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LIVING TREASURES OF RAJA AMPAT & THE SPICE ISLANDS CRUISE

Welcome to Aurora Expeditions' Living Treasures of Raja Ampat & the Spice Islands voyage. Embark on an expedition through the heart of West Papua and the Moluccas, a region of unparalleled natural beauty and rich cultural heritage. Explore remote islands, encounter diverse marine life, and learn about local traditions. Uncover the hidden gems of Indonesia, including the iconic Wayag Island, and the underwater wonderland of Misool and colonial history of the Spice Islands. Immerse yourself in crystal-clear waters with world-class diving and snorkeling, and experience the heart of Indonesia through its people, exploring traditional villages and bustling markets. This expedition offers a perfect blend of adventure, relaxation and cultural immersion, providing an unforgettable experience for those seeking to explore the hidden gems of East Indonesia's most remote and exotic destinations.



ITINERARY

Day 1 Arrive in Denpasar

Having made your way to Denpasar, you will be met by a representative of Aurora Expeditions and transferred to our group hotel. Upon arrival at your included hotel, please visit the welcome desk where you can collect your luggage cabin tags and speak with our ground operations team, who may have information to share with you about pre-embarkation or to provide you with information about where to dine, withdraw cash or purchase last minute items from a local pharmacy or supermarket.



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The remainder of your time is at leisure. All meals today are at your own expense.

Accommodation: Bali Hotel (to be confirmed)

Day 2 Fly to Sorong, embarkation

This morning, please ensure your cabin luggage is fitted with cabin tags clearly labelled with your name and cabin number. Any valuables or personal items should be kept on you throughout the day. After breakfast at the hotel, we board a morning charter flight to Sorong, where our vessel the Greg Mortimer awaits.

Transfer to the port for embarkation. You will have time to settle into your cabin before our important briefings begin. Enjoy the thrill of departure as we 'throw the lines' and set sail for Raja Ampat. Meet your Expedition Team and crew at the Captain's Welcome Dinner.

Days 3-6 Raja Ampat, the epicentre of the Coral Triangle

Located in the 'Coral Triangle,' Raja Ampat archipelago has been described as a marine 'species factory,' and a Mission Blue Hope Spot. Believed to contain the most biodiverse marine habitat on the planet, the waters surrounding Raja Ampat are home to 600 species of hard coral and 1,500 types of fish - more than anywhere else in the world - which makes for exceptional diving and snorkelling experience. We plan to spend four days exploring the coral reefs and shoals, limestone formations and rainforests of this hidden gem. Some of the islands we plan to explore include Wayag, Waigeo, Wofoh Island and Misool Marine Reserve, another Mission Blue Hope Spot.

Waigeo, the largest island in the Raja Ampat archipelago, is a birder's dream. Its rugged coastline, framed by towering cliffs, gives way to a vast, largely unexplored interior. This dense jungle is home to an incredible array of wildlife, including the iconic Wilson's Bird-of-Paradise and the Red Bird-of-Paradise. Opossums, snakes, tortoises, and monitor lizards also thrive in this pristine environment. Our early morning birding expedition takes us through diverse habitats, from regenerating to primary forest. This rich ecosystem supports a thriving bird population, with a chance to spot a variety of species, including hornbills, parrots, and pigeons as they emerge from their roosts. We'll be on the lookout for elusive nocturnal creatures like the Papuan Boobook owl, Frogmouth, and Large-tailed Nightjar.

Wayag Island is a quintessential postcard image of paradise. Its iconic mushroom-shaped limestone formations, rising dramatically from emerald waters, are a photographer's dream. This World Heritage-listed island offers a multitude of activities for every adventurer. Explore the stunning Wayag Lagoon by Zodiac, surrounded by lush vegetation and exotic birdlife. Discover hidden white-sand beaches and the labyrinth of limestone karst islands, adorned with vibrant orchids and pitcher plants. For the adventurous, the challenging climb to the summit of Mount Pindito is rewarded with breathtaking panoramic views. Snorkelers and divers will be captivated by the underwater world, teeming with colourful fish and pristine coral reefs. Kayakers can paddle through the enchanting lagoon, surrounded by the island's breathtaking beauty.

Straddling the equator, Wofoh Island is a jewel in the heart of Raja Ampat. Two idyllic islands connected by a vibrant coral reef

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create a stunning natural haven. Lush vegetation, pristine beaches, and a thriving underwater world make this a tropical paradise. Immerse yourself in the crystal-clear waters, teeming with colourful marine life and surrounded by breathtaking scenery. Explore the island's pristine beaches, surrounded by dense coastal forests. Discover hidden coves and lagoons, perfect for snorkelling, diving, or simply relaxing.

Misool, a pristine corner of Raja Ampat, is renowned for its breathtaking natural beauty and extraordinary marine biodiversity. Established in 2005, the Misool Marine Reserve safeguards a vast 300,000-acre expanse, protecting it from destructive fishing practices. This pioneering conservation effort has yielded remarkable results. A scientific study between 2007 and 2013 revealed a staggering 250% increase in fish biomass within the reserve, with some areas experiencing a phenomenal 600% recovery. This extraordinary transformation underscores the power of effective marine conservation.

Beyond its ecological significance, Misool offers unparalleled opportunities for exploration and adventure. Relax in the crystal-clear waters, teeming with vibrant coral reefs and diverse marine life. Hike to the summit of Dafalen Peak for breathtaking panoramic views or discover the island's rich cultural heritage through ancient rock art sites.

Days 7-10 The Moluccas - the Spice Islands

The Moluccas, or Spice Islands, are an archipelago of breathtaking beauty and rich history. Nestled in eastern Indonesia, these islands have captivated explorers and traders for centuries. Renowned for their production of precious spices like nutmeg and cloves, they once ignited a fierce competition

among European powers. Beyond their historical significance, the Moluccas offer a diverse landscape of volcanic peaks, pristine beaches, and lush rainforests. From the bustling city of Banda Neira to the secluded islands of Banda Sea, this archipelago promises an unforgettable adventure for those seeking natural wonders, cultural immersion, and a taste of the exotic.

We plan to visit Seram, the largest island in the Maluku province. Revered by locals as 'Nusa Ina', or Mother Island, it is believed to be the ancestral home of Central Maluku's people. Nestled at the foot of towering limestone cliffs on Seram's northern coast is the ancient village of Sawai. Said to predate the arrival of European explorers, Sawai is one of the region's oldest settlements. Perched on stilts above the clear tropical waters of the Ceram Sea, the village offers a unique glimpse into a bygone era.

In Buru Island, your adventure begins with a Zodiac ride to Tomahu Island, where a warm cultural welcome awaits. Explore the nearby Pasir Putih village, engaging in the local way of life. Later, discover the underwater wonderland of Fogi Island. Snorkellers and divers can marvel at the vibrant coral reefs teeming with marine life, including turtles, seahorses, and a dazzling array of fish. Kayakers can paddle through picturesque waterways, surrounded by lush mangroves. For those seeking relaxation, unwind on the pristine beaches, soak up the sun, and explore the island's natural beauty. After lunch, embark on another adventure, whether it's beach time, snorkelling, or exploring a different island.

For over four centuries, Banda Neira held a coveted position as

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the global epicentre of the nutmeg trade. This small island, once the focus of intense colonial rivalry, offers a captivating glimpse into a bygone era. Join a guided walking tour to uncover the island's rich history. Explore the ruins of Dutch and Portuguese forts, silent sentinels of a time when empires clashed over this precious spice. Stand in the footsteps of Christopher Cole, the British captain who liberated the Bandanese from the oppressive Dutch regime. Beyond its historical significance, Banda Neira boasts a unique charm. Wander through its quaint streets, lined with colonial-era buildings, and experience the warm hospitality of its people. Soak up in the island's vibrant culture and relax on pristine beaches. Banda Neira is more than just a historical site; it's a journey back in time and a chance to experience the heart of Indonesia's spice trade heritage.

Day 11 Boo Islands

Tucked away in the far reaches of Raja Ampat, the Boo Islands are a secluded archipelago offering an unparalleled underwater adventure. These pristine islands, shielded from the crowds, promise a truly immersive experience for the intrepid expeditioner. Beneath the crystal-clear waters surrounding the smaller Boo Island lies a hidden lagoon, a secluded aquatic oasis teeming with exotic marine life. This untouched ecosystem is a diver's dream, boasting a gentle slope that descends into a vibrant underwater world. Here, the delicate balance of nature is on full display, as a complex food chain unfolds before your eyes. From apex predators like sharks and groupers to the colourful Napoleon wrasse, the Boo Islands offer a front-row seat to the ocean's intricate web of life. Renowned for their exceptional marine biodiversity, the Boo Islands are a testament to the raw beauty of Raja Ampat. As you explore these underwater wonders, you'll encounter a kaleidoscope of corals, fish species, and other aquatic creatures.

Day 12 Aljui Bay & Penemu Island, Raja Ampat

Aljuy Island, a secluded bay on Waigeo, offers a unique blend of stunning scenery and exceptional marine life. This sheltered haven is renowned for its vibrant coral gardens, teeming with a diverse array of underwater creatures. Spend your morning exploring the bay's pristine beaches and snorkelling in crystal-clear waters. Discover a thriving underwater ecosystem, home to an abundance of colourful fish, intricate coral formations, and fascinating marine life. For the adventurous, a leisurely cruise up the channel offers opportunities for birdwatching and exploring the bay's hidden coves. In the afternoon, venture to the iconic Piaynemo Peak, part of the Fam Islands. Hike to the summit for breathtaking panoramic views of the surrounding islands and lagoons. Afterward, snorkel or kayak in the crystal-clear waters, surrounded by lush limestone formations. Aljuy and Piaynemo offer an unforgettable experience for nature lovers and adventure seekers alike.

Day 13 Disembark in Sorong

During the early morning, we cruise back into Sorong. Farewell your Expedition Team upon disembarkation and transfer to the airport for our charter flight back to Denpasar, Bali.

Note: the arrival time in Bali is contingent on the approved allocated slot for our charter flight to and from Sorong, which we expect to receive in February 2026.

Please note:

Itineraries are subject to change.

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YOUR SHIP: GREG MORTIMER

YOUR SHIP:

Greg Mortimer

VESSEL TYPE:

LENGTH:

PASSENGER CAPACITY:

BUILT/REFURBISHED:

Capable of negotiating the strongest winds and waves, the Greg Mortimer is built to world-class polar standards - designed in close consultation with our expedition specialists, taking advantage of our more than 25 years of experience. The Greg Mortimer redefines expedition cruising for the future, with just 132 passengers on board in the polar regions. Not only is the ship bigger to contend with adverse weather conditions, its added creature comforts make for a more enjoyable journey out on the open ocean. The Greg Mortimer remains true to our ethos and focus on multiple landings, flexible itineraries and family atmosphere - just with an improved home base! As a modern and custom-designed ship, the Greg Mortimer is at the cutting edge of nautical technology. Robust, powerful and built with our guests in mind, this ship marks a significant investment in our fleet's capabilities. From the European Arctic to the depths of Antarctica, and other far-flung destinations in-between, the Greg Mortimer will make your journey a breeze! Greg Mortimer X-BOW™ Our expeditions face some of the worst Mother Nature can throw at us. However, this won't be problem on the Greg Mortimer with the introduction of the patented X-BOW™, created by Norwegian ship designer ULSTEIN. As one of the

leaders in marine engineering, ULSTEIN's X-BOW™ is an inverted bow concept that's been built on over 100 vessels in the shipping industry. Excitingly, we are the first expedition cruise operator to utilise this technology for the challenging open ocean waves! Hydraulic viewing platforms Although there is no doubt that you'll love the aesthetics of the Greg Mortimer, we are all here to admire the spectacular landscape and spot the elusive wildlife in their natural habitat. To ensure you get the best views possible, the new ship features unique viewing platforms, custom-built for the Greg Mortimer. Accessed from Deck 5, the two platforms fold out hydraulically for unobstructed views of passing marine life and seabirds - make sure your camera is locked and loaded! Zodiac launching platform Zodiacs are a vital part of getting up close and personal on your adventure - sneaking into areas that the Greg Mortimer can't reach. On this new ship, there are specially designed launching platforms that enables us to load Zodiacs easily and quickly, allowing you to spend more time exploring on the two to three daily landings. There are 15 Zodiacs that are boarded from either side of Deck 3 (sea level), perfect for when there is a group of fluffy cute penguin chicks that we need a photo of! Activity Platform Regardless of your destination, we offer a number of additional activities to allow you to see more of the environment. From kayaking and diving to climbing and ski touring, it's these optional activities that often leave the biggest impression on your trip as a whole. Onboard the Greg Mortimer, there is a spacious prep and loading platform for these activities and more - designed in consultation with our expert activity guides. Environmentally friendly Climate change and carbon

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emissions continue to be major issues that everyone needs to be aware of and actively managing. This includes reduced emissions into the air and sea, lower energy consumption, high fuel efficiency, reduced light pollution for minimal wildlife disruption and lower on-board plastic use. It's vital to also mention the state-of-the-art virtual anchoring technology of the X-BOW™, which means the ship can float anchorless while launching Zodiacs, kayaks etc, without disturbing delicate sea floor areas. Safety features This starts with the return-to-port equipment - not compulsory on a ship of this size - which duplicates the propulsion system. This enables the ship to maintain operating systems and comfort in the event of engine failure. Furthermore, the Greg Mortimer is Polar Code 6 compliant, holds BV class and is fully compliant with the latest SOLAS requirements. It's also built with a Rolls Royce stabiliser system. If there's an incident or accident during your adventure, the ship has an on-board, fully-stocked medical centre - where our trained medical team can provide necessary treatment in a timely fashion. Safety continues to be an issue that our team takes very serious and the Greg Mortimer allows us to create an environment where you can concentrate on the brilliant landscape and wildlife, without worrying about your wellbeing. Ship Life Greg Mortimer is designed to serve your every need. It's your bedroom, bathroom, lounge, dining room and even your observatory. Make yourself at home, the Greg Mortimer is yours to enjoy! Observation Points Let's face it - you don't want windowless rooms when travelling around some of the most beautiful locations around the world. This is why the Greg Mortimer is designed with plenty of dedicated observation spaces - ideal for keen bird spotters, wildlife watchers and those wanting to watch the scenery go past. From the indoor 180-degree lounge and outdoor 360-degree open deck, both

on deck 8, to the 270-degree open sundeck on level 7, there are plenty of observation points to share around the ship! If these are full, then you can take up a spot on one of the two hydraulic viewing platforms on deck 5. Aurora Expeditions also has an open bridge policy, which means at any point you can come up to the bridge and check out what the captain and officers are up to. From watching navigational practices to observing mapping techniques, you can get a firsthand look at the inner workings of the Greg Mortimer. Shore excursions Although the ship is fun, the real enjoyment comes from the many shore excursions that are available. Depending on the weather and itinerary, it's possible to take two to three landings daily, taking a look at everything from rock formations and ancient ruins to cute groups of penguins. We know time is of the essence in these wild locations, so the Greg Mortimer has been designed with 15 Zodiacs, which means you can maximise your time on shore. From four dedicated sea level launching platforms, transfers are quicker, safer and enable you to get closer to the action for a longer period of time. Just remember to charge your camera before you step onto the Zodiac! Activity options From kayaking and skiing to diving and climbing, these are one-in-a-lifetime opportunities that you need to take advantage of. Aboard the Greg Mortimer there is a specially designed launching platform for all activities, a concept overseen by our activity experts. This area also includes individual lockers in the expansive mudroom and rapid drying areas for wetsuits so you can quickly get warm after exploring in the elements! Dining From the moment you step onto the Greg Mortimer, we aim to give you the best hospitality service possible. Starting with the official Captain's welcome, as our guests, you're welcome to 24 hours complimentary coffee, tea and snack facilities in addition to the range of different menu

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options and courses for each meal. Meals are served in large dining room/restaurant with family style dining, perfect to swap stories with your new expedition family. Enjoy the range of house wine, beers and soft drinks included with dinner after a long day in the wild, preparing yourself for another exciting day to follow. On the last day of your trip, the team on the Greg Mortimer put on a special farewell four-course dinner and cocktails - a perfect way to reflect on your time on the ship and consolidate lifelong friendships with the people you've met on-board. On-board entertainment When you're relaxing during a sea day or you have a little downtime on the ship between excursions, what is there to do onboard the Greg Mortimer? Plenty! On all our expeditions, there are experts who lead presentations in the spacious lecture room so you can understand the region a little better. These often include topics as broad as history and culture to biology and climate change, these presentations aim to educate and entertain. If you're keen to just watch the surroundings and keep your eyes peeled for wildlife, you have access to two bars/lounges where the stunning floor to ceiling windows offer a special perspective on the landscape. The Greg Mortimer is also decked out with other facilities for your enjoyment. There is a library on Deck 5 with books and maps and a Wellness Centre complete with gym equipment, sauna and spa. Feeling a little sore after walking around all day? Treat yourself to a massage at the Wellness Centre and feels the aches disappear! Keen photographers and artists will revel in the multimedia room

on Deck 5.

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INSIDE YOUR SHIP

Aurora Stateroom Triple	Balcony Stateroom - A
Balcony Stateroom - B	Balcony Stateroom - C
Balcony Stateroom Superior	Captain's Suite
Junior Suite	



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PRICING

13-Oct-2026 to 25-Oct-2026

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Balcony Stateroom - C	£12545 GBP pp
Balcony Stateroom - B	£13209 GBP pp
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