DANCING WIND

Best of Raja Ampat

Sorong to Sorong | Dampier Strait, Wayag, Piaynemo and Misool

The Dampier Strait is the best area for tasselled wobbegong sharks, with manta rays, yellowtail barracuda, turtles, sweetlips and jacks on the reefs.

Further north the dives change from slopes to walls and drifts, with soft corals, gorgonian fans and nudibranchs, and a night dive under a jetty is one of the highlights.

Wayag brings sharks, schools of jacks and colourful reefs, a trek up for the view over the islands and a shark lagoon at Fam Island.

Near Piaynemo there are schooling fish and wide stretches of coral.

The south adds the Wayil Batan lagoon, snorkelling in the Tomolol Caves and a visit to Jellyfish Lake.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	EXPERIENCE
10 nights	Sorong	Sorong	Open Water, 60 dives







Your itinerary

DAY 1

Sorong and Waisai

Arrive in Sorong by 12 noon at the latest and cruise to Waisai.
In the afternoon you can snorkel, kayak or visit the beaches around Saonek.
Dancing Wind anchors at Waisai for the night.

DAY 2

Dampier Strait

Dives and snorkelling

Snorkelling and scuba diving in the Dampier Strait, including Cape Kri, and a visit to Sawandarek Village.
This is the best area to look for tasselled wobbegong sharks.

DAY 3

Cape Kri, Sawandarek and Manta Ridge

Dives

Cape Kri, then Sawandarek Island, famous for its jetty, with yellowtail barracuda, turtles, sweetlips and jacks.
You then dive Manta Ridge or Manta Sandy for manta rays, and there may be a sunset dive at Arborek Jetty before dinner.
The boat then heads north, past pearl farms.

DAY 4

North towards Aljui

Dives + night dive

Weather permitting, you keep heading north to dive White Arrow and Tear Drop Corner around Aljui, where the dives change from slopes to walls and drifts, with soft corals, gorgonian fans and nudibranchs.
A night dive under the jetty is one of the highlights.
If the weather turns, the boat shelters in the bays and continues north overnight.

DAY 5

Wayag and Fam Island

Fewer dives

Dives at Eagle Rock and Black Rock in Wayag, with sharks, schools of jacks and colourful reefs.
There are fewer dives today, as you can trek up Mount Pindito for the view over Wayag.
You then cruise to Fam Island and its shark lagoon, and you can paddle through the narrow waterways to a secluded lagoon for a sundowner and a bonfire.
After dinner the boat heads back towards the central area.

DAY 6

Piaynemo and Melissa's Garden

Dives

Weather permitting, a walk up the stairs of Piaynemo, with group photos at the top.
Then Melissa's Garden, with its schooling fish and wide stretches of coral, and two more dives in the area, including MY Reef.
The long journey to South Raja Ampat and the Misool area then begins.

DAY 7

Towards Misool

Dives + possible night dive

Depending on the weather, you start the dives at Balbulol or Daram, choosing the best sites available while the crew arrange dive slots in the Misool area for the next day.
There may be a night dive tonight.

DAY 8

Fiabacet and Love Lake

Dives

Fiabacet, with sites such as Boo Window, Romeo and Whale Rock, all depending on getting a dive slot.
You can then visit Love Lake, and the night is spent at Wayil Batan.

DAY 9

Wayil Batan and Daram

Dives + snorkelling

Snorkelling and diving around the Wayil Batan lagoon, then a cruise to Daram Island for its beaches and reefs, with dives that can include Boo East and Eagle West.
You return to Wayil Batan for the evening.

DAY 10

Tomolol Caves and Jellyfish Lake

Dives or land visits

Today you choose, depending on your flight.
You can snorkel at the Tomolol Caves and visit Jellyfish Lake in Balbulol, or, with a late flight, skip the land visits and dive sites such as Andiamo.
The crew clean and dry your equipment as the boat cruises to Sorong.

DAY 11

Sorong

Check out in Sorong and say goodbye to Raja Ampat.

GOOD TO KNOW

On land and on the way

Mantas

Manta Ridge or Manta Sandy in Mansuar, near Arborek.

Wayag

Eagle Rock, Black Rock, the Mount Pindito trek and the Fam Island shark lagoon.

Piaynemo

The stairs up to the viewpoint, and Melissa's Garden.

Misool

Fiabacet, Love Lake, the Wayil Batan lagoon, Jellyfish Lake and the Tomolol Caves.

Check in

The crew arrange your transfer from your hotel or from Domine Eduard Osok Airport (SOQ) in Sorong, a drive of about 15 to 20 minutes, and contact you at least 2 days before to agree the pick up time, which is at 12 noon at the latest. There are direct flights to Sorong from Jakarta, Bali and Manado. The boat then cruises to Waisai, where you spend the first night.

Check out

The boat docks in Sorong harbour and the crew arrange your transfer to the airport or your hotel, about 15 to 20 minutes away. Check out is between 6am and 10am, and transfers to the airport are arranged by the afternoon.

Last dive

The last dive is on the second to last day of the trip. 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

- Full board meals and snacks, with drinking water, tea and coffee
- Guided dives with experienced dive guides, tanks and weights
- Night dives
- Airport transfers in Sorong
- Land excursions
- Snorkel gear, kayaks and stand-up paddleboards
- Towels and Wi-Fi on board
- VAT

NOT INCLUDED

- Flights
- National park fee and port fee, charged per trip
- Nitrox
- Rental dive gear
- Alcoholic drinks
- Dive courses and a private dive guide
- Laundry and massage
- Crew tips, which are customary
- 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

Dive sites are an example of the route and are not guaranteed. The final route is at the captain's discretion, and depends on the weather and local conditions

Good to know

Wayag is managed by the Moi Sigin community and can close without notice. If it does, the captain may reroute to other North Raja Ampat sites such as Kawe and Eagle Rock, Aljui Bay, Uranie Bank and Kabui Bay

Good to know

Misool dive sites are allocated in time slots by a central authority, so the dive order may change