



Cruise Itinerary Sorong – Sorong

No cruise on MV Samambaia is like the other. Every single trip is tailor-made to create a once-in-a-lifetime experience. The decision on the itinerary is made by the cruise director as we cruise along and is based on factors such as weather conditions, dive conditions, requests of guests, schedules of other liveaboards, which we are trying to stay away from.

There are however certain constants on every cruise which are:

- Three day dives of minimum 1 hour duration
- One sunset- or night dive (unless we have to cover a serious amount of miles over night)
- Activities during the surface intervals such as:
 - scenic rides through lagoons and coves in our tenders
 - trekking to breathtaking view points
 - visits of secluded perfect beaches
 - excursions to traditional villages
 - whale watching
 - water action such as wake boarding and water skiing

Based upon that, here is a potential itinerary for an 11 nights / 12 days cruise from Sorong to Sorong. This is just to give you a general idea and is subject to change due to weather- and other conditions. Popular dive sites are named. We do however have our secret spots as well, which you will learn about during the cruise.

For a cruise in Raja Ampat there is three potential scenarios:

- North only
- South only
- North and South combined

Itinerary below is an example for North and South combined:

Day 1: Embarkation

Arrival with plane to Sorong. You will be picked up by crew members at the airport.

Embarkation in the port of Sorong. A general orientation follows.

Day 2: Wagnab / Farondi

After an initial general dive briefing, we will do our check dive with you at an easy and protected dive site. Check dive in the sense of you checking your gear and weights, making sure the camera housings are properly sealed and our guides checking your buoyancy. No skill demonstrations are required. Thereafter we will do two more dives around Wagnab and Farondi. We've got a wide array of sites to pick from. There are five dive sites commonly dived, add our secret spots and you get to ten.

You can expect an impressive soft coral growth, big sea fans, a huge swim through, a cavern and a superb macro life. For several months of the season, silversides are abundant and the mobulas come in to hunt.

Day 3: Wayil

Barracuda Rock, Wedding Cake and Dunia Kecil are the dive sites which we will spend this day at.

In the afternoon we offer a two hour speedboat ride into hidden coves to let you enjoy the stunning topside of the limestone islands. At the end we will get to a pristine white sand beach where you can cool off with a little swim.

Day 4: Fiabatjet

Right in the heart of the No-Take-Zone. 'Tank Rock', 'Nudi Rock' & 'Whale Rock' are the famous and commonly dived sites here. There are five more dive sites in the very proximity which are as good, if not even better. We prefer to go a bit off the beaten track here.

The reefs are covered in soft coral in all colours you can imagine. Surrounded by most colourful reef fish. More Fusiliers than one could possibly count. Jacks, Trevallies, Barracudas, Sharks.

And if you happen to dive here on a day with bad visibility. Just face the reef. It's packed with macro life. Several species of Pygmy Seahorses, Nudibranchs, tiny Crustaceans - every niche in these reefs is filled with life.

Day 5: Boo / Warakaraket

The swim through at 'Boo Windows' is one of the signature dive sites of SE Misool. The surrounding reef is covered in sea fans. Even bigger sea fans you will see at our second dive here at 'Hidung Boo'. We combine this impressive day of diving with at least one dive at 'Magic Mountain'. Being a cleaning station for Oceanic Mantas makes this place truly magic.

Day 6: Daram,

This island group is one of our favourite areas to dive in SE Misool. Since 2010 declared as the second no take zone in the area the marine life here is abundant and most colourful.

We will spend the whole day here and offer three world class dives. No night dive today as we will head overnight to the north.

Day 7: Yanggelo

In the morning you will find yourself in the north of Raja Ampat. The main difference to Misool are the pristine hard coral, whilst the south is famous for the soft variation.

'Mayhem' is an action packed dive which we will hit when there is enough current to keep the fish life going without being too challenging for the divers.

Outside the mangroves of Yanggelo we have three more very attractive dive sites to show you.

Day 8: Mansuar / Arborek

It's time for more close encounters with the majestic Manta Rays of Raja Ampat.

'Manta Sandy' is one of the most popular dive sites out here and therefore we avoid. Just because we know about even better spots where we will take you.

In the afternoon we will dive the jetty of the small island of Arborek. The pillars are covered in soft coral and all around we find very attractive macro life. Afterwards we will go and visit the little village here on the island.

Day 9: Dampier Strait

The dive- and snorkel sites in the Dampier Strait stand for action packed dives in our favourite kind of fish soup - the one that is still alive and surrounds us in the water. Encounters with Manta Rays are very common here. The reef of the island of Kri is the current world record holder with the highest number of fish species ever counted by a scientist in a single dive - Dr. Gerry Allen came up with 374 different fish species counted. Again: in one single dive. Dive sites here are exposed to current so it's all about the right timing to get the most out of it. And we know how to time it here.

Popular dive sites here: 'Kap Kri', 'Chicken', 'Sardine', 'Mike's Point' and 'Blu Majik'.

Day 10: Dampier Strait

For the early birds we offer optional trekking in the morning to go and see the Red Bird of Paradise. These birds do their mating dances up in the trees just when the sun rises.

Another day of action packed diving in the Dampier Strait lies ahead of us.

Day 11: Dampier

Towards the end of the week and the end of the cruise for some other liveaboards it can get a bit busy here. We don't like that and therefore move away to some sites less dived yet very attractive. A WW 2 plane wreck. 'Larry's Promise'. Wruzwarez Slope. There is many possibilities. And to conclude our in-water activities we aim to snorkel with feeding Mantas. On our way back our crew will keep an eye out onto the ocean for you and alert you in time for whale and dolphin encounters. Which are quite common here. As long as you are on the watch out. And we are...

Day 12: Disembarkation in Sorong

Depending on your flight schedule, our crew will check your luggage in for you in advance so you can rest on board and let us shuttle you to the airport when your plane is ready to leave.

