

THE
LUXURY
Voyage

EASTERN INDONESIA · CRUISING GROUNDS

Raja Ampat Exploration

12 DAYS & 11 NIGHTS · SORONG → SORONG

*The whole archipelago in one voyage — three days
among Misool's treasures, the limestone maze of
Wayag, and the manta reefs of the Dampier Strait.*



9.8m

ACRES OVER LAND AND SEA

1,200

SPECIES OF FISH

550

SPECIES OF CORAL

THE REGION

Off the northwest tip of the Bird's Head

Raja Ampat is located off the northwest tip of Bird's Head Peninsula in West Papua and described as one of the most extraordinary environments on the planet. The name translates as 'four kings,' referring to the main islands of Misool, Batanta, Waigeo and Salawati, which are surrounded by 1,500 islands with wild beaches and limestone cliffs plunging into aqua seas.

In the 1700s William Dampier reached the north western tip of Papua and travelled with the rising tide into the great channel that now bears his name. The Dampier Strait conveys massive quantities of seawater, forcing currents to flow parallel to the equator.

Above water, the islands' cultural heritage is diverse, with prehistoric cave paintings and relics from bygone eras, while recent history is visible in cave bunkers and seabed wreckage from the Second World War. Intrepid visitors can trek through the jungle to seek out endemic birdlife, visit remote local villages, explore sea turtle rookeries and pearl farms and discover coastal mangroves by sea kayak.

Raja Ampat comprises a total territory of 9.8 million acres over land and sea, and beneath the surface, it is recognised as the world's most bio-diverse marine ecosystem with over 1,200 species of fish, 550 species of coral, and six of the world's seven species of turtle.

Highlights at a glance

Three days on Misool — Boo Windows, Magic Mountain and hundreds of narrow channels to explore.

Gua Sacral, Tomolol — a cathedral-like cave coated in orchids, and ancient paintings at the waterline.

Wayag — two days in an interminable green maze; climb the peak above the anchorage.

Birds of paradise — a pre-dawn jungle hike to the platform for the Red Bird of Paradise.

The Passage — a narrow channel that runs as a saltwater river with each tide.

Penemu – limestone domes encircling a shallow green bay, and a ridge trail to the lookout.

Dampier Strait mantas – tidal surges carry plankton past Arborek; the rays pass overhead.

A pearl farm – see how communities forge a living in these remote parts.

When to go

SEASON	CONDITIONS
Oct – Apr	Prime cruising. Settled seas, long calm windows, best visibility.
May & Sep	Shoulder season. Good cruising with more variable wind.
Jun – Aug	Stronger south-easterlies and swell on exposed coasts; most yachts move west.

Water temperature sits close to 28 °C year round. Manta activity is strongest on the larger tidal exchanges around full and new moon.

Getting there

Fly to Sorong (SOQ)
Domine Eduard Osok Airport, connecting through Jakarta, Makassar or Manado.

Harbour transfer
Twenty minutes by road, met by the yacht's crew.

Park fees
A Raja Ampat marine park entry permit is required and is normally arranged by the yacht.

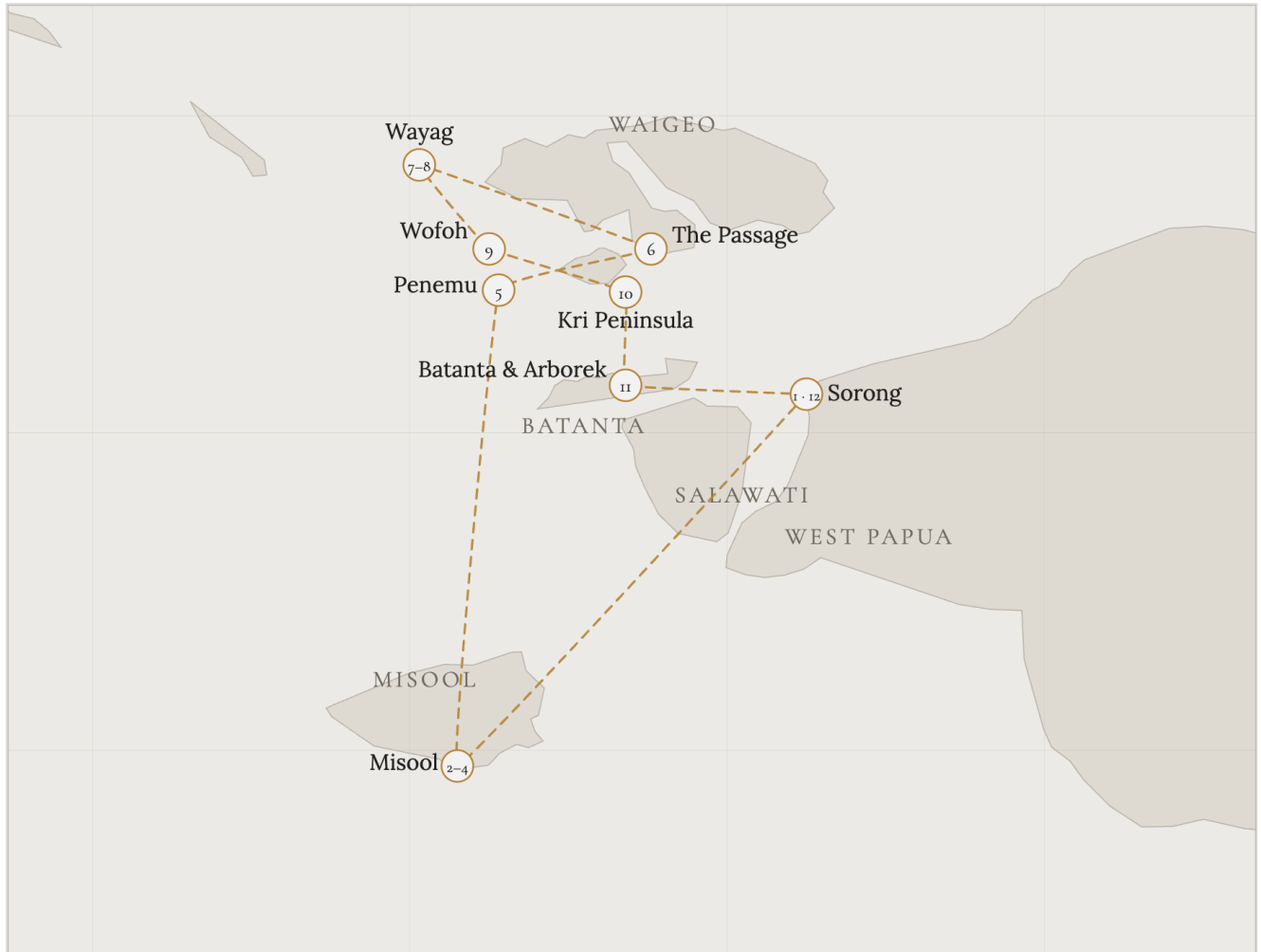
Diving & snorkelling notes

The dive and snorkel sites around Misool have been voted some of the best in the world – Boo Windows, Magic Mountain and more, a myriad of exhilarating and relaxing underwater pursuits. Raja Ampat is a current-driven destination, so the crew read the tide before setting a plan for the day, and a check dive on the first afternoon lets them match sites to the group.

Snorkellers are well served: mangrove edges, coral slopes and shallow fringing reefs sit beside most anchorages, turtles float over intricate coral gardens at Penemu, and the manta cleaning stations of the Dampier Strait are shallow enough to watch from the surface.

Raja Ampat Exploration

South first for three days on Misool, then north by Penemu and the Passage to two days at Wayag, returning through Wofoh, the Kri peninsula and the manta reefs off Batanta.



NUMBERED ANCHORAGES FOLLOW THE DAY-BY-DAY BELOW. COASTLINES FROM NATURAL EARTH.

DAY 1

Sorong

You will be met at Sorong airport by the yacht's crew and transferred to the harbour, a twenty-minute drive. Once you have settled in onboard, the yacht will depart Sorong and begin the cruise to the islands of Raja Ampat while you enjoy lunch on deck. If time allows, go snorkelling or try a check dive before you watch the sun go down with a cocktail. Dinner will be served under the stars.

Misool

This morning, the yacht will reach the southeast end of Misool. You'll awake to a shimmering pastel sunrise and enjoy a decadent breakfast on deck, with tea and coffee served by your crew. This chain of tiny islands carves the area into hundreds of narrow channels concealing lagoons, coves, cliffs and limestone overhang, caves and endless pristine beaches. Here in Raja Ampat's southernmost island, you'll spend three days exploring Misool's treasures. The surrounding dive and snorkel sites have been voted some of the best in the world: Boo Windows, Magic Mountain and more. Above water, you'll explore the ethereal "Gua Sacral" ancestral caves of Tomolol, a former burial site of indigenous Papuans — swim through a cathedral-like cave coated in orchids and discover ancient cave paintings edging the crystal blue surface. There's a pearl farm nearby where you can see how the locals forge a living in these remote parts. Powder sand beaches await your footprints, and you can claim one as your own for as long as you like, hunting for shells or picnicking in the shallows.



SORONG · MISOOL · TOMOLOL

DAY 5

Penemu

A cluster of rocky limestone domes makes up the Penemu Islands. Draped with tiers of green vegetation, the islets encircle a shallow green bay and a walking trail along the rocky hills leads to a lookout with magnificent views of the lagoon, its outlying islands, and the ocean beyond. Nearby lie some of the most celebrated snorkelling and diving sites in the area, where turtles float over intricate coral gardens and manta rays meet large schools of game fish in nutrient-rich currents.

DAY 6

The Passage

Rise at dawn for the best chance of spotting a rare Red Bird of Paradise. Your cruise director can accompany you on this jungle hike of around forty-five minutes to reach the bird-watching platform, where you can keep your eyes and ears open for signs of this elusive bird. After breakfast, take in the statuesque mushroom islands of Kabui Bay, marking the entrance to a narrow channel of water through which strong currents run with each tide, forming a saltwater river with plentiful coral and fish-life.

DAYS 7-8

Wayag

The Wayag Islands are an interminable green maze that comprise the most visually stunning scene in Raja Ampat. Wayag offers a spectacular backdrop for water sports and beach time. Climb the island peak behind the anchorage for a panoramic view of turquoise waterways through the rock formations, or play castaway among the deserted beaches as the sun melts into another Raja Ampat sunset and the chef cooks up a feast.



PENEMU · THE PASSAGE · WAYAG

DAY 9

Wofoh

Here, two islands are connected by a shallow reef, which makes for a wonderful spot for beach combing, paddle boarding and kayaking. The west coast of Wofoh is also home to one of the most beautiful coral walls in the area, plunging into clear blue water depths with a mixture of soft corals, hard corals and barrel sponges. Schooling surgeonfish and barracuda can be spotted here as well as the elusive unicorn fish.

DAY 10

Kri Peninsula

This morning, you'll awake to the sound of tropical birds calling from the jungle. Mioskon Bay is a spectacular spot where you can snorkel in the mangroves, or kayak mirror still waters along the verdant coastline. Famed for its fish-life and coral slopes, the Kri peninsula offers some of the most exquisite underwater vistas in Raja Ampat. Nearby, the island of Mansuar is home to a village where you can head ashore for a glimpse of local culture.

DAY 11

Batanta

Dampier's tidal surges carry planktonic feasts that attract manta rays near Arborek Island. Spend time diving or snorkelling over the sandy bottom and wait for the mantas to pass, swooping past with curious eyes in an elegant underwater ballet. After lunch onboard, head ashore to Arborek village. Communities in Raja Ampat primarily make their living from sustainable fishing and pearling, with around eighteen villages in the region, all of which are very small and hospitable.

DAY 12

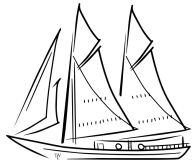
Sorong · disembarkation

This morning, the yacht will return to Sorong port. After a final decadent breakfast on deck, your crew will assist you in disembarking the yacht and transfer you back to the airport to catch your flight home.



WOFOH · KRI PENINSULA · BATANTA

This is a sample itinerary and can be adjusted to your preferences. Routes may also change on the day due to weather, tide or other conditions; your captain and cruise director will always choose the best available anchorage.



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