

RAJA AMPAT, LAST PARADISE



THIS MAJESTIC GROUP OF ISLANDS, LOCATED AT THE NORTHWEST TIP OF THE ISLAND OF NEW GUINEA -INDONESIAN PROVINCE OF WEST PAPUA (EX IRIAN JAYA), AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA- LIES IN THE HEART OF THE CORAL TRIANGLE, THE MOST BIO DIVERSE MARINE REGION ON EARTH, SHARED BETWEEN BORNEO, THE PHILIPPINES AND MELANESIA. RAJA AMPAT AREA AND THE NEIGHBORING COUNTRY OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA, HARBOR SOME OF THE MOST REMOTE AND UNTAMED TERRITORY LEFT ON EARTH.

As stunningly beautiful above water as below, Raja Ampat -which literally translates as "Four Kings"-, is a startling diversity of habitats to explore. Each of these -from the stark wave-, pounded slopes that drop away beneath the karst cliff of Wayag and Uranie, to the deep nutrient-rich bays of Mayalibit, Kabui and Aljui, to the blue water mangrove channels of Kofiau and Gam, to the plankton rich upwelling area of Misool and the Dampier Straits are home to unique assemblages of species that, when taken together, add to produce the most impressive species list ever compiled for a coral reef system of this size.

Astride the equator, this remote group sits just west of the Indonesia -claimed portion of the immense island of New Guinea, our planet's second largest island-. This area and the neighboring country of Papua New Guinea harbor some of the most remote and untamed territory left on earth. Equally in their natural habitat are the indigenous people here, many of whom still pursue an aboriginal existence in the primeval forest as practiced for generations. As a result, much of the jungle, and the extensive fringing reef system, are still to be found in a relatively pure and unspoiled condition.

Marine tourism as a sustainable alternative to overfishing, mining and logging has the potential to play a key role in the conservation of Raja Ampat spectacular underwater realm, while also creating realm benefit for the local communities.

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.



TRIP ADVISOR	
Airport	Sorong. International flight to Manado and then domestic flight to Sorong.
Best season	October-April
Rainy season	May-September
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 bird 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 LAST PARADISE

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



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Wayag offered up the ultimate topside photo settings. Clambering up a steep spine like slope, you are rewarded with a 360 degree view of jungle covered rock outcroppings floating in waters of every imaginable shade of blue, a quintessential "Island Dream." Underwater, some strong currents here, and the visibility is not always tops. But there are some more very beautiful soft coral set up, with big Napoleon wrasse for good measure.

Jerife is a small Island with a wonderful lagoon. Empty beaches beautiful corals. In front of the Island a WWII wreck of American airplane are visible also by snorkeling.

Kri Island is an underwater photographer's heaven, all record of fish species have been broke here. Great snorkeling

In **Mansuar** you could see mantas even only by snorkeling. In the so called 'manta clearing station' mantas circle around waiting to be cleaned from parasites by other small fishes. The sand bottom is only 8-10 meters, and from the top you could see the manta parade, sometimes dozen of them. Unforgettable.

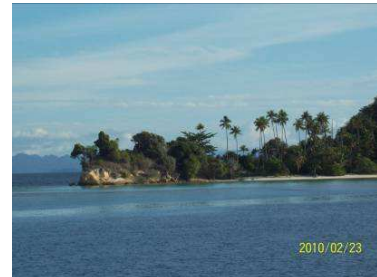
Arborek a typical Papuan village, the very friendly people welcome you, child will follow you everywhere.

Yepen a small island with wonderful beaches, the warm lagoon is nursery for baby sharks. Many parrot and eagles are spotted in the jungle.

Penemu is a hidden bay, turquoise, green waters, with white strip of sand and huge rock formations.

Waigeo is the biggest Island of Raja Ampat, inside jungle covered mountains, the highest in Raja Ampat. In Kabui Bay numerous islets surrounded by mountainous shores form one of the most picturesque landscapes. The north coast with many hidden bays, coves and pinnacles reserve ones of the strongest emotions.

The three atolls of **Asia**, **Ayu** and **Bud** are only waiting to be explored.



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