

EST. 1994
CAPTAIN'S CHOICE

PAPUA NEW GUINEA & INDONESIA BY LUXURY YACHT

This remote expedition cruise delivers us to the distant shores of Papua New Guinea, West Papua, and the far-flung archipelago of Raja Ampat. Swim and snorkel in crystal-clear waters, enjoying encounters with whale sharks and an abundance of other marine species. Just 26 guests will embark the luxurious Paspaley Pearl for this rare and fascinating voyage.



A JOURNEY OVERVIEW

Port Moresby - Madang - Kopar Village - Vanimo - Lake Sentani - Mamberamo River - Cenderawasih Bay - Raja Ampat - Banda Neira - Dili

16 Days Expedition Voyage
Departing 19 November 2027

Image: David Kirkland

 On this journey you will be able to scuba dive in Raja Ampat. To participate, you will require an Open Water Certification. You will need to bring your card on the journey, or else supply a digital copy in advance of the departure. Most gear will be supplied, including mask, snorkel, fins, wetsuit, buoyancy control device, regulator, tanks and weights. You should bring your own dive computer, as this will not be supplied. Please notify our Guest Relations team if you wish to join the scuba diving experience in Raja Ampat.

Day 1 Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea)
We prepare for our expedition cruise with a Welcome Dinner at the Hilton Port Moresby Hotel, where you will get to know your fellow travellers and Tour Host Team.

Day 2 Madang, Embark Paspaley Pearl
This morning, an economy class scheduled flight takes us north to the coastal town of Madang. Fringed by palm trees, the town sits along a remote peninsula that looks across crystal-clear waters. Almost 200 languages are spoken within the region, which reflects the overall diversity of Papua New Guinea as a whole. It is within this setting that we board our luxury vessel, the Paspaley Pearl. From here, our expedition voyage will see us cruising westward, following the remote coastlines of Papua New Guinea and Indonesia.

Day 3 Kopar Village
At the mouth of the vast Sepik River, we find Kopar Village. Here, the crocodile is venerated as a great spirit of the water and traditional ways remain a constant. Ceremonies are performed to appease the spirits and boys become men through a series of gruelling rites.

Day 4 Vanimo
Those with a proclivity for water sports may know Vanimo for its various surf breaks. Its location, close to the border with Indonesia, also makes it an important centre of trade. The community frequently celebrates its diversity by hosting traditional events and festivals. Vanimo's beaches offer tranquillity and seclusion in equal measure.

Day 5 Jayapura City (Indonesia), Lake Sentani
Today we cross into Indonesia on our way to Jayapura City. The thriving metropolis is close to Lake Sentani, whose tropical waters teem with endemic fish species. The region is inhabited by the Sentani people, whose cultural heritage is evident through the proliferation of remarkable bark paintings.

Day 6 Mamberamo River
Further west, we arrive along the Mamberamo River. Tropical rainforests make up part of the diverse ecosystems found along the edge of the river. As our vessel winds its way along this remote waterway, keep watch for the isolated communities whose traditional ways live on here.

Day 7 Cenderawasih Bay
Cenderawasih Bay represents the colossal gulf that lies between Papua and West Papua's Bird's Head Peninsula. And found gracefully gliding between deserted islands and colourful reefs is the world's largest fish, the whale shark. Indonesia's largest marine national park, Cenderawasih Bay also harbours the wrecks of World War II planes and ships.

Day 8 Cenderawasih Bay
We continue our cruise today, across the expansive blue waters of Cenderawasih Bay. Our nimble vessel gets us up close to the forested coastlines, colourful reefs and marine creatures that make up this beautiful and biodiverse region.

Day 9 Day at Sea
A day at sea allows us to take advantage of our vessel's luxurious amenities as we make our way to our next port of call.

Day 10 Raja Ampat
On the far side of Bird's Head Peninsula, we arrive at Raja Ampat. Local mythology bestowed the moniker Four Kings upon this archipelago. The story goes that a woman discovered seven eggs, four of which hatched to produce the four kings who would go on to rule over the largest of the islands. More than 1,500 small islands comprise the sprawling group. It is said that the region possesses a greater diversity of marine life than any other part of the massive Coral Triangle, which spreads from the Solomon Islands to the Philippines and across to Singapore.

 The scuba divers among us will explore this vibrant underwater world accompanied by expert local guides today. The region and its warm waters are renowned for outstanding hard and soft coral, abundant fish species, and overall spectacular scenery.

Day 11 Raja Ampat
Today we absorb more rare sights, including island chains, shoaling fish and idyllic cays.

Day 12 Raja Ampat
Our ship continues to navigate the waters off West Papua. Raja Ampat's larger islands, Misool, Salawati, Batanta and Waigeo, stand proud amid lesser-known islets and are home to stunning landscapes and diverse culture.

Day 13 Kiti-Kiti Waterfall
Be sure to have your camera at hand today, as we are greeted by the spectacular sight of Kiti-Kiti Waterfall, which materialises from the forested hills and gushes directly into the sea. Found toward the southern point of the Bomberai Peninsula, the falls add the finishing touch to an already serene stretch of coastline, with its lush forests and impossibly clear waters.

Day 14 Banda Neira

Today, we arrive at the Spice Islands, where successive empires fought for control of the once-lucrative trade. Considered the most historic of the islands, Banda Neira was once the sole source of the world's nutmeg, highly prized by European merchants. Step ashore, accompanied by your Expedition Team and local guides, for an exploration of this small island, including its ruined Portuguese and Dutch forts. We also arrive at the former home of Christopher Cole. The British captain led a small army of men onto the island in 1810, forcing the surrender of the Dutch.

Day 15 Day at Sea

Once again, we enjoy a full day aboard our ship, as we sail across the Banda Sea, en route to Dili.

Day 16 Dili (Timor-Leste), Disembark Paspaley Pearl

Reaching the northern coast of Timor-Leste, we shortly arrive at the port of Dili. Following a final breakfast aboard the Paspaley Pearl, we disembark in the capital, where our journey concludes.