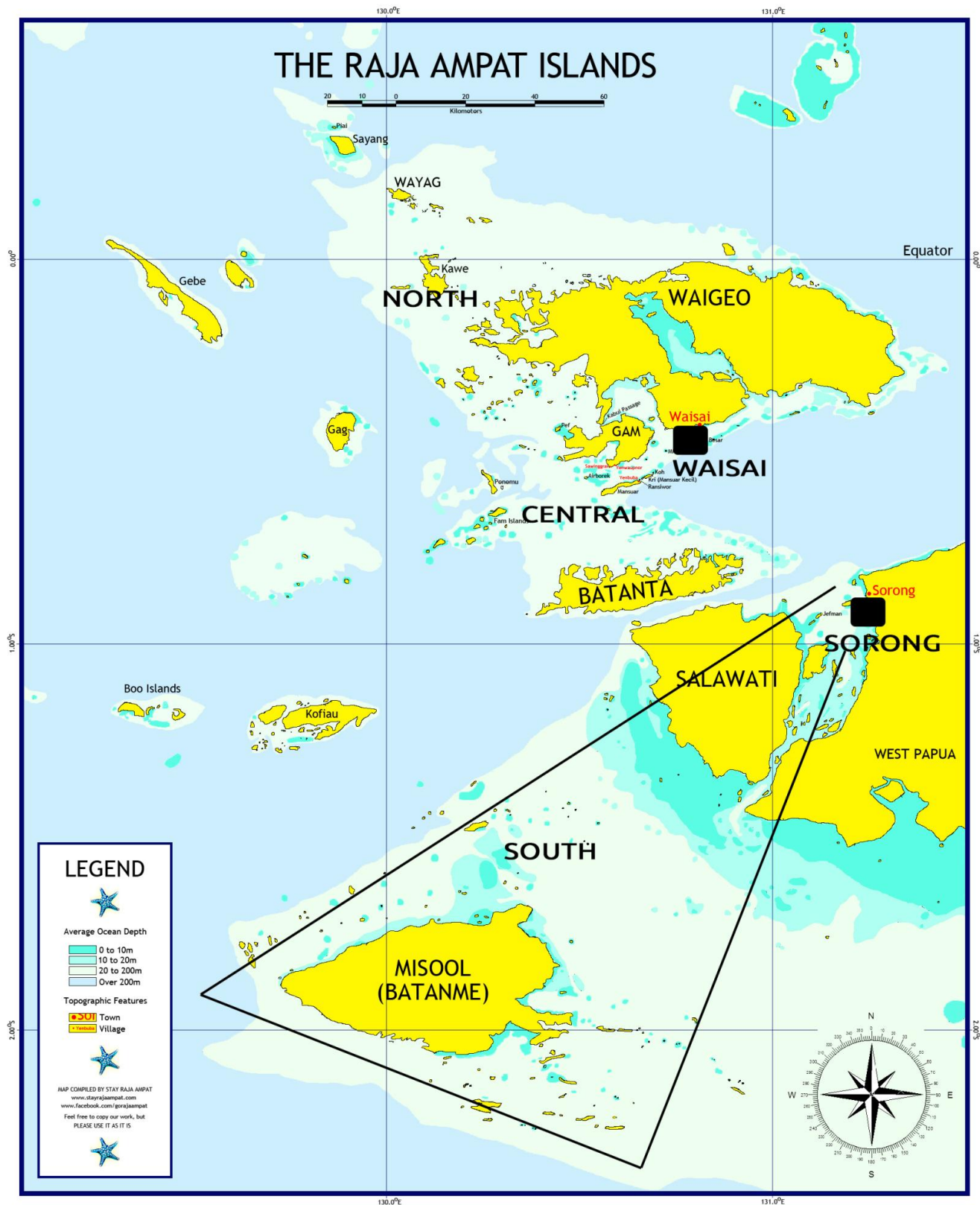


# Raja Ampat – Misool Exceptional 8 nights/9 days





### Cruise Summary

**Raja Ampat**, or the *Four Kings*, is an archipelago comprising over 1,500 small islands, cays, and shoals surrounding the four main islands of Misool, Salawati, Batanta, Waigeo and the smaller island of Kofiau. The Raja Ampat archipelago is the part of Coral Triangle which contains the richest marine biodiversity on earth. Raja Ampat is the place where coral species reach 75% of all known species and fish nearly 1,300 species. Raja Ampat is also a paradise for bird watchers. The Raja Ampat islands are a truly natural phenomenon with enormous biological diversity.

On this trip we are cruising with south west course to Misool, one of the major Islands of Raja Ampat. In East Misool there is an over 1200km<sup>2</sup> "no-take-zone". A nature reserve/non-fishing zone, twice as big as Singapore.

### **Day-1**

Your flight will arrive in Sorong, coastal city in the eastern Indonesian province of West Papua. Sorong is the gateway to Indonesia's Raja Ampat Islands.

### **Day 2-9**

If possible we offer 3-4 dives daily. When crossing only 1-2 dives a day can be scheduled. We reserve the right to change the itinerary or specific agreed services, if force majeure, unforeseen or unavoidable circumstances require us to do so.

Some of the destinations on our journey:

### **Sorong**

is a coastal city in the eastern Indonesian province of West Papua. Its only land borders are with Sorong Regency. It is the gateway to Indonesia's Raja Ampat Islands, species rich Coral reef islands in an area considered the heart of the world's coral reef biodiversity. It also is the logistics hub for Indonesia's thriving eastern oil and gas frontier. Sorong has experienced exponential growth since 2010.



### **Misool**

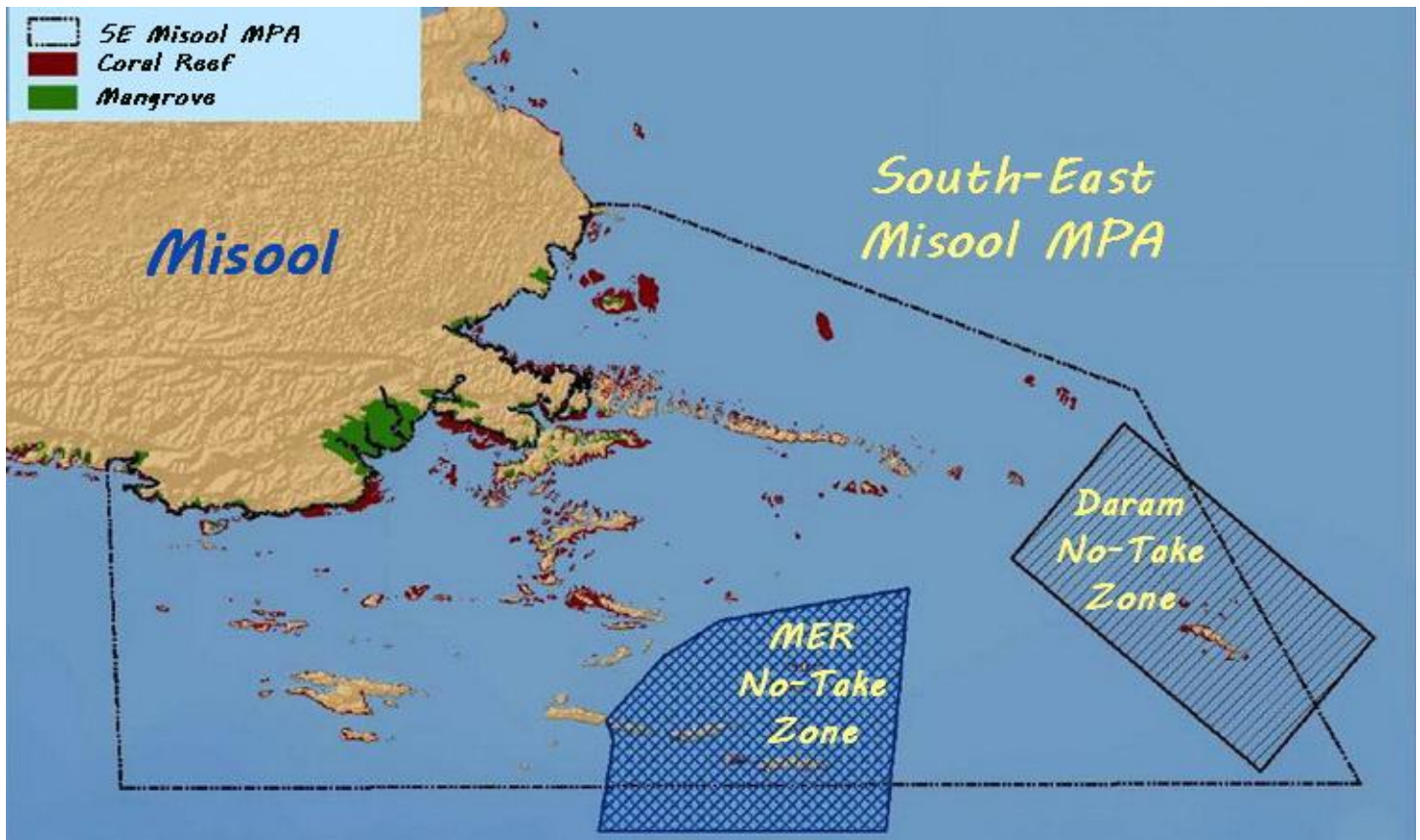
formerly spelled Mysol (Dutch: Misoöl), is one of the four major islands in the Raja Ampat Islands in West Papua. The inhabitants speak the Biga language and Matbat language, as well as Indonesian.

The reason the reefs in the south-east of Misool are so incredibly rich is their relative location to the deep waters of the Ceram Trough and the upwelling of nutrients created as the Indonesian Throughflow makes its way south to the Banda Sea.



Misool island is known for its soft corals, shallow mangrove areas, reef fish, mantas and pelagic species, which will make for some excellent wide-angle photography. Some sloping walls with colourful soft coral carpet also become houses for some small critters, from ghost pipefish to harlequin shrimp and pygmy seahorses. Misool also has at least three ponds with unpoisoned jellyfish, all in Misool area.

There is also No-Take-Zone which expanded to a total 465 square miles (twice as big as Singapore ) in 2010, initiated by the owners of Misool Eco Resort in 2005.



### **Notable Dive Sites**

Misool area has approximately 20 dive sites, which include Lonely Rock, Gampi, Yilliet, Boo Island, Fiabacet, Blue Hole and Killer Cape, Kaliq Channel, Sepele Rock, Three Sisters Rock, Nampele and Warokaraket, etc. However, some notable dive sites are Boo Island, Fabiacet, Farondi, Gamfi, and Kaleidoscope.

### **Boo Rock (Boo Island)**

Another southern favorite is Boo island, a beautiful vibrant reef that hosts a wealth of marine life including stunning soft corals, octopus and green turtles.

With depth of 3-30 meter, Boo Rock is located between two small rocks east of Boo, and Boo Point East is located in the eastern point of Boo Island. This dive site is also known as Boo Angel Window, with slope and steep slope contour. Here you can see some Snapper,

Fussilier, Barracuda, Sweetlips, Butterflyfish, Angelfish, Grouper, Damselfish, Anthias, Batfish, Wrasse, Parrotfish, Surgeonfish, Triggerfish, Boxfish, Pufferfish, Porcupinefish, Gobies, Moray eels, Eels, Scorpionfish, Flathead, Blennies, Dragonet, Gorgonians, Barrel Sponges, Commensal Shrimps, wide variety of Nudibranchs, Unicornfish, Surgeonfish, some Octopus and Green Turtles.



### **Fabiacet**

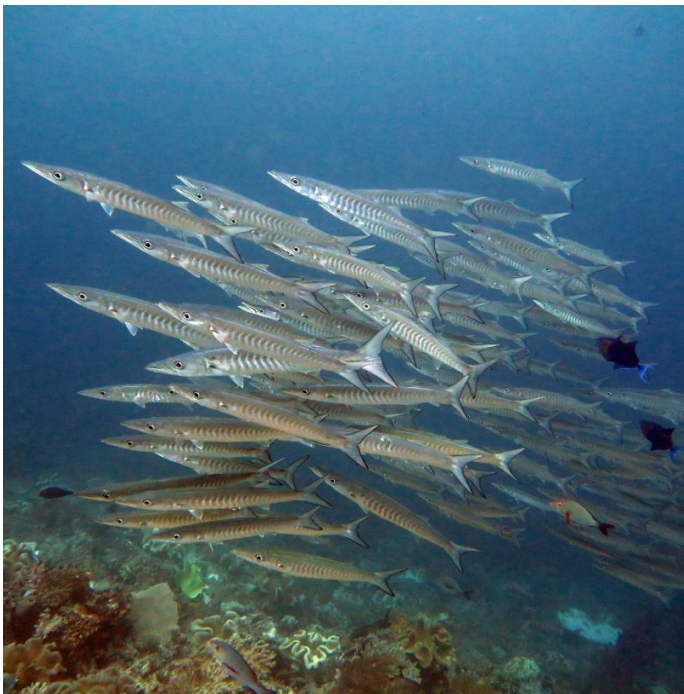
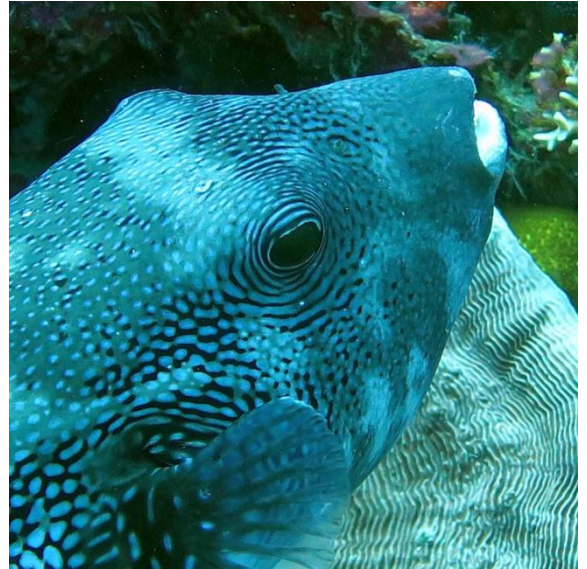
is many diver's dream reef.

This set of pinnacles has a dramatic topography and gets amazing visibility creating a spectacular backdrop for the wide-angle photographer enthusiast. You will find beautiful masses of gorgonians and sponges along the channels and if you keep your eyes on the deep blue, you may spot an occasional Great Hammerhead shark or other pelagic species.

With depth of 20-40 meters, the visibility can be up to 20 meters. Bottom contour consists of drop off, slope, and mixed contour with coral reef as bottom composition. You can see some Snapper, Fussilier, Sweetlips, Butterflyfish, Angelfish, Grouper, Damselfish, Anthias, Batfish, Wrasse, Parrotfish, Surgeonfish, Triggerfish, Boxfish, Pufferfish, Porcupinefish, Gobies, Moray eels, Scorpionfish, Flathead, Blennies, Dragonet here.



Around this island, there are 4 islets which you can dive and become home to large variety of marine creatures. Sometimes, great hammerhead sharks can be found here, coming up to shallower water to check out what divers are doing in the water. With depth of 20-40 meters, the visibility can be up to 20 meters. Bottom contour consists of drop off, slope, and mixed contour with coral reef as bottom composition. You can see some Snapper, Fussilier, Sweetlips, Butterflyfish, Angelfish, Grouper, Damsel fish, Anthias, Batfish, Wrasse, Parrotfish, Surgeonfish, Triggerfish, Boxfish, Pufferfish, Porcupinefish, Gobies, Moray eels, Scorpionfish, Flathead, Blennies, Dragonet here.

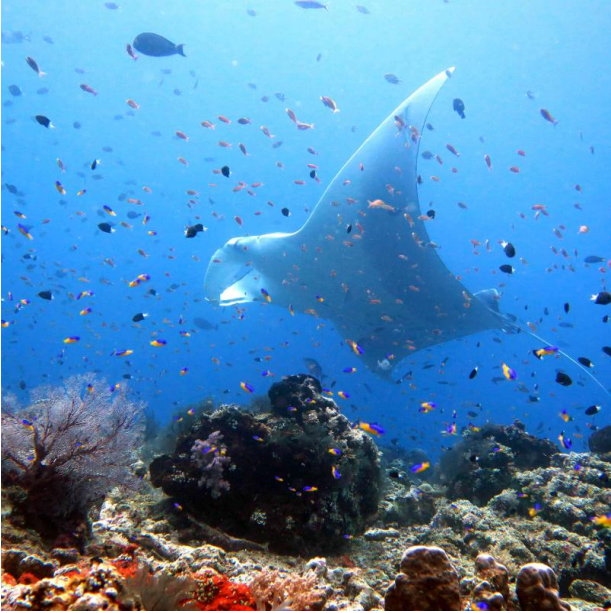




## Warakaraket (Magic Mountain)

The real “magic” to be found is a submerged meridian and well-known cleaning station for Manta Rays. The pinnacle itself is about 7 meters and just 20 minutes away from the resort. In an extremely rare occurrence, smaller reef ‘*Manta alfredi*’ and giant oceanic ‘*Manta birostris*’ manta rays report to the same spot for fish to remove parasites from their skin.

Magic Mountain is also a nursery for White Tip Reef Sharks and a love nest for Napoleon Wrasse. Napoleon Wrasse is an enormous, blue coral reef fish that grows over six feet long and has a prominent bump on its forehead. You can find them on the reef scouring for hard-shelled prey like mollusks, starfish, or crustaceans, which is unusual for a fish.





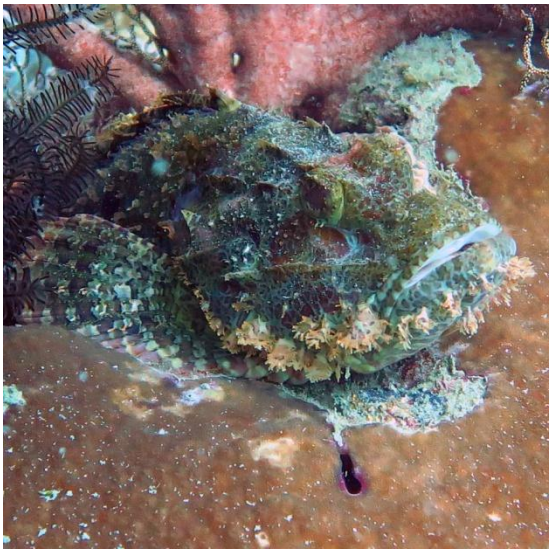


## Kaleidoscope

This dive site shows that Raja Ampat does not only have big stuff, as you can encounter a sloping wall covered in a blanket of soft corals with vibrant colours. Some critters in this area are ghost pipefish, pygmy seahorses, nudibranchs, and flatworms. Sometimes, a night dive here can also be stunning.



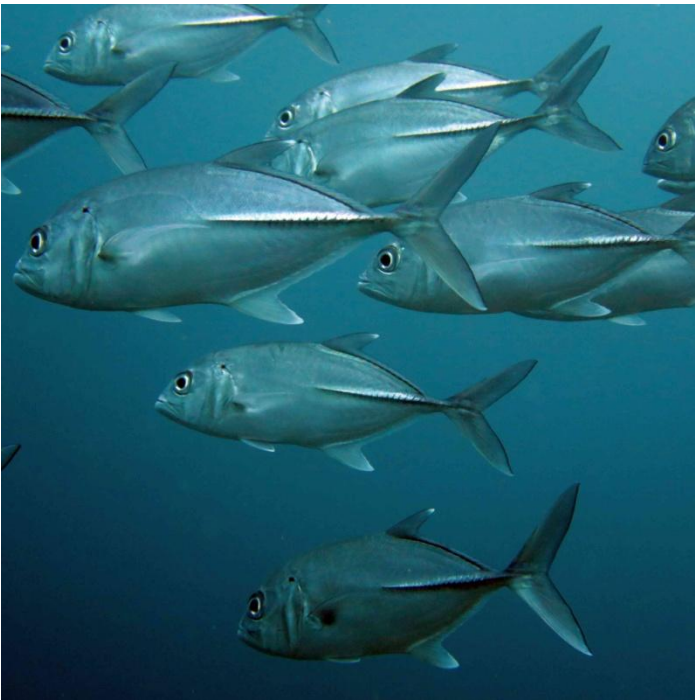




## **Sagof-Daram Archipelago (Farondi, Balbulol, Daram)**









Located 20 kilometers from Misool Island, this islet of Farondi is one of the favourite dive sites in Raja Ampat due to its unique and distinctive landscape: tunnels, caverns, and colourful walls. It highlights two famous dive spots, which are Goa Besar and Verena's Garden.

The current on this islands can be strong, which also means pelagic fishes around, such as schools of jacks, giant trevallies and yellow-tail barracuda, while some sea snakes, octopus, and wide variety of nudibranchs can also be spotted here. In short, this dive site has healthy reefs, lots of fish life, and more macro than you know.

### **Day-8**

Final day of diving and crossing back Sorong.

### **Day-9**

Check-out after breakfast or lunch time – depends on your flight time.

We say good-bye to our guests and wish them farewell.

The MARI crew will organize the transfer to the Airport and assist at check-in for onward flights.

