



RAJA AMPAT

- INDONESIA -

14 - 26
March 2026
(12 nights)
from
USD 4,270*
per person



THE EXPEDITION

With their sublime scenery of steep, jungle-covered islands, scorching white-sand beaches, hidden lagoons, spooky caves, weird mushroom-shaped islets and pellucid turquoise waters, Raja Ampat is undoubtedly one of the most beautiful island chains in Southeast Asia. The region is home to over 1,500 species of fish ranging from tiny gobies to magnificent manta rays and is known to be the marine area with the **highest recorded diversity of fish and invertebrate species in the world!**

During this expedition we will explore the north, the centre and the remote southern Raja Ampat offering you a stunning variety of dives and wildlife! The cruise will venture into Misool, famous for its abundance of marine life and colorful reefs; here we will dive sites such as the famous Magic Mountain, Boo Window and 4 Kings with chances of seeing both species of manta rays at once - the giant oceanic manta, and the smaller reef manta. You will also have the chance to see both colour variations of manta here, the chevron and the black morph. Navigating north we will be visiting Kofiau and Fam islands, diving sites such as the famous and pristine Melissa's garden, My Reef and exploring for potential manta nursery sites. We will continue north into Wayag diving Eagle Rock and looking for feeding mantas at Wayag nursery. We will finally visit Dampier Strait region to dive with mantas at sites such as Blue Magic and Manta Ridge while also enjoying world class diving of places such as Chicken Reef and Cape Kri. Here is where we will also be looking for aggregations of feeding mantas too for a chance to swim with formations of these marine giants!



Raja Ampat is particularly famous for its untouched reefs festooned with wildly colourful soft corals, hard coral gardens, massive gorgonian sea fans, and an extremely rich reef life. Wobbegong, pigmy sea horses and harlequin shrimps are just a few of other incredible creatures you will have the chance to encounter on this once in a lifetime expedition!

With over 1,500 islands, Raja Ampat remains still fairly unexplored with manta aggregation sites still to be discovered and much to be learnt about the local reef and oceanic manta populations. On this unique expedition we will also dedicate time to exploring new areas and conducting aerial and in-water surveys at potential manta aggregation and nursery sites which will enrich our understanding of the dynamics of the local manta populations critical to ensure that appropriate and effective conservation measures are taken.



MANTA
EXPEDITIONS

RAJA AMPAT



ON-BOARD MANTA EXPERT

As on all Manta Expeditions, a Manta Trust scientist will be onboard for its entire duration, offering everyone the opportunity to interact and learn from a leading manta expert.



The presence of a Manta Trust scientist onboard will enhance your experience in a number of ways:

- motivate and inspire you, by learning about the marine ecosystems you will be exploring
- gain access to an accumulated wealth of knowledge and expertise, providing you the opportunity to become actively involved in cutting-edge scientific research.
- offer you an educational and much more rewarding experience by making your underwater encounters more personal, and by involving you first-hand in marine research and conservation.
- be environmentally aware and proactive and become an active member of an initiative which stands to have strong implications for the ongoing persistence for manta rays worldwide.

Collectively the Manta Trust and Manta Expeditions teams possess over two decades of experience working in the Maldives, studying its manta population and marine life and have assembled a vast amount of knowledge and expertise, knowledge you will have access to on this expedition.

A core focus of the expeditions is not only to provide close encounters with manta rays but to enthuse and educate divers in marine conservation issues and the environment surrounding them. Through a series of activities and presentations on topics covering local marine species and habitats led by the Manta Trust expert, you are sure to leave with an increased awareness of the threats facing our oceans and, perhaps more importantly, how you can help.

Using the knowledge of the Manta Trust scientists you will gain a brand-new perspective to diving and experiencing the underwater world; by understanding what you see you will gain a better appreciation and love for the ocean and its creatures. Ultimately, with the guidance of the Manta Trust researcher you will have the chance to give something back to the ocean which we believe is fundamental considering how much we take from it!

CITIZEN SCIENCE - GET INVOLVED!

On this expedition, you'll have the opportunity to experience and participate in **cuttingedge conservation** research to protect one of the ocean's most majestic animals. Manta Trust scientists will be collecting photographic identification images of all mantas encountered throughout the expedition - a task that guests are welcome and encouraged to participate in. All new manta rays will be added to the database and guests will be invited to name these new mantas.

THE MANTA TRUST

A UK registered charity, the Trust's mission is to advance the worldwide conservation of manta rays and their habitat through robust science and research, by raising awareness and providing education, influence and action. The Manta Trust was formed in 2011 to coordinate global research and conservation efforts for these amazing animals, their close relatives and their habitat.

Data Collection: The Manta Trust has a number of research projects worldwide, incorporating population data, research on manta movements, and genetic analyses - to name a few - in order to better understand the general ecology of manta and mobula rays.



THE BOAT | SEA SAFARI 8

The 34m Sea Safari 8 liveaboard is built in the traditional Indonesian Phinisi design, with luxurious teak interiors, 12 air-conditioned spacious and comfortable cabins en-suite bathroom and TV, and outstanding facilities for divers and underwater photographers. On the main deck is a spacious and comfortable indoor lounge with air-conditioned restaurant and TV, ideal for evening presentations. Just outside is a beautiful outdoor bar area where you can enjoy stunning views, sunsets, and starry skies. This then leads to a spacious sun deck for relaxation between dives. The spacious diving deck allows easy kitting up as you get ready to explore the rich and diverse dive sites of Raja Ampat. Finally, to make your diving holiday more comfortable the vessel also boasts a dedicated camera room station and a Jacuzzi.

BOOKING

To reserve your place on this Raja Ampat Manta Expedition, please send an email to Niv Froman via info@mantaexpeditions.com referring to "Raja Ampat Manta Expedition 2026".

Trip costs for this 12-nights expedition includes transfers from Sorong, full board accommodation, FREE Nitrox, WiFi, land excursions, and 3 to 4 dives / snorkelling excursions per day.

* Not included: International flight, Marine park fees (420USD/pers), rental of dive gear, dive insurance, alcoholic beverages, and crew tip (15USD/person/day minimum).

Upper deck cabin supplement USD 200 per person, single cabin supplement USD 750.