



## Eight Days - Raja Ampat North

### Sorong - North Raja Ampat - Sorong

The Raja Ampat archipelago lies to the west of the Bird's Head Peninsula, straddling the equator off the extreme northwestern tip of the Papua province of Indonesia. Comprising 610 – 1,500 islands (depending on the accepted distinction between an island and a rocky outcrop), the region has been described as the 'Last Paradise on Earth.'

The name Raja Ampat literally means 'the Four Kings' and dates back to the time when the islands were ruled by the North Moluccan sultanates of Ternate and Tidore – in those days each of the four larger islands in the group, Waigeo, Salawati, Batanta and Misool, used to bow to an independent 'raja.' The islands are distinguished by their rugged and steep limestone coastlines, covered with virgin rainforest extending right down to the water's edge. The larger islands are lightly populated, but most are uninhabited. Until the Millennium, the name Raja Ampat was completely absent from Indonesian travel brochures. Trailblazing diving expeditions, undertaken by modern-day explorers and adventurers, have since put the archipelago on the map, and today Raja Ampat is world famous as one of the most noteworthy ecological niches on the planet, on a par with the Great Barrier Reef and the Galápagos.

Marine biologists have established that Raja Ampat is home to 70 percent of the known coral species on the planet. Many of the fish, corals and crustaceans that live in these waters are found nowhere else on Earth. Yet, while the below-surface world is reminiscent of a living kaleidoscope, the above-surface views are among the most stunning that you are likely to behold in a lifetime.

During this eight-day cruise, we will take you on a far-reaching exploration of what is without a doubt one of the least visited but most memorable adventure-destinations on our planet. You do not need to be a diver to be able to experience this global epicentre of marine diversity. Nor do you need to be a seasoned birdwatcher to see and appreciate the dazzling birdlife that brought Alfred Russel Wallace to this region over a century ago. We certainly hope to witness the curious bobbing, flapping and weaving display dance of the Red Bird of Paradise, to hear the shrieks of the Sulphur Crested Cockatoo and the loud whooshing wing beats of Hornbills in flight.

**Note:** Guests will meet the Katharina in Sorong, West Papua. As we would like to make a punctual start, we recommend that you to fly to Makassar (Sulawesi) one day in advance of the start date, and then take an early morning flight from Makassar to Sorong. Please note that airfares to and from Sorong are not included in the tour package. Our SeaTrek office will be happy to assist you with any information and flight reservations.

## Trip Highlights

- ▶ Explore one of the most biodiverse regions in the world
- ▶ Snorkel the most pristine and deserted coral reefs
- ▶ Encounter amazing Fauna and Flora







## Day to day itinerary

### Day 1

Your flight will arrive in the West Papuan port town of Sorong, the gateway to Raja Ampat. From the airport we will transfer you to the harbour where the Katharina will be waiting at anchor. Once settled into your cabin, your cruise director will familiarise you with the vessel's facilities and safety procedures. Ready to start our adventure, we will weigh anchor and set a course for the island of Waigeo, stopping for a refreshing swim along the way. We will then dine alfresco on the main deck while meeting the other passengers and crew and watching the sun set on our first day at sea.

### Day 2

After waking up, before sunrise, in the southwest corner of Kabui Bay, overlooking Yenbeser Village, we will follow in the footsteps of the famous naturalist Alfred Russel Wallace in a pre-dawn quest to spot the remarkable Red Bird of Paradise, one of the species that Wallace was most anxious to collect. We hope that the efforts of our trek through

the forest will pay off, enabling us to catch a rare and privileged sight of the bird's elaborate courtship dance as the day breaks over the forest canopy. Whether we spot the birds or not, for sure we will experience a wonderful trek. On the way

back we we'll visit a faithful replica of Wallace's small hut, which was built by the villagers using plans from FFI (Flora & Fauna International) and a grant from SeaTrek. We will spend the rest of the day exploring the sea channels and snorkeling



on some of the gorgeous surrounding reefs.

### Day 3

Today the Katharina will make her way through the Dampier Strait, home of some of Raja Ampat's premier reefs. With a bit of luck, we hope to snorkel among some of the larger specimens of marine life attracted to the strait's nutrient-rich currents. We end our day by mooring off Pulau Arborek in front of Arborek Village. Here, we can easily circumnavigate the tiny island by foot and gain a sense of the Asai culture, which is still kept alive by the villagers living in this isolated place. Arborek is also home to a local Manta Ray conservation project where volunteers will happily show us around and explain their efforts and programmes in more detail.

### Day 4

In the morning, the Katharina will be moored in front of the island of Penemu. The heart of this island is home to the scenic wonder known as 'Hidden Bay,' and we will take a short hike to the top of Penemu Hill to be awestruck by one of





Raja Ampat's most spellbinding views. The rest of the day we will spend exploring, kayaking, paddleboarding and snorkelling in the surrounding areas. Early evening we will set course for the Wayag Archipelago.

### Day 5

Few areas in Indonesia can lay claim to such unsurpassed natural splendour as Raja Ampat's Wayag islands. The beauty of these picturesque karst spires is perhaps only equalled by the brilliant colours and vibrancy of the reefs and the marine life that flourishes below. Nature has carved these islands into a series of coves and lagoons, narrow channels and inlets, caves, jagged rocks and shaded, sandy beaches. For those who dare, there are some spectacular but nearly vertical climbs that are rewarded with magnificent panoramas. We will spend a quiet night here at anchor.

### Day 6

The Wayag islands are Raja Ampat's best, and we will make the most of this unique region for one more morning, navigating

the maze of mushroom-shaped islands, and stopping for swimming and snorkelling. In the afternoon, we will set our compasses to return to the southern

hemisphere on our way back to mainland West Papua. Just before sunset we will cross the equator, providing a

fabulous opportunity for the brave to have an equatorial dip in the middle of the ocean.

### Day 7

In the morning, we will wake up at Yangeffo, another fantastic place for snorkelling, exploring, kayaking and paddleboarding. At lunchtime we will cruise past the island of Mansuar to Cape Kri. This little island is one of the 'fishiest' places in Raja Ampat and if the tide is right you might find yourself snorkelling with endless schools of fish. We will spend the afternoon in front of the island of Mioskon where we will have a farewell dinner party together with the crew. During the night we will cruise back towards Sorong.

### Day 8

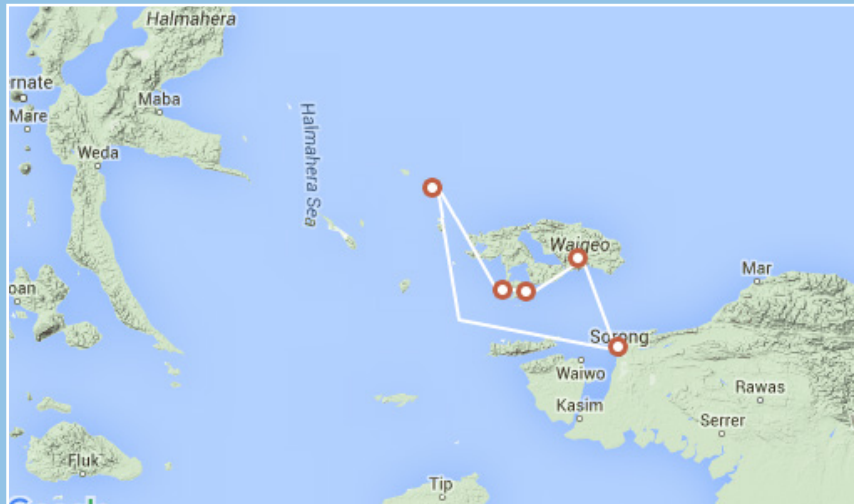
After a quick stop for a final swim and refreshments on one of the nearby islands we will make our way back to the harbour of Sorong, arriving around lunch time. Here we will bid farewell to the Katharina and her crew. Our tenders will take you ashore for your transfer to the airport for your onward travel.



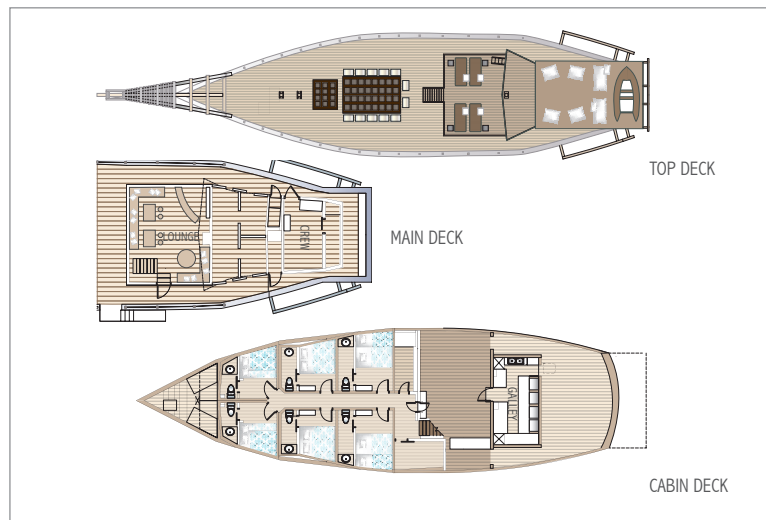




## Route Map







#### KATHARINA

Six superior cabins with en-suite bathrooms.  
Saloon & bar. Outdoor covered dining area. Rooftop lounge area.  
Kayaks. Stand-up-paddle boards (SUP). Snorkelling equipment.  
Fishing gear. Two tender boats.  
Full complement of crew: engineering and service.

Length overall: 35 metres  
Deck length: 26 metres  
Draught: 3.5 metres  
Rig: Gaff-rigged ketch  
Cruising speed: 7-9 Knots  
International standard navigation & safety equipment  
(including radar and satellite phone).

#### ABOUT SEATREK SAILING ADVENTURES

Based in Bali, SeaTrek is the premier adventure sailing operator in Indonesia, with over 25 years of experience showing guests the distinctive beauty and charm of the archipelago's exotic islands and seas. Our vessels have highly-trained crews and multilingual tour guides and we offer a variety of cruises to suit those looking for the unique natural wonder, history and cultures of this far-flung corner of the world.



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