MERMAID I

Raja Ampat

Sorong to Sorong | Misool, Batanta and the Dampier Strait

Misool is soft coral heaven, with gorgeous gorgonian sea fans, pygmy seahorses in almost every dive, and pinnacles and seamounts alive with masses of fish, giant manta rays and sharks.

Black sand slopes are where all the weird and wonderful creatures you have seen in coffee table books like to live.

Around Kawe, reefs covered in black coral bushes come with a very good chance of manta encounters, and a jetty night dive has walking sharks, crocodilefish and frogfish.

In the Dampier Strait, mantas hang out at their cleaning stations among zillions of fish on the pinnacles, and lots of wobbegong sharks lie in wait.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	EXPERIENCE
9 nights	Sorong	Sorong	Certified divers







Your itinerary

DAY 1

Sorong

Check in

Check-in on board Mermaid I.
As guest arrivals take place all through the day depending on flights you are welcome to board when you arrive and spend some time looking around Sorong, gearing up etc.
Following the boat and safety briefing: its overnight to the Misool area, 90 nautical miles.
It is almost impossible to put together a daily itinerary due to the magnificent diving everywhere we go.
No trip is the same with so many different sites to visit and explore.
If there is somewhere in particular you really have your heart set on please discuss with the Cruise Director who will do their utmost to get you there – conditions, ship and your safety allowing!

DAY 2-5

Misool

Dives

Misool is the southern island of Raja Ampat.
Misool has many groups of islands and there are literally hundreds of dive sites around this magnificent area for all our guests.
This is the entrance to divers' paradise and we will be here for a few days.
Soft coral heaven and gorgeous gorgonian sea fans are the highlights of Misool.
Pygmy seahorses are easily found in almost all the dive sites of Misool!
Pinnacles and underwater seamounts with masses of fish, and visits of pelagics such as Giant Manta Rays, sharks and more await you in Misool.
Some of the best areas in Misool include Sagof, Wagmab, Farondi, Boo, Fiabacet, Yuliet, Wailbatan, Warakaret and Pele.

DAY 6-8

Batanta, Kawe, Aljui Bay and the Dampier Strait

Dives

Perhaps you will spend a day around the southern part of Batanta Island, where the diving is done on a black sand environment.
This is where all the weird and wonderful creatures that you have seen in coffee table books like to live!
Dive around the island of Kawe, a great place for schooling fish with beautiful reefs covered in black coral bushes and a very good chance to have encounters with Manta Rays.
There is a pearl farm in Aljui Bay, where you can take a tour to learn about the entire process of pearl farming.
You can even buy pearls if you wish!
Diving in Aljui bay is good for macro as well as wide angle.
You will find walls covered in soft corals and sea fans, lots of nudibranchs and pygmy seahorses.
There is also a great night dive at the jetty where some of the highlights are the Raja epaulette shark (a species of “walking shark”), wobbegongs, crocodile fish, toadfish, frogfish and more.
Heading to the central part of Raja Ampat dive around the island of Yanggefo, with beautiful mangrove areas, stunning reefs covered in orange and purple soft corals and submerged reef with lots of schooling fish.
Arborek and Sawanderek Villages are some of the most beautiful islands to visit and great to dive under their jetty!
The jetty pillars are covered in soft corals – a photographer’s delight and also good for macro such as signal gobies, nudibranchs, pipefish, blue ringed octopus and more.
The Mantas are then calling Mermaid I to visit the famous Dampier Strait in the central part of Raja Ampat.
Here Mantas hang out at their cleaning stations along with all the schooling fish that the sites have to offer.
At some of the sites in the Dampier Strait, the macro marine life is amazing with critters such as the seamoth, Pontohi pygmy seahorse, pipefish and more.
The Dampier Strait is also well known for an incredible amount of schooling fish.
There are several pinnacles with zillions of fish.
The tips (capes) of several islands are also home to lots of schooling fish: barracudas, bigeye jacks, snappers, zillions of fusiliers and surgeonfish and much more.
As if that weren’t enough, here you can find lots of wobbegong sharks too.

DAY 9

Dampier Strait

Two dives

The last two dives of your cruise will be done in Dampier Strait area, where big schools of fish and glorious corals are simply amazing!
After the second dive Mermaid I must go back to Sorong.
The crew will take care of rinsing your equipment and there’s time to pack during this 5 to 6 hour run.

DAY 10

Disembark in Sorong

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

Misool

Soft corals, gorgonians and pygmy seahorses.

Aljui Bay

A pearl farm tour and a jetty night dive.

Dampier Strait

Mantas at their cleaning stations.

Arborek jetty

Pillars covered in soft corals.

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

The exact route can be discussed with the cruise director, who will do their utmost to get you to a particular site, within conditions, the boat and safety