



Raja Ampat

- INDONESIA -

8 - 19
January 2019
(11 nights)

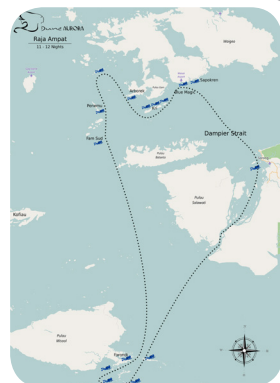
4,620 USD*
per person

THE EXPEDITION

Raja Ampat, which translates to "Four Kings" in Indonesian. 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 1500 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 both the northern and the remote southern Raja Ampat offering you a stunning variety of dives, wildlife and especially the chance to dive world famous manta sites such as Blue Magic, Manta Sandy and Magic Mountain, the latest being a special site where you will have the unique chance of seeing **both species of manta rays at once** - the giant oceanic manta, *Manta birostris*, that grows up to 7m wide in wingspan, and the smaller reef manta, *Manta alfredi*. You might also see both colour variations of manta here, the chevron and the black morph.

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 and bamboo sharks, 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!





RAJA AMPAT

TRIP LEADER

CALVIN BEALE

Calvin Beale is a passionate researcher and ocean enthusiast.

Calvin moved to Indonesia in 2009 after graduating with Honors in Coastal Marine Biology.



Being a dive instructor was never enough so between giving daily presentations on marine life, he worked on many small research projects before starting one of his own in the Komodo National Park. The 'Komodo Manta Project' was a stepping stone into a mixed research and management position in southern Raja Ampat where Calvin founded the 'Misool Manta Project', a project today affiliated with the Manta Trust.

Data from this endeavour was used to create the nationwide manta ray sanctuary in Indonesia – the largest in the world. Currently based in Bali, he continues his research and gives guest lectures about marine life, manta rays and conservation; he also brings this expertise to liveaboard trips around Indonesia.

During his six years in Raja Ampat, Calvin's research was extremely successful. He raised over US 180k in donations for the project and became the first to perform satellite tagging and genetic studies to learn more about the movement of oceanic manta rays found within Indonesia. Calvin's research has been published in the journals Biological Conservation and Nature and Conservation Research and featured on various local and international TV shows. Further research is now being published in preparation for pursuing his Doctoral degree.



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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 co-ordinate 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.



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THE BOAT | MSY AURORA

Aurora is a spacious, double masted, teak motor-sail yacht, built according to the 'traditional Pinisi style' and designed for a discerning dive clientele. As a guest aboard, you will experience modern comfort combined with the charm of a traditional boat. Aurora has been built in Sulawesi following modern and environmentally friendly principles and gives us the opportunity to explore remote areas which only a few – if any – have seen.

The yacht has 8 double cabins each with private bathroom, A/C and daily room service to make your cruise enjoyable and comfortable. A crew of 17 members will welcome you on-board and will be dedicated to making your Indonesian experience a memory you will never forget.

BOOKING

To reserve your place on this Indonesia Manta Expedition, please send an email to Conny Bretz via info@mantaexpeditions.com referring to "Raja Ampat Manta Expedition 2019".

Payment and booking for this Manta Expedition will be handled by our trip partners, **DUNE Indonesia**. Trip costs for this 11-night expedition includes transfers from Sorong, full board in twin or double shared accommodation, and 3 dives / snorkelling excursions per day.

* Not included: National park fees and contribution to villages (130USD/pers), fuel surcharge (200 USD/pers), rental of dive gear, Nitrox and crew tip.

