

7 Day Itinerary

Central & North Raja Ampat Liveaboard

Day 1 - The Adventure Begins

Your day begins at Arborek island, where you will be met at around 9am and transferred by boat to the small town of Waisai, the capital of Raja Ampat. Here you will board the Ratu Laut, which will not only be your home for the next 7 days, but will be your ticket around Raja Ampat's many islands!

You will settle into your room as the boat cruises towards Mansuar, a well-loved destination known for its rich reefs and magnificent marine life. Your first dive will be taken at the Yenbuba Jetty, a charming dive site and an easy location in which to test your skills. Pygmy seahorses, turtles, and even manta rays can be spotted at Yenbuba, offering an excellent introduction to Raja Ampat's many impressive marine species. After your dive, you will climb back aboard the Ratu Laut and transfer to the bay between Mansuar and Kri Island, where you will spend the night.

Day 2 - Kri Island & Visiting Sauwandarek Village

Your morning begins with a transfer to the other side of Kri Island in order to dive at Chicken Reef. This is a stunning reef known for its beautiful corals, and it is also an excellent area for big marine life: grey reef sharks; both whitetip and blacktip sharks; wobbegongs; tunas and Spanish mackerel are all found at this site, as are large schools of fish. If the current is strong enough, you may have the chance to witness some of the bigger species in action as they hunt!

For your second dive of the day, your group will move towards the famous Cape Kri, a location popular with divers due to the eclectic and vibrant marine species found here. Schools of barracuda; jackfish; batfish; snappers; groupers; and a range of rays, sharks and turtles each populate the region, whilst the corals themselves are out of this world.

Your third dive will take place just off the jetty at Sauwandarek Village, situated to the west of Mansuar. This is a protected dive site which is home to pygmy seahorses, octopuses and wobbegongs, whilst nudibranchs and schools of jacks may be seen just below the jetty. Next, you will move to the west part of the Dampier Strait and back to Arborek Island in order to chat to members of the local community, and after enjoying a little time on dry land, you will take part in an amazing night dive at Arborek Jetty. Your evening will conclude with a presentation delivered by manta ray scientists aboard the Ratu Laut, which will prepare you for your next day's activities.



Day 3 - From Arborek Island to Melissa's Garden

For your first dive of the day, you will take a quick 15-minute boat ride from Arborek Island to Manta Sandy, one of the best-known manta ray dive sites in all of Raja Ampat. Whilst here, you may be lucky enough to spot a group of mantas cleaning themselves between corals! If the tide is right, your group may pass by Manta Ridge in order to witness the manta rays as they feed on the plankton carried along by the current.

Later, your group will head towards Melissa's Garden, a particularly well-loved dive site. Melissa's Garden is one of the most colourful and lively locations in all of Raja Ampat, with its soft and hard corals giving shelter to a vivid display of marine species. Divers in this region may be able to spot a number of tridacna clams, known for their size, unusual shape and psychedelic mantles, though a wealth of underwater biodiversity awaits you at every turn and will surely catch your eye! Blacktip sharks, wobbegongs, pygmy seahorses, and thousands of tiny reef fish are common sights around here, making this an excellent location in which to dive.

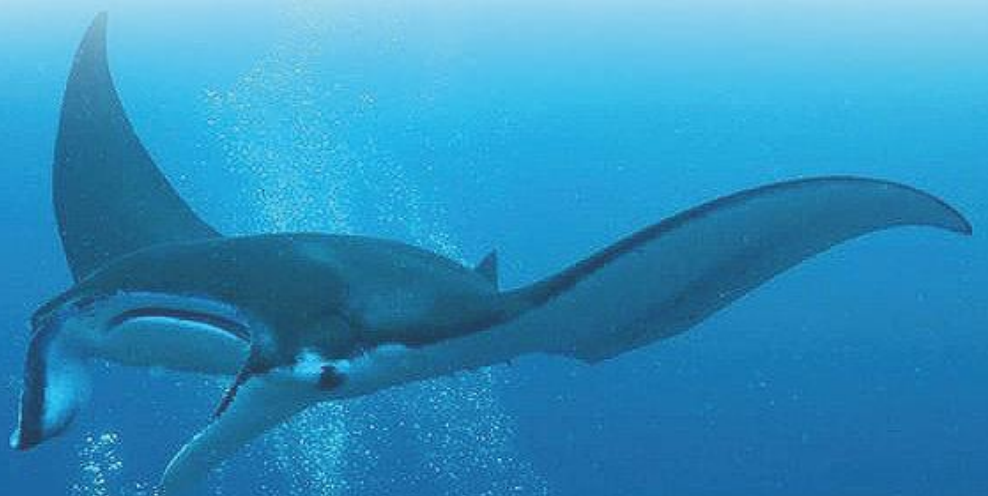
After some time spent at Melissa's Garden, you will move towards the Kerou Channel. Here, huge sea fans and wonderful soft corals play host to some of Raja Ampat's smallest marine creatures, though larger species do pass through on occasion. This will be your final dive of the day, as after that you will take a trek towards the Bintan Lagoon viewpoint in order to take some photos your incredibly scenic surroundings. You will climb back aboard the Ratu Laut by the evening in order to begin a night crossing towards Kawe Island.

Day 4 - Kawe Island & Aluyi Bay

Kawe Island has been recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and it is also home to Eagle Rock, a famous 3-island formation known for its stunning reefs and large marine life species. The main draw of this dive site, however, is its manta ray cleaning stations, where you may catch a glimpse of the rays cleaning themselves on rocks and corals during your first dive of the day!

Your second dive will see you move over to Black Rock, one of the best coral reefs in the north of Raja Ampat. The soft coral reefs here attract a plethora of pygmy seahorses and schooling fish, though blacktip reef sharks and turtles can also be seen, and a deeper dive may also introduce you to big marble rays and a manta or two!

After paying another visit to Eagle Rock, the Ratu Laut will head towards Alyui Bay, where you will moor up for the night. This is a stunning location, characterised by sheer cliffs and pearl farms. You will have the opportunity to explore one of these pearl farms by undertaking a night dive – be sure to bring an underwater camera along, if you have one, as Alyui's underwater world is an ideal location in which to take photos of some phenomenal marine species.



Day 5 - From Aluyi Bay to Citrus Ridge

After waking up to the beautiful surrounds of Aluyi Bay, you will head off for a morning dive in search of sweetlips and fusiliers. Whitetip sharks can be found under big rocks, and pygmy seahorses appear sporadically, though if luck is on your side you might even be treated to a dolphin encounter!

You will wave goodbye to Aluyi Bay before heading on to the Yangeffo Islands for your second dive. The region enjoys a great mix of macro and larger marine life: cuttlefish; ghost pipefish; decorated crabs; nudibranches; shrimp and frogfishes are just a few of the species you could spot during your dive, and you may even have the opportunity to spot eagle rays and manta rays.

Your route will continue on round to Gam Island, with its famous Citrus Ridge dive site. Here, beautiful coral gardens and a huge abundance of fish can be found, including sweetlips and schooling barracudas.

Day 6 - Birds of Paradise & Trek Over Kri Island

Your penultimate day aboard the Ratu Laut will see you rise early (at 4:45am) in order to enjoy a snack and coffee before being taken to watch the birds of paradise at around 5am. After a morning of watching the birds in action, you will enjoy a big breakfast onboard the boat before heading to Blue Magic later in the day. A location popular amongst divers, Blue Magic is an open-water reef which attracts a number of species from tunas and barracuda to manta rays and sharks, and on good days the visibility here may reveal swathes of schooling fish covering the whole site!

For the second dive of the day, you will move on to Sardine Reef. This is a great location in which to spot fusiliers; rainbow runners; barracudas; sweetlips; giant trevallies; Spanish mackerel; grey reef sharks and much more and, if the current is favourable, you may find yourself in the midst of some hunting action as the tuna pursue the smaller fish!

Once you have dried off from your dive, you will board the boat as it heads down to Kri Island, where you will pay a visit to a traditional homestay. You will have the opportunity to partake in a trek to an amazing viewpoint over Mansuar Island or, if you'd prefer, you may spend some time snorkelling instead. Later on, the whole group will gather together for a night dive on the Yenkoranu Jetty. The region's sloping reefs are teeming with a range of interesting species: pygmy seahorses; bobtail squids; pipefish; walking sharks; mandarin fish; octopuses and cuttlefish can be seen here, while turtles can sometimes be found relaxing atop the reefs!



Day 7 - Return to Waisai

Today is your final day, but there's still time for one last dive! The morning may see you paying a visit to the Blue Magic dive site, though you may visit another site around Kri Island instead.

During lunchtime on the boat, you may wish to exchange emails and photos with your group and take time to give thanks to the crew. At around 1pm, you will either be transferred back to Arborek Island to continue with the volunteer programme, or to Sorong to commence your independent travel plans.

Meals & Beverages

Three meals per day will be prepared for you by a member of the crew, and you will also be provided with a number of snacks (such as cookies and cakes) which you can enjoy inbetween meals. Water, tea and coffee are all included in the cost of the excursion, whilst soft drinks and beer can be purchased onboard. Since you are travelling to some extremely remote areas, you will not have the opportunity to visit any shops, so if you would like to purchase any items onboard you must ensure that you bring enough money to last the duration of the trip.

Accommodation & Prices

For the duration of your time aboard the Ratu Laut, you will stay in either a twin or quad-share room. Each room comes equipped with air conditioning and is usually shared on a same-sex basis, but please be aware that this cannot always be guaranteed. There are three bathrooms aboard the boat, each with a shower and access to hot water.

A twin-share room is priced at £1395 and a quad-share room is £1295. If you are joining alongside the Raja Ampat Diving Project you will save 15% on the Liveaboard trip!

Trip Dates

2021 Dates

27th Oct - 2nd Nov

6th Nov - 12th Nov

1st Dec - 7th Dec

11th Dec - 17th Dec

2022 Dates

9th Feb - 15th Feb

4th Mar - 10th Mar

30th Mar - 5th Apr

9th Apr - 15th Apr

20th Apr - 26th Apr

