



RAJA AMPAT

- INDONESIA -

29 January
7 February 2025
(9 nights)
4,833 USD*
per person



THE EXPEDITION

Raja Ampat, which translates to “Four Kings” in Indonesian. With their sublime scenery of steep, jungle-covered islands, scorching white-sand beaches, hidden lagoons, spooky caves, weird mushroom-shaped islets and pellucid turquoise waters, Raja Ampat is undoubtedly one of the most beautiful island chains in Southeast Asia. The region is home to over 1500 species of fish ranging from tiny gobies to magnificent manta rays and is known to be the marine area with the **highest recorded diversity of fish and invertebrate species in the world!**

During this expedition we will explore both the centre and the remote southern Raja Ampat offering you a stunning variety of dives, wildlife and especially the chance to dive world famous manta sites such as Blue Magic, Manta Sandy and Magic Mountain, the latest being a special site where you will have the unique chance of seeing **both species of manta rays at once** - the giant oceanic manta, *Mobula birostris*, that grows up to 7m wide in wingspan, and the smaller reef manta, *Mobula alfredi*. You might also see both colour variations of manta here, the chevron and the black morph.

Raja Ampat is particularly famous for its **untouched reefs** festooned with wildly colourful soft corals, hard coral gardens, massive gorgonian sea fans, and an extremely rich reef life. Wobbegong and bamboo sharks, pigmy sea horses and harlequin shrimps are just a few of other incredible creatures you will have the chance to encounter on this once in a lifetime expedition!





RAJA AMPAT



ON-BOARD MANTA EXPERT

As on all Manta Expeditions, a Manta Trust scientist will be onboard for its entire duration, offering everyone the opportunity to interact and learn from a leading manta expert.



The presence of a Manta Trust scientist onboard will enhance your experience in a number of ways:

- motivate and inspire you, by learning about the marine ecosystems you will be exploring
- gain access to an accumulated wealth of knowledge and expertise, providing you the opportunity to become actively involved in cutting-edge scientific research.
- offer you an educational and much more rewarding experience by making your underwater encounters more personal, and by involving you first-hand in marine research and conservation.
- be environmentally aware and proactive and become an active member of an initiative which stands to have strong implications for the ongoing persistence for manta rays worldwide.

Collectively the Manta Trust and Manta Expeditions teams possess over two decades of experience working in the Maldives, studying its manta population and marine life and have assembled a vast amount of knowledge and expertise, knowledge you will have access to on this expedition.

A core focus of the expeditions is not only to provide close encounters with manta rays but to enthuse and educate divers in marine conservation issues and the environment surrounding them. Through a series of activities and presentations on topics covering local marine species and habitats led by the Manta Trust expert, you are sure to leave with an increased awareness of the threats facing our oceans and, perhaps more importantly, how you can help.

Using the knowledge of the Manta Trust scientists you will gain a brand-new perspective to diving and experiencing the underwater world; by understanding what you see you will gain a better appreciation and love for the ocean and its creatures. Ultimately, with the guidance of the Manta Trust researcher you will have the chance to give something back to the ocean which we believe is fundamental considering how much we take from it!

CITIZEN SCIENCE - GET INVOLVED!

On this expedition, you'll have the opportunity to experience and participate in **cuttingedge conservation** research to protect one of the ocean's most majestic animals. Manta Trust scientists will be collecting photographic identification images of all mantas encountered throughout the expedition - a task that guests are welcome and encouraged to participate in. All new manta rays will be added to the database and guests will be invited to name these new mantas.

THE MANTA TRUST

A UK registered charity, the Trust's mission is to advance the worldwide conservation of manta rays and their habitat through robust science and research, by raising awareness and providing education, influence and action. The Manta Trust was formed in 2011 to coordinate global research and conservation efforts for these amazing animals, their close relatives and their habitat.

Data Collection: The Manta Trust has a number of research projects worldwide, incorporating population data, research on manta movements, and genetic analyses - to name a few - in order to better understand the general ecology of manta and mobula rays.



THE BOAT | MSY AURORA

Aurora is a spacious, double masted, teak motor-sail yacht, built according to the 'traditional Pinisi style' and designed for a discerning dive clientele. As a guest aboard, you will experience modern comfort combined with the charm of a traditional boat. Aurora has been built in Sulawesi following modern and environmentally friendly principles and gives us the opportunity to explore remote areas which only a few – if any – have seen.

The yacht has 9 double cabins each with private bathroom, A/C and daily room service to make your cruise enjoyable and comfortable. A crew of 17 members will welcome you on-board and will be dedicated to making your Indonesian experience a memory you will never forget.

BOOKING

To reserve your place on this Indonesia Manta Expedition, please send an email to Niv Froman via info@mantaexpeditions.com referring to "Raja Ampat Manta Expedition 2024".

Payment and booking for this Manta Expedition will be handled by our trip partners, **DUNE Indonesia**. Trip costs for this 9-night expedition includes transfers from Sorong, full board in twin or double shared accommodation, Nitrox, WiFi, Marine park fees, land excursions, and 4 dives / snorkelling excursions per day.



* Not included: International flight, port fee (250USD/pers), rental of dive gear, dive insurance, alcoholic beverages, and crew tip (15USD/person/day minimum).