

General Info & FAQs

“Raja Ampat, one of the most singular and picturesque landscapes I have ever seen.”

Alfred Russel Wallace

Table of Contents

RAJA AMPAT AND PAPUA EXPLORERS ECO RESORT	2
HOW TO GET THERE?	3
ACCOMODATION	4
DIVING	5
Currents and Diver Experience Level	6
Diver Safety	6
OUR PADI 5 STAR DIVE CENTER	7
The Dive Team	7
Equipment & Safety	7
SNORKELING	7
FOR THE PHOTOGRAPHERS	7
EXTRA ACTIVITIES	8
MEDICAL	8
VISA AND ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	8
WEATHER / SEASONS	9
FOOD	9
OTHER FACILTIES	9
GIVING BACK ; Raja Ampat SEA Centre	9
FAQs	11
Travel Organization and Transport	12
Diving	15
Booking, Payment and Prices	16
Medical Issues	18
Resort Facilities	19
Miscellaneous	19
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS	20



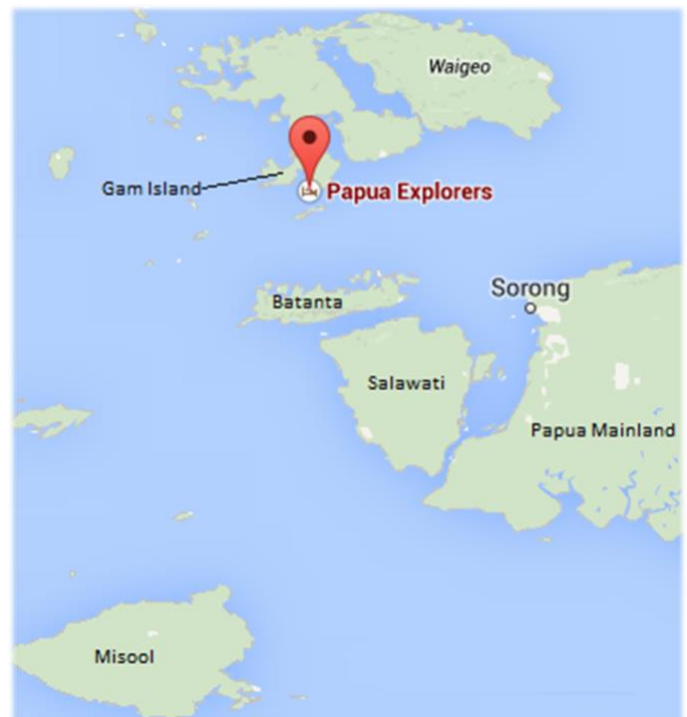
RAJA AMPAT AND PAPUA EXPLORERS ECO RESORT

Papua Explorers Eco Resort is located in the islands of Raja Ampat, which is on the northwest tip of the Bird's Head Peninsula of West Papua. Raja Ampat translates into English as Four Kings and gets its name from a local mythology about four kings that occupy the four big islands: Salawati, Batanta, Waigeo and Misool. It's a stunning archipelago comprising over 1,500 small islands, hosting thousands of species some of which are endemic to the region.

Some scientific surveys reveal that Raja Ampat has 603 hard coral species which represents more than 75% of all the species in the world. With its rich ecosystem and abundance of species, Raja Ampat is the bull's-eye of the Coral Triangle in every sense. Papua Explorers is located on the island of Gam and just along the coast of worldwide renowned Dampier Strait, only 10 to 15 minutes away from the most famous dive sites like Manta Point, Cape Kri...

As Papua Explorers Eco Resort, we are committed to creating sustainable and unforgettable human-nature experiences while conserving the waters of Raja Ampat and developing the local communities we are surrounded with. The resort is built using traditional Papuan construction methods and local, natural materials. Our water bungalows are designed to be in perfect harmony with the exotic surrounding, allowing the guests to feel the breeze from the rainforests, enjoy the songs of the tropical birds and soothe their souls with the flutter of the waves.

The little peninsula that Papua Explorers Resort is located on is home to the endemic Red Bird of Paradise. This unique bird and its amazing mating ceremony can be observed after an early morning hike in the rainforest. This is also an excellent way to observe the amazing plants and creatures of the rainforest.



HOW TO GET THERE?

The main entry point to Raja Ampat is Sorong, which can be reached from Jakarta, Manado, Ambon, Denpasar or Makassar via domestic flights. There are international flights to Jakarta, Denpasar, Manado and Makassar (Ujung-Pandang) and below are some alternatives for the connecting flights:

- Jakarta-Sorong direct flight: Garuda Indonesia, Batik Air
- Jakarta- Sorong through Ujung-Pandang (Makassar): Garuda Indonesia, Sriwijaya Air, Lion Air
- Denpasar- Sorong direct flight: Garuda Indonesia (return flight to Denpasar is through Makassar)
- Ujung Pandang- Sorong: There are international flights to Ujung Pandang from Singapore & Kualalumpur. This option requires one-night stay in Ujung Pandang.
- Manado-Sorong: There are direct flights to Manado from Singapore. This option requires one-night stay in Manado.

There are airport hotels in Jakarta and Ujung Pandang (Makassar). Rooms can be booked upon request.

Transportation in Indonesia is a growing and improving sector, however the standards may be below the Western world. Therefore, it's important to mentally prepare yourself for the imperfections you may face during your travel. Be patient and stay positive, remind yourself that you will be in heaven soon. Please note that travel insurance is recommended

for all guests to cover any potential loss caused by the airlines and for unforeseen circumstances due to rescheduled, cancelled or missed flights. Don't forget to lock your luggage and housing cases.

Airplanes can be extremely cold in domestic flights. We'd recommend that you have a light jacket with you. Some airlines have an extra allowance for diving equipment, so don't forget to check the diving equipment allowance when you book your flight.



TRANSFERS TO AND FROM THE ISLAND

Papua Explorers Eco Resort has scheduled transfers to the island from Sorong every Sunday and Wednesday with our own transfer boat. Our boat leaves at latest at 12:00 noon and we strongly recommend our guests to arrange their flights to arrive earlier than this. Although we do our best to accommodate late arrivals due to flight delays, we may not be able to wait for long if there are other guests in the boat. In these cases, special transfers will need to be arranged for the guests that arrive late. Our guests will be greeted by our ground crew upon arrival at Sorong and taken for clean bathrooms and breakfast (free of charge) at a nearby hotel until the boat is prepared for departure and all the guests have arrived.



One of our resort transfer boats, "Explorer 5"

Our boat leaves the resort at 6:00 o'clock to reach flights departing from Sorong after 10:00 o'clock. Please kindly arrange your domestic flight tickets according these transfer times. Please always take in account that we are operating at a remote area of the world, always try to plan your flights and connections leaving ample time for unwanted conditions that might arise during transfer. Therefore travel insurance is recommended for all our guests.



ACCOMODATION

Papua Explorers Eco Resort is constructed using local architectural techniques and natural materials. Walls are made from Daun Bobo, roofs are made from Daun Nipa, floors and window and door frames are made from iron wood. These are the typical materials used for traditional Papuan houses.

Our **deluxe water bungalows** are very spacious with their 72 m² total area, which includes a 40 m² room, WC, shower and hot water, and a 20 m² veranda. There are slightly smaller **superior water bungalows** upon



request

Each room has a bed with mosquito net, ceiling fan, desk and chair, a seating area consisting of a two-seater sofa and a coffee table. There are two sun loungers on each veranda as well as a hammock to enjoy the breathtaking Raja Ampat sunsets. There is a stairway straight to the ocean on the veranda. Towels, environmentally friendly natural shampoo & shower gel, and soap are provided.



DIVING

Diving in Raja Ampat casts a spell on all who descend into its abundant waters – scientists, photographers, novice and lifetime divers alike. Lying in the heart of the Coral Triangle, the Raja Ampat holds the prestigious title as the most marine bio-diverse place on earth - quite a title; but also fact. At its most recent count in 2011 the region of Raja Ampat was recognized to contain 1427 reef fishes, over 600 coral species (75% of the world's coral species can be found here), not to mention the pelagic life that is abundant in the area.



To dive in Raja Ampat is breathtakingly spectacular, and truly unforgettable. Hard and soft corals compete for space on reefs that are bursting with life and colour. Swarms of small fish such as damsels, fusiliers and anthias mill about on the reef flats, while not too far away the large schools of tuna, trevally and mackerel congregate. Batfish, surgeonfish and barracuda aggregate around jetties and reef points, while angel and butterflyfish decorate both the reef flats and jagged coral towers that are home to abundant marine life. Large fish species include napoleon wrasse, bumpheads and giant sweetlips, and being in shark sanctuary not a day goes by where divers don't spot one of the many species of reef shark in the area. And of course, there are the manta rays: reef mantas at nearby cleaning stations, the majestic oceanic manta in open water, and during the right season any given dive site may yield magnificent mantas gliding by.

There are really no words to describe diving in Raja Ampat, it must be experienced and is truly unforgettable, and diving over 50 sites in the area we ensure all our guest visit all of the abundant highlights this region has to offer.

Located within 30 minutes of most of our dive sites, Raja Ampat’s spectacular underwater world is easily accessible by boat. Highlights include:



Manta Point:	20 min	Mike’s Point:	10 min
Cape Kri:	15min	Sardines Reef:	25 min
Mioskon:	25 min	Blue Magic:	25 min
Otdima:	5 min	Chicken Reef:	20 min
The Passage:	45 min	Hidden Bay:	30 min

Currents and Diver Experience Level

The waters of Raja Ampat are highly rich in nutrients, and the Dampier Strait (our location) is especially nutrient-rich due its fast-moving currents. These conditions make the perfect environment for an abundance of marine life, including migrating mammals and pelagic species. However, such nutrient-rich water can mean low visibility at times (typically 15-20 m), and the majority of our dive sites will have current in varying degrees, from mild to very strong, depending on the tides and moon. For those divers who do not have reef hooks, we will provide these to assist you during dives with stronger current.

Some dive sites are not suitable for beginners or anyone that doesn’t feel comfortable in currents. Our dive guides check the current direction and strength before the divers get in the water and change the dive plan or site if necessary. Our dive groups are maximum 6 people and we have a head dive guide and an assistant guide in each group.



We have a check dive for everyone, and we make the groups according to the level of experience. We ease all divers into the currents by starting the dives with sites that get mild currents. There are enough sites with mild current to complete a week diving without going to the dive sites that get strong currents. However, you might also miss some of the highlights of Raja Ampat.

If you haven’t dived for 2 years or longer, we would recommend getting a refresher course to ease you back into scuba diving. We would also strongly recommend the Advanced Open Water Diver Course and minimum 30 dives as it would enable you to dive to a wider range of dive sites and maintain a perfect buoyancy to protect the pristine coral and marine life here.

Diver Safety

All divers are required to bring their safety buoys and whistles with them when coming to our resort. It is mandatory for all divers to have dive insurance to be able to dive with Papua Explorers. The closest operational hyperbaric chamber is in Waisai, however if your dive insurance requires transfer to another medical centre, the costs for treatment and transportation can be extremely high. Therefore, all dives are planned and executed without deco stops and it is mandatory for all divers to use a dive computer. All divers are required to follow their guide and guide instructions while diving with Papua Explorers.



OUR PADI 5 STAR DIVE CENTER

The Dive Team

Our dive team currently consists of:

- 11 skilled Indonesian dive guides, which are trained to up-to-date standards,
- 4 dive guide trainees from surrounding villages,
- 5 multinational PADI instructors, with various specialties,
- 11 highly trained and experienced boat drivers,
- 11 helpful and attentive boat crew members,
- and 2 compressor technicians,

all of which are happy to assist you at our PADI 5 Star Dive Center.

Papua Explorers management team consists of a variety of nationalities, namely Indonesia, Switzerland, England and Turkey. We are determined to employ and train a majority of local Papuan staff in all departments.

Equipment & Safety

Safety is very important to us at Papua Explorers Eco Resort. We maintain and review all our equipment and facilities frequently with respect to safety. Also, we train our dive staff monthly in emergency oxygen provider skills.

Our diving fleet is currently composed as follows: we have 8 daily diving boats (with a capacity of 6 divers per boat) and 2 diving-and-transfer boats (for 8 divers or 14 guests during transfer), all of which are equipped with DAN emergency oxygen sets, 2-way-marine-radios, emergency first response medical sets. In addition, the guest transfer boats are equipped with GPS, life jackets, fire extinguishers. On full day trips we equip the boats with satellite phones to provide extra safety.

All our facilities and bungalows are equipped with fire extinguishers and we implement and on site and on-board emergency action plan in multiple languages.

Please refer to the section ‘Technical Specifications’ for more detailed information.

SNORKELING

It is possible to witness the abundance of marine and coral reef life in Raja Ampat by snorkeling as well. We welcome snorkelers to Papua Explorers and ensure that our snorkeling guests are equally satisfied as our diving guests. Snorkelers can enjoy our house reef any time and many of the dive sites we visit with our boats are absolutely fantastic for snorkeling. In addition, the optional tours that we offer are a highlight for snorkelers as well as divers. On all boat trips our snorkelers will be accompanied in water by one of our experienced guides.

FOR THE PHOTOGRAPHERS

Raja Ampat, West Papua



Raja Ampat is an underwater photographer's heaven for both macro and wide-angle photography. Huge corals in vibrant colors are perfect for wide angle. Most photographers are mesmerized by the density of fish and corals and focus on wide-angle photography throughout their stay. However, Raja Ampat is home to some endemic macro creatures and using your macro lens can be extremely rewarding.

Photography is not limited to underwater. Tropic birds, bats and butterflies, interesting rainforest creatures can be observed on our island, as well as wild orchids and endemic black orchids. If you are interested in photographing the *Red Bird of Paradise*, it is advisable to bring a tripod and telephoto lens with you. Should you be interested in visiting the neighboring village, be prepared to capture portraits of beautiful Papuan children.

EXTRA ACTIVITIES

The Raja Ampat islands are amongst the rarest natural beauties in the world. Mushroom islands and the depth of green melting into the bright blue of the sea will make you feel like you're on Pandora in James Cameron's Avatar. We offer several excursions to worldwide famous sites as well as the well-kept secrets of Raja Ampat.

If you are interested in bird watching, then it is guaranteed that your stay in Papua Explorers will be a very satisfactory one. We wake up to the amazing sounds of the tropical birds. Flocks of parrots can be observed during the day. Red Bird of Paradise is resident at the neighboring bay. Excursions offered and their prices can be found in the price list.

You may also discover the surroundings of our resort using one of our kayaks or paddle boards.



MEDICAL

Raja Ampat is a remote area with limited access to medical care. Therefore, you are advised to bring your medicine with you. If there are pills that you need to take regularly, please bring enough stock for all the days of your stay. If you have any medicine allergies and you need to use special medications in case of sickness, bring these with you as well.

Malaria: Malaria is more common in big cities and less of a threat in our resort. You may choose to take preventive medicine; however, we strongly recommend that you consult your doctor before using these as they are known to have some side effects. Lariam has proven side effects for scuba divers, so we strongly discourage the use of this medicine.

The best way to avoid malaria and all mosquito transmitted diseases is to get protection against mosquito bites. Mosquito repellents are advisable for both direct use on body and for the room. Light, long sleeved clothes are safest and best way to avoid mosquito bites.

VISA AND ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

To be able to enter Indonesia, your passport needs to be valid for at least 6 months from the date of arrival and you need to have a valid return ticket. Please check the current visa policy that applies for your country here: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Visa_policy_of_Indonesia.

You need to obtain a Visa on Arrival for 30 days at the major entry points to Indonesia. Visa on Arrival costs USD 35 and it is advisable that you carry the exact amount with you. Upon arrival, you need to go to the counter for Visa on Arrival and then proceed to the passport control desks named “Foreigner”.

Customs declaration form needs to be filled online and the QR code needs to be scanned by the customs before you exit the airport. Here is the link to the customs form: <https://ecd.beacukai.go.id/>

WEATHER / SEASONS

Raja Ampat can be visited any time of the year. The temperature is between 30-35 degrees Celsius and the sea is at 28-29 degrees Celsius throughout the year. It is possible to have tropical rains any time, but like most tropical rains, these will not last for too long.

FOOD

Our restaurant serves a selection of Indonesian and Western dishes. If you have special dietary requirements, please inform us at least 60 days before your arrival to allow us enough time to make necessary arrangements. We will do our best to accommodate all dietary requirements and allergies, however we are limited by what is available locally. We may not have access to particular food items or ingredients. If you would like to consume special dietary products during your stay, we recommend bringing these with you.

OTHER FACILITIES



24 hours Electricity of 220/230 Volt is provided at the resort. Plugs are 2 round pin European type plugs. Satellite Internet via Wi-Fi is available at main areas. Cellular reception does change day by day depending on weather conditions but is generally available

GIVING BACK ; Raja Ampat SEA Centre



Papua Explorers Eco Resort is dedicated to protecting the biodiversity of Raja Ampat while improving the livelihood of local communities and empowering them in our journey of conservation and sustainable tourism. Raja Ampat SEA Centre has been founded by Papua Explorers in 2018 to allocate more resources for the ongoing community and conservation projects.



Papua Explorers started as a community project; construction of the resort was commissioned directly to different families in our neighbour village, so income was distributed to a wider population in the community. Every department was appointed one trade professional and two local apprentices from the village. The model worked with a good success rate and we have many senior workers that have been fishermen before and now have much higher incomes in different roles as dive guides, captains, cooks, carpenters, electricians, wood carvers and boat builders.

Our philosophy of eco-tourism is engraved in the whole operation as well as the design and construction of the buildings. We provide environmentally friendly soap and shower gel for our guests to use for free and our water is reprocessed by natural bacteria in our septic tanks. The fresh fish that we serve in our restaurant is bought from the local sustainable fishers and many of our vegetables are from the local farmers.

We invest in a sustainable, long-term relationship with our neighbouring village Yenwaupnor and other surrounding villages of Raja Ampat. Over 50% of our employees are from the Raja Ampat area. We supply monthly food donations to Yenwaupnor and 8 other villages. We have built toilets for the village school and we support the needs of students with regular school supply and clothing donations. Our Sunday school provides children an interesting environment to learn English, math, geography and conservation. Our field trips to clean up beaches, compare healthy reefs with unhealthy reefs, snorkel sessions with sharks and mantas provide a great opportunity for these kids to understand the value of their home so they can protect it for the coming generations.

Raja Ampat, West Papua



Raja Ampat SEA Centre has successfully rehabilitated 5 hectares of reef, trained locals as coral gardeners and expanded to the project to another site at Sawanderek by planting more than 5000 coral fragments. Our ongoing Papuan Dive School trains local fishermen as dive guides and boat crew every year to provide local workforce for the growing tourism industry. Our Manta Sandy Ranger Station project is a successful model where locals are empowered to protect and regulate the nature tourism in their local habitat. We keep supporting other NGOs and universities in their various research projects.

Every guest that stays at Papua Explorers and Coralia, directly contributes, and supports all these initiatives. For further information on our projects and how you can support us, please visit the website of our Papua Explorers Foundation SEA Centre: <http://rajaampat-seacentre.org/>



FAQs

Travel Organization and Transport

When is the best time to visit?

Raja Ampat can be visited any time of the year. The temperature is between 30-35 degrees Celsius and the sea is at 28-29 degrees Celsius throughout the year. It is possible to have tropical rains any time, but like most tropical rains, these will not last for too long.

The best visibility underwater is typically between June and September. From October to May there will be plankton blooms which means slightly lower viz, but more frequent encounters with manta rays.

How do I get to your Resort?

You have to take an international flight to Jakarta or Denpasar and then take a domestic flight to Sorong . We will arrange your transport from Sorong airport to the resort. Please also consult the sections ‘How to get there?’ and ‘Transfers to and from the island’ and our ‘Published Rates’-section in this document for detailed information.

What happens when I arrive in Sorong?

On the morning of your arrival in Sorong, our assistant will meet you either inside the airport arrival hall or just outside at the exit and assist you until the boat. You will recognize him/her as he/she will be wearing a shirt with Papua Explorers logo. First, you will be taken to a hotel for breakfast and clean toilets while we wait for everyone to arrive and the boat to get ready to leave. The boat will leave at 12:00. See the section 'Transfers to and from the island' for more information about the boat departure times.

What day of the week do I have to be in Sorong?

Our transfers are on Sundays and Wednesdays.

How long is the transfer to the resort?

From Sorong airport to the hotel it is a 10-15-minute car ride. Later, from the hotel to the harbor it's a 10-15 minute car ride. Depending on the weather conditions the boat ride to the resort takes between 2 and 3 hours. Please allow ample time when booking your flights.

What time of day do I arrive at the resort?

Our scheduled transfers on Sunday and Wednesday depart at 12:00 noon at the latest, so depending on the weather conditions you will arrive at Papua Explorers Resort between 14:30 and 15:00 in the afternoon. Lunch will be waiting for you at the resort. For non-scheduled transfers this may differ depending on the ferry schedule.

What time of day do I depart from the resort?

To be able to reach all outgoing guest flights and to bring new guests in on time, we usually depart from the resort at 6:00 o'clock in the morning. That way we can reach flights departing from Sorong after 10:30 o'clock. Please kindly arrange your domestic flight tickets according to these transfer times. If your outgoing flight is later in the afternoon we will bring you to a nearby hotel where you can refresh and relax in the lobby before we pick you up again and bring you to the airport.

Can I arrive on a different day of the week (other than Wednesday or Sunday)?

Yes, you can arrive on a day other than Sunday or Wednesday. If you arrive one day earlier, you can stay overnight in a hotel in Sorong. We will be happy to arrange that for you (consult our ‘Published Rates’-section in this document). In case you need a non-scheduled transfer to the resort, we can arrange that as well. However, in months with a high occupancy, a non-scheduled transfer might not be possible, as we don't want to disturb our operations. Please ask our booking team and please consult our ‘Published Rates’-section in this document for that, too.

What should I bring along?

Here is an open list of things we recommend to bring along (underlined items are mandatory):

Money and Documents:

- Passport (valid for at least 6 months)
- Proof of return ticket
- 35 USD for Visa on Arrival, if it applies to your country
- Your insurance documents (travel, health, dive insurance)
- Some Indonesian Rupiah in cash (e.g. to pay overweight luggage fees, or just to buy a bottle of water during transit)
- Cash for paying your extra drinks, excursions, dives, snorkels (if non-diver package), souvenirs at the resort (we accept Rupiah, Euro, USD)
- Dive certification cards (also: Nitrox certification card, if you'd like to use Nitrox)
- Dive logbook (if you have one)

Clothes and Protection:

- Jacket for the domestic flights as it can get cold there
- Sun lotion (please make sure it's ocean safe)
- Mosquito repellent (although Malaria is not very wide-spread in this region it is advisable to take precautions); all our bungalows are equipped with mosquito net, electric mosquito repellent and will be sprayed with chemical mosquito repellent in the evening
- Long sleeved light clothes (another precaution against Malaria in the evening)
- Swimwear
- Sun hat and Sunglasses
- Sandals/flipflops
- A pair of sturdy walking shoes in case you want to make an excursion and a raincoat

Electronics:

- Camera / UW Camera
- Chargers for your electric devices
- Power plug adapter for non-European plugs

Diving Related:

- Your dive gear, if you have any (especially bring your reef-hook, safety buoy and a whistle)
- Spare parts for your dive gear, should you have any (e.g. spare mouth piece, mask strap, batteries)
- Snorkelers: rash guard (we recommend that for sun protection)
- Contact lenses to wear under you mask if you need them
- Mask defog
- A waterproof pouch or dry bag (something to put your camera in when you go on a trip)

Medicine, Food and Necessities:

- For the ladies: tampons
- Any kind of necessities (deodorant, toothbrush etc.)
- Medicine:
 - If there are pills that you need to take regularly, please bring enough stock for all the days of your stay
 - If you have any medicine allergies and you need to use special medications in case of sickness, bring these with you as well
 - Something against diarrhea, just in case
 - Seasickness medicine if you need it
- Special food you might need (e.g. if you are on a diet, like gluten-free cereals or bread)
- If you bring your child: all necessities, special food and medicine for the child

Others:

- Anything else you might specifically need or cannot live without (laptop, cuddle-teddy, chocolate...)
- Binoculars for spotting birds
- Some guests like to bring donations for our neighbor village Yenwaupnor (e.g. children's clothes, pens, books, toys...). Do not feel obliged to that as we make regular donations to the village already.



What may I leave at home?

- Towels: we provide towels in your room and on all dive and snorkeling trips.
- Water bottles: we give you a personal water bottle and provide water in the bungalows, the restaurant, the dive center and on the dive boats.
- Too warm clothes, as the temperature is between 30-35 degrees Celsius here.
- Your dry-suit and your thick wetsuit - the water temperature is between 28-29 degrees Celsius throughout the year. So, unless you are freezing very quickly you will only need a 3 or 5 mm diving suit.
- Many pairs of fancy shoes, as you might not be able to use them here. The path to the bungalows is sandy, our jetties are made from wood and restaurant is a no-shoe-zone. That way you won't find many applications for high-heels here.
- Soap/shower gel/toothbrush: we provide environmentally friendly soap and shower gel and bamboo toothbrushes in our bungalows.
- Umbrellas: we provide them here as well.
- Laundry detergent: our free laundry service will be happy to take care of washing your clothes for you once per week.
- Preventive malaria medicine that may impact diving. Rather discuss alternatives with your doctor at home.
- Spearfishing equipment. (Spearfishing is prohibited in the Raja Ampat Marine Park)
- Diving gloves, unless you really need them for medical reasons. Divers that wear gloves are more likely to touch aquatic life that should not be touched, therefore gloves are not allowed at our dive centre.
- Fish-ID-books: we have plenty here.
- Drugs, weapons and all other stuff you are not allowed to bring into the country.
- Hair drier: we have a small stock of basic hair driers at the resort.
- And most important: try to leave your stress at home. ☺

What if my flight is cancelled or delayed? If this happens, please inform us immediately about this through raja@papuaexplorers.com, if possible. If the flight delay is not too big, we will accommodate that by just picking you up from the airport at the new scheduled time. Otherwise we do our best to accommodate late arrivals due to flight delays, but we may not be able to wait for long if there are other guests who join the boat. In these cases, special transfers will need to be arranged for the guests that arrive late at an extra cost (consult our 'Published Rates'-section in this document).

What is the time zone at the resort?

WIT (Eastern Indonesian Time) UTC/GMT + 9 hours. This means 2 hours ahead of Jakarta and 1 hour ahead of Bali. No daylight-saving time (DST).



Diving

Is Nitrox available?

Yes, Nitrox is available free of charge for all guests. Please don't forget to bring along your Nitrox certification card.

How many dives can I do each day?

You can do 4 dives a day. In the diver package included are 3 boat dives at various famous dive sites (Cape Kri, Mike's Point, Manta Point, Sardines Reef, Mioskon, etc), subject to weather conditions, and a night dive or sunset dive on our house reef. All dives are guided, including the night dives. Sometimes we also use a boat on the night dives.

What safety equipment do you have on the dive boats?

All our dive boats are equipped with emergency oxygen, emergency medical bag, and two-way marine radio. On our bigger boats (which are used for long day trips and the transfer from/to Sorong) we have life vests and use GPS-navigation and satellite phone. We also carry a spare parts box on each boat. Please also consult the section 'Equipment & Safety' for more information.

What valves do you have on your tanks?

We can accommodate both Yoke and DIN valves.

Do I need a medical statement/medical certificate to dive with you?

If you are a certified diver you don't need to provide us with a medical certificate, but please bring your certification cards with you.

Guests that will dive for the first time in their life, registering for a beginner course or Discover Scuba Diving with Papua Explorers must submit a medical statement not older than 6 months, stating their fitness to dive and signed by a physician.

Do you need my dive certificates?

If you are already a certified diver, you need to be able to prove it 'on paper' somehow. You can bring your dive certificate or send us a certification confirmation via email, or we can look you up on PADI student lookup, if you are registered there. If you would like to dive with Nitrox please also provide proof of your Nitrox certification.

Do I need a dive insurance?

Yes. Due to our remote location, it is mandatory that all guests have a DAN or another diving insurance which covers emergency evacuation and treatments in a hyperbaric chamber.



I am not yet a diver. Do you offer dive courses?

Yes, we are a PADI 5-Star Dive Centre and offer a discover-diving program and diving courses for beginners as well as courses for advanced divers. Please consult our price list in this document for more information or visit PADI.com.

Can I do decompression dives?

No! All dives are planned and executed without deco stops and it is mandatory for all divers to use a dive computer. The closest operational hyperbaric chamber is in Waisai, and the costs for treatment and transportation can be extremely high in case of an emergency if you need to be transported to another medical centre.

Do you come back to the resort after every dive?

We go out for two dives in the mornings. In between, we have our surface interval in one of the surrounding villages, beaches or sand banks which provides a great opportunity to explore the area. We come back to the resort for lunch and go out again for the third boat dive in the afternoon. If you still don't get enough, you can do a sunset or night dive at our house reef as a 4th dive of the day.

On full-day excursions we have lunch in picnic form.

Can I do a night dive during my stay?

Of course, you can do night dives or sunset dives from our house reef. All house reef dives are with a dive guide, too. The only exception: on Saturdays we have staff meetings, so no night dive on Saturday evening. All other evenings are possible. Please note that we cannot provide Nitrox on sunset and night dives.

What diving experience level should I have for diving in Raja Ampat?

It is indeed true that we get strong currents depending on the tides and moon phases and some dive sites are not suitable for beginners or anyone that doesn't feel comfortable in currents. Our dive guides check the current direction and strength before the divers get in the water and change the dive plan or site if necessary. Our dive groups are max. 6 people and we have a head dive guide and an assistant guide in each group.

We have a check dive for everyone and we make the groups according to experience level. We ease all divers into the currents by starting the dives with sites that get mild currents. There are enough sites with mild current to complete a week diving without going to the dive sites that get strong currents. However, you might also miss some of the highlights of Raja Ampat.

If you haven't dived for 2 years or longer, we would recommend getting a refresher course to ease you back into scuba diving. We would also strongly recommend the Advanced Open Water Diver Course and a minimum of 30 dives, as it would enable you to dive to a bigger range of dive sites and maintain a perfect buoyancy to protect the pristine coral and marine life here.

Can I dive without guide at the house reef?

The currents on our house reef can get strong depending on moon phase and tides. So generally, we prefer for safety reasons that you always dive the house reef with a dive guide even if you are an experienced diver. Guides are also helpful when donning equipment and can show you a lot of cool stuff underwater.

Can I dive in Misool?

Misool island is 500 km away from the Dampier Straight where we are situated. So it is not possible to go there from our resort. A trip to Misool should be booked separately and can be reached from Sorong.

Booking, Payment and Prices

How do I make a booking?

Please send us an email at raja@papuaexplorers.com and let us know the following:

- Your name, and the names of the persons you are traveling with
- The preferred date of your stay
- The number of bungalows you need and how they should be set up (single, double or triple)

Our booking team will then contact you through email and discuss the further details with you.

What are your rates/prices?

You can find our rates and packages as well as prices for extras in our official price list which can be requested by email.

What packages do you offer and what is included?

You can choose between our diver and non-diver packages.

Is it a disadvantage to book the non-diver package?

No, it is not a disadvantage. We do not make a difference between diver and non-diver package guests when it comes to diving, dive planning, space on the boats or anything else you might think of. We have enough space, enough boats and enough guides to deliver a great service to all our guests. The only difference between diver and non-diver packages is what is included in the price and what not. Please refer to the price list for the details.

Which discounts do you offer?

From May to September we offer a 15% summer discount on the package rates.

Returning guests are entitled to a discount of 10% on the package rates.

Our group policy is that we extend one pax FOC for every 7 paying pax (7 + 1) on room + full board + diving + return transfer, sharing in double or triple occupancy.

At times, we also have special offers at dive shows – we are happy if you visit us at our booth.

Discounts can be combined; however the maximum possible discount is 15% total.

Do you have budget accommodation?

The prices in our info document apply for our 70 m² Deluxe Water Cottages. For single travelers and couples who want to save a bit, we have two Superior Water Cottages of 55 m² available. They are identical in design and facilities, but the rates are different. Please refer to the price list for details.

Do you have a special offer for groups?

Our group policy is that we extend one pax FOC for every 7 paying pax (7 + 1) on room + full board + diving + return transfer, sharing in double or triple occupancy.

What is the Raja Ampat Marine Park fee?

Each guest visiting the area of Raja Ampat National Park is subject to pay an entrance fee. Its validity is one year from the date of purchase. If you plan to visit Raja Ampat again in a one year's time, please keep the marine tag as it will still be valid. The amount of the fee is established by Raja Ampat Government and is subject to change without prior notice. At the present date, the amount is Rp 1.000.000 per person (at the moment about € 65) for international guests. Rp 500.000 per person for Indonesian citizens.

What methods of payment can I use?

Payments before your stay (accommodation, marine park fee etc.):

- We kindly ask you to wire transfer the payment using the SWIFT transfer method (no IBAN).
- Payments are quoted and paid in EURO. US Dollars or Indonesian Rupiah upon request.
- All proof of payment should be sent to: raja@papuaexplorers.com
- 25% first deposit within 7 days from the confirmation date, to grant the booking.
- No later than 45 days before arrival 75% balance must be paid.
- When booking less than 45 days prior to arrival we can only guarantee the booking after the full amount is paid.
- Money transfer fees remain the responsibility of the guest.

Payments during your stay (on the last evening, e.g. canned drinks, excursions, souvenirs etc.):

- All extra payments at the resort need to be paid in CASH. Rupiah, US Dollars & Euro banknotes are accepted.

Do you accept credit card?

At the moment, we only accept payment via wire-transfer (SWIFT method) for payment before your arrival at the resort. For payment of extras at the resort (on the last evening, e.g. canned drinks, excursions, souvenirs etc.) we accept cash only. Rupiah, US Dollars & Euro banknotes are accepted.

Can I pay via PayPal?

Paypal has very high fees of total 6 or 7 %. They put some of it on the buyers and some on the seller's side. Most people don't want to pay these high fees. So, at the moment, the recommended method of payment is via wire-transfer (SWIFT method) for payment before your arrival at the resort.

For payment of extras at the resort (on the last evening, e.g. canned drinks, excursions, souvenirs etc.) we accept cash only. Rupiah, US Dollars & Euro banknotes are accepted.

What are your guidelines for tips?

Tips are totally up to the appreciation of our guests. We don't have any guidelines for tips and gratuities. Although tips are always welcome by our employees, we do not oblige our guests to give tips. We take care of our employees by paying good salaries, providing health insurance, accommodation, and food, paying overtime hours, flights home etc.

However, if you wish to leave a tip in appreciation for the service you get, please leave your tip to the common tip box, or give it to one of our managers. We distribute the tips to the whole team as there are many people working hard behind the scenes to make sure you have a great holiday, like our compressor, generator and engine technicians, carpenters, electricians, chefs, gardeners and housekeeping.

How much do the drinks cost at the resort?

A beer is 4 EUR/can and soda and soft drinks are 3 EUR. Fresh coconut and fresh juices are 4 EUR and these are only made upon request. Wine prices range from 40 – 70 Euro per bottle and we have a limited stock of liquor for 10 EUR per glass.

Medical Issues

What if I get sick or injured?

Raja Ampat is a remote area with limited access to medical care. Therefore, you are advised to bring medicine you might need with you. The next hospital is in Waisai – a 45-minute boat ride away. It has a basic emergency room, clinics for various purposes. The closest operational hyperbaric chamber is in Manado, and the costs for treatment and transportation can be extremely high in case of an emergency. All divers must have a dive insurance to be able to dive with Papua Explorers. We also recommend an international health insurance for all our guests.

Should I take precautions for Malaria?

Malaria is more common in big cities and less of a threat in our resort. You may choose to take preventive medicine; however, we strongly recommend that you consult your doctor before using these as they are known to have some side effects. Lariam has proven side effects for scuba divers, so we strongly discourage the use of this medicine.

The best way to avoid malaria and all mosquito transmitted diseases is to get protection against mosquito bites. Mosquito repellents are advisable. Light, long sleeved clothes are safest and best way to avoid mosquito bites. In addition, our rooms are equipped with mosquito nets and electric mosquito repellent and our housekeeping staff sprays mosquito repellent in the rooms every night.



Resort Facilities

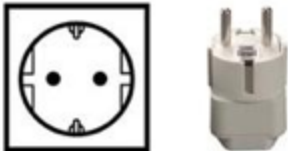
Is Wi-Fi available?

Yes, we have Wi-Fi available at the main areas of our resort and it is free of charge. It varies in strength depending on resort occupancy and time of day. It is suitable for small things like chats and emails. Download/upload of big files like movies is usually not possible.

If it is important to you to have a strong internet connection, you can purchase a Telkomsel SIM card at the airport in Sorong and top-up an internet package (our assistant can help you). Usually 4g reception is available via Telkomsel at the resort.

What type of electric plug do you have?

The electric plugs are 2 round pin European type plugs (identical with the German one).



Miscellaneous

I am not a diver. What can I do during my stay?

Activities close to the resort:

- Snorkeling at our beautiful house reef
- Kayaking
- Massage treatment in our spa
- Lounging on our sundeck
- Watch the rainforest or meditate on our observation deck that is accessible by stairs.
- Taking a walk to our neighboring village Yenwaupnor, with shy but friendly inhabitants (also many of our employees come from this village, so you might see some familiar faces)
- Taking a walk along the beach during low tide
- Guided early morning or early afternoon trip to see the Red Bird of Paradise (it starts from the village and then it's a 20-minute walk up the hill to the Bird watching station)

Activities reachable by boat:

- Going along on the daily diving boats for snorkeling (including snorkel guide, snacks, coffee/tea, towels) – this is subject to a surcharge.
Many of our dive sites are suitable for snorkeling as well. During the surface interval in between dives we have a coffee at a nice beach, or at a nice village. So, there's always something to see.
- Joining one of the full day trips where we combine sightseeing and diving/snorkeling. This is subject to a surcharge. The prices for the full day trips can be found in our information document. You can find the descriptions of some of the full day trips we offer under the following links: [Fam Islands](#), [The Passage](#), [Wayag](#), [Batanta](#). Our managers at the resort will be happy to tell you more about it.
- If you are really into birds, we can also recommend an extensive bird watching trip where you might see both the Wilson's Bird of Paradise and the Red Bird of Paradise and other birds. However, we recommend it for serious 'birders' only because it's a long hike very early in the morning.

Please consult the sections 'Snorkeling', 'For the Photographers' and 'Extra Activities' in this document for more information. Please also consult the price section for excursion and snorkel prices.

Can I join the dive boats as a snorkeler?

Yes, snorkelers are welcome to join the dive boats – this is subject to a surcharge (including snorkel guide, snacks, coffee/tea, towels). If there are 5 or more snorkelers, we can allocate a separate boat for you. Most of the dive sites and excursions are suitable for snorkeling. During the surface interval in between dives we have a coffee at a nice beach, or at a nice village. So, there's always something to see. Please consult the price document for snorkeling prices.

Your community work is interesting; how can I contribute?

Our foundation, Raja Ampat SEA Centre is running some educational programs with the children and youth of the local villages. Educational materials like English books for beginners, educational games for elementary school aged children and school supplies are always welcome.

However, please do neither bring sweets nor lots of plastic and kindly remove plastic wrappings of any donations you bring in your home country, because the awareness for recycling and trash management is not so high in Indonesia yet and plastic might end up in the sea.

Please do not feel obliged to bring something, as we make regular donations to the village already.

I have another question, where can I get answers?

Please feel free to contact our reservations team at raja@papuaexplorers.com and we look forward to assisting you.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

5 STAR PADI DIVE CENTER Equipment & Safety

- 9 X 7,5m daily diving boats with 80Hp outboard engines, 6 divers capacity each.
- 1 X 10.5 m diving & transfer boat 250 HP outboard engines with 8 diver or 14 transfer guests capacity. 20 life jackets & fire extinguisher.
- 1 X 12.5 m diving & transfer boat 400 HP outboard engines with 10 diver or 16 transfer guests capacity. 22 life jackets & fire extinguisher.
- 1 X 15m traditional longboat for guest transfers. Incl. 20 life jackets & fire extinguishers.
- all boats equipped with Dual Jumbo DAN O2 sets
- all boats equipped with 2-way radios
- all boats on day trips equipped with satellite phones & Garmin GPS.
- all boats equipped with emergency first response medical sets
- 1 X 300 L/min capacity NRC Nitrox Membrane
- 1 X 500l/min capacity Nitrox Pro Blender
- 2 X Operational, 1 X standby, total 3, Bauer Poseidon 250 l/min dive compressors.
- 127 x DIN/INT interchangeable aluminum 12 liter dive tanks. (Nitrox & air)
- 30 sets of rental Aqualung Calypso regulator sets and Wave BCD's, wetsuits, closed heel fins.
- 50 masks & snorkels
- onboard & on site emergency evacuation and action plans in 3 languages.
- 4 X Dual Jumbo DAN, 2 X Victor, O2 emergency oxygen sets.
- fire extinguishers