INDO MASTER

Raja Ampat, Halmahera and Lembeh

Sorong to Bitung | Raja Ampat, Halmahera and the Lembeh Strait

From the big fish drifts of Raja Ampat to the macro mecca of the Lembeh Strait, where muck diving all began.

Raja Ampat brings reef manta rays of every shade, including all-black mantas, with fast drifts and swarms of fusiliers and sweetlips.

In between lie the Northern Moluccas, where strong currents nurture dense soft corals and gorgonian fan gardens, and schooling jacks, blackfin barracuda and reef sharks patrol the walls.

Further out, the deep Molucca Sea has sheer walls and clear blue water.

The finish is Lembeh, with volcanic black sand full of weird and wonderful critters.

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







Your itinerary

DAY 1

Boarding

Embarkation is followed by introductions, boat and safety briefings and dinner.
The boat usually leaves port in the evening to be ready to dive on day 2.

DAY 2

Check dive and first dives

Breakfast, then a check dive and up to 3 more dives.

DAY 3-11

Diving days

Up to 4 dives a day

Your Cruise Manager schedules up to 4 dives a day, three day dives and either a sunset or a night dive.

DAY 12

Last full day

2 morning dives

Two morning dives before the boat cruises back to port, where it stays at anchor overnight.

DAY 13

Disembarkation

Breakfast on board, then disembarkation between 8:00 and 10:00.







THE DIVING

Dive sites on this route

The Dampier Strait

Fast drift dives and big fish schools characterise the sites in the Dampier Strait.

Manta Sandy

The two large bommies situated in the middle of a sandy bottom at just 18 metres are a world-renowned cleaning station which attracts many reef manta rays of a variety of shades and sizes, including all-black mantas, distinctive to Raja Ampat.

Cape Kri

One of the best known sites in the Dampier Strait, the variety of reef fish is astounding.

Blue Magic

A long finger-shaped reef sloping down at the points from 8 metres to 30 metres (26ft - 98ft) with hard and soft corals, sea fans and black coral bushes, where schools of jacks and barracuda hover close to the reef while grey reef sharks cruise in the blue.

Sardine Reef

Swarms of fusiliers, snappers and sweetlips, schools of bumphead parrotfish and banner fish, barracuda and trevally all make this site a very fishy dive.

Mike's Point

As we approach the tiny limestone island known as Mike's Point, eagles can often be seen resting in the treetops.

Yangeffo and Penemu Islands

Located west of Gam these mushroom islands are surrounded by turquoise seas full of pristine coral. These islands provide a range of dive sites for us to choose from, including:.

Melissa's Garden

This site is home to some of the best hard coral gardens in Raja Ampat.

Mayhem

This dive spot is notorious for its strong currents, making for an exhilarating dive with lots of action.

Citrus Ridge

A stunning reef named after the carpet-like orange, pink, yellow and green soft corals that cover the entire area.

Pisang Island

Named for its banana-like shape, Pisang Island is an oasis in the middle of the Halmahera Sea, surrounded by deep blue water.

Batjan Island

This is one of the northern Moluccca Islands in the Molucca Sea, located just southwest of the large island of Halmahera. There are two special dive spots to explore in this area:.

Penemu viewpoint

The Penemu viewpoint in Raja Ampat is always offered. There are usually 2 land visits.

Tangkoko

The second visit is usually the Tangkoko Batuangus Nature Reserve in North Sulawesi, with tarsiers, macaques and cuscus in their natural surroundings.

A typical diving day

Light breakfast, briefing and dive 1. Full breakfast, relaxation, briefing and dive 2. Lunch, relaxation, briefing and dive 3. A snack, then a briefing for a sunset or night dive where possible, and dinner.

Who can join

Divers need PADI Advanced Open Water or equivalent and at least 30 logged dives. Safety and dive briefings are given in English.

No-fly time

Leave at least 24 hours between your final dive and your flight home.

Transfers

Transfers are included on embarkation and disembarkation days.

Check in

Embarkation is at Sorong harbour at 12:00, with a transfer from the airport or a local hotel.

Check out

Disembarkation is at Bitung harbour, North Sulawesi, at 10:00. Trips can also run in the other direction, so please check your booking.

INCLUDED

What your trip covers

INCLUDED IN THE TRIP PRICE

- Transfers between the nearest domestic airport or local hotel and the boat on embarkation and disembarkation days only
- En-suite air-conditioned cabin with towels, bed linen and shower gel
- Full board, with snacks, drinking water, soft drinks, fruit juices, tea and coffee
- Up to 4 guided dives a day
- 11 litre cylinder, weights and air fills
- Deck towels
- Land visits as described in the itinerary

NOT INCLUDED

- International and domestic flights, and hotel stays or day rooms
- Marine park and port fees, paid on board
- Travel and dive insurance, which is compulsory
- Alcoholic drinks, with beer, wine and spirits sold on board
- Equipment rental and 13 litre cylinders
- Nitrox up to 32%, at an extra charge
- Wi-Fi and laundry, at an extra charge
- Crew and dive guide
- Crew tips, which are customary

BEFORE YOU GO

What to bring

ESSENTIALS

- Dive certification card, Advanced Open Water or equivalent, and logbook
- Dive insurance, which is mandatory and must cover evacuation and recompression
- Marine park entry card, if you already have one
- Dive computer and surface marker buoy
- Torch for night dives

AND ALSO

- 3 mm wetsuit, or a 5 mm suit if you feel the cold
- Reef-safe sunscreen
- Swimwear, hat and sunglasses
- Light clothing and sandals
- Passport and personal medication

WORTH KNOWING

Key notes

Good to know

The itinerary is an example, and the route and dive sites depend on weather, tides, currents and sea conditions, as decided by the Cruise Manager

Good to know

The number of dives depends on the weather and on how far the boat has to cruise

Good to know

Marine park and port fees are paid on board and can change without notice