



# *Dewi Nusantara*

CRUISING ITINERARY 11

**AMBON, THE BANDA ISLANDS, MISOOL,  
SOUTH & CENTRAL RAJA AMPAT**

LAHA - NUSA LAUT - RUN - BANDA NEIRA - HATTA - KOON - MISOOL - THE DAMPIER STRAIT  
(AMBON TO SORONG)



LAHA - NUSA LAUT - RUN - BANDA NEIRA - HATTA - KOON - MISOOL - THE DAMPIER STRAIT

DEWI NUSANTARA ITINERARIES

# AMBON, THE BANDA ISLANDS, MISOOL, SOUTH & CENTRAL RAJA AMPAT

LAHA - NUSA LAUT - RUN - BANDA NEIRA - HATTA - KOON - MISOOL - THE DAMPIER STRAIT

*Dewi Nusantara*





PHILIPPINES

MALAYSIA - AHA - NUSA LAUT - RUN - BANDA NEIRA - HATTA - KOON - MISOOL - THE DAMPIER STRAIT

# The Indonesian Archipelago

PACIFIC OCEAN

SINGAPORE

KALIMANTAN

MANADO

TERNATE

HALMAHERA

SUMATRA

SULAWESI

SORONG

MANOKWARI

CERAM

AMBON

KAIMANA

WEST PAPUA

MAKASSAR

**AMBON, THE BANDA ISLANDS, MISOOL, SOUTH & CENTRAL RAJA AMPAT**

ARU

JAVA

SAUMLAKI

INDIAN OCEAN

BALI

SUMBAWA

LABUAN BAJO

FLORES

MAUMERE

KALABAHI

EAST TIMOR

DENPASAR

SUMBA

WEST TIMOR

KUPANG

*Dewi Nusantara*

AUSTRALIA





LAHA - NUSA LAUT - RUN - BANDA NEIRA - HATTA - KOON - MISOOL - THE DAMPIER STRAIT

## Ambon, The Banda Islands, Misool, South & Central Raja Ampat

Dewi Nusantara sets sail on a one-of-a-kind itinerary, venturing through some of Indonesia's most iconic and exhilarating dive destinations. This journey spans a breathtaking range of dive sites, each offering a glimpse into the vibrant and diverse marine wonders that make these waters truly unforgettable.

### Laha (Ambon)

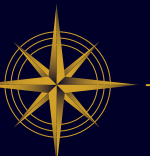
Laha's sublime critter diving is a well-known hotspot for underwater image makers. The sand and gravel slopes, piers, and coral heads of Laha are home to some of the planet's most sought-after photographic subjects. On these sites, the weird and wonderful psychedelic frog fish was discovered. Who knows what other cryptic wonders these sites might hide?

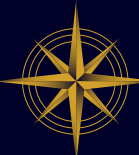
### The Lease Islands

In addition to having a rich history of the spice trade, the islands of Ambon, Haruku, and Saparua, otherwise known as the Lease Islands, are also home to some of Indonesia's best diving. Their southern shores, as well as the smaller island of Nusa Laut, offer a wide range of wonderful sites.

### The Banda Islands

Now firmly on any tropical diver's wish list, the remote Banda Islands are a sparkling oasis that rises out of the deep blue Banda Sea. Aside from a





LAHA - NUSA LAUT - RUN - BANDA NEIRA - HATTA - KOON - MISOOL - THE DAMPIER STRAIT



remarkable topside history, this region boasts some of the world's finest diving, ranging from critter havens in the harbour to the magnificent walls and reefs of the outer islands of the group.

## Misool

After a stop at the south-west corner of Ceram Island to visit the remote dive sites of Koon, we now enter the mythical dive destination of Misool, the most southerly of the famed Raja Ampat islands. As many of our guests already know, Misool is overflowing with some of the world's most iconic and well-known dive sites.

## Central Raja Ampat

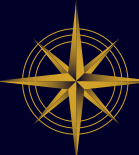
Our sojourn of exploration has taken in some of the best that eastern Indonesia has to offer, both under the water and over the islands. The dive sites in Central Raja Ampat don't let up on the marine excitement. With world-class reefs, enormous schools of fish, and some wonderful critter sites, this region finishes this exciting itinerary with a bang.

## Get On-Board with Dewi Nusantara

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*





LAHA - NUSA LAUT - RUN - BANDA NEIRA - HATTA - KOON - MISOOL - THE DAMPIER STRAIT

## Destinations: Ambon, The Banda Islands, Misool, South & Central Raja Ampat

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[Nusa Laut \(The Lease Islands\) ↗](#)

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LAHA - NUSA LAUT - RUN - BANDA NEIRA - HATTA - KOON - MISOOL - THE DAMPIER STRAIT

# Cruise Route. Ambon, The Banda Islands, Misool, South & Central Raja Ampat



THE  
HALMAHERA  
SEA

THE  
CERAM SEA

BURU

LAHA  
AMBON

NUSA LAUT

THE  
BANDA  
SEA

CERAM

THE BANDA  
ISLANDS

SALAWATI

MIOSKON  
& KRI  
BATANTA

SORONG

MISOOL

THE  
CERAM SEA

KOON

THE  
BIRD'S HEAD  
PENINSULA

THE  
BOMBERAI  
PENINSULA

CENDERAWASIH  
BAY

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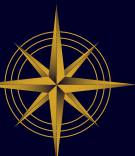


LAHA - NUSA LAUT - RUN - BANDA NEIRA - HATTA - KOON - MISOOL - THE DAMPIER STRAIT

## Laha (Ambon)

Laha, a village on the northern shore of the Ambon Inlet, is home to The Twilight Zone, the area's famous original critter dive site, close to the fishing boat piers. This is muck diving at its finest. The locals and the fishing boats have deposited detritus on the sand, silt, and gravel seabed. This combination of natural and human material provides the perfect habitat and environment for a stellar expedition to seek out the weird and wonderful.

In recent years, numerous additional sites along this prolific stretch of shoreline have been discovered. The first discovery of the freaky psychedelic frogfish occurred here, and future discoveries are sure to follow. For a slightly different dive experience, we could even consider exploring the Duke of Sparta, a massive and nearly intact shipwreck located further into the bay and closer to the city.





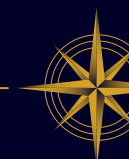


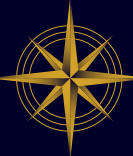
## Nusa Laut (The Lease Islands)

Nusa Laut is the furthest east of the archipelago known as the Lease Islands, which also includes Saparua, Haruku, and Ambon. The topside scenery on Nusa Laut is fairly flat and green, with a few small fishing villages dotted around the pretty bays and waterways. Some of these bays, on the north side of the island, support a population of dugong, the south-east Asian cousin of the American manatee or sea cow.

Ameth and Akon villages on Nusa Laut's north-east coast are shining examples of what can happen when people stand up to illegal fishing practices. It is necessary for visiting yachts to report to the village head at Ameth. However, because the locals in both villages closely monitor their coastlines to prevent any unauthorized fishing boats from operating, this is a small price to pay. This communal vigilance helps to keep their waters full of fish and makes sure that their splendid coral reefs do not sustain any damage.

While the area offers some excellent wall and reef dives, the main draw of the Nusa Laut area is the reef located on the north-west side of the island. The beautiful corals and marine life and the frequent sightings of schooling hammerhead sharks in the deep blue away from the reef have made this a popular destination. Other sites worth visiting include an enormous marine arch just under the surface on the east side of Nusa Laut.





## Banda Neira

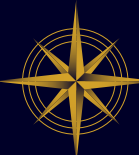
Already during this trip, we have visited the outer islands of the Banda group, Run and Hatta. Now it is time to explore the central hub. Several diverse dive sites await us here, starting with the Mandarin Hotel. At first glance, this stretch of rocks and sand, right on the border of the colonial Molana Hotel's lovely gardens, appears to be quite unremarkable. However, once under the surface in the shallows, it turns out to be very interesting indeed. It is home to a group of mandarin fish, some of them quite large, that perform their elaborate mating displays at dusk. They are also relatively easy to photograph; they don't have any corals to hide in and have to perform al fresco, out over the rocks.

The 600-metre-high volcano Gunung Api, located across the water from the harbour, dominates Banda Neira, the principal island. This fiery mountain's most recent eruption was in 1988. This cataclysmic event produced a lava stream that flowed into the sea on the mountain's north-east corner. This has produced a magnificent, fast-growing coral garden over the years since it oozed into the water. This is another site that should not be missed, if only to see how rapidly corals can take hold after such an explosive event.

Outside of Banda's natural harbor's shelter, there are even more exciting dive sites to discover. One favourite is Batu Kapal. This is quite different from the last two sites and takes in an offshore seamount much favoured by honeycomb moray eels and huge schools of fish.

### Dive Sites: **Banda Neira**





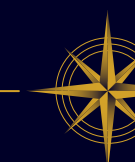
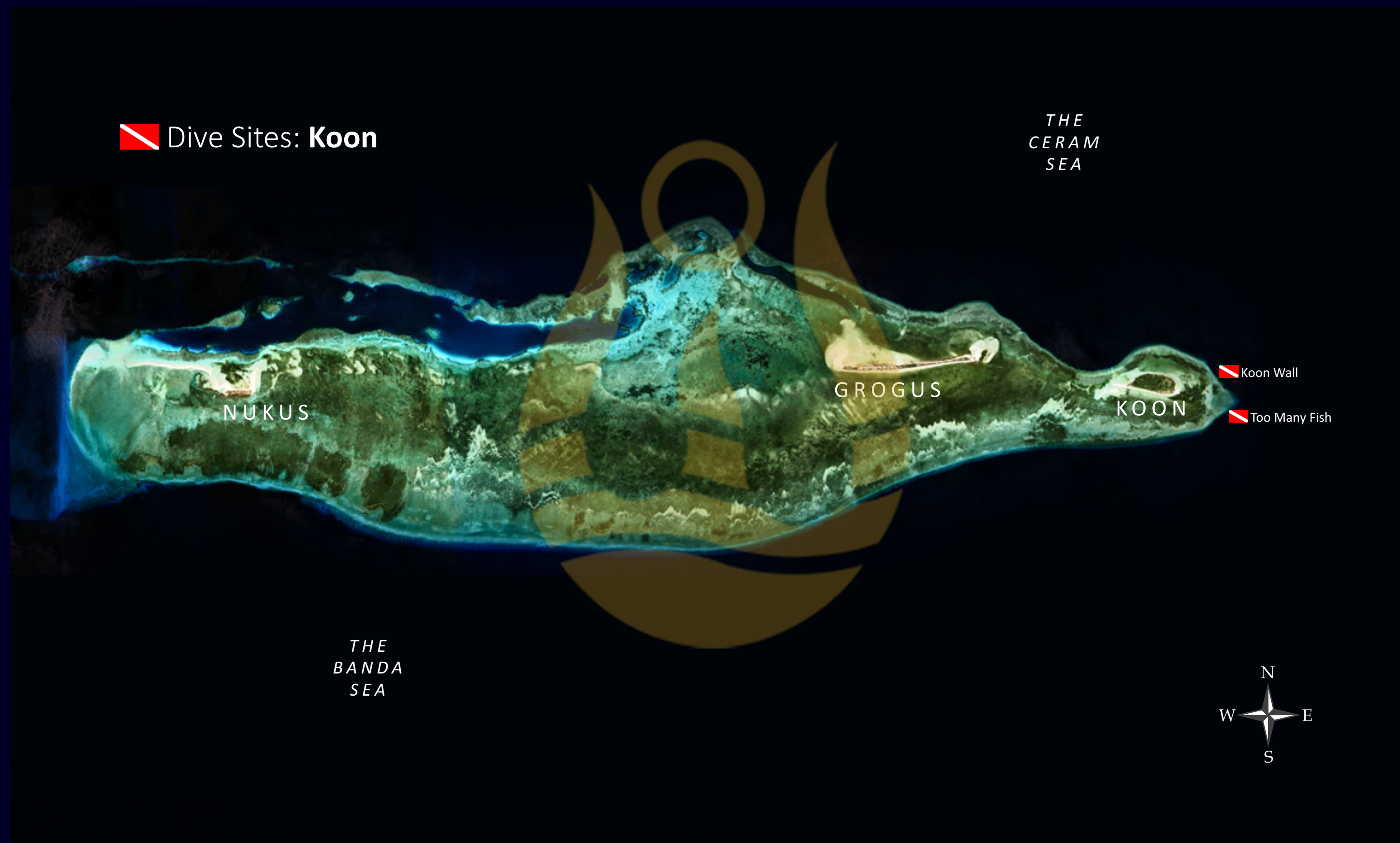
LAHA - NUSA LAUT - RUN - BANDA NEIRA - HATTA - KOON - MISOOL - THE DAMPIER STRAIT

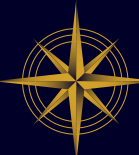
## Koon

Koon is the furthest east of a collection of three small sandy coral cays, which also include Nukus and Grogus. Extending out into the depths of the Ceram Sea, they cover just eight nautical miles of shallow reefs, deep drop-offs, and sandy terra firma. The whole group is fantastic for snorkelling, swimming, and kayaking in the numerous blue pools and over sparkling corals, but it is scuba diving that Koon is most well-known for.

The focal point of Koon diving is a site called “Too Many Fish,” and this title gives you a good idea of what can be seen under the surface. It is located at the eastern tip of the mini-archipelago, where it drops off into much deeper water. Located around a ridge that has a deep wall on the north side and a steeply sloping reef on the south, this is an excellent site that can be dived from numerous entry points.

It is not uncommon to see zebra and hammerhead sharks at the north wall, along with the “too many fish” that school around this incredible seascape. In addition, there is a lot of potential for exploration along the deep water drop-offs and sparkling reefs that surround the three islands.





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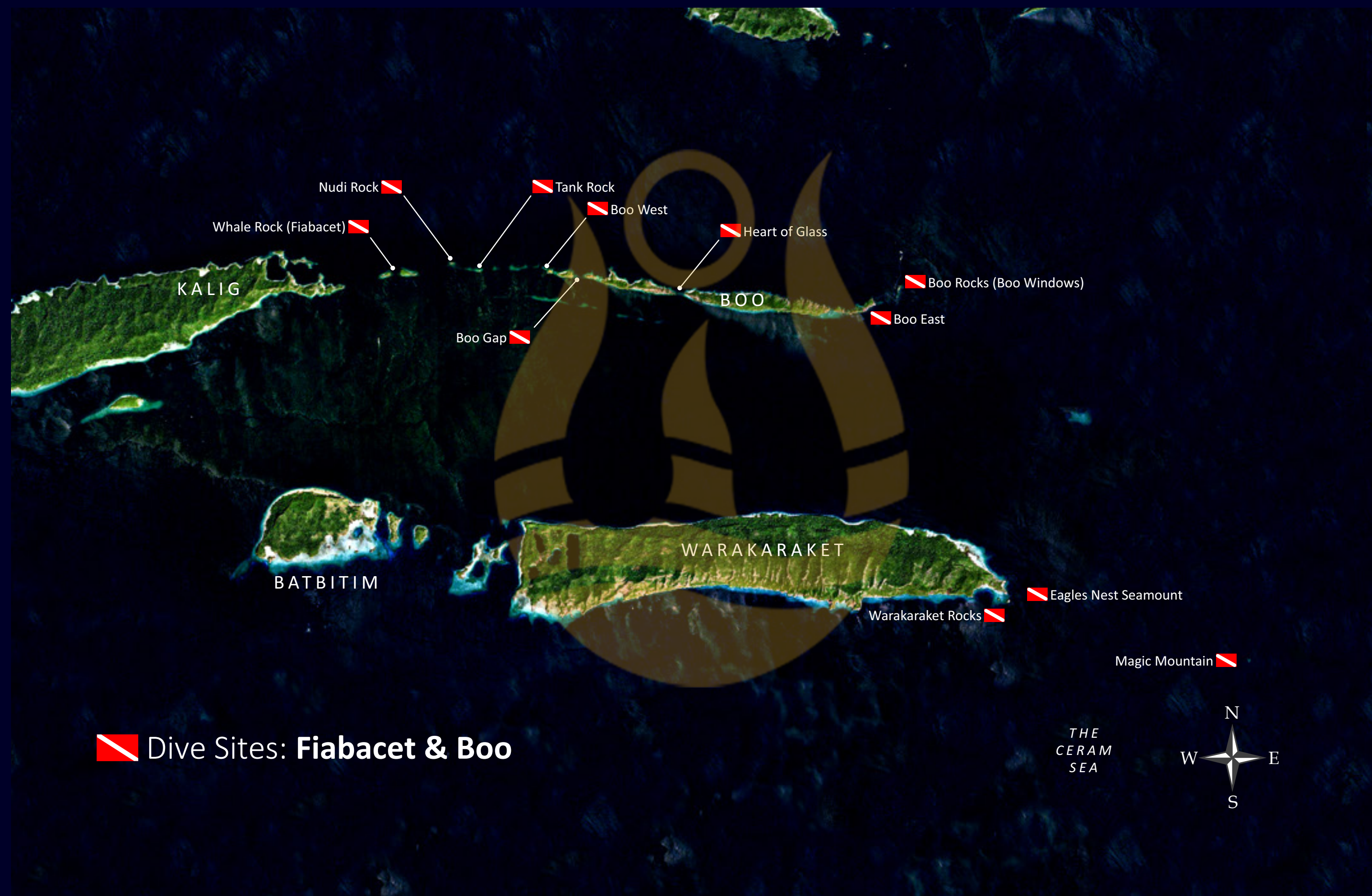
## Fiabacet & Boo

The dive sites in and around Fiabacet and Boo are quite honestly some of the very finest that Raja Ampat, Indonesia, or even the planet has to offer.

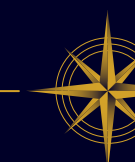
The south side's deep ocean floor rises to a marine topography that features a labyrinth of interconnected ridges and seamounts. These act as filters for the nutrient-rich currents flowing up and over the complex seascape, causing the vibrant reefs to explode in a riot of colour and form.

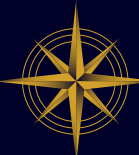
The quality of the numerous sites is incredible. The dives showcase some of the most impressive numbers of schooling fish, swarms of small reef fish, and dazzlingly colourful corals anywhere. At times, the dense clouds of schooling fish obscure the larger predators patrolling behind them. Visiting divers frequently spot grey, white-tip, and black-tip reef sharks, as well as many other powerful predators such as dog-tooth tunas, Spanish mackerel, giant trevally, and acrobatic mobula rays, scything through this massive feast of baitfish.

Karst limestone rocks, as well as the corners and coasts of the larger islands of Boo and Kalig, serve as the focal points for most of the sites. Currents and upwellings from the Ceram Sea to the south wash over these areas, which bring nutrients up from deeper water, sustaining the topographic reefs and marine life in the area.



 Dive Sites: **Fiabacet & Boo**





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## Jef Pele, Lili & Kepotsol

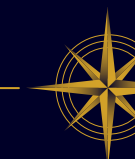
The large island of Jef Pele, as well as the nearby Lili and Kepotsol groups, do not suffer from the concentration of divers and yachts that now visit the anchorages and marine attractions further east. However, they do feature some excellent diving opportunities.

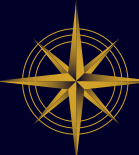
The north-western edge of Jef Pele is home to Kaleidoscope Ridge, the anchorage's signature site. This is a fine example of Raja Ampat's underwater world, with a dizzying array of corals and marine life, both large and small. This impressive coral-covered ridge's incredible underwater architecture combines with a deeper seamount, attracting some of the larger animals that inhabit the abundant reefs and seas of the Misool region. Jef Pele's complex coastline, as well as the numerous offshore islands further south, allow for more dive site exploration.

The sites at Lili and Kepotsol, just under two nautical miles north of the Jef Pele shoreline, share the same amazing marine life and coral characteristics as those around the more well-known anchorages. The scope for new discoveries is considerable, especially in the Kofani group, situated between Lili and Kepotsol.



 Dive Sites: Jef Pele, Lili & Kepotsol





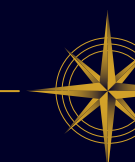
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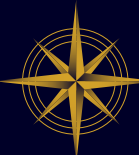
## Wayil

The Wayil dive sites are mostly clustered around the western end of Wayilbatan Island. Comprising multi-peaked seamounts, karst island ridges, and exciting passages, they all feature abundant coral growth and a wealth of both pelagic and reef-dwelling marine life.

At Wayil, there is something for every level of diver. These include easy and pretty reef sites, majestic open-water seamounts, and gentle drift dives that flow down some of the most otherworldly marine seascapes imaginable.

One of the most popular sites is "The Four Kings." This incredible underwater experience takes place in open water, west of the anchorages, where an astonishing four-peaked seamount rises from the deep sea floor. This massive rocky marine structure acts as a magnet for all manner of marine life, large and small.



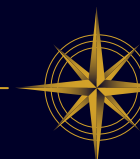
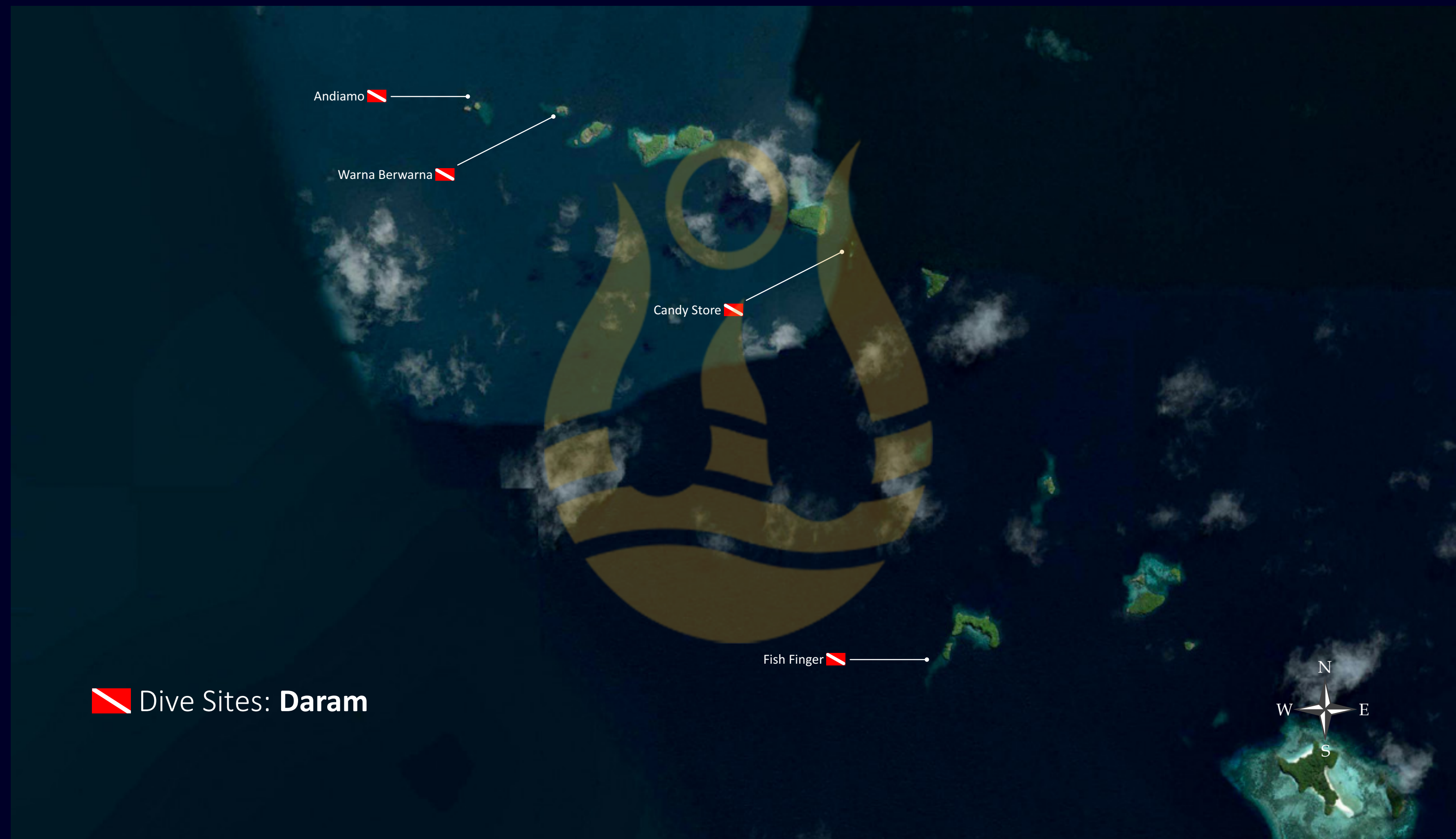


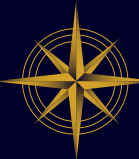
## Daram

The large island of Daram marks the easternmost boundary of the Misool region. The vast majority of the dive sites are not located around the island itself, but rather a short distance to the north-west. They are undoubtedly some of the most astonishing and colourful in the entire area.

Small collections of karst islets, located along the eastern end of a long island line that extends away from the east side of Misool, are the focal point for most of the site. Many of them boast incredibly abundant coral reefs and jaw-dropping topography. They are also home to so much marine life that, at times, it defies description.

The anchorages and sites are vulnerable to adverse sea and weather conditions due to their remote location. However, if the weather and sea conditions are favourable, the diving here is some of the very best that Raja Ampat has to offer. In addition, there are numerous opportunities to find many more new sites around these iconic rocky islands and ridges.





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## 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.



 Dive Sites: **The Penemu Island Group**







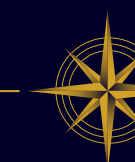
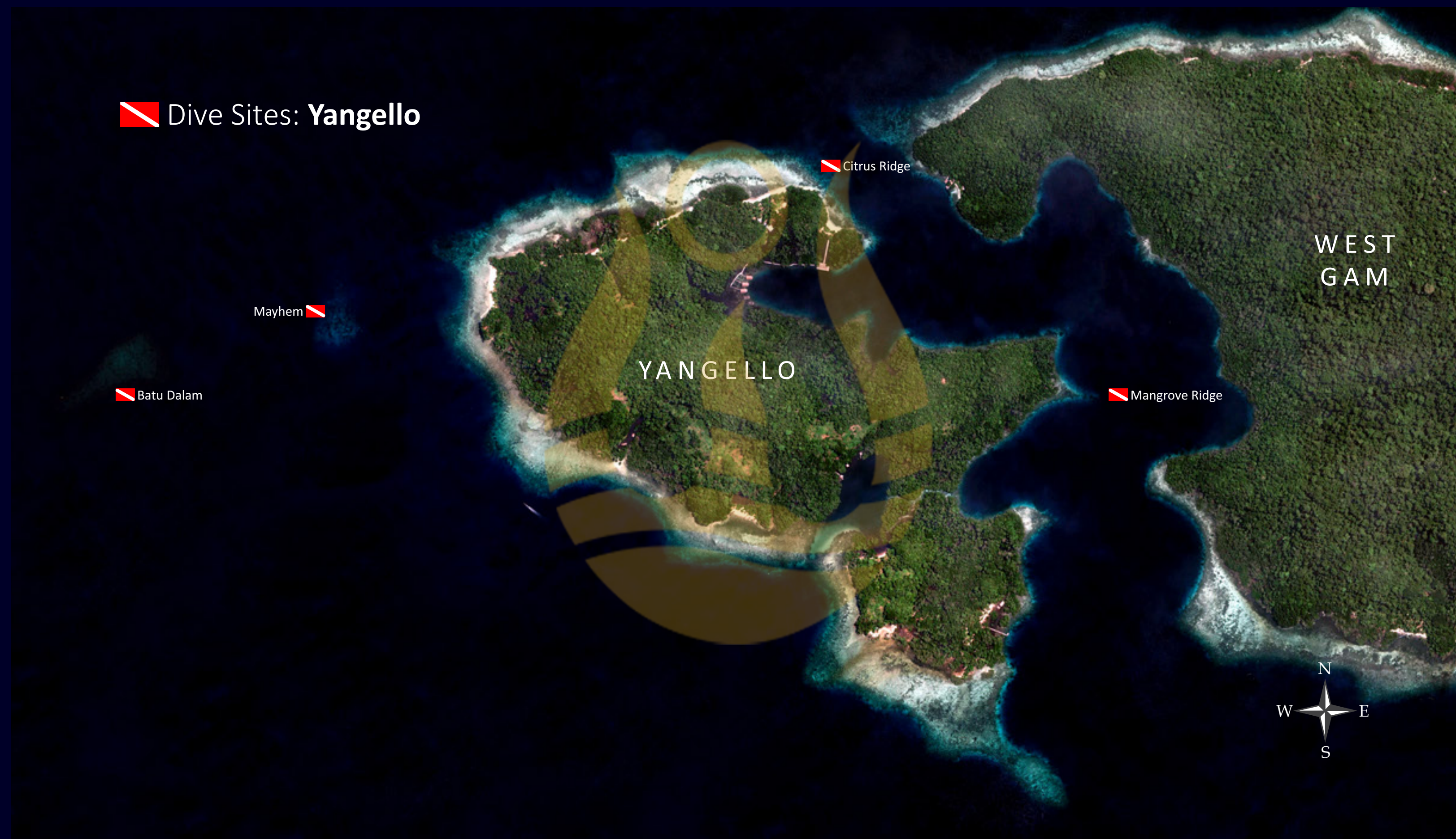
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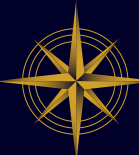
## Yangello

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.





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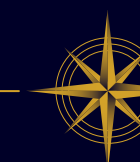
## Mioskon & Kri

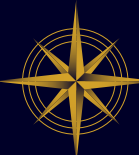
Mioskon and Kri are just two of many islands offshore from the Gam and Waigeo shorelines in the Dampier Strait. The seascape around these islands features some of the most spectacular scuba diving anywhere on the planet. Magnificent coral gardens, thrilling seamounts, big fish encounters, and amazing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



*Dewi Nusantara*





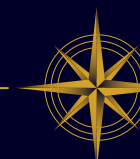
LAHA - NUSA LAUT - RUN - BANDA NEIRA - HATTA - KOON - MISOOL - THE DAMPIER STRAIT

## 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

AMBON, THE BANDA ISLANDS,  
MISOOL, SOUTH & CENTRAL RAJA AMPAT

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Designed, written and produced by Garry Bevan

Dewi Nusantara: Ambon, The Banda Islands, Misool, South & Central Raja Ampat. February 2025. (Ambon to Sorong)

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