

Abercrombie & Kent



## JOURNEY TO RAJA AMPAT: A REEF ODYSSEY

Set sail for one of the most spectacular archipelagos in the world, where over 1500 jungle-clad islands rise from azure seas.

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Tailor-Made Journeys, Suggested Itineraries



Asia, Indonesia



8 days Call for a quote pp



Private

## Journey Overview

Set sail for one of the most spectacular archipelagos in the world, where over 1500 jungle-clad islands rise from azure seas. Raja Ampat conceals underwater biodiversity on a staggering scale — holding the world record for the most species of fish ever spotted on a single dive. Spend your days snorkelling or diving over rainbow-speckled reefs, kayaking through mangrove forests, clamouring over hidden lagoons and karst cliffs, and spotting endemic jungle wildlife on the luxury yacht-cruise of a lifetime. At night, retire for scenic sundowners and world-class dining under the stars.

### Journey Highlights

- Spend seven nights aboard the luxury Aqua Blue explorer yacht, discovering Raja Ampat marine park, with daily dive and snorkel excursions
- Kayak through the mangrove forest of 'The Passage' where the blue mangroves and rainforest meets the reef; encounter hawksbill turtle, hornbill, birds-of-paradise, and spot saltwater crocodile sunning themselves on the banks at Kabui Bay
- Cruise to Aljui Bay for an eye-opening visit to a pearl farm; learn how pearls make the journey from oyster to farm, with a glimpse into the skill, time and energy it takes to cultivate these jewels of the ocean
- Discover the largest reef rays in the world at Dayang Island; snorkelers and divers will revel in the close presence of these majestic creatures
- Take a sunrise hike through the wildlife-rich tropical rainforests, rolling hills and river valleys of Mayalibit Bay, before an invigorating swim down the rushing Kali Biru River
- Learn about the history and ethnology of Raja Ampat with a cultural excursion to the village of Yensawai, where you'll enjoy traditional song and dance



# Itinerary

## **Day 1: Sorong Harbour**

Welcome to Sorong, the largest city of West Papua, and the departure point for your luxury cruise to the Indonesian archipelago of Raja Ampat. Arrive to a warm welcome, with private transfer to the Swiss-Belhotel Sorong to wind down and relax, before boarding the Aqua Blu — your long-range explorer yacht. Settle into its many luxury spaces, before sailing to the remote paradise of Mioskon Island. This afternoon, recline in the Aqua Blu Bar with a cocktail in hand as you admire the view over the Indonesian archipelago.

***Aqua Blu / Meals: BLD***

## **Day 2: Mioskon Island & Kabui Bay**

Awake to the beauty of Mioskon Island reef. Discover an underwater paradise of abundant vibrant marine life on your first dive and snorkel excursion. Feast your eyes on schools of yellow snapper, napoleon wrasse, big grouper, wobbegong shark, pigmy seahorse, and different species of nudibranch. This afternoon, it's on to Kabui Bay — a labyrinth of limestone islets teeming with wildlife. Explore this waterway by kayak but be sure to have your camera out. Enjoy the tranquil mangrove views and Jurassic islands soaring in the distance. Look out for hawksbill sea turtle, tropical hornbill and birds-of-paradise, and catch saltwater crocodiles sunning themselves on the banks. Return to the Aqua Blu for sundowners.

***Aqua Blu / Meals: BLD***

## **Day 3: Cape Kri & Yangeffo Island**

Rise to birdsong for an early-morning tender cruise around the karst cliffs of Kabui Bay. Enjoy breakfast while cruising to Cape Kri, which holds the world record for the largest number of species ever recorded on a single dive. Choose to snorkel or dive the coral gardens and keep your eyes peeled for rainbow reef fish, sharks, turtles and manta rays. This afternoon, it's on to Yangeffo Island, for a dive or snorkel excursion at the Mayhem reef. Alternatively, you might opt for a tender cruise through the mangroves at sunset.

***Aqua Blu / Meals: BLD***

**Day 4: Aljui Bay & Wofoh Island**

Cruise to Aljui Bay for an eye-opening visit to a pearl farm; learn how pearls make the journey from oyster to farm, with a glimpse into the skill, time and energy it takes to cultivate these jewels of the ocean. This afternoon, continue to Wofoh Island in the north of the Raja Ampat archipelago. Expect bone-white beaches hedged by lush emerald forest. Whether you choose to dive, snorkel or swim, you'll get the chance to see a huge variety of marine life from barracuda to unicorn fish to turtles. Lay back and enjoy Aqua Blu's Beach Club on your very own private beach, with a variety of water sports on offer, or simply sip cocktails as the sun sets.

***Aqua Blu / Meals: BLD***

**Day 5: Wayag Island**

Wake up to the fairy-tale panorama of Wayag Island. Gaze upon the grandiose expanse of deep blue ocean where dozens of towering karst islands sprout from the seas. Feast your eyes on limestone islets and lagoons as the sun rises; and jump in for a refreshing early morning swim before a hearty breakfast back onboard. After breakfast you'll have the chance to spot black tip reef sharks during a snorkelling and diving excursion to Figure Eight Rock and Ranger Station reefs. This afternoon, explore the magical hidden lagoons of 'Castaway' beach in a kayak. Back on board recline on the sundeck or relax in the jacuzzi with the magnificent views.

***Aqua Blu / Meals: BLD***

**Day 6: Dayang Island & Birie Island**

Discover the oceanic and reef manta rays of Dayang Island. Snorkelers and divers will revel in the close presence of these majestic creatures at the Manta Cleaning Station, where fish, sharks and mantas gather to feed on microscopic fish and a variety of cleaner wrasse. Diving and snorkelling with manta rays is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. These majestic creatures can develop a wingspan of up to 29 feet, are the world's largest rays and are known to be generally benevolent with humans. This afternoon it's on to Birie Island. Learn about the history and ethnology of Raja Ampat with a cultural excursion to the village of Yensawai, where you'll enjoy traditional song and dance.

***Aqua Blu / Meals: BLD***

**Day 7: Mayalibit Bay**

Rise before the sun to embark on a spectacular nature excursion on tender, canoe and on foot. Explore the wildlife-rich tropical rainforests, rolling hills and river valleys near the villages of Waifoi and Warimak, which lie on the eastern shore of northern Mayalibit Bay. The hiking portion of the trip includes an opportunity to witness rare birds of paradise. For the adventurous, finish with a refreshing swim down the rushing Kali Biru River. This afternoon, get acquainted with the underwater wonderland of Friwinbonda Island with one last snorkel, before departing for your last night onboard, in Sorong.

***Aqua Blu / Meals: BLD***

**Day 8: Depart Sorong Harbour**

Enjoy a delicious breakfast onboard in Sorong before your outbound flight.

***Meals: B***

# Map





## Accommodation

### Aqua Blu

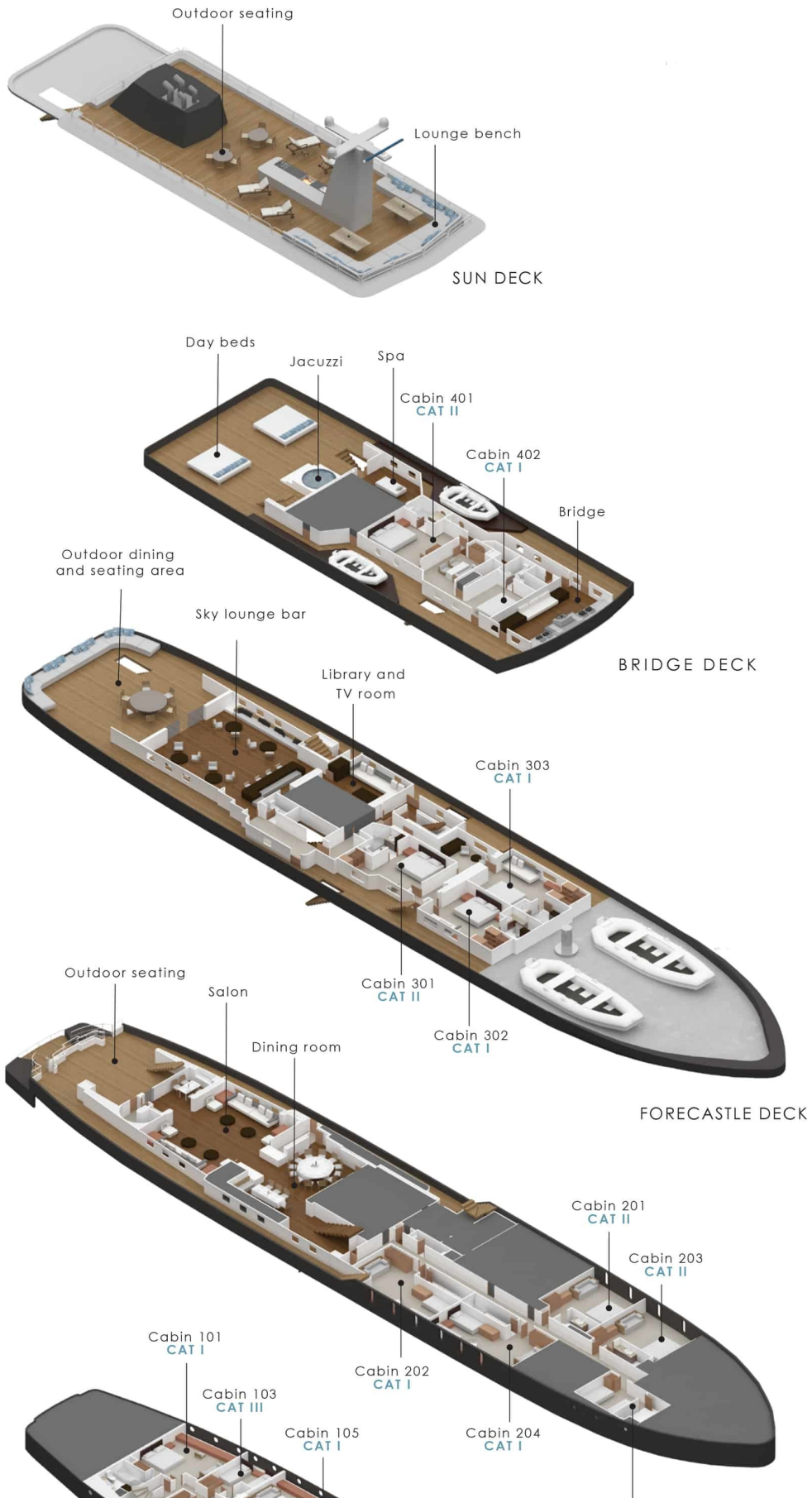


Aqua Blu is Aqua Expeditions' first coastal ship, and the first-ever long-range explorer yacht with year-round departures to be permanently based in East Indonesia — the heart of the Coral Triangle and the fabled Old World spice trade route.

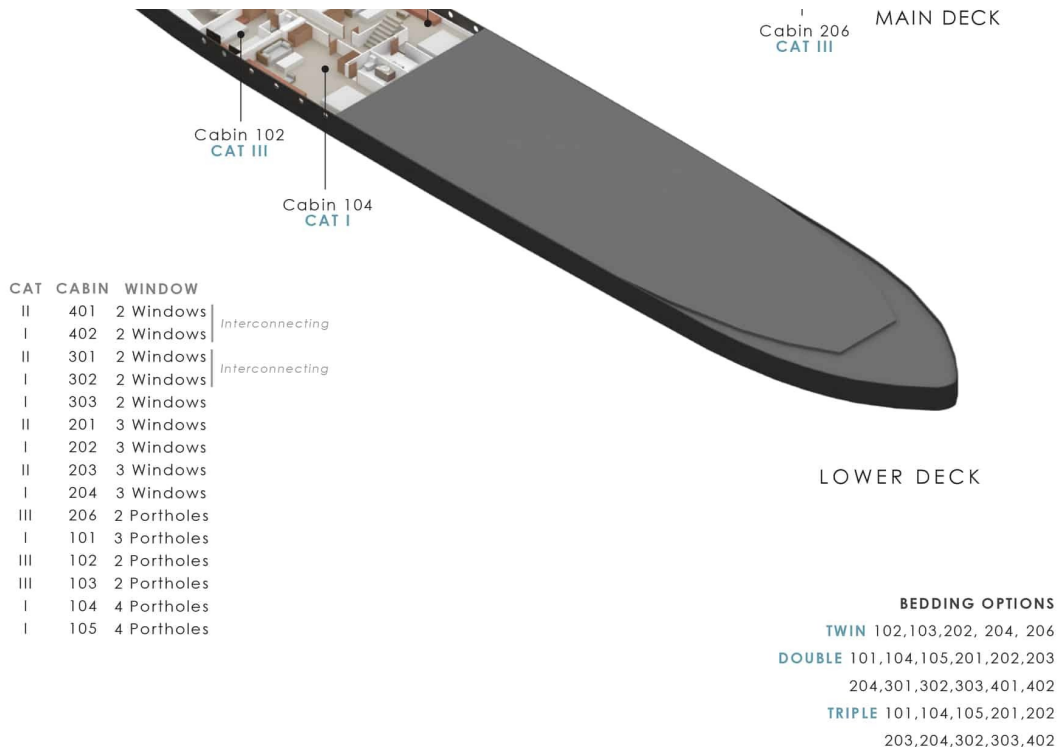
The Aqua Blu coastal ship features 15 Design Suites across four decks in different suite categories. The vessels tastefully paired brass-and-ivory interior theme combines well with the generous and inviting indoor and outdoor social spaces, including a sun deck with outdoor seating, lounge and barbecue. The bridge deck offers a Jacuzzi, outdoor lounge, spa and gym. Dine outside on the Forecastle deck that also includes an indoor bar, library and TV room. The main dining room, salon and more outdoor seating exist on the Main Deck. This ship comes prepared with kayaks, paddleboards, snorkeling and diving gear. Enjoy complimentary internet and laundry service while aboard. Guests will be looked after by 25 crew members, which include a cruise director, dive instructor and English-speaking guide. Expeditioners can expect to embrace an distinguished sense of history and seafaring evolution when they set foot on this one-of-a-kind cruise ship.

The 15-suite Aqua Blu will cruise for 7 nights from Bali - Komodo National Park from April to September with 23 departures per year.

Aqua Blu is also available for charter on an exclusive use basis.







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