

THE LUXURY VOYAGE



Cenderawasih Bay

While Raja Ampat may be the most well-known destination in this region, West Papua offers a wealth of captivating cruising areas for those looking to explore the lesser-known parts of eastern Indonesia. One such gem is the Bird's Head Peninsula and Cenderawasih Bay.

Located in the province of West Papua, Cenderawasih Bay is Indonesia's largest marine national park. This area, until recently, was geographically isolated from the Pacific tides, making it a sheltered haven with unique underwater ecosystems. The bay is home to several endemic and deep-dwelling marine species that can be found in shallow waters. Additionally, it offers fascinating wreck dives and sunken World War II fighter jets.

The bay's most remarkable feature, however, is its population of whale sharks, the largest fish in the ocean. These gentle giants gather around the local fishing platforms, feeding on small fish escaping the nets, making Cenderawasih Bay one of the best places to encounter them. With around 14,000 residents living in villages within the park, the area also offers cultural immersion opportunities for adventurous travelers.

Day 1: Manokwari

Your adventure begins upon arrival in Manokwari, where the crew of The Luxury Voyage will warmly greet you at the airport. You'll be transferred to the harbor to board your private yacht. After settling in, your Cruise Director will give a detailed briefing about the unique nature of Cenderawasih Bay, with a focus on diving and the region's famous whale sharks. The yacht will set sail, and you'll enjoy your first dinner onboard while cruising through the serene waters of Papua.

Day 2: Japanese Wrecks

As we head south, you'll have the opportunity to explore some of the fascinating wrecks from World War II. The first dive of the day will be on a large Japanese cargo ship, lying on its side at around 30 meters deep. The ship's holds are open for safe exploration, offering a glimpse of military cargo, including bombs, tractors, and even vintage bottles. In the afternoon, dive the "Cross Wreck," a small ship encrusted in vibrant corals and resting upright in 18 meters of water.

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Day 3: Numfoor & Manim Islands

Begin the day diving the walls and steep slopes around Numfoor Island, where the fish life is particularly rich. Expect to encounter schools of baby grey reef sharks, white-tips, barracudas, tunas, and large groupers. After lunch, head to Manim Island, where the wrecks of over seven World War II landing crafts sit on a white sand slope, each adorned with colorful corals, creating a unique underwater spectacle.

Day 4: Wairundi Island

Wairundi Island offers unspoiled reefs, abundant with vibrant reef fish. The hard and soft corals dominate the underwater landscape, while sandy slopes reveal fascinating marine creatures such as coconut crabs and pygmy seahorses. Reef sharks, including white-tips and black-tips, are often spotted patrolling these waters.

Day 5: Matas Island & Rouw Island

This morning, anchor at the picturesque Matas Island, home to some of the best beaches in West Papua. After a relaxing time onshore, explore the south end of the island, where a sloping wall leads to a vibrant coral garden. Another dive option is at Rouw Island, where a sunken World War II American P-38 Lightning fighter plane rests in shallow water. In the afternoon, return to shore for beach time and exploration of the uninhabited island.

Day 6: Mioswar & Roon

Dive in an area known for some of the most prolific coral growth in Cenderawasih Bay. Mioswar is home to schools of fusiliers, bumphead parrotfish, and the occasional grey reef shark. The afternoon brings a chance to visit a local village, where you can experience the slow pace of West Papuan island life. A night dive here is also an option for those seeking more adventure.

Day 7: Roon & Ribbon

Explore the soft coral gardens, sea fans, and elephant ear sponges at Roon Island, where you'll encounter hawksbill and green turtles alongside schooling barracudas and surgeonfish. Off the coast of Ribbon Island, dive a World War II aircraft resting in 25 meters of water, with wings and fuselage still intact. There may also be a chance for a night dive.

Day 8: Sodompari & Wandammen Peninsula

Dive along a half-kilometer-long reef west of Sodompari Island, teeming with marine life. The Wandammen Peninsula offers pelagic species and critters in an array of colorful coral formations. Expect to see schooling barracudas, giant trevallies, fusiliers, and plenty of small marine life.

Day 9: Tanjung Mangguar

Tanjung Mangguar offers some of the most thrilling dives in Cenderawasih Bay. The reef is adorned with enormous soft corals and sea whips, attracting a variety of fish, including barracudas, rainbow runners, jacks, and occasionally manta and mobula rays. A night dive is also available for those seeking more underwater excitement.

Days 10 & 11: Kwatisore Bay – Whale Sharks

Spend the next two days experiencing the unforgettable magic of swimming and diving with whale sharks in Kwatisore Bay. These gentle giants, which can grow up to 12 meters long, are known to gather around local fishing platforms, where they feed on small fish escaping from the nets. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to get up close with the largest fish in the ocean in a peaceful and pristine environment.

Day 12: Nabire

On your final day, the yacht will arrive at Nabire harbor. After a luxurious breakfast on deck, the crew will assist with your disembarkation and transfer to the airport, concluding your incredible 11-night journey through Cenderawasih Bay with The Luxury Voyage.

This exclusive 11-night Luxury Voyage through Cenderawasih Bay offers a unique blend of world-class diving, cultural exploration, and intimate encounters with nature, making it the ultimate adventure for those seeking both luxury and discovery in Indonesia's hidden gems.