

CALICO JACK

# Raja Ampat Central

*Sorong to Sorong | Dampier Strait, Arborek, Penemu, Aljui, Wofo and Yanggefo*

Central Raja Ampat is manta country, where majestic rays somersault through the water, feeding on plankton and being cleaned by wrasse and butterflyfish.

Elsewhere, "fish thunder" engulfs you, the loud booming sound of huge numbers of fish moving through open water, and swarms of fish block out the sky.

The reefs are adorned with sea fans, soft corals and orange elephant ear sponges, with pygmy seahorses and nudibranchs.

When the current runs, massive schools of barracuda, fusiliers and batfish arrive with wobbegongs and reef sharks, and walking sharks are often found at night.

| LENGTH | DEPARTURE PORT | ARRIVAL PORT | EXPERIENCE |
|---|---|---|---|
| 9 days / 8 nights | Sorong | Sorong | Open Water, 10 dives |







## Your itinerary

DAY 1

### Embarkation in Sorong

1 Dive

We will pick you up either at your hotel or Sorong airport and take you to the harbor where our crew will welcome you onboard Calico Jack.
Following refreshments and a short tour of the ship, you will be briefed on safety, diving operations, and life onboard.

DAY 1

## Embarkation in Sorong (continued)

1 Dive

We will aim to depart by 12 pm and head 5 hours north to Waisai.
It will allow time for you to get acquainted with the ship, set up your dive gear & cameras, and to meet and socialize with the other guests and friendly crew, before an afternoon check dive close by Mioskon island.
You will spend the night close to Waisai at a safe anchorage.
We will visit Mioscon island with the friendly cat colony living on it and witness the swarms of flying foxes departing on the night adventure.

DAY 2

## Dampier Strait

3 Dives and a Night Dive

After short, early morning navigation, we begin the day with dives at Mioskon & Sardine Reef.
Ironically, sardines are the only reef fish not found on the Sardine reef, but you'll hardly notice as "fish thunder" (the loud booming sound made when large numbers of fish move rapidly through open water) engulfs you, and swarms of fish block out the sky.
Both are incredible dive sites full of schooling fish, including fusiliers, surgeonfish, trevallies, rainbow runners, sweetlips, and bannerfish.
The reefs are adorned with sea fans, soft corals and orange elephant ear sponges.
In the afternoon, you will dive into Cape Kri.
One of the most famous sites in the region, it boasts some of the largest concentrations of big fish in Raja Ampat and holds the impressive record of 374 fish species identified during one 90-minute dive.
For sunset, we head west to our anchorage outside the village of Yenbuba, where you will experience your first-night dive at Yenbuba Jetty.

DAY 3

## Arborek Island

3 Dives, Village Visit, Dive with Manta Rays, Night Dive

Starting the day close to our anchorage, you will begin the morning with a dive at Cape Yenbuba, a beautiful drift wall dive.
While having breakfast, we relocate 1.5 hours to one of the most reliable Manta ray congregation spots in all of Raja Ampat, the famous cleaning station, Manta Sandy.
It is easy to spend a whole day observing these majestic creatures as they somersault through the water, feeding on plankton and being cleaned by several species of wrasse and butterflyfish.
For lunch, we'll make our way to Arborek, and after a third dive at Lalosi, a seemingly never-ending pristine submerged reef, you will visit the local village and see the traditional way of life for these island people, before enjoying a night dive at the Arborek Pier.
In the shallows, the posts at Arborek Pier are covered in soft corals, with pipefish and cuttlefish dwelling more in-depth below.
On the reef, giant clams nestle among soft corals, which also provide shelter for hermit crabs, flatworms, and skeleton shrimp.



DAY 4

## Penem

3 Dives, Penemu Trek, Island Lagoon

Early in the morning, we will arrive at Penemu's My Reef dive site, where you will enjoy one of the largest concentrations of fish in the area.
This site is very impressive, mainly when the current is strong.
Before lunch we'll squeeze in a second dive at Melissa's Garden, a beautiful coral garden teeming with schooling fish and sharks.
You will take a short boat tour to Penem Islands and walk up to the famous viewpoint above Piaynemo starshaped lagoons.

DAY 5

## Aljui

3 Dives and a Night Dive

Heading further north, we will enter a large natural bay around Aljui.
Here, you will have the chance to dive at Chanel No.5, White Arrow, and Channel Island, a mix of wall and reef dives, close to the village, and where pearl farming is conducted.
The sites are brimming with soft, colorful corals, sea fans, pygmy seahorses, and a wide variety of nudibranchs.
Cendana Pier is also teeming with life and one of the best night dives in Raja Ampat.

DAY 6

## Wofo

3 Dives, Beach BBQ

We start the day with early navigation to the Wofo Island area.
Here, in the morning, you will dive at Who's the Black Forest, a stunning dive traversing the deep black fan landscape rising to a beautiful and pristine shallow reef.
The second dive is at Wofo Tembok (a wall dive) and finally, Teman Wofo.
The evening will be spent on a secluded beach experiencing one of Calico Jack's famous beach BBQ parties, where you relax on our giant bean bags under a pagoda, whilst being served up our chef's delicious BBQ dinner.
Explore the beach, meet the local hermit crabs, and indulge in a glass of wine as music is played and fireworks light the night sky.

DAY 7

## Yanggefo

3 Dives and a Night Dive

An early morning's navigation brings us to the stunning Mangrove Anchorage in the passage of Gam and Yanggefo.
Here you will find some of the most stunning dive sites in West Waigeo: Mayhem and Citrus Ridge.
In the right conditions you can expect some of the highest voltage diving in Raja Ampat, with currents bringing in massive schools of barracudas, three species of fusiliers, trevallies, batfish, bump head parrotfish, wobbegongs, as well as black and white tip reef sharks.
Lalosi ("Fusilier '' in Papuan) is a hard coral seamount located west of Arborek Island, which has extremely good fish life when the current is running.
The reef extends for up to half a kilometer, making it one of the better drift dives in Raja Ampat.
We will make our final night dive at Batu lima.
Magnificent little dive site where walking sharks are often encountered.



DAY 8

## Dampier Strait

2 Dives, Beach Time

We save the very best for last.
During our final diving day, we discovered two fabulous dive sites: Blue Magic and Sardine Reef.
Both of these sites offer some of the largest concentrations of big fish in Raja Ampat.
Large schools of trevallies, barracudas, sweetlips, tuna, and snappers congregate on these sites.
Oceanic Manta can also be seen at Blue Magic.
In the afternoon, we have time to relax on one of Kris's secluded beaches before sailing back to Sorong, where we arrive later in the evening.

DAY 9

## Disembarkation in Sorong

After breakfast, and the last exchange of photos and memories, the crew and Calico Jack will say our fondest farewell and transport you either to your hotel or airport.
We are looking forward to welcoming you aboard.

GOOD TO KNOW

# On land and on the way

### Small groups

Dive groups are limited to 5 divers per guide, with a dedicated tender.

### Activities

Kayaks, stand-up paddle boards and snorkel gear are on board.

### Check in

Private transfers collect you from the airport or your hotel and take you to the harbour, where the crew welcome you on board.

### Check out

After breakfast on the last day the crew transfer you to your hotel or the airport.

### Itinerary

Each sample itinerary is an example, and navigation and dive sites vary with the weather.

INCLUDED

# What your trip covers

## INCLUDED IN THE TRIP PRICE

- Private airport and hotel transfers
- Air-conditioned en-suite cabin with hot shower, with daily housekeeping
- Three meals a day plus snacks, cooked on board
- 3 or 4 dives a day, with a night dive on alternating nights when the weather allows
- Groups of at most 5 divers, with a dive guide and a dedicated tender
- Snorkel gear, kayaks and stand-up paddle boards
- Starlink Wi-Fi when available, which varies in remote areas
- First aid kits and emergency oxygen

## NOT INCLUDED

- International and domestic flights, airport taxes and visas
- Park and port fees, covering park entry, village contributions, dive permits, harbour clearances, trekking fees and regional taxes
- Dive equipment rental and dive courses
- Nitrox
- Crew gratuities, which are optional, with 10% of the charter cost suggested
- Alcohol, with beer and wine, and you may bring your own spirits

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 sample itinerary is an example, and navigation and dive sites may vary slightly with the weather and visibility

### Good to know

Park and port fees are paid in addition to the cruise price