

LA GALIGO

Raja Ampat North

Sorong to Sorong | Batanta, Gam, Kawe, Piaynemo and the Eastern Dampier Strait

Raja Ampat North starts quietly at Batanta, an area few boats visit.

The first dives are small-creature country, with mimic octopus, seahorses, colourful nudibranchs and the occasional walking shark.

Then it gets bigger at Gam, where mantas come in to be cleaned, pelagic fish go into feeding frenzies, and the reef is covered in orange and yellow soft corals.

Kawe sits right on the equator, with mantas and pygmy seahorses as the highlights.

The trip closes among the limestone islands of Piaynemo and the eastern Dampier Strait.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	EXPERIENCE
8 days / 7 nights	Sorong	Sorong	Open Water with 40 logged dives







Your itinerary

DAY 1

Embarkation in Sorong, sailing to Batanta

Your adventure with La Galigo kicks off with a crew member greeting you for the transfer from the airport or your Sorong hotel to the harbour between 7:30 a.m. and 8:00 a.m.
For those arriving on the day of departure, please make sure your flight lands before 7:30 a.m. so we can get settled and ready for the journey ahead.

DAY 1

Embarkation in Sorong, sailing to Batanta (continued)

After a warm welcome aboard, you'll have the chance to meet the Cruise Director and our friendly crew.
Once you've settled into your cabin, we'll gather for a brief orientation before enjoying lunch.
Afterward, you'll have time to relax and unwind and take in the scenery as we sail toward the check-dive point in Batanta.
This afternoon our 'welcome dive' is at the island of Pulau Ayemi, where the calm waters provide the perfect introduction to your diving experience.
After your check-out dive, you'll have time to get comfortable, settle into your surroundings, and start looking forward to an exciting full day of diving ahead tomorrow.

DAY 2

Batanta

Wake up to the tranquil beauty of Batanta, one of Raja Ampat's jewels and home to some of the region's most vibrant macro life.
Today, we dedicate a full day to uncovering the hidden gems of this lesser-travelled island.
From critter-rich muck dives to stunning coral slopes, Batanta offers a unique contrast to the rest of the archipelago perfect for underwater photographers and macro lovers alike.
Dive sites may include Black Beauty, Algae Patch, or Happy Ending, known for their mimic octopus, nudibranchs, seahorses, and occasional walking sharks.
With calm waters and rich biodiversity, it's the ideal setting to dial in your buoyancy and camera settings for the days ahead.
As the sun sets, we begin our overnight journey north toward the lush island of Gam, setting the stage for another spectacular day of diving tomorrow.

DAY 3

Gam

Begin your day with an exciting dive at Manta Sandy, one of Raja Ampat's best-known cleaning stations for Manta Rays.
Here, you'll have the chance to watch these graceful giants glide through the water as they come to be cleaned by smaller fish.
After this awe-inspiring experience, head to Mayhem, where you'll witness vibrant marine life in action.
Known for its pelagic feeding frenzies, this dive site offers a thrilling view of larger predators hunting among swirling schools of fish.
After a lunch break, we continue to Citrus Ridge, famous for its colourful orange and yellow soft corals that make for stunning underwater photography.
The rich biodiversity at this site includes everything from small critters to larger pelagics cruising by.
Pretty Shallows is a relaxing dive where we will explore its sloping reefs covered with healthy coral gardens and teeming with schools of fish.
The calm waters and striking beauty of this site make it the perfect way to end your diving adventure.
As we prepare to settle in for the night, take a moment to soak in the breathtaking sunset views over the islands of Waigeo and Gam, painting the horizon in stunning colours.
It’s the perfect way to end a fantastic day of diving!

DAY 4

Kawe and Wofoh

We will sail overnight and today you will wake up on Kawe Island, situated right on the equator, and one of our favourite spots to dive in northern Raja Ampat.
The dive sites around Kawe are heavily influenced by changing conditions, but one of the standout sites is the vibrant Black Rock, with its colourful corals teeming with life.
Later in the morning, we'll explore Eagle Rock (which actually consists of 3 separate dive sites), a site renowned for its rich marine biodiversity, including Pygmy Seahorses and a healthy population of Manta Rays.
It’s an exciting dive that will leave you in awe of the underwater wonders Raja Ampat has to offer.
After lunch, we will head to Wofoh North for a relaxing dive.
Here, we will explore the sloping reefs covered with healthy coral gardens and teeming with schools of fish.
The calm waters and striking beauty of this site make it the perfect way to end your diving adventure for the day.

DAY 5

Yeben Island and Piaynemo

Start your day with an early morning dive on Yeben Ridge, this dive site will guarantee an exciting start to the day with plenty of schooling fish and vibrant corals.
After a hearty breakfast, we will head south to dive into the famed Islands of Piaynemo.
Melissa’s Garden Dive Site is undoubtedly the top dive in this area, with a staggering number of coral and fish species packed into this small piece of marine real estate.

DAY 5

Yeben Island and Piaynemo (continued)

It gets its name from an amazing hard coral garden situated on a reef between 3 small islands.
Its beauty needs to be seen to be believed.
Also on the dive schedule today are Barracuda Rock and Galaxy.
Barracuda Rock is famous for, you guessed it, schools of Barracuda.
But other than this the site is also home to an amazing array of soft coral species.
Our night dive for today will be at Galaxy, this site has a nice mini wall to explore that's exploding with soft corals and black coral.
Another highlight of today's schedule will be the hike.
The iconic limestone pinnacles have become as much a part of the Raja Ampat experience as the diving has, and Piaynemo lagoon/lookout is just one of many such stunning formations.
The best time to hike this hill is late afternoon when the temperature has dropped and the lighting is a golden hue.

DAY 6

Piaynemo

We wake up to Piaynemo island views for four more dives before we leave the area.
First up will be My Reef, this site is always a very fishy dive, Barracuda, Wobbegongs, and Black Tip Reef Sharks love this spot.
After breakfast, we will take you to the Kerou Channel.
A great gentle drift dive down a mini wall and slope on the edge of Kerou Island.
After lunch, we will take you to one of the other favourites we often visit in this area, called the Batu Rufus dive site.
This dramatic dive site has a 40m plus drop-off wall to the blue with amazing views at 20 metres when you look up and down at the stark landscape you are floating between.
We will finish up the day with a night dive critter hunting on Piaynemo Jetty, a great way to finish up the last night dive of the trip.

DAY 7

Eastern Dampier Strait and Kali Biru

We have an early start at Blue Magic, known for its dramatic underwater topography with an impressive submerged seamount.
This site is teeming with life, from vibrant coral gardens to schools of fusiliers, snappers, and even reef sharks in the deeper areas.
As you explore, you might spot Napoleon wrasses or turtles gliding by.
Following breakfast we head to Mioskon Island for a more relaxed beach visit, and give you time to gas off before your flight the next day.

DAY 8

Disembarkation in Sorong

La Galigo will be anchored up in the morning around 5:00 A.M. in Sorong, in preparation for you to catch your flight, or check in to your hotel.
Guests are welcome to stay onboard until 11:00 A.M., and our staff will assist you with transportation to your desired location.
After breakfast, guests may also take the time to exchange photos and swap contact details to keep in touch with new friends and dive buddies!

THE ROUTE

Route map



HIGHLIGHTS

Trip highlights

- Melissa's Garden Dive for its staggering number of coral and fish species packed into this small piece of marine real estate.
- Mayhem, where you'll witness vibrant marine life in action.
- Manta Sandy, where graceful Manta Rays glide through the waters above.
- Kali Biru, where the lush rainforest meets crystal-clear waters.
- Wofoh North is a relaxing dive where we will explore its sloping reefs covered with healthy coral gardens and

teeming with schools of fish.

- Trek to Piaynemo lookout to view an aerial view of the stunning rock formations.





DIVING

Diving and conditions

- Approximately 20 to 21 dives in total, normally from the dive tenders with guides
- Divers need an Open Water certificate with 40 logged dives, or an Advanced Open Water certificate with 20 logged dives
- All dives are conducted to a maximum depth of 30 metres / 100 feet
- Average water temperatures are 27 to 30°C / 80 to 85°F
- Raja Ampat is a year-round destination, with exceptional diving whatever the season
- The itinerary is a rough guide: weather, sea conditions and the captain, cruise director or owner may alter the route for the safety of the vessel, its guests and crew



INCLUDED

What your trip covers

INCLUDED IN THE TRIP PRICE

- Transfers from your hotel or the airport to the harbour on embarkation day, and back to your hotel or the airport on disembarkation day
- All meals and non-packaged snacks
- Coffee, tea and drinking water
- Fresh fruit
- Post dive snacks and refreshments
- 12 litre dive tanks and air fills, up to 4 per day
- Weights, mask and fins
- SMB and reel, reef hook where applicable and dive computer
- Dive transport by tender, with dive guides
- Land excursions where applicable

NOT INCLUDED

- Flights
- Dive insurance, which is mandatory and includes medical evacuation, and travel insurance
- Visas and associated fees
- Airport taxes and extra baggage fees
- Hotel nights and transfers before or after the trip
- Port clearances, ranger, anchorage, village and marine park fees
- Dive equipment rental, nitrox, 15 litre tanks and extra tank fills
- Dive courses and certification
- Alcoholic drinks, soft drinks and packaged snacks (guests may bring their own spirits)
- Fuel surcharges, which may be applied depending on global fuel prices
- Crew gratuities, which are optional but greatly appreciated
- Merchandise and drone fees