



Dewi Nusantara

CRUISING ITINERARIES: THE BIRDSHEAD PENINSULA & CENDERAWASIH BAY
(SORONG TO MANOKWARI)



THE BIRDSHEAD PENINSULA & CENDERAWASIH BAY

DEWI NUSANTARA ITINERARIES

THE BIRDSHEAD PENINSULA & CENDERAWASIH BAY

ELEVEN DAYS : SORONG TO MANOKWARI

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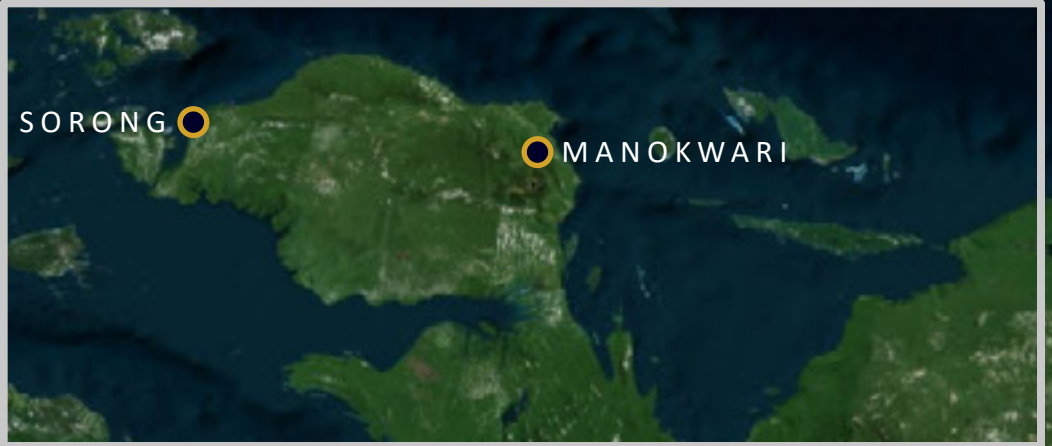




THE BIRDSHEAD PENINSULA & CENDERAWASIH BAY

The Indonesian Archipelago

THE BIRDSHEAD PENINSULA & CENDERAWASIH BAY



MALAYSIA

PACIFIC OCEAN

SINGAPORE

KALIMANTAN

MANADO

HALMAHERA

SUMATRA

SULAWESI

SORONG

MANOKWARI

CERAM

AMBON

KAIMANA

WEST PAPUA

MAKASSAR

TUAL

ARU

BANDA SEA

JAVA

SAUMLAKI

THE ARAFURA SEA

INDIAN OCEAN

BALI

DENPASAR

SUMBAWA

FLORES

KALABAHI
ALOR

EAST TIMOR

SUMBA

WEST TIMOR

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AUSTRALIA



THE BIRDSHEAD PENINSULA & CENDERAWASIH BAY

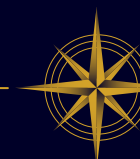
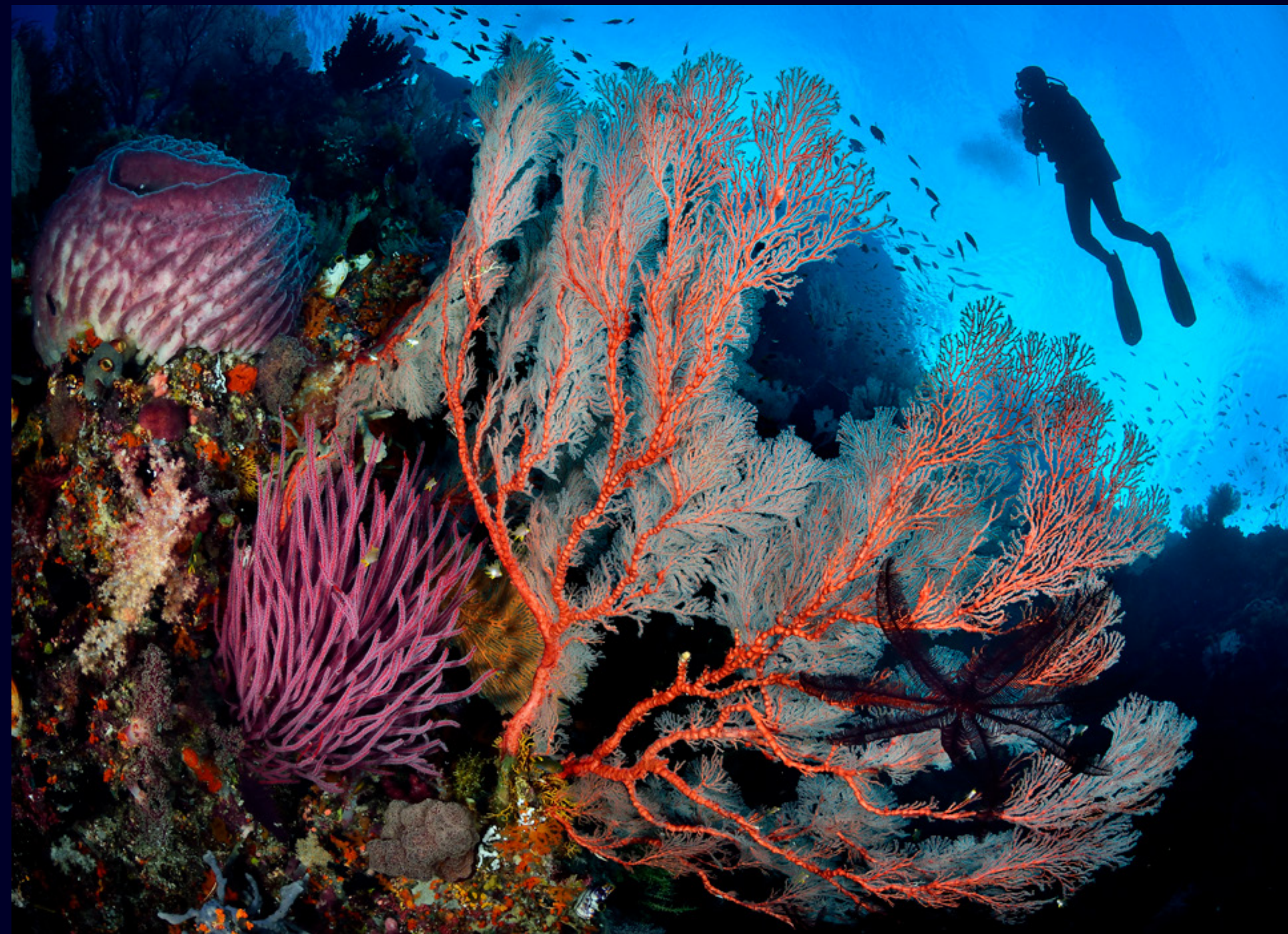
The Birdshead Peninsula & Cenderawasih Bay

Located along the northern coastline of West Papua, Cenderawasih Bay, Indonesia's largest marine national park, makes up part of what is known as the Bird's Head Seascape. Relatively new to the Southeast Asian scuba diving community, Cenderawasih Bay is one of the latest additions to the Indonesian archipelago's already outstanding portfolio of cruise itineraries.

The remote islands and strikingly colourful coral reef systems scattered inside the bay are astonishing areas to explore. Rising from the deep blue sea, the crystal-clear waters and sparkling reefs teem with marine life. The picture-perfect beaches that surround many of the tiny tropical islands appear to have been man-made for some grand advertising campaign, creating unbelievable locations for a wide range of watersports and other exciting activities.

The bay harbours a natural beauty, becoming a south-Pacific paradise. The surrounding Papuan mainland and islands are home to a host of rare creatures. Some of them are endemic to the region, such as forest wallabies, possums, and bandicoots, as well as the sleepy and secretive cuscus, which inhabit the lowlands, gorges, and hilly forests. The continental-sized island of Papua, along with the Amazon, has the largest concentration of bird species on the planet, and Cenderawasih Bay is home to many of them, including the rare and elusive "Birds of Paradise."

The list of native species is not limited to land-based animals; the bay is also home to numerous indigenous marine species. Cenderawasih Bay is geologically separated from the south-west reaches of the Pacific Ocean by a deep marine ridge stretching across its northern border. It features many creatures not found at other destinations, making it a unique and unusual cruising ground for adventurous scuba diving exploration and budding marine biologists.





THE BIRDSHEAD PENINSULA & CENDERAWASIH BAY



The main attraction, however, and the stars of a Cenderawasih Bay expedition, are the awe-inspiring, up-close-and-personal whaleshark encounters deep inside the bay at Kwatisore. Snorkelling with these impressive creatures in the wild is a humbling experience, and Cenderawasih Bay features an excursion second to none. At night, the local fishermen sling nets underneath their tethered fishing platforms to catch baitfish. This activity has attracted the attention of the local whaleshark population. These gigantic fish like to gather below the nets to suck up a free meal. Numerous whalesharks are often observed during a single excursion, creating a truly spectacular experience for snorkellers and divers alike.

Get On-Board with Dewi Nusantara

For a single cruise during her busy season, Dewi Nusantara begins this journey across the north coastline of North Papua, before arriving at the far-flung eastern Indonesian region of Cenderawasih Bay. This gives our guests exclusive access to some of the very best dive sites that the bay has to offer.

Begin your next scuba adventure on board the Indonesian archipelago's premier liveaboard and experience the best that Indonesia has to offer, along with Dewi Nusantara's outstanding service, exceptional facilities, and her highly experienced crew.

Dewi Nusantara





THE
PACIFIC
OCEAN

PULAU AMSTERDAM

THE BIRDSHEAD PENINSULA & CENDERAWASIH BAY

SORONG

MANOKWARI

DORE BAY

NUMFOR

MANIM

BIAK

THE
BIRDSHEAD
PENINSULA

SEWANDEH
NUM

YAPEN

CENDERAWASIH
BAY

MIOSAURI

ROON

THE
WANDAMMEN
PENSINULA

ROREBO

Cruise Route: The Birdsheds Peninsula
& Cenderawasih Bay

THE
BOMBERAI
PENINSULA

TANJUNG MANGGUAR

WEST
PAPUA

KWATISORE

Dewi Nusantara





Destinations: The Birdshead Peninsula & Cenderawasih Bay

[Cruise Route ↗](#)

[Pulau Amsterdam ↗](#)

[Manokwari \(Dore Bay\) ↗](#)

[Roon ↗](#)

[Rorebo Atoll ↗](#)

[Kwatisore ↗](#)

[Tanjung Mangguar ↗](#)

[The Wandammen Peninsula ↗](#)

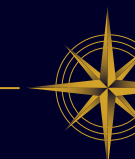
[Miosauri ↗](#)

[Sewandeh ↗](#)

[Manim ↗](#)

[Cruise Notes ↗](#)

Key: ↗= To destination. ↶= Back to this page





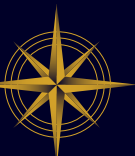
THE BIRDSHEAD PENINSULA & CENDERAWASIH BAY

Pulau Amsterdam

Diving at Pulau Amsterdam, located offshore from the North Papuan coastline, offers an unparalleled underwater experience. This serene anchorage is made up of two islands, Miossu and Middelburg, in a region renowned for its extraordinary marine biodiversity.

In addition, the dive sites around the islands hide something special under the water, World War II artefacts. There are numerous wrecked American landing craft that were scuttled here, along with a lot of other military hardware, which has since been turned into wonderful habitats by the resident marine life.

In addition, divers can expect to encounter a vivid tapestry of coral reefs teeming with life, including a plethora of fish species, from the small, colourful reef dwellers to larger pelagic fish such as barracudas and reef sharks.



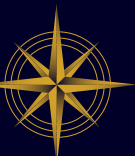


THE BIRDSHEAD PENINSULA & CENDERAWASIH BAY

Manokwari (Dore Bay)

Manokwari town is located along the beautiful shoreline of Dore Bay, a natural deep-water harbour backed by the 3,000 metre-high Arfak mountain range and lower-lying jungle. This landscape forms what the Japanese navy thought was a well-protected and safe anchorage for their warships and cargo boats. The hills above the town still bear the trademarks of Japanese occupation: they are riddled with tunnels used for storage, shelter, and escape. General McArthur's allied forces were based on the island of Biak, over 120 nautical miles further east, and were regularly attacking the Japanese at Manokwari with their aircraft. Unfortunately for the allies, the Japanese had cracked their radio codes, so they were ready when the planes attacked their shipping; this led to a lot of them being shot down to join the bombed and sunken Japanese vessels already on the sandy seabed.

Despite the discovery of over 20 wrecks, only five are currently easily accessible for diving. Others

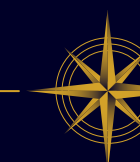
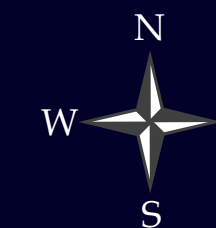




THE BIRDSHEAD PENINSULA & CENDERAWASIH BAY



are either too deep to reach on conventional scuba, are hard to find, or are so bent and destroyed that they are hardly worth a visit. Luckily for visiting divers, those that are reachable are relatively unexplored, fairly pristine, and rarely dived. The wrecks feature good hard and soft coral growth and abundant marine life, while many still contain interesting artefacts that, with the exception of the Shinwa Maru, have not yet been properly identified.





THE BIRDSHEAD PENINSULA & CENDERAWASIH BAY

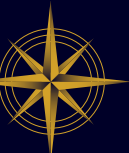
Roon

The ridges, reefs, and seamounts around Roon form an interesting topography, ranging from critter-filled sand and coral head sites to pretty sloping reefs and small islets.

A favourite dive around Roon is Pulau Auri. This is an exposed green-topped rocky islet that boasts some strangely shaped rock formations, seemingly sculpted by a giant stone cutter for an ancient monument due to their concise angles.

Huge slabs and blocks of rock, some substantial enough to form mini-walls, dominate the scenery around the site. Many of them feature 90-degree corners and large flat surfaces, which serve as ideal locations for surgeonfish schools. Additionally, groups of small trevally and red-toothed triggerfish are common.

Dive Sites: **Roon**





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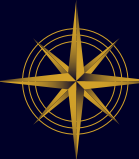
Rorebo Atoll

Rorebo is the collective name for a spread-out collection of small islets, sunken reefs, and atolls in the open sea, some 20 nautical miles east of the Wandammen Peninsula. Many of the reefs in the area rise from deep water to break the surface, forming a playground of known and yet-to-be-discovered dive sites.

The marine architecture consists mainly of walls, ledges, overhangs, caves, and spectacular coral gardens and is known particularly for intense schooling fish action. The sites also attract manta rays and other larger pelagic species at times, which, when combined with the wonderful scenery, provide lots of wide-angle photographic opportunities.

The aptly named Tridacna Atoll is known for its colonies of giant clams, and at many of the sites there is the chance to encounter some of Cenderawasih Bay's endemic marine species. Here, the Burgess butterfly fish, in particular, live in much shallower water than their usual habitat.



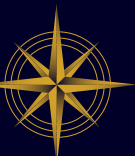


THE BIRDSHEAD PENINSULA & CENDERAWASIH BAY

Kwatisore

Although Kwatisore is best known for its thrilling whale shark experiences, but visitors can visit numerous dive sites at the southern end of the bay. The Maniburu Peninsula's shoreline and the clusters of sunken offshore reefs offer excellent critter and night diving sites, where you can spot the endemic Cenderawasih walking sharks patrolling the reefs.

One the best sites in the area is Nutabari, a tiny, picture-perfect island, is further away to the north-east. The reef that extends westward from the island features a dazzling, shallow, hard coral garden that abruptly drops from a sharp point. This reef, bounded by dramatic coral-covered walls that descend vertically into the abyss, has become a magnet for schooling fish and also attracts some large dogtooth tuna.





THE BIRDSHEAD PENINSULA & CENDERAWASIH BAY

Kwatisore Whale Sharks

Anyone who has ever encountered a whale shark during a dive or snorkelling experience knows what an awe-inspiring experience it can be. Like the graceful manta ray, whalesharks are also big favourites with divers. They effortlessly glide through the water, feeding on microscopic plankton and other small organisms, while all the diver has to do is keep up with them to capture a photograph or video - which is no mean feat in itself.

Deep inside Cenderawasih Bay, however, things are a little bit different. In this area, fishermen use anchored longboats known as bagans, outfitted with an array of walkways and outriggers extending from both sides. From these elaborate contraptions, they catch small fish fry, which are a key food source in Southeast Asia. They generally fish at night, using lighting arrays to attract tiny baitfish. During the day, there is little activity aside from some rod and line fishing. What they have found, however, is that the whalesharks are attracted to the nets and will actually suck on them to get at the fry for a free meal. Surprisingly, the fishermen see this as a sign of good luck and have been encouraging these huge animals to feed on small handfuls of food known as puri. Over time, they have struck up a relationship with them, to the point where they can now hand-feed the sharks pretty much the same as you would a large pet or any other domestic animal.

As an extension of the fishermen's interaction with these animals, liveaboard dive yachts are now visiting the bagans. The fishermen allow snorkellers and divers to join them in the water, allowing them to observe and photograph these majestic beasts at their leisure. We will spend up to two days at Kwatisore, and have an open-deck policy. This means that divers and snorkellers can come and go at their leisure. Dewi's tenders will zip guests between the bagans and the yacht. We will also offer diving at nearby locations too.





THE BIRDSHEAD PENINSULA & CENDERAWASIH BAY

Tanjung Mangguar

Collectively known as Batu Wunderbar, Tanjung Mangguar's prime dive sites are located on the peninsula's seaward-facing eastern side and consist of a series of surface-breaking rocks and reefs extending away from the mainland. The currents can be strong in and around these small rocky islets, but there are plenty of places to hide and lots to see.

A huge sandy half-bowl has formed in the deeper parts of the eastern side of the rocks, 600 metres south-west of the northernmost tip. This spot has produced some very exciting dives and is a great place to observe some of the larger marine life that visit the area, including manta rays, several species of sharks, and large tunas.

There is also the opportunity for more diving around the small islands at the western tip of the peninsula, as well as some productive night dives in the bay close to Napan Village.



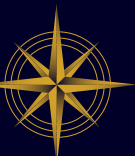


THE BIRDSHEAD PENINSULA & CENDERAWASIH BAY

The Wandammen Peninsula

The impressive Wandammen Peninsula extends northwards from the Papuan mainland and, at points, reaches up to an elevation of over 2,000 metres. There is a mix of different dive sites clustered around the northern tip, where it meets the Numamuran Strait and Roon Island. The dives from the pretty anchorage range from a collection of undulating seamounts at Silver Lining to sloping reefs, mini-walls, and even, on the Roon side of the strait, the wreck of a Japanese Oscar fighter plane brought down during World War II.

Gomorrah, a huge reef that extends westward from Sodompari Rock, is the area’s signature site. The gently sloping seabed gradually gets deeper as divers swim westward. On the northern side, there is a mini wall that drops down to 30 metres, but all across the top, there are sandy highways that separate the numerous and well-grown coral heads that support an eye-opening collection of smaller marine life. Further up in the water column, there is the chance to observe schooling snapper and jacks, and the sandy areas support some very large stingrays. There is even the chance of bumping into a dugong, the Indonesian cousin of the manatee, during a dive here as well.





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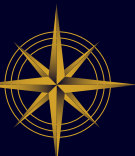
Miosauri

Miosauri is the collective name for a group of islands out in opens sea 35 nautical miles from the east coast of Birdshhead Peninsula, formed on and around a massive undersea ridge that rises from the abyssal depths of the Cenderawasih.

Once described as one of the most picturesque anchorages on the planet, this stunning collection of rarely visited sandy islands combines to make Miosauri an outstanding and incredibly scenic location to drop the hook. Topside is a wonderland of channels and spits, surrounded by sand and coral-bottomed bays filled with crystal-clear water.

The most popular areas for diving are the shallow reefs and endless walls on the western side of the island group. Before plunging into the blue, the coral gardens extend quite a distance from the land. The shallow gaps between the islands are also great places for an easy dive or snorkel, as they teem with marine life and feature many very pretty coral heads.

Dive Sites: **Miosauri**





THE BIRDSHEAD PENINSULA & CENDERAWASIH BAY

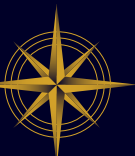
Sewandeh

Liveboard yachts rarely visit this small island group, leaving Sewandeh open to exploration. The northwestern side of the islands boasts some fine flat-topped seamounts, while the southeastern side of the group hosts the prime dive site, Sewandeh Point.

It is possible to explore this pretty, sloping coral reef from two different directions, depending on any prevailing currents. Both options begin in two sheltered areas on the east or south sides of the island. The dive features some huge coral heads and an undulating, sloping seascape, as well as the usual busy Indonesian reef scene. There is sometimes a large school of big-eyed jacks patrolling the area, as well as common sightings of turtles and cuttlefish.



 Dive Sites: **Sewandeh**





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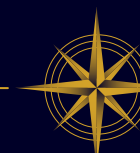
Manim

The small and very pretty island of Manim is home to several scuttled WW2 landing craft. In total, there are seven in two groups of three on a white sand slope, as well as one single sunken vessel surrounded by barrel sponges and reefs.

This appears to be another dumping site for unwanted war equipment, much like The Junkyard site at Pulau Dua, along the north Papuan coastline further west.

There is plenty to see on these small wrecks; each one is slightly different, and there is good coral growth on all of them. One has several very photogenic lionfish; another has giant anemones; one more has big bushes of yellow black corals; and the next has large clumps of red and purple soft corals. It is possible to explore them all in two dives, with a third dive on the coral plateau to the north of the island or on the point to the south.

Alternatively, there are some nice dive sites on the much larger island of Numfor. One of them, Tanjung Remasidori, features a beautiful slope and wall with abundant coral growth, surrounded by clear blue water. Here it is possible to spot some larger marine species patrolling the area: grey reef sharks, white-tip sharks, barracuda, tuna, grouper, jacks, snapper, and many more.





THE BIRDSHEAD PENINSULA & CENDERAWASIH BAY

Cruise Notes

- The suggested itinerary is not fixed. During the cruise, the captain and cruise director assess the prevailing sea, weather, and tide conditions. Where possible, our guest's preferences for certain dive sites will be taken into account.
- The locations included in this itinerary are by no means the only points of interest along the route. There are many more anchorage and activity options available.
- The destinations and anchorages in this presentation are not necessarily in the order the cruise might follow. They are there solely to make the routing easier to understand.
- At times, guests may wish to stay longer at certain anchorages to fully take advantage of what is on offer in that area. The captain and cruise director have discretion over this as long as it fits within the cruise timeline.
- Between anchorages, there can be longer passages, mostly undertaken during the night.
- Aside from the arrival and departure destinations, our itineraries avoid densely populated areas and busy ports.
- Some of these anchorages offer a variety of activities besides scuba diving and snorkelling, such as kayaking or SUP/paddle boarding. Occasionally, we offer village and cultural visits along with other wonderful topside attractions.





Dewi Nusantara

G O D D E S S O F T H E A R C H I P E L A G O

THE BIRDSHEAD PENINSULA & CENDERAWASIH BAY

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Designed, written and produced by Garry Bevan

Dewi Nusantara: The Birdshead Peninsula & Cenderawasih Bay. July 2024

(Sorong to Manokwari)

14/07/24

