

THE
LUXURY
Voyage

EASTERN INDONESIA · CRUISING GROUNDS

Raja Ampat

Classic Raja Ampat

7 NIGHTS · SORONG → SORONG

The central circuit: Dampier Strait, the Kri and Mansuar reefs, the mushroom islands of Kabui Bay, then north to Penemu, Wofoh and the limestone maze of Wayag before returning through Arborek.



1,500

ISLANDS AND ISLETS

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 the Bird's Head Peninsula in West Papua, and is 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. Visitors trek through the jungle to seek out endemic birdlife, call at remote 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. 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. The endemic flora and fauna of Papua were central to Alfred Russel Wallace's understanding of the evolution of species; that biodiversity can still be witnessed today.

Highlights at a glance

Wayag — a green limestone maze; climb the peak above the anchorage for the view over turquoise waterways.

Dampier Strait mantas — tidal surges carry plankton past Arborek; mantas pass over the sandy bottom.

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

The Passage — a narrow channel between Waigeo and Gam that runs as a saltwater river with each tide.

Misool — deep bays, pinnacles, jungle-clad mountains, the Tomolol cave and heart-shaped Love Lagoon.

Mayalibit Bay — a mangrove fjord with 27 varieties of mangrove and over 200 species of fish.

Piaynemo & Penemu — limestone domes encircling shallow green bays; a ridge trail to the lookout.

Village life — around eighteen small villages living from sustainable fishing and pearling.

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
15–20 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.

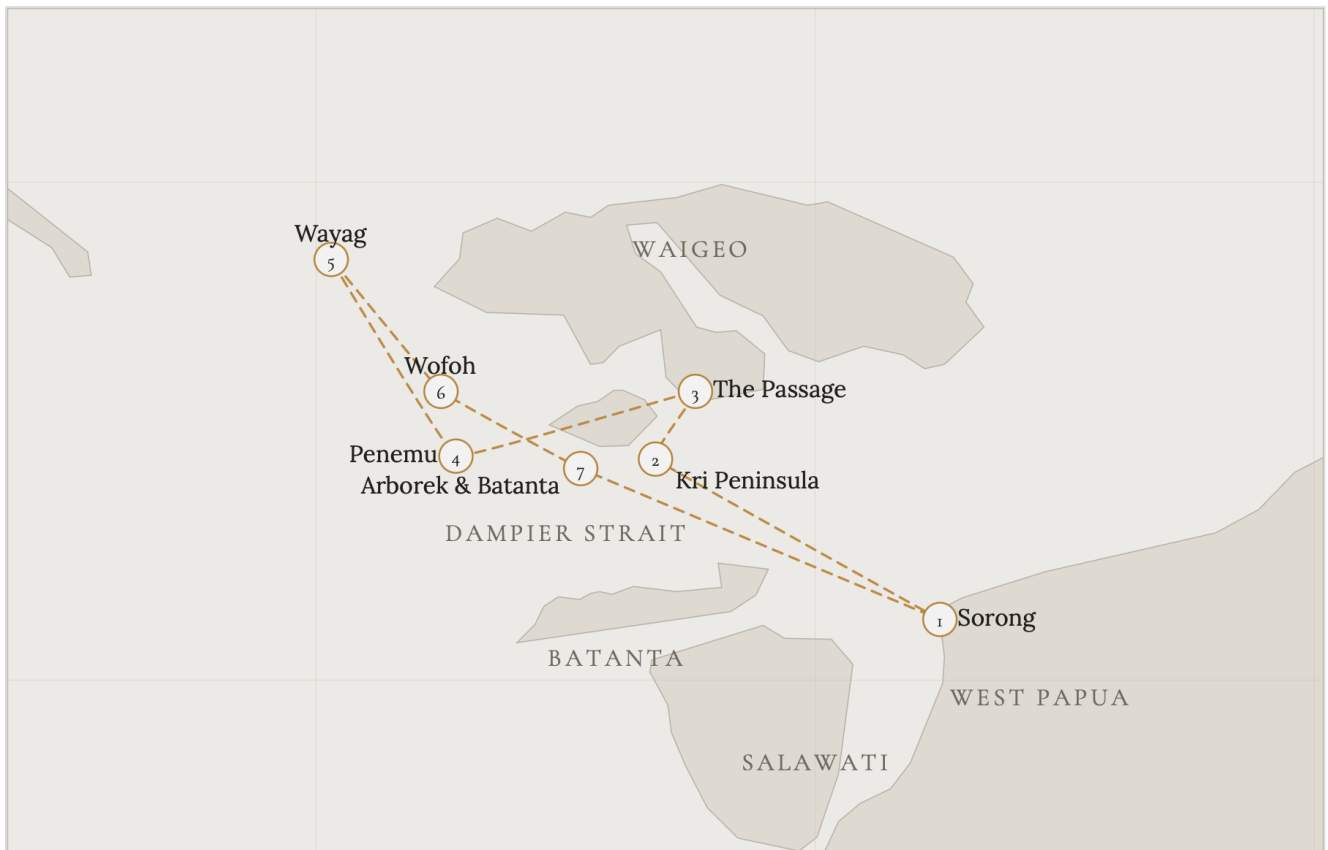
Diving & snorkelling notes

Raja Ampat is a current-driven destination. Most signature sites — Cape Kri, Blue Magic, Sardine Reef, Batu Rufus, Mantra Ridge, Melissa’s Garden — are dived on the tide, and the same currents that gather the fish reward good buoyancy and a reef hook. A check dive is taken on the first afternoon so the crew can match sites to the group.

Snorkellers are well served: mangrove edges, coral slopes and shallow fringing reefs sit beside most anchorages, and manta cleaning stations are shallow enough to watch from the surface. Wrecks from the Second World War and the wobbegong sharks of Mioskon suit divers looking for something beyond reef.

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

DAY 1

Sorong

You are 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 departs Sorong and begins the cruise to the islands of Raja Ampat while you enjoy lunch on deck. If time allows, go snorkelling or take a check dive before watching the sun go down with a cocktail. Dinner is served under the stars.

DAY 2

Kri Peninsula

You wake to the sound of tropical birds calling from the jungle. Mioskon Bay is a spectacular spot to snorkel in the mangroves or kayak mirror-still water 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 3

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 keep 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 through which strong currents run with each tide, forming a saltwater river with plentiful coral and fish life.



SORONG · KRI PENINSULA · THE PASSAGE

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.



PENEMU · WAYAG · WOFOH

Wayag

The Wayag Islands are an interminable green maze and the most visually stunning scene in Raja Ampat. Wayag offers a spectacular backdrop for watersports 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.

DAY 6

Wofoh

Here two islands are connected by a shallow reef, which makes 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 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 7

Arborek & 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 by 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 them very small and hospitable.

DAY 8

Sorong · disembarkation

The yacht returns to Sorong port. After a final breakfast on deck, your crew assist you in disembarking and transfer you back to the airport for your flight home.



ARBOREK & BATANTA · SORONG

All itineraries are samples 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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