

# *OCEAN ROVER CRUISES*

## **INDONESIA LIVEBOARD DIVING CRUISES**

A 19th century Dutch writer once described Indonesia as "wrapped around the Equator like an emerald band". Ever since, this island nation has captured the imagination of everyone who visited there. Those who have explored the underwater world of Indonesia's agree that it has one of the most diverse marine environments on the planet.

### **NORTH SULAWESI**

Northern Sulawesi, the area around Manado, is one of the best-known diving destinations in the country. It is easily accessible by air from Singapore with Silk Air, and Jakarta and Bali with Garuda Airlines. The topside scenery is dramatic with jungle clad mountains and volcanoes dominating the landscape. Unlike most of Indonesia, Northern Sulawesi's inhabitants are devout Christians and a pleasant sense of calm and peacefulness prevails.

Commencing June 2008 Ocean Rover will be based in this unique area offering our guests the opportunity to enjoy Northern Sulawesi diving in comfortable and familiar on-board surroundings. The key words, as always will be variety and quality and our crew is looking forward to the challenge.

Ocean Rover's departure point in Manado is the deep-sea port of Bitung in the Lembeh Straits. Each cruise will start and finish with a full day of diving in this location of choice for underwater photographers in search of unique macro subjects.

Our divers will also spend time enjoying the world-class diving around Bunaken National Marine Park and Bangka Island. Here divers will encounter spectacular walls and reefs of hard and soft corals, an underwater environment that has enchanted divers from all over the globe.

Ocean Rover then journeys further north to a chain of volcanic islands, the Sangihe Archipelago: dozens of islands, some of which are over fifteen hundred meters high and densely covered by coconut palms. This area has some of the deepest and clearest water on the planet.

Some of the highlights include an underwater lava flow, a natural hot spring jacuzzi and a dive at Mahangatang, an underwater volcano which releases silver bubbles into the sea, an unforgettable sight. Conditions permitting, we also do a spectacular pinnacle dive at Para Island. And because a Sulawesi cruise is not complete without a day at Minahasa and Popo (a.k.a. Bethlehem), we visit these newly discovered critter sites as well.

Overall, Ocean Rover offers the most comfortable way of experiencing all that North Sulawesi has to offer in one single cruise. For more details about these great trips contact our reservations department.

### **RAJA AMPAT**

Raja Ampat is one of the youngest provinces of this huge country. With a population of only four people per square kilometre it is seen as a vast un-tapped area. Oil and copper represent over 90% of the value of the province's exports.

In the last few years the Indonesian province of Papua, in the western part of the island of New Guinea, became famous because of its untouched, colourful reefs and great island scenery. Waigeo, Batanta, Salawati and Misool are the main islands that make up Raja Ampat, an area which consists of more than 1500 islands in total. Cruising through this unique area is breath-taking, to say the least.

The biodiversity of Raja Ampat is unique. In this archipelago are recorded more than 1000 species of reef fishes, more than 700 molluscs and more than 560 species of hard corals, which is more than 75% of all know hard corals worldwide. More than 4.6 million hectares of more or less untouched underwater areas are waiting with mangroves, colourful coral gardens, deep walls, huge schools of fish, manta rays, sharks, as well as nudibranchs and critters.

Sorong, with 130,000 inhabitants, is an important city for oil and the starting point of our cruises. The city is easily accessible from Singapore with Silk Air via Manado, (night stopover), then with Merpati or Wing Air on to West Papua.

Ocean Rover's crew will meet you at the airport or your hotel and bring you to the departure point in Sorong for boarding. During the itinerary we will dive at the best locations in Raja Ampat. Our experienced dive guides will seek out interesting marine life for our guests plus macro subjects and wide angle impressions for the underwater photographers and videographers.

Cruising through the islands of Raja Ampat while relaxing on Ocean Rover and enjoying the delicious meals prepared by our chef is by far the most enjoyable and comfortable way to visit this unforgettable destination.

## ITINERARY INFORMATION

**Important Note:** The itineraries described here only give you an idea of which places are visited on a typical cruise. The actual following order in which these divesites are visited vary as the Cruise Director and the Captain decide on the best course of action based on weather conditions and marine life sightings. The object is to ensure optimum diving conditions at all times.

### NORTH SULAWESI

#### Lembah Strait, Bunaken, Bangka, Siau, Sangihe and more

Part of each cruise will take place in the Lembah Straits. The reefs surrounding Lembah Island offer an immense variety of marine life and have become the destination of choice for underwater photographers in search of unique macro subjects: wasp fish, weedy/lacy scorpion fish, pygmy seahorses, frog fish and nudibranchs to name but a few.

Passengers on our cruises will also spend time enjoying the world-class diving around Bunaken National Marine Park as well as Bangka Island. Here divers will encounter spectacular walls and reefs of hard and soft corals, an underwater environment that has enchanted divers from all over the globe.

Ocean Rover then journeys further north to a chain of volcanic islands, the Sangihe Archipelago: dozens of islands, some of which are over fifteen hundred meters high and densely covered by coconut palms. This area has some of the deepest and clearest water on the planet. Some of the highlights include an underwater lava flow, a natural hot spring jacuzzi and a dive at Mahangatang, an underwater volcano which releases silver bubbles into the sea, an unforgettable sight.

*A typical 9 day itinerary will do 38-42 dives (night dives only when location is suitable).*

### RAJA AMPAT

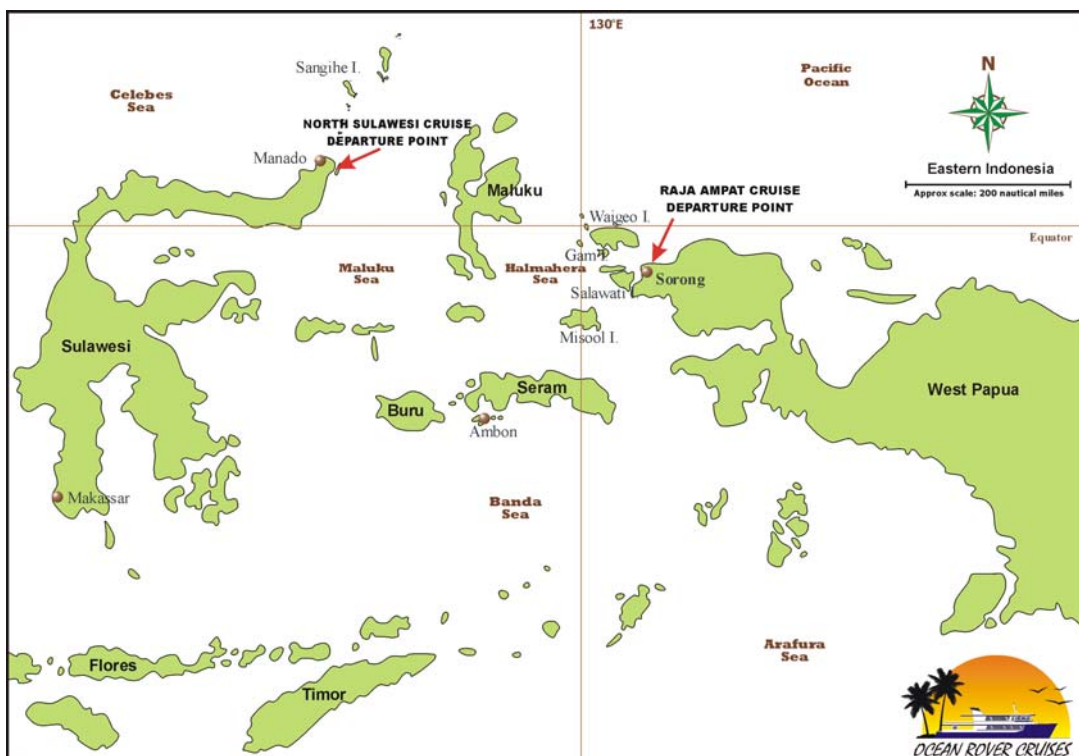
#### Waigeo, Gam, Kri, Wai, Batanta, Fam, Kawe and more

The cruises visit the best sites of Raja Ampat. Diving here means diving with current, for that reason we have to remain flexible because if the current, which will be check regularly by the dive guides, is too strong we will move to another location. The next dive site is waiting just around the corner!

On cruise departure day we pick up passengers from the airport or from a local hotel if they arrived a few days earlier. After boarding of all guests we will have a welcome aboard briefing at approx 1800hrs before getting underway. During the itinerary we will cross the equator several times between longitudes 130°-132°E while enjoying the best of the underwater world of Raja Ampat's many dive sites, predominately in the north-west region around Waigeo Island.

On disembarkation day some passengers will have to get up extra early because of flights leaving in the morning. Guests who are staying in Sorong longer will disembark after breakfast. Your hotel transfer will be organized by us.

*A typical 12 day itinerary will do 45-54 dives (night dives only when location is suitable).*



# DIVESITE INFORMATION

## NORTH SULAWESI DIVESITES

### Lembeh Strait

#### HAIRBALL ONE, HAIRBALL TOO! & RETAK LARRY

*Divining Depth:* 0-100ft / 0-30m. Gently sloping black sand/mud bottom with hair-like algae and hard coral patches. A journey to the weird and wonderful!

*Marine Life:* flying gurnards, giant angler fish, (hairy) frog fish, finger dragonets, juvenile round and zebra bat fish, sand divers, snake eels, (cockatoo) wasp fishes, many scorpion and lion fishes, longhorn cow fish, common and thorny sea horses, cuttlefish, squid, halimeda and harlequin ghost pipe fishes, soles and flounders, variety of snake eels and moray eels, inimicus (spiny devil fish), Ambon scorpion fish, ribbon eels, striped cat fish, banded toad fish, mullets, decorator crabs, fire urchins, nudibranchs and flat worms, halimeda and harlequin ghost pipe fishes.

#### NUDI FALLS, MAGIC CRACK & NUDI RETREAT

*Divining Depth:* 0-100ft / 0-30m. Gently sloping rocky reefs with plenty of soft corals, fans, leather corals, anemones, hard corals and algae with black sandy patches in-between. The best of both worlds; beautiful healthy coral reef AND lots of critters.

*Marine Life:* pigmy sea horses, halimeda and harlequin ghost pipe fishes, Banggai cardinal fishes, Pegasus fish (sea moths), many nudibranchs and flat worms, leaf scorpion fishes, winged pipe fish, long snout pipe fish, banded pipe fish, striped cat fish, juvenile barramundi cod, juvenile sweetlips, snake eels, mantis shrimps, cuttlefish, octopus, squid, egg shell/Coleman/ emperor and rock shrimps, convict blennies, cockatoo wasp fish, ribbon eels, giant angler fish, frog fish, variety of moray eels, egg and tiger cowries, burr fish, bamboo sharks, fang blennies, comets etc.

### Bangka Island

#### SAHAONG 1 & SAHAONG 2

*Divining Depth:* 0-120ft / 0-36m. Series of rocky pinnacles rising up to the surface. Healthy colorful reef with variety of small soft corals, fans, hard and leather corals. Deeper areas good schooling action with 5 lined snappers, banner fish, rainbow runners, red tooth triggerfish and fusiliers.

*Marine Life:* ribbon eels, leaf scorpion fish, yellow margin and giant moray eels, egg cowries, crocodile flat heads, white tip reef sharks, juvenile emperor angel fishes, many nudibranchs, hairy squat lobsters, arrow crabs.

#### BATU GOSOH

*Divining Depth:* 0-130ft / 0-40m. Series of steep rocky pinnacles rising up to the surface. Very healthy and colorful reef with lots of tunicates, small soft corals, fans, leather and hard corals. Schooling midnight snappers, sweetlips, fusiliers and red tooth trigger fish.

*Marine Life:* ribbon eels, many nudibranchs, yellow mask / semi circle and majestic angelfishes, bump head parrotfishes, egg and tiger cowries, clown triggerfishes, pigmy sea horses, Napoleon wrasse and possibly dugong!

### Ruang Island

#### LAVA FLOW

*Divining Depth:* 0-120ft / 0-36m. Fringing sloping lava rock reef with short walls. Healthy reef with lots of crinoids, fans, black corals and impressive barrel sponges.

*Marine Life:* schooling pyramid butterfly fishes, fire dart gobies, shrimp gobies, Napoleon wrasse, dogtooth tuna, notodoris minor and other nudibranchs, hairy squat lobsters, porcelain crabs, bubble coral shrimps, ribbon eels and cuttlefish. Melon headed whales have been seen here.

#### LUCKY DIP

*Divining Depth:* 10-80ft / 3-24m. Fringing gently sloping reef with rocky, hard coral, sandy and sea grass patches. Some areas covered with both yellow and purple elephant ear sponges.

*Marine Life:* razor fish, estuarine stone fish, scorpion fishes, mantis shrimps, white eye moray eels, cuttlefish, squid, sand divers, longhorn cow fish, juvenile groupers, bearded and 6-lined soap fish, ribbon eels, ocellated lion fish, inimicus (spiny devil fish), snake eels, striped cat fish, nudibranchs and spine cheek anemone fishes.

### Siau Island

#### EDDY'S POINT

*Divining Depth:* 10-130ft / 3-40m. Straight wall with many encrusting and barrel sponges. Big schools of pyramid butterfly fishes, fusiliers, snappers and banner fish.

*Marine Life:* square spot anthias, blue head tilefish, Napoleon wrasse, scorpion leaf fish, octopus, eggshell shrimps, yellow edge moray eels, black tip reef shark, devil scorpion fish, garden eels, convict blennies and reptilian snake eel. Special Feature: rumbling sounds of active volcano!

### Mahengetang Island

#### UNDERWATER VOLCANO

*Divining Depth:* 10-XXX ft / 3-XXX m. Top of active volcano coming up all the way to the surface, surrounded by deep water. Immense barrel sponge formation that has to be seen to be believed. Beautiful hard coral reef patches. Big schools of pyramid butterfly fishes, fusiliers and big eye jacks along steep slope.

*Marine Life:* Napoleon wrasse, green and hawkbill turtles, black tip reef shark, bumphead parrot fishes, giant clams, clown trigger fish, rainbow runners, great barracuda, square spot anthias, emperor and bi-color angel fishes. Special: listen underwater for rumbling sounds of active volcano and visit the hot water gas vents in the shallows.

## Kahakatang Island

### CRESCENT PEAKS

*Diving Depth:* 20-120ft / 6-36m. Series of pinnacles that come to within 20 feet / 6 meter of the surface. Very healthy coral reef with lots of small soft corals, fan corals, tunicates and hard corals. Big schools of fusiliers, banner fish, pyramid butterfly fish, surgeonfish, black and midnight snappers.

*Marine Life:* yellow mask/6-banded/regal/semi circle/majestic/blue ringed and emperor angel fishes, footballer groupers, Napoleon wrasse, bumphead parrot fishes, many flatworms and nudibranchs, dogtooth tunas, white tip and grey reef shark, leaf scorpion fish, golden wenteltrap snails, Moyers dragonet and scorpion fishes.

### THE VINEYARD

*Diving Depth:* 0-100ft / 0-30m. Sloping fringing mainly hard coral reef with lots of sea grapes, sponges and sea grass in the very shallows.

*Marine Life:* pajama cardinal fish, spine cheek anemone fish, crocodile flat head, winged pipefish, many nudibranchs, juvenile bi-color parrotfish, many small shrimps on mushroom corals. Possibly hawksbill turtles.

## Bunaken Marine National Park

### MANDOLIN, LEKUAN, MIKE'S POINT, MUKA KAMPUNG, PANGALISANG & BUNAKEN TIMUR

*Diving Depth:* 10-XXXft / 3-XXXm. Impressive wall dives with colorful reef tops.

*Marine Life:* Huge schools of red tooth triggerfish, pyramid butterfly fish, fusiliers and banner fish. Pigmy sea horses, leaf scorpion fishes, ribbon eels, orangutan crabs, Napoleon wrasse, bump head parrot fish, clown trigger fish, crinoid cling fish, (hairy) squat lobsters, bubble coral shrimps, green and hawksbill turtles, black tip and white tip reef sharks, king mackerel, dogtooth tuna, blue fin trevallies, chevron barracudas, notodoris minor and many other nudibranchs, long nose hawk fish, mantis shrimps, banded sea kraits, mandarin fish, blue spotted sting rays, eagle rays, painted spiny lobsters, variety of angel and butterfly fishes, etc.

## Minahasa Lagoon Area

### POPO 1 & POPO 2

*Diving Depth:* 10-100ft / 3-30m. Gently sloping reef with sea grass beds and hard coral patches in the shallows and a black sand/mud bottom. This is muck diving at its VERY best!

*Marine Life:* common and thorny sea horses, mimic octopus, leaf scorpion fish, snake eels, harlequin ghost pipe fishes, flamboyant cuttlefish, razor fish, long snout pipe fish, frog fish, cuttlefish, lion and scorpion fish, ribbon eels, strapweed file fish, giant shrimp gobies, cuttlefish, reef squid, emperor shrimps, juvenile Batavia spade fish, finger dragonets, etc. We found a yellow Rhinopias here and a dugong was seen by one of our divers.

### MINAHASA RESORT HOUSE REEF

*Diving Depth:* 10-80ft / 3-24m. Gently sloping black sand/mud bottom with mainly hard coral patches.

*Marine Life:* black, blue and yellow ribbon eels, reef stone fish, leaf scorpion fishes, giant shrimp gobies, mimic octopus, nudibranchs, striped cat fish, blue spotted sting rays, flounders, mullets, bar-tail/giant and white eye moray eels, juvenile sweet lips, many scorpion and lion fishes, razor fish and juvenile angel fishes.

## RAJA AMPAT DIVESITES

### Gam Island

### MIOS KON EAST & MIOS KON WEST

*Diving Depth:* 0-80ft / 0-25m. Small Island with some walls and slopes. Hard and soft corals, table corals, various corals, giant claim, followed by a sandy bottom.

*Marine Life:* Schools of sweet lips, schools of snappers, school of crescent-tail bigeyes.

### SARDINE REEF

*Diving Depth:* 12-115ft / 4-35m. The top of this reef is approx 13-23ft / 4-7m below the surface. Slopes with colorful soft corals changing into a sandy area. After entering the water you think you are diving in fish soup. Endless amount of schooling fish and colorful sponges. One of the top dives!

*Marine Life:* Schooling sardines and yellowtail barracudas, reef fish, clown triggerfish, bump head parrot fish.

### CHICKEN REEF

*Diving Depth:* 0-115ft / 0-35m. Reef with lots of big and small staff. We will find no chickens there but besides some big animals we will also see some small surprises. Slopes end at a depth of 115ft / 30m and change to a sandy area.

*Marine Life:* Schooling jack fish, barracudas and bumphead parrot fish, pigmy seahorses, leaf fish, schools of narrow barred spanish mackerel, pipe fish and wasp fish.

### AIR BORE REEF

*Diving Depth:* 0-80ft / 0-25m. Slopes with soft and hard coral gardens. The reef roof is 20-30ft / 6-9m below the surface. Most parts of the reef have nice slopes that are full of soft and hard corals. Only the western part is white sand.

*Marine Life:* nudibranchs, giant flathead, school of sardines, painted rock lobster, crinoid shrimp.

### MIKE'S POINT

*Diving Depth:* 0-130ft / 0-40m. Great walls and an impressive underwater landscape. Giant walls with huge overhangs and wherever you look you will find schools of different fish varieties. Table corals, sea fans and soft corals are quite common here too.

*Marine Life:* School of sweet lips, several kinds of pygmy seahorses and lots more...

## Kri Island

### CAPE KRI & EAST KRI

*Diving Depth:* 0-100ft / 0-30m. Covered with colorful corals and lots of fish, the cape is good for drift dives with maybe a medium to strong current. Starting at a wall mixed with soft and hard corals, we drift along to where it changes to a slope. The dive will end in the shallow part of the cape.

*Marine Life:* Schools of barracudas, pygmy seahorse, nudibranchs, schools of jacks and snappers, manta rays, sharks, turtles, giant groupers, raja epaulette shark.

### MANSUAR

*Dive Depth:* 0-65ft / 0-20m. Gentle slope with hard and soft corals. A good spot for a relaxing dive, without current but full of beautiful soft and hard coral varieties.

*Marine Life:* Basket stars, decorator crabs, needle shrimp, gorgonian shrimp and more...

## Fam Islands

### BARRACUDA REEF

*Diving Depth:* 0-80ft / 0-25m. Reef with slopes and a small wall. Reef top is approx 20-30ft / 7-9m under water. Surrounded by gentle slopes full of soft corals.

*Marine Life:* Schools of yellowtail barracudas, schooling reef fish, pygmy seahorses, nudibranchs.

### LAGOON

*Diving Depth:* 0-100ft / 0-30m. Slope and wall dive. Area with a gentle slope full of hard corals, changing to a small wall, which is a cape under water, full of soft corals.

*Marine Life:* Whitetip reef sharks, nudibranchs, humphead wrasse.

### ANITA'S GARDEN

*Diving Depth:* 0-80ft / 0-25m. Garden full of soft and hard corals. Diving through a coral garden, with impressive colours and gentle slopes.

*Marine Life:* Giant flathead, reef stonefish, nudibranchs,

### MELISSA'S GARDEN

*Diving Depth:* 0-80ft / 0-25m. A perfect coral garden. A giant garden full of surprises between the many soft and hard corals. Giant clams as well as a wonderful marine life. You don't have to dive deep.

*Marine Life:* Spotted wobbegong, giant grouper, reef fish varieties and much more...

### WEST FAM WALL

*Diving Depth:* 0-115ft / 0-35m. A dive location with some great spots. On the one side we have a nice steep slope with corals and sponges and on the other hand we have a huge wall.

*Marine Life:* Nudibranchs, pygmy seahorses, spider crabs, flatworms, pipefish, decoration crabs, spider crabs, gorgonian shrimp.

## Kawe Island

### EAGLE ROCK

*Diving Depth:* 0-80ft / 0-25m. Three rock pinnacles rise above water, plus several pinnacles rising up to the surface. This is a great dive, between the pinnacles with their wonderful soft and hard corals is life a different world. We dive from one pinnacle to the next then finish the dive next to the main rock.

*Marine Life:* Painted rock lobster, white spotted bamboo sharks, manta rays, fish varieties.

### UNZE

*Diving Depth:* 0-130ft / 0-40m. The name means UNder ZERo. Small islands coming up from the deep sea and between there are some pinnacles. Depending on the current, we dive around and between the small islands and pinnacles exploring some nice canyons with deep walls. At the end of the dive are some shallows plateaus.

*Marine Life:* Nudibranchs, school of bump head parrot fish, scorpion fish, schools of reef fish, turtles, coral shrimps.

### CANGGO

*Diving Depth:* 0-100 ft / 0-30m. A small rock with giant walls. Huge and impressive walls, swim-throughs and overhangs with medium to strong current. Good for huge schools of fish. Look inside the rock crevasses to find small creatures.

*Marine Life:* Schools of neon fusiliers and yellowback fusiliers, bumphead parrot fish and yellowmask surgeonfish, reef fish varieties.

## Waigeo Island

### THE PASSAGE

*Diving Depth:* 0-65ft / 0-20m. Fascinating scenery where ever you look above and under the water. The landscape above water looks like a river course, surrounded by thick rain forest with many small rocks. At changing of tides the current can be quite strong.

*Marine Life:* Nudibranchs, pipefish, flatworms, sea slugs, spotted wobbegong, cuttlefish, blennies, rays, school of bump head parrot fish, school of jack fish, banded sea snake.

### NUDIBRANCH ROCK

*Diving Depth:* 0-65ft / 0-2m. Nudibranchs over Nudibranchs. It's a muck dive not far away from The Passage but completely different. In a side arm we will find a different world with a sandy area full of nudibranchs.

*Marine Life:* Nudibranchs, goby shrimps, turtles, sea slugs, banded sea snake, flatworms, pipefish, bobtail squid.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**WHAT SHOULD I BRING?** Passport (minimum 6 months validity), diver certification card and insurance details. Bathing suits, shorts, T-shirts, sunscreen and perhaps a light pullover or windbreaker. We provide basic toiletries and hair dryers in the cabins.

**WHAT DIVING EQUIPMENT DO I NEED?** Bring everything except tanks and weights. For those who prefer to travel light, we can arrange for rental equipment including dive lights, wet suits & dive computers.

**ARE DIVE COMPUTERS RECOMMENDED?** Yes! Due to the multi-level type of diving on our cruises, diving without a computer (using Dive Tables) will restrict your opportunities to see certain special features and creatures. Nitrox-divers have to use a nitrox suitable dive computer. No sharing; divers must have their own computer.

**ARE WETSUITS NEEDED?** The average water temperature is 27C, (80F) but doing multiple dives each day may make you chillier than you anticipated. We recommend at least a thin shorty or skin but bring a thicker full wetsuit if you get cold easily. If you are not sure, bring both kinds. There is enough space on our divedeck to hang up two wetsuits per diver.

**WHAT NOT TO BRING?** Our experience is that the less stuff you bring, the more comfortable your stay on board. Any excess luggage can be stored at your hotel during the trip.

**HOW ABOUT FLYING TO THE CRUISE DEPARTURE POINT? North Sulawesi:** Silk Air (the regional carrier of Singapore Airlines) and Garuda Air Indonesia, all offer regular flights to and from Manado. We strongly recommend that you arrive in Manado at least one day before the boat's departure. This way you have time to rest and acclimatize. An Ocean Rover (or hotel) representative will be at the airport to greet you and assist with your transfers. If you stay on land before your cruise we will call your hotel to arrange your pick up a few hours before the boat's departure. **Raja Ampat:** Most passengers will fly from Singapore to Manado (North Sulawesi) by Silk Air. Our staff will pick you up, bring you to your hotel then pick you up from there next morning for the connecting flight to Sorong. If you are already in Manado a couple of days beforehand, we will pick you up from the resort or hotel. There are daily flights from Manado to Sorong which we can also organize for you.

**WHERE DOES OCEAN ROVER DEPART FROM? Our departure point in North Sulawesi is the port of BITUNG** which is located on Lembah Strait. **Our departure point in Raja Ampat is the city SORONG.** We will pick you up from the airport or we will organize transport from your hotel to Ocean Rover, which will be anchored next to port of Sorong.

**COMMUNICATION. We do not have official headquarters in Sorong as we do in Manado** but someone from Ocean Rover's management team will be at the scene to supervise the departure & arrival of the boat. Our Reservations Department will give you the mobile phone number of this person so you can communicate directly. Our representative will assist you with any cruise-related problem you may have while you are in Sorong.

**WHAT HAPPENS ON DEPARTURE DAY? LUGGAGE:** We prefer to store all luggage on board before boarding time. If you wish, we could pick up your bags at your hotel, just give us a call. Please have nametags on all your bags. **PAPERWORK:** There are some forms to be filled out before departure and it is best not to leave this until the last moment. Also the Port Fee & Park Fee, in CASH USD only, must be paid at this stage. Be sure to reconfirm your return flights before boarding the boat. **BOARDING TIME:** In most cases it is possible to board from 10:00h onwards. A light meal will be served after the welcome aboard briefing.

**WHAT IS THE ITINERARY? North Sulawesi:** The cruises visit three main areas: Bunaken and Banka Islands, Lembah Strait and the Sangihe **Archipelago.** We spend roughly one third of the cruise in each area but we always remain flexible to take advantage of favorable weather conditions, special marine life encounters and customer preference. **Raja Ampat:** The cruises visit one of the main diving parts of this area. We will start from Sorong and first cruise north to the island of Waigeo. We will cross the equator several times during the itinerary between the longitudes of E130° to E132° while diving all the best sites in this area.

**WHAT ARE THE CABINS AND SHOWERS LIKE?** There are eight cabins, all on the main or upper deck. All cabins have individually controlled air-conditioning and private ensuite bathrooms and showers. We provide bathroom towels, as well as basic toiletries and hair dryers. The six double bed cabins have single berths over the double bed and large panoramic windows. The two twin share cabins on the main deck have upper and lower berths and twin viewing portholes. There is an additional toilet and shower on the dive deck.

**WHAT ARE THE MEALS LIKE?** We serve three meals a day, buffet style, as well as snacks and fresh fruits. We try to please many different palates so most meals are a combination of Asian and western cuisine. With prior notice we can cater to certain diets as well.

**WHAT ABOUT DRINKS?** We carry a selection of soft drinks, fruit juices (which are included in the price), as well as beer and wine which is available for purchase. If you prefer hard liquor please bring your own. The refreshments corner is stocked with tea, instant coffee and cookies. Real coffee lovers will appreciate our espresso machine.

## (FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS CONTINUED)

**HOW MANY DIVES PER DAY?** You chose Ocean Rover for diving and that is what we are going to do, as often as we can. Generally, there are opportunities to do at least four dives per day, with additional night dives when the location is suitable.

**WILL THE DIVE CREW GUIDE ME?** Each dive is preceded by a detailed briefing, including charts. Anytime you need someone to guide you around the reef, you have but to ask. Guided dives will be in small groups (max 4 diver per guide).

**CAN I DIVE SOLO?** OK if you are very experienced and know what you are doing, if not, please join a buddy of your choice, or one of our dive crew. A Surface Marker Buoy is a must for in your equipment.

**NON-DIVING ACTIVITIES?** While diving is the priority, there are many other possibilities. When the location is suitable, there is swimming, snorkeling and beach combing. We also have a good selection of music, movies, books, and games. Please bring your own CDs or DVDs if you wish.

**WHAT IS THE ELECTRICAL CURRENT?** At the camera charging stations both 220 & 110 Volts, 50-60Hz current is available. A selection of adaptors for many plug types is available as well. Standard electrical current in other parts of the boat, including the cabins, is 220V.

**WHERE CAN I WORK ON MY CAMERAS?** Ocean Rover has several camera worktables -both indoors and on deck- as well as safe places to place your cameras just before or after the dive. There are two large rinse tanks, light tables & a colour TV monitor (NTSC & PAL). NEW: For digital photographers there is a dedicated computer with appropriate software.

**CAN I BE CONTACTED IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY?** Ocean Rover is equipped with satellite communication equipment. Emergency faxes and e-mails can be forwarded to the boat via our office. Please leave our fax number or email address with your relatives and office.

**DO I NEED INSURANCE?** Absolutely! It is COMPULSORY on all Ocean Rover cruises that you have suitable holiday diving injury insurance, such as DAN or similar. All passengers are required to sign a liability waiver before departure, and are on board at their own risk. We also strongly recommend suitable cancellation insurance.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I HAVE AN ACCIDENT DURING THE CRUISE?** Although Ocean Rover operates in very remote locations, passengers do not need to worry unduly about lack of medical facilities in case of an accident or serious illness. The crew can contact Ocean Rover's management 24 hours a day via satellite communications. Detailed procedures have been drawn up (and tested!) to ensure rapid evacuation from the boat to the nearest recompression chamber. Please do your part by making sure your DAN insurance (or other) is up to date. Extensive medical supplies are on board, including plenty of emergency oxygen. The crew is trained in first aid techniques and very experienced. However, do bring any special medications you may need or think may be useful.

**HOW MUCH SPENDING MONEY DO I NEED?** Bring enough cash to cover the Port & Park Fee, crew tips, shopping, drinks and souvenirs. On board expenses are settled after the cruise. We prefer which are new and unmarked, if possible unfolded. We will also accept Singapore Dollars, Euros and Indonesian Rupiahs.

**CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS POLICY:** **Things you can pay with your credit card:** The cruise price, your bar bill, T-shirts and on-shore accommodation. **Things you CAN'T pay with your credit card:** Port & Park Fees and crew tips.

**We regret we are unable to accept Traveller's Cheques as payment because local banks will not accept "third party" TCs. To obtain cash Rupiahs you can exchange your TCs at any exchange booth or bank.**

**WHAT HAPPENS ON THE LAST CRUISE DAY?** **North Sulawesi:** We arrive back in Lembeh Straits and spend the last day diving with the critters before disembarking the next morning. Passengers staying at resorts on Lembeh Strait will be taken to the respective docks before we arrive back at Bitung Port to disembark other passengers. **Raja Ampat:** We depart the islands after the last afternoon dive, arriving back to Sorong in the late evening. We disembark the next morning at 05:00h for flights back to Manado. All other passengers disembark later in the morning and will be transferred to either the airport or your chosen hotel.

**WHAT IS THE CREW TIPPING POLICY?** We believe tips should be given voluntary and based upon the quality of the service provided. Once on board, you will notice how hard the crew works and how your safety and enjoyment relies heavily on their professionalism and attitude. Many of our guests give a gratuity based on 10% of the cruise price or more but, again, we stress that this is entirely voluntarily. Please note that tips can only be paid in cash.

## INDONESIA TRAVEL FACTS

**GETTING THERE:** Northern Sulawesi, the area around Manado, is one of the best-known diving destinations in the country. It is easily accessible by air from Singapore with Silk Air, and Jakarta or Bali with Garuda Air. Raja Ampat is another flight from Manado to Sorong by Merpati Air or Wings Air. There are also flights from Jakarta or Bali via Makassar (Udung Pandang).

**VISA:** Citizens of most western countries must obtain a visa-on-arrival at Manado or Sorong Airports. The cost is US\$25 (bring the exact amount with you) and allows stays up to 30 days. Certain nationalities are required to obtain a visa from an Indonesian embassy in their home countries before travel to Indonesia. **Passports must be valid for 6 months from your date of arrival in the country.**

**CURRENCY:** The local currency is the Indonesian Rupiah (IDR). Currently the exchange rate is approx. US\$1 = IDR9,400 but due to the strong currency fluctuations now occurring in South East Asia this can change quickly. Hotels, restaurants and shops accept the major credit cards.

**TIMEZONE:** Local time in North Sulawesi is 8 hours ahead of UTC (GMT), same time zone as Singapore and Malaysia. Raja Ampat is 9 hours ahead of UTC (GMT).

**ELECTRICITY:** Electrical current in Indonesia is 220 Volts, 50 Hz. On board Ocean Rover current is both 220V / 50Hz and 110V / 60Hz (camera charging area only).

**HEALTH:** Health services in Indonesia are by no means up to western standards, although there are hospitals in all major towns. Most of North Sulawesi and Raja Ampat are free of malaria and other serious diseases. However, it is always prudent to check if your vaccinations are still up to date. Normal precautions with food will keep you out of trouble. **Be sure to drink only bottled water.**

**LANGUAGE:** Bahasa is the official language but nearly all Indonesians that work in the tourism industry speak English. Speak slowly and clearly without too many colloquialisms and people will understand you just fine.

**DRESS CODE:** In all the tourist resorts shorts and T-shirts are acceptable attire but women are expected to dress "sensibly". At night as well, although "smart-casual" is preferred in the better eating places. Jackets and ties are not required anywhere.

**RELIGION:** Unlike most of Indonesia, Northern Sulawesi's and Raja Ampat's inhabitants are devout Christians and a pleasant sense of calm and peacefulness prevails.

**TEMPERATURE:** **Air temperature** 20-35 C, always warm, can get very hot and humid, nights can be cooler. Average **water temperature** in the Celebes Sea (N Sulawesi) and Halmahera Sea (Raja Ampat) is approx 27C (80F). Pleasant although sometimes thermoclines occur. The type of wetsuit depends on how easily you get cold and how many dives per day you make. We recommend at least a thin shorty or skin but bring a thicker full wetsuit 3-5mm if you get cold easy.

**CLIMATE:** Indonesia's tropical climate is influenced by the southwest and northeast monsoons. There are three seasons: Dry, Hot and Rainy. Diving is possible all year round, but there are days each year when monsoon winds are too strong for safe recreational diving.

**PT. Ocean Rover Cruises**

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