

PEARL OF PAPUA

Misool and Central Raja Ampat

Sorong to Sorong | Misool, Penemu and the Dampier Strait

The far south of Raja Ampat holds some of the most amazing underwater seascapes imaginable.

Deep ravines and canyons give way to unsurpassed coral coverage and unrivalled colour, with gorgonian sea fans exceeding 3 metres across.

Oceanic manta rays reaching up to seven metres in length are quite common, so it pays to check the blue now and again.

The famous Dampier Strait then brings sharks, bumphead parrotfish and schools of barracuda, with shoals at times so thick the sunlight is practically blocked out.

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 twelve hours.
If time and conditions allow, there is a check dive at Matan Island.

DAY 2

Daram, Misool

4 dives

Dives: The Candy Store, Karang Berwarna, Andiamo, night dive at Yelit Kecil.

DAY 3

Boo, Misool

4 dives

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

DAY 4

Fiabacet, Misool

2 dives

After the dives, the vessel begins the long journey from Misool to Penemu in central-north Raja Ampat, which takes about fourteen hours.
Dives: Anchovy 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.
In the morning there is a climb to the Pianemo viewpoint, with breathtaking views.
From Penemu the vessel continues to the famous Dampier Straits in Central Raja Ampat.
Dives: My Reef, Melissa's Garden, Batu Rufus.

DAY 6

Fam and Arborek

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 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.

DAY 6

Fam and Arborek (continued)

4 dives

A walking tour of the village makes a perfect surface interval between dives.
Dives: Manta Ridge, Manta Sandy, Arborek Jetty, night dive Arborek Jetty.

DAY 7

Dampier Straits

3 dives

Today's dives at Chicken Reef and 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: Chicken Reef, Sardine Reef, Mike's Point.

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.

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. We sail down to the furthest south of Raja Ampat. Small dot on the map called Daram.

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.