

INDO MASTER

Raja Ampat, Halmahera and Lembeh

Sorong to Bitung | Raja Ampat, Halmahera and the Lembeh Strait

From the big fish drifts of Raja Ampat to the macro mecca of the Lembeh Strait, where muck diving all began.

Raja Ampat brings reef manta rays of every shade, including all-black mantas, with fast drifts and swarms of fusiliers and sweetlips.

In between lie the Northern Moluccas, where strong currents nurture dense soft corals and gorgonian fan gardens, and schooling jacks, blackfin barracuda and reef sharks patrol the walls.

Further out, the deep Molucca Sea has sheer walls and clear blue water.

The finish is Lembeh, with volcanic black sand full of weird and wonderful critters.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	EXPERIENCE
13 days / 12 nights	Sorong	Bitung	Advanced, 30 dives







Your route

STOP 1

Day 1

Embarkation is followed by introductions, boat and safety briefings and dinner.
The boat usually leaves port in the evening to be ready to dive on day 2.

STOP 2

Day 2

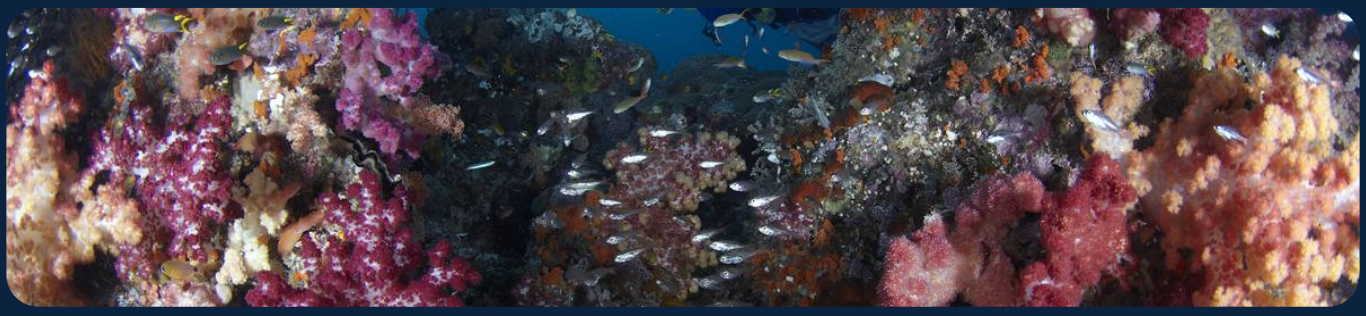
Breakfast, then a check dive and up to 3 more dives.

STOP 3

Days 3 to 11

Up to 4 dives a day

Your Cruise Manager schedules up to 4 dives a day, three day dives and either a sunset or a night dive.



STOP 4

Last full day

2 morning dives

Two morning dives before the boat cruises back to port, where it stays at anchor overnight.

STOP 5

Disembarkation

Breakfast on board, then disembarkation between 8:00 and 10:00.

STOP 6

The Dampier Strait

Dive site

Fast drift dives and big fish schools characterise the sites in the Dampier Strait.
Numerous dive sites are clustered together providing a variety of “Big Fish” dives with currents and more relaxed dives where smaller creatures can be found and photographed.

STOP 7

Manta Sandy

Dive site

The two large bommies situated in the middle of a sandy bottom at just 18 metres are a world-renowned cleaning station which attracts many reef manta rays of a variety of shades and sizes, including all–black mantas, distinctive to Raja Ampat.

STOP 8

Cape Kri

Dive site

One of the best known sites in the Dampier Strait, the variety of reef fish is astounding.

STOP 9

Blue Magic

Dive site

A long finger-shaped reef sloping down at the points from 8 metres to 30 metres (26ft - 98ft) with hard and soft corals, sea fans and black coral bushes, where schools of jacks and barracuda hover close to the reef while grey reef sharks cruise in the blue.

STOP 10

Sardine Reef

Dive site

Swarms of fusiliers, snappers and sweetlips, schools of bumphead parrotfish and banner fish, barracuda and trevally all make this site a very fishy dive.

STOP 11

Mike's Point

Dive site

As we approach the tiny limestone island known as Mike’s Point, eagles can often be seen resting in the treetops.

STOP 12

Yangeffo and Penemu Islands

Dive site

Located west of Gam these mushroom islands are surrounded by turquoise seas full of pristine coral.
These islands provide a range of dive sites for us to choose from, including:

STOP 13

Melissa's Garden

Dive site

This site is home to some of the best hard coral gardens in Raja Ampat.
Featuring a shallow flat reef with beautiful blue-tipped staghorn corals inhabited by myriads of damselfish, trevally, black tip reef sharks and wobbegong sharks, along with orangutan.

STOP 14

Mayhem

Dive site

This dive spot is notorious for its strong currents, making for an exhilarating dive with lots of action.

STOP 15

Citrus Ridge

Dive site

A stunning reef named after the carpet-like orange, pink, yellow and green soft corals that cover the entire area.

STOP 16

Pisang Island

Dive site

Named for its banana-like shape, Pisang Island is an oasis in the middle of the Halmahera Sea, surrounded by deep blue water.
We will stop off at Bantu Anyer, Besar and Kecil, a steep rocky slope covered in a blanket of giant barrel sponges.

STOP 17

Batjan Island

Dive site

This is one of the northern Moluccca Islands in the Molucca Sea, located just southwest of the large island of Halmahera.
There are two special dive spots to explore in this area:

STOP 18

Akiko's Never-neverland

Dive site

This is a truly unique dive site, riddled with diverse topography.
It adorns a wall plunging to 40 metres, where spiny lobsters hide in the numerous cracks.
Cruising along the wall are schooling jacks, blacktip reef sharks and hawksbill turtles.

STOP 19

Tanjung Maragarando

Dive site

An exciting dive for pelagic and schooling fish.
With the right current, this dive brings large schools of jacks, blackfin barracuda, golden bat fish, and fusiliers.
From 30 metres, the slope is densely covered with bright yellow soft corals.

STOP 20

Patantie Strait

Dive site

Located between Batjan & Halmahera Islands, strong currents nurture the dense soft corals and Gorgonian fan gardens.
Numerous protected bays offer interesting night dives and opportunities to look for critters such as bobtail squid and epaulette sharks.

STOP 21

Proco

Dive site

Sitting in the middle of the channel, this pinnacle extends to a plateau around 25 metres.
The area is densely covered with pastel, yellow, and orange soft corals, a wonderful array of colours contrasted by the schools of fusiliers and surgeonfish.

STOP 22

Batu Jabu

Dive site

A massive submerged reef where you can drift along rocky slopes covered with hard and soft corals.
Aggregations of unicorn fish, fusiliers, snappers, and surgeonfish abound.
The shallows feature dense staghorn coral fields packed with shining anthias.

STOP 23

Guraici and Tamo-Tamo Islands

Dive site

These islands will generally mark the point in the cruise where we cross the equator and so switch hemispheres.
Guraici and Tamo-Tamo are nestled 31 miles west of Halmahera Island and 43 miles south of Ternate and Tidore.

STOP 24

Renne's Rock

Dive site

A colossal pinnacle, surrounded by extensive plateaus and large bommies.
This is a great site to look for grey, whitetip and blacktip reef sharks as well as grazing bumphead parrotfish in the shallows.

STOP 25

Akejojaru

Dive site

A wide shallow plateau decorated with a large spread of bommies.
The reef drops 60 metres down a steep slope and a dramatic wall to a white sandy bottom which reflects light onto the vibrant soft corals.

STOP 26

Tamo-Tamo Pinnacle

Dive site

Here an explosion of marine life can be observed along a wall of colourful soft corals.
Ribbon sweetlips are often seen hanging around the deeper parts of the wall, where grey reef sharks patrol.

STOP 27

Makian Island

Dive site

Makian Island is a 10 km wide (6 mile) volcano with a 1.5 km wide (1 mile) summit crater. Located off the west coast of Halmahera, south of Ternate Island, this is one of Indonesia's most destructive volcanoes.

STOP 28

Tifore Island

Dive site

Rising midway between Halmahera and Sulawesi, in the very deep open Molucca Sea, the dive sites around Tifore are mostly plateaus with sheer walls and steep slopes plus great visibility in clear blue water.

STOP 29

Sago Sago

Dive site

A massive dive site, where we dive three times following the best entry points depending on the current.

STOP 30

Lembeh Strait

Dive site

Welcome to the macro mecca of Lembeh, which is well known for the volcanic black sand, home to many weird and wonderful critters.
This is where "muck diving" all began.

GOOD TO KNOW

On land and on the way

Penemu viewpoint

The Penemu viewpoint in Raja Ampat is always offered. There are usually 2 land visits.

Tangkoko

The second visit is usually the Tangkoko Batuangus Nature Reserve in North Sulawesi, with tarsiers, macaques and cuscus in their natural surroundings.

A typical diving day

Light breakfast, briefing and dive 1. Full breakfast, relaxation, briefing and dive 2. Lunch, relaxation, briefing and dive 3. A snack, then a briefing for a sunset or night dive where possible, and dinner.

Who can join

Divers need PADI Advanced Open Water or equivalent and at least 30 logged dives. Safety and dive briefings are given in English.

No-fly time

Leave at least 24 hours between your final dive and your flight home.

Check in

Embarkation is at Sorong harbour at 12:00, with a transfer from the airport or a local hotel.

Check out

Disembarkation is at Bitung harbour, North Sulawesi, at 10:00. Trips can also run in the other direction, so please check your booking.

Transfers

Transfers are included on embarkation and disembarkation days.





INCLUDED

What your trip covers

INCLUDED IN THE TRIP PRICE

- Transfers between the nearest domestic airport or local hotel and the boat on embarkation and disembarkation days only
- En-suite air-conditioned cabin with towels, bed linen and shower gel
- Full board, with snacks, drinking water, soft drinks, fruit juices, tea and coffee
- Up to 4 guided dives a day
- 11 litre cylinder, weights and air fills
- Deck towels
- Land visits as described in the itinerary

NOT INCLUDED

- International and domestic flights, and hotel stays or day rooms
- Marine park and port fees, paid on board
- Travel and dive insurance, which is compulsory
- Alcoholic drinks, with beer, wine and spirits sold on board
- Equipment rental and 13 litre cylinders
- Nitrox up to 32%, at an extra charge
- Wi-Fi and laundry, at an extra charge
- Crew and dive guide gratuities

BEFORE YOU GO

What to bring

ESSENTIALS

- Dive certification card, Advanced Open Water or equivalent, and logbook
- Dive insurance, which is mandatory and must cover evacuation and recompression
- Marine park entry card, if you already have one
- Dive computer and surface marker buoy
- Torch for night dives

AND ALSO

- 3 mm wetsuit, or a 5 mm suit if you feel the cold
- Reef-safe sunscreen
- Swimwear, hat and sunglasses
- Light clothing and sandals
- Passport and personal medication

WORTH KNOWING

Key notes

Good to know

The itinerary is an example, and the route and dive sites depend on weather, tides, currents and sea conditions, as decided by the Cruise Manager

Good to know

The number of dives depends on the weather and on how far the boat has to cruise

Good to know

Marine park and port fees are paid on board and can change without notice