



# QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

MERIDIAN ADVENTURE  DIVE

# TRAVEL

## Where is Raja Ampat?

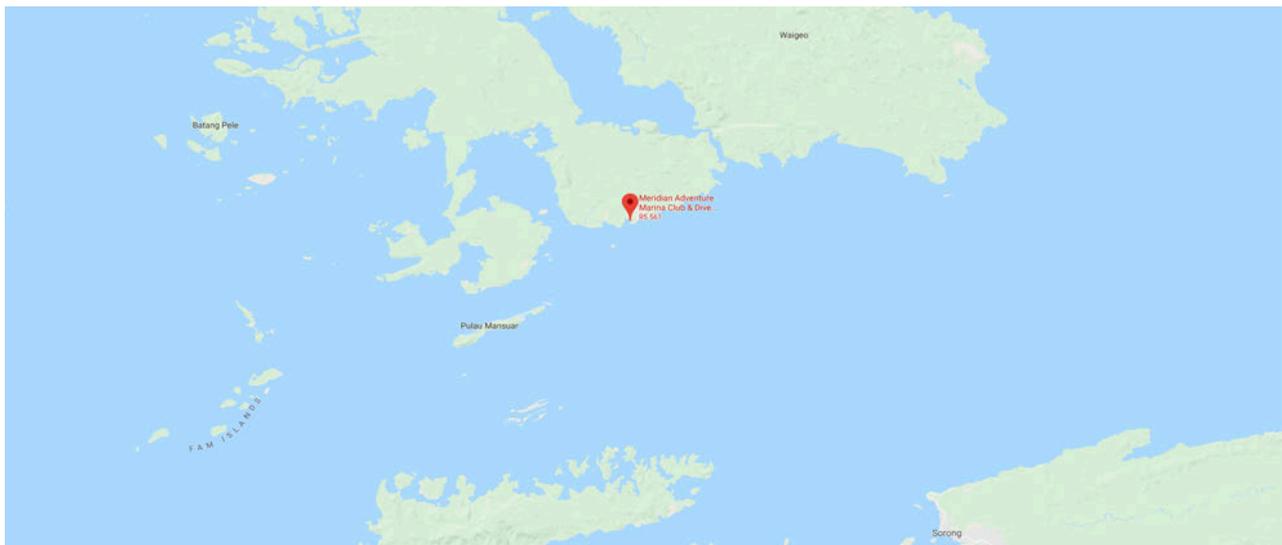
Raja Ampat, or the Four Kings, is an archipelago comprising over 1,500 small islands, cays, and shoals surrounding the four main islands of Misool, Salawati, Batanta, and Waigeo. Located in the heart of the Coral Triangle, it is the literal crossroads for the Indian and Pacific Ocean species, having the greatest coral reef biodiversity for its size in the world. Raja Ampat is located in West Papua, far East Indonesia.



## Where is Meridian Adventure Dive Resort?

**Location:** Waisai, Raja Ampat, Indonesia Coordinate: 0°26'02.9"S 130°48'29.0"E

Meridian Adventure Dive Resort is located in Waisai (the Capital of Raja Ampat), on the island of Waigeo. Which is just an island just across the channel from Sorong. The Resort is based just behind our Marina Facility which is walking distance from the Ferry Terminal.



## How do I get to Raja Ampat?

Flights that enter Indonesia landing in Jakarta allow the most direct flights to Sorong (SOQ), which is where you land before transiting to Waisai. The most ideal flight from Jakarta departs in the early hours of the morning arriving in Sorong between 06:30 – 07:10am. This allows you to get the morning ferry over to Waisai.

### Flights to consider include:

Garuda GA-682: Departs Jakarta (CGK) at 00:20am direct to Sorong arriving at 06:35am.  
Flight Time: 4hrs15mins

Batik Air ID-7797: Departs Jakarta (CGK) at 01:00am direct to Sorong arriving at 07:10am.  
Flight Time: 4hrs10mins

**NOTE:** There is also a hotel in the airport at Terminal 2, so if you have a longer layover it is a great place to go and have a shower and a rest in between flights.

**Baggage Allowance:** Most domestic flights include a 20kg baggage allowance. If you are on Sky Team Alliance International flights, you may be able to check your baggage all the way through to Sorong, in which case you may be able to have increased baggage allowance. TIP – If you tell them you are going for diving they are more lenient on the size and weight of your baggage.



## How do I get to Waisai?

Once you land in Sorong at Domine Eduard Osok Airport (SOQ), there are two options to reach us:

**1. Ferry (most reliable)** – The ferry departs Sorong daily at 9am and 2pm.

The travel time is about 2 hours.

Ferry Tickets:

- VIP (air-conditioned): IDR 215,000 (approx. US\$15.00)
- Economy: IDR 100,000 (approx. US\$9.00)

**2. Flight** – Wings Air have a flight that departs Sorong daily at 13:45 and lands in Marinda Raja Ampat Airport (RJM) at 14:15. Flight time is 30mins, and price starts from IDR 300,000 (approx. US\$22.00). Please note that this flight can sometimes be delayed or cancelled due adverse weather, winds or squalls. Baggage allowance is 10kg.



## If I have time to spare in Sorong, what can I do?

Depending on timing, we recommend going to the Misool Filling Station which is directly across the road from the airport. They have a great café where you can grab a coffee or snack before heading to the ferry.

## What about Airport Transfers?

### Airport to Ferry

There are many taxi's easily available as you exit the airport that can take you to the ferry terminal, and they charge approximately IDR200,000 (approx. US\$15.00).

Alternatively you can pre-arrange a transfer and ferry ticket through the hotel and this can be charged to your room.

### Ferry to Hotel

The ferry terminal is short 4 minute walk along the water line from our Marina, which has direct access to the resort. There is also many taxi's available to drive you the straight to the hotel reception, and the charge approximately IDR150,000 (approx. US\$11.50). However, we can organise a pick up upon request, you just need to provide your arrival details.

### RJM Airport to Hotel

Marinda Raja Ampat Airport is about 25min drive from the resort. There is also many taxi's available to drive you the resort. However, we can organise a pick up upon request, you just need to provide your arrival details.

## When can I visit?

The beauty of our resort is that you can visit and Dive all year round. Some resorts and liveboard's are seasonal due to more choppy sea states, however in the archipelagos in which we cruise and the capabilities of our Dive Boats, diving all year round is easy. From the months mid October through to March, we do tend to have more Manta Rays cruising the area.



## What is the time zone at the resort?

Eastern Indonesian Time (GMT +9hrs). We are 1 hour ahead of Bali and 2 hours ahead of Jakarta.

## What visa do I need?

To be able to enter Indonesia, your passport needs to be valid for at least 6 months from the date of arrival and you need to have a valid return ticket.

Many nationalities are newly eligible to enter and remain in Indonesia without a visa for 30 days.

Those nationalities not eligible need to obtain a Visa on Arrival for 30 days at the major entry points to Indonesia. Visa on Arrival costs USD \$35 and it is advisable that you carry the exact amount with you. Upon arrival, you need to go to the counter for Visa on Arrival and then proceed to the passport control desks named "Foreigner".

See link for more information: <https://www.indonesia.travel/gb/en/general-information/visa-immigration>

# RESORT

## Included

- All rates include breakfast daily
- Room Amenities - TV, Safe, Hair Dryer, Shampoo, Conditioner, Body Wash, Towels & Bath Robes
- 24hr Air-conditioning, Hot Water and Daily Housekeeping
- Wifi available throughout all rooms and common areas
- Fresh Drinking Water In your room and at various locations onsite
- Aqualung Dive Equipment (Mask, Fins, Snorkel, Wetsuit, BCD, Regulator, Weights, Tanks)
- Transfers to and from all dive sites
- Beach Towels, Tea, Coffee, Fresh Fruit and Drinking Water on all dives

## Excluded

- Lunch, Dinner, Alcoholic Drinks, Soft Drinks & Bar Refreshments.
- Transfers - Unless Specified
- Dive Computer & Torches
- Flights, Travel & Dive Insurance
- Additional activities - Unless specified in the package
- Raja Ampat Marine Park Permit - Unless Specified  
(IDR700,000 International = approx \$45, IDR425,000 Local = approx \$30)

## Terms & Conditions

For full terms and conditions on our website, click on the link below:  
<https://dive.meridianadventures.com/terms-and-conditions/>

## Waisai Town

See our Local Tourist Information Booklet for more details on ATM's, Shops, Restaurants, and Emergency Contacts and a map of the town.  
<https://dive.meridianadventures.com/local-tourist-information/>



VIEW THE  
LOCAL TOURIST  
INFORMATION GUIDE

## What should I bring with me?

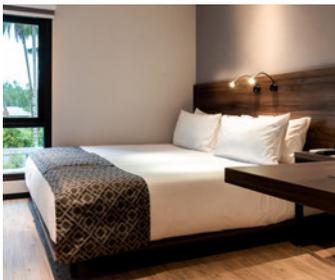
Check out our 'Get ready for Raja Ampat' document by clicking on the link below  
[https://dive.meridianadventures.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/04\\_What-to-pack-guide\\_S.pdf](https://dive.meridianadventures.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/04_What-to-pack-guide_S.pdf)



VIEW THE  
GET READY FOR  
RAJA AMPAT GUIDE

## What kind of Rooms do you have available?

- The hotel has 30 rooms.
- 15sqm Boutique modular style room style room with two twin beds (which can be converted to a double upon request).
- Private en-suite bathrooms with hot water.
- Minimalist rooms with 24hr air-conditioning & daily housekeeping.
- Room Amenities - TV, safe, hair dryer, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, towels & bath robes.
- Fresh drinking water in your room & at various locations onsite



## What sort of power do you have?

The resort has 220volts, 24 hours a day. All power points are international mutli-plugs, so there is no need to buy a special adapter for your plugs.

## What kind of food is on the menu at the resort?

### Breakfast

Breakfast is included in all accommodation packages, from 6am – 9am.

Starts with the house breakfast bowl of fresh fruit, organic granola, honey & yoghurt, then they choose one of the dishes on the menu to follow, accompanied with locally baked bread. Guests can help themselves to orange juice, coffee & locally baked muffins readily available.

### Lunch & Dinner

Lunches and dinners are not included in the accommodation packages. The Menu consists of a wide variety of small and large plates to choose from. The menu is designed with international flare, embracing food in its natural form, allowing for clean, uncomplicated flavours. Our menus reflect our social consciousness in so far as we compliment the Waisai culinary possibilities by not competing with local restaurants. We try to create as small a footprint by sourcing as much produce locally, and even grow some of our own fresh goods. BBQs can be arranged for groups.

### Allergies & Intolerances

Any allergies or intolerances should be communicated to the Resort prior to arrival and at check-in. With the variety of dishes available on the menu we can support most allergies or intolerances, however due to our remote location and access to ingredients we cannot provide specialised ingredients, for example gluten-free or lactose free.

## And the Bar?

We have a fully stocked bar with Juice, Sodas, Beer and Spirits, an International Wine List, and the cocktails.... Our barmen have a passion for producing fresh, fun and delicious cocktails!



## What level of service can I expect?

As part of our commitment supporting the local community and bringing sustainable tourism to the area, most of our employees are born in Waisai or surrounding Raja Ampat islands, they have developed their English language along the way and are so proud of the skills they have learned and service they provide since joining the Meridian Adventure Team. This happy and genuine persona filters through the work they do, and in turn adds to the whole experience you will feel when staying with us.

## What can I do if I don't dive?

There are many activities to do, if you do not dive. You can relax by the pool or on the lounges in the resort. Many of the dive sites are also amazing snorkelling sites, so you too can enjoy the same sites. There are also island beaches and villages right by many of the dive sites to relax and explore whilst the divers are under the water. Sightseeing hikes to Raja Ampat's famous viewpoints can also be arranged.

## What about Malaria?

Malaria is present in Papua. Malaria transmission rates are currently low in the Raja Ampat islands, wearing repellent and appropriate clothing to avoid bites is a must.

## Why can I not bring any kind of sunscreen?

It is estimated that between 6 – 14,000 tonnes of sunscreen wash off people and go into reef areas every year. Unfortunately, one of the main ingredients in sunblock (oxybenzone) inhibits the growth of baby corals, and kills coral polyps. Even low levels of sunscreen (62 parts per trillion), can activate the algae viruses and completely bleach coral. Sun protection is essential and we strongly advise you bring sunscreen that does not include harmful ingredients such as oxybenzone, homosalate, octinoxate and octisalate, in order to minimise the harmful effects on the most biodiverse waters in the world. These sun creams are readily available in stores or online. Typically, companies will label their products as "reef-safe" but always check the ingredients to be sure.

# DIVING

## How many dives can I do per day?

Our packages offer either 2 dives or 4 dives per day. We take our guests out for a two tank dive in the morning and a two tank dive in the afternoon, maximising the travel time between dives sites, all while getting a fantastic view along the way.

Dive schedules and sites change depending on weather, ocean conditions and hotel occupancy. No far reef charges. We go to the best dive sites for the specific days' weather conditions.



## Do you offer night Dives?

Yes, we can certainly arrange a night dive in line with tidal streams. Please enquire once you have checked in.

## Can I do deco diving?

No. Because we are a recreational scuba diving resort and due to our remote location we dive very conservatively. We do not allow deco diving, with maximum depth at 30 metres. We do not allow rebreathers, tech and solo diving. Divers agree to adhere to safe diving practices and Raja Ampat diving regulations at all times.

## Is Nitrox available?

No. We do not currently have Nitrox available.

## What if I have my own equipment?

The dive package includes all state for the art Aqualung equipment, but we do understand that divers prefer the comfort of their own gear, the choice is yours. We can accommodate both YOKE and DIN regulators. Weights are all soft weights, perfect to fit integrated BCDs. We do not offer any weight belts. We offer 12L aluminum tanks.

## How big will my dive group be?

This ratio will depend on the certification and comfortability level of the guest divers. The dive tender can accommodate 10 guest divers. A ratio of 4 guests per dive guide.

## Can I request a personal dive guide?

Yes, certainly if you would feel more comfortable.

## What about child divers?

Youngsters above the age of 10 with diving certifications can join on all the dives sites with a parent or guardian. As a PADI Dive Resort, we can offer scuba diving experiences or courses starting from 8 years of age to those with no certification. Children can also enjoy the reefs through snorkelling if they are strong swimmers and accompanied by a parent or guardian. It is advised to bring own soft equipment like fins, mask, snorkel and wetsuit for a perfect fit.

## Nanny Service

We cannot offer a professional Nanny service. If requested for a small fee, select resort staff can be allocated to stay and play with children. However, we kindly ask that an adult in the party watch over the children at all times as the staff & management at Meridian Adventure Dive Resort cannot be held responsible for any care-taking required.

## I am not yet a diver. Do you offer dive courses?

Yes. We are a 5 star Padi Dive Resort offering discovery and beginner courses as well as courses for advance divers.

## Do I need insurance traveling to Raja Ampat?

Divers should definitely get insurance which provides for emergency medical evacuation. We would recommend that you speak to your insurance and/or contact diving insurance like DAN.

## What if I get sick or hurt while in Raja Ampat?

There is a hospital in Waisai that operates a 24 hour emergency care facility only 6 minutes by car from the resort. For urgent emergency cases it is advised to use Sorong Hospitals.

## Nearest decompression chamber?

All of our divers can visit Raja Ampat and dive with peace of mind knowing that there is a hyperbaric chamber (also known as a decompression chamber) on the island of Waisai. It is only 6 minutes away by car from the Meridian Adventure Dive Resort. The other chamber is in Manado, which means that you will need to fly from Sorong.



## What if I haven't dived in a while?

Depending on your certification and last logged dives, we can offer you a scuba review (reactivate or refresher) in our swimming pool before the first day of diving.

## Topography and depths?

Most of the reefs start off shallow around 5 to 7 meters and have a gradual slope reaching down to 40 meters, while the average dive depth is around 10 to 25 meters depending on deco time.

## What is the average visibility?

Visibility ranges between 15-30 meters, but a normal of 20 meters in most areas.



## What is the average water temperature?

Temperatures can vary from 30C to rarely 25C but a normal range for most areas is 27 to 29C.

## How about currents and/or surge?

Currents are what make the Raja Ampat diving so special and can vary, the dive guides will always check the current prior to a dive.

## What type of boat/s do we travel on?

Our customised dive boats revolutionise functionality and comfort of dive boat operations and will change the way you dive forever. The space, comfort and long range capabilities make this ideal for multi-purpose use. The 600mm diameter tubes makes the pontoons exceptionally comfortable to ride on to and from dive sites.

## What safety equipment do you have onboard the dive boats?

Emergency medical aid oxygen (DAN system), First Aid, VHF radio and compass. Pontoon repair kit, tool kit, a double action pump and two paddles. Life jackets, a flare kit and fire extinguisher are also included.

## Do I have to wear an exposure suit?

For your own protection and comfort it is best to dive with a wetsuit. We offer the Aqualung 2/3mm Sport Flex suit. Any suit between 2 to 3 mm thickness will be perfect.



To find out more visit  
[www.meridianadventuresdive.com](http://www.meridianadventuresdive.com)

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ONE PLANET

ONE COMMUNITY

ONE OCEAN

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