



# QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

MERIDIAN ADVENTURE  DIVE



# ALL ABOUT RAJA AMPAT

## 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 an island 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?

International flights that land in Jakarta allow for the most direct flight to Sorong (SOQ). 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 00:30am direct to Sorong (SOQ) arriving at 06:35am | Flight Time: 4hrs5mins  
 Batik Air ID-7797: Departs Jakarta (CGK) at 00:35am direct to Sorong (SOQ) arriving at 06:40am | Flight Time: 4hrs5mins  
 Air Asia QZ-706: Departs Jakarta (CGK) at 01:15am direct to Sorong (SOQ) arriving at 07:15am | Flight Time: 4hrs

**NOTE:** There is 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.



## How do I get to Waisai?

Once you land in Sorong at Domine Eduard Osok Airport (SOQ), there are two options to reach us. The public option is budget friendly, but you are restricted by the ferry operating hours.

### 1. Public Ferry

The ferry departs Sorong daily at 09:00am and 14:00pm. The travel time is about 2 hours.

Ferry Tickets:

- VIP (air-conditioned): IDR 215,000 (approx. US\$ 15) per person
- Economy: IDR 100,000 (approx. US\$ 9) per person

### 2. Private Speed Boat

The pick-up and drop-off times are flexible. The travel time is about 1hrs30mins.

This option is great for groups, we need a minimum of 8 persons for one way transfer. The cost is US\$ 150 per person one way.

## What about airport transfers?

### Airport to Ferry

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

### Ferry to Resort

The resort is a short 7 min walk from the ferry terminal, via the wooden deck which runs along the water line towards the marina and exiting on the property next to the resort. There is also many taxi's available to drive you the straight to the hotel reception, and the charge approximately IDR100,000 (approx. US\$7.00).

### Can I pre-book transfers?

You can pre-arrange taxi transfers, luggage porters and a VIP ferry ticket through the resort and this can be charged to your room. The cost is US \$55.00 (incl tax) one way.

### 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.

### When can I visit?

The beauty of our resort is that you can visit and dive all year round. Some resorts and liveaboard's are seasonal due to undesirable sea conditions where they are located, however in the archipelagos in which we cruise and the capabilities of our dive boats, diving all year round is easy. From October to March we have Manta Ray season and from April to September we have reef sharks season.



### 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 eligible to enter and remain in Indonesia for 30 days.

Those nationalities need to obtain a Visa on Arrival at the major entry points to Indonesia. Visa on Arrival costs IDR 500,000 / USD \$35 and must be paid in cash. It is advisable that you carry the exact amount with you, alternatively there are ATM's available if you need to withdraw.

Upon arrival, you need to go to the counter for Visa on Arrival make your payment and then proceed to the designated passport control for entry to be approved.

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

### Waisai Town

See our Local Tourist Information Booklet for more details on ATM's, Shops, Restaurants, Emergency Contacts and a map of the town.



**VIEW THE  
LOCAL TOURIST  
INFORMATION GUIDE**



## 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.

## 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 companies 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 and is only 6 minutes by car from the resort. For urgent emergency cases it is advised to use Sorong Hospitals.

# ALL ABOUT THE RESORT

## What kind of rooms do you have available?

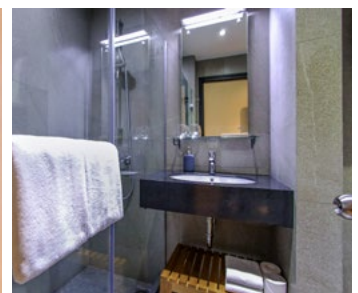
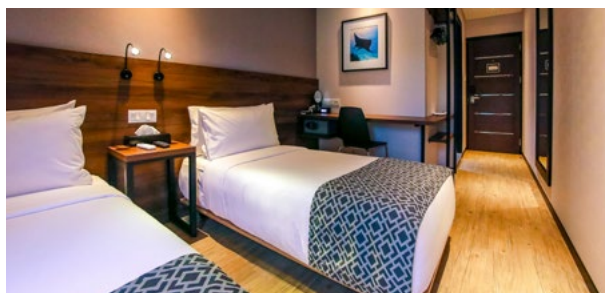
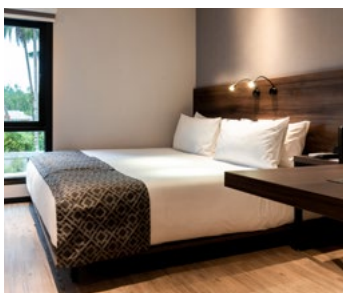
- The resort has 30 rooms
- 15sqm Boutique modular style rooms with two twin beds (which can be converted to a double upon request)
- Private en-suite bathrooms with hot water
- Minimalist rooms with 24hr air-conditioning & daily housekeeping
- Room Amenities - TV, safe, hair dryer, shampoo, conditioner,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

## Package Inclusions

- All rates include breakfast daily
- 24hr Air-conditioning, Hot Water and Daily Housekeeping
- Wifi available in all rooms and common areas
- 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
- Free GoPro footage taken on every dive by the dive guides

## Package Exclusions

- Lunch, Dinner, Alcoholic Drinks, Soft Drinks & Bar Refreshments
- Transfers - Unless Specified
- Dive Computer & Torches
- International and Domestic Flights, Travel, Medical and Dive Insurance
- Additional activities - Unless specified in the package
- Raja Ampat Marine Park Permit and Raja Ampat Dive/Snorkel Permit - unless specified



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

### Breakfast

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

The house breakfast starts with a bowl of fresh fruit, organic granola, honey & yoghurt, followed by a choice of one of the breakfast dishes on the menu. All breakfasts are accompanied by orange juice, coffee & locally baked muffins which are 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 designed with international flare, embracing food in its natural form, allowing for clean, uncomplicated flavours. Our menus reflect our social consciousness as we compliment the Waisai culinary possibilities by not competing with local restaurants. We try to create a as small a footprint by sourcing as much produce locally, and even grow some of our own fresh goods. For groups of 8 and more, we can arrange full board options that include family style meals, as well as BBQ's.

### Allergies, Intolerances & Lifestyle Choices

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.

## About the MAD Bar

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



**VIEW THE  
MAD BAR MENU**

## 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 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 sort of power do you have?

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

## Do you have Wi-Fi?

24/7 Wi-Fi is available throughout the common areas and rooms.

## Child / Babysitting Service?

We cannot offer child/ babysitting services. 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 and management at Meridian Adventure Dive Resort cannot be held responsible for any care-taking required.

## What should I bring with me?

Check out the 'Get ready for Raja Ampat' Guide to see what you need to pack.



**VIEW THE  
GET READY FOR  
RAJA AMPAT GUIDE**

## Terms & Conditions

Full terms and conditions are available on our website, visit <https://raja.meridianadventuredive.com/terms-and-conditions>



# ALL ABOUT DIVING

## How many dives can I do?

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 resort occupancy. No far reef charges. We go to the best dive sites for the specific days' weather conditions.



## 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 30°C to 25°C but a normal range for most areas is 27°C to 29°C.

## What about currents?

Currents are what make Raja Ampat diving so special and can vary, the dive guides will always check the current prior to a dive. It is very important that you dive Raja Ampat on the right tides. If you dive all the sites at the right time, the currents are not strong and the dives are magnificent. It is perfectly safe to even do your Open Water Course in Raja Ampat with us.

## How big will my dive group be?

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

## 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.

## What if I have my own equipment?

The dive package includes 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 aluminium tanks.

### 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.

### Can I request a personal dive guide?

Yes, certainly if you would feel more comfortable a personal dive guide can be provided for an additional fee. Advanced notice is appreciated.

### 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.

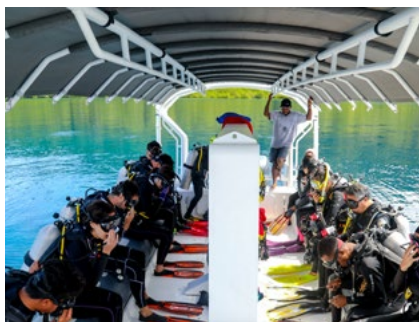
### I am not yet a diver. Do you offer dive courses?

Yes. We are a 5 star Padi Dive Resort offering discovery and beginner courses as well as courses for advance divers. We also offer a wide variety of activities to experience during surface intervals and for non-divers.

### What about child divers?

Youngsters above the age of 10 with diving certifications can join on all the dives 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.



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

A 10m Gemini rigid-hull inflatable boat with dual V6 250HP Yamaha 4 Stroke Engines. 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 onboard.

### Can I do deco diving?

No, 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, not currently.

### The 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 Dive Resort. The other chamber is in Manado, which means that you will need to fly from Sorong.



### 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 island beaches and villages by many of the dive sites for you to relax and explore whilst the divers are under the water. Sightseeing hikes to Raja Ampat's famous viewpoints can also be arranged.



To find out more visit  
[raja.meridianadventuredive.com](http://raja.meridianadventuredive.com)

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#meridianadventuresdive

ONE PLANET

ONE COMMUNITY

ONE OCEAN

MERIDIAN ADVENTURE  DIVE