

SCUBASPA ZEN

New Years Best Of Raja Ampat

Sorong to Sorong | Dampier Strait, Fam and Misool

Raja Ampat sits in the heart of the Coral Triangle, home to the most diverse reefs on earth.

In the Dampier Strait, coral gardens bring turtles, wobbegong sharks and passing pelagics, and the sandy slopes at night hide seahorses, cuttlefish, octopuses and the rare Rhinopias scorpionfish.

Around Fam, mantas feed and glide above sandy coral patches, and an underwater window opens into a coral lagoon full of life.

Misool has soft coral walls and dense schools of silversides.

The year ends with a beach party under the stars on a private, uninhabited island.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	EXPERIENCE
11 days / 10 nights	Sorong	Sorong	Intermediate to advanced







Your itinerary

DAY 1

Arrive in Sorong

Guests are greeted in Sorong and taken to the harbour, about 15 minutes away, to board.
After settling in the yacht sails towards the first destination.
In the evening the spa team helps with treatment bookings, the Cruise Managers introduce the crew and give the boat briefing, and a welcome dinner is served on the top deck at sunset over central Raja Ampat.

DAY 2

Dampier Strait

3 dives and a night dive

Three dives on coral gardens with turtles, wobbegong sharks and passing pelagics.
At night, a dive on the sandy slopes near Tapokren village finds seahorses, cuttlefish, octopuses and the rare Rhinopias scorpionfish.

DAY 3

Yengeffo and Fam

Up to 4 dives

A sunrise hike to see the red birds of paradise comes before breakfast, then dives before the yacht says goodbye to the Dampier Strait and heads west to Yengeffo and Fam, famous for coral gardens and sites such as Citrus Ridge and Melissa's Garden.
The day ends with sunset and a cocktail from the bar.

DAY 4

Manta cleaning stations

Up to 4 dives

A day devoted to megafauna, with dives at manta cleaning stations where mantas feed and glide above sandy coral patches.
Sightings cannot be guaranteed, but they are frequent.

DAY 5

Fam Islands and sail south

Up to 4 dives

Exploring the Fam islands above and below the surface, with the Piaynemo viewpoint over its karst cliffs and Batu Rufus, an underwater window opening into a coral lagoon full of life.
A sunset sail heads south towards Misool.

DAY 6

Daram Islands

Up to 4 dives

An early arrival at the remote eastern edge of Misool near the rarely visited Daram Islands, where you may have it all to yourself, with frequent mantas and dense schools of silversides.
The day ends with a beach bar, water sports and a beach dinner under the stars.

DAY 7

Central Misool

Up to 4 dives

World famous sites such as Nudi Rock, with soft coral walls and an island shaped like a nudibranch, and Boo Window, with a high chance of pelagics and a shallow swim through filled with colourful fish.

DAY 8

Central Misool

Up to 4 dives

A second day in the central Misool area to take in more of its world famous dive sites and its marine diversity.

DAY 9

Western Misool

4 dives and a night dive

The western side of Misool is arguably even more breathtaking than the centre, with four dives, a hike to the Heart Lake, a go on the inflatable slide and a night dive along a deep wall teeming with critters.

DAY 10

Last day of diving

2 dives

Two morning dives in Misool give one more chance to see big fish.
On the way back to Sorong there is time for a massage, or for a dip in a rare stingless jellyfish lake.

DAY 11

Departure

After a final breakfast and farewells to the crew, guests are escorted to the Sorong airport and helped with check in.

THE TRIP

Raja Ampat by liveaboard

Raja Ampat is one of the richest marine ecosystems on earth, with kaleidoscopic reefs, dramatic pinnacles, manta rays, wobbegong sharks, turtles and pygmy seahorses below the surface, and emerald islands, towering limestone karsts and turquoise lagoons above. This cruise explores the Dampier Strait and the Fam islands in the north, then Misool in the south.

THE EVENT

New Year in Raja Ampat

Welcome the new year in the beauty of Raja Ampat. You dive among vibrant marine life by day, then celebrate on the beach under the stars, farewelling the old year on a private, uninhabited island to the gentle sound of tropical waves, in one of the most exclusive New Year's parties around.

DIVE SITES

Highlights of Raja Ampat

- Blue Magic, Dampier Strait: a pinnacle rising from 30 metres to 8 metres below the surface, full of movement and colour and a good chance of oceanic mantas.
- Melissa's Garden, Penemu: a coral garden of hard corals and clouds of anthias, one of the most picturesque shallow dives in Raja Ampat.
- Magic Mountain, Misool: a submerged ridge where mantas circle cleaning stations and schools gather in the current.
- Four Kings, Misool: four towering pinnacles covered in coral and swarming with life, with oceanic mantas.
- Boo Windows, Misool: a natural window carved in the reef, with schools of fish and soft corals, one of the most photogenic dives in Misool.

ABOVE THE WATER

Treks, kayaks and viewpoints

Land excursions are woven into the programme: early bird watching treks for the red bird of paradise, the viewpoints of Piaynemo and Penemu, flying fox watching at dusk in the Dampier Strait, a visit to rock paintings thousands of years old, kayaking through calm bays, and a swim in the stingless jellyfish lake of Misool. The yacht has giant slides on the top deck, and dinners are served on deck or on the beach under the stars.

THE DIVING

How the diving is organised

The dive centre is a dedicated dive boat with plenty of room, well equipped dive stations, several entry points, a toilet and shower and a sun deck platform. Dives are tailored to each diver's level, with beginners and experienced divers both looked after, and up to four dives a day are possible. Courses run from introductory dives to advanced and Nitrox certification, with multilingual instructors.

Dives are limited to 40 metres. A dive computer is compulsory, diving alone and decompression dives are not allowed, and night dives and dives deeper than 18 metres are for advanced certified divers. Many sites have strong currents, so good buoyancy control is needed.







THE SPA

Treatments at the quiet end of the boat

The five star spa sits at the stern, the quietest part of the yacht, and welcomes couples as well as solo guests. The menu offers Balinese, Swedish, Shiatsu, sports, hot stone and Hawaiian Lomi Lomi massage, aromatherapy, foot reflexology, a back and shoulder massage, facials, body scrubs and masks, an after sun aloe vera treatment, a foot scrub, and a Dive Delight massage designed for after a dive.

The products are made exclusively in Bali for the boat, from organic ingredients, botanical extracts and essential oils. Yoga is held every morning on the sun deck.





ON THE TABLE

Food, drink and celebrations

Breakfast and lunch are buffets, and dinner is an à la carte menu served in the al fresco restaurant on the main deck. Live cooking evenings blend Asian, Mediterranean and Continental cuisine, and the chefs share the recipes so you can recreate them at home. Special diets are looked after.

The bar, next to the restaurant with views from the bow, serves wines, champagnes and handcrafted cocktails, with a happy hour every day. Beach barbecues are held on a deserted island, and the team plans birthdays, engagements and anniversaries, from a private dinner under the stars to sunset cocktails.





PACKAGES

Choose how you spend the cruise

Every guest chooses one of three packages. Dives cannot be swapped for spa treatments, and the dive package is for certified divers only.

Scuba

Up to 26 dives over the cruise, with spa treatments bookable on board for an extra charge when there is space.

Scuba and spa

14 dives and 7 spa treatments over the cruise.

Spa and active wellness

11 spa treatments and guided snorkelling. A Discover Scuba Diving course can be added if you would like to try diving.

CONDITIONS

Season, water and what to expect

Raja Ampat lies in the heart of the Coral Triangle and is protected as a marine park, with limestone islands, mangroves, bird of paradise treks and the most diverse reefs on earth. Water temperatures run between about 27 and 29 degrees, with strong and fast changing currents on many sites, so the diving suits intermediate to advanced divers. A 5 mm full wetsuit is recommended, because four dives a day can leave you chilled. The main season runs from October to April.

INCLUDED

What your trip covers

INCLUDED IN THE TRIP PRICE

- Suite accommodation with three meals a day
- Welcome drink, drinking water, coffee and tea
- Airport transfers at the start and end of the cruise
- Yoga classes every morning
- Snorkelling, with equipment included
- A barbecue on a deserted island and the excursions in the programme
- The diving or spa treatments of the package you choose
- Wi-Fi, with a 1 GB allowance per person

NOT INCLUDED

- International and domestic flights
- Service and administration charge and the national park and port fees, shown on our trip listings
- Dive and travel insurance
- Dive equipment rental
- Drinks from the bar and extra spa treatments
- Crew gratuities, which are optional