

JEWELS OF RAJA AMPAT

10D/9N - Start from \$5,350 per person

TRIP OVERVIEW

Locations	: Raja Ampat - Misool - Wayag - Waigeo
Activities	: Cruise/live on board, sight-seeing, culture, nature, leisure & adventure
Duration & Price	: 10 Days 9 Nights from \$5,350 per person
Tour Schedule	: December 2018 - January 2019 4 - 13 December 6 - 15 December 17 - 26 December 18 - 27 December 29 December - 7 January 2019 30 December - 8 January 2019

HIGHLIGHT

Cruising Raja Ampat must rate as one of life's most beautiful experiences in the world. One of the most noteworthy ecological niches on the planet, with views among the most stunning that you are likely to behold in a lifetime, the Raja Ampat archipelago is a region characterised by rugged and steep limestone coastlines covered with virgin rainforest extending right down to the water's edge. Many of the fish, corals and crustaceans that live in these waters are found nowhere else on Earth. During this cruise, we will take you on a far-reaching exploration of what is without a doubt one of the least visited but most memorable adventure-destinations on our planet. You do not need to be a diver to be able to experience this global epicentre of marine diversity; here you will have the opportunity to snorkel daily in an underwater world reminiscent of a living kaleidoscope. Nor do you need to be a seasoned birdwatcher to see and appreciate the dazzling birdlife that brought Alfred Russel Wallace to this region over a century ago. Witness the curious bobbing, flapping and weaving display dance of the red bird of paradise, hear the shrieks of the crested cockatoo and the loud whooshing wing beats of the hornbills in flight. Float on your back through a mysterious cave; swim with stingless jellyfish; dive into a jungle waterfall; relish the magic of what has been described as the 'Last Paradise on Earth'. Many of these cruises fall over either **Christmas Day and New Year's Day** (or both!), so be sure to check the dates. In the true spirit of the festive season, you can rest assured that we will be pulling out all the stops to celebrate in style.

ADVENTURE ARCHIPELAGO

ITINERARY

DAY 1 : SORONG

Your flight will arrive in the West Papuan port town of **Sorong**, the gateway to Raja Ampat. From the airport we will transfer you to the harbour where the Ombak Putih or Katharina will be waiting at anchor. Once settled into your cabin, your cruise director will familiarise you with the vessel's facilities and safety procedures. Ready to start our adventure, we will weigh anchor and set a southerly course for the **Misool archipelago**, stopping for a refreshing swim along the way. We will then dine alfresco on the main deck while meeting the other passengers and crew and watching the sunset on our first day at sea. **Meals Included : Lunch (L) & Dinner (D)**

DAY 2 : RAJA AMPAT ARCHIPELAGO (MISOOL ISLAND)

This morning we will wake to see the sun rise over the picturesque chain of islands that makes up the **Misool archipelago**. The topography is typical of 'karst dissolution,' featuring a great number of tiny islets whose bases have been eroded over time by the relentless motion of the tides. We will spend the day maximising everything that this fascinating area has to offer by marvelling at both the marine wonderland under the water and the magnificent landscape above the surface. We can test out our paddling skills in the sea kayaks, watch for birds perched on the rocks, or just sit back and take in the glorious scenery. After a full day of island hopping through this archipelago, the Ombak Putih will spend a quiet night at anchor in Misool's Tomolol Bay. **Meals Included : Breakfast (B), Lunch (L) & Dinner (D)**

DAY 3 : RAJA AMPAT ARCHIPELAGO (MISOOL ISLAND)

A swim through **Tomolol's** mysterious dome-topped cave is undoubtedly one of Raja Ampat's most memorable activities. After an early breakfast, our tenders will take us into the heart of the bay to see this partially submerged cave where it is possible to swim, snorkel or simply float while gazing up at the cavernous grotto adorned with astonishing stalactites. The more adventurous can swim or paddle through the dark waters to the other mouth of the cave. We will then move on to the mysterious jellyfish lake and swim amongst the many thousands of stingless animals. After returning to the ship, we will use our tenders to explore more of this impressive maze of karst islands, both above and below the surface, complete with mysterious skull cairns in sea-cave cemeteries, and prehistoric cave paintings, estimated to be anything between 3,000 to 5,000 years old and depicting various human figures and huge human palms, fish, flowers and plants, tools and vessels. Overnight, our boat will cruise north to the **island of Batanta**. **Meals Included : Breakfast (B), Lunch (L) & Dinner (D)**

ADVENTURE ARCHIPELAGO

DAY 4 : RAJA AMPAT ARCHIPELAGO (BATANTA ISLAND)

After our days of marine exploration, the jungle-clad island of Batanta offers us a change of scenery and a chance to stretch our legs on an adventurous trek into the island's interior. We anchor at the foot of **Arefi Village**, nestled on the north coast of the island, where we will find local guides to escort us through the mangrove waters to the start point of our trek. A short walk along the riverbed brings us to the first of two jungle waterfalls complete with a refreshing pool for cooling off. The fit and adventurous may choose to continue the uphill climb along the rocks to where a second, larger cascade awaits. After leaving the wilderness behind us, we will find a nearby spot to swim and snorkel before moving north to the island of **Waigeo**. **Meals Included : Breakfast (B), Lunch (L) & Dinner (D)**

DAY 5 : RAJA AMPAT ARCHIPELAGO (WAIGEO ISLAND)

We will wake up in the south of **Mayalibit Bay** – the huge and wild bay at the heart of **Waigeo**, Raja Ampat's biggest island. The bay, which almost splits the island in two, is entered via a narrow fjord-like channel that meets the ocean just east of Waisai on Waigeo's south coast. When the tide is running, the huge volumes of water flowing into or out of Mayalibit make the channel look like a swift and powerful river. After breakfast, we will take the dinghies to **Lopintol Village** where we will find one of the villagers to guide us on a morning spelunking expedition. We hope to visit two very dramatic and contrasting caves that highlight the fascinating underground formations of the karst landscape. After lunch, we will freshen up with a well-earned swim and snorkel before heading to **Sapokren Village** on the southwest tip of Waigeo Island to meet with a local NGO leader to discuss illegal logging, community development and (hopefully) details of a new FFI (Flora & Fauna International) project in these areas. **Meals Included : Breakfast (B), Lunch (L) & Dinner (D)**

DAY 6 : RAJA AMPAT ARCHIPELAGO

After waking up, before sunrise, we will follow in the footsteps of the famous naturalist Alfred Russel Wallace in a pre-dawn quest to spot the remarkable Red Bird of Paradise, one of the species that Wallace was most anxious to collect. We hope that the efforts of our trek through the forest will pay off, enabling us to catch a rare and privileged sight of the bird's elaborate courtship dance as the day breaks over the forest canopy. Whether we spot the birds or not, for sure we will experience a wonderful trek. Afterwards, we will turn our attention from the sky to the sea as the Ombak Putih makes its way through the **Dampier strait**, home to some of Raja Ampat's premier reefs. With a bit of luck, we hope to snorkel among some of the larger specimens of marine life attracted to the strait's nutrient-rich currents. We will end our day by mooring off **Pulau Arborek** in

ADVENTURE ARCHIPELAGO

front Arborek Village. Here, we can easily circumnavigate the tiny island by foot and gain a sense of the Asai culture, which is still kept alive by the villagers living in this isolated place. **Meals Included : Breakfast (B), Lunch (L) & Dinner (D)**

DAY 7 : RAJA AMPAT ARCHIPELAGO (WAIGEO ISLAND)

Another full day of adventure awaits us along the convoluted western coast of **Waigeo**. We will begin the morning by exploring **Wofoh**, three island gems linked together by stretches of pristine coral reef. You can use the tenders or kayaks to navigate the islands, or put your newly-acquired fish identification skills to use in exploring this vibrant reef. Or you may prefer to simply just relax on the beach. In the afternoon we will move northwards to **Aljui Bay**, home to the Cendanda Pearl Farm, one of the larger producers of high quality seawater pearls in the region. Pearling is an important industry throughout Indonesia and a number of farms can be seen in the waters of Raja Ampat, where the farmers may grant us permission to visit their facilities and receive an explanation of the pearling processes that we have seen during our voyage. In the evening we will make our way across the equator to the northern hemisphere on our journey to the islands of Wayag. **Meals Included : Breakfast (B), Lunch (L) & Dinner (D)**

DAY 8 : RAJA AMPAT ARCHIPELAGO (WAYAG ISLAND)

Few areas in Indonesia can lay claim to such unsurpassed natural splendour as Raja Ampat's **Wayag islands**. The beauty of these picturesque karst spires is perhaps only equalled by the brilliant colours and vibrancy of the reefs and the marine life that flourishes below. Nature has carved these islands into a series of coves and lagoons, narrow channels and inlets, caves, jagged rocks and shaded, sandy beaches. For those who dare, there are some spectacular but nearly vertical climbs that are rewarded with magnificent panoramas. We will spend a quiet night here at anchor. **Meals Included : Breakfast (B), Lunch (L) & Dinner (D)**

DAY 9 : RAJA AMPAT ARCHIPELAGO (WAYAG ISLAND)

The Wayag islands are Raja Ampat's best, and we will make the most of this unique region for one more morning, navigating the maze of mushroom-shaped islands, and stopping for swimming and snorkelling. In the afternoon, we will set our compasses to return to the southern hemisphere on our way back to mainland West Papua. In the evening we will have our farewell dinner with our captain and crew. **Meals Included : Breakfast (B), Lunch (L) & Dinner (D)**

ADVENTURE ARCHIPELAGO

DAY 10 : SORONG - END OF TOUR

After a quick stop for a last swim and refreshments on one of the nearby islands, we will make our way back to the harbour of **Sorong**. Here we will bid farewell to the ship and her crew. Our tenders will take you ashore for your transfer to the airport for your onward travel. **Meals Included : Breakfast (B)**

TERMS & CONDITIONS

TOUR INCLUDE

- Nine (9) night accommodation in luxury phinisi Ombak Putih or Katharina - based on twin bed sharing (*notes : For the single traveller who wants to secure their own cabin we do charge a 75% supplement. If you are a single traveller and don't mind sharing a twin cabin with another person of the same gender, then this fee will not apply*).
- Meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner, tea time, snacks, & soft drinks) as mentioned in the itinerary, excepting alcoholic drinks.
- Private tours, transfers and all services as mentioned in the itinerary.
- Entrance fees for all mentioned sights visited.
- Professional english speaking guides.

TOUR EXCLUDE

- Domestic & international airfares to and from our start and end points + departure taxes if applicable (*notes : The price of this cruise does not include any domestic airfares to and from our start and end points, however, our reservations specialists are more than happy to help arrange domestic flights on your behalf and advise on scheduling. We book hundreds of flights each year on behalf of our guests and we know the best routes to take to ensure you arrive on time. We only book with IATA-approved airlines that have met with international standards of safety and dependability. Except for Bali, transfers to and from local airports to the boat are also included. **If you are booking flights by yourself, do not book any flights before checking with us first.** Our first and last day programmes rely on strict time scheduling, so please confirm with us to ensure that you arrive and depart at your destination with plenty of time to spare and to avoid disruption to other guests' schedules*).
- Additional tour or activity if available (optional).
- Personal expenses (mini bar, laundry, room services, additional food & drink at hotel/restaurant).

ADVENTURE ARCHIPELAGO

- Personal travel insurance & visa fees.
- Tipping to captain & crew (**notes** : on your final night on board, you will have an opportunity to discretely contribute to a collective 'captain and crew' tip fund, which will be distributed equally among the crew members. We believe that between US\$ 5-10 per cruising day is an appropriate amount (i.e. seven-day cruise = \$35 to \$70 total, not per crew member). However, this is just a suggestion and remains entirely up to the judgment and discretion of the guests. We do ask that you please refrain from offering tips to crew members at any time, except during cases of exceptional service, when it should be arranged through the office. Tipping of your tour leader for their hard work is also welcome, and is at your discretion. There will be an envelope provided for both crew and tour leaders in the cruise bag in your cabin)

WHAT TO BRING

- **Clothing** - The tropical climate means you can safely leave all of your warm weather gear at home. Bring cool cottons, T-shirts and shorts. We cruise during the dry season in each of the regions that we visit but rain is always a possibility so bring a lightweight waterproof jacket; it can sometimes be a bit windy on the boat and this will also help keep you warm. Likewise, a lightweight fleece could be useful for pre-dawn trekking or if there is a cool wind on the boat – even if you don't need it onboard, it will be useful for the plane. Adventure Archipelago is respectful of the local cultures and customs; bring clothes that cover your shoulders and knees for village visits. Finally, you might want to bring at least one smart-casual outfit for sunset cocktails and evening meals on the boat. Ladies: beach throw-overs, kaftans and sarongs are always useful; choose fabrics that dry easily. Also, bring a lightweight sundress or two – the boat offers a great setting for a photo shoot, live it up!
- **Bags** - A day backpack is essential on day hikes to carry things such as your water bottle, camera, binoculars, and rain jacket. Ombak Putih or Katharina provides each guest with a metal water bottle, which can re-filled as often as required, and makes a nice souvenir to take home. A waterproof wet/dry bag is a good idea for your phone, camera etc.
- **Footwear** - Pack comfortable trainers, trekking sandals, sturdy walking shoes or hiking boots for hikes and walks. Bring socks to wear inside your walking shoes to avoid getting blisters. Many travellers appreciate the added stability of a walking stick or hiking pole; lightweight telescopic poles are easy to pack. You might also want waterproof sandals or reef shoes for wet landings and water activities. Flip-flops are great for the beach. Note: Standard practice is to go barefoot on the boat.
- **Sun Protection** - You'll be spending plenty of time out in the scorching tropical sun, so be sure to pack sunscreen with a high enough SPF to protect your skin from the sun's damaging rays, which are stronger in the water, and some sun-protective clothing as well. Cover-ups, sarongs,

ADVENTURE ARCHIPELAGO

sun shirts, and other such clothing will ensure that you come back from your trip with just happy memories and photographs – and not sunburn. A good hat is essential; a wide brimmed hat or cap will keep the strong equatorial sun off your face and neck. Sunglasses keep your eyes protected and add a little glam to your photos. A strap to hold your glasses can be a good idea on more active adventures. Just in case you fail to avoid getting sunburnt, bring an aloe-based lotion to soothe burned skin.

- **Swimwear** - Don't forget your swimsuit/bikini/shorts/trunks/Speedos —and preferably more than just one swimsuit, so that one or two can be drying while you are wearing another. Luckily, swimsuits and/or swim trunks don't take up too much space in your luggage. The water is warm but a rash guard (or a wetsuit) will protect you from the sun, abrasions and stings.
- **Skin & Hair Protection** - Ladies, it's important that you take good care of your skin and hair. The sun, seawater and salty air may be beautiful to experience but it can be tough on your body and will wreak havoc on your locks. Bring moisturising lotion to soothe skin parched by the sun and the saltwater; bring a leave-in conditioner to de-tangle your hair with ease because the water, mask, and hair-ties will leave it in knots. Also consider bringing a scarf or headband to hold back unruly hair, or hair-ties/pins to keep your hair off your face and therefore prevent water seeping into your mask. Note: Your cabin is outfitted with towels, shampoo, conditioner and bodywash.
- **Camera Equipment** - If you are photo enthusiast bring all of the camera and video equipment that you will use as you can expect exceptional opportunities for photography. If you prefer the ease of a point & shoot, bring that. If you want to take underwater photos you might want to invest in a waterproof camera/GoPro or waterproof housing to capture photos of the incredible marine life. It's a good idea to bring a spare memory card; our cruises explore remote regions where memory cards cannot be purchased.

For further information, you can contact us at (+62)21-27650758 or +62813-88274422 (Indonesia) or video call via skype at (+1) 323-7395639 (United States).