

PEARL OF PAPUA

Raja Ampat Northern

Sorong to Sorong | Dampier Strait to Wayag

Wayag, Fam and Penemu and the Dampier Strait make up a northern Raja Ampat that is hard to beat for sheer numbers of fish.

In the Dampier Strait, sharks, bumphead parrotfish, barracuda and big-eyed trevally are quite common, with shoals at times so thick the sunlight is practically blocked out.

Jetty dives here are unlike any other in the world, with rich, colourful and vibrant marine life.

The manta sites around Arborek are a highlight.

At Wayag you can snorkel with sharks from the beach, below spectacular limestone karst islands.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	EXPERIENCE
9 days / 8 nights	Sorong	Sorong	Intermediate to advanced







Your itinerary

DAY 1

Embarkation, Sorong

Guests are met in Sorong and taken to Pearl of Papua, where cabins are allocated and the vessel is shown before departure from the Usaha Mina private jetty at 11 AM.
Lunch and dinner are served while sailing towards Raja Ampat National Park.

DAY 1

Embarkation, Sorong (continued)

The crossing takes roughly eight hours.
If time and conditions allow, there is a check dive at Batu Hitam.

DAY 2

Dampier Straits

4 dives

The Dampier Straits contain some of Raja Ampat's most action-packed dives.
There are a number of wonderful sites in the area, many of which are exposed to and best dived when the current is running.
Encounters with various sharks, bumphead parrotfish, schools of barracuda, Oceanic Triggerfish, and big-eyed trevally are quite common.
The sheer number of fish is literally astounding.
At times shoals are so thick the sunlight is practically blocked out.
Dives: Mioskon, Mike's Point, Friwen, Batu Lima (night dive).

DAY 3

Tanjung Putus (Cape Break)

4 dives

There are a few excellent sites in this area.
Mayhem is not to be missed, with its vibrant benthic life and plethora of fish.
Dives: Mayhem, Citrus Ridge, Woffoh Besar, Woffoh Kecil (night dive).

DAY 4

Wayag

1 dive

Pearl of Papua moors in front of Mt Pindito.
The hike up Pindito Hill is the way to see the islands from above, and it is done in the morning to avoid the crowds and the heat of the sun.
For those who exercise regularly it is a relatively easy climb of 15 to 20 minutes, though the way down can be a little challenging because it is steep and the karst is sharp.
Bring water, a camera, good walking shoes, a hat and sunblock, and perhaps sunglasses, because the views are spectacular.
After the hike, guests return to the vessel for a quick change and head straight to the remote Wayag post, where there is a beach picnic with breakfast and snorkelling with sharks at the beach.
The speed boats cruise around the bay, exploring hidden areas with an up-close view of the spectacular limestone karst formations, and the slow ride to the beach takes about 30 minutes.
Bring a mask, snorkel and sunblock.
After an hour of snorkelling and breakfast, the speed boat takes guests back to the vessel (5 to 10 minutes) for rest and lunch on board.
The schedule is tight because the plan is to enjoy all of Wayag, with the hike, the beach and a dive.
The vessel then sails for 3 to 4 hours to the best dive site in the area, with a chance to see manta rays after snorkelling with sharks.
Dive: Black Rock.

DAY 5

Fam and Penemu

4 dives

Spread over nearly 700 square kilometres of ocean, just above the midway point on Raja Ampat's north-south axis, Fam and Penemu's vivid coral gardens revel in the nutrient rich water brought forth from the Dampier Straits.
My Reef has excellent fish life and is the perfect way to start your first full day of the expedition.
Dives: My Reef, Melissa's Garden, Batu Rufus, Piaynemo Jetty (night dive).

DAY 6

Yanggefo and Arborek

3 dives

On the way to the Dampier Straits the vessel passes the islands of Yanggefo and Arborek.
Arborek is a small island inhabited by about 130 local Papuans.
Here you will have the opportunity to take a more intimate look at their lives as well as explore an authentic village.
The surface interval is spent visiting the village of Arborek.
Dives: Arborek Jetty, Manta Ridge, Manta Sandy.

DAY 7

Dampier Straits

3 dives

This is the jetty dive day.
A jetty dive in Raja Ampat is unlike any other in the world, with rich, colourful and vibrant marine life and visibility that is always a good bet.
Sawandarek and Yenbuba are two villages famous for their jetties.
After the easy, colourful dives there is a drift dive at Sardine Reef.
Dives: Sawandarek Jetty, Yenbuba Jetty, Sardine Reef.

DAY 8

Last day of diving: Mioskon and Blue Magic

2 dives

The last day of diving is planned with safety in mind: two dives in the shallows before lunch, so that guests flying out the next day have a no-flight time of 18 to 20 hours.
These sites can offer huge schools of fish being stalked by barracuda and trevally and, with luck, a few manta rays.
After the second dive Pearl of Papua begins her return voyage to Sorong.

DAY 9

Sorong, disembarkation

After breakfast it is time to disembark, with official check-out at 10 AM.

THE TRIP

About this trip

The plan is confirmed each evening at the briefing led by the Cruise Manager, after talking with the captain, so that every factor affecting safety is taken into account, and it is also written on the board for everyone.

CONDITIONS

Diving conditions

- Experience level: intermediate and advanced divers and above.
- Currents can be strong. Water temperature is 27 to 30 °C, visibility is 10 to 40 metres and dive depths are 5 to 30 metres.
- Divers are encouraged to bring a reef hook, or at least to know how to use one. Currents can be strong in Raja Ampat, and at some point you should expect downdrafts, upwellings, negative entries and effective use of a reef hook.
- Pearl of Papua has a no-glove policy, so that divers do not touch the reef and its living creatures.







FOOD AND SERVICE

Food, drink and service

A professional chef prepares fresh meals and snacks through the day on Pearl of Papua. Meals are served buffet style, with Western and local dishes, vegetarian options, snacks all day and a barbecue on the beach. Welcome cocktails and soft drinks are included, and beer is available on board.

The crew of about twelve, local and international staff with English as the working language, gives a near one-to-one ratio of crew to guests, and cabins are cleaned daily.





DIVING

How the diving is organised

Pearl of Papua has a special deck for diving, with a kitting-up station for every diver, a shaded diving area, rinse tanks and hoses, DIN adaptors and a dedicated camera table with charging stations. Three tenders carry divers to the sites, and nitrox is available on board.

The dive staff carry gear, set up and change over equipment, and watch over guest comfort and safety, working with each diver to plan the dives. Divers remain responsible for their own wellbeing and are expected to dive within their certification and ability.

Non-divers are welcome: a snorkelling guide is included, together with land excursions and the beach barbecue.





GOOD TO KNOW

Worth knowing

- Sailing itineraries and daily programmes are subject to change due to weather and sea conditions, the availability of safe anchorage, government regulations and other factors. Every effort is made to carry out the programme as planned.
- The schedule can be full, but it is your holiday: you are free to skip a dive or a group activity and rest.



