

# Flores to Raja Ampat, Indonesia

## Itinerary - 14 Nights

- **Embarkation: Maumere, Flores. Time is flight dependant**
- **Disembarkation: Sorong Harbour, West Papua at 10:00am**
- **Arrival Airport: Frans Seda Airport (Maumere) Airport (MOF)**
- **Departure Airport: Domine Eduard Osok (Sorong) Airport (KNG)**

For your convenience, a free transfer will be provided between the domestic airports and the Indo Siren yacht on the day of embarkation and disembarkation. Upon arrival, an Indo Siren representative welcomes you at the airport and arranges your transfer to the vessel.

When flying in on embarkation day, it is advisable that your flight arrives before noon!

Disembarkation is at 10.00 hr in the morning. If your post cruise flight departs later than 10.00 hr, we will transfer you to a cosy local restaurant near the airport where you can wait for your flight.

### **Marine & Port Fees:**

- 180 USD per person

Marine park fees can be paid in advance, or on board.

### **Minimum dive certification and experience:**

Divers are required to have **Advanced Open Water** certification\*, or equivalent, with a **minimum of 50 logged dives**.

\*Advanced Open Water courses can be completed on board.

Guests who do not fulfil the minimum certification and experience requirements may be denied participation in some or all dives. We have 3 permanent dive guides on board to enable small dive groups of 5-6.

It is a mandatory requirement for all divers to have insurance which covers scuba diving activities, including emergency evacuation and recompression chamber costs.

Participation in this liveboard itinerary is subject to acceptance of our Terms & Conditions as outlined here: [www.masterliveboards.com/terms-conditions](http://www.masterliveboards.com/terms-conditions).

## Number of scheduled dives:

- Up to 37

This itinerary involves some long distance travel and, 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 specific dive site in good time.

While we wish to show you the very best diving possible, a number of factors determine which route the yacht takes and which dive sites we are able to visit. Weather, tides, currents and how many other dive vessels are at a particular site all play a part in the Cruise Director's decision of where the Indo Siren is heading to.

**Safety and dive briefings are conducted in English. If you, or any of your group do not speak or understand English, please contact us.**

The following is an example of the day-to-day itinerary.

Day 1: Embarkation followed by introductions and boat and safety briefings. After this you can settle into your cabin and assemble your equipment with help from the friendly crew. The vessel will depart port while you relax and enjoy snacks and dinner.

Day 2: Breakfast followed by a check dive, and up to 3 subsequent dives, as outlined below.

Days 3-13: Your Cruise Director will schedule up to 4 dives per day; 3 day dives and either a sunset or a night dive. A typical diving day is scheduled 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

A long distance is covered on this transit cruise, which means **there will be days with only 2 scheduled dives**. As we will navigate more than 1000 nautical miles, we will often be motoring at night during the trip.

Day 14: For your last full day on board, we are able to schedule 2 dives\* before Indo Siren cruises back to port, where she will remain at anchor overnight.

Disembarkation day: Following breakfast on board, disembarkation is scheduled between 8:00am and 10:00am.

\*We kindly request that guests check their flight departure times to ensure that they leave a minimum of 24 hours between their final dive and their flight home.

Following is a sample of dive sites which we may visit during your time aboard Indo Siren.

The safety of our guests is paramount and we always do our best to offer diving at alternate locations, should we be unable to visit those sites listed below.

Guests are welcome to suggest preferred dive sites to the Cruise Director. He/she will be happy to accommodate guests' wishes, providing it is possible and the schedule allows for it.

Dive sites we visit include but are not limited to:

## Tanjung Gedong, Serbete & Adonara

We spend our first day of diving cruising along the northern stretches of the islands close to Flores. We overnight at anchorage in Adonara and depart in the early hours of day three for Pulau Lembata.

### Tanjung Gedong

A superb check dive site encompassing a hard coral sloping reef wall and sandy areas dotted with coral bommies. The creatures we see here fall into the macro category with a variety of crustaceans, mollusks and benthic reef fish.

### Serbete Wall

A shallow reef sloping down to a wall, which drops to approximately 30m (100ft) dotted with barrel sponges and elephant ear sponges. Along the wall are many overhangs and crevices to explore. Bluefin trevally can be seen hunting and batfish casually hang about. The shallow reef shows healthy corals and abundance of smaller reef fish.

### Magic Log /Adunara Reef

Features a shallow slope with large coral heads adorned with a myriad of feather stars which open in the night time to feed, also a superb spot for critter hunting with sightings of warty frogfish, ornate ghost pipefish, cuttlefish and octopus. The majority of your dive is spent at 10m (35ft).

## Pulau Lembata

The bay on the west coast of this island is home to some great critter dive sites. We will spend a full day of diving and exploring these amazing sites.

### Sizzler

This is a sandy slope, superb for a couple of critter dives and has proven to be a great day dive, as well as a wonderful night dive. We can expect the whole lot, from different species of frogfish to ornate ghost pipefish and gorgeous fingered dragonets.

## The Jetty

Currents sweep across the big ferry jetty and bring in lots of nutrients for the underwater life. The slope and underwater structures under the jetty create a good habitat for lots of different kinds of nudibranchs, giant frogfish, ribbon eels and spiny devil fish. It's another one of these dives that you just don't want to end.

## Rhino City

This dive site has a very gentle sloping sandy bottom filled with small soft corals. We will try to dive this site with slack tide, because currents can be quite challenging for this critter dive. Expect to find cuttlefish, strapweed filefish, pipefish, and for the lucky ones the illustrious rhinopia.

## Pantar Strait

The Pantar Strait is known for both critter diving and stunning reef walls where larger pelagic species can be spotted. Some stronger currents are to be expected but the currents bring the nutrients which feed the reef and the inhabitants of the strait. There are a variety of dive sites here and we chose the optimum sites based on the conditions of the day. The water temperature experienced is often colder than other regions due to the flow of water from the south, expect temperatures of 22°C / 72°F. After our third dive on trip day five we begin our long crossing to Wetar Island.

## The French Man's Window

A wall dive site in front of Alor's Divers Resort covered in a fantastic array of soft corals. Look closely to find a wide variety of nudibranchs; remember to watch in the blue as well as something big might swim past

## Pak Yan's Village

An excellent muck diving spot to find Pegasus sea moths, dragonets, scorpion fish, ghost pipefish and bargibanti seahorses too.

## Clown Valley

Hundreds, if not thousands of anemones cover the shallow reef slope on the south side of Pulau Pura, all hosting the clark's anemone fish. A stunning site but thermoclines can be expected so be prepared for some chilly water that may attract thresher sharks.

## The Arch

Located at Pulau Reta, The Arch is famous for its overhangs and fissures providing stunning topography, as well as a home to schooling fusiliers and colourful anthias. Larger pelagic fish, including black tip reef sharks have been spotted here too.

## Mucky Mosque

An iconic muck dive at the entrance of Kalabahi Bay where the attentive eye can find paddle-flap & frondosa's rhinopias, as well as ornate, robust and even halimeda and velvet ghost pipefish, frogfish, bobtail squid, long-arm octopus and for the lucky ones: wunderpus.

## Wetar and Reong Islands

We will make 3 dives here and spend the day exploring a variety of sites that the islands offer. The walls are covered with huge sponges and soft corals. Drop offs and colourful reefs with healthy marine life including sightings of eagle rays and turtles. However, currents can be fairly robust, particularly in the channel between Reong & Wetar, therefore divers are advised to carry reef hooks and stay within close range of their buddy and/or the dive guide.

## Gunung Api Island

Famous for its high population of chinese sea snakes, this volcanic island rises up from the depth of the Banda Sea and offers dramatic seascapes with steep soft coral encrusted walls and huge barrel sponges. This oasis of life attracts large pelagics such as dogtooth tunas, rainbow runners and also look out for scalloped hammerhead sharks or silvertip sharks cruising the deep waters.

## Nyata and Terbang Islands

Further to the east of Wetar the islands of Pulau Nyata and Terbang offer unspoiled reefs for a great diving experience. At Nyata, rainbow coloured soft corals and a myriad of hard corals dominate the landscape, whilst at Terbang we find dramatic walls with soft corals reef top gardens and plenty of bumphead parrotfish and schooling reef fish.

## Nil Desperandum & Serua

Upwelling and currents around these islands bring the nutrient rich waters and with them an abundance of marine life. We see many larger fish species in these little visited waters. Hammerhead sharks, tuna, napoleon wrasse and grouper are amongst the most common sightings, Schooling surgeonfish, bannerfish, and barracuda give divers a spectacular display. We spend three dives exploring these rich reefs before moving northwards to Manuk.

## Pulau Manuk

This tiny island in the middle of the Banda Sea offers a wide variety of dive topography including walls, coral slopes and sandy areas. Famed as being a home to a multitude of sea snakes and where we can witness the snakes hunting together. Larger fish pass by on the

outer walls including tunas and jacks and smaller creatures can be found amidst the pristine corals.

## Banda Islands

This group of islands are also called the Spice Islands and, once sought by Columbus & Marco Polo, boasts great diving, with up to 40m (120ft) visibility. At Banda Neira the lava flow underwater has over the years transformed into a beautiful coral garden. The amount of schooling fish and pelagic encounters can be jaw-dropping and the sea fans are some of the largest and most pristine to be found in Indonesia.

On land, enjoy the view of Gunung Api, a 650-meter-high active volcano, from the top of Fort Belgica, built by the Dutch in 1611 and located in the historical town of Banda Neira. Clove, Nutmeg, Marc and cinnamon are still the main spices that are grown here.

Currents can be strong around these small islands in the north of the Banda Sea, therefore sites will be chosen on the best daily conditions from the following options:

### Batu Kepala

This pinnacle is shaped like a boat and rises up from 40m (130ft) adorned with yellow soft corals and sea fans. Red-tooth trigger fish, pyramid butterfly fish, fusiliers and surgeon fish altogether form a multicoloured fish soup. On the rocky and sandy bottom, large groups of longnose emperor fish hunt alongside bluefin trevallies and opportunistic napoleon wrasses. Keep an eye out into the blue for grey reef sharks while blackfin barracudas hover above the reef.

### Karang Hatta

A sloping reef starting at around 15m (50ft) sloping down to 40, (130ft) filled with hard corals. In the blue look out for dog tooth tuna, jacks, black tip reef sharks, eagle rays and the possibility of a hammerhead or two.

### Hatta Blue Hole

A wide hard coral shallow plateau extends away from the island to a majestic drop off. A large opening on top of the reef actually opens up to a swim-through densely covered with huge gorgonian fans. Once you reach the outside, massive barrel sponges inhabited by tiny hairy squat lobsters cover the wall.

### Banda Neira Pier

Otherwise known as the Maolana Jetty, this is a superb site for a sunset dive to spot mandarin fish mating in the shallows- just 1 metre (3ft) below the surface! Lots of other critters can be found in deeper water including cockatoo waspfish and crocodile fish.

## Pohon Miring

Beautifully covered with colorful soft corals and gorgonian fans, a swim through will take you through to a sheer wall covered with leather corals. Numerous big napoleon wrasses inhabit the reef and dogtooth tunas patrol the blue waters.

## Laval Flow

In 1998, the volcano on Naira Island erupted and flowing lava destroyed all jungle and coral in its path. While on land barely a few trees have started to grow on the basaltic rock, underwater it's a totally different story. From 3m (9ft) to 40m (120ft), an extensive hard coral garden covers the lava flow entirely.

## Banda Jetty

Famous for its mandarin fish that can be observed at sunset just by looking down from the jetty. In many places, these fish are elusive, small and shy. Here, it's the complete opposite! A wide array of critters is to be discovered on the black sand: colorful nudibranchs, octopus, cockatoo wasp fish, frogfish, you name it...

## Koon

This island lies in between the Ceram & Banda Seas. It is part of the long group of islands circling the deep waters of the Banda Sea.

## Too Many Fish

This is literally what you can expect here. Its position between a shallow and a deep sea attracts a variety of pelagics such as pompanos, spanish mackerel, dogtooth tuna, and rainbow runner. The reef boasts a great diversity of topographies with white sandy bottoms, walls, steep slopes, and a long plateau. Three dives can easily be done at this huge dive site.

## Misool

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.

## Andiamo

A diverse two-island reef with walls, overhangs, pinnacles, ridges and a shallow plateau. With such a variety of habitats, it is no wonder this site is one of the most famous dive sites in Misool. Thick schools of fusiliers cruise over hard and soft corals, wobbegong and epaulette sharks hide under the rocks. Pickhandle barracuda form schools along the reef whilst reef octopus hides in the wall's crevices. Massive gorgonians adorn the walls.

## Boo Windows

Always a favourite site, Boo's scenery is on the wish list of most underwater photographers. It is comprised of two rocks that stick up from the eastern edge of the island of Boo with a saddle formed between them. Close to the surface currents and tides have eroded holes in the rocks creating the "window" effect. Prone to currents, diving can be quite exciting as it attracts trevally and schools of dogtooth tuna. Pickhandle barracuda, snapper, grouper, napoleon wrasse, turtles, batfish and rabbit fish are often seen on this beautiful dive.

## Gorgonian Passage

Situated in a channel that runs between Wayilbatan and Wayil islands, the name of the site refers to the 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.

## Nudi Rock

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

## Karang Bayangan aka Magic Mountain

One of the best dive sites in Indonesia: a dome shaped seamount with a finger like rocky outcrop densely covered with gorgonian fans and soft corals. Take a look around and enjoy massive schools of fusiliers, surgeonfish,, and batfish circled by hunters like dogtooth tuna and giant trevallies. Literally a fish soup, mixed with some grey reef and whitetip reef sharks. On top of these incredible encounters, the cleaning station for oceanic and reef mantas can make this dive one of your best ever.

Should you have any questions or queries concerning the dive sites or whether this itinerary is suitable for your experience level, please contact our reservations team [dive@masterliveboards.com](mailto:dive@masterliveboards.com) who will be pleased to assist and advise you.