



RAJA AMPAT & PALAU

Destination Guide Onboard TV

RAJA AMPAT





MAP OF RAJA AMPAT



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If you've ever watched the old Jacques Cousteau films and wondered if the underwater world could ever again be as pure, vibrant, and unspoilt, then Raja Ampat is the place of which you've dreamt. A marine environment unlike any other – quite literally, as it's home to the planet's greatest concentration of marine biodiversity – this far-flung region of northeast Indonesia boasts possibly the best diving you will ever experience.

Explore the waters between the four main islands of Salawati, Batanta, Waigeo, and Misool, encountering nearly thousands of species of fish and hundreds species of coral and mollusks. Swim with parrotfish, scorpion fish, nudibranchs, pygmy seahorses, giant sea turtles, migrating whales, dolphin-like dugongs, and giant manta rays. Don't piss off any of the barracudas, reef sharks, stingrays, octopuses, or other strange varieties of sharks that will certainly be checking you out. Ogle at the variety of healthy, vibrant coral – indeed, the majority of the earth's reefbuilding coral can be found here.

Above the surface, kayak into hidden coves, climb up strange rock formations, hike into dense jungle, seek out hard-to-reach caves, and keep your eyes open for ancient petroglyphs just casually waiting to be discovered. Whether or not you stay at one of the nine over-water cottages, get dive spot tips and meet the local conservationist community at Misool Eco Resort.



MANSUAR

Famed for its Manta Rays, this stop will become the highlight of your trip. Either rest on the glistening, white sandy shores to witness these majestic creatures or partake in their play by diving into the brilliant ocean before you. These mantas will be some of the biggest you will ever see, so be sure not to miss it! After your adventurous day, relax to allow the sky regale you of its romantic tale with deep blues and purples combining with bright yellow.

WAIGEO (AND ALYUI BAY)

The main island of the Raja Ampat group, Waigeo is home to the region's capital of Waisai and has the most attractions out of all the islands. From scaling small rock islands, to exploring scenic bays walled in by towering cliffs, hiking through the jungly interior, or, of course, incredible diving, this area will not provide a single dull moment. Discover lovely waterfalls an hour east of the capital or venture over to the villages near mystical Mayalibit Bay. A remote destination on the island of Waigeo, Alyui Bay offers secure and sheltered waters, making it a perfect location for the maturation of oysters. The bay is pollution-free and nutrient-rich, which is ideal for the growth of pearls as well as your own enjoyment.



GAM

Separated from Waigeo by only a very narrow passage, this sister island is not playing second fiddle to its larger counterpart. The passage to the island of Gam is an attraction as well as a gateway. Embellished with precious, little islets, this area brings the small creatures of the sea front and center. Go explore the maze created by numerous small rock islands in Hidden Bay. Get lost in the landscape as well as the landscape.





KRI

If you are looking to be off the grid, the island of Kri will be your escape. You will not be bothered, nor be found on this small oasis. Bask in the sun on your own piece of perfection or swim with the largest concentration of big fish this area has to offer.

YANGGEFO BAY

Another unmapped island, you will feel like the first to discover the island of Yanggefo, just on chance alone. As you reach closer and closer to land, you will gaze upon the large amount of mangrove trees, whose roots have entwined themselves within the life underwater and become a spectacle for your eyes, as well as a home for fish below you. Yanggefo keeps its beautiful islands a secret, but once you have found them, you will want to keep them

PENEMU

These Limestone Islands covered in Tropical Rainforest seem to put you back into a world beyond our time. You will encounter beautiful walls crawling with marine life and coral covered slopes in a medium current. For experienced divers, this is a great spot to take a night dive, where you can see a variety of clam species, sea urchins, cephalopods, sea spiders, and crabs.

WAYAG

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KABUI PASSAGE

The Kabui passage is a very special dive and full of surprises... Strong currents wash through the shallow channel and the greenish water easily seems a bit spooky. Mangroves and rainforest cover its shoreline and inhabit anchor fishes and colorful soft corals in the shallow waters but also lots of weird looking critters and juvenile fishes. From time to time you also see turtles and small schools of great barakudas cruising by. Also abnormous sized sponges and all different kinds of sea fans, sea pens, hydroids, sea squirts and shrimps make this area to a very unique habitat.

DARAM / EFPIAN

From the surface the islets of black rock seem almost lost - the only habitats above the water level are pelagic birds, snails, and chitons, but the clear blue water around them is full of marine life. Colorful soft corals and black corals cover the rocks and in the numerous sea fans you find pegmy seahorses and spider crabs. Thousands of little reef fishes add one more dimension to this amazing under water landscape. Often big schools of batfish, bannerfish or red tooth trigger fish are cruising by.



FARONDI / WAGMAB

Pretty bays and cast limestone islands build the coastline of this region. There are also some interesting caves above and below the water level. Scenic forested islands hills rise steeply up from the coast. Heavy currents make some of the dive sites in between Farondi and Wagmab challenging, but if the visibility is good it is one of the most various and stunning dives you can do. Caves, sandy slopes covered in black coral bushes, gorgonian fans, sea whips etc. Also big schools of barakudas and bumphead parrotfishes are seen on the sites.



