

Triton Bay & Raja Ampat

We will spend a few days diving some of the best dive sites in Raja Ampat. Then we will begin our journey towards Triton Bay, crossing the Ceram & Arafura seas.

Itinerary

The following is a sample itinerary of dive sites we may visit during your liveaboard safari on board the S/Y Indo Siren. We wish to show you the very best diving possible, however, several factors can determine which sites we visit. Our Cruise Director and Diving Director, along with the Captain will take weather, tides, currents and many other factors into consideration to determine which route the yacht takes, and which sites are selected for diving. 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 specified dive site in good time. The safety of all on board is paramount and we always do our best in offering diving at alternate locations should we be unable to visit those sites listed below. This itinerary involves some long distance (overnight) travel.

The diving day on board the S/Y Indo Siren has a typical schedule 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, relaxation, followed by briefing & Dive 4
- Dinner

For your final day aboard, we schedule two morning dives to allow plenty of time for off-gassing before disembarkation and your flight home. Guests are responsible for their own dive profiles and for obtaining suitable dive insurance to cover all diving activities.

Depending on weather conditions and where we are, we will always try to offer a sunset, or night dive. Guests should bring along dive lamps, though of course we have rental lights for those that need them

Dive sites we visit may include but are not limited to:

Dampier Strait

Located in the remote far east of the Indonesian archipelago, the Strait is the large passage of water between the islands of Gam & Waigeo in the north and Batanta in the south. This area offers some of the best diving in Raja Ampat, with its dense hard coral reefs and large fish schools that characterize the area. 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 meters is a world-renowned cleaning station which attracts many reef manta rays of a variety of shades and sizes. Divers can rest on the bottom and watch this underwater show take place. If the mantas are not performing their show, there is still a plethora of marine life to look and discover. The reef itself has many smaller creatures with dragonets and various pipefishes.

Cape Kri – One of the most well-known sites in the Dampier Strait and a world record setter, with 374 species of fish seen during one dive. The steep slope swept by a nutrient rich current attracts an amazing variety of fish, such as Napoleon Wrasse, Bumphead Parrotfish & Pinnate Batfish. In the blue, myriads of Bignose Unicornfish and Bluestreak Fusiliers are closely watched by Giant Trevallies & Dogtooth Tuna, whilst black tip reef sharks, Pickhandle Barracuda and pipefish are all regular residents as well.

Blue Magic – A must-dive in Raja Ampat, with a long finger-shaped seamount that starts at 8 meters and drops down to 30 meters, where everywhere you look teams with life, colour and movement. The surface is covered with hard and soft corals, where schools of jacks and barracuda wander. Oceanic & Reef Manta rays can be seen hovering above the cleaning stations, while Grey reef are cruising in the blue. While waiting for some action, interesting camouflaged fish can be found such as the Wobbegong sharks, and, for the keen eyed, Pontohi pygmy seahorses.

Sardine Reef – This underwater hill is swarming with fusiliers, snappers and sweetlips, schools of Bumphead parrot fish, banner fish, barracuda and trevally that feast on the nutrients in the water. Rock mover wrasse, dragonets and jaw fish are amongst the smaller fish species seen here, whilst white tip and black tip reef sharks cruise around feasting on the prey. This is a perfect location to watch the food chain in action.

Mike's Point – As we approach the tiny island known as Mike's Point, eagles can 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 outstanding, and the island can be circumnavigated in one dive seeing sweetlips, batfish, jacks, Spanish mackerel, grey reef sharks and Wobbegong sharks.

Penemu & Yangeffo Islands

Located west of Gam, we will next visit these mushroom islands that are surrounded by turquoise coral filled seas. 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, that are adorned in a variety of sizes and colours. In its shallow waters, vast fields of staghorn corals are inhabited by myriads of Damselfishes, whilst Blacktip reef sharks circuit the area. On the slopes, Trevallies, Napoleon Wrasse cohabit with schools of Fusiliers, whilst on the sandy bottom you can almost always spot a Mushroom Coral Pipefish.

Mayhem – This dive spot is notorious for its strong currents, making for an exhilarating dive. Its seamount, reaching 12 meters below the water, boasts big bommies that are home to glass fishes and wobbegong sharks. The tip of the reef is teeming with large shoals of Fusiliers and Surgeonfishes that cluster together, whilst Bluefin Travellies patrol the area. Divers will also be able to spot Whiteip Reef Sharks, who prefer to live in the white sandy areas around the seamount.

Citrus Ridge – A spectacular reef named after the orange, pink, yellow and green soft corals that carpet the whole area. The up-current side offers sensational encounters such as roaming Grey and Blacktip Reef Sharks, schooling Jacks and a vortex of Blackfin Barracuda. On the lee side,

Jaw fish bob out of their ground holes, Wobbegong sharks rest lazily beneath table corals, Twinspot Gobies grazed on the sandy bottom, while Crocodilefishes awaits their prey.

Misool Islands

There are numerous small islands surrounding one of the four largest islands in Raja Ampat, 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 shallow plateau. With a high variety of habitat, it is no wonder this site is one of the most famous dive sites in Misool. Thick schools of fusilier's cruise over hard and soft corals, where we can find Wobbegong and epaulette sharks hiding. Pickhandle barracuda form schools along the reef whilst reef octopus hide in the wall's crevices where giant Gorgonian Sea fans are attached.

Boo Windows - Comprised of two rocks that stick up from the eastern edge of the island of Boo, this dive site is a coral garden paradise. Prone to strong currents, diving here can be very thrilling as it attracts trevally and schools of dog tooth tuna. Back near to the surface the tides and water have eroded various holes in the rocks, creating swim-throughs that make for great photography opportunities. Pickhandle barracuda, snapper, grouper, napoleon wrasse, turtles, batfish and rabbit fish are often seen in the waters surrounding the islands.

Gorgonian Passage - Situated in the channel that runs between the Wayilbatan and Wayil islands lies Gorgonian Passage. This area is decorated with huge sea fans, where a variety of pygmy seahorses can be found hiding in, including Bargibanti and Denise. Divers come to this spot to find countless types of sweetlips and various smaller marine creatures, such as peacock mantis shrimp and juvenile convict fish.

Karang Bayangan aka Magic Mountain – One of the best dive sites in Indonesia; a dome-shaped seamount with a finger-shaped rocky outcrop densely covered with Gorgonian fans and Soft corals. You can witness enormous schools of Fusiliers, Surgeonfishes and Batfishes circled by Dogtooth Tunas, Giant Trevallies, Grey Reef and Whitetip reef sharks. On top of these incredible encounters, a cleaning station for Oceanic & Reef Mantas can make this dive one of your best!

Nudi Rock – A Nudibranch-shaped island and an iconic dive site, part of a 0.8 mile ridge with walls, pinnacles and sandy plateaus. Marine species varying from macros to large pelagics can all be seen at this striking site. Blacktips, Whitetips, Grey reef sharks and schooling Blackfin Barracuda can be spotted, whilst hiding amongst the corals, are Crocodilefishes, Nudibranchs, Porcelain Crabs and the elusive Soft Coral Pipefishes.

Pisang Island

Located between the islands of Misool & Papua, the Pisang Island is named after its Banana-like shape. This is a group of islands in the middle of Arafura Sea and lies south of Saboaeda island and its long white sand beach.

T-Bone Reef – A rocky outcrop covered with vibrant Elephant ears sponges, Gorgonian sea fans & yellow soft corals. With the right current, you can expect to see eagle rays cruising and hunting on the sandy bottom floor. Schools of Barracudas and Jacks also circle around its waters.

The Dome – As the name suggests, this is a massive seamount that is known for Brown Marbled Groupers and Giant Groupers that circle around its waters. The slopes are covered with colourful Cabbage corals, with Ringed Pipefish hiding beneath. The shallows also host Blacktip Reef sharks & Bumphead Parrotfishes.

Sanggala Bay

Situated along the coast of the Fak Fak Province, Sanggala offers both great diving and breathtaking landscapes. Cool water from the Papuan's mountains flows through thick primary jungle to enter the turquoise waters of the Ceram sea. It is not uncommon to see local ships refilling their water tanks at the foot of the waterfall.

If you walk about an hour upriver, a beautiful hidden turquoise lake lies in the heart of the forest, where Tree-Kangaroos occupy the area.

There are two special dive sites we will explore:

Mike's Mount – Hundreds of meters long, this seamount attracts large pelagics, such as Oceanic Manta Rays, Grey Reef Sharks and big Dogtooth Tunas. Large shoals of Fusiliers and Surgeonfishes drift above extensive hard corals fields, such as Staghorn and Cabbage corals, which can live in depths of 40 meters. Masses of Anthias and Damselfishes inhabit these vibrant coral gardens.

Mikado – Years ago during a storm, a ship transporting tree trunks had release its cargo to avoid running aground the shallow seamount in the center of the bay. As a result, dozens of these trunks are littered forming a huge "Mikado" structure on the grey sand. This area is a good place to look for Twinspot Gobies and Upside-down Jellyfishes between the trunks. The seamounts slopes are covered by hard corals where Bumphead Parrotfishes & Crocodilefishes are among the usual suspects.

South Aiduma & Dramai Islands

The strait between Aiduma and Papua is the heart of Triton Bay, where the nutrient rich current feeds some of the most diverse colorful Soft corals reefs in all of Indonesia. Because of this, we usually experience a lower visibility, but it is worth it. The sandy bays also offer great muck dive. We will spend a whole diving in these waters, in the following dive spots:

7th Heaven – Undoubtedly a well-earned name, as the walls are entirely covered with Pastel and Purple coloured soft corals. When there is a current flowing, the corals are pumped with water which release a fantastic purple carpet cover on the rocks. We can also expect to see large schools of Snappers, Barracuda and Fusiliers cruising around.

Batu Jeruk – This site literally means 'orange rock' in Indonesian, which is not overstated. We will dive over a shallow rocky plateau and slope carpeted with Orange soft corals where Sweetlips,

Snappers & Fusiliers hover. The numerous rocks also create small overhangs where Wobbegongs & Giant Groupers often rest.

Tim's Rock – You can expect to see an array of boulders decorated with Green Black coral, a resting spot for Sweetlips, Snappers & Glassfishes. The white sand in between hosts numerous species of Gobies and Jawfishes. Rocky slopes are densely covered with vibrant Gorgonian fans, fully grown colorful Soft corals and Whip Corals. There are even a few yellow Gorgonian, where the observant eye can find the elusive Yellow Bargibanti Seahorse.

La Ultima Frontera – Located on the outskirts of Triton Bay, where the visibility is typically better, this small island is pierced by a large swim through near the surface. Regularly large schools of Red Snapper, Surgeonfishes and Fusiliers are seen, creating a real fish soup, where Giant Trevallies tour eagerly. Boulder clusters are adorned with soft coral hangings, creating a playground for Wobbegong sharks, Giant and Honeycomb Moray eel.

Pintu Arus, Saruneus Island

In the channel between Aiduma & Papua, this small island can offer a remote diving spot. This area is known for three specific dive sites: Little Komodo, Larry's Heaven and Saruneus. These areas boast a diverse topography, including walls, rocky and sandy slopes, plateaus and boulders. You can spot a huge diversity and density of Soft corals of all colors and forms.

We will be diving in Little Komodo, known as the penultimate dive site of Triton Bay, which boasts shallow boulders that are covered in colorful large Soft corals, a true photographer's paradise. Deeper on the slope, a large Black coral forest with large Gorgonian fans meets the sandy bottom. When the current hits the boulders, huge colonies of Orange Cup Orange extend their polyps to feed on the nutrient carried by the current. On top of this fantastic array of colors and shapes, Wobbegongs, Spiny Lobsters and Pipefishes hide beneath large table corals.

Mauwera & Pelican Bay

Triton Bay also offers spectacular sights above the surface that can be explored, including white sand beaches, turquoise lagoons, mangroves, mushroom shaped island and even some Pelicans for the patient eyes.

Bitsyara Bay

Not far from Kaimana, our final stop will be this large shallow bay which contains Bagans (local fishing platforms). Whale sharks are seen around the area, as they adore the smell of deceased fish from the fishing boats.

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