MERMAID I

Biodiversity Super Special: Raja Ampat, Banda Sea, Alor and Maumere

Sorong to Maumere | Raja Ampat, the Banda Sea, Alor and Flores

Raja Ampat opens with a huge variety of diving, from giant mantas to mangroves, with pinnacles and sea mounts covered in schooling fish and lots of wobbegong sharks.

Misool has the prettiest soft coral reefs in the world, with pinnacles surrounded by masses of schooling fish, barracuda, jacks and snappers.

Manuk, an active volcano, has huge aggregations of sea snakes, and it is an incredible experience to be surrounded on all sides by them.

Schooling hammerhead sharks follow in the Banda Sea, and Alor wraps it up with healthy reefs, walls, great muck dives and strong currents.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	EXPERIENCE
15 nights	Sorong	Maumere	Certified divers







Your itinerary

DAY 1

Sorong

Check in

Check in on board Mermaid I.
Guests arrive all through the day depending on flights, so you are welcome to board when you arrive and spend some time unpacking and setting up your equipment.
After the boat and safety briefing Mermaid I cruises for 5 to 6 hours to the Dampier Strait area.

DAY 2-3

Dampier Strait

Dives

The first two diving days are around the Dampier Strait, between Waigeo, the Bird's Head peninsula and the north of Batanta.
The strait is known for a huge variety of diving, from giant mantas to mangroves, beautiful reefs, many pinnacles and sea mounts covered in schooling fish, aggregations of sweetlips, schooling barracuda, bumphead parrotfish, fusiliers and lots of wobbegong sharks.
It is also a great place for critters and macro subjects, with several species of pygmy seahorse and a large variety of nudibranchs, and there are jetties for night dives with Raja epaulette sharks, toadfish, frogfish and crocodilefish.
Cruise overnight to Misool.

DAY 4-5

Misool

Dives + tender excursions

Two days around Misool, where there are literally hundreds of dive sites and a heaven for wide-angle photographers.
The prettiest soft coral reefs in the world are here, with multiple pinnacles surrounded by masses of schooling fish, barracuda, jacks and snappers.
There are also excursions with the tenders through inner lagoons, with fantastic scenery and wildlife sightings.
Cruise overnight to Pulau Koon.



DAY 6

Pulau Koon

Dives

Pulau Koon is a small island south-east of Ceram, half way between Raja Ampat and the Banda Islands, with walls covered in soft corals and sandy slopes with hard coral bommies.
The most interesting feature is the amount of schooling and pelagic fish: barracuda, bigeye trevally, red snappers, pompano, batfish and giant groupers.
Cruise overnight to the Banda Islands.

DAY 7-8

Banda Islands

Dives + cultural visit

Two days in the Banda Islands, formerly known as the Spice Islands.
Many of the dive sites are wall dives, with massive gorgonians, soft corals, barrel sponges and interesting swim-throughs, as well as pinnacles with enormous groups of schooling pyramid butterflyfish and triggerfish, tunas passing through, spectacular hard coral reefs next to the volcano, and muck dives with lots of mandarinfish at the local jetty.
One morning you walk around the village of Banda Neira with a local guide, visiting the museum, the old Dutch fort, the old colonial governor's house, the fish market and a nutmeg plantation, where you have breakfast.
Cruise overnight to Manuk.

DAY 9

Manuk

Dives

Manuk, an active volcano, is one of two places in Indonesia with huge aggregations of sea snakes, Chinese sea snakes and banded sea kraits, and it is an incredible experience to dive surrounded on all sides by them.
The island is surrounded by black sand slopes with hard coral reefs and volcanic ridges covered in gorgonians, with fusiliers and pelagics such as Spanish mackerel and dogtooth tuna passing through.
Cruise overnight to Serua Island.

DAY 10

Serua, Nila and the atolls

Dives

Serua Island is probably one of the most emblematic spots in the Banda Sea to see schooling hammerhead sharks, and an amazing site for schooling fish such as bigeye trevally and pinjalo snappers.
Around Nila Island there are two atolls, Dusborgh and Nil Desperandum, where there is a good chance of seeing hammerheads.
Even without them the reefs are fabulous, with healthy walls and big schools of fish.
Cruise to the Damar Islands.

DAY 11

Damar Islands

Dives

Today you dive several small islands: Nus Leur, Terbang Selatan and Terbang Utara.
Damar and its three small neighbouring islands have spectacular diving, with crystal-clear water and beautiful walls covered in massive sponges and soft corals, like many dives in the Banda Sea.
Cruise to Wetar Island.

DAY 12

Wetar

3 dives

After cruising every night for a week, Mermaid I has finally crossed the Banda Sea and arrives at Wetar.
You make three dives at the small island of Reong and at Cape Nunukae.
Pulau Reong is on the north-west coast of Wetar, separated by a channel only 700 metres wide, with walls covered in small soft corals of a great variety of colours and triggerfish of every species.
Cape Nunukae is a large ridge with slopes on both sides, hard corals in the shallows and soft corals on the deeper slopes, with strong currents at the end of the ridge and large aggregations of schooling fish.
Cruise overnight to Alor.

DAY 13-14

Alor

Dives

Alor is an old favourite with divers who come to Indonesia year after year because of its variety of dive sites: healthy reefs, pinnacles, walls, great muck dives, cold water, warm water, strong currents and protected areas.
Cruise overnight to Kawula Island or Serbete Island.

DAY 15

Kawula or Serbete

Two dives

Two dives today at Kawula Island or Serbete Island, before the run to Maumere.

DAY 16

Disembark in Maumere

After breakfast there is a transfer to the airport or your hotel.
Disembark is at 8 am.

GOOD TO KNOW

On land and on the way

Manuk

Aggregations of sea snakes.

Serua and Nila

Schooling hammerhead sharks.

Banda Neira

Fort, museum and a nutmeg plantation.

Alor

Reefs, walls and muck diving.

Check in

Check in on board is on the day of departure. Guests arrive at different times depending on flights, so you can board when you arrive, unpack and set up your equipment. A transfer from Sorong airport to the boat is included.

Check out

Disembark after breakfast at 8 am, with a transfer to the airport or your hotel.

Last dive

Divers should wait at least 24 hours after their last dive before flying, so please keep to the no-flying rule when you book your flight home.







INCLUDED

What your trip covers

INCLUDED IN THE TRIP PRICE

- Transfers to and from the boat: anywhere in southern Bali on Komodo trips, and Sorong airport on Raja Ampat trips
- All meals and snacks, fruit, coffee, tea, hot chocolate, soft drinks and drinking water
- All dives, with tanks, weights and weight belts
- Diving with experienced divemasters and instructors
- Land visits to villages, beaches, viewpoints and wildlife where the plan includes them
- 3 GB of Starlink internet on board

NOT INCLUDED

- Flights, including any domestic flight
- Nitrox fills
- Rental equipment and on board courses
- Alcoholic drinks
- Marine park fees, port and national park fees (subject to change with government regulation)
- Dive and travel insurance

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

Itineraries are a sample and can be changed because of the weather, tides, currents, season and other events beyond our control

Good to know

This itinerary runs from Sorong to Maumere