




# RAJA AMPAT INDONESIA




# WELCOME TO RAJA AMPAT

**R**aja Ampat is a sparsely populated archipelago of more than 1,500 small islands known for their steep, jungle-covered islands, white-sand beaches, hidden lagoons and caves, all surrounded by the most beautiful turquoise waters in the world. The four main islands of Misool, Salawati, Batanta, and Waigeo are located in West Papua province and form part of the Coral Triangle, known to contain some of the richest marine biodiversity on earth.

The wider Raja Ampat region is scattered with fascinating islands and islets, providing ample opportunity for exploration and discovery. Here are some of our favourites.



Bird's eye view of the beautiful Arborek Island.



Wilson's bird-of-paradise can be seen in lowland rainforests of Waigeo and Batanta Islands off West Papua.

Arborek Island      0°33'52.9"S 130°30'59.2"E      (Open in Google maps)

Arborek Island is a tiny sand cay in the middle of Raja Ampat, southwest of Gam Island. It has excellent snorkelling, a dive shop, vibrant village life, but the biggest draw is the giant Manta Rays, which are typically seen here.

Kri Island      0°33'40.7"S 130°40'37.3"E      (Open in Google maps)

Kri Island is known for snorkelling, diving, and other water activities. The highlight being the formation of stunning coral and white sand beaches.

Batanta Island      0°51'59.4"S 130°39'01.7"E      (Open in Google maps)

Batanta is the smallest of the 'Four Kings' islands that give Raja Ampat its name, but at over 60km long and averaging 8km wide, it's still big! The island is densely forested, and its long, central range of hills rise high enough to almost always generate cloud. The daily cloud over the hills creates rainfall that feeds several rivers and waterfalls. Batanta is known for its pristine seascapes, waterfalls, wildlife, and fabulous coral reefs.

Waigeo Island      0°10'28.0"S 131°02'12.5"E      (Open in Google maps)

Waigeo Island offers diving, rock islands, scenic bays walled in by towering cliffs, a jungle interior offering good birdwatching.

Wayag Island      0°09'32.2"N 130°03'01.3"E      (Open in Google maps)

Wayag Island is a beautiful atoll with amazing underwater life, pristine beaches with unique 'Karst islands'.

Misool Island      1°53'35.1"S 130°05'09.7"E      (Open in Google maps)

Misool Island is one of the four major islands in Raja Ampat. Explore on foot the village which features traditional houses, meet the locals and enjoy a traditional cultural performance.

## The Raja Ampat Regency



A stilted hut typical to those found around Waigeo Island in West Papua.



A local jetty leading to Waisai town in the south of Waigeo Island.

## Clearance and formalities for entering Raja Ampat

The Indonesian government requires expedition ships to obtain several cruising permits and to pass international clearance standards when entering and sailing around Indonesia, including Raja Ampat. Because Indonesian legal procedures are often complicated, it is recommended that vessels seeking cruising permits use an experienced operator for logistical support and advice.

### Current requirements for ships entering Raja Ampat in West Papua.

The Clearance Approval Indonesian Territory (CAIT) is a permit allowing single entry to vessels entering Indonesian waters and granting permission for crew and passengers to enter Indonesia at any time during a 3-month period. This can be done at many ports in Indonesia, including Bali and Sorong.

- Each vessel needs to be 'Temporarily Imported' into Indonesia, which takes place during inspections in the initial international clearance process. At the end of the cruise, the vessel is routinely exported.
- Pilotage is mandatory to enter Raja Ampat supplied from the port of Sorong, cost to return pilotage to Sorong is charged to vessel.
- Every cruise vessel entering Raja Ampat must use Waisai as port entry point.
- Every cruise vessel visiting Raja Ampat to use Waisai as port exit point, however, a vessel can exit Raja Ampat from other locations at an additional cost.
- The Raja Ampat Marine Park Entry Permit tag (or PIN) is required for each passenger and crew and can be purchased prior to arrival in Raja Ampat, PIN pre-purchased can be arranged through Expeditions by Destination Asia.

### When is the best time to visit?

It is best to schedule a visit to Raja Ampat from October to April. Outside of this period the winds and rain can cause unpleasant sea conditions. West Papua experiences 2 wet seasons, namely November/December and July/August. Rain is a possibility in West Papua not only in rainy season. Water temperatures tend to remain reasonably constant: from 27°C (May to October) to 30°C (November to April).

# Exploring Gam Island, Raja Ampat

Pulau Gam is one of Raja Ampat's largest islands, covered in steep slopes, sharp limestone karsts and heavy jungle. Although the geography makes trekking within the interior difficult, it does mean Gam's jungles are filled with abundant birdlife. Like other area across Raja Ampat, all the villages are situated on the coast, and all but one lie along the island's southern shores. The snorkelling is excellent within the bay, with the coral there being among some of the most heat adapted in Raja Ampat.



## Wilson Bird of Paradise and Village Visit

- 05.30 am** Begin disembarkation by zodiac to the village jetty of Yenwaupnor, begin the forest walk along well-maintained trail to see the Wilson's bird-of-paradise in the wild.
- 08.00 am** Return to the village, a local traditional dance 'Suling Tambur' will welcome guests. Followed by a Welcome Ceremony and culture performance including hot burning stone cooking, demonstration of local handicrafts made and continue to browse around the village.
- 10.00 am** Return by zodiac to the ship.

[Click here to open a map with Anchor Ship and Landing position.](#)  
Disembark by zodiac to the village jetty of Yenwaupnor (dry landing).

# Exploring Kokas, Raja Ampat

The small fishing village Kokas features a Japanese WWII fortress on the edge of town with a disused weaponry, bunker and a hand dug tunnel going back 138m into the hillside. There are numerous ancient rock paintings, cliff side graves and stalactite caves scattered along the limestone cliffs surrounding Berau Bay, and the coastline of neighbouring fishing villages of Andamata, Fior, Forir, Darembang and Goras. The exact age of the rock art sites is unknown, but they are rumoured to be over 1,000 years old and show remarkable similarity to ancient Aboriginal paintings found in northern Australia. Consisting mostly of handprints and animal depictions applied with red ochre, the locals call them Tapuraran, meaning "blood paintings".

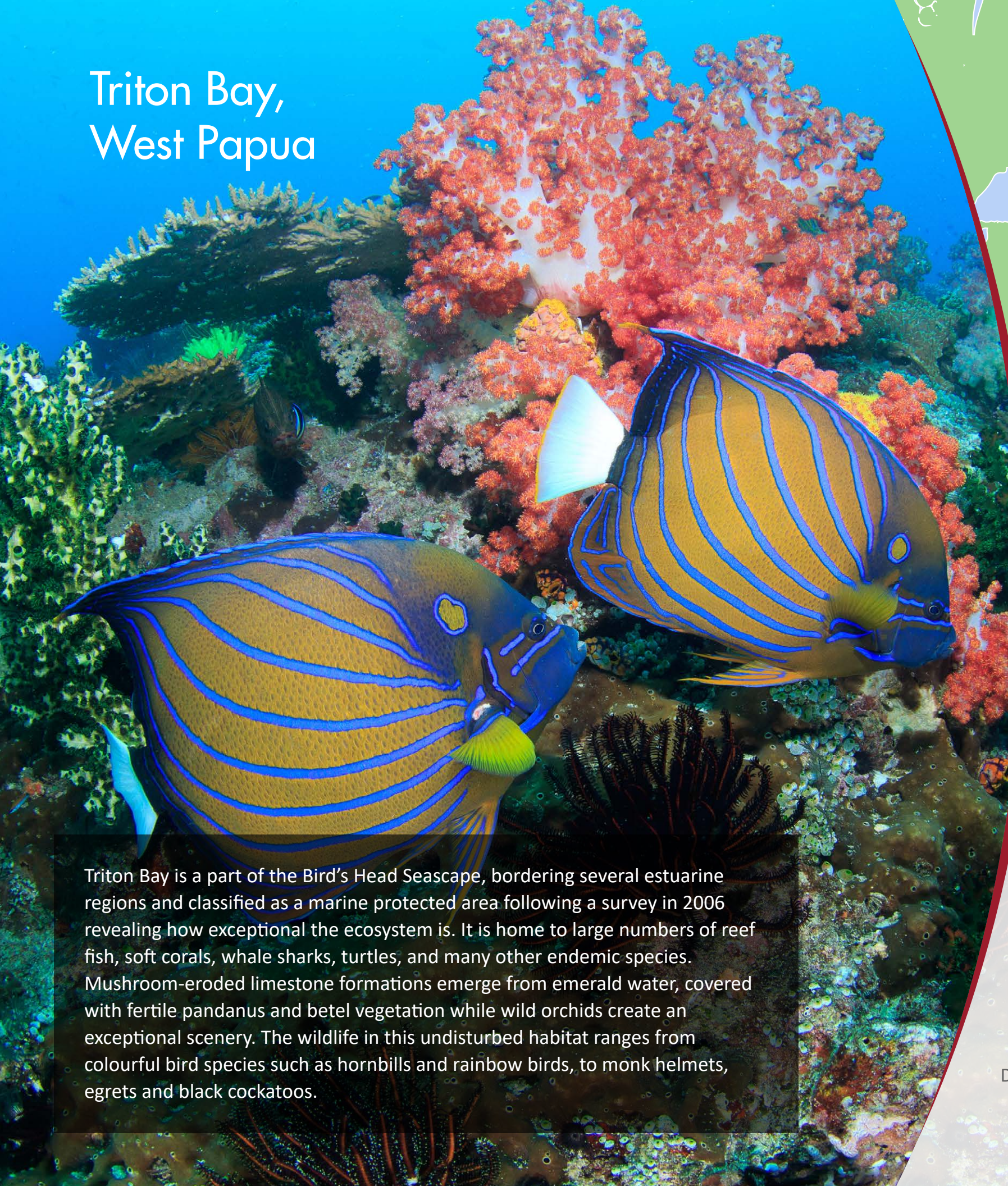


## Kokas Island Exploration and Cultural Encounter

- 08.30 am** Ship arrives at McClure Gulf.
- 09.00 am** Board ship zodiacs, explore the famous ancient blood paintings on the steep rock cliffs walls with local guide.
- 11.00 am** Return to the ship for lunch.
- 1.00 pm** After lunch, zodiac to Arguni village, enjoy a warm welcome by the village community and enjoy a cultural performance.
- 2.00 pm** Time allocated to explore the village at own pace.
- 4.00 pm** Return by zodiac to the ship.

[Click here to open a map with Anchor Ship and Landing position.](#)  
Disembark by zodiac to the village jetty of Yenwaupnor (dry landing).

# Triton Bay, West Papua



Triton Bay is a part of the Bird's Head Seascape, bordering several estuarine regions and classified as a marine protected area following a survey in 2006 revealing how exceptional the ecosystem is. It is home to large numbers of reef fish, soft corals, whale sharks, turtles, and many other endemic species. Mushroom-eroded limestone formations emerge from emerald water, covered with fertile pandanus and betel vegetation while wild orchids create an exceptional scenery. The wildlife in this undisturbed habitat ranges from colourful bird species such as hornbills and rainbow birds, to monk helmets, egrets and black cockatoos.



## Triton Bay Exploration by Zodiac

- 05.30 am** Arrival at Triton Bay, meet local guide.
- 06.00 am** Travelling by zodiac, spend the morning exploring caves and rock art, while enjoying the tropical waters and the natural beauty of Triton Bay.
- 10.00 am** Return to the ship.
- 1.00 pm** In the afternoon, the ship re-positions to a local beach for snorkeling and diving. The area is home to large numbers of reef fish, soft corals, whale sharks, turtles, and many other endemic species.
- 4.00 pm** Return to the ship.

[Click here to open a map with Anchor Ship and Landing position.](#)  
Disembark by zodiac to local beach (wet landing).

# Cendrawasih Bay, West Papua



The immense Cendrawasih Bay is home to the largest marine park in Indonesia that includes coral reefs, mangroves, islands of tropical forests and an abundance of wildlife. The entire region is unspoiled and basically uninhabited, with unique and diverse experiences available such as a wreck dive in Manokwari to a fully intact WW2 ship or exploring the many bays with several small islands featuring lush forests. But more than any other phenomena, the experience of up close and personal encounters with the resident whale sharks is the main reason to visit.



## Cendrawasih Bay Exploration and Village Visit

- 06.30 am** Ship arrives and drifts or anchors off Cendrawasih Bay just offshore of Kwatisore Village, followed by the Official Authority's clearance formalities.
- 06.45 am** Zodiac scouting runs to check and visit the appointed fishing platform over the bay which is marked by flags from our ground team.
- 07.30 am** Disembark by zodiac, meet with the National Park Rangers for short briefing before plunging into the water to swim/snorkel with whale sharks.
- 12.00 pm** Back to ship for lunch.
- 14.00 pm** In the afternoon, take a zodiac ashore in the front of Kwatisore village and be met by the Village Chief. Continue to the village for a welcome ceremony and dance. Allow time to explore at your own pace, observe daily life and visit the house compound.
- 17.00 pm** Return by zodiac to the ship.

[Click here to open a map with Anchor Ship and Landing position.](#)  
Disembark by zodiac to local beach (wet landing).



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After graduating from the University of Calgary, Alvin strapped on a backpack and headed abroad, leading to an exciting career in travel. Having travelled to nearly 100 countries and 6 continents, Alvin has worked with some of the world's leading expedition brands to develop life-changing travel experiences. He now works with our key markets to identify new business opportunities, and directs the Expeditions by Destination Asia sales and operational departments. With a personal involvement of over 30-years in the cruise industry, many of those in the Asia-Pacific region, Alvin heads our product development, port consulting, itinerary planning, and directs the ongoing 'branding' of Expeditions by Destination Asia.



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Ketut Sedia Yasa was born in the high mountain village of Munduk, and grew up surrounded by the aromatic coffee, vanilla and clove plantations of northern Bali. Drawn later to the south of the island by a career in travel, Yasa quickly asserted himself as a senior guide, then manager, in cruise ship operations and logistics. With an extensive knowledge of the "lesser-known" Bali, and a thirst for exploring even the farthest reaches of Indonesia, Yasa plays an integral part in developing new products and experiences for Expeditions by Destination Asia's quality-conscious clientele. He oversees the company in the role of Managing Director and organizes highly trained teams of guides, drivers and shoreside cruise personnel across the farthest corners of the Indonesian archipelago.