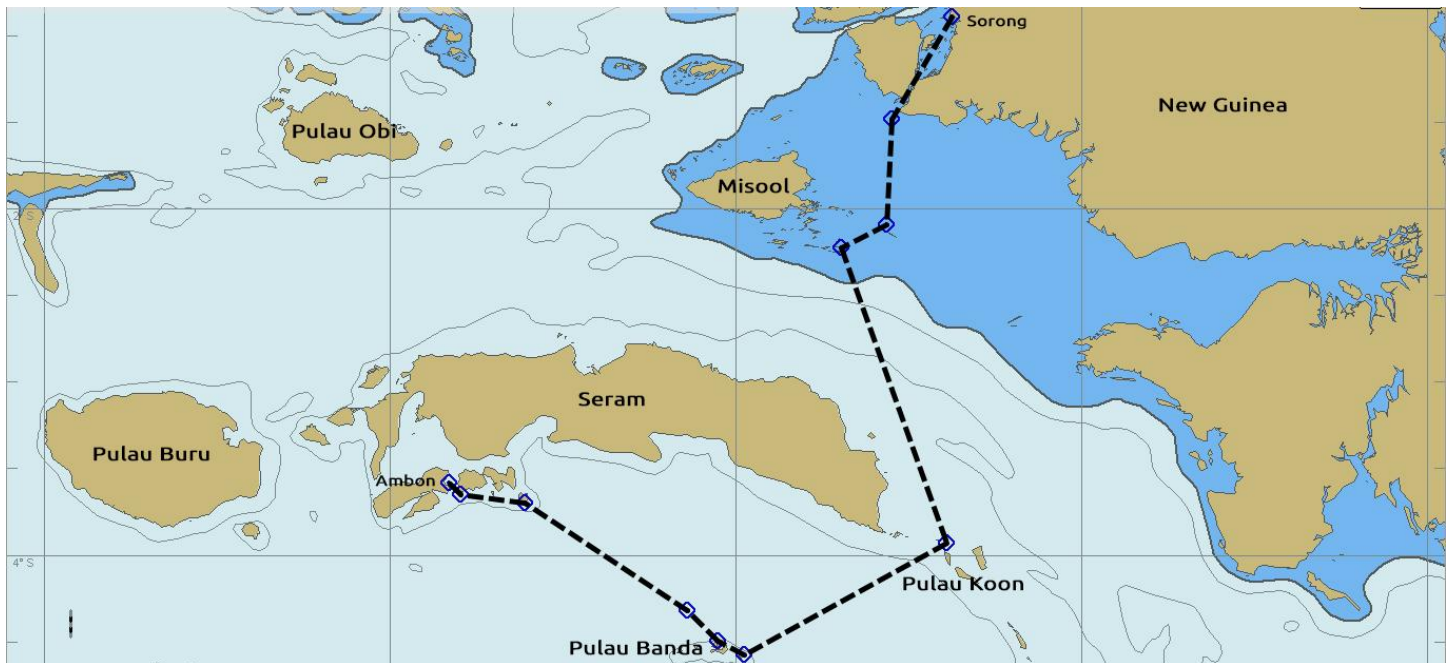


## Raja Ampat & Banda Neira Adventure 11 nights/12 days



### Cruise Summary

Our 12-day Dive & Adventure Travel guides us first from Sorong to the best dive sites of Raja Ampat – to Misool. Raja Ampat is the place where coral species reach 75% of all known species and fish nearly 1,300 species and has arguably the greatest marine biodiversity in the world. Raja Ampat is also a paradise for bird watchers.

Our journey continues via Koon Island (some divers call this divesite "fish soup") to Banda Neira - Once known as the Spice Islands. The condition and health of the coral reefs are breathtaking.

From Banda we continue towards Ambon with stop in Nusa Laut. Nusa Laut is known for its clean reefs that are protected by the local community.

Ambon Island is the capital of Maluku Province and its main town, Kota Ambon is the largest and most developed in the region. In the 17th century when the spice trade was at its peak and the Dutch monopoly on cloves its strongest, they made Kota Ambon their base in the Moluccas because of its superb natural harbor offered, and the town was known as the "Queen of the East".

While it is still possible to find the odd legacy of those days, most of the Dutch colonial era buildings were destroyed during the WWII battle for Ambon between the Allied forces and the Japanese.



## 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.

- We organize the transport from airport or your hotel to our vessel "MARI".
- The best time of arrival the day before the trip or in the day of the trip early morning.
- The Boat will departure between 12 pm and 2 pm.

At noon on the day of arrival we leave Sorong with SW heading. After a check-up-dive near Sorong, we sail towards Misool and reach the area of Daram at night. On next morning we will enter here the fantastic underwater world of Raja Ampat.

## Day 2-11

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:

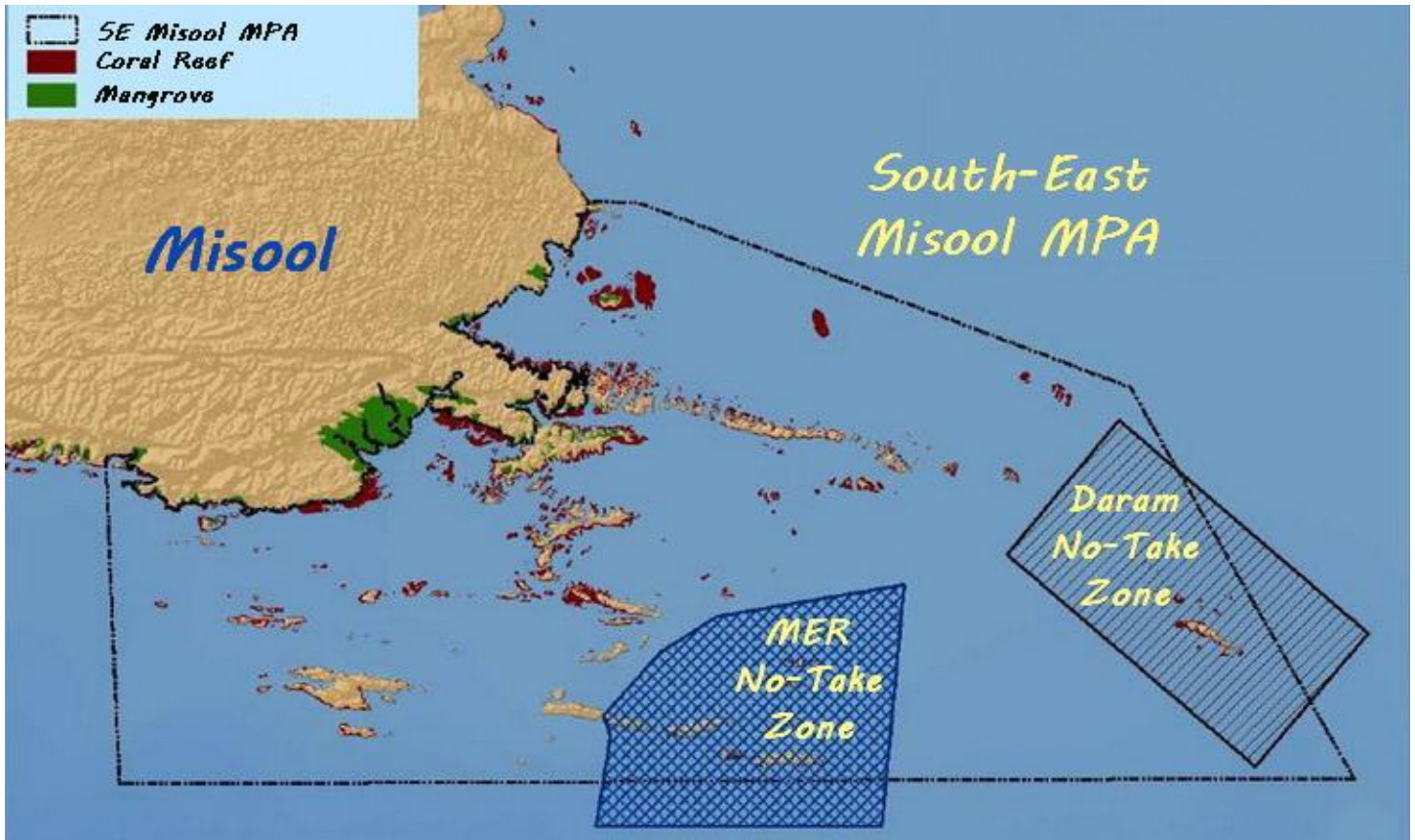
### **Misool,**

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.



Southeast Misool is the largest and southern most marine protected area (MPA) in the Raja Ampat MPA.



## **Koon Island**

Small Island, located in the district of South East Seram

The name of the dive site says it all: "Too many fishes". With the right current the diving could be unforgettable, millions of fish, schooling jacks, barracudas, sharks.



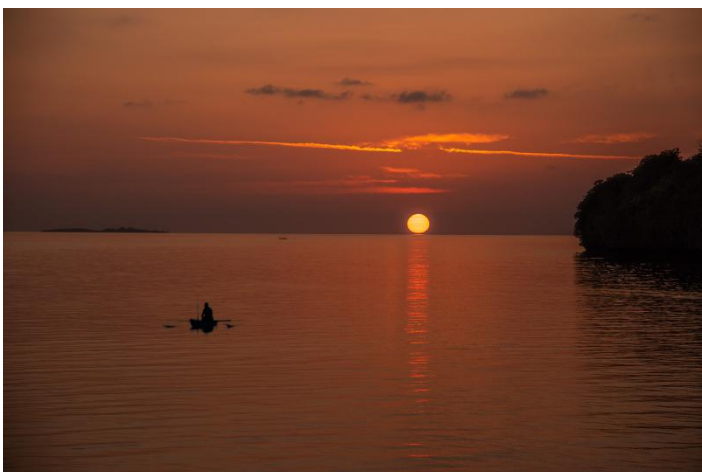
## **Banda Neira**

Once known as the Spice Islands, the condition and health of the coral reefs are breathtaking.

Isolated from the rest of Central Maluku, the 10 little volcanic islands that make up the Banda archipelago are the most wanted tourist destination in the whole of Maluku. Fortunately, as these pretty little islets remain somewhat time-consuming to reach which keeps the crowds away.

Obligated stop for a cultural tour: the fort, the governor's house, the church, nutmeg plantations, the chance to have a beer on land with the locals...

Diving: both Pulau Run and Pulau Ai have pristine clear waters, lovely walls and good fish life; we might go a bit deeper in search of more hammerheads, big fish can be seen here as well, napoleons, schools of black snappers, bumpheads etc...





## **Nusa Laut**

Nusa Laut is the most easterly of the Lease group and about 80 km from Ambon, so in reality it's probably only possible to dive the sites there from a live aboard.

The diving around Nusa Laut was pioneered by Eddie Frommenweiler and the late Larry Smith, who between them opened up much of the diving in Eastern Indonesia.

The reef is as it was hundreds of years ago. The locals have protected it and now it is an outstanding diving site, many people's favourite dive.

With a bit luck In the shallow bay of Paperu it is possible to spot a dugong in the sea grass. On Nusa Laut there are a few old forts and colonial buildings.





## **Ambon**

is the capital of Maluku Province and its main town, Kota Ambon is the largest and most developed in the region.

In the 17th century when the spice trade was at its peak and the Dutch monopoly on cloves its strongest, they made Kota Ambon their base in the Moluccas because of its superb natural harbor offered, and the town was known as the "Queen of the East". While it is still possible to find the odd legacy of those days, most of the Dutch colonial era buildings were destroyed during the WWII battle for Ambon between the Allied forces and the Japanese.



**Day 11:**

Final day of diving - our trip ends at the port of Ambon.

**Day-12**

Check-out after breakfast or lunch time – depends on your flight time. We say good-bye to our guests and wish them farewell. Our crew will organize the transfer to the airport and assist at check-in for onward flights.

