



Dewi Nusantara

CRUISING ITINERARY 03

ALL OF NORTH RAJA AMPAT

WAYAG - THE EQUATOR ISLANDS - ALJUI BAY - THE DAMPIER STRAIT
(SORONG TO SORONG)



WAYAG - THE EQUATOR ISLANDS - ALJUI BAY - THE DAMPIER STRAIT

DEWI NUSANTARA ITINERARIES

ALL OF NORTH RAJA AMPAT

WAYAG - THE EQUATOR ISLANDS - ALJUI BAY - THE DAMPIER STRAIT

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PHILIPPINES

MALAYSIA

WAYAG - THE EQUATOR ISLANDS - ALJUI BAY - THE DAMPIER STRAIT

PACIFIC OCEAN

The Indonesian Archipelago

SINGAPORE

KALIMANTAN

MANADO

ALL OF NORTH
RAJA AMPAT

TERNATE

HALMAHERA

SORONG

MANOKWARI

SUMATRA

SULAWESI

CERAM

WEST
PAPUA

AMBON

KAIMANA

MAKASSAR

BANDA
SEA

TUAL

ARU

JAKARTA

JAVA

SAUMLAKI

INDIAN
OCEAN

BALI

SUMBAWA

LABUAN
BAJO

FLORES

MAUMERE

KALABAHI

EAST TIMOR

DENPASAR

SUMBA

WEST TIMOR

KUPANG

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AUSTRALIA





WAYAG - THE EQUATOR ISLANDS - ALJUI BAY - THE DAMPIER STRAIT

All of North Raja Ampat

Raja Ampat casts a spell on all who visit: scientists, photographers, novice divers, and crusty sea salts alike. This group of majestic islands, located in the northwestern tip of Indonesia's Papuan "Bird's Head Seascape," lies in the heart of the Coral Triangle, the most bio-diverse marine region on earth. There are some areas where soft corals and sea fans dominate, others with amazing, diverse hard corals, seagrass beds, mangroves, shallow reefs, drop-offs, caves, black sand, and white sand. Then there is the marine life- lots of it, in more shapes and sizes than anywhere else in the world. Raja Ampat's reefs, from pygmy seahorses to top predators, are teeming with life.

The region is huge, 50,000 sq km, with hundreds of islands and an astounding array of habitats, translating to wildly different diving experiences. They range from pelagic drift dives to magic muck dives, and even some habitats that are special to Raja Ampat, such as clear-water mangroves with corals growing right next to them. There are thousands of potential dive sites, and there are chances for new and amazing discoveries on every trip.

Raja Ampat is also known for its spectacular above-water scenery. Sparsely inhabited, most of the region still has pristine rain forests atop dramatic limestone islands and cliffs, uninhabited bays with white sand beaches, and all sorts of hidden treasures to greet the intrepid explorer. It's a kayaker's dream- an intricate coastline with caves, bays, gorges, and hidden rivers, all buzzing with exotic tropical wildlife.

The friendly people of Raja Ampat have primarily been able to maintain their traditional way of life and values, making it an exciting destination and an anthropological haven. There is a wide variety of community celebrations, including various types of music, dancing, singing performances, and lots of fun!



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For selected expeditions during her cruising season, Dewi Nusantara focuses her attention on the northern region of the Raja Ampat marine protected park, giving our guests exclusive access to some of the very best dive sites that Raja Ampat has to offer, without the crowds.

Get On-Board with Dewi Nusantara

Dewi Nusantara was among the original group of purpose-built liveaboard yachts to explore Raja Ampat. To this day she still concentrates the majority of her cruising season around this sensational region of the Indonesian archipelago.

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.

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WAYAG - THE EQUATOR ISLANDS - ALJUI BAY - THE DAMPIER STRAIT

Destinations: All of North Raja Ampat

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WAYAG - THE EQUATOR ISLANDS - ALJUI BAY - THE DAMPIER STRAIT

PACIFIC OCEAN

GEBE

THE EQUATOR ISLANDS

KAWA

ALJUI BAY

WOFOH

WEST WAIGEO

MAYALIBIT BAY

EAST WAIGEO

THE HALMAHERA SEA

GAG

KABUI BAY

GAM

MIOSKON & KRI

YANGELLO

ARBOREK

MANSUAR

PENEMU

FROM SORONG

Cruise Route: All of North Raja Ampat

BIRIE

TO SORONG

Dewi Nusantara

DAYANG

SORONG





WAYAG - THE EQUATOR ISLANDS - ALJUI BAY - THE DAMPIER STRAIT

Mioskon & Kri

Mioskon and Kri are just two of many islands offshore from the Gam and Waigeo shorelines in the Dampier Strait. The seascape around these islands features some of the most spectacular scuba diving anywhere on the planet. Magnificent coral gardens, thrilling seamounts, big fish encounters, and amazing critter activity are the order of the day here in this marine paradise.

The sheer quality and number of dive sites here place this spot at the top of every coral and fish spotter's wish list. The Strait's channels and seamounts form a complicated marinescape, pushing and pulling currents in a variety of directions. These strong tidal flows carry nutrients from deep water to feed spectacular reefs. Colourful corals and prolific concentrations of schooling fish make this collection of islands and waterways a place not to be missed on any cruise to this astonishing region of eastern Indonesia.





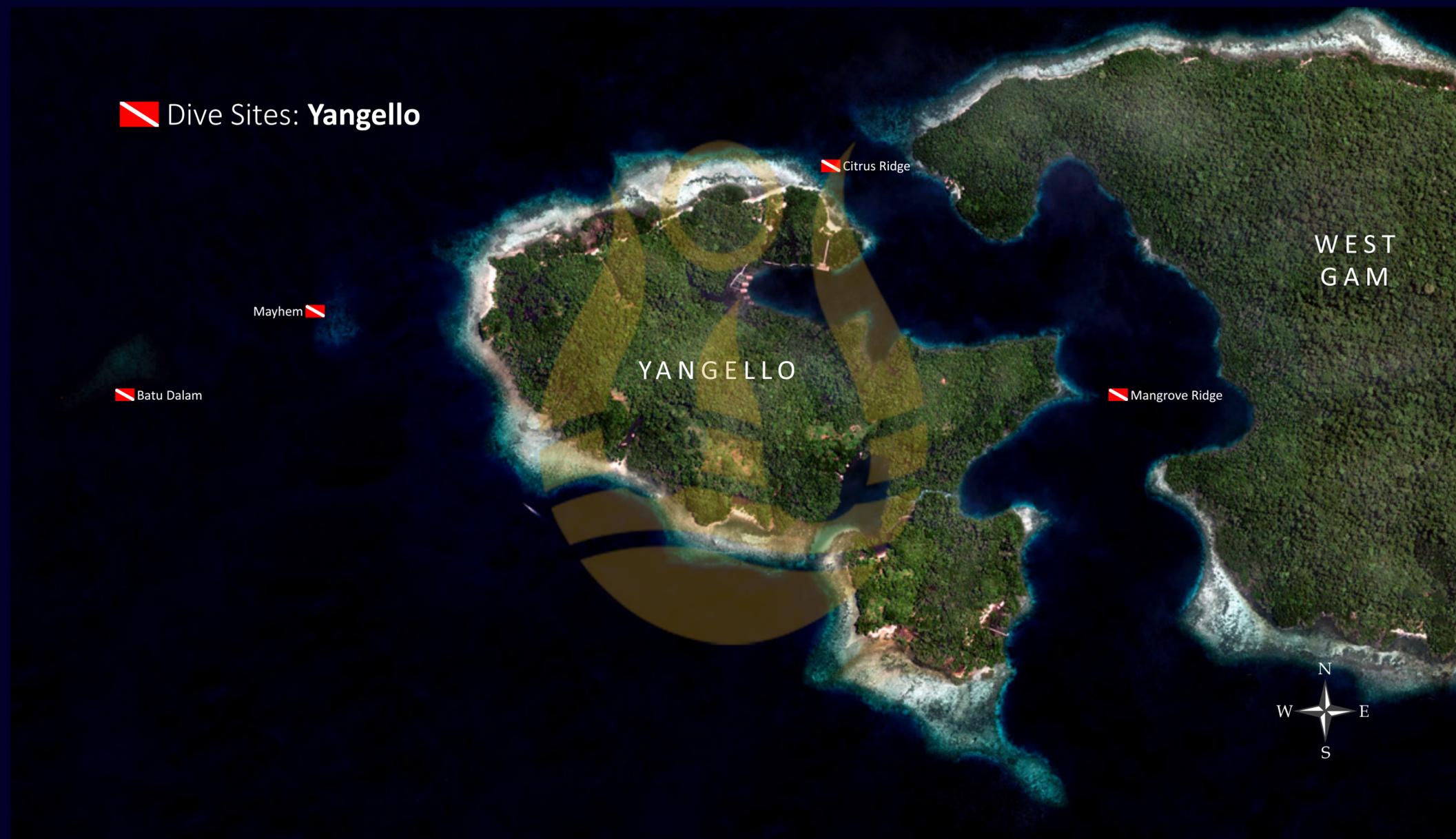
WAYAG - THE EQUATOR ISLANDS - ALJUI BAY - THE DAMPIER STRAIT

Yangello

Scuba diving around Yangello is very popular with visiting divers. The coral-covered ridges, reefs, and seamounts around the island create a number of excellent and exciting dive sites.

One of the most popular seamounts to dive at Yangello is called Mayhem, close to the west side of the island. This is a current-washed, shallow coral reef for experienced divers seeking a little more adventure. Another submerged reef formation, Batu Dalam, is just south-west of Mayhem. Its shallowest depth is 10 metres, and it could prove to be interesting with some exploration and effort.

Inside the waterway separating Yangello from Gam Island, there are a number of ridges that extend into the channel. Extensive mangrove forests grow just above the corals at the shoreline, providing excellent opportunities to shoot under/over images when the conditions are calm, clear, and still. Some of the soft corals growing in the waterway are bright pink or purple in colour, and these too make fabulous photo subjects.



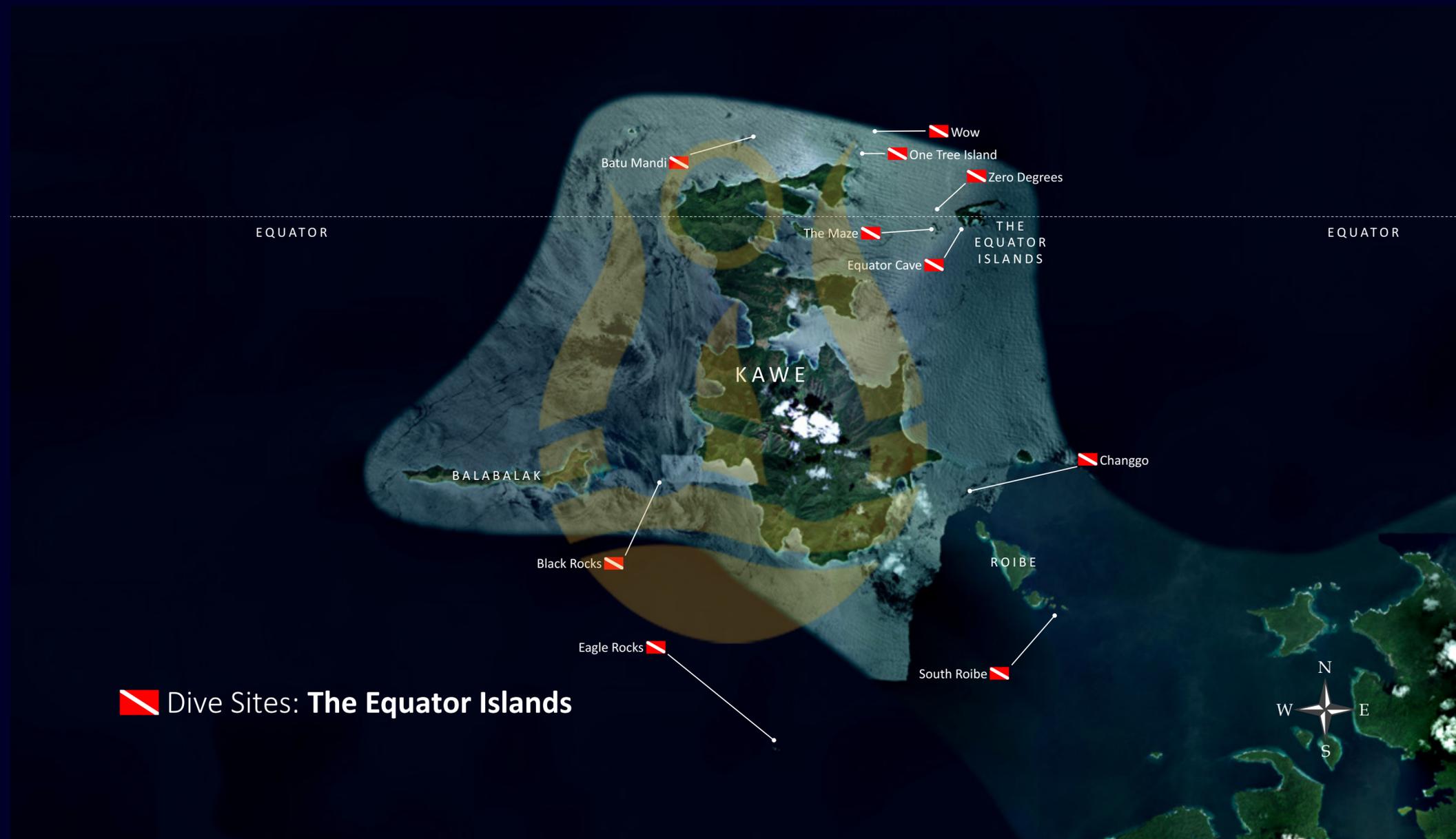


The Equator Islands

There are some excellent and exciting dives around the Kawe seascape, located between the Wayag Group and the much larger island of Waigeo to the south. Strong tidal currents wash over islets and rocky reefs that break the surface, creating the kind of underwater environments that marine animals adore to hang out and feed in.

The signature dive in the Kawe area is Eagle Rock. Manta rays and a wide variety of schooling pelagics frequently visit this group of three rocky islets with varied underwater terrain. Other dives in the area include Black Rocks, a spiky surface-breaking reef between Balabalak and Kawe, and to the south-east of the group, the island of Roibe, which also features some interesting and exciting dive sites.

The collection of islands that give this section the name The Equator Islands, are found a short distance further north. These feature excellent reefs, walls, and caves, with plenty of scope for further exploration.





WAYAG - THE EQUATOR ISLANDS - ALJUI BAY - THE DAMPIER STRAIT

Wayag

The most dynamic sites around the Wayag complex are found in the open water surrounding the islands. Conditions can be a bit rough and ready as they are fairly well exposed to any adverse prevailing sea and weather issues, as well as fairly strong tidal currents. However, although the heavy seas that sometimes occur along with the powerful water movements can make diving tricky, they have carved the sub-surface topography of the islets into interesting shapes.

Corals are fairly sparse in the area, but the marine architecture is very special. The ridges and undercuts surrounding the sites attract masses of schooling fish when the currents are running. The blue hole and arch at the south end of Cathedral Rock are a good example of this.

Sites closer to the islands and within the lagoons are very different. These are far more sedate areas and great places to look for the smaller animals that make their homes in the coral heads and sandy substrate.





WAYAG - THE EQUATOR ISLANDS - ALJUI BAY - THE DAMPIER STRAIT

Aljui Bay

Diving at Aljui is quite different from other locations in Raja Ampat; it is geared much more towards smaller critters than huge schools of fish and vast coral fields. The edges of the islands in the bay drop very steeply along sloping reefs and walls. Different species of pygmy seahorses make their lifelong homes on the large fan corals that sprout from the steep reefs. In addition, nudibranchs of all types are easy to find around the slopes, ledges, and reefs.

One of Raja Ampat's premier night dives is centred around the three piers at the Cendana Pearl Farm. There is the main pier, where most of the farm's operations are carried out; and two more a little further down the coast. The bottom topography and terrain are different from Aljui's other sites; it is much flatter with a lot more sand, rubble, and gravel. Several excellent critter hunting areas are easy to find here, with plenty of fascinating subjects on offer, including sightings of wobbegong and the endemic walking epaulette shark.





Wofoh

Despite the fact that the Wofoh Islands have a limited number of dive sites, they remain a popular destination for visiting yachts. With easy anchorages, pristine reefs, and sublime beaches, it is not difficult to see why.

The sites at Wofoh are concentrated around the southern tip of the islands; both are excellent and can be combined into a single dive if needed.

Firstly, there is the dramatic wall under the west-facing cliffs. This drops into the deep and is covered with small indents and ledges that teem with marine life. The reef at the southern end that extends away from the wall is the second named area. The topography here is a nicely sloping reef covered with black coral bushes.

Extra exploration around the reefs around the tip of the north island could also turn up some interesting areas for divers to enjoy around this pretty location.





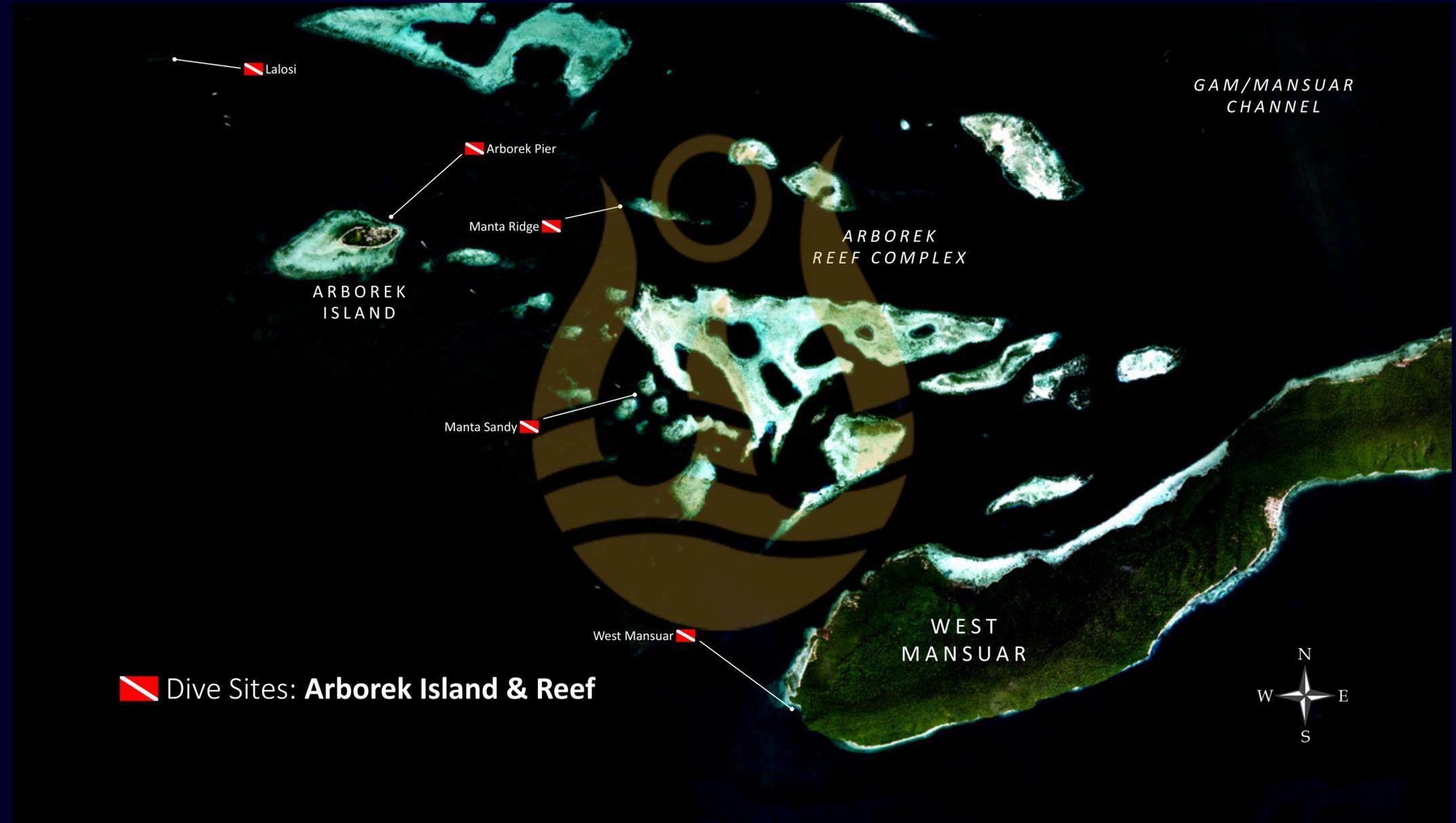
WAYAG - THE EQUATOR ISLANDS - ALJUI BAY - THE DAMPIER STRAIT

Arborek

Arborek is one of the most popular anchorages for yachts and land-based operations to visit during a Raja Ampat trip, primarily to be entertained by everyone's favourite marine animal, the magnificent manta ray.

In the channels around the reefs to the east of the pretty tropical island of Arborek, it is possible to see these huge flying carpets cleaning, cruising, feeding, and generally having a good time. There are a number of favourite spots, including the well-known sites of Manta Sandy and Manta Ridge.

Besides the world-renowned manta ray action, there are some other very enjoyable, very pretty, and fairly diverse sites in the area. The jetty on the stunning island of Arborek features a magnificent reef and critter dive that also serves as a memorable night dive, while the Lalosi sunken reef, to the north-west of Arborek Island, is a great place for spotting turtles, schooling fish of all kinds, and the ubiquitous manta rays.





Penemu

Lying just under 15 nautical miles west of Arborek Island, the Penemu Group is a big favourite with visiting yachts. With numerous exciting land and watersports activities, this island collection has a lot to offer.

Penemu's varied dive sites all feature dazzling, colourful reefs teeming with marine life. There are awesome offshore ridges and seamounts, exciting drift dives, and one of the most talked about and photographed reefs in Indonesia: the mesmerising shallow corals of Melissa's Garden.

As well as diving Penemu's well-known sites, there is a good deal of scope for open-water exploration too. The deep seamounts, a few nautical miles to the west of the islands, give marine adventurers the chance to make their own discoveries and dive where few have ever dived before.

An added attraction at Penemu is a beautifully constructed walkway that takes visitors up to the peaks of the karst islands in the lagoon. This affords spectacular views over the seascape.





Dayang

The pretty island of Dayang lies just under 800 metres from the north Batanta coastline, with the two most popular spots located at opposing ends. One is a narrow channel on the south-east side, and the other is a current-swept reef on the north-east side. Looking at the composite satellite images, there are also a number of other spots that look ripe for exploration. These include the areas around the reefs that spread out from the islands' white-sand beaches.

The sites feature extensive coral reefs that teem with marine life. This is particularly noticeable when there are currents running. Both dives also feature a substantial amount of critter life to see. More recently, Dayang has also been gaining a reputation as another popular spot in Raja Ampat to encounter manta rays, particularly around the channel.



Dive Sites: **Dayang**

NORTH-WEST
BATANTA

WARWARAI
BAY

DAYANG

 Aquamarina

 Dayang Channel



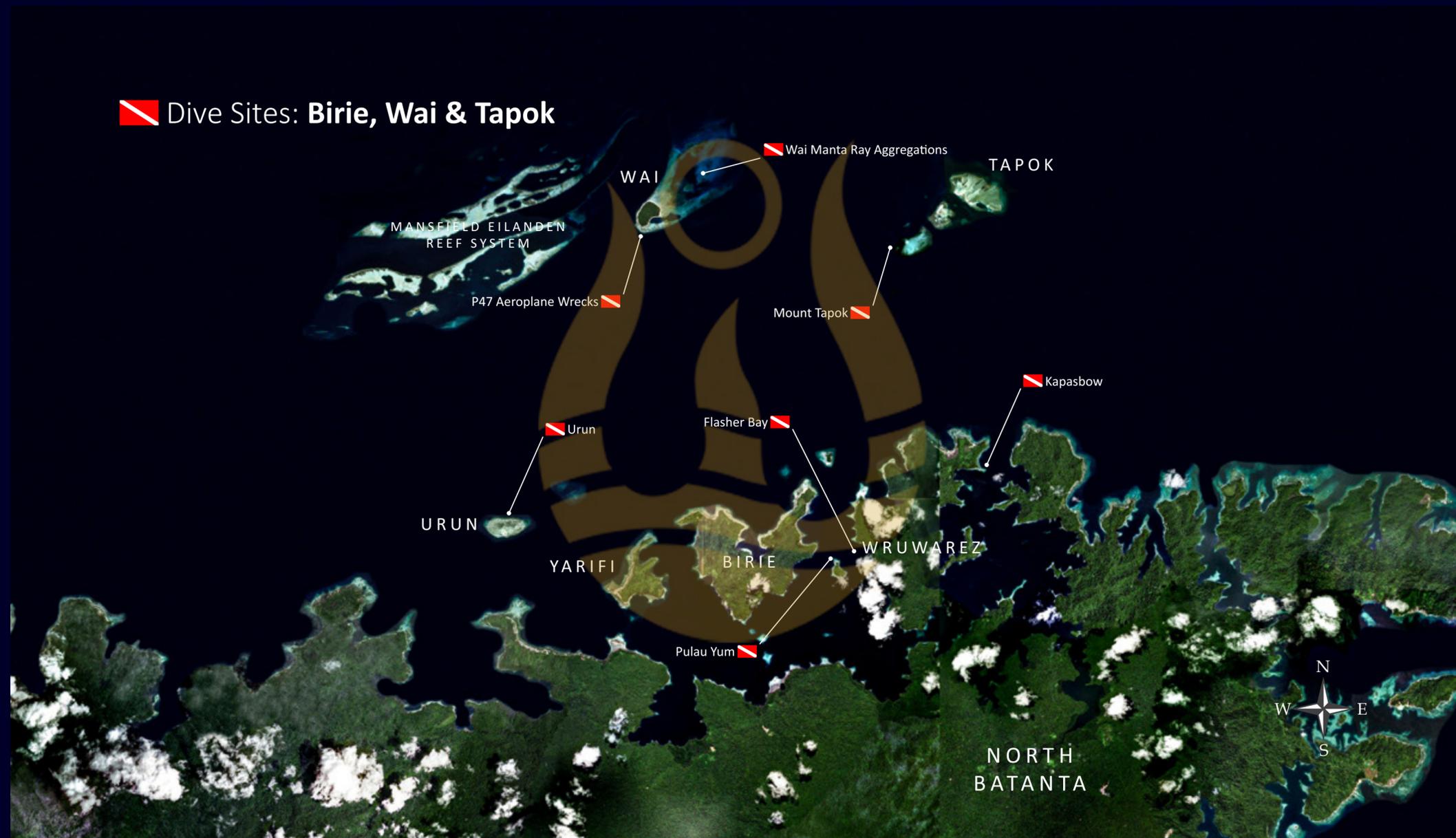


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Birie

There are a number of different types of dive sites accessible from the Birie/Wruwarez Channel anchorage. The most popular dive sites are located inside the extensive waterways close to the Batanta shoreline, while others are located in the open sea further north and east.

Dive types include some colourful current-washed fishy seamounts, several very worthwhile critter dives, and two World War II aeroplane wrecks that lie on the pretty reef on the south side of Wai Island. The dive sites closer to the calm and sheltered anchorage marks inside the waterways are a critter hunter's dream, with plenty of unusual marine life on display.





WAYAG - THE EQUATOR ISLANDS - ALJUI BAY - THE DAMPIER STRAIT

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.





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

ALL OF NORTH RAJA AMPAT

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Designed, written and produced by Garry Bevan

Some parts of this itinerary have been adapted from "Exploring Raja Ampat", available at Amazon.com

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