

Raja Ampat - Indonesia

Itinerary

The following is a sample itinerary of dive sites we may visit during your liveboard cruise with the Siren Fleet in Indonesia. We wish to show you the very best diving possible but a number of factors can determine where we visit. Weather, tides, currents and how busy a site is with other dive vessels all play a part in the Cruise Director's decision of which route the yacht takes. This itinerary involves some long distance travel. Whilst we attempt to ensure the number of dives we have scheduled is fulfilled, bad weather can hinder the yacht's ability to reach a specified dive site in good time. The safety of all on board is paramount and we always do our best in offering diving at alternate locations should we be unable to visit those sites listed below.

Your Cruise Director will schedule up to 4 dives per day; 3 day dives and either a sunset or a night dive. The diving day has a typical schedule as follows:

- Light breakfast followed by a briefing & dive 1
- Full breakfast, relaxation followed by briefing & dive 2
- Lunch, relaxation followed by briefing & dive 3
- Snack
- Briefing for sunset or night dive
- Dinner

For your final day aboard we schedule a single morning dive to allow plenty of time for off-gassing before disembarkation and your flight home. The Cruise Director is happy to listen to requests from guests to visit or remain at certain sites and providing it is possible and the schedule allows for it, then guests' requests are respected.

Dive sites we visit include but are not limited to:

Batanta Island

Batanta Island, one of the Four Kings, which we will visit during your liveboard cruise, offers something truly exceptional. Known for its muck diving, there is really nothing that cannot be seen here along the dark sand slopes. Mimic octopus, wonderpus, snake eels, dragonets, cuttlefish, flasher wrasse, solar-powered nudibranchs and ornate and robust ghost pipefish to name just a few. Dependent on the weather and tidal conditions we will choose from sites including: **Algae Patch I and Algae Patch II and Happy Ending!**

Misool Islands

There are numerous small islands surrounding the second of the Four Kings, Misool, including Daram, Farondi, Boo, Wayilbatan, Kalig and Warakaraket to name just a few.

Each offers some of the most dramatic underwater scenery of the region, from steep walls with huge gorgonian fans to gentler slopes with hard and soft corals.

Candy Store – Situated at Daram Islands, is where we see colorful soft corals and yellow sponges, sea whips and black coral which hide creatures, such as ghost pipefish and coral shrimps. Schools of batfish, snapper and bump head parrot fish can all be seen as well as barramundi and Napoleon wrasse.

Andiamo – Thick schools of sardines and fusiliers cruise over the colourful soft corals, where we can find wobbegong and epaulette sharks hiding. Yellowtail and chevron barracuda form schools along the reef whilst reef octopus and numerous nudibranchs can be found.

Boo Windows - Comprised of two rocks that stick up from the eastern edge of the island of Boo with a saddle formed between them. Prone to currents, diving can be quite exciting as it attracts trevally and schools of dog tooth tuna. Back near to the surface the tides and water have eroded some holes in the rocks, creating swim-throughs that make for great photography opportunities. Pickhandle barracuda, snapper, grouper, napoleon wrasse, turtles, batfish and rabbit fish are often seen in the waters surrounding the islands.

Gorgonian Passage - Situated in the channel that runs between Wayilbatan and Wayil islands, has huge sea fans in which a variety of pygmy seahorses can be found including Bargibanti and Denise. We also see many types of sweetlips here and some smaller creatures such as peacock mantis shrimp and juvenile convict fish.

Whale Rock – in the Fiabacet chain is where we hunt for interesting critters including tiger cowries, fire gobies, hawkfish and mushroom coral shrimp.

Barracuda Rock – One of our favourite night diving spots at Wayilbatan. All manner of crustaceans can be found from decorator crabs and arrow crabs to Durban dancing shrimp and pink squat lobster, octopus, yellow margined morays and pygmy seahorses can all be seen here.

Kalig Potato Point – Another superb night diving location, this site is where we find a wide variety of nudibranch species including nembrotha, chromodoris, hypselodoris, tambja and joruna.

Nudi Rock – Marine life from big to small can all be seen at this stunning site. Black tip, white tips, grey reef sharks and dog tooth tuna can all be seen cruising by whilst hiding amongst the corals are cowries, nudibranchs, porcelain crabs and mushroom coral pipefish.

Dunia Kecil – This is a superb site to spot for pygmy seahorses and “lady bugs” more commonly seen in Komodo National Park. Hawksbill turtles, crocodile flathead, barramundi cod and juvenile cuttlefish are amongst the other marine creatures that can all be found here.

Gam & Yangeffo Islands

The islands surrounding Waigeo, the third main island of the Four Kings, provide a range of dive sites for us to choose from including:

Melissa's Garden - A shallow flat reef with beautiful staghorn corals. trevally, black tip reef sharks and wobbegong sharks along with orangutan crabs and spiny lobsters are amongst the common sightings.

Mayhem - This is a superb site for some larger fish sightings and there are so many varieties here including barracuda, mackerel, trevally, tuna, Napoleon wrasse and bump head parrotfish, as well as eagle rays and wobbegong sharks.

Citrus Ridge - A stunning reef named after the carpet-like orange, pink, yellow and green soft corals that cover the entire area. Gorgonian fans shelter pygmy seahorses, jaw fish bob out of their ground holes, wobbegong sharks rest lazily amongst table corals and harlequin sweetlips can be found tucked into the many bommies that are dotted over the reef.

Mansuar Island & the Dampier Strait

Fast drift dives and big fish schools characterize the sites surrounding Mansuar and the Dampier Strait. Numerous dive sites are clustered together providing a variety of "Big Fish" dives with currents and more relaxed dives where smaller creatures can be found and photographed. Your dive team will check currents and choose sites based on the optimum conditions each day.

Manta Sandy - The 2 large bommies situated in the middle of a sandy bottom at just 18m (60ft) attract many manta rays for cleaning, with a variety of shades, even all-black mantas, distinctive to Raja Ampat have been seen here. Divers rest on the bottom and watch the show. The reef itself has many smaller creatures with dragonets and various pipefishes. Therefore, in case the mantas are not performing their show, there is still plenty to look at and discover.

Cape Kri - One of the most well-known sites in the Dampier Strait, the variety of reef fish is astounding. Scribbled filefish, harlequin sweetlips, bump head parrotfish, pinnate batfish, hawk fish and Napoleon wrasse are all commonly seen. Whilst black tip reef sharks, turtles and pipefish are all regular suspects as well.

Blue Magic - A long finger-shaped reef sloping down at the points with hard and soft corals, sea fans and black coral bushes, where schools of jacks and barracuda hover about. Manta rays and wobbegong sharks make for an exciting dive, whilst, for the keen eyed, pontohi pygmy seahorses can be spotted.

Sardine Reef - Swarms of fusiliers, snappers and sweetlips, schools of bumphead parrot fish and banner fish, barracuda and trevally all make this site a very fishy dive. Rock mover wrasse, dragonets and jaw fish are amongst the smaller fish species seen here whilst white tip and black tip reef sharks can also be spotted.

Mioskon – A superb dive spot where we can see pygmy seahorses, flatworms, nudibranchs, scorpion fish and the occasional hunting shark. We can also see trevally hunting fusiliers, black tip reef sharks and giant moray eels.

Mike's Point – As we approach the tiny island known as Mike's Point, eagles can be seen resting in the tree tops. Underwater, the site offers varied topography with one side full of overhangs and crevices whilst the other has "steps" dropping down to the deep with a field of whip corals adorning the slope. With the right current this site is superb and the island can be circumnavigated in one dive seeing sweetlips, batfish, jacks, Spanish mackerel, grey reef sharks and wobbegong sharks.

Friwinbonda – Lionfish can be seen hunting glassfish schools that hover around the black coral bushes, tiny pipefish and the transparent skeleton shrimp are amongst the other interesting critters at this great night dive spot.