



## AQUA EXPEDITIONS

Press Release

### AQUA EXPEDITION LAUNCHES 7-NIGHT VOYAGES TO SOUTH RAJA AMPAT



Following the success of its North Raja Ampat itineraries, Aqua Expeditions is launching its first-ever seven-night voyages to South Raja Ampat (starting from \$11,200 per person, based on double occupancy) aboard the 200-foot Aqua Blu. The first long-range ocean explorer yacht to be permanently based in East Indonesia, Aqua Blu offers an exclusive and tailor-made experience, with unprecedented access to some of the country's wildest, most remote corners — all delivered with Aqua's regional expertise and the highest standards of luxury, design, and cuisine.

Venturing deep into the lesser-explored reaches of the 300,000-acre Misool Marine Reserve aboard Aqua Blu, guests will journey to legendary dive sites like Fibiacet, explore the wildlife-rich forests of Kapatcol (a haven for birders), snorkel through the fantastical Blue Water Mangroves, and enjoy a curated program of guided excursions led by expert naturalists — including hiking, kayaking, paddleboarding, snorkeling, tender rides, and diving.

With just 15 individually designed suites and an exclusive 1:1 crew-to-guest ratio, the luxury expedition superyacht combines rugged expedition capabilities with elegant design, refined social spaces, and innovative cuisine curated by renowned chef Benjamin Cross, drawing inspiration from Indonesia's fabled spice trade route.

Setting sail for the first time from December 19–26, 2026, the South Raja Ampat expedition begins and ends in Sorong, the gateway to the region. From there, Aqua Blu heads to the One Thousand Temples karst island complex—a maze of limestone spires and turquoise lagoons—where guests can kayak into the cathedral-like Tomolol Cave, explore jellyfish lakes, and glimpse petroglyph-covered sea caves.

The voyage continues at Daram Island, where diving takes place amid vibrant coral gardens teeming with reef sharks, pygmy seahorses, and critically endangered hawksbill turtles. One of the standout sites, Candy Store, lives up to its name with a kaleidoscope of soft corals in electric shades of pink, purple, and orange. Also within the Misool Marine Reserve is the little-known island of Sabuda, where calm, glassy waters reveal schooling reef fish and—if you're lucky—a gliding manta ray or two. Day five

includes a kayak through the narrow, limestone-lined channel of Neptune's Sea Fan and an afternoon dive at Fibiacet, one of Indonesia's most biodiverse underwater sites. On day six, guests venture inland to Kapatcol for birdwatching in forests home to Lesser and King birds of paradise, then continue to the Blue Water Mangroves and Crocodile River in search of basking saltwater crocodiles. The final full day is spent exploring Boo Island—known for its glassy lagoons, karst cliffs, and famed dive sites—and the island of Kofiau, boasting exceptional marine diversity, including orcas.

The new South Raja Ampat itinerary complements Aqua Blu's other expeditions in the region, like the popular seven-night North Raja Ampat voyage. That journey includes such standout experiences as diving with blacktip reef sharks, visiting the legendary Melissa's Garden coral garden, exploring Kabui Bay's monumental karst formations, and visiting a working pearl farm. For travelers eager to experience it all, Aqua Expeditions also offers two distinct 14-night itineraries that weave together the best of both North and South Raja Ampat—an immersive deep-dive into one of the most ecologically and culturally rich corners of the planet.

#### **Complete list of departures:**

##### Seven-night South Raja Ampat

December 19-26, 2026

January 2-9, 2027

January 16-23, 2027

January 30 to February 6, 2027

February 27 to March 6, 2027

##### 14-night North & South Raja Ampat

December 12-26 2026

December 26, 2026 to January 9, 2027

January 9-23, 2027

##### 14-night South & North Raja Ampat

December 19, 2026 to January 2, 2027

January 2-16, 2027

January 30 to February 13, 2027

February 13-27 2027

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For media enquiries, please contact Global PR & Communications Manager, Emilie  
Cunnington - [ecunnington@aquaexpeditions.com](mailto:ecunnington@aquaexpeditions.com)

#### **About Aqua Expeditions:**

A recognized global leader in luxury small-ship expeditions, Aqua Expeditions explores the world's most biodiverse and culturally significant destinations aboard best-in-class vessels of stylish contemporary design. Expect tailored five-star itineraries, a highly exclusive 1:1 crew- to-guest ratio with personalized service, world-class dining, and small group expert-guided activities and excursions, with a maximum of 16-40 guests per ship. Aqua Expeditions currently operates river explorations in the Peruvian Amazon and the Mekong Delta (Cambodia and Vietnam), and coastal yacht voyages in East Indonesia — Komodo National Park, Ambon and the Spice Islands, Raja Ampat, and Asmat — and the Galapagos Islands.