

**DAY****ITINERARY WITH MV MERMAID I RAJA AMPAT – HALMAHERA – LEMBEH****DIVES****DAY 1**

Check-in on board Mermaid I. Start cruising towards the Dampier Strait (South Waigeo).

dives

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**DAY 2-3**

Dampier Strait is located between Waigeo and the Bird's Head Peninsula. Along with Misool, it is the most famous area for diving in Raja Ampat.

All of the dive sites around the Dampier Strait are known for a huge amount of schooling fish - barracudas, schools of bigeye trevallies, oceanic triggerfish, spadefish, surgeonfish and snappers. Besides the schooling fish, it is also an area where you get to see black and whitetip reef sharks and wobbegong sharks.

Some of the best manta dives are also located in the Dampier Strait. These are Manta Sandy (or Manta Mantra) and Blue Magic.

Manta Sandy is a sandy slope with several bommies that the mantas use as a cleaning station.

Blue Magic is a small pinnacle where the giant mantas congregate and get cleaned as well.

Some of the best mangrove dives are also located in the Dampier Strait, around the islands of Yanggefo and Gam.

And of course, one cannot forget the dive sites at some of the jetties in front of local villages, where the pillars are covered in soft corals and are home to a plethora of small critters.

Other fantastic dive sites in this area include Cape Kri, Sardine Reef, Chicken Reef, Mioskon, Mike's Point, Mangrove Ridge and Citrus Ridge.

Cruise overnight to Misool.

dives

7

**DAY 4-6**

Misool is the southernmost island in Raja Ampat and it is surrounded by several hundred small islands and rocks. Some of the most beautiful soft coral reefs in the world are located in Misool. It is impossible to describe only several dive sites since there are literally hundreds of them. Every year new dive sites are discovered around Misool. Many of the dive sites around Misool are just as fishy as the ones in the Dampier Strait, with some schools of barracudas, batfish, pinjalo snappers and zillions of fusiliers. But Misool is also a great macro destination. Known as the kingdom of the pygmy seahorse, you can also find allied cowries and plenty of nudibranchs here.

Best known diving areas around Misool include Wagma, Farondi, Balbulol, Sagof, Daram, Yellit, Boo, Warakaraket, Fiabacet, Kalig, Wayilbatan, Wayil, Pele and Nampele (Blue Water Mangroves).

Cruise overnight to Pulau Pisang.

dives  
**10****DAY 7**

Pulau Pisang – These are a set of two islands and two small rocks between Misool and Halmahera. You will spend the whole day here. The diving is pretty, with sloping reefs full of soft corals in the deeper areas and hard corals bommies in the shallows. When the currents are running, the dive sites can be very fishy, with schooling bumphead parrotfish, zillions of blue triggerfish and dogtooth tunas passing by.

Cruise overnight to the Strait of Patintie (Halmahera).

dives  
**3****DAY 8**

Strait of Patintie – you will spend the whole day in the south of Halmahera. Here, two large pinnacles break the surface and are excellent dive sites due to the amount of schooling fish as well as the healthy state of the soft corals. Blacktips, whitetips, turtles and Napoleon wrasse are some of the highlights. Strong currents here will dictate when you will dive.

Other sites offer great opportunities as well. Procco Channel between two islands – starts with a sandy slope with several large bommies, then you enter the channel and hook on to see what is passing by! After this exhilarating day, Mermaid I will cruise overnight to Goraici Islands.

dives  
**3****DAY 9**

The Goraici Islands are located on the coast of Halmahera. They have beautiful white sandy beaches with small villages, amazing reefs and pinnacles. Colourful soft coral in the deeper parts and hard coral gardens in the shallows. The local village jetties are a great place for critter filled night dives.

dives  
**4**

**DAY 10** Pulau Tifore is a small island between Halmahera and Lembeh with a submerged reef about half a mile from the island. The main attraction here is definitely the barracudas – hundreds and hundreds have made this their home for years. Really amazing especially if you can get inside the swirling vortex of the barracudas. Cruise overnight to Sulawesi. **dives**  
**3**

**DAY 11** Lembeh Strait – some of the best muck diving in Indonesia! Black sand environment full of critters. Frogfish, all kinds of octopi, spiny devilfish, nudibranchs galore and so much more. **dives**  
**2/3**

**DAY 12** Disembark in the morning for your transfer to the airport or a local resort if staying to continue diving Lembeh. **dives**  
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**TOTAL DIVES : 32**