


sisilona.
sojourns



*Journey to the
Majestic Equatorial Shores of*

RAJA AMPAT

10 Nights

Itinerary specially prepared by Silolona Sojourns for
XXXXXX XXXXX

“ If we look at a globe or a map of the Eastern Hemisphere, we shall perceive between Asia and Australia a number of large and small islands, forming a connected group distinct from those great masses of land and having little connexion with either of them. Situated upon the Equator and bathed in the tepid water of the great tropical oceans, this region enjoys a climate more uniformly hot and moist than almost any other part of the globe and teems with natural productions which are elsewhere unknown. ”

Alfred Russell Wallace 1869

Raja Ampat Archipelago





Just off the northwestern tip of the island of New Guinea, the remote Raja Ampat archipelago comprises a unique labyrinth of more than 1000 islands, spread over a vast expanse of calm turquoise seas - startlingly beautiful both above and below the water.

'Raja Ampat' translates as 'four kings', describing the four main islands of Waigeo, Salawati, Batanta and Misool.

The archipelago has the highest recorded marine biodiversity on the planet, and is home to the world's richest reefs, offering a staggering diversity of experiences to those privileged few lucky to sail her waters.



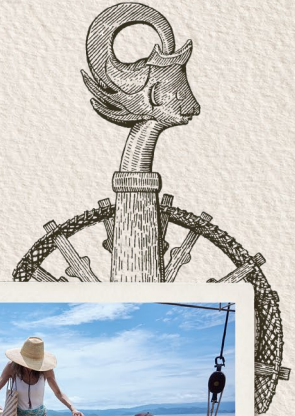
DAY 1

SORONG, WEST PAPUA

Upon arrival in Sorong, the Crew will welcome you at the airport and arrange the transfer to the nearby harbor where the MSV Silolona / Si Datu Bua will be waiting.

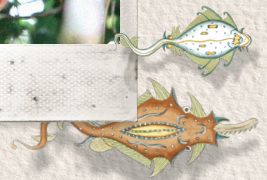
Set sail for the Raja Ampat Archipelago. For the next week you will be onboard Silolona / Si Datu Bua and served by a professional crew of 12. Depending upon the winds and the tides and wishes of our guests, you may choose to snorkel or dive with our experienced PADI dive instructor, kayak, water ski, fish from the tenders, visit a village or relax on a pristine white sand beach.

All meals will be served alfresco on Silolona / Si Datu Bua's spacious teak deck and feature our own Asian, Fusion and Western cuisine prepared by the talented Chef with an emphasis on fresh tropical fruits, organically-grown vegetables, freshly caught seafood, and made-onboard pastries and fresh breads.



DAY 2

DAMPIER STRAIT



In the 1700's William Dampier reached the northwestern tip of Papua and traveled with the rising tide into the great channel that now bears his name. The Dampier Strait conveys massive quantities of seawater, forcing currents to flow parallel to the equator where most currents flow North and South. Dampier's tidal surges carry planktonic feasts that attract hundreds of manta rays at this time of year near Arborek Island.

After an alfresco breakfast on deck, dive down to the shallow sandy bottom and wait for the giant mantas to pass overhead circling back again and again, or swim with these gentle giants at the surface, as they glide by graceful and mysterious.

In the late afternoon, trek through the forest of Sawingrai village on Pulau Gam, guided by a local Papuan, to catch a glimpse of the mating rituals of the elusive and ethereal Red Bird of Paradise. Dine under a starry sky, then Silolona / Si Datu Bua will sail North-West towards the Wayag archipelago.



DAY 3 & 4

WAYAG ARCHIPELAGO

Cruise by tender or kayak silently through the Wayag lagoon and its magical maze of limestone karst 'gumdrop' islands adorned with pitcher plants and wild orchids. No words can adequately describe the sense of exploration and discovery of a world as it must have appeared before the arrival of man. A must for a panoramic view of Wayag's Bay and karst pinnacle, is to climb Mt Pindito, just after dawn or sunset. This is a short climb yet fairly vertical from the beach through jungle scrub. Search for tropical orchids, insects eating pitcher plants, and flock of red and green parots.



DAY 5 - 6

ALJUI BAY, FAM AND YEBEN ISLAND CLUSTERS

Sail into magnificent Aljui Bay, an extensive mangrove-lined inlet, home to the Cendana pearl farm. Visit the pearl farm for a tour of their operations, for a fascinating glimpse into the skill, time and energy it takes to cultivate natural pearls - especially exciting on harvest day as each oyster shell is opened to reveal a pearl. Pearl farms function as de facto marine reserves. And yes, they do have pearls for sale-but although they are a bargain, these are amongst the world's finest pearls with a commensurate price tag!



Aljui Bay is also known for its underwater abundance of unique crustaceans, including zebra crabs and Coleman's shrimps riding on fluorescent colored fire urchins. Under the Cendana jetty enjoy an incredible muck dive or snorkel to see dozens of stonefish, ornate ghost pipefish and frogfish.

Now acclimated and attuned to the rhythm of the tides and life onboard, snorkel or scuba the varied coral gardens of the richest reefs known to mankind. Paddle through the uninhabited islets and turquoise waters surrounding Pulau Fam, kayak the perfect white sandy circle of tiny Pulau Yeben.



DAY 7 - 10

MISOOL & TOMOLOL CAVE, SOUTH RAJA AMPAT

Misool is the gem-studded bracelet of southern islands whose names, Boo, Fiabacet, Wagmab, and countless others have become a mecca for divers worldwide. This area reveals at least three species of the pygmy seahorse, no larger than a fingernail, and the most splendid soft coral jungles of Asia, with their vibrant shades of orange, red, purple and pink.

The remote islands of Misool boast a range of majestic limestone pinnacles, precipitous cliffs, craggy spires and secluded anchorages framed by nature. Dip your paddle into yet another “secret bay” rimmed with steep rain forest walls and listen to the echoing birdsong at dawn. Magic unfolds to those most ready to explore.

Tread lightly over turtle tracks on the powdery white beaches of Misool.

Journey through the ethereal "Gua Sacral" ancestral caves of Tomolol, former burial site of the indigenous Papuans. This is not only a journey in time, but in spirit, and is a fitting farewell to the archipelago.

Sail North by East to Sorong.



DAY 11

SORONG

Bid farewell to the crew and Silolona / Si Datu Bua in Sorong -
Fly to Denpasar (DPS) or Jakarta (CGK)



Selamat Jalan!