AMBAI

Raja Ampat, Halmahera and Lembeh

Sorong to Bitung | Misool, Halmahera and North Sulawesi

This multi-destination trip visits Misool in the south of Raja Ampat and the west coast of Halmahera, and ends in the Lembeh Strait.

It offers outstanding diving and is a perfect itinerary for both fish life and critters.

Misool is among the hottest spots of Indonesian diving, with intense fish life, great soft corals and gorgonians, and an isolated island where millions of triggerfish and schools of bumphead parrotfish are passed by tunas and Spanish mackerel.

Halmahera brings stunning coral reefs, amazing macro, billions of reef fish, lots of reef sharks and a huge school of barracudas.

The finale is the Lembeh Strait, a legendary muck diving mecca where black sand is home to frogfish, rhinopias, flamboyant cuttlefish and mimic octopus.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	EXPERIENCE
12 nights	Sorong	Bitung	30 dives, Advanced







Your route

STOP 1

Misool

Leaving from Sorong, we go directly to Misool, where we spend 3-4 days depending on the conditions.
Intense fish life, great soft corals and gorgonians.

STOP 2

Pisang

From Misool, we head to the small islets of Pisang for one day of diving.
This isolated island with a few satellite rocks is home to intense underwater life: millions of trigger fish, schools of surgeonfish, bump head parrotfish, Spanish mackerels and tunas passing by.

STOP 3

South Halmahera and Bacan

We then reach the South of Halmahera on the following day.
We will dive the South tip of Bacan, then enter the Patiniente Strait between Bacan and Halmahera.
The diving take place around the islands of Kusu and Saleh, where the water in forced in narrow straits bringing an intense fish life.
We then start cruising north to the Goraichi islands.
Stunning coral reefs, amazing macro, billions of reef fishes and lots of reef sharks inhabits these areas.

STOP 4

Tifore

At mid- way between Halmahera and Sulawesi lays the islands of Tifore, where we spend one day.
The dive site is famous for it’s huge school of barracudas.
In North Sulawesi, we will dive the Lembeh strait and it’s legendary muck dive sites -and eventually a few sites around Bangka islands, offering a mix of critters and reef dives-.

STOP 5

Disembarking in Bitung

We disembark in Bitung and transfer to Manado airport by a 45 minutes road trip.

GOOD TO KNOW

On land and on the way

Ashore

In Misool you visit the ranger's station and snorkel in a natural shark nursery, where small blacktips swim in one metre of crystal clear water, and a short hike leads to the viewpoint of a lagoon in the shape of a heart. In Halmahera you can visit local villages and hot springs, and on the last afternoon you visit Tangkoko National Park, a preserved forest with macaques and tarsiers.

Dive count

A minimum of 36 dives, which is 3 dives per day, is offered, including at least 6 night dives.

How the diving works

Divers go in groups of up to four with a dive guide, with a briefing before every dive. Nitrox is free for certified divers, and divers are asked to stay within no deco limits, to a maximum depth of 35 metres.

Snorkelling

The trip is open to snorkellers, with a lot to see in shallow water at most dive sites, and specific guidance for snorkellers.

Visibility and water

Generally good in Misool, excellent in Halmahera and good in North Sulawesi. The water is between 28 and 30°C.

Currents

Some of the dives can have consistent currents. The guides check the current before each dive and brief you on the conditions, and the crew picks the right place at the right time.

Check in

You are welcome on board in Sorong before 12 noon, the boat leaves at 1 pm, and the first dive is at 7.30 am on the second day. Ambai can arrange pick up from the airport or your hotel.

Check out

The boat arrives in Bitung at 8 pm on the penultimate day, and you disembark before 12 noon. Ambai can arrange the drop off at the airport or your hotel. The last dive is at 10 am on the penultimate day.

Airports

Sorong (SOQ) at the start and Manado (MDC) at the end of the trip.







INCLUDED

What your trip covers

INCLUDED IN THE TRIP PRICE

- Transfers between the boat and the closest airport
- Accommodation in a shared twin or double bed cabin
- All meals and snacks, drinking water, soft drinks and hot drinks
- All guided dives, with one guide for up to four divers
- Aluminium 12 litre tank, weights and belts
- Free nitrox for certified divers
- Four complimentary kayaks on board

NOT INCLUDED

- Park and port fees and fuel surcharge, paid in cash on board
- International and domestic flights
- Alcoholic beverages, which you can bring yourself
- Diving equipment rental and 100 cf (15 litre) tank
- Crew tips, which are customary
- Massages and laundry

BEFORE YOU GO

What to bring

ESSENTIALS

- Dive certification card and logbook (PADI Advanced Open Water or equivalent with at least 30 logged dives)
- Dive insurance covering medical evacuation and diving accidents, which is highly recommended

AND ALSO

- Your own dive equipment, or rental booked before the cruise, as not all sizes are on board
- Cash for park and port fees, fuel surcharge, tips and extras, as credit cards are not accepted on board

WORTH KNOWING

Key notes

Good to know

The route can vary slightly with weather, currents, visibility and tides

Good to know

Payments on board are in cash only, in euros, US dollars, Australian dollars, Swiss francs or Indonesian rupiah, and prepayment by wire transfer can be arranged

Good to know

Divers with less experience can join with special supervision, arranged before the cruise

Good to know

Prices and trip dates are shown on our trip listings