



Dewi Nusantara

CRUISING ITINERARY 15

HALMAHERA & NORTH RAJA AMPAT

LOLODA - MOROTAI - TOBELO - BULI BAY - WAYAG - ALJUI BAY - THE DAMPIER STRAIT
(TERNATE TO SORONG)



LOLODA - MOROTAI - TOBELO - BULI BAY - WAYAG - ALJUI BAY - THE DAMPIER STRAIT

DEWI NUSANTARA ITINERARIES

HALMAHERA & NORTH RAJA AMPAT

LOLODA - MOROTAI - TOBELO - BULI BAY - WAYAG - ALJUI BAY - THE DAMPIER STRAIT

Dewi Nusantara





PHILIPPINES

MALAYSIA LOLODA - MOROTAI - TOBELO - BULI BAY - WAYAG - ALJUI BAY - THE DAMPIER STRAIT

The Indonesian Archipelago

PACIFIC OCEAN

HALMAHERA & RAJA AMPAT



SINGAPORE

KALIMANTAN

MANADO

MOROTAI

TERNATE

HALMAHERA

SORONG

MANOKWARI

SUMATRA

SULAWESI

CERAM

WEST PAPUA

BANDA SEA

KAIMANA

JAKARTA

TUAL

ARU

JAVA

SAUMLAKI

INDIAN OCEAN

BALI

LABUAN BAJO

KALABAHI

EAST TIMOR

DENPASAR

SUMBAWA

MAUMERE

SUMBA

FLORES

WEST TIMOR

KUPANG

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AUSTRALIA





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Halmahera & North Raja Ampat

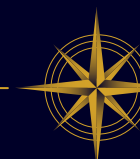
Dewi Nusantara will embark on three consecutive cruises that will explore two exceptional regions of the Indonesian archipelago: Raja Ampat and Halmahera. These itineraries are totally different from each another, and follow completely different routes. This presentation covers the third trip which begins where the second cruise ends, at Ternate. Part III will explore the northern islands and shorelines of North Maluku, namely Halmahera and Morotai. Dewi will then cross back over the Halmahera Sea to the outstanding cruising grounds of North and Central Raja Ampat.

North Halmahera

Scuba diving in North Halmahera offers an incredible underwater experience with vibrant coral reefs, diverse marine life, and historical World War II wrecks. North Halmahera is home to dive locations like Loloda, Tanjung Bongo, and Tobelo, where divers can encounter reef sharks, sea turtles, and an array of macro critters like nudibranchs and pygmy seahorses. The region's volcanic activity has also created unique underwater landscapes, including black sand dive sites teeming with rare marine species.



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Morotai

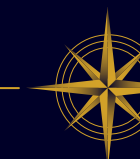
Morotai, a remote island further north, is a dream destination for wreck diving enthusiasts due to its rich wartime history. The seabed is dotted with sunken aircraft, warships, and other remnants from World War II, now covered in coral and inhabited by a diverse array of marine life. Aside from wrecks, Morotai boasts pristine reefs, dramatic drop-offs, and encounters with pelagic species like tuna and barracudas.

North Raja Ampat

Straddling the equator, the northern section of the Raja Ampat marine park covers nearly 7,000 square kilometres and stretches out into the south-west Pacific Ocean from the complex and expansive north shoreline of Waigeo Island. The region includes the offshore islands of Sayang and Piai, the island groups of Wayag, Quoy, and Uranie, and Kawe.

Central Raja Ampat

The central region of Raja Ampat covers the south side of Waigeo Island and the western end of the Dampier Strait. This includes Mioskon, Kri, Mansuar Island, Arborek village and reef complex, Yangello, and Gam, and the Penemu Island Group.





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Get On-Board with Dewi Nusantara

The team that conceived and constructed Dewi Nusantara in 2007 was among the original group of early pioneers that purpose-built liveaboard yachts to explore the seas of the Indonesian archipelago in the mid-90s. With thousands of miles already under her keel, the Goddess of the Archipelago continues to gracefully glide over the azure water that makes this country so unique.

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



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Destinations: Halmahera & North Raja Ampat

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[South Morotai ↗](#)

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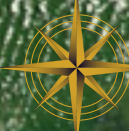


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Cruise Route:
Halmahera & North Raja Ampat



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Teluk Loloda


Teluk Loloda is located along the western coastline of North Halmahera. The bay is comprised of numerous islands and waterways and provides interesting anchorages for a day of scuba diving and exploration.

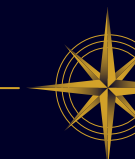
The major dive sites here are found around the largest island in the bay, Kahatola, and are a mixture of thrilling swim-throughs, current-swept channels, and pretty reefs packed with a bewildering array of marine life and coral species.

For macro enthusiasts, the complex shoreline closer to the Halmahera mainland, with its numerous tiny coves and inlets, is prime real estate for discovering new critter and muck diving sites.

The topside terrain of Teluk Loloda's green forested islands is crammed with rugged rocky scenery. The impressive beehive rock at Poroco and the plunging waterfall on the east side of Kahatola are just two of the sights that are well worth a visit.



 Dive Sites: **Teluk Loloda**





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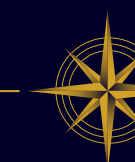
South Morotai

Scuba diving at the far-flung outpost of Morotai, a remote island in North Maluku, Indonesia, offers an incredible blend of pristine coral reefs, historical shipwrecks, and abundant marine life. Located on the southwestern fringes of the Pacific Ocean, Morotai is fast becoming a hotspot for adventurous divers. The region boasts crystal-clear waters, rich biodiversity, and untouched dive sites that remain relatively unexplored compared to other Indonesian destinations. The island's warm waters, excellent visibility, and diverse underwater landscapes make it a dream destination for divers of all experience levels.

One of the most fascinating aspects of diving in Morotai is its World War II wrecks. During the war, Morotai was a strategic military base, and remnants of sunken aircraft, ships, and other submerged war relics provide unique dive experiences. The most famous site is the Bristol Beaufighter wreck, a British aircraft resting on the seabed, now home to thriving marine life.



 Dive Sites: **South Morotai**

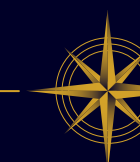




LOLODA - MOROTAI - TOBELO - BULI BAY - WAYAG - ALJUI BAY - THE DAMPIER STRAIT



Beyond the wrecks, Morotai is also known for its vibrant coral reefs and pelagic encounters. The island's dive sites are teeming with hard and soft corals, along with schools of barracuda, tuna, reef sharks, and even occasional manta rays. The diverse sites feature spectacular wall dives, kaleidoscopic reefs, channels and passages, dedicated shark dives, and an astonishing array of macro life, including nudibranchs and pygmy seahorses. With relatively few tourists, Morotai offers an exclusive and untouched diving experience, making it one of Indonesia's best-kept underwater secrets.





Tanjung Bongo

With a striking topside panorama punctuated with active volcanoes, Tanjung Bongo, Galela Bay, and the Morotai Strait offer an exciting mix of pristine reefs, thrilling seamounts, and volcanic seascapes. This lesser-known diving destination is a hidden gem, boasting clear waters, abundant marine biodiversity, and dramatic underwater formations shaped by the region's volcanic activity.

One of the bay's most striking features is its unique underwater topography, influenced by the geothermal activity of nearby Mount Dukono. One dive site hotspot in particular features several powerful volcanic vents that spew hot water out over the adjacent reefs. Divers can explore lava formations, deep drop-offs, and black sand slopes, which create the perfect habitat for rare and fascinating marine life. The volcanic seabed is home to a variety of macro creatures, including nudibranchs, seahorses, and frogfish, making it a great spot for underwater photography. In contrast, the coral-covered walls and reef slopes attract





LOLODA - MOROTAI - TOBELO - BULI BAY - WAYAG - ALJUI BAY - THE DAMPIER STRAIT

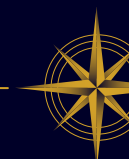


larger marine species, such as reef sharks, various tuna species, and barracudas.

To add to the excitement, lurking just under the surface 12 nautical miles offshore in the Morotai Strait that separates North Halmahera from Morotai, are the Womow seamounts. These two massive plateaus rise from the deep water of the strait, creating thriving reefs and dramatic walls that teem with marine life both large and small.

With a combination of stunning coral gardens, dramatic deep walls, thrilling seamounts, and unique geological formations, the dive sites of Tanjung Bongo, Galela Bay, and the Morotai Strait are an exciting destination for divers seeking something out of the ordinary.

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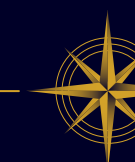
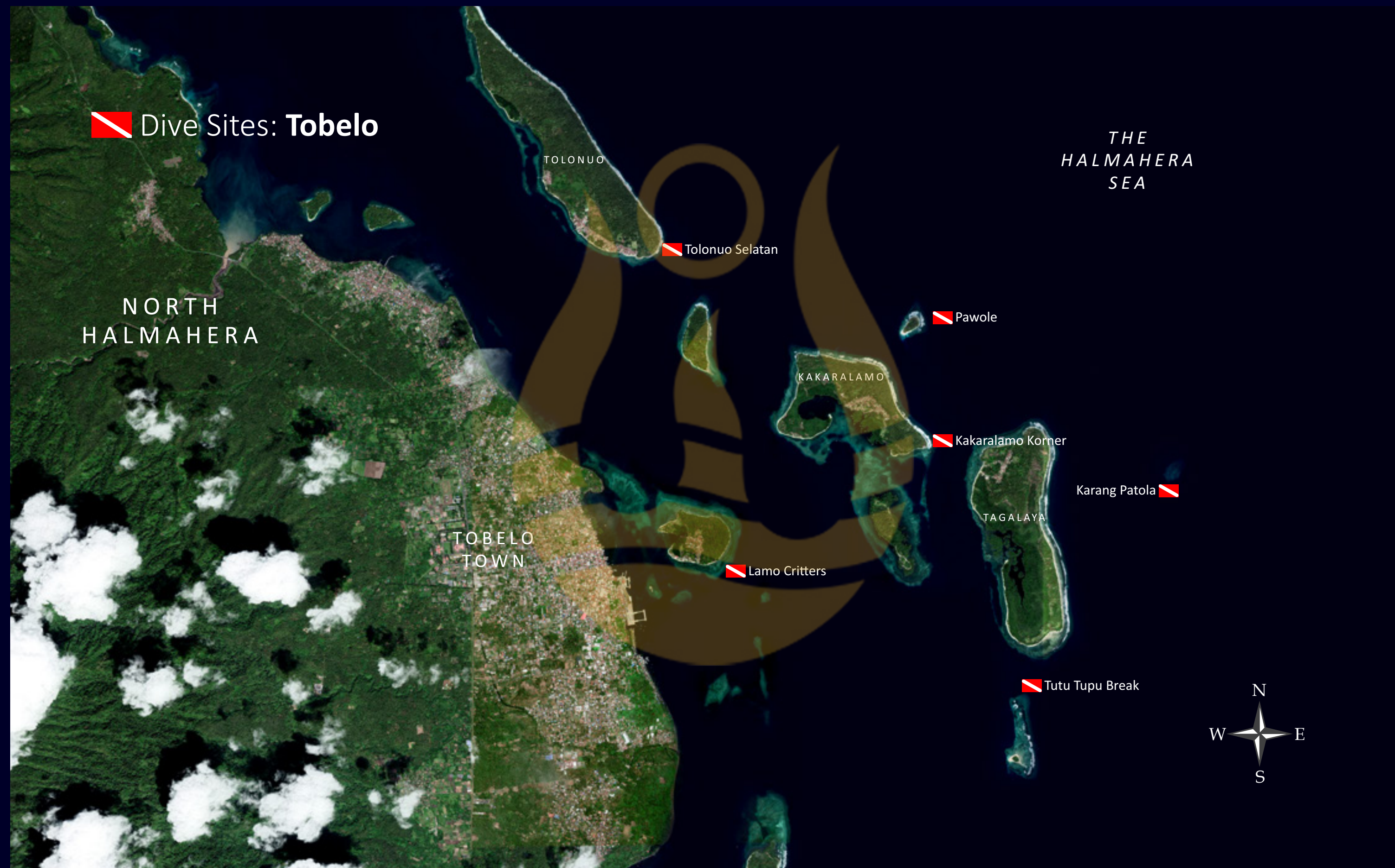
Tobelo

The sleepy port town of Tobelo lies along the eastern shoreline of the most northerly pointing finger of Halmahera Island. Dominated by the smoking Dukono volcano, the town is the de facto capital of North Halmahera, and the harbour is a stepping-off point for visitors to Morotai. However, the islands a short distance offshore from the town feature a good number of interesting dive sites.

These islands form a kind of barrier reef that protects the town from rough seas. Besides being home to numerous dive sites, the Tobelo island collection is famous for its surf breaks. This is unusual as surfing and scuba diving rarely go hand in hand at the same location.

The outer reefs and walls of the islands are very pretty with abundant corals and lots of colourful marine life. The small island of Pawole is blessed with some excellent reefs all around the perimeter, while the huge offshore sunken reef at Patola offers exciting opportunities for more exploration in the area.

Along with a good selection of reef and wall dives, there are also plenty of small coves and inlets that would be of interest to divers who prefer to spend their time hunting for critters.





Buli Bay

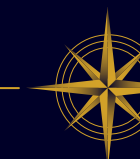
The expansive seascape of Buli Bay bites into the eastern coastline of North Halmahera and is littered with small sandy islands and shallow reefs. This is an emerging scuba diving destination known for its rich marine biodiversity and stunning underwater scenery. Nestled within the Coral Triangle, the bay boasts thriving coral reefs, a huge variety of fish species, and fascinating macro life, making it a paradise for underwater photographers and marine enthusiasts alike. The clear waters and relatively untouched dive sites provide an excellent opportunity for both beginners and experienced divers to explore the region's aquatic wonders.

One of the standout features of scuba diving in Buli Bay is its diverse dive sites, ranging from shallow coral gardens to deeper walls and slopes teeming with marine life. Schools of fusiliers, trevally, and barracuda are commonly spotted, while eagle rays and reef sharks occasionally make an appearance. For those interested in macro diving, the bay's sandy seabed and coral outcrops are home to a wide range of critters.

Despite its incredible marine potential, Buli Bay remains somewhat unexplored, so whether you're looking for vibrant coral reefs, thrilling drift dives, or intriguing macro life, Buli Bay is a hidden gem that promises unforgettable underwater adventures.



 Dive Sites: **Buli Bay**

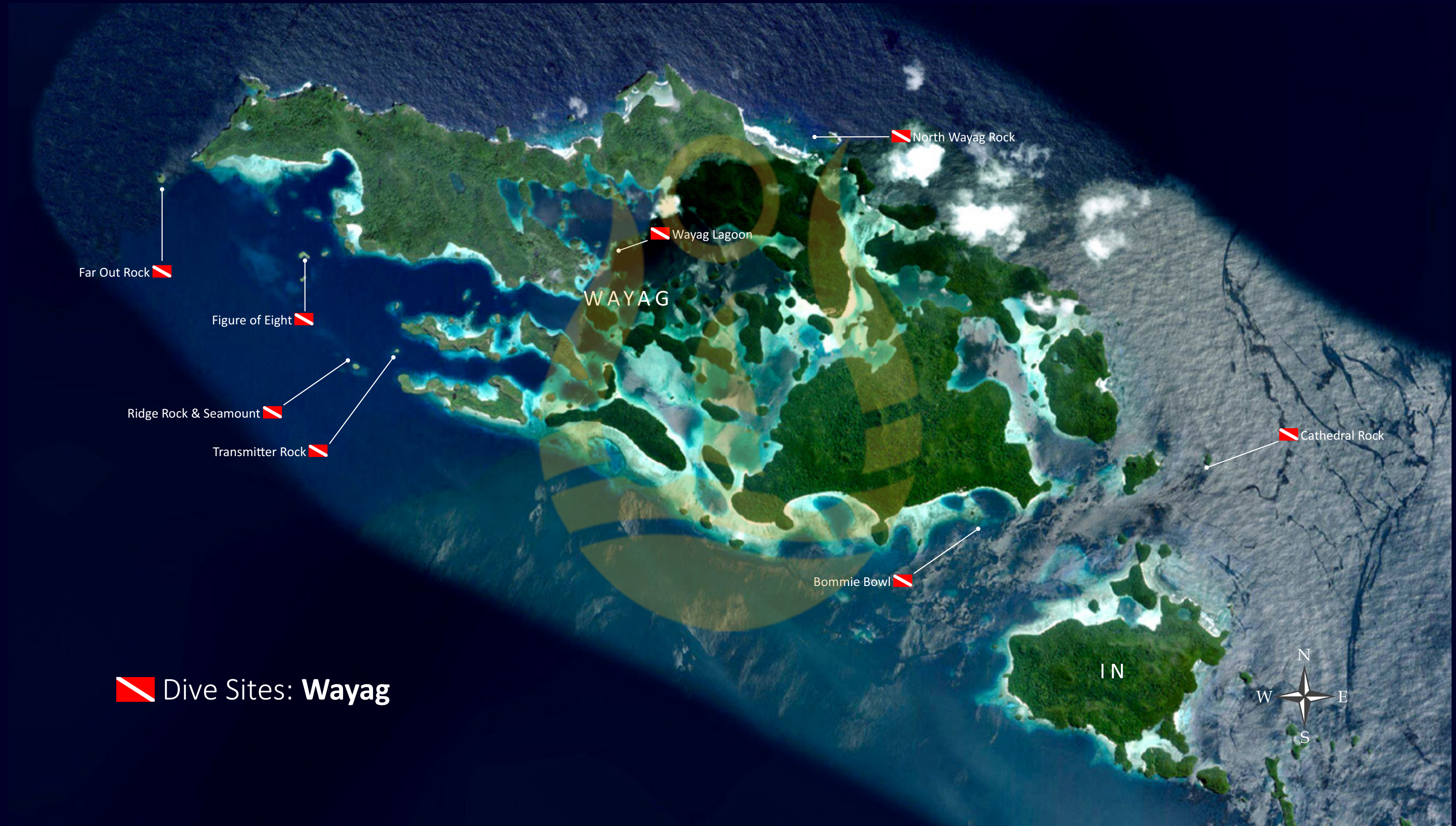




Wayag

Diving at Wayag Island is an experience like no other. The island is famous for its breathtaking limestone karst formations and crystal-clear turquoise waters, making it a paradise for divers and topside adventurers alike. Beneath the surface, the underwater world is teeming with marine life, from vibrant coral reefs to schools of tropical fish. Divers can encounter majestic manta rays, reef sharks, and even the elusive wobbegong shark, which camouflages itself on the ocean floor. The pristine condition of the reefs, thanks to strict conservation efforts, ensures that every dive is a spectacular display of biodiversity.

The most remarkable dive sites around Wayag are the pinnacles covered in soft corals and sea fans, creating a mesmerising seascape. Currents here can be strong, making exciting drift diving opportunities for experienced divers. As you glide effortlessly with the current, you may come across large pelagic species such as tuna, barracuda, and even the occasional whale shark. The visibility is often



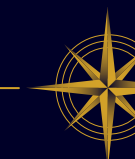


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exceptional, allowing divers to fully appreciate the intricate details of the coral formations and the dynamic marine ecosystem. Macro photographers will also find plenty to capture, with nudibranchs, pygmy seahorses, and other small critters hiding among the coral.

Beyond the thrilling diving opportunities, Wayag Island offers a surreal topside experience. After a dive, many visitors hike up the limestone hills to enjoy a panoramic view of the stunning island formations scattered across the sea. The sense of seclusion and unspoiled beauty makes Wayag a dream destination for those seeking adventure and tranquillity. Whether exploring the depths or marvelling at the landscape from above, diving at Wayag Island is an unforgettable journey into one of the most pristine marine environments on the planet.





Quoy & Uranie

The dramatic high forested islands of Quoy and Uranie lie just to the east of the Wayag collection. They are much less visited than their much more popular neighbour; however, they do feature several dive sites that are, in fact, superior.

Both of the locations also have satellite islands close by: Yeflay next to Quoy and Bag next to Uranie. These islands offer some spectacular diving with colourful fish-filled reefs combined with some idyllic white sand beaches and jaw-dropping kayak and paddleboard routes under astonishing vertical limestone cliff faces.

For adventurous divers wanting to test their skills, the biggest and most exciting marine secrets sit at the eastern points of both islands. The high-rise northern shorelines of both face the unrelenting forces of the mighty Pacific Ocean. Over the ages, these have sculpted two of the most impressive and vastly different dive sites in all of Raja Ampat. Massive caves and caverns tunnel into the vertical walls around these points, and the rocky





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architecture of the seascape extends eastward, where impressive rocky pinnacles form awe-inspiring panoramas and marine life magnets.

The tidal currents that wrap around each extremity attract huge schools of fish and at times are visited by some other more unusual denizens of the deep, which are rarely seen at other locations.

Quoy and Uranie are packed with a diverse range of underwater and topside adventures far away from the attentions of many other operators.

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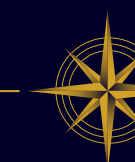
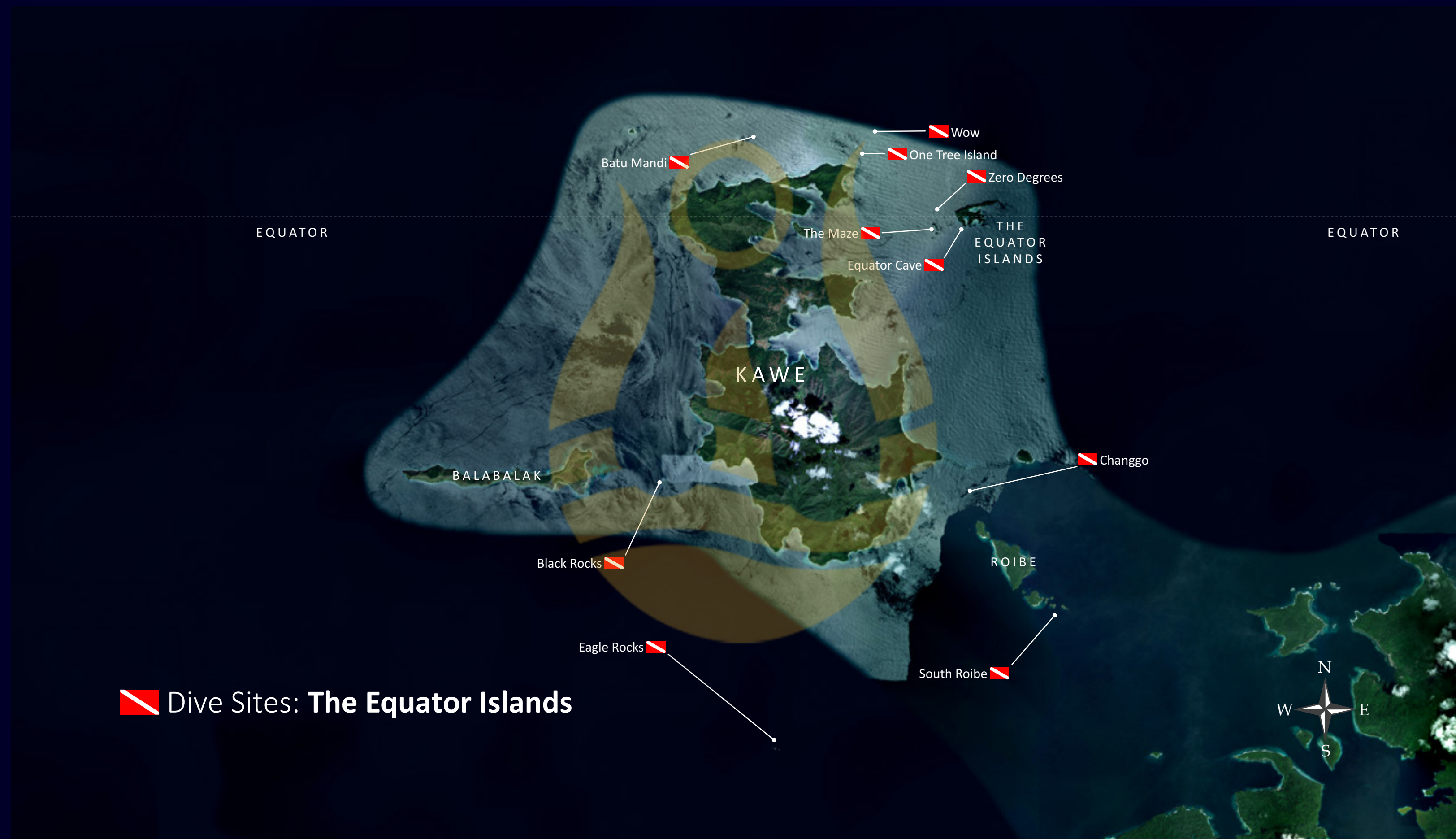
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The Equator Islands

There are some excellent and exciting dives around the island of the Kawe seascape, located between the Wayag Group and the much larger island of Waigeo further 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 their name, are found a short distance further north, at a latitude of zero degrees, or the equator. These feature excellent reefs, walls, and caves, with plenty of scope for further exploration.





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.



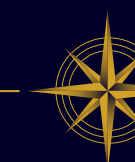
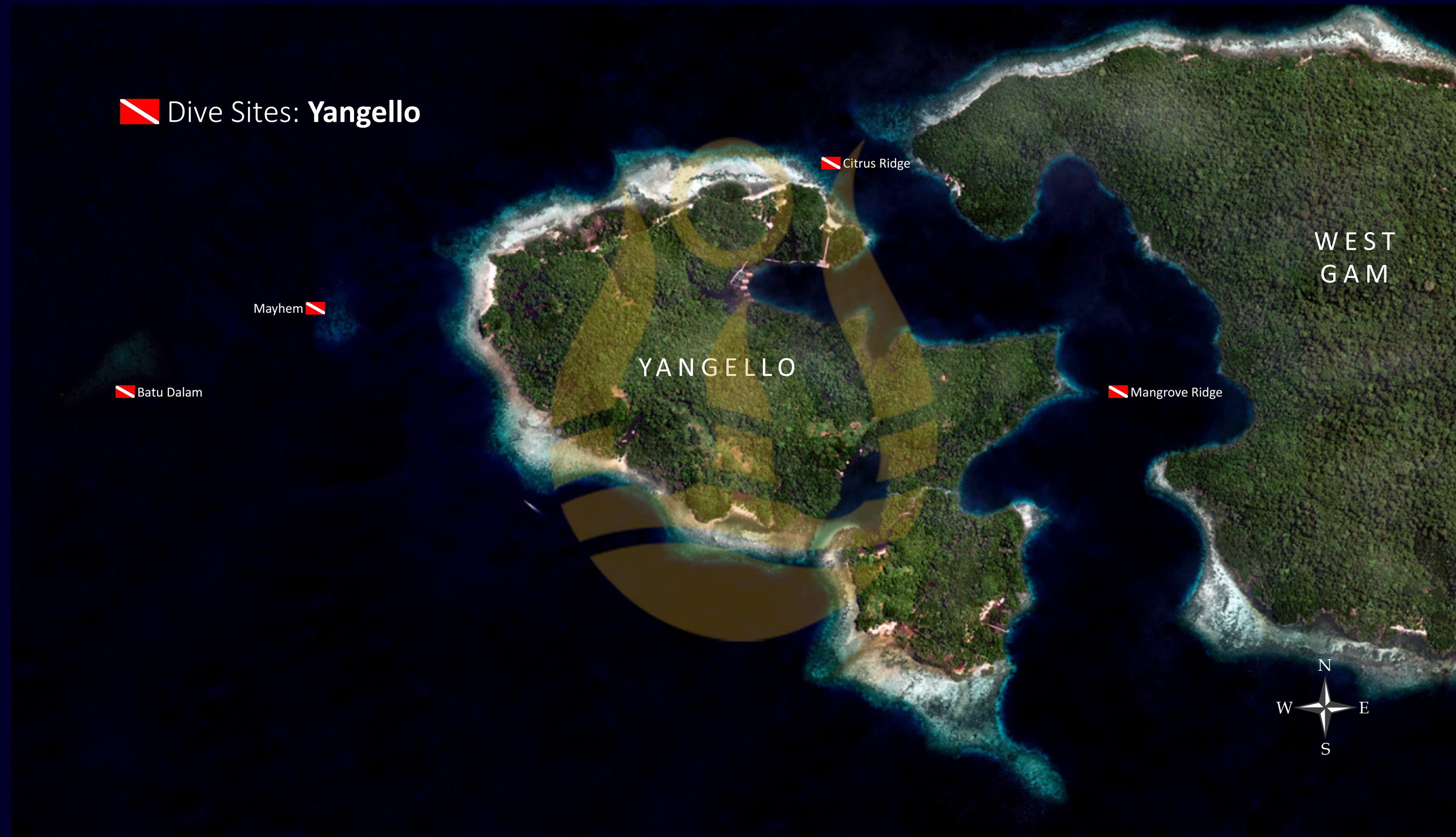


Yangello

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 split 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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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.





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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.



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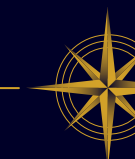
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Cruise Notes

- 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

HALMAHERA & 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

Dewi Nusantara: Halmahera & North Raja Ampat. February 2025. (Ternate to Sorong)

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