

## RAJA AMPAT AND TRITON BAY



**ASTRIDE THE EQUATOR, THIS MAJESTIC AND REMOTE GROUP SITS JUST WEST OF THE INDONESIA -CLAIMED PORTION OF THE IMMENSE ISLAND OF NEW GUINEA, OUR PLANET'S SECOND LARGEST ISLAND- AND LIES IN THE HEART OF THE CORAL TRIANGLE, THE MOST BIO DIVERSE MARINE REGION ON EARTH, SHARED BETWEEN BORNEO, THE PHILIPPINES AND MELANESIA. THIS AREA AND THE NEIGHBORING COUNTRY OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA HARBOR SOME OF THE MOST REMOTE AND UNTAMED TERRITORY LEFT ON EARTH.**

The beauty of the **Misool** Island Group will carry you away. This entire region is one enormous ancient limestone basin and even has limestone as the seafloor. Those who have travelled to Palau can picture these little tropical islands covered of palms, with steep sided walls where wind and sea have worn the rock away. The islands, or islets, are uncountable. The larger ones, like Misool itself, have canyons and lagoons speckled with white sandy beaches ideal for tender boat rides. One can spend hours exploring and never see the same bay. It really is a place of great beauty both above and below the water. It's rightly being considered by the Indonesian government for national park status and by the United Nations as a world heritage site.

On the way from Misool to **Fak Fak**, we make a stop at one or two of the so-called **Pisang Islands**, and definitely should not skip the desert **island of Daram** where pristine white beaches populated by myriads of hermit crabs present the perfect backdrop for an unforgettable BBQ. Great snorkeling!

In our arrival to **Karas Island** in **Sebakor Bay** we'll visit local villages or laze around on the secluded beaches we may find here. Onward sailing to the district centre of **Fak Fak** where we disembark for replenishing stock on board and exploring the city.

We may make a stop at **Namatote village** to see some cliff paintings - glyphs and pictorial signs rather- left by ancient inhabitants high on the cliff galleries.

In **Kaimana** we will spend a few hours in the centre of town to get the feel of 'urban' Papua. West of Kaimana we sail miles after miles along a coastline of uninhabited, towering mountains covered with thick jungle. Here, in complete wilderness, a roaring river cascades down the jungle-clad mountains' and crashes right on the white-sand beach. Plenty of lobsters inhabit the rocky waters around **Kiti Kiti**.



TRIP ADVISOR	
Airport	Sorong. International flight to Manado and then domestic flight to Sorong.
Best season	October-April
Rainy season	May-Setember
Temperature	27°-32°C
Water temperature	27°-30°C
Recommended length of stay	10 nights liveaboard cruise
Highlights	Snorkeling in fantastic blue lagoons. Kayaking in the mangrove forests bays. Hiking on the forest for watching the brid of paradise.
Supplementary Tours	Visiting Baliem Valley highland of Irian Jaya, inhabited by the Dani Tribes and other sub tribes of Yali and Lani with their complex and primitive cultures, which looks more like "stone age" cultures. Visiting Tanah Toraja and discovering Torajan people, the animist highlanders of Sulawesi, a distinct ethnic group with ancestral traditions.

## THE LIVEBOARDS OF RAJA AMPAT AND TRITON BAY

*Click on the boat's name to see or download the boat's fact sheet*



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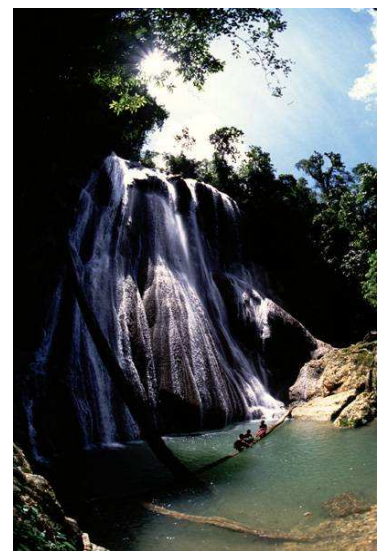
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**Triton Bay** is certainly one of the most beautiful and undisturbed places of Asia. The scenery is just magnificent: tall cliffs, limestone outcrops separated by narrow channels, secluded beaches, turquoise water ... the perfect pirate den. We'll use the tenders to explore the area. If time permits, we can also visit the village of Lobo at the foot of a 3.000 feet cliff.

This entire day we will sail along the swampy coast of West Papua. When the winds are favorable, we will hoist the sails and share the experience of Sir Alfred Wallace who described Phinisi vessels as "more comfortable than the modern day steamers" during his Odysseys through the "Malay Archipelago" (1854-1862). When conditions allow one or more swim-stops will be made.

The **Asmat region** heartland, located in the huge expanse of swamps and mangrove along the southern coast of Papua, will allow us to visit various villages moving about on local longboats, as all Asmat villages are located on river banks. Not more than 50 years ago this land was yet completely unexplored and home to fierce warriors. See the traditional longhouses called "jeu", the exquisite woodcarving that has made the Asmat people world famous and the way they tap the wild sago to satisfy their daily needs. We'll experience ritual welcome ceremonies and other traditional rituals pertinent to the Asmat tribe. At one stage our boat will be surrounded by dozens of war-canoes and the air will be filled with shrieks and shouts expressing a heartfelt welcome to the honored guests coming from overseas.

Finally we arrive to **Timika** harbor located at the mouth of the local river.



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