

Raja Ampat

Explore the most colourful reefs of the world together with the Pindito!

West Papua is a unique dive region. The best-known archipelago is "Raja Ampat" which means "4 kings". The area has over 1,500 islands. The four main islands are Misool, Salawati, Batanta and Waigeo.

The Indonesian archipelago of Raja Ampat lies in the Coral Triangle. This expanse of 40,000 square kilometers of marine territory and pristine reefs make these waters a diving haven second to none. Reputed to be the most biodiverse marine habitat on Earth, Raja Ampat is home to many species not found anywhere else. Spectacular, is a word often used to describe this region and is irresistible to divers.

Imagine descending into the big blue, encountering a rainbow of colours in the vibrant, thriving reefs. Then the marine life comes alive, as if they know how special they are and want to share their secret. Schools of fusiliers and jacks duck and sway in the currents, bump head parrot fish chomp away on the corals, shy Denise's pygmy seahorses hide among gorgonian coral, frogfish try to keep themselves expertly camouflaged and white/black tip reef sharks sweep and patrol effortlessly through the sea. Majestic mantas, rare wobbegong and epaulette sharks (walking shark) guarantee plenty of variety and with grey reef sharks, schools of big-eyed trevally and barracudas, they put on a spectacular show.

Photo-and videographers find the best opportunities to create macro shots at its finest. But also, wide-angle shots of the beautiful reef life are recommended. There are countless dive sites, all with different character.

There is also plenty to do on land. With a unique speedboat ride you will explore the beautiful scenery. Crystal clear, turquoise water awaits you as well as a variety of exotic tropical plants such as orchids and even carnivorous plants. Another main attraction is the red bird of paradise and Raja Ampat is one of the few places in the world you are able to witness these amazing birds.

In between dives you can head out on one of our paddleboards and enjoy the beautiful blue from the surface.

Even dolphins and whales (Bryde's whales, pilot whales) keep spending time in the region. Since May 2011, we offer a special Whale-Macro tour that combines the macro-diving with whale and dolphin watching. A marine expert in whale and dolphin behaviour accompanies this tour.

Pindito crew members are always scanning the horizon for blows of whales and other numerous marine life encounters that can be witnessed from the surface.

Itinerary

Pindito puts great importance to plan the best possible tour for their guests. When planning the route, many factors play an important role. The most important factor is

the weather. Since there can be storms in the tropics at any time, Pindito might change routes and itineraries at short notice.

There are basically two ways to navigate the Raja Ampat area. One begins from Sorong, the capital of West Papua, to the south. We'll do most dives around the island maze of Misool. On the return journey you'll visit Dampier Straight and maybe Sele Pele or Kofian before you go back to Sorong.

The second tour leads north from Sorong. On this trip we'll visit Wayag Island, which lies west of Waigeo. The dive areas are the Dampier Straight, Jef Fam, Sele Pele and Wayag. The tour ends in Sorong.

Misool

Diving in the endless maze of the islands of Misool is a very special treat for any diver. It is paradise for macro enthusiasts but encounters with larger fish such as manta rays are often possible. Misool is one of the most biodiverse regions in the world with fish, corals, sponges, soft corals, shrimps, crabs and countless nudibranchs and other invertebrates. Huge shoals of sardines are a definite highlight. Soft corals and sea fans (diameter of 3-4 meters) in all sizes and colours dominate the underwater landscape.

One of Pindito's special places is called "Vreni's Garden. It is a legendary dive site that has it all, due to its diverse landscape. Overhangs, huge caverns with swim throughs, lush steep walls with all kinds of corals are found here.

Waigeo

A special feature of this tour is the crossing of the equator. This area has a fascinating landscape. Many famous Raja Ampat landscape photographs were shot here. On the north, on the island of Wayag, is the famous "Mount Pindito". From here you get a fantastic view of the many islands. Pindito on anchor in the middle of the Bay, completes the beautiful landscape. "Sele Pele" offers the opportunity to look at a pearl farm up close. Depending on the production stage you will be invited to witness the fertilization or harvest! A unique opportunity you cannot afford to miss.

Jef Fam

"Jef Fam" is the name of a group of karst islands with great diving, lots of fish and colourful corals. Night dives at the "Red Wall" are always a special experience. In the sand under the pearl diving pier, a lot of special and peculiar creatures, especially wobbegongs and epaulette sharks (walking sharks) can be found. Countless nudibranchs, pipefish, seahorses, frogfish, scorpion fish cannot escape the well-trained eye. A great highlight is the manta cleaning station near Mansuar.

Dampier Strait

The Dampier strait separates the "Birdshead" Peninsula from Waigeo and Mansuar. The name comes from Dutch colonial times. It refers to the shape of the peninsula on the map, but it is also a paradise for many rare bird species.

Here the Pacific Ocean meets the Halmahera Sea, with an explosion of marine life as consequence. With regular strong currents, big fish feel especially comfortable. Manta rays, reef sharks, different schools of mackerel, tuna and barracuda are seen again

and again.

Even dolphins and whales (Bryde's whales, pilot whales) keep spending time in the Dampier straight. Since May 2011, we offer a special Whale-Macro tour that combines the macro-diving with whale and dolphin watching. This tour is accompanied by a marine expert in whale and dolphin behaviour.