MARINE MEGAFAUNA FOUNDATION

Photo: Coralia Liveaboard

Liveaboard expedition with MMF scientists

Raja Ampat

Raja Ampat 20 – 31 March 2028

Raja Ampat 2 – 13 April 2028

From **US$8,250** per person

Raja Ampat · Liveaboard expedition with MMF scientists

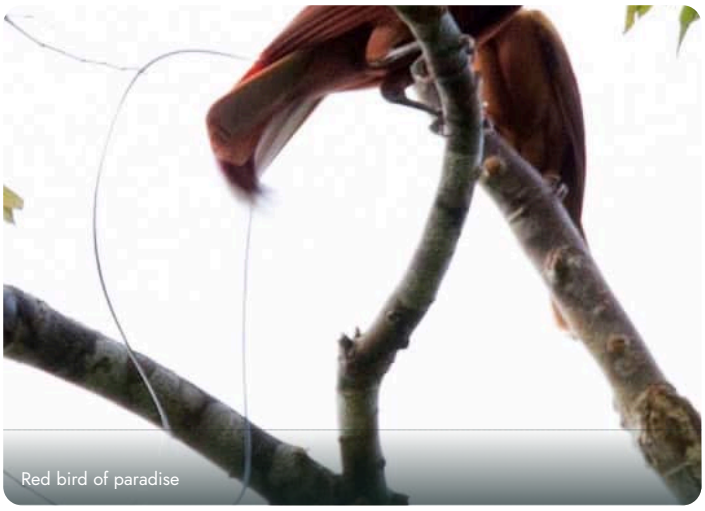
The trip at a glance

Manta rays, walking sharks, and some of the richest reefs on Earth, hosted by Dr. Simon Pierce and Janis Argeswara. Eleven nights on the new Coralia Dua, Sorong to Sorong.

We are excited to welcome you aboard this expedition of a lifetime, as we explore the waters of Raja Ampat, home to the richest coral reef ecosystem in the world, during manta ray season.

The Raja Ampat Regency covers over 40,000 km² (15,400 sq mi) of land and sea and features more than 1,500 islands, with coral reef biodiversity that surveys suggest is the highest recorded on Earth. Surveys of the Bird's Head Seascape, which includes Raja Ampat, have recorded about 600 species of hard coral and more than 1,300 reef fishes; 374 fish species were identified during a single 90-minute dive at Cape Kri in the Dampier Strait. You'll also be diving alongside large populations of both manta ray species, the reef manta and the giant (oceanic) manta.

Manta ray, Raja Ampat


Red bird of paradise

Raja Ampat	20 – 31 March 2028	Sorong return	**Open for booking**
Raja Ampat	2 – 13 April 2028	Sorong return	**Open for booking**

From
US$8,250
per person

11 nights
Sorong return, March and April 2028

Coralia Dua
the new ship from the Coralia team

Up to four dives a day
free Nitrox, tanks, and weights

Hosted by MMF scientists
evening science talks and photo tips

Reef and giant mantas
peak season, plus walking sharks

14 guests
seven guest cabins, 21 crew

Your hosts

Dr Simon Pierce
Executive Director

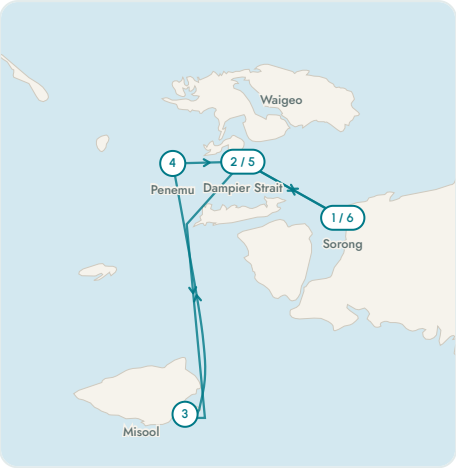
Janis Argeswara
Indonesia Country Manager

Highlights

- Reef and giant manta rays at peak season, at cleaning stations where MMF scientists have studied their social behavior.
- The Raja Ampat walking shark, found only in this region, on night dives in the Dampier Strait and Penemu.
- Some of the world's healthiest, most colorful reefs, in Misool's community-protected waters.
- Karst islands, lagoons, and viewpoints between dives.
- Hosted by Dr. Simon Pierce and MMF's Country Manager for Indonesia, Janis Argeswara.

Photos: Coralia Liveaboard

The itinerary



Both 2028 trips run Sorong to Sorong over 11 nights, covering Misool, Penemu, and the Dampier Strait.

Approximate route. Numbers match the stops.

This is a sample itinerary, not a fixed plan: the cruise directors change the route day by day for weather, currents and wildlife.

National park, port and fuel fees (US$385 per person for 2028) are paid on board.

1

Board in Sorong · Start

Fly to Sorong, with direct flights from Bali and connections via Jakarta, Makassar, or Manado. The harbor is about 10 minutes from the airport, and transfers are included.

2

The Dampier Strait

MMF scientists have studied the social behavior of reef manta rays at cleaning stations here, including Manta Sandy and Manta Ridge. On the current-swept reefs, sharks, giant trevally, and dogtooth tuna hunt schools of fusiliers, and Cape Kri once logged 374 fish species on a single dive.

Dive sites Manta Sandy · Manta Ridge · Cape Kri · Sardine Reef · Blue Magic · Arborek **Look for** Reef and giant mantas · Walking sharks · Wobbegong sharks · Schooling fish

3

Misool

The south-east coast of Misool, in the far south of Raja Ampat, is a community-protected region that explodes with life: sea fan forests, giant and reef mantas at Magic Mountain, pygmy seahorses, and the occasional walking shark on night dives.

Dive sites Magic Mountain · Boo Windows · Daram · Fiabacet **Look for** Manta rays · Pygmy seahorses

4

Penemu

The karst islands of Penemu, in the Fam Islands, rise steeply from sheltered lagoons, with soft-coral reefs below them.

Look for Soft corals · Reef fish · Walking sharks

5

Back to the Dampier Strait

A final stretch among the current-swept reefs and manta ray cleaning stations of the Dampier Strait before the run back to Sorong.

Look for Manta rays · Sharks

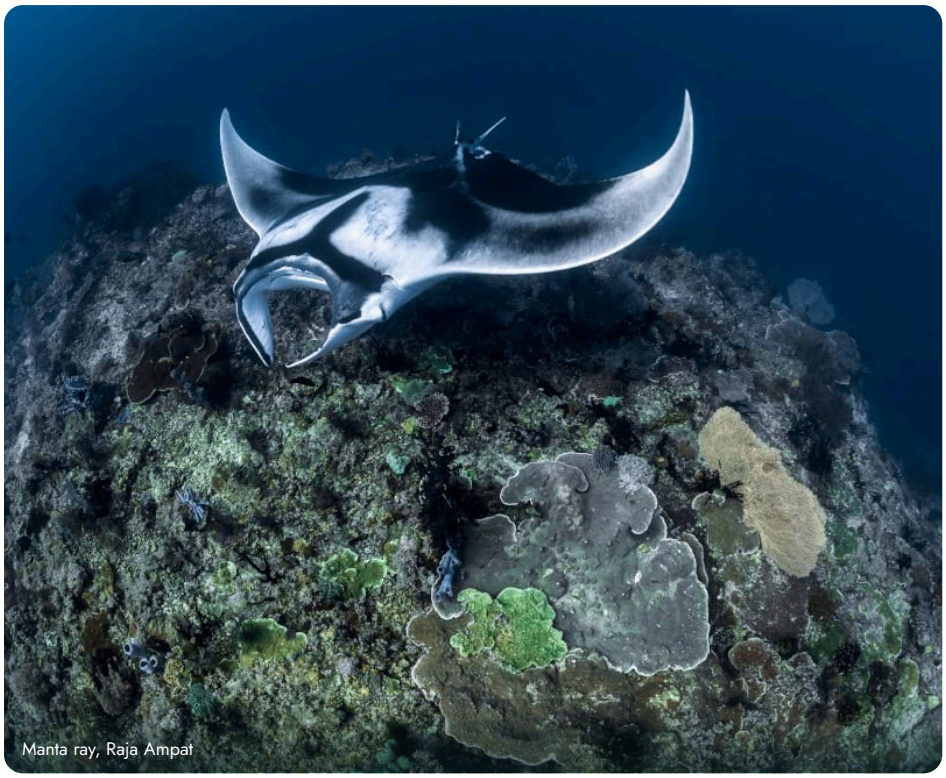
6

Back to Sorong · Finish

Two morning dives on the last full day, finishing around 1 pm to allow safe flying.

Photos: Coralia Liveaboard

In pictures


Manta ray, Raja Ampat

Tasselled wobbegong shark

Soft corals and sea fans

Pygmy seahorse

Black manta ray

Penemu

Schooling snappers

Hawksbill turtle

Love Lagoon viewpoint

Photos: Coralia Liveaboard

The boat

Coralia Dua

Coralia Dua

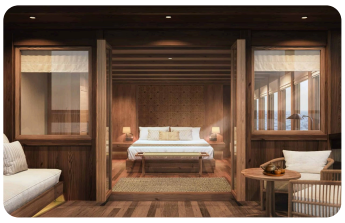
Operated by Coralia Liveaboard

The new sister ship of the original Coralia, launching in 2026 and run by the same team, with cruise directors Debbie and Jerry Arriaga. At 52 meters (171 feet) long and over 10 meters (33 feet) wide, she has eight cabins, one of them kept for the MMF host, so our trips carry 14 guests, with 21 crew. Photographers have a full-width camera room with individual workstations, and between dives there are open-air lounges, an onboard masseuse on the sky deck, and complimentary satellite WiFi.

Upper deck

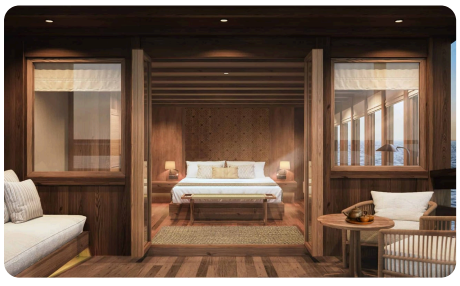
Saloon

Restaurant



Master cabin

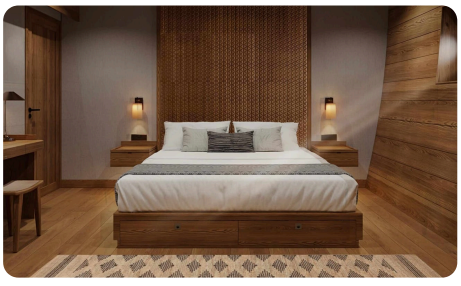
Cabins and prices



Master cabin

Four cabins, 35 m² (377 sq ft), on the main and upper decks, each with a private deck

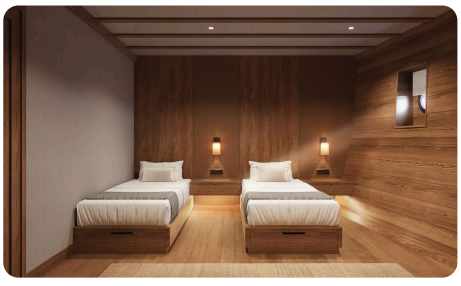
US$9,350 per person



Deluxe double

Two cabins on the lower deck, where a sofa bed takes a third guest

US$8,250 per person

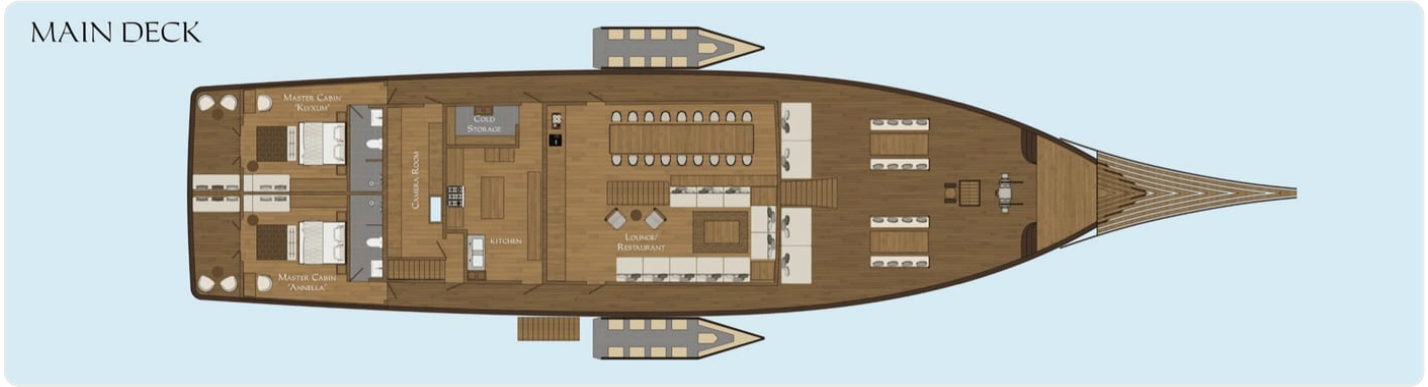


Deluxe twin

Two cabins on the lower deck, two single beds

US$8,250 per person

Deck plan · Main deck



Photos: Coralia Liveaboard

Who you travel with, and what your trip supports

The Marine Megafauna Foundation is a globally recognized marine conservation non-profit, protecting the most endangered ocean giants and the habitats they call home since 2009.

Our vision is a future where marine megafauna are treasured and protected. Our mission is to protect marine megafauna and their key habitats through research, education, and conservation.

Our work began in 2003, when Dr. Andrea Marshall started her doctoral research on manta rays in Mozambique. Dr. Simon Pierce joined her at Tofo in 2005 to establish a whale shark research program, and Tofo remains our long-term base. MMF was registered as a nonprofit organization in the United States in 2012.

In the years since, our team has authored more than 200 scientific publications on marine megafauna, and that research has been put to use. It has contributed to the national protection of manta rays and whale sharks in several countries, including Indonesia, Mozambique, and Tanzania. MMF scientists also led the technical work that placed the reef manta ray, the oceanic manta ray, and the whale shark on Appendix I of the UN Convention on Migratory Species.

In Indonesia, where we have worked since 2012, more than 2,300 individual reef manta rays have been identified across our sites, principally at Nusa Penida and in Komodo National Park.

National staff lead our programs, and locally registered organizations carry the work: Associação Megafauna Marinha in Mozambique, Yayasan Megafauna Laut in Indonesia, and an independent partner organization in Madagascar.

A reef manta ray swims over a diver in Komodo National Park

Children in a crowded classroom raise their hands during a marine conservation lesson

Learning with us on board

Every MMF expedition is hosted by a working marine scientist, who shares the latest research and conservation discoveries about the animals you'll see. Across the voyage your host gives a series of evening presentations — on the animals we're looking for, how they're studied, what the current research actually shows, and the threats these populations face. There's time to ask the questions you never get to ask a researcher in person, and photography guidance for anyone who wants to come home with better images.

Your photographs do real work. Whale sharks and manta rays can be identified individually by their natural markings — the spot patterns on a whale shark's flank, the markings on a manta's underside — the same way a fingerprint identifies a person. Guests are shown how to take an identification shot, and the photographs taken during the trip are contributed to the global photo-identification databases that researchers around the world draw on. Sightings you record become part of the long-term record for that population.

Marine Megafauna Foundation is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit. Our expeditions exist to bring people into contact with these animals and send them home understanding them — and **100% of the profit supports MMF's research, education, and conservation work**.

A snorkeler photographs a whale shark swimming below.

Our expeditions are small-group trips hosted by MMF scientists, and they support this work.

Your hosts

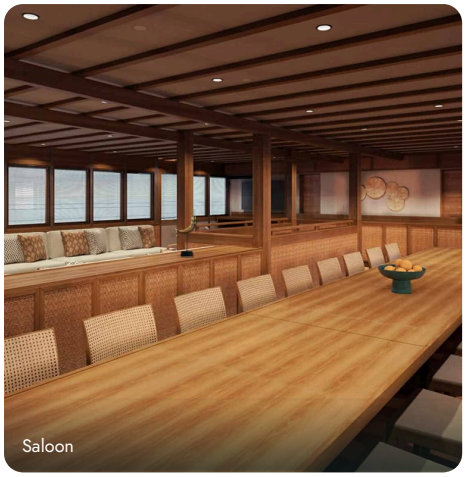
Dr Simon Pierce
Executive Director

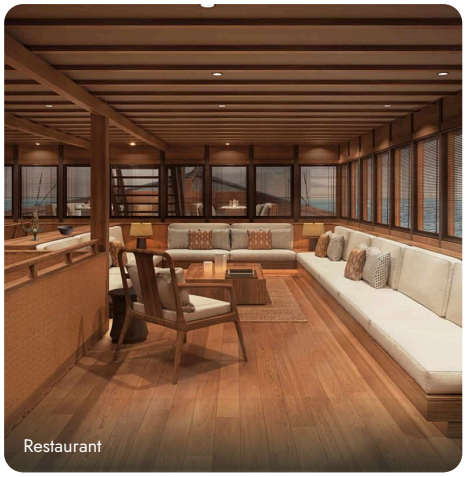
Dr. Pierce founded MMF's flagship Global Whale Shark Program. His work on the population ecology and management of this iconic species has made him the world's top whale shark conservation biologist.

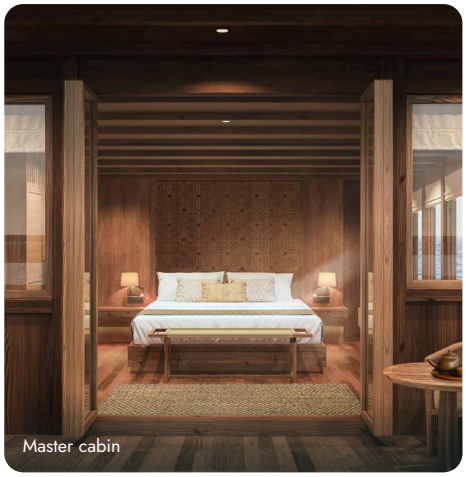
Janis Argeswara
Indonesia Country Manager

In Indonesia, a two-year Research Assistant program trains early-career marine scientists. Janis Argeswara, MMF's first Indonesian intern, later earned a Fulbright scholarship to Florida International University, where she completed a master's degree on the reef manta rays of Nusa Penida. She now leads the national program.

Costs, getting there and good to know


Saloon


Restaurant


Master cabin

What's included

- Liveaboard cruise on Coralia Dua
- Up to four dives a day
- Complimentary Nitrox
- Shore excursions according to the program
- All meals and snacks, every day
- Hot and cold soft beverage selection
- Tanks, weights, belts
- Transfers to and from Sorong airport
- Presentations from MMF hosts

Not included

- International or domestic flights
- Sorong accommodation
- National park, port, and fuel fees ($385 pp, paid on board)
- Dive courses
- Dive gear rental
- Alcoholic beverages
- On-board massages
- Laundry
- Use of on-board satellite phone
- Encouraged gratuity
- Travel insurance

Getting there

Fly to Sorong (SOQ), with direct flights from Bali and connections via Jakarta, Makassar, or Manado. The harbor is about 10 minutes from the airport, and transfers to and from Sorong airport are included. Sorong accommodation is not included.

Booking and terms

National park, port and fuel fees (US$385 per person for 2028) are paid on board. Inquire with no commitment. A 30% deposit and the completed terms and conditions form confirm your place, and the balance is due 120 days before departure. Travel insurance is required.

Good to know

Do I need to be a diver?

Certified divers of all experience levels are welcome, and each dive guide leads no more than four guests. Snorkelers are welcome too, and the Cenderawasih Bay whale sharks are seen at the surface.

How experienced a diver should I be?

Some sites have currents and depth, so recent diving helps you get the most from them. Tell us your certification, logged dives, and when you last dived when you inquire, and we will confirm the trip suits you. Courses, including Advanced Open Water and Nitrox, can be arranged on board if you book them ahead.

What insurance do I need?

Personal dive-accident insurance that includes emergency evacuation (Divers Alert Network is recommended) is required for every certified diver. Our trip terms and conditions also require comprehensive travel insurance covering trip cancellation and interruption, overseas medical expenses, and emergency evacuation: these trips run in remote places where medical care is scarce, and MMF cannot help with canceled flights or lost luggage.

Is Nitrox included? Can I rent gear?

Nitrox is free for certified Nitrox divers, and tanks, weights, and belts are included. Full rental gear is available (BCDs, regulators, wetsuits, computers, fins, masks, torches, and SMBs); reserve it before the trip.

What if my flight is delayed?

Contact the boat straight away. Depending on the itinerary and where the boat is, the crew will do everything possible to help you join. Plan a spare day either side for international flights; the last full day ends with two morning dives, finished around 1 pm, so you can fly safely.

Inquire: **trips@marinemegafauna.org**
marinemegafauna.org/trips/raja-ampat

Photos: Coralia Liveaboard

100% of profit supports MMF's research, education and conservation work

Brochure made 5 November 2026; availability as of 17 October 2026. Confirm both when you inquire.