MERMAID II

Lembeh - Halmahera - Raja Ampat

Lembeh to Sorong | Lembeh, Halmahera and Raja Ampat

Lembeh Strait is the muck diving capital of the world, full of frogfish, all kinds of octopus, spiny devilfish and nudibranchs galore.

At Tifore, hundreds and hundreds of barracuda have made a submerged reef their home, and getting inside the swirling vortex is really amazing.

South Halmahera has two large pinnacles that break the surface, with schooling fish, blacktips, whitetips, turtles and Napoleon wrasse.

Pulau Pisang is very fishy when the currents run, with schooling bumphead parrotfish, zillions of blue triggerfish and dogtooth tuna.

Misool, the kingdom of the pygmy seahorse, has some of the most beautiful soft coral reefs in the world.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	EXPERIENCE
12 days / 11 nights	Lembeh	Sorong	Open Water, 4 training dives







Your itinerary

DAY 1

Lembeh

Check in + extra dives

Check-in on board Mermaid II.
Once all guests are on board a safety briefing will be given.
If all the guests are on board by 12.00 hours, you have the chance to do two extra dives at Lembeh Strait in some fabulous muck dives with critters galore.

DAY 2

Lembeh Strait

Dives

Lembeh Strait – some of the best muck diving in Indonesia!
Black sand environment full of critters.
Frogfish, all kinds of octopi, spiny devilfish, nudibranchs galore and so much more.
Cruise overnight to Tifore, 77 nautical miles.

DAY 3

Pulau Tifore

Dives

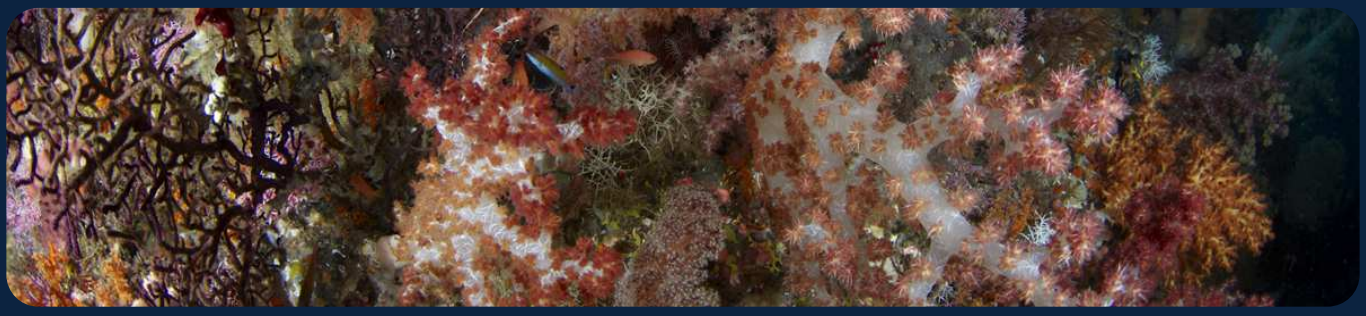
Pulau Tifore is a small island between Halmahera and Lembeh with a submerged reef about half a mile from the island.
The main attraction here is definitely the barracudas – hundreds and hundreds have made this their home for years.
Really amazing especially if you can get inside the swirling vortex of the barracudas.
After this exhilarating day, Mermaid II will cruise overnight to Goraici Islands, 80 nautical miles.

DAY 4

Goraici Islands

Dives

The Goraici Islands are located on the west coast of Halmahera.
They have beautiful white sandy beaches with small villages, amazing reefs and pinnacles.
Colourful soft coral in the deeper parts and hard coral gardens in the shallows.
The local village jetties are a great place for critter filled night dives.
Cruise overnight to the Strait of Patintie, 50 nautical miles.



DAY 5-6

Patintie Strait, south Halmahera

Dives

You will spend the next two days in the south of Halmahera.
Here, two large pinnacles break the surface and are excellent dive sites due to the amount of schooling fish as well as the healthy state of the soft corals.
Blacktips, whitetips, turtles and Napoleon wrasse are some of the highlights.
Strong currents here will dictate when you will dive.
Other sites offer great opportunities as well.
Procco Channel, Procco Island and Procco Pinnacle.
After these exhilarating 2 days, Mermaid II will cruise overnight to Pisang Islands, 100 nautical miles.

DAY 7

Pulau Pisang

Full diving day

These are a set of two islands and two small rocks between Misool and Halmahera.
You will spend the whole day here.
The diving is pretty, with sloping reefs full of soft corals in the deeper areas and hard corals bommies in the shallows.
When the currents are running, the dive sites can be very fishy, with schooling bumphead parrotfish, zillions of blue triggerfish and dogtooth tunas passing by.
Cruise overnight to Misool, 92 nautical miles.

DAY 8-9

Misool

Dives

Misool is the most southern island in Raja Ampat and it is surrounded by several hundred small islands and rocks.
Some of the most beautiful soft coral reefs in the world are located in Misool.
It is impossible to describe only several dive sites since there are literally hundreds of them.
Every year new dive sites are discovered around Misool.
Many of the dive sites around Misool are just as fishy as the ones in the Dampier Strait, with some schools of barracudas, batfish, pinjalo snappers and zillions of fusiliers.
But Misool is also a great macro destination.
Known as the kingdom of the pygmy seahorse, you can also find allied cowries and plenty of nudibranchs here.
Best known diving areas around Misool include Wagma, Farondi, Balbulol, Sagof, Daram, Yellit, Boo, Warakaraket, Fiabacet, Kalig, Wayilbatan, Wayil and Pele.
Cruise overnight to the Dampier Strait, 90 nautical miles.

DAY 10

Dampier Strait

Dives

Dampier Strait is located between Waigeo and the Bird's Head Peninsula.
Along with Misool, it is the most famous area for diving in Raja Ampat.
All of the dive sites around the Dampier Strait are known for a huge amount of schooling fish: barracudas, schools of bigeye trevallies, oceanic triggerfish, spadefish, surgeonfish and snappers.
Besides the schooling fish, it is also an area where you get to see black and whitetip reef sharks and wobbegong sharks.
Some of the best manta dives are also located in the Dampier Strait.
Blue Magic is a small pinnacle where the giant mantas congregate and get cleaned as well.
Some of the best mangrove dives are also located in the Dampier Strait, around the islands of Yanggefo and Gam.
And of course, one cannot forget the dive sites at some of the jetties in front of local villages, where the pillars are covered in soft corals and are home to a plethora of small critters.
Other fantastic dive sites in this area include Cape Kri, Sardine Reef, Chicken Reef, Mioskon, Mike's Point, Mangrove Ridge and Citrus Ridge.



DAY 11

Dampier Strait

Last dives

The last two dives of your cruise will be done in Dampier Strait area.
Where big schools of fish and glorious corals are simply amazing!
After the second dive Mermaid II must go back to Sorong.
The crew will take care of rinsing your equipment and there's time to pack during this 4-5 hour run, 40 nautical miles.

DAY 12

Disembark in Sorong

After breakfast there is a transfer to the airport or your hotel.
Disembark is at 8 am.

GOOD TO KNOW

On land and on the way

Lembeh

Muck diving at its best.

Tifore

A vortex of hundreds of barracuda.

Misool

The kingdom of the pygmy seahorse.

Blue Magic

Giant mantas at a cleaning station.

Check in

Check in on board is on the day of departure. We recommend arriving the day before the cruise, so you can settle into your cabin and set up your equipment before the boat leaves.

Check out

Disembark after breakfast at 8 am, with a transfer to the airport or your hotel.

Last dive

Divers should wait at least 24 hours after their last dive before flying, so please keep to the no-flying rule when you book your flight home.

INCLUDED

What your trip covers

INCLUDED IN THE TRIP PRICE

- Transfers to and from the boat: anywhere in southern Bali on Komodo trips, and Sorong airport on Raja Ampat trips
- All meals and snacks, fruit, coffee, tea, hot chocolate, soft drinks and drinking water
- All dives, with tanks, weights and weight belts
- Diving with experienced divemasters and instructors
- Land visits to villages, beaches, viewpoints and wildlife where the plan includes them
- 3 GB of Starlink internet on board

NOT INCLUDED

- Flights, including any domestic flight
- Nitrox fills
- Rental equipment and on board courses
- Alcoholic drinks
- Marine park fees, port and national park fees (subject to change with government regulation)
- Dive and travel insurance

BEFORE YOU GO

What to bring

ESSENTIALS

- Dive certification card and logbook
- Completed diver medical questionnaire
- Details of your dive and travel insurance
- Dive computer and surface marker buoy
- Torch for night dives

AND ALSO

- Reef-safe sunscreen
- Swimwear, hat and sunglasses
- Light clothing and sandals
- Personal medication and toiletries
- Passport

WORTH KNOWING

Key notes

Good to know

Itineraries are a sample and can be changed because of the weather, tides, currents, season and other events beyond our control

Good to know

Divers should wait at least 24 hours after their last dive before flying

Insurance

Please arrange dive and travel insurance before you travel

Good to know

This itinerary runs from Lembeh to Sorong