MERMAID I

# Raja Ampat, Halmahera and Lembeh

*Sorong to Lembeh | Raja Ampat, Halmahera and Lembeh*

Raja Ampat to Lembeh joins the most famous diving areas of Raja Ampat with the muck diving capital of the world.

The Dampier Strait is known for huge schools of barracuda, bigeye trevally, oceanic triggerfish and spadefish, black and whitetip reef sharks, wobbegongs, and giant mantas gathering to be cleaned.

Misool has some of the most beautiful soft coral reefs in the world and is the kingdom of the pygmy seahorse.

In south Halmahera, large pinnacles break the surface with schooling fish, blacktips, whitetips, turtles and Napoleon wrasse, and at Tifore hundreds of barracuda swirl in a vortex.

Lembeh finishes it all with muck diving at its best.

| LENGTH | DEPARTURE PORT | ARRIVAL PORT | EXPERIENCE |
|---|---|---|---|
| 11 nights | Sorong | Lembeh | Certified divers |







# Your itinerary

DAY 1

## Sorong

Check in

Check in on board Mermaid I.
Mermaid I starts cruising towards the Dampier Strait, in south Waigeo, a run of 5 to 6 hours.

DAY 2-3

## Dampier Strait

Dives

The Dampier Strait lies between Waigeo and the Bird's Head Peninsula, and along with Misool it is the most famous area for diving in Raja Ampat.
The sites are known for a huge amount of schooling fish, such as barracudas, bigeye trevallies, oceanic triggerfish, spadefish, surgeonfish and snappers, as well as black and whitetip reef sharks and wobbegong sharks.
Some of the best manta dives are here, such as Blue Magic, a small pinnacle where giant mantas gather to be cleaned, and some of the best mangrove dives, around Yanggefo and Gam.
There are also jetty dives in front of local villages, whose pillars are covered in soft corals and home to small critters.
Other fantastic sites include Cape Kri, Sardine Reef, Chicken Reef, Mioskon, Mike's Point, Mangrove Ridge and Citrus Ridge.
Cruise overnight to Misool.

DAY 4-5

## Misool

Dives

Misool is the southernmost island in Raja Ampat, surrounded by several hundred small islands and rocks.
Some of the most beautiful soft coral reefs in the world are here, and every year new sites are discovered.
Many sites are as fishy as the Dampier Strait, with schools of barracuda, batfish, pinjalo snappers and fusiliers, and it is also a great macro destination, known as the kingdom of the pygmy seahorse, with allied cowries and plenty of nudibranchs.
The best known areas include Wagma, Farondi, Balbulol, Sagof, Daram, Yellit, Boo, Warakaraket, Fiabacet, Kalig, Wayilbatan, Wayil and Pele.
Cruise overnight to Pulau Pisang.



DAY 6

## Pulau Pisang

Full diving day

A set of two islands and two small rocks between Misool and Halmahera, where you spend the whole day.
The diving is pretty, with sloping reefs full of soft corals in the deeper areas and hard coral bommies in the shallows.
When the currents run, the sites can be very fishy, with schooling bumphead parrotfish, blue triggerfish and dogtooth tuna passing by.
Cruise overnight to the Patintie Strait.

DAY 7-8

## Patintie Strait, south Halmahera

Dives

Two days in the south of Halmahera, where two large pinnacles break the surface and are excellent dive sites because of the amount of schooling fish and the healthy soft corals.
Blacktips, whitetips, turtles and Napoleon wrasse are some of the highlights, and strong currents dictate when you dive.
Other sites include Proco Channel, Proco Island and Proco Pinnacle.
Then cruise overnight to the Goraici Islands.

DAY 9

## Goraici Islands

Dives

The Goraici Islands are on the west coast of Halmahera, with white sandy beaches, small villages, amazing reefs and pinnacles, colourful soft corals in the deeper parts and hard coral gardens in the shallows.
The village jetties are a great place for critter-filled night dives.
Cruise to Tifore Island.

DAY 10

## Pulau Tifore

Dives

A small island between Halmahera and Lembeh, with a submerged reef about half a mile from the island.
The main attraction is the hundreds of barracuda that have made it their home for years, especially if you can get inside the swirling vortex.
Cruise overnight to Lembeh.

DAY 11

## Lembeh Strait

Two dives

More of the wonders of Lembeh.
If you travel the next day there are only 2 dives; if not, you can enjoy more of this world-renowned area.

DAY 12

## Disembark in Bitung

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

### Blue Magic

Giant mantas at a cleaning station.

### Misool

The kingdom of the pygmy seahorse.

### Tifore

A vortex of hundreds of barracuda.

### Lembeh

Muck diving at its best.

### 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 Lembeh