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10 Day Itinerary

South Misool and Central Raja Ampat Liveaboard

Day 1 - The Adventure Begins

Your day begins at Arborek island, where you will be met at around 9am and transferred by boat to Waigeo, one of the largest islands in Raja Ampat. Here you will board the Ratu Laut, which will not only be your home for the next 10 days, but will be your ticket around Raja Ampat's many islands!

Your first stop will be the island of Mansuar, a destination well-loved by dive enthusiasts due to its rich reefs and magnificent marine life. Whilst at Mansuar, you will undertake a preliminary check dive at a site called Yenbuba. This is a stunning dive site and an excellent location in which to test your skills: not only is this an easy dive, but it is one which boasts marine life such as pygmy seahorses, turtles, and a range of beautiful corals. Once you have dried off from your dive, you will climb back aboard the Ratu Laut as the crew begin a day-long crossing to Misool.

Day 2 - Diving in Misool & Visiting Farondi Cave

This morning you will wake to the surroundings of Misool, a pristine tropical hideaway which also happens to be one of the four largest islands in Raja Ampat. A majority of your time on this trip will be spent in Misool, and your first dive in the region will take place at either Wagmab or Gamfi, two equally breathtaking sites close to the island. Later on you will head to Farondi Cave, a dive site characterised by its shallow soft coral reef, sea fans and barrel sponges. The cave has formed an ideal habitat for marine species such as tiger shrimp, though it is also a fantastic place to spot signal gobies, an unusual (and adorable) type of fish which prefers coastal bays and smaller spaces where they are protected from predators.

You will end the day with a third dive at either Wagmab or the 'Three Sisters' (a site named for its three limestone projections embedded in the water) before boarding the boat and sailing south-eastward.

Day 3 - Mobula Rays at Two Tree Island

Your day begins by chasing after yellowtail fussiliers and other sea creatures at the No Contest dive site, before continuing on to Two Tree Island for your second dive. Famous for its mobula rays, Two Tree Island also accommodates an abundance of silversides, which are pursued by the rays in a mesmerising underwater ballet. Your final dive of the day will take place at Baby Rock, where you may find yourself surrounded by thousands of baitfish! Once you are back aboard the Ratu Laut, the crew will begin an overnight crossing towards the south.

Day 4 - Manta Rays & More at Shadow Reef

This morning will be spent at one of Raja Ampat's premium manta ray dive sites: Shadow Reef. In addition to hosting an abundance of manta rays, Shadow Reef is also popular with divers seeking a glimpse of baby whitetip sharks, which can often be found sleeping beneath table corals here! Schooling barracuda are also a common sight, as well as a range of other fish of all shapes and sizes.

After spotting sharks, mantas and batfish at Shadow Reef, you will continue your journey onto Boo Window, another dive site popular for its sharks - in this instance, wobbegongs! This is another opportunity to spot batfish and fusiliers, whilst your third dive of the day (at the huge island of Yilliet) invites you to seek out an array of shark species. Yilliet is also home to barracuda, barramundi cod and the critically endangered hawksbill turtle, making this an excellent moment to grab your underwater camera (if you have one!). At the end of the day, the Ratu Laut will continue travelling south-west.

Day 5 - Sharks & More at Whale Rock

You will begin your day with a dive around the Fiabacet Chain, where you will have the opportunity to pay a visit to Nudi Rock (named for its resemblance to certain nudibranch species). The Fiabacet Chain is a fantastic dive site for those with a keen interest in macro photography or even an affection for smaller marine creatures – take a look between the soft corals and see if you can spot any nudibranch species! Pygmy seahorses, cowries, shrimp and clingfish can be found in this area, and favourable currents may also allow you to approach pinnacles surrounded by larger species such as barracuda, bigeye trevally, and grey reef sharks. You will then move on to the Tank Rock dive site for your second dive, with your third dive taking place at Whale Rock, a particularly colourful site brimming with similarly-vibrant marine life such as pygmy seahorses, nudibranches and anemones.

After hopefully catching a final glance at reef sharks and wobbegongs at Whale Rock, you will board the boat and sail towards Wayilbatan.

Day 6 - Diving in the Four Kings

Dive into the waters at the Wayilbatan Four Kings before moving on to Barracuda Rock, one of the most famous diving sites in Raja Ampat and known for its reefs which are inhabited with swathes of barracuda. Later in the day you will move on to the Wedding Cake dive site, where you may marvel at the region's abundance of colourful coral species. At the end of the day, you will climb back aboard the Ratu Laut as the crew sets sail towards the Wayilbatan Channel.

Day 7 - Diving Near Yilliet Kecil

Start the day with a dive at either Fantasea or the Wayilbatan Channel, the latter being home to a range of amazing corals and huge sea fans. The boat will then sail onwards to Yilliet Kecil, where you will undertake your second dive of the day. Once you have completed your dive, you will begin a 15 to 18-hour crossing from Misool North to the famous Melissa's Garden dive site.

Day 8 - Melissa's Garden & Visiting Arborek Island

Melissa's Garden is one of the most colourful and lively dive locations in all of Raja Ampat, with its soft and hard corals giving shelter to a vivid display of marine species. Divers in this region may be able to spot a number of tridacna clams, known for their size, unusual shape and psychedelic mantles, though a wealth of underwater biodiversity awaits you at every turn and will be sure to catch your eye!

After enjoying your first dive at Melissa's Garden, you will move on to the Dampier Straight. Here, you may be lucky enough to witness the region's manta rays as they feed on the plankton, aided by the strong currents in the strait. Should your group be unable to dive at Manta Ridge, you shall move on to the cleaning station of Manta Sandy: this is where mantas come to clean off between two huge bommies (reefs)!

After spending time at either Manta Ridge or Manta Sandy, your group will move west in order to return to Arborek Island, which is home to the volunteer project. This is a great opportunity to enjoy a little time on dry land with your group and with the local community before joining the manta scientists in the evening for a presentation on manta rays.

Day 9 - Diving at Cape Kri

In the morning you will depart for Cape Kri, situated at the Northeastern point of the famous Kri Island. This location is home to huge schools of bigeye trevallies, barracudas and snappers and, if you're lucky, you might even spot a number of sweetlips circling the reefs! Other species found around Cape Kri include grey reef sharks, groupers and pygmy sea horses, with feeding time taking place around dusk and dawn; this can be an incredible opportunity to witness a range of species in action.

Later, your group will move on to Chicken Reef, a location characterised by its various soft and hard corals and rock formations which attract a number of schooling fish. After undertaking a dive at Chicken Reef, you will explore the north-eastern site of Sardine Reef, where huge schools of fish block out the light from above: jacks, tuna, trevally, wobbegongs and grey reef sharks are known to circle the reef here, making for a hypnotic and breathtaking moment for any diver. For those interested in trekking, the opportunity to explore Kri Island on foot may arise at the end of the day.

Day 10 - Return to Wasai

Unfortunately, your final day aboard the Ratu Laut has arrived – but there is still time for one more dive in the morning! A popular location for this final dive is at the Blue Magic site, an open-water reef which attracts a number of species from tunas and barracuda to manta rays and sharks (please note, however, that you may visit a different site around Kri Island).

During lunchtime on the boat, you may wish to exchange emails and photos with your group, also taking time to give thanks to the crew. At around 1pm, you will either be transferred back to Arborek Island to continue with the volunteer programme, or to Sorong to commence your independent travel plans.

Meals And Beverages

Three meals per day will be prepared for you by a member of the crew, and you will also be provided with a number of snacks (such as cookies and cakes) which you can enjoy inbetween meals. Water, tea and coffee are all included in the cost of the excursion, whilst soft drinks and beer can be purchased onboard. Since you are travelling to some extremely remote areas, you will not have the opportunity to visit any shops, so if you would like to purchase any items onboard you must ensure that you bring enough money to last the duration of the trip.

Accommodation

For the duration of your time aboard the Ratu Laut, you will stay in either a twin or quad-share room. Each room comes equipped with air conditioning and is usually shared on a same-sex basis, but please be aware that this cannot always be guaranteed. There are three bathrooms aboard the boat, each with a shower and access to hot water.

A twin-share room is priced at £1895 and a quad-share room is £1795. If you are joining alongside the Raja Ampat Diving Project you will save 15% on the Liveaboard trip!

Trip Dates

2020 Dates

13th Oct - 22nd Oct
17th Nov - 26th Nov
23rd Dec - 3rd Jan

2021 Dates

13th Jan - 22nd Jan
27th Jan - 5th Feb
20th Feb - 1th Mar
15th Mar - 24th Mar