



## Welcome to Raja Ampat

As stunningly beautiful above water as it is below.

Raja Ampat has a startling array of habitats to explore. The name "Raja Ampat" literally translates as "The Four Kings," representing the four main islands of Waigeo, Batanta, Salawati and Misool. Each of these islands, and all of the other islets in between, are home to a multitude of species and critical marine and terrestrial ecosystems.

From the stark wave-pounded slopes that drop away beneath the karst cliffs of Wayag and Uranie, to the deep, nutrient-rich bays of Mayalibit, Kabui and Ajui, to the "blue water mangrove" channels of Kofiau and Gam, to the plankton-rich upwelling areas of Misool and the Dampier Strait: Raja Ampat is one of the most biodiverse marine environments in the world.

Marine tourism, as a sustainable economic alternative to industrial fishing, mining, and logging, has the potential to play a key role in the conservation of Raja Ampat's spectacular marine environment as well as create real economic and social benefits for local communities.

Raja Ampat in a Glance:

- Heart of the 'Coral Triangle' and global epicentre of marine biodiversity with the highest coral reef biodiversity for any area its size in the world
- Total area: Over 4 million hectares of which 1,358,170 hectares are protected
- Population: 42,471
- Primary sources of income: fishing, tourism and mariculture
- Main religions: Christianity and Islam
- 1470 species of reef fish
- More than 550 species of corals
- 75% of all known coral species in the world
- 8 species of whales
- 7 species of dolphin
- Regionally significant Green Turtle and Hawksbill populations
- Extensive mangrove forest and sea grass beds which support dugongs, juvenile fish, saltwater crocodiles, and provide protection and food for the people of Raja Ampat



## Mantas of Raja Ampat

Raja Ampat is renowned as being a very special place for marine life, and this certainly holds true in regard to the Manta Ray. Uniquely, both the oceanic and reef mantas (*Manta birostris* and *Manta alfredi*) are commonly encountered in Raja Ampat. There are even sites where both species can be seen at the same time: something rarely found anywhere else in the world.

An encounter with a manta ray is like no other animal in the ocean as their curious nature often allows for very close and connected interactions. Although manta rays may choose to get close to you, please adhere to the Manta Interaction Code of Conduct to minimize disturbance:

- **Do not touch or chase Mantas**
- **Keep your distance (the closest should be 3m)**
- **Remain calm**

Growing fisheries pressure driven primarily by the international demand for manta's gill plates for use in Chinese medicine has become a significant threat to manta rays globally. Manta rays are particularly vulnerable to fishing pressure due to their very low reproductive rates and relatively small population sizes. Even low rates of fishing are likely to be harmful as they can lead to population declines and even local extinction.

Thankfully, manta rays have been recognized as extremely valuable for the tourism industry. In 2010, Raja Ampat became a pioneer in manta protection when the Regency declares its waters a sanctuary for all shark and ray species. In 2014, the Indonesian government strengthened the region's declaration by legislating full protection of manta rays throughout Indonesian waters.

To find out more about Raja Ampat's Manta Ray conservation program please visit [www.birdsheadscape.com/indonesian-manta-id/](http://www.birdsheadscape.com/indonesian-manta-id/).



## How to Get Around

Once you have arrived in Sorong, you can travel to Waisai, the capital of Raja Ampat by air or by sea. If you are looking to head south to Misool, you will have to take an overnight ferry.

### By Air

Susi Air flies round trip from Sorong–Waisai–Kabare three times a week. Recently, Wings Air (Lion Air Group) flies round trip route from Manado–Waisai–Sorong–Manokwari every day. The flight duration between Sorong to Waisai, or the other way around, is approximately 30 minutes.

\* Flight times may change at any time and without prior notice, so it is always best to call and confirm the flight schedule prior to your travels.  
\*\* Due to various dimension of aircrafts, it is best to make sure of the maximum baggage weight allowed for each ticket holder.

### Susi Air's Flight Schedule

Monday, Wednesday and Friday  
Sorong – Raja Ampat :09:40 AM Local Time  
Raja Ampat – Kabare :10:30 AM Local Time  
Kabare – Waisai :11:30 AM Local Time

### Wings Air's Flight Schedule

Daily  
Manado – Raja Ampat :07:00 AM Local Time  
Raja Ampat – Sorong :10:20 AM Local Time  
Sorong – Raja Ampat :02:05 PM Local Time  
Raja Ampat – Manado :03:05 PM Local Time

### By Sea

If travelling by sea is your preferred choice to reach Waisai from Sorong, there are at least two options of roundtrip ferries departing every day: the express ferry, and the regular ferry. The express ferry provided two class of air-conditioned seats, Economy and VIP, and it usually takes about two hours for a one-way trip. Ferries' ticket can be purchased directly at the Pelabuhan (Port) Rakyat in Sorong.

## Network of Marine Protected Areas

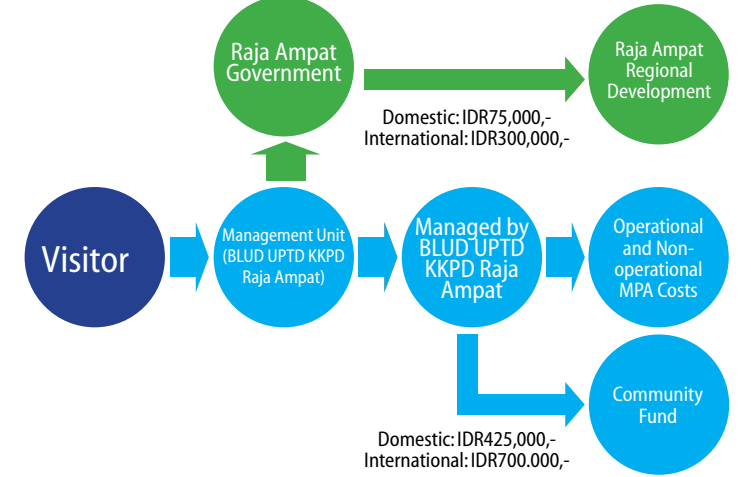
Boasting phenomenally high concentrations of marine species, including iconic mega fauna such as Whale Sharks, Manta Rays and sea turtles, Raja Ampat's crystalline waters are internationally recognized as the global epicenter of marine biodiversity. Researchers have recorded over 1,400 species of reef fish and over 550 species of coral in the region.

Raja Ampat is part of the Bird's Head Seascape, a 3.6 million hectares area of protected coastal and marine space encompassing Cenderawasih Bay in the east, the Raja Ampat archipelago in the west, Kaimana Regency and Triton Bay in the south.

Due to Raja Ampat's incredible natural wealth and its vulnerable location at the rim of the Pacific Ocean, the region has suffered greatly over the past decades from poaching, unregulated commercial fishing and damaging fishing practices. Since 2004, a network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) has been developed to protect Raja Ampat's underwater paradise from these pressures and conserve the heart of the coral triangle.

The MPA Network is managed by a management unit under the Raja Ampat's Marine and Fisheries Agency. This management authority, officially named "Badan Layanan Umum Daerah Unit Pelaksana Teknis Dinas Kawasan Konservasi Perairan Daerah Raja Ampat" (BLUD UPTD KKPDR Raja Ampat), employs more than 100 local staff to patrol and monitor Raja Ampat's waters.

To date, the network consists of five locally endorsed MPAs across the Regency, covering over 1,026,540 ha of protected waters. There are also two nationally endorsed MPAs, protecting an additional 331,630 ha of Raja Ampat's ocean. Each MPA is divided into management zones that serves specific purposes and regulations. For more information on management zones see map on the other side of this brochure.



## Birds of Paradise

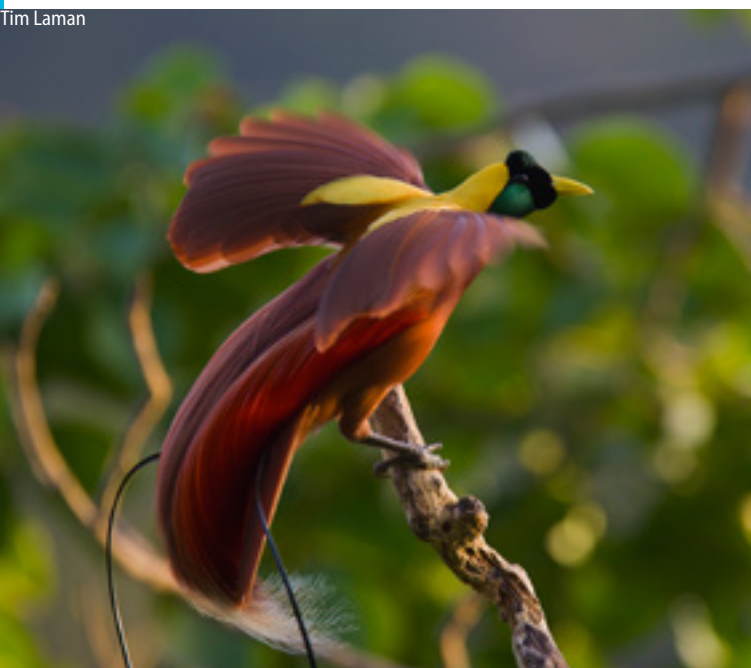
Raja Ampat is a birder's bliss. Over 250 bird species have been recorded across the islands: including seven endemic species.

Amongst the most sought-after birds to be seen are Wilson's Bird of Paradise, the Red Bird of Paradise, the Kofiau Paradise Kingfisher, the Kofiau Monarch, the Papuan Hornbill, and Waigeo's Brush Turkey.

Local guides can organize a bird watching itinerary for you: from a simple day excursion, to lengthy overnight treks into the jungle and highlands.

The Red bird of Paradise can be found on Gam, Waigeo and Batanta Islands. The Red's male is famous for its impressive courtship dance – something definitely worth waking up in the early hours for! Wilson's Bird of Paradise is another impeccable species with a strange blue skullcap and two curved-violet-tail feathers, which can be found on Waigeo and Salawati Islands. The Kofiau Paradise Kingfisher and Kofiau Monarch are found on, and endemic to, Kofiau Island.

Other common sightings include flocks of colorful parrots, eagles and hornbills; so, keep your eyes peeled for these beautiful plumed creatures! For more information, or to make bookings, please contact local bird guides directly via their contact information on [www.stayrajaampat.com](http://www.stayrajaampat.com).



## Accommodation

There are over 70 locally-owned and managed homestays throughout Raja Ampat, allowing visitors a unique opportunity to stay in family-managed accommodation. These traditional, thatch huts may be found throughout Raja Ampat in villages, on uninhabited islets, remote beaches, or on stilts directly above pristine reefs.

Those basic structures represent the authentic way to experience Raja Ampat, and offers the chance to immerse yourself in the daily life of your Papuan hosts. By staying there, you are directly supporting the livelihoods of local communities. For more information on homestays and their locations, please refer to [www.birdsheadscape.com](http://www.birdsheadscape.com).

For those seeking an unforgettable dive experience, and perhaps with a little touch of luxury, Raja Ampat is home to some of the world's leading nature-based tourism resorts, and many live on board's vessel operating in the area. For more information, please visit [www.birdsheadscape.com](http://www.birdsheadscape.com).



## Local Transportation & Local Guide

If you need to get around in Waisai, you can rent a car or a motorbike (scooter); both with a driver. For short trips, you can get a ride with an 'Ojek' – a local motorbike taxi, easily recognized from their white helmets with a blue stripe on the back.

### Car Rental

Mr. Erwin :+62-813-44838387  
Mr. Udin :+62-821-11237979  
Mr. Ujang :+62-852-85431242

### Motorcycle Rental

Mr. Anto :+62-821-98325785

### Local Guide Contacts

It is essential to have a local guide to take you around Raja Ampat during your trip, as they know the area well, resourceful, and can ensure you to get the most out of your trip. In addition to supporting the local economy, you will also have great company on your adventures.

For detailed, information related to local guides in Raja Ampat, please contact Indonesian Tourist Guide Association's representative in Raja Ampat: **+62-813-5405-4198**.

## Raja Ampat's Highlights

**Diving and Snorkelling.** Raja Ampat is famous for its endless coral reefs. Over the past decade, Raja Ampat has become a global 'bucket list' for divers seeking pristine reefs brimming with healthy populations of marine life. Divers and snorkelers can explore the reef systems with experienced, professional guides. For more detailed information on dive sites, please visit [www.birdsheadscape.com/maps/raja-ampat/](http://www.birdsheadscape.com/maps/raja-ampat/).

**Karst Islets.** Raja Ampat's iconic panorama of karst islets can be found throughout the region. From Wayag Lagoon in the north, to the Fam Archipelago's Piayemo Island and Kabui Bay in the center, to Misool in the south. These cone-shaped structures were once limestone reefs that are now blanketed in lush tropical vegetation, including endemic palms and orchids.

**Manta Rays.** Raja Ampat is famous for its Manta Rays. These majestic, harmless animals can be found throughout the region and are commonly encountered at sites including Arborek, Way Island, Wayag and Misool.

**Birds of Paradise.** With their incredible plumage and fascinating behavioral adaptations, Papua's Birds of Paradise are like nothing else on Earth. Various endemic species can be found throughout the islands, and local guides will be happy to help you find even the most elusive birds!

**Trekking.** The jungles on the four main islands of Waigeo, Batanta, Salawati and Misool are thick and speckled with crystal clear rivers, waterfalls, and prehistoric sites. Local guides can take you exploring into the depths of the wilderness.

**Kayaking.** Raja Ampat's breathtaking islands can also be explored by Sea Kayak. With a local guide and paddle in hand, you can discover even the most isolated islands and beaches; leaving nothing but ripples behind.

**Papuan Village Life and Culture.** By staying in village homestays you will be immersed in the day-to-day life of local communities, have some bites at traditional food, and buy souvenirs unique to the area. You'll find that Papuan communities are friendly and welcoming. Local guides may arrange traditional performances, or take you to visit cultural sites dating back from the ancient era of the "Four Kings," to World War II.

**Caves and Traditional Papuan Rock Art.** Tomolol Cave in Misool is a giant, sacred cave through which a river flows. Nearby, you can find ancient rock art along cave walls dating back to five thousand years, and ancient cliff burial sites that still contain skeletal remains.

**Turtle Rookery.** The islands of Sayang and Plai are home to nesting populations of Hawksbill and Green Sea Turtles. High nesting season is between March and June, during which females come ashore to nest almost every night.

**Jellyfish Lake.** In Misool, you can find a unique jellyfish lake. The jellyfish are stingless so you can swim freely without getting stung.



## Endemic Species of Raja Ampat

Not only does Raja Ampat have the highest concentration of marine life in the world, it also boasts 12 endemic species found nowhere else on Earth. Some of the most enchanting of these species are the Raja Ampat Walking Shark (*Hemiscyllium freycineti*), Cardinalfish (*Siphamia misoolensis*), Dwarf Goby (*Trimma helenae*) and the King Dwarf Goby (*Eviota raja*).

Raja Ampat is also home to the Waigeo Spotted Cuscus (*Spiloglossus papuensis*) – a terrestrial endemic animal, and the six previously mentioned endemic bird species, namely the Wilson's Bird of paradise, and the Red Bird of Paradise.

Protected Species of Raja Ampat:  
- Sea Turtles (Act No. 5 of the Year 1990 and Government Regulation No. 7 of the Year 1999)  
- Sharks (Ministry of Marine and Fisheries' Regulation No. 9 of the Year 2012)  
- Manta Ray (Ministry of Marine and Fisheries' Regulation No. 4 of the Year 2014)  
- Coconut Crab (Government Regulation No. 7 of the Year 1999)



## Respect the Environment You Are Enjoying!

Ecosystems are extremely sensitive and fragile to even the slightest environmental changes. Intensity of light, temperature, pollution, sedimentation, and destructive fishing practices are only some factors that may contribute to degradation of ecosystems. Coral reefs for example, they have very slow growth rates: growing only between 1cm to 2cm annually. So, once they are damaged, it could take decades to recover. Therefore, please respect the following rules and precautions:

- Always have a local guide with you when you are exploring, both on land and in water
- No fishing and/or spearfishing, except where permitted (refer to zonations's rule table)
- No littering
- Do not disturb any plants and animals: look, but do not touch
- Do not touch or step on coral reefs
- Do not feed any animals
- Do not take home any natural resources, and that includes dead corals and shells
- Dress properly and responsibly, especially when you are in or nearby villages
- Behave responsibly
- Report any MPA violations to the MPAs Management Unit (BLUD UPTD KKPDR Raja Ampat) via [www.kkpr4.net](http://www.kkpr4.net) or call directly to +62-811-4852033

## Important Contacts

### Waisai, Raja Ampat

MPA Management Unit :+62-811-4852033  
Search & Rescue Agency :+62-812-81425228  
Water Police :+62-813-44549664

### General

Cultural and Tourism Agency :+62-852-54550411  
Police Station (Precinct) :+62-811-485288

### SCUBA Diving & Health (Emergency)

Decompression Chamber :+62-813-44130764  
dr. Irwanto :+62-813-44988155  
General Hospital :+62-813-44130764  
dr. Arief (General Practitioner)  
dr. Iwan (Malaria Treatment)

### Municipality of Sorong

Search & Rescue Agency :+62-951-323816  
Police Station (Precinct) :+62-951-321855  
Navy Base :+62-951-321789  
General Hospital :+62-951-321763/  
+62-951-321850



Jones/Shimlock-Secret Sea Visions

## History & Culture

The communities that inhabit Raja Ampat today are a melting pot of indigenous cultures and descendants of successive waves of migration. As a result, we are inherited with a cultural cocktail of tribes, ethnicities and languages: making Raja Ampat's people just as interesting and diverse as its natural environment.

In the past, some part of Raja Ampat was once part of the Sultanate of Tidore in North Maluku, a rich culture of which remnants can still be found in the many tribes that live scattered across the archipelago today.

The traditional food in Raja Ampat is Sago, a carbohydrate staple that can be prepared in a variety of forms from the pith of the Sago Palm. Cassava roots are also widely eaten, and most commonly accompanied by fish as the main protein source.



Jaya Pettra Diva

## Health & Safety:

**Raja Ampat is a Region of Remote, Tropical Wilderness.**

**So, be Careful and Take Precautions!**

**Weather.** Refer to forecast and actual weather condition when planning your boat journeys. Strong currents and big waves are dangerous in Raja Ampat, especially during the monsoon!

**Diving & Snorkelling.** Raja Ampat's currents can be challenging for less-experienced divers. Even if you considered yourself experienced in these water activities, always dive or snorkel with an experienced local professional who knows the area well. Do not use reef-damaging dive equipment: so keep your equipment streamlined, don't pollute, and never come into physical contact with the reefs and/or animals.

**Sun Burn.** Cover up and use environmental-friendly sunscreen!

**Malaria.** Unfortunately, malaria exists throughout Raja Ampat. Consult to your doctor on the most appropriate preventative measures prior to your travels. Protect yourself with mosquito repellent and cover up with appropriate clothing, especially in mornings and evenings when mosquitoes are most active. If you notice symptoms, seek medical attention immediately.

**Faunas.** Raja Ampat is known for its wildlife both in water and land. Visitors should treat wild animals with the utmost respect and responsibility. Divers should always follow the usual rule: keep your distance, and never come into physical contact! Saltwater Crocodiles are found in mangrove forests and river estuaries: they are dangerous. Visitors should only swim or dive with an experienced, local professional.

**Wounds and Infections.** Cuts and abrasions infect easily in the tropics. Clean and treat even the smallest wounds immediately; especially reef cuts.

**Dehydration.** You might lose a lot of fluid and electrolytes under Raja Ampat's blistering sun, so make sure you keep hydrated! Fresh coconut is one of the best options for rehydration – as it grows in most part of Raja Ampat, so, enjoy your coconut!



Jones/Shimlock-Secret Sea Visions



wonderful  
indonesia



# CONSERVATION AND TOURISM MAP

RAJA AMPAT REGENCY  
WEST PAPUA PROVINCE

PACIFIC OCEAN

Ayau - Asia  
Marine Protected Area

Waigeo Barat & Sayang  
National Marine Protected Area

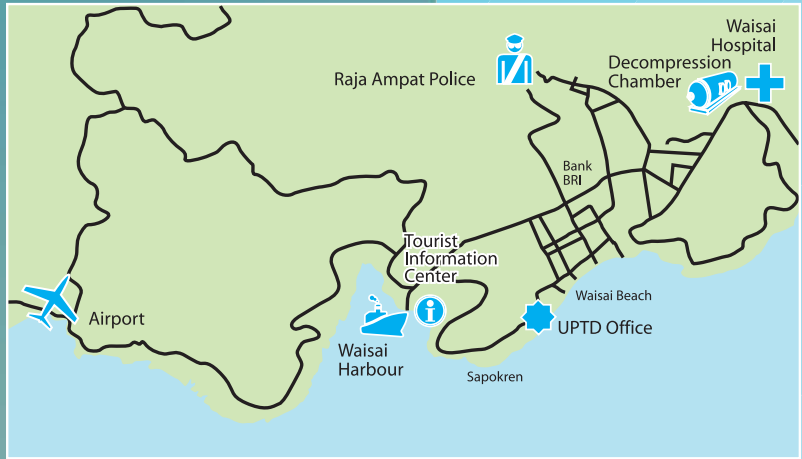
INDONESIA



SORONG



WAISAI



Diving Homestay Resort

Ancient Cave Trekking  
Manta Spot Cenderawasih Bird Watching

Waterfall Jellyfish Lake

Protected Forest Nature Reserve Other

TOURISM GUIDE

Description of Zonation in Raja Ampat Marine Protected Areas	SCUBA Diving	Snorkeling	Kayaking	Fishing	Anchoring
<b>Core Zone</b> A conservation zone ("No Take Zone") designated based on the highly significant ecological value. Access is only granted through restricted permit that covers very limited purposes.	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO*
<b>Sustainable Utilization Zone</b> Commonly known as "No Take Zone." Any forms of fishing activities are prohibited within this zone. Sustainable Utilization Zone is identical to sustainable tourism activities.	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO*
<b>Traditional Utilization Zone</b> Zone specifically dedicated for the benefit of the local community that includes local, sustainable fishing activities and cultural practices. Traditional Utilization Zone also accommodates sustainable tourism activities.	YES	YES	YES	YES**	NO*
<b>Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture Zone</b> Only limited, commercial-scale fishing and aquaculture activities are allowed within this zone, and are subjects to sustainable management. This particular zone also accommodates sustainable tourism activities.	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO*

\* Anchoring is generally prohibited within the Raja Ampat MPA Network. Always use moorings wherever possible. If anchoring is an inevitable necessity, then please conduct responsibly: only anchor in mud or sand-bottomed seabed, and with a minimum distance of 200 meters away from coral reefs.

\*\* Fishing is only allowed for members of the local community, while non-members are only allowed under the permission of the Traditional (Adat) Leader, and supervised by the local community.

SERAM SEA