ADELAAR

Raja Ampat and Banda Sea

Sorong to Ambon | Raja Ampat, Watubela and the Banda Sea

Embark on the ultimate underwater expedition in Raja Ampat, the crown jewel of the Coral Triangle, then sail on into the untouched Banda Sea, the 'Forgotten Paradise'.

Raja Ampat boasts over 1,500 fish species and 600 types of corals.

In the Dampier Strait you may meet dense schools of fish, turtles and sharks, including the iconic wobbegongs, while Misool's soft and black corals hide nudibranchs, frogfish and boxer crabs.

The sites around the Watubela archipelago are as remote as it gets.

In the Banda Sea, Manuk, an old, lonely volcano, is home to pelagic fish and an abundance of sea snakes, and schooling hammerhead sharks swim along the ridges off Manukang.

Ashore, a guided tour of the historic town of Banda Neira takes in the fort, the museum and the spice plantations.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	EXPERIENCE
11 nights	Sorong	Ambon	Certified divers







Your itinerary

DAY 1

Sorong

After the airport or hotel pick-up and transfer to Adelaar, the first day is dedicated to getting to know the crew, settling in, and enjoying the first day on the boat while we are sailing toward Raja Ampat.
Depending on boarding time, we may already do a check dive.

DAY 2

Dampier Strait

3 day dives

This strait between Batanta and Waigeo is the heart of Raja's central section.
During the dives on its seamounts, headlands, and village piers you are likely to meet dense schools of fish, turtles, various kinds of sharks, including the iconic Wobbegongs.
You may also cross paths with the first manta ray of your cruise.
With a bit of luck, you may even spot one of the many whale species that inhabit this area.

DAY 3

Misool – Wagmab

3 day dives, 1 night dive

It is difficult not to be too overwhelmed by the kaleidoscope of colours created by the dense soft and black coral growth around Wagmab to notice the equally colourful critters hiding within, such as nudibranchs, frogfish, boxer crabs, blue ringed octopi and others.
They are also amongst the best sites to find Raja's endemic walking shark on night dives.
There are several lagoon and cavern systems waiting to be explored by speedboat, and snorkellers can immerse themselves in marine lakes inhabited by stingless jellyfish.



DAY 4

Misool - Fiabacet

3 day dives, 1 night dive

The healthy reef systems beneath the karst islands of Fiabacet have often been described as the world's most complex and richest.
A place where it is possible to see a bit of 'everything' from small to large.
Several sites are reliable for sightings of mantas at cleaning stations.
From time to time the stunning reefs are completely invaded by huge bait-balls of silversides, tiny fish that in turn attract squadrons of mobula rays, as well as hunting trevallies and barracudas.

DAY 5

Misool – Wayilbatan

3 day dives

Wayilbatan's seamounts and limestone outcroppings count amongst Raja 's finest and most diverse dive sites.
Already spectacular from both a topographical as well as coral coverage point of view, they are also rich in fish life as well as smaller critters.
Larger pelagic animals are attracted to its more oceanic sites.

DAY 6

Koon

3 day dives

Do you like diving with a lot of fish?
In that case Koon is the place for you.
Apart from having too many fish to list, there is also a spectacular land, or rather surface, activity nearby.
Depending on the tide we can enter a hidden system of marine lakes and canals for a snorkel and swim trek unlike any other!
Typically, at the end of the trail you will be greeted by enthusiastic local village children.



DAY 7

Watubela

3 day dives

The sites around the Watubela archipelago are as remote as it gets.
However, this is not the only charm of these remote islands located at the border between the Banda and Seram Sea.
Spectacular white sandy beaches offer perfect locations for those postcard sunset drinks after a day's diving surrounded by schooling fish.

DAY 8

Manuk

4 day dives

Manuk is an old, lonely volcano rising from the depths of the Banda Sea.
It attracts a huge colony of resident seabirds above the waves, while beneath the surface we will find schools of jacks, surgeonfish, tunas, barracudas and other pelagic fish species, as well as an abundance of sea snakes.
These reptiles, venomous but absolutely unaggressive, can be encountered on every dive around Manuk, often in vast numbers, making these dives absolutely unique.

DAY 9

Banda and Sjahrir

3 day dives, 1 dusk dive

On the menu today is a dive on a spectacular submerged pinnacle covered in dense schools of fish, followed by a couple of drift dives.
The unique location of the Banda archipelago enhances chances of close encounters with pelagics such as big tunas, Spanish mackerels, giant jacks or even thresher sharks.
In the evening we will dive at dusk to try to catch a glimpse of the ever-romantic mandarin fish.
Then it is off to the town of Banda Neira for dinner in the tropical gardens of a beautiful house from the colonial period.



DAY 10

Banda Neira and Manukang

3 day dives

We spend the morning on a guided tour through the historic town of Banda Neira, taking in the fort, the museum as well as spice plantations.
We take time to enjoy a traditional Bandanes breakfast before strolling back to port, passing through the bustling market of this lovely town.
Then it is off to dive on a new reef that has been growing naturally on the spur of the lava from Gunung Api's 1988 eruption, it is a fantastic example of nature's ability to recover from natural disaster.
The other two dives today will be along a volcanic outcrop off Manukang, that is according to Moluccan lore known to be haunted.
This we cannot judge, but what we do know, is that it attracts its fair share of pelagic visitors.
Schooling hammerhead sharks swim along the underwater ridges that are covered in huge barrel sponges.

DAY 11

Nusa Laut

2 day dives

Nusa Laut is the smallest and easternmost of the Lease Islands east of Ambon.
This historically fascinating little island will host the final dives of the trip.
The local villages here are proud of the way they were able to conserve their beautiful coral reefs off their famous white beaches.
Nusa Laut's stunning coral gardens are a worthy final chapter of the underwater part off the trip.
After the dives we will hoist the sails to start heading toward Ambon, passing the islands of Sarapua and Haruku.

DAY 12

Ambon

After breakfast, it is time to say goodbye and disembark, until the next time.







GOOD TO KNOW

On land and on the way

Water sports

For non-divers, as well as snorkelling, the boat has stand-up paddle boards and a two-person kayak. Not every area is suitable, and the cruise manager finds the right times and places.

Small groups

Adelaar takes a maximum of 8 guests, with a Western cruise manager who is also a PADI dive instructor, a divemaster and a crew of ten.

Check in

Our team collects you from the airport or your hotel and takes you to the harbour where Adelaar is anchored. On the day before departure you can be taken to a hotel.

Check out

After breakfast on the last day you disembark, with an airport or hotel transfer. Please arrange your flight with the no-fly rule in mind.

Itinerary

All routes are examples, and the final plan depends on the weather, the sea conditions and any permissions.







INCLUDED

What your trip covers

INCLUDED IN THE TRIP PRICE

- Double or twin stateroom with private bathroom, bath towels and deck towels
- Fully crewed vessel, with all meals
- Coffee, tea, juices, soft drinks, drinking water and snacks
- The diving package described in the itinerary, with 12 litre tanks, weight belt and weights
- Land excursions described in the itinerary
- Transfers between the harbour and the nearest airport
- Stand-up paddle boards, a two-person kayak and a wakeboard
- Starlink Wi-Fi, up to 1 GB per guest
- Sensatia Botanicals toiletries

NOT INCLUDED

- International and domestic flights, visas and transit hotels
- Port and park fees, prepaid
- Fuel surcharge, prepaid
- Nitrox and 15 litre tanks
- Dive and snorkel gear rental, a private dive guide and dive courses
- Compulsory dive insurance, and travel insurance is suggested
- Laundry and satellite phone use
- Crew tips, which are customary

BEFORE YOU GO

What to bring

ESSENTIALS

- Dive certification card and logbook
- Completed diver medical questionnaire
- Details of your dive and travel insurance
- Dive computer and surface marker buoy
- Torch for night dives

AND ALSO

- Reef-safe sunscreen
- Swimwear, hat and sunglasses
- Light clothing and sandals
- Personal medication and toiletries
- Passport

WORTH KNOWING

Key notes

Good to know

The itinerary may vary depending on weather and sea conditions

Good to know

All extra charges must be prepaid, and the fees are subject to change

Good to know

Proof of dive certification and enough diving experience for the programme is required, and divers sign a liability waiver