

## **RAJA AMPAT 10 NIGHTS INDONESIA**

The following is a sample itinerary of where you might dive during your holiday with us. We wish to show you the very best diving but a number of factors can determine where we visit. Weather, tides, how busy a site is with other dive vessels all play a part in the Cruise Director's decision of which route the yacht takes. The safety of all on board is paramount and we always do our best in offering diving at alternate locations. The Cruise Director is happy to listen to requests from guests to visit or remain at certain sites and providing it is possible and the schedule allows, then guest's requests are respected.

### **Raja Ampat- 10 nights- Sorong to Sorong Up to 32 dives including 5 night dives**

- **Day 1-** Arrive Sorong

Meet a member of the Worldwide Dive and Sail crew at the Sorong Airport, transfer to the port and board the SY Indo Siren. After boarding settle into your cabin and assemble your equipment with help from our friendly crew. The boat briefing is followed by dinner and enjoy the rest of the evening at your leisure.

Depart for North of Batanta

- **Day 2-** Batanta Island and Wai Island

Batanta Island offers up something truly exceptional for your first full day. Known as the muck dive capital in Raja Ampat, there is really nothing that cannot be seen here. Mimic octopus, wonderpus, inimicus, picturesque mandarin fish, dragonets, frog fish and much more. On land, Batanta offers up some wonders including the red bird of paradise and if time allows we will venture to look for this beautiful bird that can only be found here. Just off the north shore of Wai Island are two downed World War 2 American fighter planes that lie in 24 to 34 meters. The shallower wreck is upside down and is fairly intact with excellent coral covering it especially on the lower side of the tail section. The guns are also visible and sometimes tassled wobbegong sharks are sighted on the slope leading to the plane. During the darkest phases of the moon, Wai's trees glow with millions of fireflies blinking in unison, a sight never to be forgotten. Drift off to sleep to the sound of giant hornbills, cockatoos and the birds of paradise. Depart for Misool Island

- **Day 3-** South East Misool and the Farondi

The small islands that run east and south from Misool are surrounded by reefs supporting some of the most majestic underwater scenery in Raja Ampat. You will dive some of the most popular sites. Farondi has some good macro diving and its many channels support fish schools and healthy reefs.

The Three Sisters can be one of the top dive sites in Raja Ampat and the marine life is nothing short of exceptional. The very large number of reef fish including snapper, sweetlips and batfish are a truly wonderful addition to the great coral on this site. The number of colourful soft corals is unbelievable. Do up to 4 dives around Misool.

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- **Day 4- South Misool**

Spend part of the day further south of Misool around Fiabacet. Take in the fan covered walls of Fiabacet and the soft coral lined swim-through of Boo Kecil, the ocean teems with schools of batfish, damselfish and fusiliers. Boo Windows dive site is comprised of two rocks that stick up from the eastern edge of the island of Boo. One large and one small, these rocks are surrounded with good coral that drops to around 30 meters. A saddle is formed between the two rocks and with current affecting it diving can be quite exciting as it attracts trevally and schools of dog tooth tuna. Back near to the surface the tides and water have eroded some holes in the rocks, creating swim-throughs that make for great photography opportunities. Sightings of yellow tailed barracuda, snapper, grouper, Napoleon wrasse, turtles, batfish and rabbit fish are often seen in the waters surrounding the islands.

Depart for Mansuar

- **Day 5- Mansuar**

Do up to 4 dives between Mansuar Island and Airborei Island, you can spot many manta rays at a dive site called Manta Ridge and this is where we shall stay for a few dives. The dive site is a popular manta ray cleaning station that attracts large groups of mantas. Up to thirty can be seen on one dive but five or six is more common with wing spans of 4 meters. There are normally strong currents at this site and although the manta rays make hanging around look effortless, you may require a reef hook. The manta rays of Raja Ampat are quite distinctive as some are all black as opposed to the norm of a white underside and black upper. The dive site drops to around 40 meters where bumphead parrot fish can be found in large numbers but the mantas in shallow water normally steal the show.

- **Day 6- Fam**

Another picture postcard moment as you find yourself in the dozen or so limestone islands and islets which are home to many channels with shallow, aquamarine inlets, bays, lagoons, beaches, cliffs and coves. Offering five recognized dive sites, you'll have a great day surrounded by thousands of fish. Starting with Barracuda Point (aka Burt's Reef), which is open to some strong currents which attract large schools of barracuda and schooling reef fish. Wobbegong sharks can be found here. Melissa's Garden is a spectacular shallow flat reef site bordered by three rocks that break the surface. Home to tassled wobbegong sharks, banded sea kraits, giant clams and a large amount of schooling pelagics, this is a great dive.

- **Day 7- Wajag and Uraine**

This is a remote and uninhabited area dotted with hundreds of limestone islands. There are many possibilities to dive the area, however the best diving is found in the northwest. Hard coral gardens, sloping walls decorated with sea fans, soft corals and thick schools of anthias. Grey reef sharks frequent a spectacular underwater cave just off the northeast tip of Uraine. White tip reef sharks, wobbgong sharks and bumphead parrot fish are also frequent sights. We venture on land to climb one of the islands to a superb view of the lagoon below and the boat. Bring your cameras.

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- **Day 8- Kawe Island**

The rocks and seamounts in this group straddle the equator. Kawe is one of the few places in the world where it is possible to dive both hemispheres without moving the boat. When the current is running, Kawe's fish life is abundant, and feeding manta rays have been spotted on the southwest side of Eagle Rock. We will do a couple of dives in Kawe and then head on to Waigeo.

- **Day 9- Waigeo**

This area is made up of large tree covered islands separated by calm inland waterways that stretch back for miles into the interior. This is a perfect opportunity to take a kayak out for a paddle during your surface intervals. It is also likely you will explore with the tender some of the waterways as they are home to some rare birds and fearsome salt water crocodiles. The area is tidal with expansive mangrove areas broken up only by towering limestone cliffs. Great muck dives and great critter hunting areas are everywhere. Wobbegong sharks can be found here but the prize sighting has to be the epaulette shark. Muscular pectoral fins enable this shark to "walk" along the seafloor. When disturbed, instead of swimming out of danger, it sometimes quickly "runs" away. Other sightings you are likely to make are hairy squat lobsters, tozeuma and coleman shrimps, a variety of pygmy seahorses, frog fish, cockatoo wasp fish and ghost pipe fish.

- **Day 10- Kri Island**

Perhaps most known for the long established resort that is Kri Eco Resort built by Max Ammer located in Cape Kri since 1994. Max Ammer has been one of the pioneers of Raja Ampat diving. Dr. Gerald Allen (world-renowned ichthyologist and author of several fish identification books), broke his personal record on a single dive by identifying 283 different species of fish and concluded that Raja Ampat harbours the greatest biodiversity he has ever registered. The research team recorded 828 species of reef fishes in the assessment, raising the known total in that region to 970. In addition, 456 species of hard corals were recorded, which is more than half the world's total. Including previous studies, this brings the total number of hard coral species in Raja Ampat to 565, and no other area of comparable size has this many species. We spend the day here diving sites such as Cape Kri, Sardine and Mike's Point. Divers who spend most of their bottom time at the current's leading edge usually will be surrounded by a frenzy of wahoo, tuna, trevally and fusiliers preying on millions of baitfish. A truly stunning way to spend your last day diving. The number of dives you do is dependent on your onward flight arrangements. In the evening enjoy a BBQ on the boat and start planning your next adventure aboard the Siren Fleet.

- **Day 11- Disembark Sorong**

After breakfast say your farewells, disembark the SY Indo Siren and transfer to Sorong Airport.

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