

Raja Ampat

Reef Dreams: Exploring the Jewels of the Sea

February 18 to March 05, 2027



Whale Shark
© Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris

SAFARI OVERVIEW

Embark on a 12-day luxury snorkeling expedition through **Raja Ampat** and **Triton Bay, Indonesia**, where you'll explore **vibrant coral reefs**, encounter **mythical Birds of Paradise** and **majestic whale sharks**, and immerse yourself in the unparalleled marine biodiversity of West Papua. Starting in Sorong, this unforgettable **liveaboard** journey takes you through iconic snorkel sites like Cape Kri, Blue Magic, and Sardine Reef, where colorful fish, **Wobbegong sharks**, and graceful **reef manta rays** abound. Discover lush landscapes on Waigeo and Penemu Islands, hike to panoramic viewpoints, and visit Arborek Village to experience local culture. Search for the **Red** and the **Great Bird of Paradise** in the forested islands of Gam and Batanta. Dive into the hidden wonders of Triton Bay, where nutrient-rich waters attract diverse marine life and towering limestone cliffs frame secluded beaches. End your adventure in Kaimana, carrying memories of pristine underwater habitats and awe-inspiring wildlife encounters.

WHY CHOOSE THIS EXPEDITION?

- **Unparalleled Marine Biodiversity:** Snorkel some of the world's most vibrant coral reefs in Raja Ampat and Triton Bay, teeming with colorful fish, manta rays, and whale sharks.
- **Bucket-List Whale Shark Encounters:** Experience intimate, awe-inspiring moments with these gentle giants gathering around traditional fishing platforms (*bagans*).
- **Birds of Paradise:** Watch the mesmerizing behaviors of three different Birds of Paradise (Red, Great, and Wilson's).
- **Explore Remote, Pristine Islands:** Visit iconic destinations like Waigeo, Gam, Batanta, and Penemu Islands, each offering unique wildlife, lush jungles, and breathtaking viewpoints.
- **Luxury Liveaboard Experience:** Travel in comfort aboard a spacious liveaboard vessel, complete with top-notch amenities and expertly guided snorkeling adventures.

- **Cultural and Natural Immersion:** Engage with local communities at Arborek Village and soak in the tranquil beauty of hidden lagoons and jungle waterfalls.

LEADER: Charlie Ryan

DAYS: 16, including estimated travel time. 11 nights aboard the boat.

GROUP SIZE: 12.

BOAT: See the Boat section on page 3.

COST: \$9,500 to \$10,600 per person, double occupancy, not including airfare, singles extra. See the *Costs* section on page 7.

Date	Description	Accommodation	Meals
Feb 18–20	Travel to Sorong, Indonesia. Begin your journey to the remote islands of Raja Ampat.		
Feb 21	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 22	Kri & Dampier Straits. Snorkel world-famous sites like Cape Kri, Blue Magic, and Sardine Reef, encountering schools of fish, Wobbegong sharks, and majestic manta rays.		
Feb 23	Bird of Paradise, Manta Sandy, & Arborek. Trek through Gam Island’s jungle to witness Red and Great Birds of Paradise, then snorkel at Manta Sandy and experience local culture at Arborek Village.		
Feb 24	Batanta. Explore the island, searching for the elusive Wilson’s Bird of Paradise, followed by a refreshing swim beneath a hidden jungle waterfall.		
Feb 25	Penemu. Snorkel the breathtaking Melissa’s Garden coral reef, cruise through turquoise lagoons, and hike to a panoramic viewpoint of Raja Ampat’s limestone islands.		
Feb 26	Farondi. Discover the Tamulol Cave, snorkel through its sunlit waters and experience the magic of a jellyfish lake.		
Feb 27	Boo & Fiabacet. Snorkel vibrant coral gardens where colorful reef fish, baby blacktip reef sharks, and hidden nudibranchs thrive.		
Feb 28	Pulau Pisang. Relax on secluded beaches and snorkel in calm coral bays. Unwind as the sun sets over these idyllic islands.		

Mar 1	Momon. Visit a unique waterfall that cascades into the sea, taking a refreshing swim before beginning your southward journey to Triton Bay.		
Mar 2–3	Triton Bay. Snorkel this nutrient-rich hidden paradise renowned for its diverse marine life and unforgettable whale shark encounters.		
Mar 4	Disembark & Fly Home. Disembark in Kaimana for your flight to Sorong and then onward towards home.		B
Mar 5	Arrive home.		

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.



Charlie Ryan

After signing up for a volunteer program in Indonesia in 2008, Charlie was re-routed to Sabah, Borneo where he helped set up community initiative programs for the Abai village. He has resided in Sabah ever since. Charlie guides for the National Geographic Adventure groups in Borneo and helps train nature guides, providing them with first-hand knowledge and experience. He is also an avid photographer, which compliments his passion for wildlife, culture, and travel.

BOAT

Discover the pinnacle of luxury liveaboard diving with our boat. Meticulously crafted, this 131 ft liveaboard features a 29.5ft beam and is equipped with state-of-the-art diving, navigation, and safety equipment, including satellite Wi-Fi capabilities. Offering unrivaled comfort, the boat boasts three spacious outdoor deck areas with ample lounging and sunbathing space, an outdoor dining facility, and a dedicated massage and spa treatment area. Below deck, guests are treated to luxurious accommodations with private showers, a queen-size bed, and a separate single bed per berth, while the stern staterooms offer over 430 sq. ft of space, complete with private open-air balconies, a king-size bed, a single bed, desks, and en-suite facilities. The vessel's dive station is designed with extra



room and wider rinse tanks, complemented by a spacious camera room perfect for big-rig setups. With a crew-to-guest ratio of 18 to 12, three dive guides, one instructor, and custom high-speed tender boats, our boat

ensures an exceptional 4-to-1 diver-to-guide ratio, delivering a premier diving experience in Indonesia's most breathtaking waters. Our boat promises a journey of comfort, adventure, and world-class service. See the *Deck Plan* on page 11.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Feb 18 – 20 ~ Travel to Sorong, Indonesia from home.

If you would like to arrive earlier, we can arrange divergent airport transfers and extra nights.

Feb 21 ~ Embark & Set Sail

Embark on your unforgettable 12-day snorkeling adventure through **Raja Ampat and Triton Bay** aboard a comfortable luxury liveaboard. Board the vessel in the morning and settle in before your first snorkel in Matan. In total, you will travel approximately 150 nautical miles from Sorong to Kaimana snorkeling, hiking, and birding your way through paradise.

Feb 22 ~ 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!
- **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.



Manta Rays
© Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris

Feb 23 ~ Bird of Paradise, Manta Sandy & Arborek

Kick off your morning with an exhilarating trek on **Gam Island**. Venture through dense jungle trails, listening for the unmistakable calls of the **Red and Great Birds of Paradise**. With a bit of luck and patience, you'll catch a glimpse of these magnificent birds performing their elaborate courtship displays high in the canopy—a true bucket-list moment for any wildlife enthusiast.

After your trek, cool off with a snorkeling session at **Manta Sandy**. Known as one of Raja Ampat's top cleaning stations, this site attracts graceful **reef mantas** that glide effortlessly through the water. Witness these majestic creatures swoop and swirl as they gather to be cleaned by tiny wrasses—a breathtaking experience you'll never forget.

In the afternoon, immerse yourself in the vibrant local culture with a visit to **Arborek Village**. Wander through the village, where you can join in a friendly soccer match with locals or shop for handmade sunhats crafted from pandan leaves. The warm hospitality and sense of community here make it an unforgettable cultural highlight.



Red Birds of Paradise
© Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris

Feb 24 ~ Batanta

Start your day with an exploration of **Batanta Island**, one of the four largest islands in Raja Ampat. Your mission: to spot the elusive **Wilson's Bird of Paradise**. Trek through dense tropical forest, guided by the sounds of exotic bird calls, as you make your way to the bird's known display grounds. With their vibrant plumage and unique courtship dance, catching a glimpse of these stunning birds is truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

After your wildlife trek, reward yourself with a refreshing swim at a **hidden jungle waterfall**. Surrounded by lush mangroves and towering greenery, the waterfall cascades into a crystal-clear pool—an inviting escape from the tropical heat. Soak in the tranquil ambiance while keeping an eye out for colorful dragonflies and curious butterflies flitting around the water's edge.

Feb 25 ~ Penemu

Penemu Island is home to some of the most spectacular **coral gardens** in Indonesia. Your first stop is **Melissa's Garden**, a breathtaking site known for its vibrant **hard-coral plateaus** that stretch as far as the eye can see. Snorkel among fields of staghorn and table corals, where swarms of **anthias, butterflyfish, and damselfish** dance through the currents. Keep your eyes peeled for **green sea turtles** grazing lazily along the coral heads.



Green Sea Turtle
© Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris

After experiencing the underwater wonderland, hop aboard the tender boats for a lagoon tour through **turquoise waters and limestone bays**. Glide through the maze of islets and narrow channels, soaking in the stunning seascape dotted with rugged cliffs and lush vegetation.

For the ultimate reward, take a short hike to the famous **Penemu Viewpoint**. The climb is well worth the effort, as you're greeted with an awe-inspiring panoramic view of the **emerald lagoon surrounded by karst islands**—a perfect spot for photography and simply absorbing the serenity.

Feb 26 ~ Farondi

Embark on a new adventure as you reach the **Farondi Islands**, a group of rugged, forested islets surrounded by crystalline waters. Your first stop is the mesmerizing **Tamulol Cave**—a unique snorkeling experience where you can swim through an arched cavern adorned with stalactites. As sunlight filters through the entrance, it illuminates the vibrant corals and curious fish that inhabit the cave's sheltered waters. Keep an eye out for **glassfish schools** shimmering in the dim light.

If conditions are favorable, venture to the nearby **jellyfish lake**—a hidden gem within the islands. Snorkeling in this secluded lagoon offers a surreal experience as you glide among **thousands of harmless jellyfish** pulsating gently in the calm waters. Witnessing these ethereal creatures up close is truly magical and a rare opportunity unique to this remote paradise. In the afternoon, snorkel the reef followed by a sunset lagoon tour aboard the tender boats.



Reef Fish

© Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris

Feb 27 ~ Boo & Fiabacet

Today, set out to explore the enchanting small islands of Boo and Fiabacet. These picturesque islets are renowned for their vivid **coral gardens**, where colorful hard and soft corals create a vibrant underwater tapestry teeming with life. Snorkel through schools of **fusiliers, snappers, and butterflyfish**, while keeping an eye out for elusive **nudibranchs** hiding among the coral branches. As you drift through the shallow waters, stay alert for **baby blacktip reef sharks** gracefully patrolling the sandy bottoms and lagoon edges—a thrilling sight that highlights the islands' rich biodiversity.



Nudibranch

© Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris

Feb 28 ~ Pulau Pisang

As your voyage continues, immerse yourself in the tranquil beauty of **Pulau Pisang**, a picturesque chain of secluded islands surrounded by **crystal-clear waters**. Step ashore on pristine, powdery beaches framed by swaying palm trees and take a leisurely stroll along the shoreline, discovering driftwood sculptures and hidden coves. The real magic, however, lies just below the surface. Snorkel in the calm, sheltered bays where vibrant **coral gardens** stretch out before you, home to colorful reef fish, **clams**, and **anemones** hosting playful clownfish. Pulau Pisang's peaceful ambiance and unspoiled nature make it a perfect spot to unwind and connect with the serene beauty of Raja Ampat. As the day winds down, find a cozy spot on the deck to soak in the mesmerizing colors of the sunset, reflecting off the peaceful waters.

Mar 1 ~ Momon

Continue your adventure as you journey south to **Momon**, a hidden gem where nature’s beauty unfolds in a breathtaking display. The highlight here is the **magnificent waterfall that plunges directly into the sea**—a rare and awe-inspiring sight. Anchor in the tenders nearby and take a refreshing swim in the cool, cascading waters, feeling the invigorating mist on your skin as the waterfall meets the ocean. This idyllic spot is not only perfect for a rejuvenating dip but also a prime location for memorable photos. Capture the dramatic contrast of **rushing water and tranquil sea**, framed by lush jungle and rocky cliffs. Spend the remainder of the day on the long crossing south to Triton Bay.

Mar 2–3 ~ Triton Bay

Triton Bay, nestled in the remote southern reaches of **Raja Ampat**, is a hidden paradise celebrated for its unparalleled marine biodiversity. Dive into crystal-clear waters brimming with colorful fish, graceful **manta rays**, and lush soft coral gardens, where every **snorkeling adventure** reveals mesmerizing underwater wonders. The bay’s nutrient-rich waters draw an astonishing array of marine life while towering limestone cliffs wrapped in verdant foliage create secluded coves and pristine beaches that exude untouched natural beauty.

One of Triton Bay’s most iconic residents is the **majestic whale shark**, a bucket-list encounter for marine enthusiasts and snorkelers. These gentle giants frequently gather around traditional fishing platforms known as *bagans*, feeding on small fish and shrimp that escape from the nets. **Whale shark sightings occur year-round**, with peak encounters from October to April. Snorkelers can enjoy intimate, awe-inspiring experiences as the whale sharks glide gracefully near the surface, accustomed to the activity surrounding the platforms. Triton Bay offers a truly **unforgettable blend of adventure and tranquility**, making it a must-visit destination for nature lovers.



Soft Coral
© Cheesemans’ Ecology Safaris

Mar 4 ~ Disembark and fly home

Disembark after breakfast to transfer to the Kaimana airport for your flight to Sorong, carrying with you unforgettable memories of the world’s most diverse marine habitats and vibrant cultural encounters.

Mar 5 ~ Arrive home

COSTS (ALL COSTS ARE IN US DOLLARS)

Costs and Cabin Options

Type	Description (see <i>Deck Plan</i> on page 11)	Cost per Person
Standard Cabin	Double occupancy, queen-sized bed, single bed, private bath, air-conditioned, a desk, and wardrobe for storage. On the lower deck.	\$9,500

Master Cabin 5	Double occupancy, king-sized bed, single bed, private enclosed balcony with loungers, air-conditioned, private bathroom, two desks, and wardrobe for storage. On the lower deck.	\$9,900
Master Cabin 6	Double occupancy, king-sized bed, single bed, private open-air balcony with loungers, air-conditioned, private bathroom, two desks, and wardrobe for storage. On the main deck.	\$10,600

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 may charge you a single supplement. If space is available, some cabins can be booked as a single by adding **90%** over 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	August 17, 2026	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 depending on the time left before departure according to the following table. Through June 16, 2026, 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.

Dates	Forfeited Amount per Person
On or before June 16, 2026	\$300 (see terms above)
June 17 to July 16, 2026	10% of trip cost
July 17 to August 16, 2026	40% of trip cost
On or after August 17, 2026	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 4.
- Eleven nights on board the boat.

- Meals from breakfast on February 21 through breakfast on March 4.
- All non-alcoholic drinks while on board.
- One glass of wine per person during dinner and unlimited beer.
- Transfers from Sorong Airport to the ship on February 21, and from the ship to the Kaimana Airport on March 4.
- Trip Planning Materials – information about entry requirements, flights, packing, gratuities, etc.

Not Included

- Carbon offsets for your flights to/from this trip.
- All airfare, airport and departure taxes, and excess baggage fees.
- Passport and visa fees.
- Divergent airport transfers (arranged by us) and extra hotel nights.
- Gratuities – tipping is always discretionary. However, we suggest budgeting about \$50 to \$80 per participant per day for 12 days for your leader and ship crew (about \$600 to \$960 total per participant).
- Optional [trip cancellation 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, ranging from 65 to 100ft, allowing for spectacular marine life viewing.

Fitness Level

The fitness level required is moderate. You should be comfortable swimming and snorkeling for extended periods, typically 30 to 60 minutes per session, often multiple times per day. Basic swimming ability and good stamina are essential to fully enjoy the snorkeling activities, as you'll be exploring vibrant marine habitats and pristine coral gardens.

In addition to snorkeling, some days include short treks and hikes, such as bird-watching excursions to spot the iconic Birds of Paradise or scenic hikes to panoramic viewpoints. These treks can involve uneven terrain, muddy paths, or steep inclines, requiring moderate physical fitness to navigate comfortably. Onboard, moving around the vessel demands good balance, especially during rougher seas, so being steady on your feet is important.

Moreover, the tropical climate of Raja Ampat and Triton Bay can be hot and humid, making physical activities feel more strenuous than usual. Staying hydrated and prepared for the weather will help ensure a more enjoyable experience. Overall, the trip is suitable for reasonably fit individuals with basic swimming abilities and the capacity to handle moderate physical exertion. No specialized skills are required, but being in good health will significantly enhance comfort and enjoyment throughout the journey. Please contact us if you have any health concerns that may make this trip challenging.

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 21.
- Depart from Sorong, Indonesia (SOQ) after 5:00pm on March 4.

Flights we book

- The one-way flight from Kaimana to Sorong on March 4 is included in the trip cost.

Terms and Conditions

Read our current [Terms and Conditions](#).

Conservation

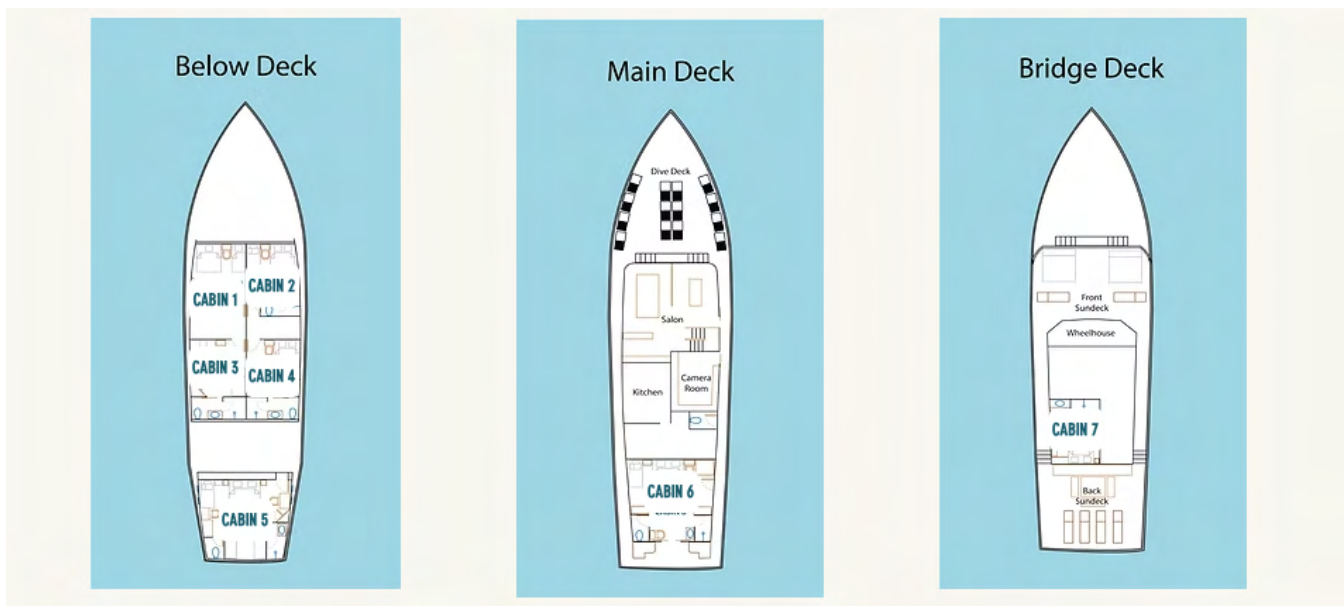
Our company ethos has always regarded conservation as inseparable from responsible tourism. We struggle with the dilemma that traveling worldwide expends climate-changing carbon. However, we wholeheartedly believe that traveling with us will cultivate your passion for conserving our beautiful world while 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.