

The Small Cruise Ship Collection

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RAJA AMPAT AND PHILIPPINES CRUISE: THE LAST PARADISE ON EARTH

Embark on a rare and enriching small-ship expedition cruise with Swan Hellenic, sailing from the remote reef-fringed islands of Raja Ampat to the southern Philippines, ending in the vibrant capital of Manila. This unique journey uncovers the cultural and ecological treasures of Southeast Asia, offering a fresh outlook on one of the world's most biodiverse and captivating regions. Created for adventurous spirits and sea lovers, this voyage combines quiet luxury and exploration across a diverse tapestry of islands, reefs, and coastal villages. Sail through a stunning mosaic of tropical scenery -- from the surreal limestone karsts of Misool to the pristine atolls of Ayu and the coral sanctuaries of the Philippine archipelago. Find secluded white-sand beaches perfect for snorkeling and swimming, explore warm waters where gentle whale sharks swim, and immerse yourself in lively island cultures shaped by centuries of seafaring tradition. Along the way, enjoy expert-led excursions that unveil the region's hidden gems and connect you with its natural rhythm. With May marking the end of the dry season, this is the perfect time to experience Southeast Asia's vibrant beauty -- lush, humid, and bursting with color and life. Whether you're drawn by stunning scenery, rare marine encounters, or authentic cultural experiences, Swan Hellenic's expedition from Raja Ampat to the Philippines offers a truly unforgettable cruise. Discover the wild spirit of the tropics with the comfort, elegance, and curiosity-driven approach that define every Swan Hellenic voyage.



ITINERARY

Days 0 - 1 Pre Cruise and Sorong, Papua

The bustling port city of Sorong in West Papua is known as the gateway to the crystalline waters of Raja Ampat, the world's most biodiverse marine habitat, home to over 1,500 species of fish and 75 percent of the world's known coral species. In town,

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the Buddhist pagoda of Sapta Ratna stands tall on a hilltop overlooking the harbour. Local fishing boats come in with their catch at the bustling Pasar Jembutan Puri fish market.

Day 2 Pulau Misool, Balbulal Lagoon, Raja Ampat

With roughly 1,000 coral and over 1,200 reef fish species, the crystalline waters around jungle-woven Raja Ampat, Indonesia's easternmost islands, comprise the most biodiverse marine habitat unparalleled on the planet. Meaning 'four kings,' Raja Ampat refers to Waigeo, Salawati, Batanta and Misool, yet spreads across 1,000 atolls and islets. Originally joined to Australia, Raja Ampat is home to tree-dwelling marsupials and 500 bird species.

Day 2 Pulau Misool, Yapap, Raja Ampat

Pulau Misool, a remote island in Raja Ampat, showcases wild beauty with white-sand beaches and lush hills. A highlight is Yapap, a secluded lagoon surrounded by towering limestone karsts. Known for its glassy turquoise waters and white-sand seabed, it's ideal for snorkeling, swimming, and photography. Its serene atmosphere makes it a peaceful escape from more crowded spots.

Day 3 Wayag Island, Raja Ampat

One of Raja Ampat's most remote islands, Wayag offers spectacular limestone karst formations surrounded by sapphire sea. Steps lead up to the panoramic Wayag Viewpoint overlooking the bullet-shaped stacks erupting from the ocean. Wayag's unusual landscape exists both above and below the surface with deserted white-sand beaches and underwater gardens packed with soft corals, darting tropical fish and black-tipped reef sharks.

Day 4 Ayu Atoll, Raja Ampat, Papua

Pulau Ayu, the main island in the Ayu Atoll, is a remote jewel of Raja Ampat. Fringed by ivory beaches and lush rainforest, and surrounded by vibrant coral reefs, it's a sanctuary for nesting leatherback turtles. Beneath its clear waters, tropical marine life flourishes, while the villages of Ayu and Imbik Kuan welcome visitors with warm Papuan hospitality. Once a WWII outpost, its isolation made it a key strategic base for Japanese forces.

Day 5 Day at sea

Sea days are rarely dull. Take the time to sit back and let the world go by. The ship's observation decks provide stunning views of the passing ocean. A day at sea gives you the opportunity to mingle with other passengers and share your experiences of this incredible trip or head to our library which is stocked full of reference books. Get an expert's view in one of our on-board lectures or perhaps perfect your photography skills with invaluable advice from our onboard professional photographers.

Day 6 Pulau Miangas

Remote Miangas, Indonesia's northernmost island, is known for its white sandy beaches and rich coral reefs, making fishing a way of life for locals. Its remote location keeps marine ecosystems largely untouched. Lush with coconut, nutmeg, and clove trees, the island blends wild and cultivated greenery. Home to over 700 people, Miangas offers a unique mix of Indonesian and Filipino culture and a glimpse into resilient island life.

Day 7 Daku Island

Daku Island, just off Siargao's General Luna in the Visayas, offers a peaceful, largely untouched escape. At low tide, a

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sandbar emerges, revealing a striking contrast of white sand and clear water. Home to a handful of families, the island features crystal-clear waters ideal for swimming, snorkelling and surfing. Beach huts and local eateries offer laid-back spots to unwind with fresh, island-style meals.

Day 8 Bohol Island, Loay

Having sailed across the Bohol Sea, you'll arrive today at tiny Balicasag Island, which is located about six kilometres southwest of Panglao. Circled by a reef that has been declared a marine sanctuary, it's one of the most popular diving spots in the Philippines. The sea here drops away to impressively deep submarine cliffs. Soft and hard corals can be found around the drop-offs, as well as sublime multicoloured shoals. Afterwards, head to the city of Tagbilaran, a gateway to Bohol's jungly interior. Home of (arguably) the world's cutest animal, tarsiers - nocturnal primates less than 16 centimetres high that have distinctive bulbous eyes - live in Bohol and can be seen at its conservation centre and sanctuary. Bohol is also famous for its Chocolate Hills, a quirk of geology that must be seen.

Day 9 Camotes Islands

The Camotes Sea's tranquil archipelago includes three main islands - Pacijan, Poro and Ponson - and tiny Tulang islet. Pacijan and Poro are linked by a causeway, making key sites easily accessible. Highlights include Pacijan's Lake Danao, the largest freshwater lake in the Visayas, as well as Timubo and Bukilat caves with crystal-clear pools. On Poro, Santiago Beach offers powdery white sand and calm, inviting waters.

Day 10 Cuatro Islas

Tucked away in Western Leyte, the Cuatro Islas are a serene tropical escape, offering a distinct charm on each of the four

islands. Apid, the most populated, offers a cultural touch with its fishing community and traditional mat weaving. Digyo is the smallest, known for its stunning sandbars and quiet beauty. Mahaba features a long beach, marine sanctuary, and sea turtles, while Himokilan enchants with a curving sandbar and a hidden tidal pool.

Day 11 Marinduque Island, Boac

Boac, the historic gateway to Marinduque, charms with colonial-era houses, cobbled streets and the hilltop cathedral overlooking the coast. On the island's eastern side, Santa Cruz pulses with tradition - lively markets, the melodic Tubong ritual, and the centuries-old church at its heart. Across the island, cacao farms and the age-old Lukad method of coconut oil extraction reflect Marinduque's deep-rooted culture and island spirit.

Day 12 Manila

Arrive in Manila today. The capital of the Philippines is a teeming, sprawling metropolis. Its flaws are no match for its creative, exciting energy, which infused everything from its art to food. There's so much to see and do here: the city's museums, Fort Santiago, San Agustin Church and the Chinese Cemetery are some of the highlights. Intramuros - the old Spanish walled town at the heart of the city - is unmissable. Explore if timings allow and be sure to sample some Filipino cuisine in all its bold sour, sweet and tangy glory. Alternatively, head straight to your home for the next several days. After a seamless check-in, settle into your cabin or stateroom and take time to explore your ship's luxurious facilities.

Please note:

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Itineraries are subject to change.



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YOUR SHIP: MINERVA

YOUR SHIP:

Minerva

VESSEL TYPE:

LENGTH:

PASSENGER CAPACITY:

BUILT/REFURBISHED:

The 5 star elegant Scandi-design boutique ship offers you an intimate setting from which you will be fully immersed in all the sights and scenery of your voyage. Introducing SH Minerva Minerva has been designed to journey to off the beaten path destinations and remote polar regions in style and comfort. The ship incorporates a PC5 ice-strengthened hull combined with extra-large stabilisers to make your journey as smooth as possible. Sophisticated Elegance We know how important outdoor space is, so our spacious, relaxing public spaces provide wide open, unobstructed views throughout the ship. The destination will always be in view. Your Wellbeing The safety & happiness of the guests is paramount to the 120-strong crew on board as well as the passionate expedition team who'll be serving up thrilling shore excursions and lasting memories. Cabin Types The 76 cabins including 6 suites have all the amenities you will need to feel comfortable including dressing gowns, hairdryers, personal safes and minibars. The stylish cabins all have desks, a dressing area and comfy seating. En suite bathrooms all feature glass-enclosed rain showers. Wheelchair access Guests who use wheelchairs must bring their own, as we have only a small number of wheelchairs stored

onboard for emergencies. To ensure ease of movement on the ship, wheelchairs and mobility aids must be no wider than 65cm. All mobility or medical equipment brought on board must be capable of being carried safely and must be declared before sailing. To ensure that all guests can safely evacuate during an emergency, guests requiring a wheelchair can only be accommodated in our ADA-accessible cabins. There is an Oceanview stateroom on Vega which is specifically designed to be completely ADA compliant and have a fully operable wheelchair-access wet unit. Vega has two lifts, serving every passenger deck apart from the Stargazing top deck, which is, therefore, more difficult to access, as are the Aft Marina and Swan's Nest forward observation platform. Also, we don't have special equipment to access the swimming pool, jacuzzi, or sauna. Otherwise, the ship is entirely at your disposal. Many of the expeditions ashore in remote places are by Zodiac. Boarding these boats and returning aboard can present challenges for wheelchair users, as can navigating uneven terrain. These challenges are by no means always insurmountable, though, and our highly experienced crew is trained to provide reliable advice and assistance. They will make every effort to ensure wheelchair-using guests enjoy a memorable experience at each destination. Our general guidance, however, is to recommend wheelchair users travel with a companion for their ease and enjoyment. If you prefer to remain aboard, our panoramic interiors and ample open decks ensure an immersive, intimate experience of your inspiring

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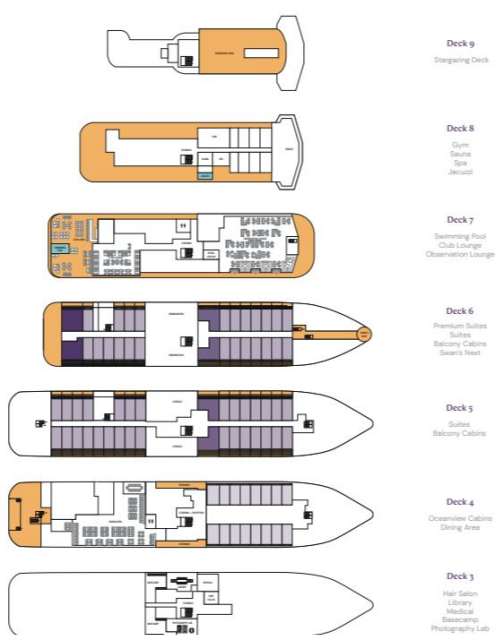
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INSIDE YOUR SHIP



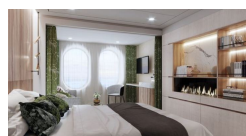
Balcony D5



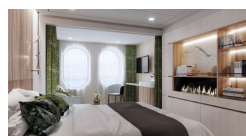
Balcony M5



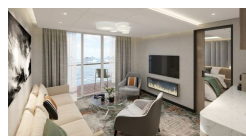
Oceanview D4



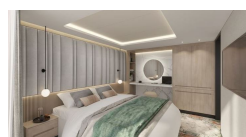
Oceanview M4



Premium Suite



Suite



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PRICING

27-Apr-2026 to 09-May-2026

Oceanview M4	£7795 GBP pp
Balcony D5	£7795 GBP pp
Balcony M5	£9285 GBP pp
Premium Suite	£14845 GBP pp
Suite	£12995 GBP pp
Oceanview D4	£7425 GBP pp