

# Raja Ampat, Indonesia

## Itinerary - 7 Nights and 10 Nights

- **Embarkation: Wasai Harbour, Waigeo Island at 17:00**
- **Disembarkation: Sorong Harbour, West Papua**

For your convenience, a free transfer will be provided between the domestic airports and the Indo Siren yacht on the day of embarkation and disembarkation. Upon arrival in Sorong, a Siren Fleet representative welcomes you at the airport and arranges your onward transfer.

When flying in on embarkation day, it is imperative that your flight arrives in Sorong before noon! Depending on what time your flight arrives, we can organise for you to use the day facilities at the Swiss Bel hotel. Pick up time is at 13.00hr for the 2-hour ferry ride to Waisai, where you embark the Indo Siren.

Disembarkation is in Sorong Harbour at 10.00hr in the morning. If your flight out of Sorong departs later than 10.00hr, we will transfer you to a cosy local restaurant near the airport where you can wait for your flight.

### **Marine & Port Fees:**

- 180 USD per person

Marine park fees can be paid in advance, or on board.

### **Minimum dive certification and experience:**

Divers are required to have Advanced Open Water certification\*, or equivalent, with a minimum of 30 logged dives.

\*Advanced Open Water courses can be completed on board.

Guests who do not fulfil the minimum certification and experience requirements may be denied participation in some or all dives. We have 3 permanent dive guides on board to enable small dive groups of 5-6.

It is a mandatory requirement for all divers to have insurance which covers scuba diving activities, including emergency evacuation and recompression chamber costs.

Participation in this liveboard itinerary is subject to acceptance of our Terms & Conditions as outlined here: [www.masterliveboards.com/terms-conditions](http://www.masterliveboards.com/terms-conditions).

### **Number of scheduled dives:**

- 7 nights: up to 22
- 10 nights: up to 34

This itinerary involves some long distance travel and, whilst we attempt to ensure the number of dives we have scheduled is fulfilled, bad weather can hinder the yacht's ability to reach a specific dive site in good time.

While we wish to show you the very best diving possible, a number of factors determine which route the yacht takes and which dive sites we are able to visit. Weather, tides, currents and how many other dive vessels are at a particular site all play a part in the Cruise Director's decision of where the Indo Siren is heading to.

**Safety and dive briefings are conducted in English. If you, or any of your group do not speak or understand English, please contact us.**

The following is an example of the day-to-day itinerary.

Day 1: Embarkation at 17:00 followed by introductions, boat and safety briefings, dinner. The vessel will generally depart port at some point through the evening to be ready to dive first thing on day 2. There is no diving on embarkation day.

Day 2: Breakfast followed by a check dive, and up to 3 subsequent dives, as outlined below.

Days 3-6 (7 nights)

Days 3-9 (10 nights)

Your Cruise Director will schedule up to 4 dives per day; 3 day dives and either a sunset or a night dive. A typical diving day is scheduled as follows:

- Light Breakfast followed by a briefing & Dive 1
- Full Breakfast, relaxation followed by briefing & Dive 2
- Lunch, relaxation followed by briefing & Dive 3
- Snack
- Briefing for Sunset or Night dive
- Dinner

Day before disembarkation:

For your last full day on board, we are able to schedule 3 dives\* before the boat cruises back to Sorong Harbour, where it will remain at anchor overnight.

Disembarkation day: Following breakfast on board, disembarkation is scheduled between 8:00am and 10:00am.

\*We kindly request that guests check their flight departure times to ensure that they leave a minimum of 24 hours between their final dive and their flight home.

Following is a sample of dive sites which we may visit during your time aboard Indo Siren.

The safety of our guests is paramount and we always do our best to offer diving at alternate locations, should we be unable to visit those sites listed below.

Guests are welcome to suggest preferred dive sites to the Cruise Director. He/she will be happy to accommodate guests' wishes, providing it is possible and the schedule allows for it.

Dive sites we visit include but are not limited to:

## Batanta Island

Batanta Island, one of the Four Kings, which we will visit during your liveaboard cruise, offers something truly exceptional. Known for its muck diving, there is really nothing that cannot be seen here along the dark sand slopes. Mimic octopus, wonderpus, snake eels, dragonets, cuttlefish, flasher wrasse, solar-powered nudibranchs and ornate and robust ghost pipefish to name just a few. Dependent on the weather and tidal conditions we will choose from sites including: **Algae Patch I** and **Algae Patch II** and **Happy Ending!**

## Gam & Yangeffo Islands

The islands surrounding Waigeo, the third main island of the Four Kings, provide a range of dive sites for us to choose from including:

### Melissa's Garden

A shallow flat reef with beautiful staghorn corals. Trevally, black tip reef sharks and wobbegong sharks along with orangutan crabs and spiny lobsters are amongst the common sightings.

### Mayhem

This is a superb site for some larger fish sightings and there are so many varieties here including barracuda, mackerel, trevally, tuna, Napoleon wrasse and bump head parrotfish, as well as eagle rays and wobbegong sharks.

### Citrus Ridge

A stunning reef named after the carpet-like orange, pink, yellow and green soft corals that cover the entire area. Gorgonian fans shelter pygmy seahorses, jawfish bob out of their ground holes, wobbegong sharks rest lazily amongst table corals and harlequin sweetlips can be found tucked into the many bommies that are dotted over the reef.

## Mansuar Island & the Dampier Strait

Fast drift dives and big fish schools characterize the sites surrounding Mansuar and the Dampier Strait. Numerous dive sites are clustered together providing a variety of “Big Fish” dives with currents and more relaxed dives where smaller creatures can be found and photographed. Your dive team will check currents and choose sites based on the optimum conditions each day.

### Manta Sandy

The 2 large bommies situated in the middle of a sandy bottom at just 18m (60ft) attract many manta rays for cleaning, with a variety of shades, even all-black mantas, distinctive to Raja Ampat have been seen here. Divers rest on the bottom and watch the show. The reef itself has many smaller creatures with dragonets and various pipefishes. Therefore, in case the mantas are not performing their show, there is still plenty to look at and discover.

### Cape Kri

One of the most well-known sites in the Dampier Strait, the variety of reef fish is astounding. Scribbled filefish, harlequin sweetlips, bump head parrotfish, pinnate batfish, hawk fish and Napoleon wrasse are all commonly seen. Whilst black tip reef sharks, turtles and pipefish are all regular suspects as well.

### Blue Magic

A long finger-shaped reef sloping down at the points with hard and soft corals, sea fans and black coral bushes, where schools of jacks and barracuda hover about. Manta rays and wobbegong sharks make for an exciting dive, whilst, for the keen eyed, pontohi pygmy seahorses can be spotted.

### Sardine Reef

Swarms of fusiliers, snappers and sweetlips, schools of bumphead parrotfish and banner fish, barracuda and trevally all make this site a very fishy dive. Rock mover wrasse, dragonets and jaw fish are amongst the smaller fish species seen here whilst white tip and black tip reef sharks can also be spotted.

### Mioskon

A superb dive spot where we can see pygmy seahorses, flatworms, nudibranchs, scorpion fish and the occasional hunting shark. We can also see trevally hunting fusiliers, black tip reef sharks and giant moray eels.

### Mike's Point

As we approach the tiny island known as Mike's Point, eagles can be seen resting in the treetops. Underwater, the site offers varied topography with one side full of overhangs and crevices whilst the other has “steps” dropping down to the deep with a field of whip corals adorning the slope. With the right current this site is superb and the island can be circumnavigated in one dive seeing sweetlips, batfish, jacks, Spanish mackerel, grey reef sharks and wobbegong sharks.

## **Friwinbonda**

Lionfish can be seen hunting glassfish schools that hover around the black coral bushes, tiny pipefish and the transparent skeleton shrimp are amongst the other interesting critters at this great night dive spot.

## **Misool Islands (only 10 nights)**

There are numerous small islands surrounding the second of the Four Kings, Misool, including Daram, Farondi, Boo, Wayilbatan, Kalig and Warakaraket to name just a few. Each offers some of the most dramatic underwater scenery of the region, from steep walls with huge gorgonian fans to gentler slopes with hard and soft corals. Due to travel distances involved, 7 night cruises will not visit Misool unless there are exceptional circumstances. If Misool is visited then some of the areas above will not be dived.

## **Candy Store**

Situated at Daram Islands, is where we see colorful soft corals and yellow sponges, sea whips and black coral which hide creatures, such as ghost pipefish and coral shrimps. Schools of batfish, snapper and bump head parrot fish can all be seen as well as barramundi and Napoleon wrasse.

## **Andiamo**

Thick schools of sardines and fusiliers cruise over the colourful soft corals, where we can find wobbegong and epaulette sharks hiding. Yellowtail and chevron barracuda form schools along the reef whilst reef octopus and numerous nudibranchs can be found.

## **Boo Windows**

Comprised of two rocks that stick up from the eastern edge of the island of Boo with a saddle formed between them. Prone to currents, diving can be quite exciting as it attracts trevally and schools of dog tooth tuna. Back near to the surface the tides and water have eroded some holes in the rocks, creating swim-throughs that make for great photography opportunities. Pickhandle barracuda, snapper, grouper, napoleon wrasse, turtles, batfish and rabbit fish are often seen in the waters surrounding the islands.

## **Gorgonian Passage**

Situated in the channel that runs between Wayilbatan and Wayil islands, has huge sea fans in which a variety of pygmy seahorses can be found including Bargibanti and Denise. We also see many types of sweetlips here and some smaller creatures such as peacock mantis shrimp and juvenile convict fish.

## **Whale Rock**

In the Fiabacet chain is where we hunt for interesting critters including tiger cowries, fire gobies, hawkfish and mushroom coral shrimp.

## **Barracuda Rock**

One of our favourite night diving spots at Wayilbatan. All manner of crustaceans can be found from decorator crabs and arrow crabs to Durban dancing shrimp and pink squat lobster, octopus, yellow margined morays and pygmy seahorses can all be seen here.

## **Kalig Potato Point**

Another superb night diving location, this site is where we find a wide variety of nudibranch species including nembrotha, chromodoris, hypselodoris, tambja and joruna.

## **Nudi Rock**

Marine life from big to small can all be seen at this stunning site. Black tip, white tips, grey reef sharks and dog tooth tuna can all be seen cruising by whilst hiding amongst the corals are cowries, nudibranchs, porcelain crabs and mushroom coral pipefish.

## **Dunia Kecil**

This is a superb site to spot for pygmy seahorses and “lady bugs” more commonly seen in Komodo National Park. Hawksbill turtles, crocodile flathead, barramundi cod and juvenile cuttlefish are amongst the other marine creatures that can all be found here.

Should you have any questions or queries concerning the dive sites or whether this itinerary is suitable for your experience level, please contact our reservations team [dive@masterliveboards.com](mailto:dive@masterliveboards.com) who will be pleased to assist and advise you.