ULTIMATE YACHTS

SPICE ISLANDS & RAJA AMPAT

12-night Ambon to Sorong itinerary

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EXPERIENCE-LED PRIVATE CRUISING SPECIALISTS

The Ultimate Indonesian Yachts team is passionate about exploring Indonesia's most compelling coastlines. We believe that chartering a private yacht is the best way to uncover the secrets of our blue planet.

Our handpicked collection of luxury and expedition charter yachts offers an unrivalled means of experiencing both land & sea from the comfort of boutique accommodation on the waves. Our yachts combine tradition, elegance and modern conveniences, and each one comes with a skilled crew including an expert captain, a cruise host and a private chef.

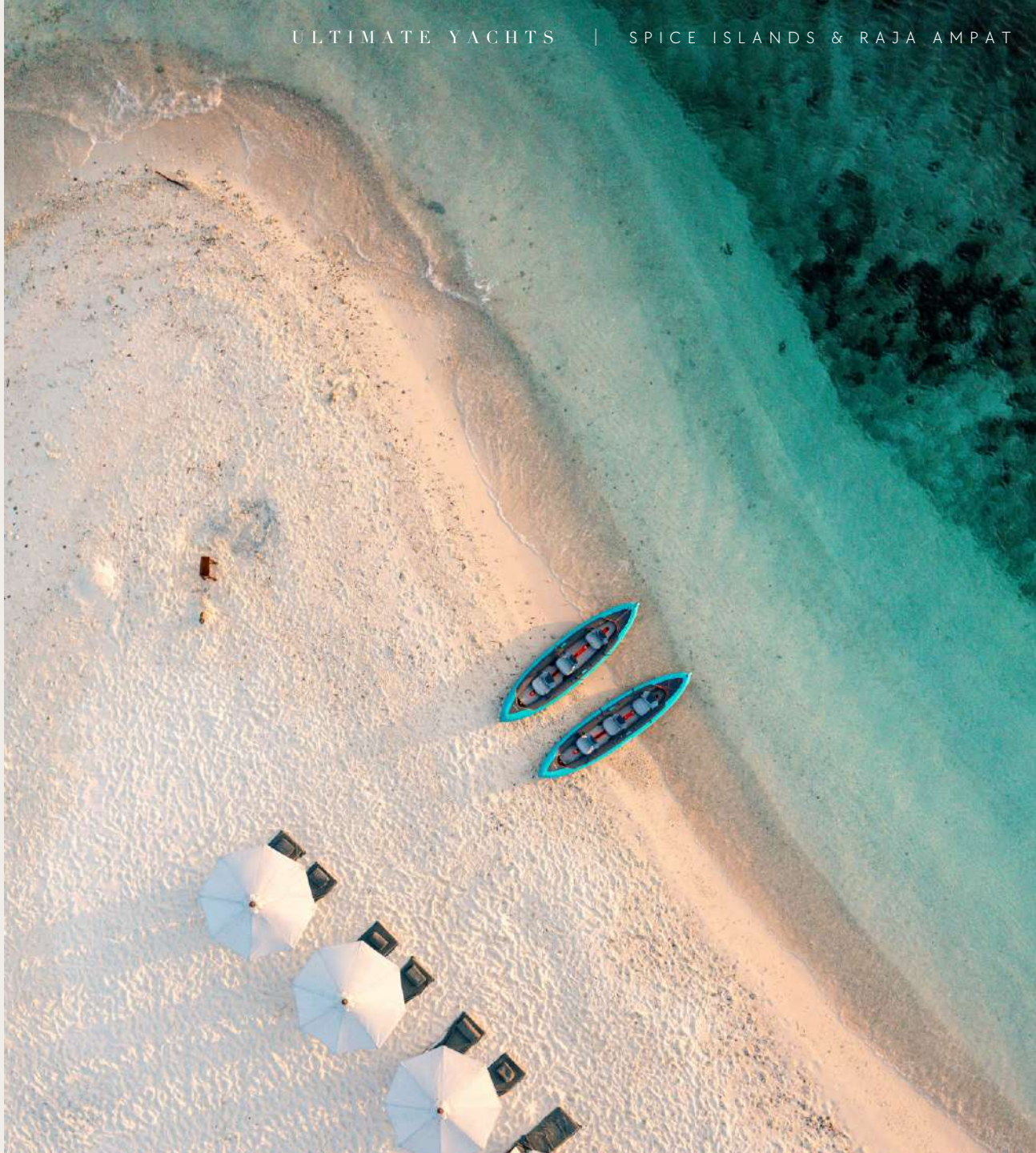
We know the islands like the back of our hand and we love planning bespoke adventures to suit you. We take pride in our relationships with clients, yacht owners and agents alike. We take the time to truly know everything about each yacht, from the cruise director's strengths to the cuisine and service onboard.

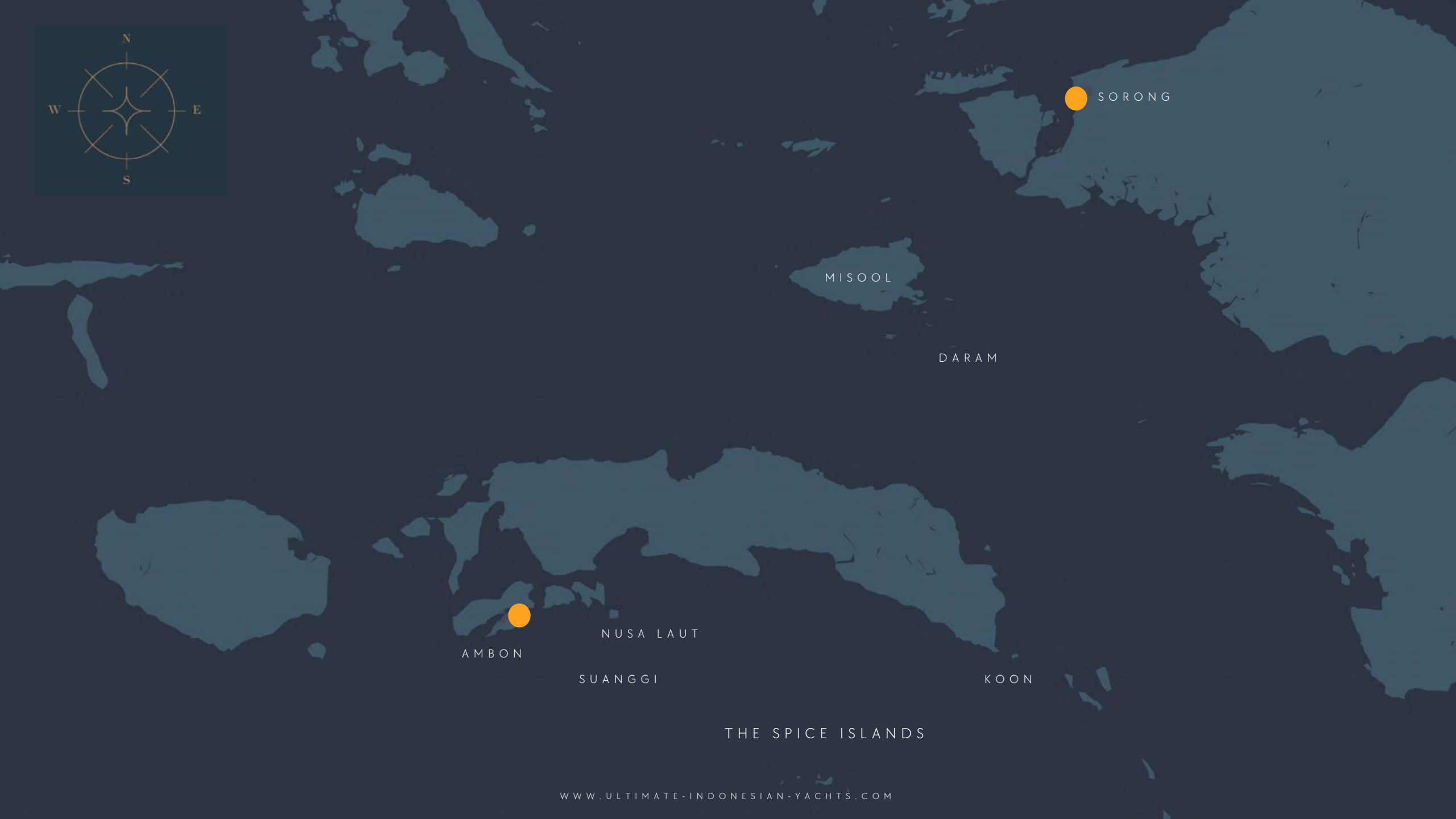
SPICE ISLANDS & RAJA AMPAT

Combining the small chain of the Spice Islands scattered in the Banda Sea with the tropical paradise of Raja Ampat is sure to deliver an adventure to remember, covering historical sites, spectacular reefs and pristine beaches..

For many years, the Spice Islands (also known as the Banda Islands) were renowned for their significance in the spice trade. Today, they are known not only for their history but also for their breath-taking landscapes. With a mixture of history and natural beauty, abandoned forts, nutmeg groves and markets, this region has plenty to see on land.

Raja Ampat comprises a total territory of 9.8 million acres over land and sea, and beneath the surface, it is recognised as the world's most bio-diverse marine ecosystem with over 1,200 species of fish, 550 species of coral, and six of the world's seven species of turtle. Intrepid visitors can trek through the jungle to seek out endemic birdlife, visit remote villages, explore sea turtle rookeries and pearl farms or discover mangroves by sea kayak.

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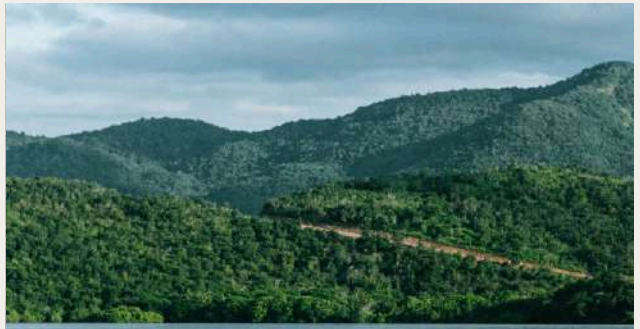


DAY 1: AMBON

You will be met at Ambon airport by the yacht's crew and transferred to the harbour. Once you have settled in onboard, the yacht will depart the harbour. This afternoon, plan your first snorkel or dive at one Indonesia's most spectacular muck sites in Ambon harbour. Dinner will be served under the stars.

DAY 2: SAPARUA & MAMALA

Saparua is the largest island in the Lease chain to the east of Ambon. This morning you may head ashore to explore the small town of Saparua and visit the Duurstede Fort, built by the Portugese in 1676. While you enjoy lunch back onboard, the yacht will sail to Mamala Island, where you can explore underwater sites on the eastern coast, which offers some striking walls with overhangs, inhabited by an array of macro marine life.

DAY 3: BANDA NEIRA

Banda Neira the local capital, remains a bustling village scattered with colonial relics and architecture. There's a chance for a night dive at Banda Jetty which is a great spot to look for the elusive mandarin Fish. at Banda Neira, head ashore to the historical town. Every building here could be a museum – there are cannons in the front of colonial houses and 17th century inscriptions on the walls. Visit the impressive Fort Belgica, an old church and a former governor's palace, a jail and local museum. This afternoon, dive at the "Lava Flow" site, which sits below an active volcano.

DAY 4: HATTA

Cruising out of Banda Neira's protected harbour, this morning there'll be a visit to Batu Kapal, a small rock that breaks the surface of the water and an excellent dive site. From here you'll cruise south towards the island of Hatta. The deep walls here are full of life and will be spectacular to explore with a tank or snorkel. Before sunset you'll begin cruising eastwards to the border of the Banda and Arafura Sea. Be sure to observe the sun setting behind you while scanning the surface for any signs of whales!

DAY 5: BANDA BESAR

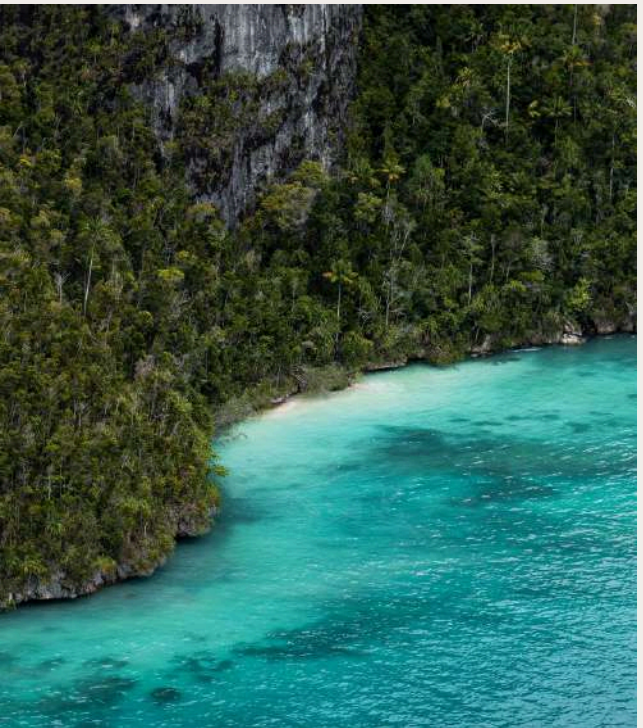
This morning, head to Banda Besar to see the historical nutmeg plantations – once the most expensive spice in the world. Walk past ancient almond trees and take the opportunity to see how the locals make a living, while observing various species of endemic birds. After lunch, you can do one or two wonderful dives at Batu Kapal, and later visit a small village on Pisang Island, which is Surrounded by the pristine beaches and beautiful reef.

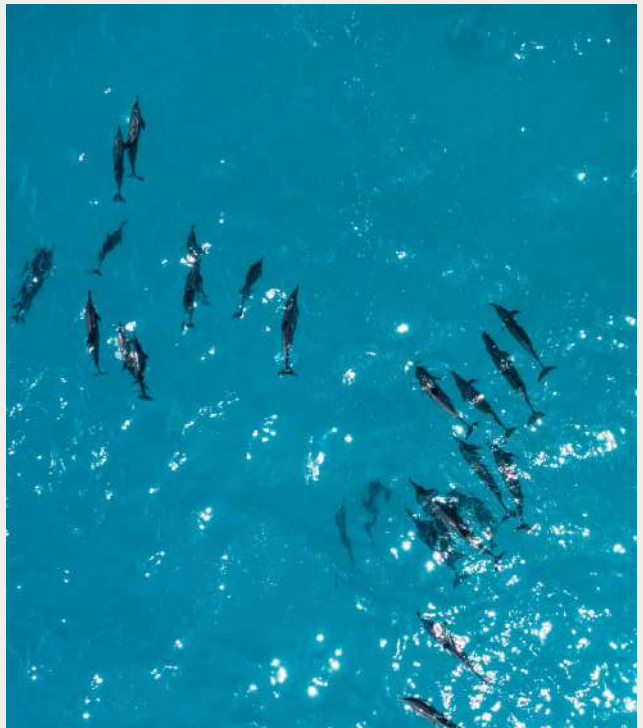
DAY 6: RUN & NAILAKKA

In the early morning we'll head towards the small island of Run, the westernmost and most infamous of the Banda islands. We'll dive at Run Corner and New Manhattan before lunch, after which there'll be the chance to head ashore to the local village. Here you'll see examples of colonial houses and take a wander through this remotest of Banda villages that spends so much of the year isolated. This afternoon, enjoy a picnic lunch at Nailakka and explore the coral wall.

DAY 7: KOON

Today, we'll arrive at the tiny island of Koon, to the east of Seram, which is a veritable aquarium for underwater aficionados. Coconut palms dot the island, which is encircled by a blindingly white beach melting into turquoise seas. The coral reef fringing the island is well protected and acts as a haven for fish. Overnight, the yacht will cruise to Misool.





DAY 8: HEART LAKE & KALIG

Take an early morning walk up the hill to a viewpoint overlooking the spectacular Heart Lake. After breakfast back onboard, we'll take advantage of our position just next to Neptune's and dive or snorkel among giant sea fans of all sizes and colours. After lunch onboard, the crew will arrange a beach set up at Kalig, where you can relax ashore for the rest of the day and make the most of this stunning deserted spot.

DAY 9: TOMOLOL, BALBULOL & LOOKOUT

Rise early and hike to Puncak Harfat Jaya viewpoint before we continue to Tomolol. Above water, you can explore the ethereal "Gua Sacral" ancestral caves of Tomolol, a former burial site of indigenous Papuans. Swim through a cathedral-like cave coated in orchids and discover ancient petroglyphs edging the crystal blue surface. This wild labyrinth of turquoise lagoons is scattered with islands. Keep an eye out for nomadic fishermen on their hand-built rafts in the coves and bays. After the trek, we'll continue to Farondi & Balbulol, neighbouring islands surrounded by alluring shores and offer stunning underwater scenery because of their distinctive seascape. Take your time to swim in warm tropical waters and explore the lagoon. This afternoon, make the most of this kayaking spot, take the speedboat along the coast, or go for a dive.

DAY 10: DARAM, MISOOL

This morning, the yacht will reach the north-eastern extremity of the south east Misool zone and the underwater paradise that is Daram. There are enough locations to spend a full day in the water snorkelling here, on top of famous dive sites such as Warna Berwarna and the Candy Store. Once the day in the water is complete, we may have a chance to stop for an afternoon sundowner on the beach. We will move westwards towards overnight anchorage in Yilliet which also offers the opportunity for a night dive.

DAY 11: MANTA SANDY & ARBOREK

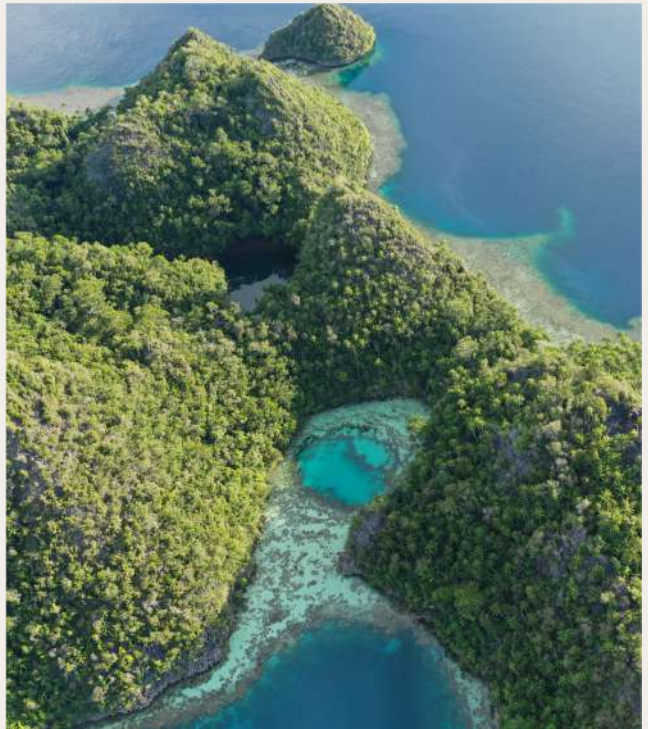
Early this morning, there'll be a chance to dive at Citrus Ridge. During breakfast we'll continue to the Arborek area where we will be looking to snorkel with the mantas at Manta Sandy. Depending on the order of the day and flight times, we may also have a chance to snorkel or dive in the Friwin area in the afternoon, being able to visit sites such as Batu Lima or Friwinbonda, both with good opportunities for snorkellers and divers alike. Whatever you choose, we'll make the most of your final afternoon in Raja Ampat around the Dampier Strait, with its gorgeous snorkelling spots and tropical beaches, not to mention the most magical sunset in all of Raja Ampat.

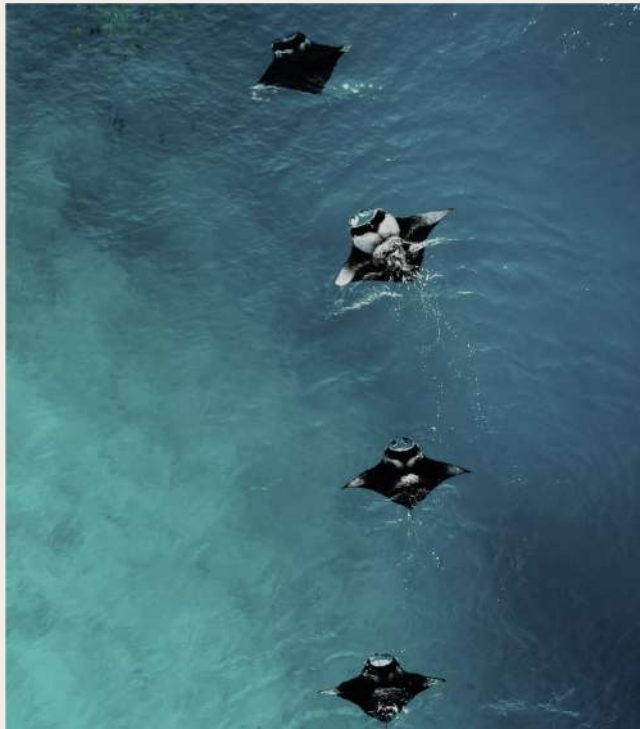
DAY 12: FRIWIN & KALIBIRU

We will spend the morning around Friwin where you can dive at sites such as Blue Magic and Sardine Reef or snorkel at Friwinbonda before we head east to the Kaliburu region. Here, we'll hike to the Blue River – with its impossibly blue, crystal clear water, this is one of Indonesia's special hidden gems.

DAY 13: SORONG

Awake in the port city of Sorong, the capital of South-west Papua. Enjoy one final breakfast onboard before the crew escort you to the airport for your onward travel.





OUR TEAM

Eddie Widnall: Founder & Charter Manager
Annie Biziou: Marketing & Charter Specialist
Kim Guenier: Charter Specialist & Operations
Richard Phillips: Specialist Guide
Rosie Redman: Guest Services
Putri Novita: Guest Services
Randy Yudha: Guest Services
Megan Tinius: Guest Services
Casey Chadbond: Accounts
Joss Wood: Accounts