KATHARINA

Papua's Whale Sharks and Birds of Paradise aboard Katharina

Kaimana to Sorong | Kaimana, Triton Bay and Raja Ampat

At dawn in Triton Bay, whale sharks come to feed at the fishermen's platforms, and a couple of hours in the water with these magnificent creatures is the highlight.

The bay is a place of unsurpassed natural splendour, with tall limestone cliffs, lagoons and narrow channels, and a jungle waterfall pouring into the sea.

Further west, Misool offers a massive ancient sea cave to swim through and a secret lake with thousands of stingless jellyfish.

At first light, the Red Bird of Paradise dances and squawks in the rainforest canopy, an incredible show.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	HIGHLIGHTS
10 days / 9 nights	Kaimana	Sorong	Whale sharks, birds of paradise







Your route

STOP 1

Day 1

On the first day of your adventure you will be met at the airport by your us tour leader and taken directly to the boat, which will be at anchor in the bay.
After you have settled into your cabin, we will weigh anchor and serve lunch as we head off on our adventure in the direction of Triton Bay, stopping off for a refreshing swim and snorkel along the way on the first of many beautiful coral reefs we will encounter during our cruise.

STOP 2

Day 2

We will spend the morning cruising through the undisturbed coves, caves, and lagoons before heading north through the Namatote Passage, where there is an impressive collection of ancient cave paintings high up on the cliffs.
The afternoon will be filled with more snorkelling, swimming, kayaking and paddling as we relax amidst the beauty of the surrounding jungle covered islands and cliffs.

STOP 3

Day 3

Triton Bay is a place of unsurpassed natural splendour, where time and tides have sliced the limestone landscape into tall cliffs and numerous islands separated by lagoons and narrow channels.
It is also home to fishermen who collect baitfish and keep them in nets attached to specially built platforms, also known as ‘bagans’.
It is these and their fish that attract whale sharks.
We will head out in the tenders to see if the sharks are around, and if we are lucky, we will spend a couple of hours in the water with these magnificent creatures.
After lunch we will explore the bays and limestone outcrops by tender, kayak, and paddle board as well as swim and snorkel from the beautiful white-sand beaches, before heading west later in the day for an overnight crossing.

STOP 4

Day 4

We wake up off the coast of Papua to a most serene and primal scene of a jungle waterfall where a roaring river surrounded by virgin rainforest pours into the sea.
Here we will swim and play in the waterfall and the sea as we take in this most tranquil tropical scenery.
We will also have the chance to snorkel through the corals on a nearby reef.
Later in the day we will continue our journey west, stopping off late afternoon for another swim and snorkel on our way.

STOP 5

Day 5

After breakfast we will visit a local village and meeting the residents, who will welcome us into their village, sharing with us their way of life which consists or fishing and growing nutmeg.
Late morning and through lunch we will cruise to a small group of pictureperfect islands, where we will spend the afternoon exploring the beaches and crystal-clear waters and then top it off with a long snorkel over the vibrant reefs.
Late afternoon we will weigh anchor and head west for the Raja Ampat National Park.

STOP 6

Day 6

Today we wake up in southern Raja Ampat at the island of Misool, a picturesque archipelago of forest-covered limestone islets just teeming with coral reefs that has adventures aplenty on offer.
We will swim through a massive and ancient sea cave, adorned with giant stalagmites and stalactites.
We will then journey to a small, secret lake inhabited by thousands of stingless jellyfish, where we will snorkel among them.
After lunch we will explore the area by ship's tenders, going in and out of the many bays and inlets looking for birds, and also stopping to see some prehistoric cave paintings said to be between 3,000 and 5,000 years old.
We will have a beach BBQ with the crew as we dance and sing our way through the night before spending a quiet night at anchor.

STOP 7

Day 7

Today we will have a relaxing day of snorkelling on the reefs, exploring the inlets and local areas by paddle board and kayak, or swimming and sunbathing from the white sand beaches of this beautiful piece of paradise.
After a full day of fun and relaxation we will head north for our overnight cruise to the island of Waigeo for the first of our bird of paradise encounters.

STOP 8

Day 8

Waking before dawn we will be ferried to a local village, where local guides will take us on a trek through the jungle in the hope of finding the beautiful Wilson's Bird of Paradise perform is mating dance ritual upon the forest floor.
On our way back to the boat we will be accompanied by the sounds of the jungle coming to life and we will be sure to spot a number of bird species along the way.
After a well-earned late breakfast, we will spend the remainder of the day enjoying snorkelling, swimming and exploring the reefs and islands of the local area by kayak and paddle board.

STOP 9

Day 9

Today is our second and final early morning wake up as we head off to see the Red Bird of Paradise, this time high in the canopy of the rainforest.
Extremely extroverted show offs, these birds dance and squawk their way around the trees trying to impress the female of the species, making for an incredible show.
After returning to the ship and breakfast it will be time for some snorkelling on some of Raja Ampat's most spectacular reefs in the Dampier Strait.
If the tides are in our favour we might get to see some of the area's larger species of marine life, which are attracted by the currents in these nutrient rich waters.

STOP 9

Day 9 (continued)

We will end the day at a local inhabited island, where the village kids will show us around their beautiful village and then perform some local folk dances for us.
This evening during our journey south, we will have a final night celebration dinner and party with the crew.

STOP 10

Day 10

This morning we will be anchored off a white-sand beach on a small tropical island, where we can swim, paddle board and kayak.
After lunch on board we will say farewell to our crew and tour leaders and head to the airport for your onward journeys.

THE VOYAGE

About the voyage

No matter if you are a novice or a seasoned pro, our tour leaders will ensure that you have everything you need to have some of the best underwater experiences of your life.

HIGHLIGHTS

Cruise highlights

- How does gliding through a dreamy fairy tale landscapes of karst limestone spires, mysterious caves, ancient rock paintings and endless secret coves filled with corals and fish of every colour sound?
- Or swimming with whale sharks at a local fisherman's 'bagan' platform at dawn, as they come to feed on the many small baitfish that the fishermen catch and share with the sharks as an example of humans and animals living in harmony. IF you are lucky, there will be schools of dolphins and flights of diving seabirds to add to the excitement.
- How about floating in body-temperature water watching endless species of fish swim below over the backdrop of kaleidoscope corals, or rolling over and floating on your back when you hear the screech of a sulphur-crested cockatoo flying past highlighted against the backdrop of a lush green landscape?
- Maybe the otherworldly experience of drifting among masses of rare stingless jellyfish in an actual forest pool of evolution?
- For a more terrestrial experience, how about an early morning cool and misty forest walk to see the secret and seductive dancing of the iconic birds of paradise?
- Explore the wondrous landscapes and forests of Triton Bay and stand in the cold waters of a waterfall that erupts from the rainforest and into the warm seawater below. If this sounds like you then let us bring you into the wonder that is Raja Ampat.





FLEXIBILITY

Be prepared to be flexible

Our mission is to provide the best experience possible for our guests given the current conditions and when unexpected opportunities for adventure may present themselves along our cruise routes. Sometimes weather conditions, tides or other local factors dictate that we need to vary from the published route, and at times there are special opportunities to explore and discover new locations, events and activities. These explorations will always be a definite enhancement to the published itinerary and will be undertaken after discussion and agreement among guests. Ultimately, the boat captains and your tour leader will make decisions to maximise trip safety and your overall enjoyment, so please come prepared to be flexible!

THE MORE YOU KNOW, THE MORE YOU SEE

Our tour leaders are a wealth of information on the regions we visit and will prepare you for each activity with on board talks and presentations to give you a greater understanding of the different experiences you will have each day. They will also act as your cross cultural bridges to all the people we meet along the way, so feel free to ask them to translate when talking to local Indonesian people on your travels.














billabong















