

PARADISE DANCER

RAJA AMPAT ITINERARY



The area known as Raja Ampat (or the Four Kings) is an archipelago consisting of the islands of Misool, Salawati, Batanta, and Wiageo which are surrounded by over 1,500 small islands and cays. Formerly known as Irian Jaya, this area is now part of the newly named West Papua province of Indonesia and is located on the northwest tip of Bird's Head Peninsula, on the island of New Guinea.

This is the 5th Dancer Fleet® destination located in the Coral Triangle which is the world's most biodiverse marine region with more recorded fish, coral and mollusk species than anywhere else on Earth.

According to the Conservation International Rapid Assessment Bulletin the marine life diversity for scuba diving in Irian Jaya is considerably greater than all other areas sampled in the Coral Triangle. The Raja Ampat area is considered home to more than 1,000 fish species, 101 of which were previously unknown in Raja Ampat and four that are new to all of Indonesia. A world record 284 sightings on one single dive was set at Kofiau Island. A benchmark figure for an excellent dive site is 200 fish species sightings; this was surpassed on 51% of Raja Ampat dives! There were 537 coral species and 699 mollusk species - again another world high.

The variety of marine life can be amazing. Some areas boast enormous schools of fish and regular sightings of sharks, such as wobbegongs. In Mansuar, you may encounter large groups of manta rays and turtles. From the yacht and often close to shore you may get the chance to don your snorkeling gear for some unforgettable interaction with resident pods of dolphins or even some passing whales.

The reefs of Raja Ampat are just as varied as the marine life. There are vertical walls, reef flats, slopes, sea mounts, lagoons and pinnacles. Many of the reefs are in pristine condition with miles of perfect hard corals and many varied colorful species of soft corals.

Currents in the area provide nutrients for the myriad fish and coral. While we plan our dives in such manner to avoid currents as much as possible, environmental conditions can be "unruly" and divers should have the physical stamina to manage a dive with a current. There may also be an occasional drift dive as part of your itinerary.

Visibility is normally very good but can vary and is normally at its best earlier in the day so your pre-breakfast dives are not to be slept through!

The pristine beauty of the area, both above and below the water is truly unrivalled. This success of area's staggering abundance of marine life can also be attributed to the areas incredibly low human population density. Its remote location and lack of infrastructure have inhibited the growth of tourism.

This is truly "Frontier Diving". Topside the beautiful islands stretch as far as you can see and are largely uninhabited. At night the lights of local fishing boats twinkle in the dark along the few inhabited shorelines while in more remote areas you may only see a distant spec of light over the entire horizon.

Raja Ampat is an unruly dive frontier with "casino diving". By that we mean that the weather and dive conditions are very hard to predict, and as such there is no fixed itinerary. One departure may enjoy a cruise with perfect conditions while the next departure may operate a completely different itinerary as it is influenced by weather. No matter which conditions are encountered on your cruise, your Captain and his crew will seek out the best available diving during your time on board.

This is a remote and isolated location. An explorer / adventurer mentality that embodies the virtues of understanding and flexibility is required for the trip. Raja Ampat is not a developed destination with lots of infrastructure and consistent conditions. Divers who seek typical reefs scenery can be disappointed due to unpredictable diving conditions that prevent them from shooting the stereo typical wide angle "pretty reef" photos. The diving in Raja Ampat is indeed a feast for those interested in marine life and enjoy the search. Most of the newly discovered species being found here are not yet mentioned in any book!

Not many liveaboard's dive the Raja Ampat area, making this adventure even more unique and special. The newly constructed Paradise Dancer is the perfect platform that delivers modern comforts and outstanding service to adventurers exploring this remote outpost of civilization.

Raja Ampat Packages Include:

- 11 nights on board the Paradise Dancer,
- All meals and beverages (including alcohol).
- Transfers between airport and yacht.
- 9 and 1/2 days of diving with up to four dives per day.
- Other standard Dancer Fleet services and amenities.

Dive Easy Travel®, Peter Hughes Diving's travel specialist will be happy to assist you with hotel or flight arrangements. Be sure to contact Dive Easy Travel® at 800-9-DANCER or 305-669-9391 for the most competitive rates.

Sample Raja Ampat Itinerary

12 Days / 11 Nights / 9 1/2 days of diving.

Please see our **“Getting There”** section on the next page for flight schedules and Gateway options for connecting your international flights to domestic flights.

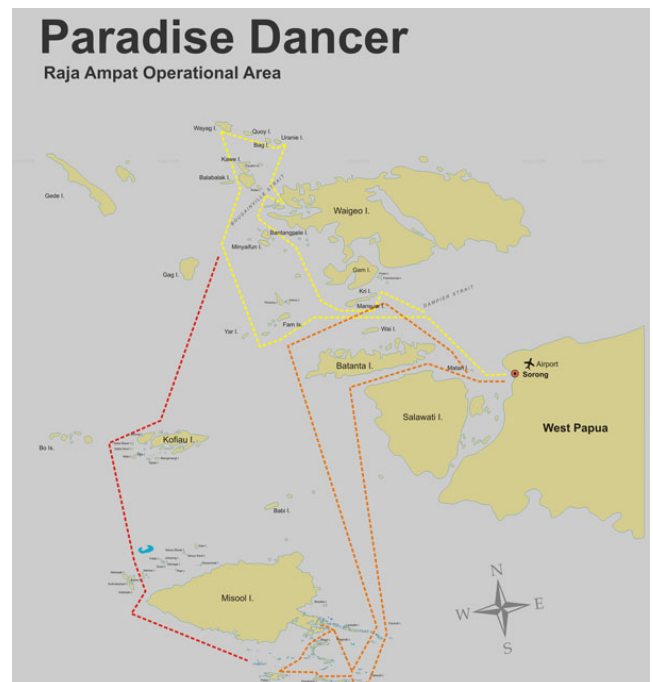
The following itinerary is for example purposes only. Your actual itinerary may vary due to weather or other environmental conditions and at the Captain’s discretion in order to seek out the best available diving during your cruise.

Day	Daily Events
Embark -2 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bali Gateway: Arrive Bali, and overnight in local hotel.
Embark -1 day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bali Gateway: Fly from Bali to Ujung Padang. Overnight in local hotel at Ujung Padang Manado Gateway: Arrive Manado on North Sulawesi and overnight at local hotel. Jakarta Gateway: Arrive in Jakarta and overnight at local hotel.
Day 1 (Embarkation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bali Gateway: Fly from Ujung Padang to Sorong. Manado Gateway: Fly from Manado to Sorong. Jakarta Gateway: Fly from Jakarta to Sorong. Transfer from airport to Paradise Dancer. Embark Paradise Dancer. <p>You’ll be picked up at the airport of Sorong and taken to the yacht by private transfer. Once all guests are onboard, we will leave the harbor and head for the breathtaking region of Misool.</p>
Day 2 – 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3-4 Dives per day in the Raja Ampat area.
Day 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will finish our diving this morning. Then we’ll head back to Sorong for departure while we enjoy our final night celebration onboard with a special traditional song and dance presentation.
Day 12 (Dis-Embark)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sorong Disembarkation in Sorong. You’ll be taken to the airport by our private transfer. All domestic flights back to your Indonesia Gateway city complete their journey on this day. Overnight in Indonesia gateway city.
Post Disembarkation Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board International flights for home or begin your land extension to visit other magical Indonesian destinations.

Raja Ampat Operational Areas

The Raja Ampat area is geographically very large. The exact route and itinerary that the Paradise Dancer follows through Raja Ampat is greatly dependent upon the weather and marine conditions which determine where we can find protected areas to anchor and the currents and wave sizes that impact long crossings between islands. In addition we also take into consideration the moon phases which impact tidal surge and current strength to determine the viability of dive sites. Using their lifetime of maritime experience, your Paradise Dancer team will then construct an itinerary for your particular departure that will deliver the best diving when incorporating all of the factors above.

The list below is the areas that are may be considered during your cruise. The exact itinerary and places visited cannot be determined in advance and will even be modified throughout the voyage as new information is obtained. However rest assured – your Paradise Dancer crew will deliver you the best possible cruise while keeping your safety and comfort in mind.



SE Misool

The Wagnab & Farondi Passage 4 sites

Located to the east of the main island of Misool, the Wagnab/Farondi area is along one of the mini limestone rock ridges that spread out into the sea here. There are many passages between the main bodies of water and the Wagnab/Farondi passage is possibly the most popular with divers. Gushing currents flow through the gap, which is around 300 meters at its narrowest, causing a wild variety of dive conditions. There are many channels here that support fish schools as well as good area for hunting macro species. Topography is similar to most of the area with karst limestone rocks rising from the water. Underwater there are caves too. For check dives, out of the currents, rocky inlets provide safe areas to start off a cruise.

The Pele Group 3 sites

The Pele area is another collection of karst limestone islands and islets to the south of Misool. The main island of Pele would warrant some further exploration, there are rumored to be blue holes here somewhere.

Karawapop & Wayilbatan 6 sites

The dive sites here are clustered around the western end of the island of Wayilbatan. Comprising of multiple seamounts and karst island ridges they feature great coral growth and both pelagic and reef dwelling marine creatures. Probably the most popular dive here though is the Gorgonian Passage, sometimes called Fanfare, which is the channel between Waliilbatan and Karawapop. There is a good anchorage area to the east of Wayil island

The Fiabacet Group 4 sites

Another stop along the more southerly line of islands spreading out from south east Misool is the Fiabacet Group. Located in the area between the islands of Kalig and Boo and on the same latitude there are a number of rocky islets rising up out of the water from the seabed. With open sea down to the island of Ceram, 80 nm to the south, and a large body of water to the north they are subject to tidal currents and appear to be interlinked by long ridges. There is great diving here, probably some of the best in the area and large animals are not uncommon amongst the teeming reef fish and colorful corals. The Misool Eco Resort has been built here too, on the island of Batbitiem to the south of the group.

Boo/Yilliet/Warakaraket 5 sites

The eastern end for the small archipelago that includes Wayilbatan and Fiabacet. The area features several very good slope and wall dives and some seamounts, some explored

some not. The signature dive of the group is Boo Windows which is blessed with some very interesting underwater architecture. Blue flags indicate a site not yet dived.

Penemu/Keruo Group 4 sites

Area Overview To come

Wayag/Quoy Group 1 site 11 to explore

Area Overview To Come

Kawe Group 3 sites 3 to explore

Area Overview To Come

Aljui - Western Waigeo 4 sites

Aljui is located on the western edge of the large island of Waigeo. The area is made up of a collection of large tree covered islands separated by calm inland waterways that stretch back for miles into the interior, making for some spectacular speedboat rides. The area is tidal with expansive mangrove areas punctuated by towering limestone cliffs. These waterways are home to some fascinating wildlife both on land and under the water. Great muck dives and good critter hunting areas are easy to find here with sighting of Wobbecong and Epaulette sharks common. The inland mangroves and waterways are home to an impressive array of rare birds. The Australian owned Cendana Pearl Farm provides the area with some industry and their plantations (if you can call them that) spread out into the various bays here. Kevin Smith, Cendana's dive operations manager, conducts interesting and informative tours of the farm for interested guests.

Wofoh & Tamagui 3 sites 3 to explore

Area Overview To Come

Yanggelo 3 sites

Area Overview To Come

Arborek 3 sites

Area Overview To Come

Kofiau 2 sites 5 to explore

Area Overview To Come

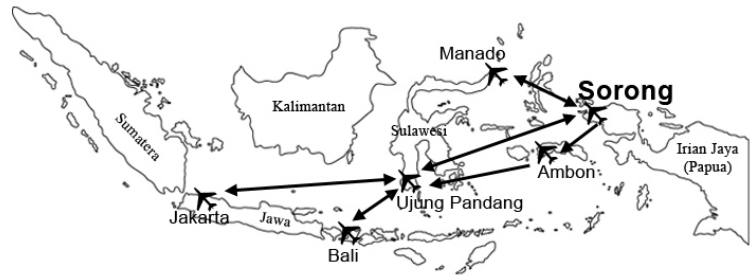
Kri Area 2 sites 1 to explore

This area is around 40 nautical miles north west of Sorong and therefore a very good area to start cruises. It has some great dive sites and is also close enough to port to enable and last minute problems to be solved easily.

Sites Discovered & Documented Sites To Explore

Getting To Raja Ampat

Getting to Raja Ampat is a two step process. Step 1: Arrange your international air transportation to one of three Indonesian Gateway cities—Manado, Bali, or Jakarta. Step 2: Purchase a domestic air ticket from your Indonesian Gateway city to Jefman Airport in Sorong (city code SOQ) on Papua Island (formerly known as Irian Jaya). This is the starting point for your Paradise Dancer Raja Ampat voyage.



Since the majority of the Indonesian domestic air carriers do not participate in global ticket distribution, Peter Hughes Diving has made arrangements with our local partners in Indonesia to provide a purchasing service for the domestic tickets on our guests' behalf. In order to purchase tickets, guests will need to provide PHD with the **guests name** as it appears on their passport, **nationality on passport**, and the **international flight details** for the guests arrival and return home.

Bali Gateway – Preferred Routing: This routing is ideal for guests who want to experience the magical hospitality of Bali before embarking to the remote area of Raja Ampat. Using this routing, guests would fly to Denpasar Airport in Bali (DPS) using their favorite international carrier. This journey to Raja Ampat requires two legs. First is a 75 minute flight on from Bali (DPS) to Ujung Pandang (UPG), a city on the island of South Sulawesi. An overnight hotel stay will be required in Ujung Padang. The two hour and ten minute flight to Sorong (SOQ) is operated daily with early morning departures. On the return guests can route through either Ujung Pandang or Ambon (AMQ) to return to Bali. The return to Bali can be accomplished in a single day. This routing offers the most reliable flight schedule available to Sorong.

Manado Gateway: Using this routing, guests would fly into Singapore (SIN) (typically on Singapore Airlines) then connect with Singapore Airlines Regional partner—Silk Air, for a flight into Manado (MDC) on North Sulawesi in Indonesia. An overnight stay may then be required in Manado at this point, depending on flight schedules. From there, connections can be made using either Lion Air or Merpati Airline for the flight into Sorong (SOQ). Flight times range between one hour fifteen minutes to two hours ten minutes depending on the carrier. Between the two carriers, there are flights every day, except Sunday. The return flights work just the opposite. Again, an overnight stay may be required in either Manado or Singapore to sync up the international segments.

Jakarta Gateway: A third alternative for guests is to use Soekarno Hatta International Airport in Jakarta (JKT), Indonesia as their gateway. The journey to Sorong (SOQ) can then be completed in a single day with flights on either Xpress Air or Merpati Airline that connect in Ujung Padang (UPG) on South Sulawesi Island. The return trip from Sorong to Jakarta can also be completed in a single day.

Domestic Air Carrier Notes:

1—Prices and schedules are correct at the time of printing. Domestic air rates are subject to change without notice until the time the airline ticket is purchased. You can download the current time and rate table of domestic flights to Sorong on our website.

<http://www.peterhughes.com/downloads>

2—We recommend two hotel nights be built into your travels. One upon arrival between the international and domestic legs, and one on your journey home between the domestic and international legs. Should a flight delay/cancellation, baggage delay, or schedule change be encountered in either direction, your domestic and international airline tickets are not “linked”, and as such, no compensation or assistance would be offered by the airline. The only financial protection available would be Trip Interruption and Cancellation insurance.

3— Domestic airlines have different baggage weight restrictions than international carriers. Many times these flights are on smaller turboprop aircraft and not jets which do not have as much space and cannot take as much weight. Therefore they have more restrictive luggage requirements. A rule of thumb is that passengers are allowed 44lbs (20kg). Above that—expect excess baggage charges. All guests are advised to please pack carefully and light. Just because excess luggage charges are paid—it does not necessarily mean that your luggage and you will travel on the same flight or arrive on the same day.

4—PHD and its local agents will schedule domestic flights and purchase a tickets on behalf of guests as a service, however, in doing so, PHD / Paradise Dancer is only acting as an agent for the airline and is not responsible for, and can accept no responsibility for, cancellations, delays, schedule changes, or problems caused by the air carrier.