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RAJA AMPAT

Diving Itinerary 10-12 nights

Please note that this is a sample itinerary. Each cruise will be adapted as necessary based on weather, wind and sea conditions as well as tailored to guests' preferences.

A RAJA AMPAT DIVE TRIP IN A NUTSHELL

Located in West Papua, the eastern region of Indonesia, Raja Ampat is often called the last paradise on earth and is well-known for its spectacular (and sometimes bizarre) sea creatures and biodiversity, breathtaking islands with beautiful white-sand beaches and crystal blue lagoons, traditional villages with local tribes and unique traditions unlike anywhere else in Indonesia.

- Unspoilt diving
- Muck diving in black sand
- Greatest coral reef biodiversity
- Mangrove dives with stunning color contrast
- Mantas & Wobbegong Sharks
- Fantastic for UW photographers
- Exciting drift dives
- Stunning viewpoints on land

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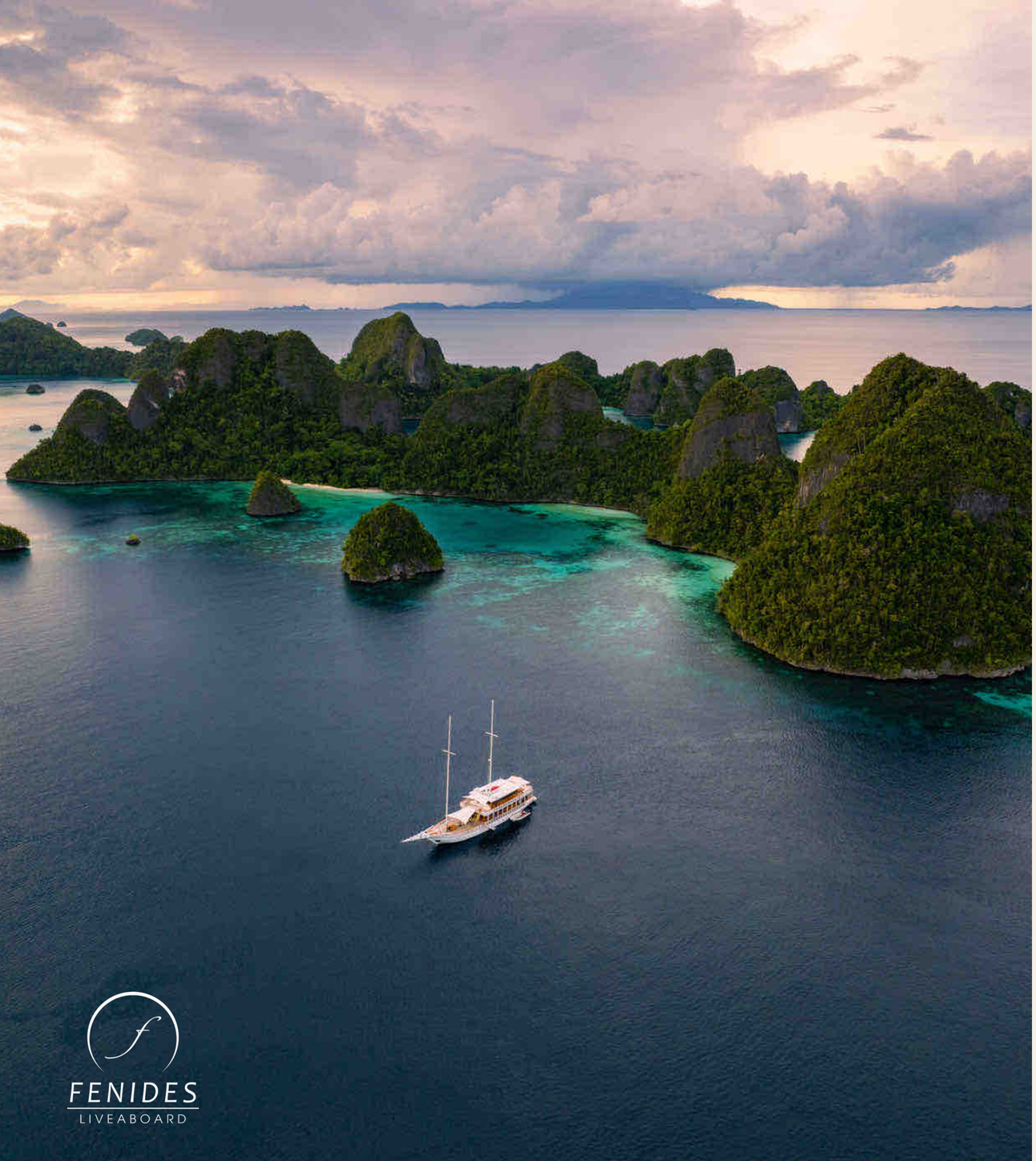

ABOUT THE REGION

Raja Ampat has been documented as one of the last frontiers of unspoilt diving. The archipelago's pristine reefs are not only rich, but the region also proves to have the greatest coral reef biodiversity for its size in the world. The Bird's Head Seascape holds: 2,500 islands and reefs, 1,320 fish species, 550 coral species and all that is yet to be discovered.

Raja Ampat's beauty – both above the waterline and below – will leave you enraptured. Fittingly, the name Raja Ampat means "four kings." The four main islands or "Kings" of the archipelago: Waigeo in the north, Salawati west of Sorong, Batanta north of Salawati, and Misool in the south.

Misool area in southern Raja Ampat is a must for those who enjoy radiant coloured soft corals. There are stunning walls, pinnacles and reefs with masses of huge gorgonian fans and sea fans hosting an array of the famous pygmy seahorses. The vast area and variety of dive sites makes it the ideal location to be discovered via liveaboard.

Visit Waigeo and dive the famous Dampier Strait, some of Raja Ampat´s most action-packed dive sites. Exhilarating drift dives and reliable manta cleaning stations where you can experience these majestic giant pelagics dance for hours along with many other treasures such as the tasselled wobbegong shark.

In the areas of Yanggefo and Gam islands you'll dive in a beautiful and unique mangrove area, an excellent dive spot for split images with a stunning color contrast and schools of archerfish hunting just below the surface.

In the area of Batanta Island you'll dive along black sandy slopes, famous for incredible muck diving with a variety of nudibranchs, regular sightings of mimic octopus and more unique critters.

On land you'll explore the views points looking out over the birds head seascape that are definitely not to be missed.

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DAY 1

Pick up at your hotel or the airport in Sorong. Settling in onboard with a welcome drink and a brief introduction to the boat and safety on board.

Cruise to Wasai, Waigeo a navigation of approximately 6 hours.

This will allow time for you to get acquainted with the ship, set up your dive gear & cameras and to meet and socialize with the other guests and friendly crew.

After arriving in Wasai we will head for our first check dive.

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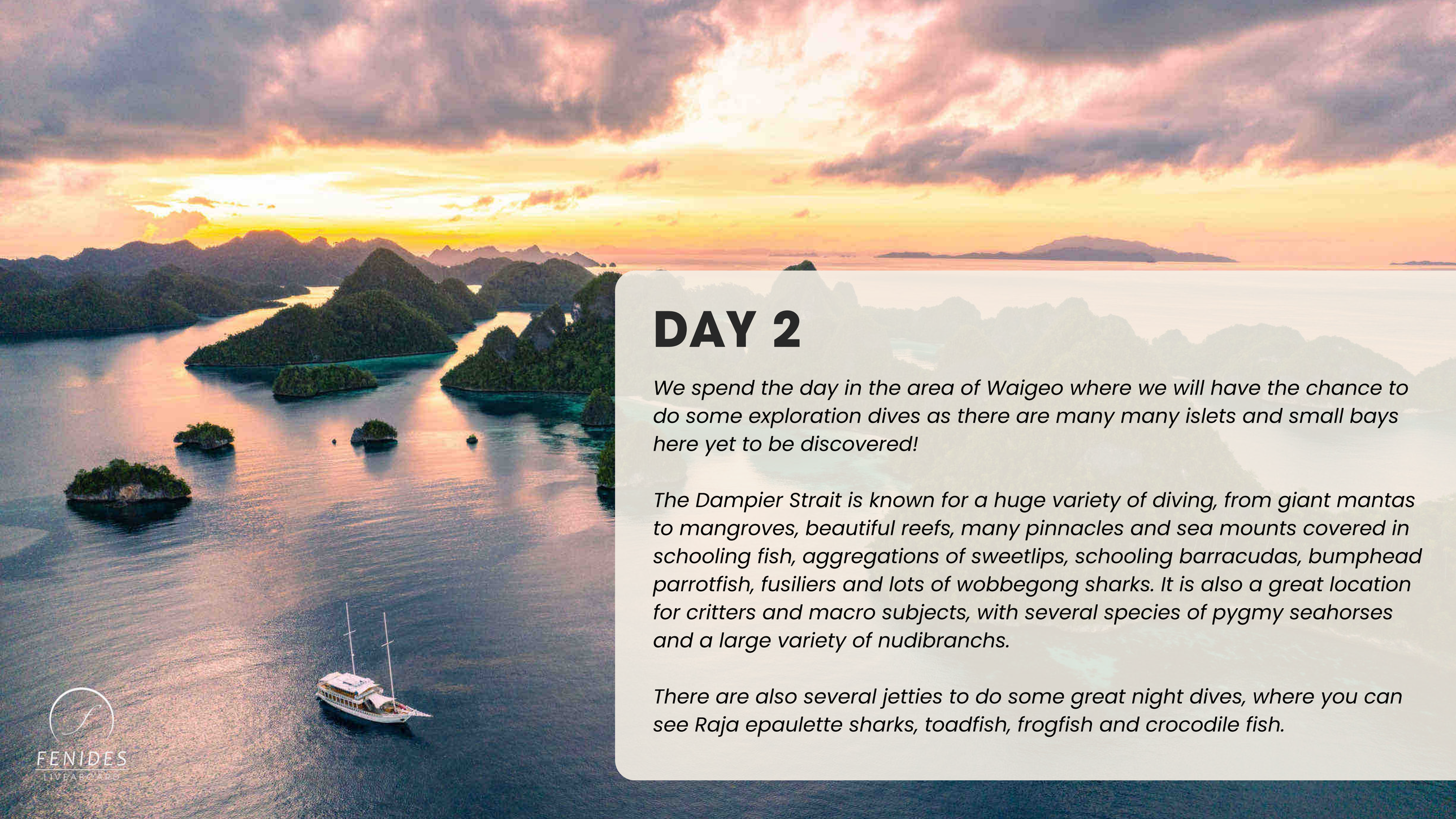

DAY 2

We spend the day in the area of Waigeo where we will have the chance to do some exploration dives as there are many many islets and small bays here yet to be discovered!

The Dampier Strait is known for a huge variety of diving, from giant mantas to mangroves, beautiful reefs, many pinnacles and sea mounts covered in schooling fish, aggregations of sweetlips, schooling barracudas, bumphead parrotfish, fusiliers and lots of wobbegong sharks. It is also a great location for critters and macro subjects, with several species of pygmy seahorses and a large variety of nudibranchs.

There are also several jetties to do some great night dives, where you can see Raja epaulette sharks, toadfish, frogfish and crocodile fish.

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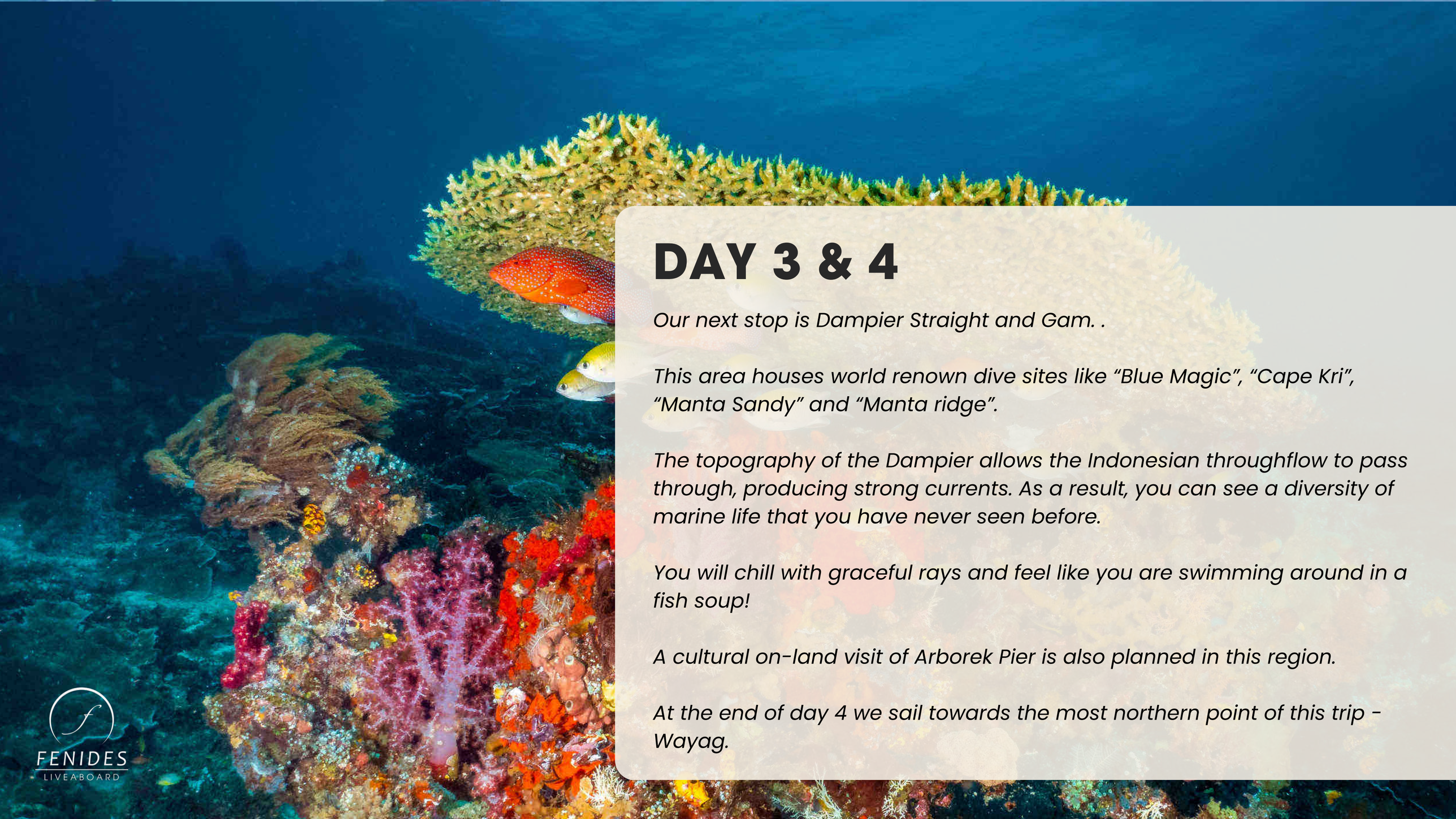

DAY 3 & 4

Our next stop is Dampier Straight and Gam. .

This area houses world renown dive sites like “Blue Magic”, “Cape Kri”, “Manta Sandy” and “Manta ridge”.

The topography of the Dampier allows the Indonesian throughflow to pass through, producing strong currents. As a result, you can see a diversity of marine life that you have never seen before.

You will chill with graceful rays and feel like you are swimming around in a fish soup!

A cultural on-land visit of Arborek Pier is also planned in this region.

At the end of day 4 we sail towards the most northern point of this trip - Wayag.

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ARBOREK PIER

With a population of only 197 Arborek is a small village in West papua with white sandy beach and beautiful pristine blue sea. Here, you'll find the nicest and friendliest people who live an idyllic lifestyle on and in the water – and that's what we love about this village.

When you visit this fishermen's village, you'll see the local men and children speer fishing with self-made goggles carved out of coconut shells from the village's pier.

This cultural visit will definitely end up to be a once in a lifetime memory.

DAY 5

Wayag is the northernmost marine protected area in the Birds Head Peninsula.

Waking up early ready for a full day exploring the limestone cliffs covered in trees and vines and the diverse dive sites from high adrenaline drift dives to leisurely swim throughs covered in hard corals.

We also plan for an on-land hike to the breathtaking view points of the region.

Wayag - you'll be stunned. There are at least 11 named dive sites in this area and many more yet undiscovered but whichever site we cover on our 3 dive day, you will not be disappointed.

Whilst in the area we will also visit a beach just north of Wayag where a once in a lifetime experience awaits you: Swimming with baby black tip reef sharks in the shallow waters just off the beach.

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DAY 6

Penemu experiences some of the strongest currents coming directly out of the Dampier strait. 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 and do 4 dives here.

Barracuda, is an oval-shaped reef that extends out for the northernmost tip of Penemu. Depending on currents huge schools of fish aggregate at the ends 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-colored 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 8 meters so planning and current checking is important.

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DAY 7 - 10

Misool Island is one of the largest islands in the Raja Ampat archipelago. With its crystal clear turquoise sea-waters and visually breathtaking maze of limestone pinnacles that jut sharply out of the sea Misool keeps us occupied for days. We literally find hundreds of dive sites in the area around the island of Misool.

Misool is heaven for wide angle photographers. The prettiest soft coral reefs in the world are located in Misool. In addition, there are multiple pinnacles surrounded by masses of schooling fish, barracudas, jacks and snappers.

There will be some excursions with the tenders and opportunities to explore some amazing inner lagoons, with fantastic scenery and wildlife sightings with the kayaks and SUPs.

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THE AREA OF MISOOL

- 3 day and 1 night dive daily
- Dramatic reef littered with pinnacles and valleys
- Currents can get strong in this area
- Amazing night dives for macro lovers

Barracuda, banner fish, pyramid butterfly, yellow snappers, giant trevallies, orange-spotted jacks, long-nose emperors, parrotfish, surgeonfish, schooling batfish, fusiliers, snappers, nudibranchs, pigmy seahorses, unicorn fish, octopus, green turtles, reef sharks, epaulette shark, wobbegong shark, mobula rays, oceanic manta rays, moray eels...

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DAY 11

Sail back to Sorong.

On our last day we will not be doing any diving as we cruise back to Sorong but the rooftop 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 de briefing customers leave the boat with memories that will last a lifetime!

Drop-off at the airport or your hotel in Sorong.

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