

PEARL OF PAPUA

Raja Ampat South to North

Sorong to Sorong | Misool to Wayag and the Dampier Strait

Misool is one of the most fascinating areas of Raja Ampat, with deep ravines and canyons giving way to unsurpassed coral coverage and unrivalled colour.

Gorgonian sea fans can exceed 3 metres across, and oceanic manta rays reaching up to seven metres in length are quite common.

Working north, the Dampier Strait brings oceanic mantas, sharks, bumphead parrotfish and barracuda, and the sheer number of fish is literally astounding.

The trip ends with a barbecue on an uninhabited island, watching thousands of fruit bats set off for neighbouring islands.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	EXPERIENCE
11 days / 10 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 twelve hours.
If time and conditions allow, there is a check dive at Matan.

DAY 2

Daram, Misool

3 dives

Dives: The Candy Store, Andiamo, Yelit Kecil.

DAY 3

Boo, Misool

4 dives

Dives: Magic Mountain, Boo Window, Nudi Rock, Romeo.

DAY 4

Farondi, Misool

2 dives

Dives: Anchovies Reef, Two Tree Island.

DAY 5

Fam and Penemu

3 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.
As such, the hard coral seascape at Melissa's Garden is virtually unrivaled.
There is also a climb to the Pianemo viewpoint.
After drifting with the current at Penemu, Pearl of Papua heads towards Wayag, a journey of approximately nine hours.
Dives: My Reef, Melissa's Garden, Batu Rufus.

DAY 6

Wayag

1 dive

Pearl of Papua moors in front of Mt Pindito.
The hike is done in the morning to avoid the scorching sun at the top of the hill.
Good walking shoes or light trekking boots are recommended, and a glove can help with climbing the karst, most likely using all four limbs.
The crew and a guide are with you to keep the hike safe.
It is steep but not difficult, especially for those who exercise regularly.
Bring a camera, shoes and a hat, because the views are spectacular.
On the way down, the speed boats cruise around the bay exploring hidden areas, with an up-close view of the spectacular limestone karst formations.
Activities: climb Mt Pindito and lagoon cruise.
Dive: Black Rock.

DAY 7

Arborek and Dampier Straits

3 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 oceanic mantas, 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.
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.
Dives: Mayhem, Citrus Ridge, Arborek Jetty.

DAY 8

Dampier Straits

4 dives

Dives: Manta Ridge, Manta Sandy, Sawandarek Jetty, Yenbuba Jetty.

DAY 9

Dampier Straits

3 dives

You can never get enough of the Dampier Straits!
Today's dives, including Sardine Reef, offer an unforgettable diving experience, where you may spot huge schools of fish being stalked by barracuda and trevally.
Finally, what better way to end your diving expedition than to have a barbecue on an uninhabited island?
The crew will prepare a wonderful meal for you to enjoy as you watch thousands of fruit bats begin their journey to neighbouring islands in search of food.
Dives: Cape Kri, Mike's Point, Sardine Reef.

DAY 10

Dampier Straits

2 dives

After the second dive of the day, Pearl of Papua begins her return voyage to Sorong, a journey of roughly eight hours.
Dives: Blue Magic, Mioskon.

DAY 11

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.

MISOOL

Misool is one of the most fascinating areas of Raja Ampat. It contains some of the most amazing underwater seascapes imaginable, deep ravines and canyons give way to unsurpassed coral coverage and unrivaled colour. Don't be surprised if you encounter gorgonian sea fans exceeding 3 metres in diameter! That said, while the reefs are truly breathtaking down in Misool, remember to check the blue every now and again as it is quite common to encounter oceanic manta rays, reaching up to seven metres in length, on many dives. Brace yourself, the diving is about to get incredible.

One of the dives, Magic Mountain, is a fairly reliable cleaning station for oceanic manta rays.

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.



