



ULTIMATE RAJA AMPAT

THINGS TO KNOW

Length Of Trip

12 Days / 11 Nights

Park Fees

US \$ 330

Departure

🕒 Pick Up At 08.00 A.M.

🚢 Sorong

🛥 Sorong (SOQ)

Return

🕒 Until 11.00 A.M.

🚢 Sorong

🛥 Sorong (SOQ)

Dives

Approximately 36 dives
in total

Experience

Open Water – 40 minimum
logged dives required

- Prices listed are net payable and based per person, they are inclusive of National and Localised Taxes.
- You will embark La Galigo in Sorong harbour. A senior member of the La Galigo crew will meet you in Sorong and accompany you to the vessel. The vessel will sail to Waisai for harbour clearances prior to beginning your journey.
- You will disembark La Galigo at Sorong Harbour.
- Please check your visa requirements for entering Indonesia, all passports must have at least 6 months remaining on them when entering the country.
- All guests are required to have valid travel and diving insurance (including Medevac) for the duration of their trip. La Galigo is a recognised D.A.N. partner and can assist you with the purchase of a short-term dive insurance policy.
- To partake in any scuba diving activity with La Galigo, you must hold a certification from a recognised scuba diving society such as SSI, CMAS, BSAC, PADI or similar. It is the client's responsibility, as a certified diver, to respect and follow the guidelines given by the La Galigo guides and instructors, and to follow the regulations stipulated by their certification agency.
- All dives are conducted to a maximum depth of 30 metres/100 ft.
- Average water temperatures in Raja Ampat vary between 27 – 30 Celsius / 80 – 85 Fahrenheit.
- The best time of year to dive in Raja Ampat is September to April.
- BYO alcohol policy.

INCLUDES

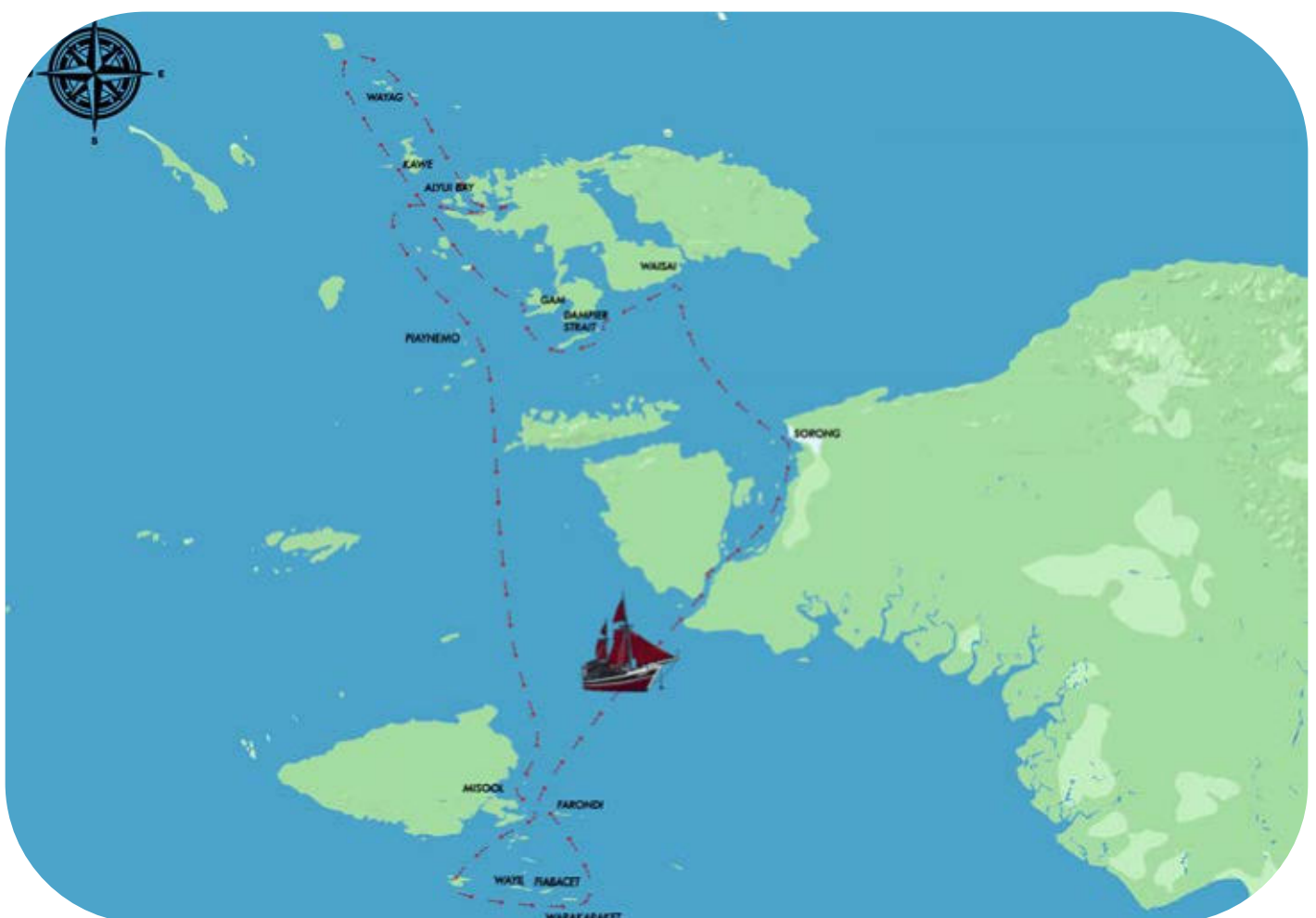
- Transfers to and from the harbour from your hotel or the airport on the day of embarkation and disembarkation.
- All meals and post dive refreshments / snacks, coffee and tea.
- Diving services including 12L tanks, weights and belts , SMB & reel, reef hook, air fills, dive computers, snorkelling equipment, dive guides and dive tenders.
- Land excursions where applicable.

EXCLUDES

- Flights and airport taxes
- Travel and dive Insurance
- Visas and associated fees
- Airport to Hotel /Hotel to Airport Transfer
- Marine park fees including port clearances, ranger fees, anchorage charges and village donations
- Dive rental equipment
- Nitrox
- 15 litre tanks
- Private dive / snorkel guides
- Courses
- Soft drinks, wine and beer
- La Galigo merchandise
- Staff gratuities (many of our guest base their tips between 5% and 10% of the cost of the trip). Tipping is optional but greatly appreciated!
- Fuel surcharges (may fluctuate with markets, you may be asked to pay an extra fuel allowance of up to 30 days before departure, of no more than US \$ 20 per person per day)

HIGHLIGHTS

- Observe the most biodiverse thriving coral reefs in full of colour, teeming with life, including sites such as Melissa's Garden and Cape Kri in the North, to Candy Store in Daram and Boo Windows to the south.
- Hike both Penemu and Mt. Pindito lookout points which have become synonymous with Raja Ampat.
- Take in the pristine reefs of Misool, to the action-packed Equatorial island of Kawe.
- Dive with Giant Oceanic Manta Rays and huge schools of pelagic fish through from the South to the North of Raja Ampat.
- Meet the locals in quaint and remote villages to get a taste of day-to-day life in paradise, and witness daily breath-taking sunsets from one of many of the idyllic beaches scattered throughout the area.
- Discover a diverse array of some of the most desirable macro subjects you've seen or read about, with world class muck diving on a multitude of sites throughout your journey with us.
- Bid farewell to your new buddies with an Al Fresco BBQ cooked up by our wonderful chefs.



DAY 1

SORONG TO WAISAI



Day one starts with your pickup from either your hotel or the airport. If we are picking you up from your hotel, it is generally around 07:30 – 08:00, if you are arriving on the day of departure, it is important that your arrival time is before 07:30. We will then head directly to Sorong Port, where you will be taken to the vessel.

Once onboard you will be met by the Cruise Director and a welcome drink. After you have been shown to your rooms and unpacked your luggage, it's time for a welcome briefing before we have some lunch, then you have some time to relax and soak up the amazing surroundings en route to our clearance point, and then onwards to our first dive of the trip.

Our 'welcome dive' is usually conducted at the nearby island of **Saonek Kecil**. The waters are generally calm, and is a perfect spot to get the diving going. After the sun sets over the eastern Indonesian sky, we will go looking for unusual critters in **Saonek Besar**, where you might also make your very first encounter with the iconic Tasselled Wobbegong Shark.

DAY 2

DAMPIER STRAIT



Whilst in the central Dampier Strait we will conduct 4 dives. The top dive sites in this area are **Blue Magic**, home to majestic Oceanic Manta Rays, and other large pelagics such as Spanish Mackerel and Bigeye Trevally. Next up is one of the Dampier Strait's highlights, **Sardine Reef** (or simply Sardine), where armies of various fish species take the coral reef by storm on a falling tide.

After a hearty lunch, we will head to the nearby island of **Mioskon**, to dive its spectacularly colourful reef with an assortment of large bommies encrusted with hard and soft corals. In the evening we may get a chance to see nocturnal flying foxes leave **Mioskon** in large numbers as they begin their day, after which we will dive **Mioskon** once the sun has set, to look for the nocturnal Raja Ampat walking shark!

DAY 3

DAMPIER STRAIT



Cape Kri, arguably the top house reef in the world, was made famous by Raja Ampat pioneer Max Ammer, and is next on the itinerary.

Sawandarek Jetty, further down the southern coast of Kri island, is where you will probably feel like you're in an aquarium – only the fish are incredibly numerous, wild and free. After a hearty lunch, we will take you for another afternoon dive on Kri's south coast, in **Yenbuba Village's Jetty**.

And just to top off this (fish) action packed day, we will look for nocturnal marine critters on a night dive under **Yenbuba Village's Jetty** after you soak in the stunning sunset views with the islands of Waigeo and Gam in the distant, fiery horizon.

DAY 4

GAM



Our morning kicks off at a thrilling dive site named **Manta Ridge**, for an opportunity to dive with the Manta Ray population often located here. We then head to Gam Island. There are some great dive sites around this area with vibrant fish covered reefs and plenty of stunning macro subjects. Two sites we regularly visit in Gam are **Citrus Ridge** and **Mayhem**.

In the late afternoon, we will take a land tour of the peaceful **Arborek Island**. The village itself is tranquil and surrounded by beautiful beaches. Arborek is also home to what we consider to be a fantastic night dive, **Arborek Jetty***, where we have a chance to find Walking Sharks, Blue-ringed octopuses, and many other critters. As you enjoy a great night's sleep, we will set sail for the northern islands of Raja Ampat.

DAY 5

WAYAG



Awake bright and early to witness sunrise on the equator, cruising between the limestone formations that make up the island of **Wayag**, in preparation for the morning's hike. These limestone islands and pinnacles have become synonymous with Raja Ampat, and the bay is also home to a Manta breeding station. The best time to hike this hill is early morning before temperatures rise, the rewards for climbing are well worth it. The beaches here are also pristine, with fine white sand and turquoise waters surrounding the limestone cliffs of the islands.

After trekking, we will endeavour to dive **Figure 8 Rock**, a submerged pinnacle home to large pelagic fish, and the occasional passing Manta. While you have lunch, the boat will cruise to the eastern side of Wayag. Here is where we plan to dive the legendary dive site, **Cathedral**, which is renowned for its spectacular topography and swim-throughs. Following the dive, we take a short trip to the **Wayag Ranger station**, which is also a Black Tip Reef Shark breeding area. Here we will get the chance to do some snorkelling with these baby sharks under the ranger jetty, and also conduct a night dive on the same stretch of reef.

DAY 6

KAWE + ALJUY BAY



Kawe is an island located exactly on the equator and is one of our favourite islands to dive in north of Raja Ampat. Dive sites visited here are very heavily dependent on day-to-day unpredictable conditions such as swell, but one of our favourite sites in the area is a very colourful coral reef (somewhat ironically) known as **Black Rock. Eagle Rock** (which comprises 3 separate dive sites) is well known for its Pygmy Seahorse as well as its Manta populations, and we will dive these sites late morning and early afternoon.

Around 4 pm, La Galigo will move into **Aljui Bay**, one of the world's most spectacular bays to watch the sunset, and also do some great muck diving at arguably the best night dive site in all of Raja Ampat, the **Cendana Pearl Farm Jetty**.

DAY 7

PIANEMO (A.K.A. PENEMU)



The iconic limestone pinnacles have become synonymous with the Raja Ampat experience and **Pianemo lagoon**/lookout is just one of many such stunning formations. The best time to hike this hill is early morning, before temperatures rise, but the rewards for climbing are well worth it. **Melissa's Garden** is undoubtedly the top dive in this area, with a staggering number of coral and fish species packed into this small piece of marine real estate. Its beauty needs to be seen to be believed.

We will then head to a lesser-known corner of Raja Ampat, an area known as **Dayang**, at the western end of Batanta island. The dive in Dayang takes place over a shallow, sandy reef which is actually a magnet for Manta Rays, which come to this area to feed as well as conduct routine visits to their "cleaning stations" or "manta spa" (ask our Cruise Director to tell you about this fascinating aspect of their behaviour). As you relax and later enjoy a great night's sleep, we will set sail for the southern islands of Raja Ampat.

DAY 8

GOA FARONDI - MISOOL

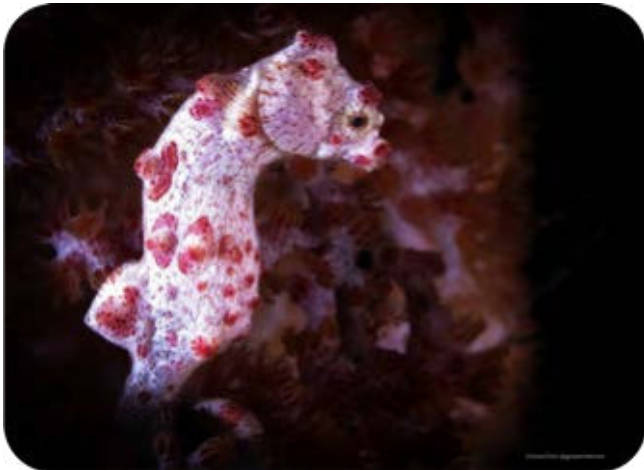


We begin the diving in Misool at **No Contest**, a ridge that is home to an abundance of marine life, soft corals and overhangs. The second dive can be done at many sites located in the vicinity, including **Pet Rock, Plateau, and Love Potion**. For the third dive we will visit a popular site named Goa Farondi, where there is a chance to do some swim-throughs and meet the Bumphead Parrotfish population.

Misool is a huge island, with an overwhelming multitude of smaller, satellite island clusters. There are in fact numerous "regions" within this area itself. If being surrounded by limestone pinnacles does not instill in you a sense of awe, doing a night dive amongst these towering peaks surely will!

DAY 9

WAYIL - MISOOL



Next up we will show you the dive sites around Wayil, where you will undoubtedly experience the feeling of being far, far away from the rest of civilization ... An outstanding selection of dive sites are located fairly close to each other in Wayil, and we will start with the blockbuster – **Four Kings**, a group of towering pinnacles which are almost too large to circumnavigate in a single dive, which also happens to attract giant Oceanic Manta Rays. Giant Trevally, Napoleon Wrasse, and large Snapper are all often found here.

The oddly shaped **Wedding Cake** is up next (you will see why it's called as such), which is home to some of Misool's Pygmy Seahorse community.

Finally we will dive into **Barracuda Rock**, a pinnacle with an unusual underwater cavern, which is also home to a patrolling tribe of schooling Barracuda. In the afternoon we will visit the famous "Love Lagoon", a calm, isolated body of water which has been incredibly shaped by the hands of Mother Nature into the form of a heart.

DAY 10

FIABACET/BOO - MISOOL



The diving in this part of Misool is filled with the pristine coral life in the heart of Misool and Giant Manta Rays, close to the Eco Resort. **Whale rock, Tank Rock and Nudi Rock** are both abundant in beautiful soft coral and schools of fish, and conditions and logistics with Misool Eco Resort will decide which of the sites are dived.

The afternoon dive is at the dive site **Boo West**. Unique in topography, the reef is not to be missed, with excellent sea fan growth and stunning sloping reefs to explore while you anticipate the arrival of Oceanic Manta Rays. **Yilliet Kecil** is the night dive around here that is not to be missed, with excellent sea fan growth and stunning bommies to explore. There are also hidden beaches in this area if you fancy an evening beachwalk all by yourself.

DAY 11

WARAKARAKET - MISOOL



On the penultimate day of the trip, we will dive **Shadow Reef** (a.k.a. Karang Bayangan/Magic Mountain), undoubtedly the blockbuster dive site in this remote corner of Raja Ampat, located in the unprotected southern waters of Misool. You can often find huge Manta Rays gliding across this incredibly 'hard to beat' dive site. The late morning dive is at the iconic dive site **Boo Window**. Unique in topography, the reef has window-like swim-throughs and a great chance for some wide-angle photos. Secret: the sea fans here often conceal Pygmy Seahorses!

Our journey to Sorong may take around 18 hours depending on currents and prevailing weather conditions. But after an incredible trip, our crew will make sure you're comfortable while they prepare a night of food, song and dance to party the night away with you while we set sail for Sorong.

DAY 12

DISEMBARK IN SORONG



La Galigo will be anchored up in the morning around 5:00 A.M. in Sorong, in preparation for you to catch your flight, or check in to your hotel.

Guests are welcome to stay onboard until 11:00 A.M., and our staff will assist you with transportation to your desired location.

After breakfast, guests may also take the time to exchange photos and swap contact details to keep in touch with new friends and dive buddies!

*La Galigo does not guarantee this outlined itinerary, and it is to be considered as a rough guideline. Information compiled here is based on past trips we have conducted, and includes common dive sites and routes we often visit. Weather and sea conditions in the area can be unpredictable, and La Galigo retains the right to alter an itinerary from advice of the ship's captain, cruise director, or owner for the safety of the vessel, its passenger and crew.