and snorkellers can come and go at their leisure. Dewi's tenders will zip guests between the bagans and the yacht. We will also offer diving at nearby locations too.



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Rorebo Atoll

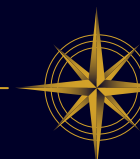
Rorebo is the collective name for a spread-out collection of small islets, sunken reefs, and atolls in the open sea, some 20 nautical miles east of the Wandammen Peninsula. Many of the reefs in the area rise from deep water to break the surface, forming a playground of known and yet-to-be-discovered dive sites.

The marine architecture consists mainly of walls, ledges, overhangs, caves, and spectacular coral gardens and is known particularly for intense schooling fish action. The sites also attract manta rays and other larger pelagic species at times, which, when combined with the wonderful scenery, provide lots of wide-angle photographic opportunities.

The aptly named Tridacna Atoll is known for its colonies of giant clams, and at many of the sites there is the chance to encounter some of Cenderawasih Bay's endemic marine species. Here, the Burgess butterfly fish, in particular, live in much shallower water than their usual habitat.



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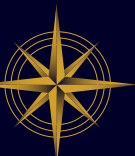
Sewandeh

Liveaboard yachts rarely visit this small island group, leaving Sewandeh open to exploration. The northwestern side of the islands boasts some fine flat-topped seamounts, while the south-eastern side of the group hosts the prime dive site, Sewandeh Point.

It is possible to explore this pretty, sloping coral reef from two different directions, depending on any prevailing currents. Both options begin in two sheltered areas on the east or south sides of the island. The dive features some huge coral heads and an undulating, sloping seascape, as well as the usual busy Indonesian reef scene. There is sometimes a large school of big-eyed jacks patrolling the area, as well as common sightings of turtles and cuttlefish.



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Manim

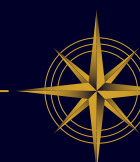
The small and very pretty island of Manim is home to several scuttled WW2 landing craft. In total, there are seven in two groups of three on a white sand slope, as well as one single sunken vessel surrounded by barrel sponges and reefs.

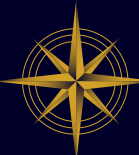
This appears to be another dumping site for unwanted war equipment, much like The Junkyard site at Pulau Dua, along the north Papuan coastline further west.

There is plenty to see on these small wrecks; each one is slightly different, and there is good coral growth on all of them. One has several very photogenic lionfish; another has giant anemones; one more has big bushes of yellow black corals; and the next has large clumps of red and purple soft corals. It is possible to explore them all in two dives, with a third dive on the coral plateau to the north of the island or on the point to the south.

Alternatively, there are some nice dive sites on the much larger island of Numfor. One of them, Tanjung Remasidori, features a beautiful slope and wall with abundant coral growth, surrounded by clear blue water. Here it is possible to spot some larger marine species patrolling the area: grey reef sharks, white-tip sharks, barracuda, tuna, grouper, jacks, snapper, and many more.

Dive Sites: **Manim**



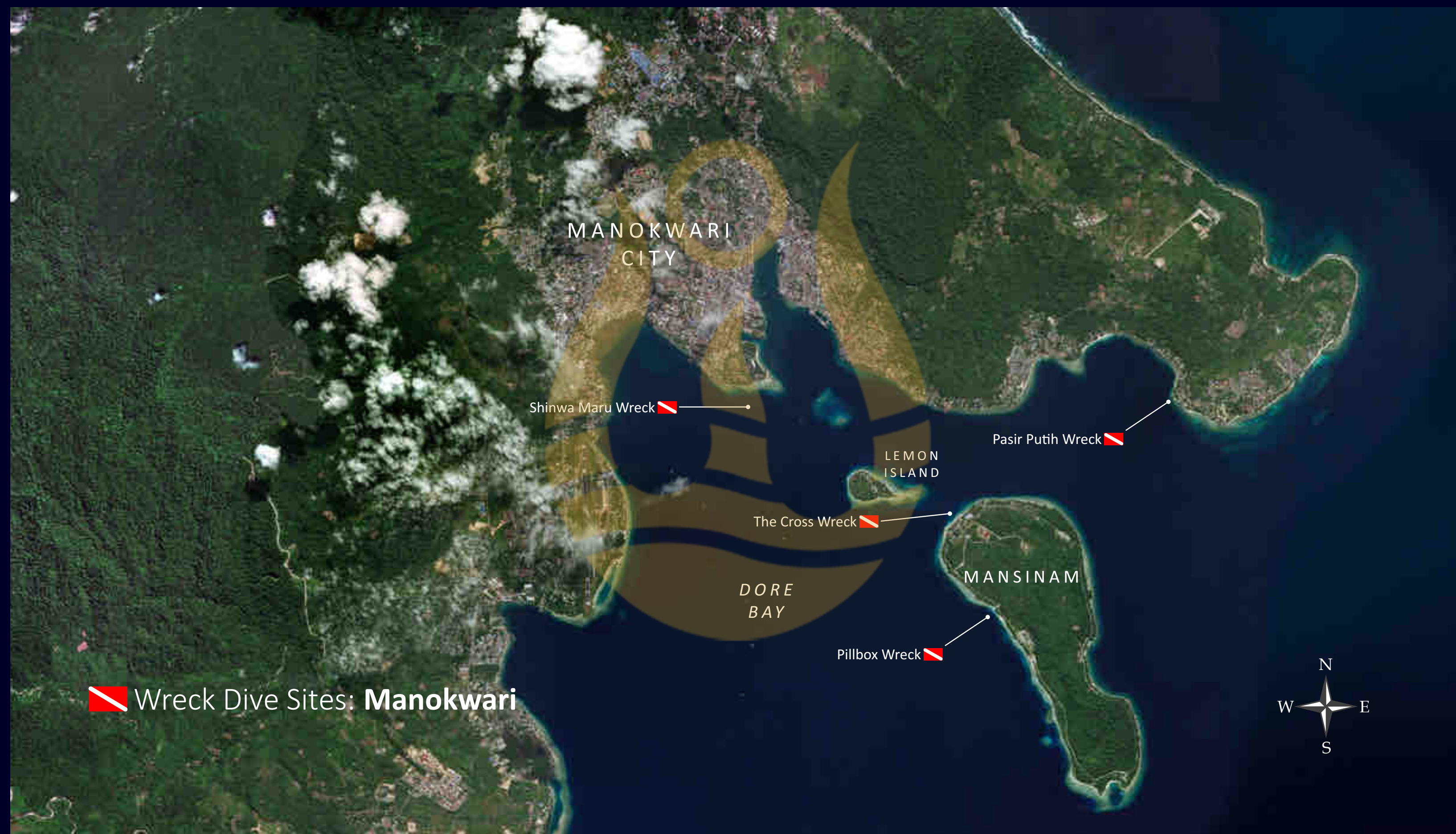


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Manokwari (Dore Bay)

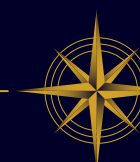
Manokwari town is located along the beautiful shoreline of Dore Bay, a natural deep-water harbour backed by the 3,000 metre-high Arfak mountain range and lower-lying jungle. This landscape forms what the Japanese navy thought was a well-protected and safe anchorage for their warships and cargo boats. The hills above the town still bear the trademarks of Japanese occupation: they are riddled with tunnels used for storage, shelter, and escape. General McArthur's allied forces were based on the island of Biak, over 120 nautical miles further east, and were regularly attacking the Japanese at Manokwari with their aircraft. Unfortunately for the allies, the Japanese had cracked their radio codes, so they were ready when the planes attacked their shipping; this led to a lot of them being shot down to join the bombed and sunken Japanese vessels already on the sandy seabed.

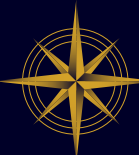
Despite the discovery of over 20 wrecks, only five are currently easily accessible for diving. Others



 Wreck Dive Sites: **Manokwari**

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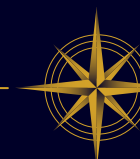


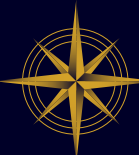
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are either too deep to reach on conventional scuba, are hard to find, or are so bent and destroyed that they are hardly worth a visit. Luckily for visiting divers, those that are reachable are relatively unexplored, fairly pristine, and rarely dived. The wrecks feature good hard and soft coral growth and abundant marine life, while many still contain interesting artefacts that, with the exception of the Shinwa Maru, have not yet been properly identified.

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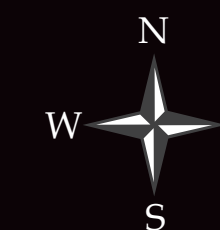
Pulau Amsterdam

Diving at Pulau Amsterdam, located offshore from the North Papuan coastline, offers an unparalleled underwater experience. This serene anchorage is made up of two islands, Miossu and Middelburg, in a region renowned for its extraordinary marine biodiversity.

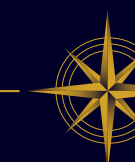
In addition, the dive sites around the islands hide something special under the water, World War II artefacts. There are numerous wrecked American landing craft that were scuttled here, along with a lot of other military hardware, which has since been turned into wonderful habitats by the resident marine life.

In addition, divers can expect to encounter a vivid tapestry of coral reefs teeming with life, including a plethora of fish species, from the small, colourful reef dwellers to larger pelagic fish such as barracudas and reef sharks.

Dive Sites: **Pulau Amsterdam**



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Cruise Notes

- **Flexible Itineraries:** Our cruise routes are intentionally adaptable. Throughout the journey, the captain and cruise director continuously assess sea conditions, weather, and tides to ensure the best possible experience. Guest preferences for specific dive sites are always considered whenever feasible.
- **More Than Is Listed:** The locations featured in these itineraries represent only a portion of what's possible. Numerous additional anchorages and activity options are available along the way, making each voyage truly unique.
- **Simplified for Clarity:** The destinations shown in our presentations are not necessarily listed in the order they will be visited. They are organized for clarity and to help guests visualize the overall routing.
- **Extended Stays:** If a particular anchorage offers exceptional experiences, guests may opt to linger a bit longer. The captain and cruise director have the flexibility to accommodate such preferences, provided they align with the overall cruise schedule.
- **Overnight Passages:** To maximize daylight hours at our most spectacular destinations, longer transits between anchorages are typically conducted overnight.
- **Escape the Crowds:** With the exception of embarkation and disembarkation points, our itineraries are carefully crafted to avoid congested areas and busy commercial ports, allowing for a more tranquil and immersive experience.
- **Beyond the Dive:** Many of our anchorages offer more than just diving and snorkelling. Guests can enjoy kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding, and occasional visits to local villages and cultural sites — adding even more richness to the journey.



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