FENIDES
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SCHEDULE

HALMAHERA (south route)

The following itinerary has been designed to access the most engaging locations Halmahera and Raja Ampat have to offer, with intent to dive three times per day.

Please note that any trip plan is subject to change based on the currents, waves and weather in the region. Strong currents, for example, may mean that the exact location and/or timing of the planned dives may have to be altered on safety grounds and to suit the local conditions.

It is always possible to discuss and agree an alternative itinerary following consultation with the Captain, Cruise Director and fellow guests.

Day 1 - We will pick you up either at your hotel or Ternate airport and take you to the harbour where our crew will welcome you onboard. Following refreshments and a short tour of the ship, you will be briefed on safety, the diving operations, and life onboard. We will set sail at approximately 11am (or when the last guest has boarded) and we will allow time for you to get acquainted with the ship, set up your dive gear & cameras and to meet and socialise with the other guests and friendly crew. During an over lunch sail we will arrive at a calm bay for a late afternoon check dive and a night dive before setting sail to discover more of the wonders of North Maluku!

Day 2 - 8 Halmahera

Throughout our sail through the islands surrounding Halmahera we will endeavour to both explore new spots and revisit the most memorable and well-known dive locations in the area. Depending on conditions and your needs our voyage will aim to cover all of the main islands and exciting spots. The most important information for this section of this cruise is that the itinerary is completely open for discussion. We aim to provide the best and most complete

trip possible and Halmahera is so vast and unexplored that we can always adjust to the group's needs. Therefore, the order in which we visit each location will vary on every trip. An idea of these areas starting from our first day, following North to South, looks something like this:

Ternate is the main hub of tourism of the Halmahera area and will be our starting point for all trips. Being the largest of the surround islands there are plenty of sheltered areas for check dives and night dives but there are also some rather wonderful reefs and chances for big fish life. Due to the small number of dive centres based on the island dive sites are also well documented.

- Tanjug Konde is a shallow dive with stunning reefs that cover every single spot on the dive site, giant table coral gardens stretch equally in all directions. Arguably one of the best reefs on the trip and a literal aquarium of reef fish.
- Tahua Point hides a little secret in the shape of a WW2 shipwreck tucked in between pink swaying gorgonians and coral platters.
- Black Rock hiri on the island of Hiri to the North of Ternate is always a wonderful dive. Being relatively unprotected, black tips and grey reef sharks are commonly seen patrolling this coral covered stone cluster. Schooling fish and interesting topography make this a highlight from the area

Tidore Island just south of Ternate has similar bays and topography to its bigger northern brother however the diving is still worth a visit. Great night dives and still a lot to explore, the bays here provide a great spot to spend the afternoon on the beach with a sunset before exploring further south in the following days.

Tifore Island is right in the middle of the Molucca Sea and is a good sail out into the middle of nowhere. To say Tifore is remote would be an understatement. Not only is the above water scenery breath-taking but so is the underwater. Normally an overnight sail sees our customers waking up to their first sight of this paradise as the sun rises.

- Pantai Sago is a reef on the south side of the island and it is common to see vast numbers of schooling barracuda and Jack fish, coral is dense

  and water is clear. The current also hits this island straight on and depending on the tidal conditions, pelagic fish can be pulled close to the reef and reef Fish numbers are always mesmerising.

On the side west of the Halmahera lies the Goraici Islands, the people in this area have a unique connection with the ocean and believe in the protection of their surrounds. This means they minimise destructive fishing techniques and try to protect the reefs around their islands. Obviously, this opens the doors to some truly wonderful diving experiences. Much of this area is (as like most of North Maluku) undiscovered and a treasure trove of new dive sites await. Not to mention some secret spots from previous expeditions!

Patintie Strait offers some of the most exciting diving in the whole region. A small channel separates the larger islands of Bacan and Halmahera and in the dead center of the channel is Pulau Kusu. This wonderful island blocks the water flow and forces the current into smaller channels and with it increases its speed. There are two true gems of dive sites here but the conditions can be quite tricky at times. Hence, we will ensure to thoroughly evaluate and if possible, to dive safely, plan the dives with the group.

- Proco Channel is a small gap between two land masses in the Pantintie strait and without the right conditions this dive is impossible but if the chance presents itself divers can expect a full show with large quantities of pelagic, including various sharks, barracudas travelies and rays.

- Batu Jabu is the second great dive in this area and is a visible pinnacle on the opposite side of Kusu to Poco. This dive can be done in front of the current or behind the current and however you dive it beautiful corals, abundant fish and pelagic surprises are common. This area also presents itself for a few exploration dives as the surrounding coastlines and small islands crest an intricate network of underwater reefs yet to be fully discovered.

Damar Island and Joranga Islands are at the very southernmost point of mainland Halmahera and either one is a great place to stop for the night before our crossing to Raja Ampat. Experiencing water flows from two major systems, these islands have a vast array of macro life in protected bays that provide great night dives, but also have a very exciting opportunity for shallow water dives in and around the mangrove systems fringing the islands.

Pisang Island and the Batuanyer Islands are the mid-way point on our way back to Raja Ampat National Park. Although there a still a lot of spots to discover on Pisang Island the two smaller islands of Batuanyer are a must-see! Connected by a shallow underwater ridge covered in dense coral growth, these island offers a little bit of excitement. Being in the dead center of the Indonesian throughflow strong nutrient-rich currents fuel these ecosystems and entice an abundance of Marine life.

The dive sites here can be tricky but well worth it. Typical procedure involves a negative entry upstream of the current flowing directly through the islands. Please note that reef hooks are required as the group position themselves in the face of the water flow watching as the action unfolds in front and below. For less adventurous divers or those seeking a relaxed photography dive no matter which direction the current runs the opposite side of the islands creates a nice protected area for which divers can enjoy a degree of comfort and easy.

Day 9 – 15 Raja Ampat

Day 9 - 11 is spent in the Misool Island, which is one of the largest islands in the Raja Ampat archipelago. With its crystal-clear turquoise sea-waters and visually breath-taking maze of limestone pinnacles that jut sharply out of the sea, Misool keeps us occupied for days. This large area is grouped into smaller island chains which provide unique and wonderful diving experiences for multiple days. These areas include:

Daram Island

We will do 3-day dives plus a night dive here. Daram is one of the areas less frequented by liveaboards in Misool due to its location, however, it is home to what many consider one of the finest dive sites in the world.

- Andiamo is a large, bustling reef with an underwater pinnacle covered in bright sea fans and surrounded by schools of fusiliers and reef fish. Reef sharks, barracudas and bump head parrot fish can also be found here. Often under looked, this dive is repeatedly rated the best dive site for many divers.

- Candy Store, named because the first divers felt like kids in a candy store, is covered in huge sponges, beautiful soft corals and sea fans. In the valley with sandy bottom are literally thousands of hard and soft corals. Large schools of barracuda, butterfly fish, and fusiliers as well as many different types of shrimps every colour of nudibranch. Wobbegong sharks rest in the hard corals and turtles eating away at the reef.
- Warna beranda, literally means colourful in Indonesian language, is a very chilled and relaxed dive. Covered in colourful corals and fish life, there is also a chance to see small critters like the rare and elusive pygmy seahorse.

Balbulol

Another 3 dive day plus a night dive. Balbulol is a beautiful area full of submerged pinnacles and hidden gems, just a short overnight or afternoon sail from Daram. We spend the night at a hidden lagoon which is a special anchorage inside a narrow bay enclosed by towering rocks. Take the kayaks and stand up paddle boards to explore the lagoon and listen out for the uninterrupted sounds of the ocean and the birds in the rainforest above.

- No Contest is a dramatic reef littered with pinnacles and valleys. Currents can get strong here but hiding in the protection of the reef one can easy sit and watch the countless batfish fusiliers and sometimes barracudas.

- Love Potion Number 9, a strange name for a strange dive site. An underwater maze of spectacular reefs leading to a ridge and deep panicles. Soft corals mix in with hard corals and fish shelter in the crevices of the reef.

Yilliet, Boo and Warakaraket islands

These three close islands allow for a very varied days diving as we pick and choose the best dives from all three areas before settling down for a macro lovers night dive! A deep underwater ridge connects the islands of Boo in the East, to Kalig in the West. In certain areas, the ridge moves up shallower to form the most unforgettable dive sites of the park 2 days can be spent here if requested.

- Magic Mountain is one of the top-rated diving sites in Raja Ampat. An offshore pinnacle with a long and narrow ridge, shoals of bannerfish, pyramid butterfly and yellow snappers can be seen cavorting on top of the ridge, persistently stalked by giant trevallies, orange-spotted jacks & longnose emperors. The ridge goes progressively down, with yellowtail barracudas patrolling the upper sector and white tip and grey reef sharks found nestled under the large coral tables. At the end of the

peninsular is a cleaning station where oceanic manta rays come to be cleaned from parasites by wrasse and other reef fish.

- Boo Rock is known for the “windows” or rounded openings on the end of the largest rock that completely pierce the reef from the surface down to five meters deep. Although the two rocks appear separate from the surface, they are in fact connected underwater by a magnificent reef draped in soft corals and brimming with fish.

Reef sharks, parrotfish, surgeonfish, schooling batfish, fusiliers, snappers and moray eels are all found here, as well as a wide variety of nudibranchs, unicorn fish, octopus and green turtles.

- Yillit Kecil's (whilst sharing all of the attributes of its neighbouring sites) main characteristic is the large number of nembrotha nudibranchs that can be observed.
- Whale rock named after the rocky islands which looks like an enormous whale, this dive site is arguably the most beautiful reef system on the planet. There is not a single barren rock or empty space on the reef here as corals of all types blanket the substrate. When currents pick up bait balls form and trevallies dart back and form. Not to be missed!!

Wayilbatan

This area has incredible diversity and topography both above sea and below. In between dives don't waste the chance to take in the scenic landscapes with some kayaking and stand up paddle boarding amongst the most spectacular hidden lagoons in the region. The night dive here is especially worth jumping in for!

- Wedding Cake: schools of batfish, trevallies, barracuda and pygmy seahorses congregate
- Four Kings is made up of four pinnacles covered in soft coral and colourful filter feeders. Turtles are common here and its easy swim

from one pinnacle to the next, enjoying the rainbow colours of the corals and abundant fish life as you go.

- Barracuda Rock, is a very shallow night dive with a chance to see the rare and unique epaulette sharks walking along the reef floor.

Farondi

Farondi houses on of the most favoured dive site in Raja Ampat due to its unique and distinctive landscape which consists of tunnels, caverns, boulders and colourful walls. The Island has two large caves with a shallow reef, and a

dramatic cliff north of the headland. Generally, a 3 dive day in the afternoon after the third dive we will depart North and sail overnight Penemu Island.

- Goa Farondi, is a wonderfully unique dive site a true gem. Shelves of yellow-coloured soft corals, wall tops blanketed with plate corals, leather corals, and passing mobula rays. Huge Tunnels and swim throughs in the caves contrast with the colors on the reef creating this truly dramatic site.

Day 12 is spent in Penemu, Central Raja Ampat.

Penemu experiences some of the strongest currents coming directly out of the Dampier straight. These currents bring rich nutrient filled waters right to penemu's shores and it is immediately obvious once seeing the island from underwater. We will arrive in Penemu early morning on our way north from Misool. We will do 4 dives here before heading off in the evening towards Waigeo.

Dive areas and spots include:

- Barracuda, is an oval-shaped reef that extends out for the northern most tip of Penemu. Depending on currents huge schools of fish aggregate at the end of the reef, especially barracudas. Chance for pelagic fish is high here

- Galaxy is a huge reef with amazing corals and fish life. Macro is also easy to find here ranging from multi-coloured nudibranch and patterned shrimps to eels in the rocky cracks. Galaxy has a lot of everything

- My Reef is a great place to catch a sighting of the weird wobbegong sharks and black tips cruising up and down the reef in a mild current. The shallowest point of this dive is 8meters so planning and current checking is important.

Day 13 and 14: Dampier Strait and Gam

After heading up from the South we will stop in the central area of the Dampier straight for some more favourite and famous diving to end the trip. This area houses world renown dive sites like “Blue Magic”, “Cape Kri”, “Manta Sandy” and “Manta ridge” there is no better way to end a trip! These magical waters allow you to chill with graceful rays and swim around in a fish soup!

Day 15: Sail back to Sorong

On our last day we will not be doing any diving as we cruise back to Sorong but the roof top bar will be stocked ready and the dive guides will be ready to give detailed run downs of what we saw for logbooks and picture sharing. After a farewell lunch and debriefing, customers leave the boat with memories that will last a lifetime!