

Raja Ampat, Halmahera & Lembah

12 Nights Itinerary

Sorong to Bitung

- **Embarkation:** Sorong Harbour, West Papua at 12:00*
- **Disembarkation:** Bitung Harbour, North Sulawesi at 10:00

Transfer from Sorong Airport or local hotel to the harbour on embarkation day, and from Indo Master to Manado Airport, or local hotel on disembarkation day are included in the itinerary price.

*Guests intending to fly into Sorong on embarkation day are respectfully asked to arrange flights to **arrive at Sorong Airport before 12:00 (midday)**. However, we recommend arriving in Sorong the day before embarkation and booking a hotel for the night.

Depending on what time your flight into Sorong arrives, we can organise use of the day facilities at the Swiss-Belhotel until 12.00.

Bitung to Sorong

- **Embarkation:** Bitung Harbour, North Sulawesi at 13:00*
- **Disembarkation:** Sorong Harbour, West Papua at 10:00

**We strongly recommend making arrangements to arrive in Manado the day before embarkation and arranging a hotel for the night.* Should you choose to fly into Manado on embarkation day, it is advisable to book a flight that is scheduled to arrive before 11:00 am

Guests arriving on the day of embarkation will be welcomed by a Master Liveboards representative at Manado Airport who will assist with your luggage and arrange your onward transfer to the liveboard embarkation point.

PLEASE NOTE: Domestic flights in Indonesia are often subject to delays, schedule changes and cancellations, which can result in missed connections and arriving after the designated embarkation time, or day. In such events, if your delayed arrival is after the vessel has departed, you may be charged for the cost of arranging a speedboat transfer or for additional fuel required for Indo Master to return to port.

Transfer between Manado Airport and Bitung Harbour takes approximately 1hr 45 minutes. Transfer between Sorong Airport and Sorong Harbour takes approximately 20-30 minutes.

Marine Park & Port Fees: 215 USD* per person (to be paid on board).

****Marine park fees are subject to change without notice.*** The applicable amount at the time of departure will be added to your onboard extras to be paid before disembarkation.

Marine park and port fees for this itinerary cover the cost of Raja Ampat permits and other local fees and taxes for the areas visited during the liveaboard itinerary.

If you already have a Raja Ampat entry card the cost may be deducted from the amount payable on board, if the period of validity covers the entire duration of the time spent in Raja Ampat.

You will need to send us a copy of the card no less than 4 days before the start of your liveaboard and also bring it with you for additional verification on board.

Minimum dive certification and experience:

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

*Advanced Open Water courses can usually be completed on board (pre-booking required).

Guests who do not fulfil the minimum certification and experience requirements may be denied participation in some or all dives.

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 liveaboard itinerary is subject to acceptance of our Terms & Conditions as outlined here: www.masterliveaboards.com/terms-conditions.

Itinerary Details

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.

Number of scheduled dives: Up to 38

Included land tours

Due to the distances covered on the Halmahera and Northern Moluccas itinerary, land visits are dependent on cruising times and logistics, as noted above. Generally, there will be 2 land visits offered on each itinerary, one of which is Raja Ampat's Penemu Viewpoint which is always offered and popular. The second included land tour will usually be Tangkoko Batuangus Nature Reserve in North Sulawesi, where you will have the opportunity to see Tarsiers, Macaques and Cuscus in their natural surroundings.

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

Day 1: Embarkation is followed by introductions, boat and safety briefings, and dinner. The vessel will generally depart port during the evening to be ready to dive first thing on day 2.

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

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

Days 3-11: Your Cruise Manager 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

Day 12: For your last full day on board, we usually schedule 2 morning dives* before the boat cruises back to port, where it will remain at anchor overnight.

Day 13: Following breakfast on board, disembarkation is scheduled between 8:00 and 10:00.

*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.

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, sea conditions and how many other vessels are in a particular location all play a part in the Cruise Manager's decision of where the Indo Master is heading, and which sites are chosen to dive.***

Guests are welcome to suggest preferred dive sites to the Cruise Manager who will be happy to accommodate those wishes where possible, and if the schedule allows for it.

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

The Dampier Strait

Fast drift dives and big fish schools characterise the sites in 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 two large bommies situated in the middle of a sandy bottom at just 18 metres are a world-renowned cleaning station which attracts many reef manta rays of a variety of shades and sizes, including all-black mantas, distinctive to Raja Ampat. Divers can simply rest on the bottom and watch the show.

The reef itself has many smaller creatures with dragonets and various pipefishes as well as Bumphead parrotfish and black-tip reef sharks. Therefore, in case the mantas are not performing, there is still plenty to look at and discover.

Cape Kri

One of the best-known sites in the Dampier Strait, the variety of reef fish is astounding. A world record setter with 374 species of fish seen during one dive, Scribbled filefish, Harlequin sweetlips, Bumphead parrotfish, Pinnate batfish, hawkfish and Napoleon wrasse are all commonly seen. In the blue, myriad Bignose unicornfish and Bluestreak fusiliers are closely watched by giant trevallies and dogtooth tuna, whilst black-tip reef sharks, pickhandle barracuda, turtles and pipefish are all regularly spotted as well.

Blue Magic

A long finger-shaped reef sloping down at the points from 8 metres to 30 metres (26ft - 98ft) with hard and soft corals, sea fans and black coral bushes, where schools of jacks and barracuda hover close to the reef while grey reef sharks cruise in the blue and mantas sweep through the cleaning stations. For the keen-eyed, wobbegong sharks and pontohi pygmy seahorses add to the appeal and wonders of this magical dive site.

Sardine Reef

Swarms of fusiliers, snappers and sweetlips, schools of bumphead parrotfish 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.

Mike's Point

As we approach the tiny limestone island known as Mike's Point, eagles can often be seen resting in the treetops. 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.

Yangeffo and Penemu Islands

Located west of Gam these mushroom islands are surrounded by turquoise seas full of pristine coral. These islands provide a range of dive sites for us to choose from, including:

Melissa's Garden

This site is home to some of the best hard coral gardens in Raja Ampat. Featuring a shallow flat reef with beautiful blue-tipped staghorn corals inhabited by myriads of damselfish, trevally, black tip reef sharks and wobbegong sharks, along with orangutan crabs and spiny lobsters are common sightings here.

Mayhem

This dive spot is notorious for its strong currents, making for an exhilarating dive with lots of action. It is a superb site for larger fish sightings including Barracuda, Mackerel, Blue-fin trevally, Tuna, Napoleon wrasse and Bumphead 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, jawfish 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. The up-current side offers sensational pelagic encounters such as roaming grey and blacktip reef sharks, schooling jacks and a vortex of blackfin barracuda.

Pisang Island

Named for its banana-like shape, Pisang Island is an oasis in the middle of the Halmahera Sea, surrounded by deep blue water. We will stop off at Bantu Anyer, Besar and Kecil, a steep rocky slope covered in a blanket of giant barrel sponges. Here you can make an exhilarating drift dive provided the current is right. Out in the blue, schooling jacks, blackfin barracuda and rainbow runners can be seen, while back in the shallows there is a hard coral plateau.

Batjan Island

This is one of the northern Molucca Islands in the Molucca Sea, located just southwest of the large island of Halmahera. There are two special dive spots to explore in this area:

Akiko's Never-neverland

This is a truly unique dive site, riddled with diverse topography. It adorns a wall plunging to 40 metres, where spiny lobsters hide in the numerous cracks. Cruising along the wall are schooling jacks, blacktip reef sharks and hawksbill turtles. The shallow plateau is also densely covered with leather corals.

Tanjung Maragarando

An exciting dive for pelagic and schooling fish. With the right current, this dive brings large schools of jacks, blackfin barracuda, golden batfish, and fusiliers. From 30 metres, the slope is densely covered with bright yellow soft corals.

Patantie Strait

Located between Batjan & Halmahera Islands, strong currents nurture the dense soft corals and Gorgonian fan gardens. Numerous protected bays offer interesting night dives and opportunities to look for critters such as bobtail squid and epaulette sharks. Two of the sites we may visit are:

Proco

Sitting in the middle of the channel, this pinnacle extends to a plateau of around 25 metres. The area is densely covered with pastel, yellow, and orange soft corals, a wonderful array of colours contrasted by the schools of fusiliers and surgeonfish.

Batu Jabu

A massive submerged reef where you can drift along rocky slopes covered with hard and soft corals. Aggregations of unicorn fish, fusiliers, snappers, and surgeonfish abound. The shallows feature dense staghorn coral fields packed with shining anthias.

Guraici and Tamo-Tamo Islands

These islands will generally mark the point in the cruise where we cross the equator and so switch hemispheres. Guraici and Tamo-Tamo are nestled 31 miles west of Halmahera Island and 43 miles south of Ternate and Tidore.

Renne's Rock

A colossal pinnacle, surrounded by extensive plateaus and large bommies. This is a great site to look for grey, whitetip and blacktip reef sharks as well as grazing bumphead parrotfish in the shallows.

Akejojaru

A wide shallow plateau decorated with a large spread of bommies. The reef drops 60 metres down a steep slope and a dramatic wall to a white sandy bottom which reflects light onto the vibrant soft corals. This is another great place to spot blacktip reef sharks, Napoleon wrasse, and bumphead parrotfish.

Tamo-Tamo Pinnacle

Here an explosion of marine life can be observed along a wall of colourful soft corals. Ribbon sweetlips are often seen hanging around the deeper parts of the wall, where grey reef sharks patrol. Dense shoals of fusiliers and surgeonfish, along with giant trevallies, are also common residents of this reef.

Makian Island

Makian Island is a 10 km wide (6 mile) volcano with a 1.5 km wide (1 mile) summit crater. Located off the west coast of Halmahera, south of Ternate Island, this is one of Indonesia's most destructive volcanoes. We spend a full day muck diving around this fantastic diving spot where encrusting sponges completely cover underwater pillars where frogfishes, Honshu pipefishes and nudibranchs hide. The shallow grey volcanic sand plateau is home to a variety of critters waiting to be discovered, including ghost pipefishes, dragonets and diverse cephalopods, such as long-arm octopus, bobtail squid and colourful flatworms.

Tifore Island

Rising midway between Halmahera and Sulawesi, in the very deep open Molucca Sea, the dive sites around Tifore are mostly plateaus with sheer walls and steep slopes plus great visibility in clear blue water.

Sago Sago

A massive dive site, where we dive three times following the best entry points depending on the current. On top of a beautiful variety of corals, sponges and topographies, don't forget to look into the blue for big schools of barracuda, jacks, and other surprises.

Lembeh Strait

Welcome to the macro mecca of Lembeh, which is well known for its volcanic black sand, home to many weird and wonderful critters. This is where "muck diving" all began. Enjoy the variety of rare critters; the good, the bad and the ugly, all playing hide and seek in their homes of the man-made debris along the seabed.

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@masterliveaboards.com who will be pleased to assist and advise you.