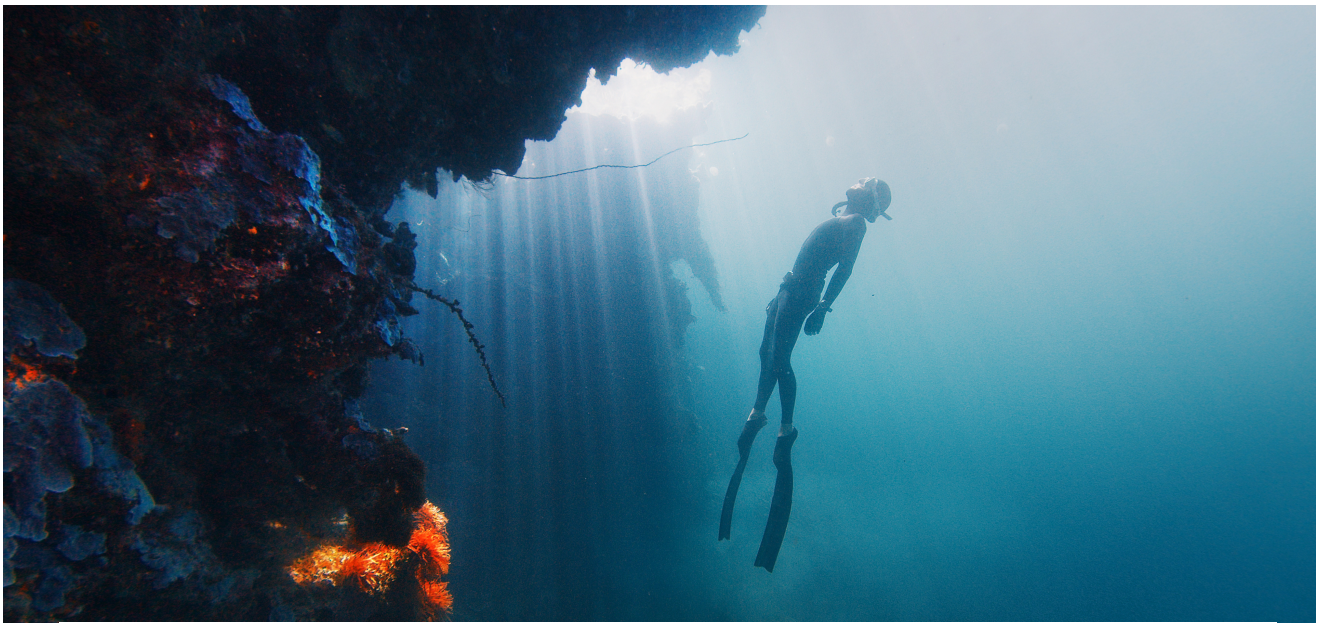
Raja Ampat

Reef Dreams: Exploring the Living Jewels of Sea and Land

February 27 to March 9, 2028



SAFARI OVERVIEW

Embark on a 12-day luxury snorkeling expedition through **Raja Ampat** and **Triton Bay, Indonesia**—one of the most biodiverse marine regions on Earth. This unforgettable **liveaboard journey** begins in Sorong and takes you to iconic snorkel sites such as Cape Kri, Blue Magic, and Sardine Reef, where vibrant coral reefs are alive with colorful reef fish, Wobbegong sharks, and graceful manta rays. Beyond the water, explore the lush islands of Waigeo and Penemu, hike to sweeping viewpoints, and visit Arborek Village to experience local culture. Venture into the forested islands of Gam and Batanta in search of the Red, Great, and Wilson's Birds of Paradise. Continue east to the remote wonders of **Triton Bay**, where nutrient-rich waters attract abundant marine life, including the possibility of encounters with **whale sharks**. Dramatic limestone cliffs and pristine beaches frame your final days at sea. The journey concludes in Kaimana, leaving you with lasting memories of West Papua's extraordinary underwater world and wildlife.

WHY CHOOSE THIS EXPEDITION?

- **One of Earth's Richest Seas:** Discover the extraordinary underwater ecosystems of Raja Ampat and Triton Bay, where thriving coral gardens support an incredible variety of tropical fish, reef sharks, manta rays, and seasonal whale sharks.
- **Close Encounters with Whale Sharks:** Witness unforgettable interactions with the ocean's largest fish as they gather naturally around traditional bagan fishing platforms.

- **Spectacular Birds of Paradise Displays:** Venture into rainforest habitats to observe the remarkable courtship rituals of the Red, Great, and Wilson's Birds of Paradise.
- **Island-Hopping in Untouched West Papua:** Explore the wild beauty of Waigeo, Gam, Batanta, and Penemu, from emerald jungles and limestone formations to panoramic island viewpoints.
- **Refined Liveaboard Comfort:** Enjoy a thoughtfully designed liveaboard experience, combining spacious accommodations, attentive service, and expertly led snorkeling excursions.
- **Connection to Place and Culture:** Visit Arborek Village to learn about local traditions, and unwind in secluded lagoons, jungle waterfalls, and other serene natural settings.

LEADER: Aaron Gekoski

DAYS: 12.

GROUP SIZE: 12.

BOAT: See the Boat section on page 3.

COST: $10,200 to $11,300 per person, double occupancy, not including airfare, singles extra. See the *Costs* section on page 7.

Date	Description	Accommodation	Meals
Feb 27	**Set Sail.** Settle into your cabin and embark on your 12-day snorkeling expedition, beginning with exploration of Matan's vibrant reefs.	Aboard our boat	B, L, D
Feb 28	**Kri & Dampier Straits.** Snorkel iconic locations including Cape Kri, Blue Magic, and Sardine Reef, surrounded by swirling fish schools, elusive Wobbegong sharks, and soaring manta rays.		
Feb 29	**Bird of Paradise, Manta Sandy, & Arborek.** Hike through the jungles of Gam Island in search of the Red and Great Birds of Paradise, then snorkel Manta Sandy and visit Arborek Village to experience local life.		
Mar 1	**Batanta.** Wander the island in pursuit of the elusive Wilson's Bird of Paradise before enjoying a rejuvenating swim at a secluded jungle waterfall.		
Mar 2	**Penemu.** Snorkel the spectacular coral gardens of Melissa's Garden, glide through turquoise lagoons, and hike to a sweeping viewpoint overlooking Raja Ampat's limestone islands.		
Mar 3	**Farondi.** Discover the hidden beauty of Tamulol Cave, drift through its glowing waters, and encounter the magic of a jellyfish lake.		
Mar 4	**Boo & Fiabacet.** Explore vibrant coral gardens teeming with colorful reef fish, curious baby blacktip reef sharks, and elusive nudibranchs.		

Mar 5	**Pulau Pisang.** Lounge on hidden beaches and snorkel in tranquil coral bays, then unwind as the sun sets over these serene islands.		
Mar 6	**Momon.** Discover a stunning waterfall that spills directly into the sea, enjoy a refreshing swim, and then continue your journey south toward Triton Bay.		
Mar 7–8	**Triton Bay.** Snorkel in this hidden, nutrient-rich paradise, famous for its vibrant marine life and unforgettable encounters with whale sharks.		
Mar 9	**Disembark & Fly Home.** Arrive in Kaimana to catch your flight to Sorong and continue onward toward home.		B

LEADER

Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris carefully selects leaders who are experts in their field to ensure that your experience is the best it can be. One trip leader with assistant snorkel guides will provide a range of expertise for your trip.



Aaron Gekoski
Aaron is an award-winning environmental photojournalist and filmmaker specializing in human–animal conflict. For nearly 20 years, he has documented the illegal wildlife and pet trade, deforestation, marine conservation and wildlife tourism. His images have appeared in dozens of international publications and books. He was named 2024 Environmental Photographer of the Year by Prince Albert II of Monaco and has produced over 100 conservation documentaries, including *From Below* a dive series and the feature film *Dethroned*. In addition, Aaron regularly leads wildlife and conservation trips throughout Asia, sharing his expertise and passion for environmental storytelling and photography with travelers.

BOAT



Discover the pinnacle of luxury liveaboard diving with our boat. Built in 2009, this vessel is the result of combining traditional craftsmanship with extensive experience in the Indonesian liveaboard diving industry. Designed to provide personalized service for small groups, it measures 40 meters (130 feet) in length with a beam of over 8 meters (26 feet) and features seven staterooms, including single, twin, double, and two spacious master cabins. Cabin sizes range from 18 sq meters (194 sq feet) for singles to 40 sq meters (430 sq feet) for the masters, all equipped with queen- or king-sized beds, en-suite toilets, and showers. The vessel offers three expansive deck areas for sunbathing, relaxing in the shade, or enjoying massage and spa treatments. Tailored for divers and snorkelers, it features large dive stations with individual rinse tanks, a camera room with separate workstations, and integrated 110v and 220v charging

stations for photographers. Two custom-designed high-speed tender boats ensure safe and comfortable transfers to dive sites. Every detail is carefully planned to deliver an exceptional snorkeling/diving and onboard experience. See the *Deck Plan* on page 11.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Feb 27 ~ Embark & Set Sail

Set sail on an unforgettable 12-day snorkeling journey through Raja Ampat and Triton Bay aboard a luxurious, comfortable liveaboard. Board in the morning and get settled before your first snorkel in Matan. Over the course of the trip, you'll cover approximately 150 nautical miles from Sorong to Kaimana, exploring pristine waters, hiking lush islands, and spotting exotic birds along the way — a true adventure through paradise.

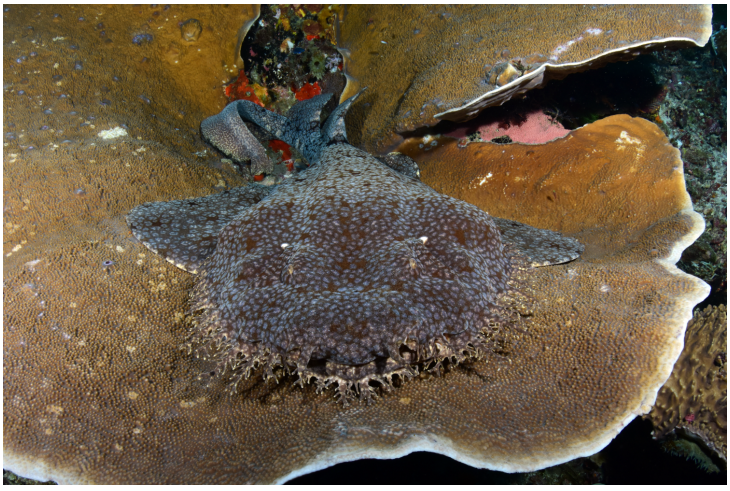


Red bird-of-paradise
© Charlie Ryan

Feb 28 ~ Kri & Dampier Straits

Start your day exploring the breathtaking Blue River on Waigeo Island. Known for its crystal-clear waters and lush, overhanging vegetation, the river is a tranquil escape into nature. Drift along the gentle currents, taking in the vivid greens of the surrounding jungle reflected in the pristine waters. Next, venture out to some of Raja Ampat's most celebrated snorkeling spots:

- **Cape Kri:** Famous for its incredible marine biodiversity, Cape Kri is a thriving underwater ecosystem where you'll encounter vast schools of jacks, fusiliers, and sweetlips. Keep an eye out for Wobbegong sharks hiding beneath coral ledges and cruising rays gliding effortlessly through the current.
- **Blue Magic:** A submerged pinnacle teeming with life, Blue Magic is renowned for encounters with giant manta rays, barracudas, and vibrant coral gardens. The fast-moving waters here make it a hotspot for pelagic species, so stay alert for surprise sightings!



Wobbegong Shark

- **Sardine Reef:** A mesmerizing dance of shimmering fish awaits you at Sardine Reef. Named for the dense schools of fish that seem to move as one, this site also hides tiny treasures like Pontoh's pygmy seahorses among soft corals.

Feb 29 ~ Bird of Paradise, Manta Sandy & Arborek

Start your day with an invigorating trek on Gam Island. Navigate winding jungle paths and listen for the distinctive calls of the Red and Great Birds of Paradise. With patience and a keen eye, you may be rewarded with the unforgettable sight of these extraordinary birds performing their intricate courtship dances high in the treetops—a must-see moment for any wildlife enthusiast.

Following your morning adventure, dive into the crystal-clear waters at Manta Sandy for a snorkeling experience like no other. This renowned cleaning station draws graceful reef mantas, which glide and twirl through the water as tiny cleaner fish attend to them. It's a mesmerizing display of nature in motion that will leave you in awe.
In the afternoon, soak up the local culture with a visit to Arborek Village. Stroll through the village streets, join a lively soccer game with friendly locals, or browse for handcrafted pandan leaf sunhats. The genuine warmth and hospitality of the community make this cultural encounter a truly memorable highlight of your journey.

Mar 1 ~ Batanta
Begin your day with an adventure on Batanta Island, one of Raja Ampat's largest and most enchanting islands. Your goal: to spot the rare and dazzling Wilson's Bird of Paradise. Trek through the island's dense tropical forest, guided by the calls of exotic birds, until you reach the bird's famed display grounds. Witnessing these vibrant birds perform their extraordinary courtship dance is a truly unforgettable, once-in-a-lifetime experience.
After your wildlife expedition, cool off at a hidden jungle waterfall. Nestled among lush mangroves and towering greenery, the waterfall spills into a crystal-clear pool—a serene oasis in the heart of the island. Relax in the refreshing water while keeping watch for colorful dragonflies and curious butterflies dancing along the water's edge.

Mar 2 ~ Penemu
Penemu Island is a paradise for coral lovers, boasting some of Indonesia's most spectacular underwater gardens. Begin your day at Melissa's Garden, where vibrant hard-coral plateaus stretch as far as the eye can see. Snorkel among staghorn and table corals, watching colorful anthias, butterflyfish, and damselfish swirl through the currents. With a little luck, you may spot green sea turtles grazing lazily along the coral heads.

After your underwater adventure, board a tender boat for a scenic lagoon tour through turquoise waters and limestone bays. Drift through a labyrinth of islets and narrow channels, taking in the dramatic cliffs, lush greenery, and serene seascapes that define this breathtaking region.


Green Sea Turtle

For the grand finale, embark on a short hike to the renowned Penemu Viewpoint. From the top, be rewarded with a panoramic view of the emerald lagoon framed by karst islands—a picture-perfect moment to capture or simply savor the tranquility of this extraordinary setting.

Mar 3 ~ Farondi

Set out on an unforgettable adventure to the Farondi Islands, a cluster of rugged, forested islets surrounded by crystal-clear waters. Begin at the captivating Tamulol Cave, where you can snorkel through an arched cavern adorned with stalactites. As sunlight filters through the entrance, it illuminates vibrant corals and schools of curious fish. Don't miss the shimmering glassfish as they weave through the cave's tranquil waters.



Clownfish

If conditions allow, continue to the nearby jellyfish lake—a hidden gem where you can drift among thousands of harmless jellyfish in a serene, secluded lagoon. The gentle pulsations of these ethereal creatures create a truly magical and otherworldly experience, unlike anywhere else in the world.

In the afternoon, explore the surrounding reefs with more snorkeling, then relax on a scenic sunset lagoon tour aboard the tender boats, soaking in the tranquil beauty of this remote paradise.



Snorkeler with Harmless Jellyfish

Mar 4~ Boo & Fiabacet

Today, venture out to the enchanting islets of Boo and Fiabacet, celebrated for their dazzling coral gardens. Snorkel among vibrant hard and soft corals, a kaleidoscope of colors teeming with marine life. Watch schools of fusiliers, snappers, and butterflyfish dance through the currents, and keep a lookout for the tiny, elusive nudibranchs nestled among the coral branches. In the shallows and along the lagoon edges, you may even spot baby blacktip reef sharks gliding gracefully—a thrilling glimpse into the islands' rich and diverse underwater world.

Mar 5 ~ Pulau Pisang

Continue your voyage to the tranquil Pulau Pisang, a chain of secluded islands surrounded by crystal-clear waters. Stroll along pristine, powdery beaches lined with swaying palms, discovering hidden coves and driftwood sculptures, then slip beneath the surface to snorkel in calm bays where vibrant coral gardens teem with colorful reef fish, clams, and anemones hosting playful clownfish. The island's serene, unspoiled beauty offers the perfect setting to relax and reconnect with nature, and as the day winds down, find a cozy spot on deck to watch the sunset cast mesmerizing colors across the water—a peaceful and unforgettable finale to your day in Raja Ampat.

Mar 6 ~ Momon

Continue your adventure south to Momon, a hidden gem where nature unfolds in spectacular fashion. The centerpiece is a magnificent waterfall that plunges directly into the sea—a rare and awe-inspiring sight. You'll anchor nearby and take a refreshing swim beneath the cascading waters, feeling the mist on your skin as the

waterfall meets the ocean, or capture stunning photos of the dramatic contrast between rushing water and tranquil sea, framed by lush jungle and rocky cliffs. After soaking in this idyllic setting, spend the remainder of the day cruising south toward Triton Bay, reflecting on the unforgettable beauty of Momon.

Mar 7–8 ~ Triton Bay



Triton Bay

Venture to the remote southern reaches of Raja Ampat and discover Triton Bay, a hidden paradise renowned for its extraordinary marine biodiversity. Snorkel in crystal-clear waters teeming with colorful fish, manta rays, and vibrant soft coral gardens, while towering limestone cliffs and verdant foliage frame secluded coves and pristine beaches. One of the bay's most unforgettable experiences is encountering the majestic whale shark, which frequently gathers around traditional fishing platforms known as bagans, gliding gracefully near the surface as snorkelers watch in awe. With its breathtaking underwater wonders, serene landscapes, and unique wildlife encounters, Triton Bay offers a perfect blend of adventure and tranquility—a must-visit destination for nature lovers.

Mar 9 ~ Disembark and fly home

After breakfast, disembark and transfer to Kaimana Airport for your flight to Sorong, and your onward journey home.

COSTS (ALL COSTS ARE IN US DOLLARS)

Costs and Cabin Options

Type	Description (see *Deck Plan* on page 11)	Cost per Person
Standard Cabin	Double occupancy (either a double bed or two single beds), private bath, air-conditioned, a desk, and wardrobe for storage. On the lower deck.	$10,200
Master Cabin 5	Double occupancy (king-sized bed or 2 large single beds), panoramic ocean views, air-conditioned, private bathroom, two desks, two wardrobes for storage. On the lower deck.	$10,900
Master Cabin 6	Double occupancy (king-sized bed or 2 large single beds), direct access to a private open-air balcony with loungers, air-conditioned, private bathroom, two desks, and two wardrobe for storage. On the main deck.	$11,300

Costs are per person, depending on cabin type, double occupancy, not including airfare, singles extra. See *Included* and *Not Included* sections for more details.

If you are a single traveler, we will try to find a roommate for you, but if we cannot pair you with a roommate, we will charge you a single supplement. If space is available, some cabins can be booked as a single by adding **90%** to the listed cabin cost.

We cannot guarantee a specific cabin number, but if changes occur, we will assign a cabin of equal or greater value.

Payment Schedule

Payment	Due Date	Amount per Person
Deposit	Due now to reserve your space	$1,500
Final	September 20, 2027	Remaining Balance

Payments are due based on the schedule above. All reservations require a deposit to confirm reservation of your space.

Cancellations
Refunds are given based on the time remaining before departure, as shown in the following table. Through July 15, 2027, the cancellation fee of $300 per person can be applied toward another trip if reserved within six months of the canceled trip's departure date. Cancellations are non-transferable. No refunds are given after the Final Payment due date.

Dates	Forfeited Amount per Person
On or before July 15, 2027	$300 (see terms above)
July 16 to August 17, 2027	10% of trip cost
August 18 to September 19, 2027	40% of trip cost
On or after September 20, 2027	100% of trip cost

Included
- Carbon offsets for the duration of this trip.
- All leaders, transport, park entry fees, harbor fees, and permits for all activities unless described as optional.
- Assorted snorkeling gear including masks, fins, and wetsuits.
- Massage and laundry while onboard the boat.
- One-way flight from Kaimana to Sorong on March 9.
- Eleven nights on board the boat.
- Meals from breakfast on February 27 through breakfast on March 9.
- All non-alcoholic drinks while on board.
- One glass of wine per person during dinner and unlimited beer and soft drinks.
- Transfers from Sorong Airport to the ship on February 27, and from the ship to the Kaimana Airport on March 9.
- Trip Planning Materials – information about entry requirements, flights, packing, gratuities, etc.

Not Included
- Carbon offsets for your flights to/from this trip.

- All airfare (except flights listed as included, airport and departure taxes, and excess baggage fees).
- Passport and visa fees.
- Divergent transfers and hotel nights.
- Gratuities.
- Mandatory emergency evacuation insurance.
- Items of a personal nature such as laundry (excluding while on the boat), telephone calls, medical costs or hospitalization, room service, alcoholic beverages (except those listed as included), items not on the regular menu, etc. If you have special dietary needs, please indicate them on your Traveler Form.

SIGN UP

Please contact us first to check availability, reserve your space, and obtain a Traveler Form. To confirm your reservation, we require a deposit and signed form from each participant.

Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris
Email: info@cheesemans.com
WhatsApp: (408) 741-5330
Phone: (800) 527-5330 or (408) 741-5330

OTHER DETAILS

Climate
The dry season typically runs from October to May. During this time, the weather is generally warm and humid, with temperatures averaging between 81°F (27°C) to 86°F (30°C). You can expect mostly clear skies and calm seas, making it an excellent period for snorkeling.

Rainfall is relatively low compared to the wet season, though brief tropical showers can still occur, often clearing up quickly. Humidity remains high (around 75-85%), but the pleasant sea breeze helps make it more comfortable. Underwater visibility is usually excellent in February and March, ranging from 65 to 100ft, allowing for spectacular marine life viewing.

Fitness Level
The fitness level required is moderate. Participants should be comfortable swimming and snorkeling for extended periods, typically 30 to 60 minutes per session, sometimes multiple times a day. Basic swimming ability and reasonable stamina are essential to fully enjoy the snorkeling experiences, which include exploring vibrant coral reefs and diverse marine life.

Beyond snorkeling, some days feature short treks and hikes, such as nature walks to spot wildlife or scenic trails leading to panoramic viewpoints. These excursions may include uneven terrain, muddy paths, or gentle to moderate inclines, so a moderate level of physical fitness is recommended. Onboard, navigating the vessel requires good balance, particularly in rougher seas, so being steady on your feet is important.

The tropical climate can be hot and humid, which may make physical activities feel more demanding than usual. Staying hydrated and prepared for the weather will help ensure a comfortable and enjoyable experience. Overall, this itinerary is best suited for reasonably fit individuals with basic swimming skills who

can manage moderate physical exertion. No specialized skills are necessary, but being in good health will greatly enhance your comfort and enjoyment throughout the trip. Please reach out if you have any health concerns that may affect participation.

Motion Sickness
Don't let a fear of motion sickness keep you away! Even those who have experienced seasickness reported that the incredible wildlife and overall experience were well worth the temporary discomfort. If you are susceptible to seasickness or are concerned that you might be, please come prepared! The key to avoiding seasickness is to act before you experience nausea. Do your own research and consult your doctor before taking any medications. A good night of sleep, eating well, limiting alcohol, and using your favorite seasickness remedy is sufficient for most travelers. Find more information on our Coping with Seasickness webpage (this information is applicable to any form of motion sickness) and contact us if you have any questions.

Flights
Detailed logistical information is included in the Trip Planning Materials we will send you.

Flights you book
- Arrive in Sorong, Indonesia (SOQ) by 10:00am on February 27.
- Depart from Sorong, Indonesia (SOQ) after 5:00pm on March 9.

Flights we book
- The one-way flight from Kaimana to Sorong on March 9 is included in the trip cost.

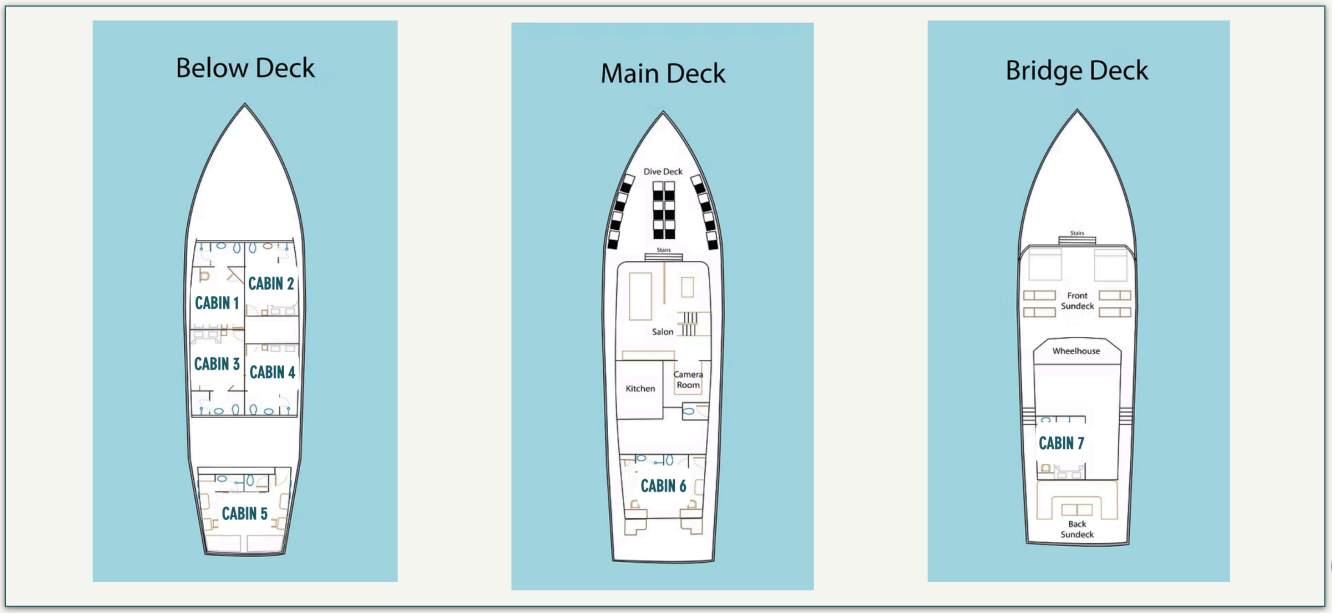
Terms and Conditions
Read our current Terms and Conditions.

Conservation
Our company ethos has always regarded conservation as inseparable from responsible tourism. We struggle with the dilemma that traveling worldwide expends climate-changing carbon. However, we wholeheartedly believe that traveling with us will cultivate your passion for conserving our beautiful world while stimulating each destination's local economy. We encourage you to explore the various ways in which Cheesemans' operates within this context:

- **Cheesemans' Trips are Carbon Neutral**.
- **Offsetting your Travel to/from our Trip**: We ask you to pledge to offset the carbon emissions for your travel to and from our trips. You can purchase offsets with most airlines (Delta includes them automatically), use our handy carbon calculator and donate to Sustainable Travel International, or contribute to your favorite offsetting organization.
- **Local Conservation**: Check out our Conservation pages to learn how we support conservation efforts through meaningful partnerships and responsible tourism practices.

Together, we can continue exploring and cherishing this planet while working toward its long-term protection. Thank you for being part of this important journey with us.

BOAT DECK PLAN



Deck plan and cabin sizes are not to scale.
See cabin descriptions under the *Costs* section on page 7.