



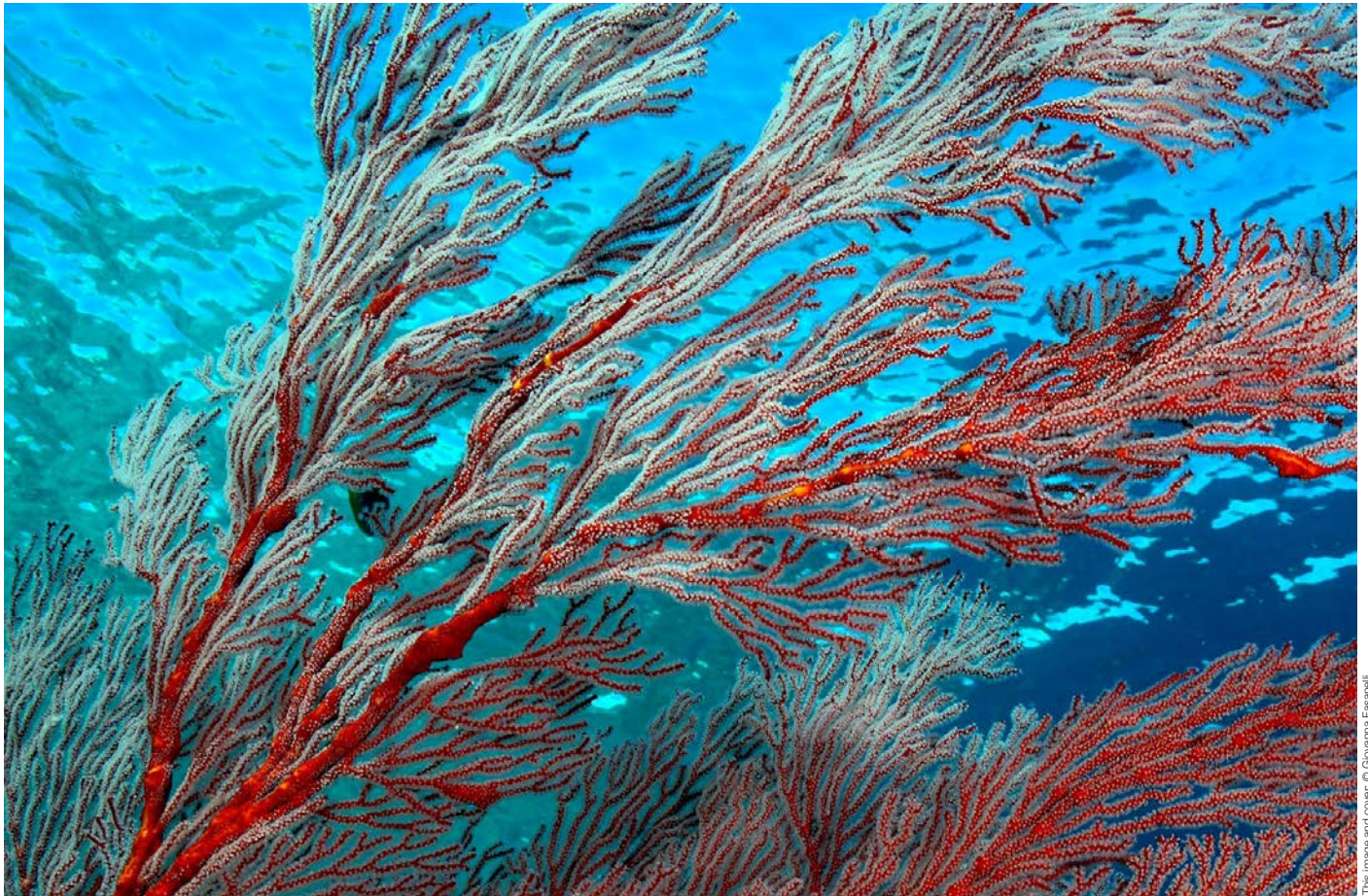
APEX
EXPEDITIONS



Raja Ampat

January 23 – February 8, 2016





This image and cover: © Giovanna Fasaneli

Expedition Overview

To visit the Indonesian islands is an extraordinary experience, both above and below water. For snorkelers and divers, Indonesia's northeast seas are considered to hold the richest variety of marine species on the planet. Join us as we explore the deep, warm waters of Indonesia's Bunaken and Raja Ampat Marine Parks, where the Pacific meets the Indian Ocean. Feast your eyes on many of the 1,600 species of reef fish and over 600 species of hard coral on offer here. Trek the jungle-cloaked islands, home to rare orchids, birds of paradise, and one of the world's smallest primates, the tarsier. From charming local resorts and an award-winning yacht, this itinerary offers a stunning combination of Indonesia's natural treasures.



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Photos: (Cover) Lyretail Anthias, Gorgonian, Fimbriated Moray





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Itinerary

Saturday, January 23: Manado, North Sulawesi, Indonesia

Arrive in Manado and transfer to the serene beachfront *Tasik Ria Resort* for a welcome dinner. The evening is yours to explore the property and relax.

Sunday, January 24: Manado

Among the first of Indonesia's marine parks, Bunaken National Park is a biodiversity hotspot, even within the "Coral Triangle". It covers over 300 square miles in the deep, warm waters of the Sulawesi Sea and is a diving mecca, known for its pristine coral reefs, and steep drop-offs packed with life—schooling fish, gliding sharks, Napoleon Wrasse, Bumphead Parrotfish, nudibranchs and crustaceans galore. Over the next two days, dive at four of the best "walls" within the reserve. There will be plenty to marvel over for divers and snorkelers alike. Dinner and overnight at *Tasik Ria Resort*.

Monday, January 25: Manado

Today, continue exploring the underwater majesty of Bunaken, OR take a full-day excursion to Tangkoko National Park, covering 33 square miles of terrain ranging from beach to the cloud forests of 4,400-foot Mount Dua Saudara. Tangkoko protects over 100 species of mammal and almost 250 bird species, over 100 of which are endemic to Sulawesi. Here, hike forest trails in search of troops of Crested Black Macaques and the Spectral Tarsier, one of the world's smallest primates (measuring under 5 inches). Birders may spot the spectacular Knobbed Hornbill, Lilac-cheeked and Green-backed kingfishers, Yellow-billed Malkoha, and Grosbeak Starling. Dinner and overnight at *Tasik Ria Resort*.

Tuesday, January 26: Manado / Sorong / Kri Island, Raja Ampat

This morning, bid farewell to Manado and fly to Sorong, one of the busiest harbor towns in West Papua and the gateway to the exquisite Raja Ampat, or Four Kings,



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© Jonathan Rossouw

Photos: Pygmy Seahorse,
Nudibranch, Spectral Tarsiers



named for the four main islands of the extensive West Papuan archipelago. A boat ride across the Dampier Strait will take you to Kri Island, a perfect home base from which to explore the archipelago's most stunning northern sites. The global bull's eye of marine diversity—it is quite possibly the richest coral reef ecosystem on Earth—Raja Ampat offers the underwater naturalist a cornucopia of marine wonders, the likes of which you won't see elsewhere. This afternoon, celebrate your arrival with a snorkel off the legendary Kri 'House Reef,' where you can quite easily see Green Turtles, Bluespotted Stingrays, Blacktip Reef Sharks, and possibly the endemic Raja Ampat Epaulette, or Walking, Sharks. Dinner and overnight at *Sorido Bay Resort*.

Wednesday – Friday, January 27 – 29: Kri Island

Three full days are the bare minimum to explore the 30-plus outstanding dive sites located in close proximity to the resort. Snorkel or dive among coral gardens, walls, and mangroves between Gam & Kri Islands, including the famous Cape Kri, home to one of the largest concentrations of fish in the archipelago's northern region. Sites such as Blue Magic, Sardines & Mios Kon are home to a staggering array of marine creatures, from Manta Rays to schools of barracuda and sweetlips, cryptic Leaf Scorpionfish, and pygmy seahorses. Dinners and overnights at *Sorido Bay Resort*.

Saturday – Sunday, January 30 – February 7: *Indo Siren*, Raja Ampat

To allow for more thorough exploration of Raja Ampat, we leave dry land today and embark the 120-foot *Indo Siren*, which will be our mobile base for the next 9 days.

We may begin with further coverage of Waigeo, largest of the "Four Kings", before looping south through the cryptic-critter-rich sites surrounding Batanta Island and the soft coral-rich lagoons and walls of the Misool group. Depending on conditions, we may cover such famous sites as Melissa's Gardens, where there's a good chance of seeing the strange and impressive Tasseled Wobbegong Shark; Manta Sandy, where Manta Rays come by the droves to be cleaned; The Passage, an incredible saltwater river that separates Gam from the larger Waigeo; and a plethora of sites scattered through the western and southern portions of the archipelago. In addition to boasting a truly astounding assortment of creatures, these sites also showcase some of the islands' most spectacular underwater topography, notably at sites like Boo Windows and The Candy Store.

On any given day, we will offer four dives or snorkels. We will mix up our dive and snorkel sites in order to cover the full array of marine ecosystems on offer and maximize the number of marine creatures we encounter. With concerted effort from divers and snorkelers alike, our aim is to find in excess of 400 species of fish and, who knows, possibly even break the magical figure of 500 species of fish!

Monday, February 8: Sorong / Disembark *Indo Siren*

Disembark the *Indo Siren* this morning in Sorong and transfer to the airport for your international flights home.



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© Gerald Rambert



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Photos: Dottyback, Manta Ray, *Indo Siren*, Exploring Raja Ampat



Your Expedition Leaders

Jonathan Rossouw

Jonathan Rossouw is one of the world's most experienced expedition leaders, having guided wildlife trips in over 150 countries on all seven continents. He combines a legendary energy and enthusiasm with a broad knowledge of all aspects of natural history, gained from three decades spent in the pursuit of the world's mammals, birds, reptiles and coral reef fishes. Indeed, having seen over 8,000 species of birds, 800 mammals and 2,000 coral reef fishes, he will likely experience more species of vertebrate animals than anyone in history!

A medical doctor by training, Jonathan was born and raised on South Africa's east coast and spent his family vacations in the games reserves of Zululand. It was here that the foundation was laid for a lifelong passion for wildlife and wild places and, in 1996, a "short break" to cycle across South America from Buenos Aires to Cusco led to two years spent guiding at eco-lodges in the Amazon and doing bird surveys in the Andes. He returned to Africa to start a birding travel company, before joining Peter Harrison and Shirley Metz, to assist in expanding their global portfolio of natural history destinations. An accomplished photographer, Jonathan's images have appeared in many books and magazines, and he has co-authored birding site guides to Uganda, Southern Africa and Madagascar.



Giovanna Fasanelli

A life-long love affair with the sea propelled Giovanna into the world of marine biology, conservation, underwater photography and natural history documentaries. From an early childhood exploring the rock pools of South Africa's shorelines she immigrated to Australia and wasted no time in getting her PADI Dive Master certification. She has since logged over 1,000 dives throughout the Indian and Pacific Oceans.

Whilst completing her marine biology degree at Australia's James Cook University, Giovanna worked at an underwater film company, gaining experience tagging Tiger Sharks and Green Turtles in the Coral Sea and assisting with film production. This opportunity spawned a decade-long career in television, presenting the latest developments in aquaculture and fisheries science. In 2013 Giovanna worked with National Geographic Channel in co-presenting a documentary series, *Australia: Life on the Edge*, as the marine biologist and submarine pilot showcasing stories from around the continent's shores.

Giovanna's passion for wilderness and animals has driven her to explore habitats around the world from Snow Leopards in the Himalayas to Komodo Dragons in Indonesia and Mountain Gorillas in Uganda. Fast approaching 100 countries visited, Giovanna has extensive experience as a guide and naturalist all over the world. A talented photographer and skilled writer, Giovanna's work is regularly featured in several Australian magazines. Her deep love and concern for the environment has led her to be an advocate for conservation.



"When it comes to expedition travel, in particular, one needs to be led by a knowledgeable, enthusiastic, entertaining and confidence-inspiring professional. We have yet to meet anyone quite like Jonathan who so completely ticks all these boxes!"

– Pat G., Durban



Expedition Details

Raja Ampat January 23 – February 8, 2016

\$13,970 Per Person Rate

Please Inquire Solo Rate

17 Days Trip Length

14 Guests Group Size

Manado / Sorong Start/End

Included

Apex Expeditions' rates include all accommodations; all meals, activities and excursions as described in the itinerary; air Manado to Sorong, as noted in the itinerary; services of two Apex Expeditions leaders and local guides throughout the itinerary; local beer & wines at lunch & dinner; all gratuities; airport transfers; permits and entrance fees; all taxes.

Not Included

Costs not included in the price of your Apex expedition include travel to and from the start and end point of trip; premium brand drinks and liquor; travel insurance (Trip Cancellation and Interruption, as well as Emergency Medical and Evacuation insurance, are highly recommended); airport departure taxes; equipment rental; excess baggage fees; passport and/or visa fees; items of a personal nature (phone calls, laundry, souvenirs, etc.); and independent travel arrangements pre- or post-trip.

Payments & Terms

20% of the trip cost will confirm your place on the expedition. The final balance is due 150 days prior to departure. All prices are quoted in U.S. dollars and must be paid in U.S. dollars. Per person pricing is based on double occupancy. The Solo Rate is paid by participants who specifically request single accommodations and is subject to availability. If you are traveling alone and wish to share accommodations, we will try to match you with a roommate of the same gender. However, if a roommate is not available, the published Solo Rate will be charged. Upon confirming your reservation you will be required to pay the published Solo Rate, if we are able to pair you with a roommate, the difference will be refunded at the time that the final trip payment is due for all participants. Note that solo accommodations are limited and cannot always be guaranteed throughout. For our full set of Terms & Conditions, please visit our web site at www.apex-expeditions.com.

One-of-a-kind adventures to the world's most fascinating places. Join us.



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Reservation Form

Raja Ampat January 23 – February 8, 2016

Person 1: (Primary Contact)

Passport Name: _____

Preferred Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Email Address: _____

Mailing Details:

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

ZIP Code: _____

Country: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Double

Solo

Person 2: (If applicable and at same address, otherwise please submit a second Reservation Form.)

Passport Name: _____

Preferred Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Email Address: _____

Deposit Information:

My deposit check is enclosed (20% of total tour fare)

Charge my deposit to my: VISA MasterCard American Express

Card #: _____

Expires: _____

CCV Code: _____

Name on Card: _____

Signature: _____

**Please return this completed form to Apex Expeditions.
E-mail: info@apex-expeditions.com or Mail: 3275 36th Ave SW, Seattle, WA 98126**

