

Blue Whales, Hammerheads Mantas & Raja Reefs Expedition

Specialist guided tour
November 2018



This tour is specially designed around the chance to see incredible wildlife around the rich Banda Sea and Raja Ampat. Expert-led, this trip will include the opportunity to explore for Blue Whales, snorkel/dive with Hammerhead Sharks and Manta Rays, and explore the paradise lagoons of Misool in Raja Ampat.

Highlights

- Discover the area's unique colonial history
- Search for Blue Whales and other cetaceans
- Chance to see abundant Manta Rays and Hammerhead Sharks
- Visit the paradise lagoons of Misool

Blue Whales, Hammerheads, Mantas & Raja Reefs Expedition

Start **12 Nov 2018** **18:00 Ambon, Moluccas**
 End **23 Nov 2018** **07:00 Sorong, Irian Jaya**
 Duration **12 days, 11 nights**
 Price **from US\$5,350 pp twin share***

For centuries, indigenous islanders traded nutmeg, which was found only here. They were colonised by the Portuguese then Dutch. Today the islands are visited by Pindito's new adventurers. The colonies are still visible and this trip is especially exciting as its combined with Raja Ampat, giving explorers the chance to see some of the world's most beautiful, diverse and fascinating locations, full of megafauna such as Blue Whales, Manta Rays and Oceanic Sharks. This trip will include up to two dives a day (on average), with some time exploring the communities and other wildlife offshore. This is suitable for both divers and non-divers.



Banda Neira: the main island of "Banda", part of the Maluku archipelago consist of 10 small volcanic islands. Visit the old fortress of the Dutchman or climb a volcano. Over 20 years ago lava flowed into the sea and formed a hard coral garden here.



Misool: visiting this endless maze of islands is a special treat for anyone. It is paradise and one of the most biodiverse regions in the world. Soft corals and sea fans (diameter of 3-4 meters) in all sizes and colors dominate the underwater landscape.

Dampier Strait: The straight separates the Birdshead Peninsula from Waigeo and Mansuar. The name comes from Dutch colonial times but it is also home to birds of paradise. The Pacific Ocean meets the Halmahera Sea with an explosion of marine life: Manta rays, reef sharks, mackerel, tuna and barracuda, Even Bryde's whales and pilot whales.



Indicative itinerary: Animals and weather dictate the finer details of our cruise itinerary but the trip roughly goes from from Ambon to Saparua, and Nusa Laut & the Banda Islands. We follow the east coast of Ceram to Misool, then continue via Jef Fam into the Dampier Strait before the journey ends in Sorong.



*Inclusions: All meals and drinks on board (excluding wine); Expert guides on hand 24/7; Continual wildlife-watching and interpretation, plus zodiac excursions; Transfers from/to airport Ambon to/from the MV Pindito; accommodation in a double or twin bed cabin with en-suite shower bath, toilet and AC; full board including all soft and alcoholic drinks on board (excluding wine); up to 2 dives per diving day and one down or night-dive (no diving on departure/arrival day) + NITROX fillings for whole cruise; multilingual guides. Excludes: Domestic and international flights (e.g. flights to Ambon and from Sorong); any pre/post tour accommodation and meals; insurance of any kind; any kind of beverages while in transit; Emergency rescue costs (local/international); All expenses of personal nature like laundry, telephone bills etc; bank transfer charges (directly paid to your bank); tips for the crew (we recommend per guest/day EUR 15.00 / USD 20.00); dive insurance (from 2013 onwards mandatory for all cruises); souvenirs onboard; dive courses (i.e. Nitrox course EUR 150.00 / USD 180.00). Surcharge for single cabin: 50%; Non-diver reduction: 10%; Child-reduction (6-16 years): for normal cruises 50% reduction, for family diving cruises 80% reduction, as long as the child shares the cabin with the parents; Repeater reduction: from the 2. booked cruise 3% reduction on the Pindito price and from the 3. booked cruise 5% reduction on the Pindito price (without fees and surcharges).