PEARL OF PAPUA

Raja Ampat Northern

Sorong to Sorong | Dampier Strait to Wayag

The fish-packed Dampier Strait holds some of Raja Ampat's most action-packed diving, and the north of Raja Ampat is where it all comes together.

Encounters with various sharks, bumphead parrotfish, schools of barracuda, oceanic triggerfish and big-eyed trevally are quite common, and the sheer number of fish is literally astounding.

At times the shoals are so thick the sunlight is practically blocked out.

Fam and Penemu add vivid coral gardens that revel in nutrient rich water, and the manta sites around Arborek bring giant rays gliding over the sand.

At Wayag you climb a hill for the view over the limestone karst islands, then snorkel with sharks at the beach.

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







Your itinerary

DAY 1

Embarkation, Sorong

Guests are met in Sorong and taken to Pearl of Papua, where cabins are allocated and the vessel is shown before departure from the Usaha Mina private jetty at 11 AM.
Lunch and dinner are served while sailing towards Raja Ampat National Park.
The crossing takes roughly eight hours.
If time and conditions allow, there is a check dive at Batu Hitam.

DAY 2

Dampier Straits

4 dives

The Dampier Straits contain some of Raja Ampat's most action-packed dives.
There are a number of wonderful sites in the area, many of which are exposed to and best dived when the current is running.
Encounters with various sharks, bumphead parrotfish, schools of barracuda, Oceanic Triggerfish, and big-eyed trevally are quite common.
The sheer number of fish is literally astounding.
At times shoals are so thick the sunlight is practically blocked out.
Dives: Mioskon, Mike's Point, Friwen, Batu Lima (night dive).

DAY 3

Tanjung Putus (Cape Break)

4 dives

There are a few excellent sites in this area.
Mayhem is not to be missed, with its vibrant benthic life and plethora of fish.
Dives: Mayhem, Citrus Ridge, Woffoh Besar, Woffoh Kecil (night dive).

DAY 4

Wayag

1 dive

Pearl of Papua moors in front of Mt Pindito.
The hike up Pindito Hill is the way to see the islands from above, and it is done in the morning to avoid the crowds and the heat of the sun.
For those who exercise regularly it is a relatively easy climb of 15 to 20 minutes, though the way down can be a little challenging because it is steep and the karst is sharp.
Bring water, a camera, good walking shoes, a hat and sunblock, and perhaps sunglasses, because the views are spectacular.
After the hike, guests return to the vessel for a quick change and head straight to the remote Wayag post, where there is a beach picnic with breakfast and snorkelling with sharks at the beach.
The speed boats cruise around the bay, exploring hidden areas with an up-close view of the spectacular limestone karst formations, and the slow ride to the beach takes about 30 minutes.
Bring a mask, snorkel and sunblock.
After an hour of snorkelling and breakfast, the speed boat takes guests back to the vessel (5 to 10 minutes) for rest and lunch on board.
The schedule is tight because the plan is to enjoy all of Wayag, with the hike, the beach and a dive.
The vessel then sails for 3 to 4 hours to the best dive site in the area, with a chance to see manta rays after snorkelling with sharks.
Dive: Black Rock.

DAY 5

Fam and Penemu

4 dives

Spread over nearly 700 square kilometres of ocean, just above the midway point on Raja Ampat's north-south axis, Fam and Penemu's vivid coral gardens revel in the nutrient rich water brought forth from the Dampier Straits.
My Reef has excellent fish life and is the perfect way to start your first full day of the expedition.
Dives: My Reef, Melissa's Garden, Batu Rufus, Piaynemo Jetty (night dive).

DAY 6

Yanggefo and Arborek

3 dives

On the way to the Dampier Straits the vessel passes the islands of Yanggefo and Arborek.
Arborek is a small island inhabited by about 130 local Papuans.
Here you will have the opportunity to take a more intimate look at their lives as well as explore an authentic village.
The surface interval is spent visiting the village of Arborek.
Dives: Arborek Jetty, Manta Ridge, Manta Sandy.

DAY 7

Last day of diving: Mioskon and Blue Magic

2 dives

The last day of diving is planned with safety in mind: two dives in the shallows before lunch, so that guests flying out the next day have a no-flight time of 18 to 20 hours.
These sites can offer huge schools of fish being stalked by barracuda and trevally and, with luck, a few manta rays.
After the second dive Pearl of Papua begins her return voyage to Sorong.

DAY 8

Sorong, disembarkation

After breakfast it is time to disembark, with official check-out at 10 AM.







INCLUDED

What your trip covers

INCLUDED IN THE TRIP PRICE

- Welcome cocktails and soft drinks
- A snorkelling guide for non-divers

AND ALSO

- Land excursions
- A barbecue on the beach

WORTH KNOWING

Key notes

Good to know

Experience level: intermediate and advanced divers and above. Currents can be strong, so bring a reef hook, or at least know how to use one.

Good to know

Pearl of Papua has a no-glove policy, so that divers do not touch the reef and its living creatures.

Good to know

Sailing itineraries and daily programmes are subject to change due to weather and sea conditions, safe anchorage, government regulations and other factors.