Raja Ampat

Paradise Found: Raja Ampat's Reefs and Rainforests

March 9 to 20, 2029



Wilson's Bird of Paradise

SAFARI OVERVIEW

Set sail on a 12-day luxury snorkeling adventure through Raja Ampat and Triton Bay, Indonesia, home to some of the richest marine biodiversity on the planet. Departing from Kaimana, this immersive liveaboard voyage brings you to legendary snorkel sites like Cape Kri, Blue Magic, and Sardine Reef, where kaleidoscopic coral gardens teem with reef fish, wobbegong sharks, and graceful manta rays gliding through the current. On land, discover the wild beauty of Waigeo and Penemu, climbing to panoramic viewpoints and stepping into local life with a visit to Arborek Village. Trek into the rainforest-covered islands of Gam and Batanta in pursuit of the striking Red, Great, and Wilson's Birds of Paradise. From there, journey onward to the untouched waters of Triton Bay, where nutrient-dense currents draw in an incredible array of marine species, with the chance to swim alongside whale sharks. Towering limestone cliffs and secluded beaches set the stage for your final days on the water before the voyage draws to a close in Sorong, capping off an unforgettable exploration of West Papua's wild reefs and rare 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: $10,700 to $11,800 per person, double occupancy, not including airfare, singles extra. See the *Costs* section on page 6.

Date	Description	Accommodation	Meals
Mar 9	**Fly from Sorong to Kaimana and set sail.** Settle into your cabin and embark on your 12-day snorkeling expedition.	Aboard our boat	L, D
Mar 10–19	**Aboard the vessel.** Snorkel and explore ashore at Kri and Dampier Straits, Manta Sandy, Arborek, Batanta, Momon, Pulau Pisang, Boo and Fiabacet, Penemu, Farondi, and Triton Bay. Each day reveals new underwater wonders, from extensive coral gardens and dense schools of colorful reef fish to rays, sharks, sea turtles, and other pelagic species. Snorkel with whale sharks near Triton Bay's traditional fishing platforms and venture ashore into lush tropical forests, where hikes lead to the display grounds of Red, Great, and Wilson's Birds of Paradise. Along the way, experience remote beaches, limestone islands, hidden coves, caves, and a waterfall plunging directly into the sea.	Aboard our boat	B, L, D
Mar 20	**Disembark & Fly Home. Arrive in Sorong to catch your flight 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 9.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Mar 9 ~ Fly to Kaimana & Set Sail.
Catch a morning flight from Sorong to Kaimana and set sail on an unforgettable 12-day snorkeling journey through Raja Ampat and Triton Bay aboard a luxurious, comfortable liveaboard. Board in the afternoon and get settled. Over the course of the trip, you'll cover approximately 150 nautical miles from Kaimana to Sorong, exploring pristine waters, hiking lush islands, and spotting exotic birds along the way. A true adventure through paradise.

Mar 10–19 ~ Aboard the vessel.
Over 12 days aboard your liveaboard, you will snorkel in crystal-clear waters and trek through lush, jungles across some of Raja Ampat's most celebrated sites. This journey offers a rare blend of underwater wonder and untouched island beauty.



Raja Ampat Bay

Cape Kri: Famous for its incredible marine biodiversity, Cape Kri is a thriving underwater ecosystem home to vast schools of jacks, fusiliers, and sweetlips. Wobbegong sharks hide beneath coral ledges while rays cruise 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 and surprise sightings.

Sardine Reef: A mesmerizing dance of shimmering fish defines 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 tucked among the soft corals.

Bird of Paradise, Manta Sandy & Arborek: Gam Island offers an invigorating jungle trek through winding paths alive with the calls of the Red and Great Birds of Paradise. With patience and a keen eye, these extraordinary birds can be spotted performing their courtship dances high in the treetops, a highlight for any wildlife enthusiast.



Red Bird of Paradise

Batanta: One of Raja Ampat's largest and most enchanting islands, Batanta is home to the rare and dazzling Wilson's Bird of Paradise. Dense tropical forest trails, alive with the calls of exotic birds, lead to the bird's famed display grounds, where its courtship dance is a truly unforgettable, once-in-a-lifetime sight.

Penemu: Penemu Island is a paradise for coral lovers, home to some of Indonesia's most spectacular underwater gardens. Melissa's Garden features vibrant hard-coral plateaus stretching as far as the eye can see, with staghorn and table corals sheltering colorful anthias, butterflyfish, and damselfish, along with green sea turtles grazing on the coral heads.

Farondi: The Farondi Islands are a cluster of rugged, forested islets surrounded by crystal-clear waters. Tamulol Cave offers a snorkel through an arched cavern lined with stalactites, where filtered sunlight illuminates vibrant corals and shimmering glassfish weaving through the tranquil waters.
Boo & Fiabacet: These enchanting islets are celebrated for their dazzling coral gardens, home to hard and soft corals bursting with color and marine life. Schools of fusiliers, snappers, and butterflyfish move through the

current, elusive nudibranchs nestle among the coral branches, and baby blacktip reef sharks glide through the shallow lagoon edges.

Pulau Pisang: A tranquil chain of secluded islands, Pulau Pisang features pristine, powdery beaches lined with swaying palms and hidden coves. Calm bays shelter coral gardens with reef fish, clams, and anemones hosting playful clownfish, while sunsets over the water make for a peaceful close to the day.

Momon: This hidden gem is defined by a magnificent waterfall that plunges directly into the sea, a rare and striking sight. The spot invites a swim beneath the cascading water, with mist meeting ocean, all framed by jungle and rocky cliffs.



Black-tipped Reef Shark

Triton Bay: Located in the remote southern reaches of Raja Ampat, Triton Bay is renowned for its extraordinary marine biodiversity. Crystal-clear waters teem with colorful fish, manta rays, and vibrant soft coral gardens, framed by towering limestone cliffs and secluded coves. The bay is best known for its majestic whale sharks, often found gliding near the surface around traditional fishing platforms called bagans, making it a fitting final stop that blends adventure and tranquility in equal measure.

From the reef-rich waters of Cape Kri to the remote beauty of Triton Bay, this 12-day journey through Raja Ampat offers an unmatched blend of world-class snorkeling, rare wildlife encounters, and untouched island landscapes, a true bucket-list adventure for nature lovers.



Whale Shark

Mar 20 ~ Disembark and fly home
After breakfast, disembark and transfer to Sorong Airport for your flight home, taking with your unforgettable memories of Raja Ampat's unparalleled marine biodiversity, stunning landscapes, and vibrant cultural encounters.

COSTS (ALL COSTS ARE IN US DOLLARS)

Costs and Cabin Options

Type	Description (see *Deck Plan* on page 9)	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.	$10,700

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.	$11,400
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 wardrobes for storage. On the main deck.	$11,800

Costs are per person, depending on cabin type, double occupancy, not including airfare, singles cost 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 30, 2028	Remaining Balance

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

Cancellations
Refunds are given based on the time remaining before departure, as shown in the following table. Through July 25, 2028, 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 25, 2028	$300 (see terms above)
July 26 to August 27, 2028	10% of trip cost
August 28 to September 29, 2028	40% of trip cost
On or after September 30, 2028	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 Sorong to Kaimana on March 9.

- Eleven nights on board the boat.
- Meals from lunch on March 9 through breakfast on March 20.
- All non-alcoholic drinks while on board.
- One glass of wine per person during dinner and unlimited beer and soft drinks.
- Transfers from Kaimana Airport to the ship on March 9, and from the ship to the Sorong Airport on March 20.
- 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 airport transfers and hotel nights.
- Gratuities.
- Mandatory dive and 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.

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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 snorkeling, which includes 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. We strongly recommend purchasing flight cancellation insurance to protect your investment.

Flights you book
- Arrive in Sorong, Indonesia (SOQ) by 5:00am on March 9.
- Depart from Sorong, Indonesia (SOQ) after 11:30am on March 20.

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

Terms and Conditions
Read our current Terms and Conditions.

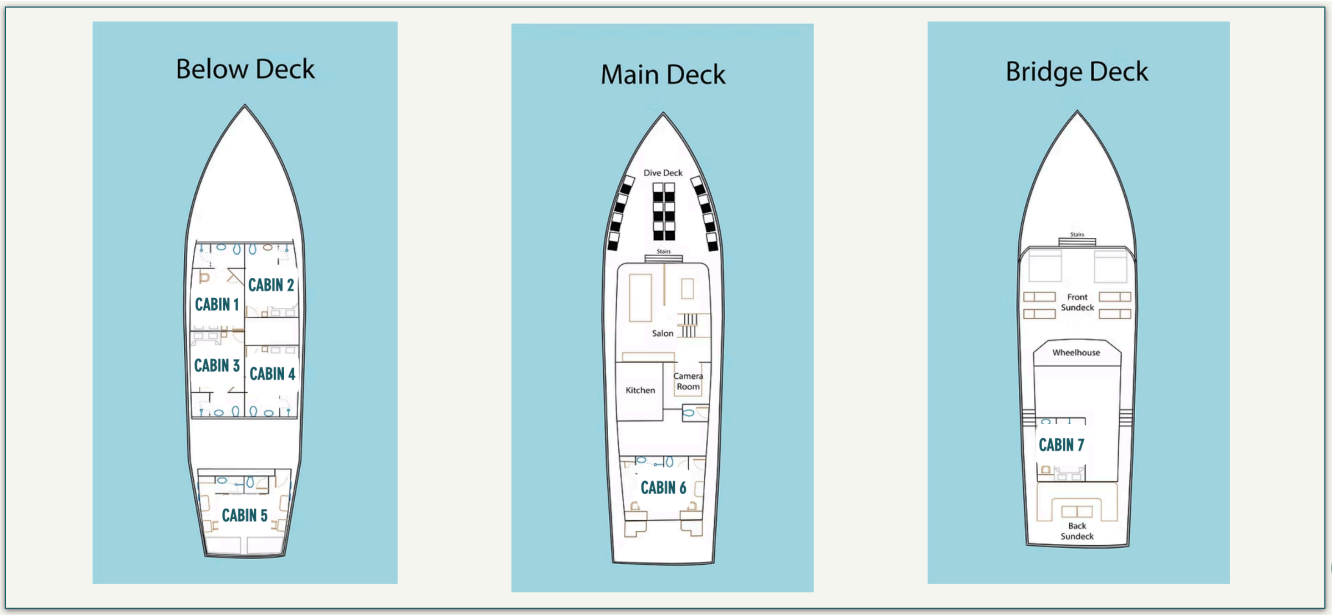
Conservation
Our company ethos has always regarded conservation as inseparable from responsible tourism. We struggle with the dilemma that traveling worldwide expends climate-changing carbon. However, we wholeheartedly believe that traveling with us will cultivate your passion for conserving our beautiful 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 8.