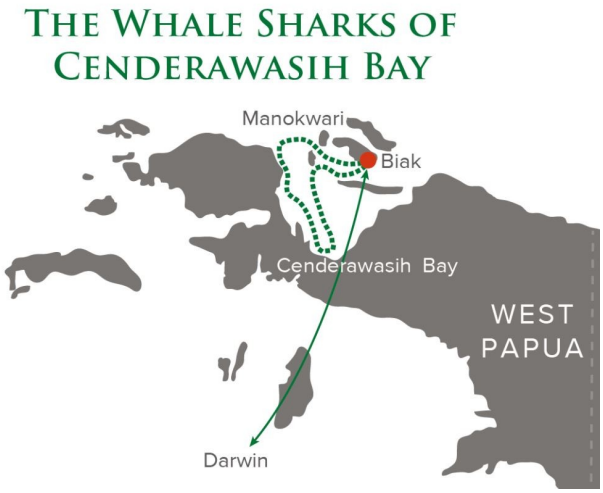


THE WHALE SHARKS OF CENDERAWASIH BAY - WEST PAPUA CRUISE

West Papua is the last frontier of the Indo-Pacific and deep in the heart of this flourishing equatorial wilderness is a biodiversity hotspot – Cenderawasih Bay. See the biggest fish in the world interacting with local fishermen and then snorkel with these gentle leviathans for hours enjoying countless breath-taking encounters.



ITINERARY

Day 1 Darwin

Your adventure begins amidst the tropical charm of Darwin. One of our crew members will escort you aboard our chartered aircraft for your short flight to Biak. Biak is also where we will welcome you aboard the magnificent TRUE NORTH. Enjoy a welcome aboard cocktail as we set sail on a journey through the very heart of the 'Coral Triangle' – the world's most bio-diverse marine region. West Papua's coastal areas encompass more than 275,000km2 of land and sea including the Cenderawasih Bay Marine Park – the largest marine park in Indonesia and, setting for one of the most unique animal encounters on the planet!

Day 2 Mapia Atoll



Mapia Atoll is a very remote and exquisite coral atoll seldom visited by tourists. Located north of the equator and lying basically in the middle of nowhere, the atoll presents classic opportunity to indulge in nature's tropical ocean splendour. Vertical walls rise several thousand feet from the ocean floor and come alive with brilliant soft corals, gorgonians, sponges, myriad of tropical fish and a dense population of green and hawksbill turtles. The area also has an enviable reputation for light game fishing! Snorkel, dive and fish to your hearts content!

Day 3 Pulau Num and Pulau Swande

Today we visit Pulau Num and Pulau Swande. These highly picturesque islands offer another day of spectacular snorkelling, diving, beach-combing and fishing. Take an adventure boat ride through the bays of Pulau Num where locals live in huts stilted over the water and soak-up the stunning tropical scenery at Palau Swande. After lunch our guides will give an informative presentation on what makes Cenderawasih Bay so biologically and culturally unique. At the end of the day stroll along your very own beach, indulge in a refreshing beverage and watch the sun set in paradise!

Day 4 The Auri Islands

The Auri Islands offer the most beautiful clear-water snorkelling and diving in Cenderawasih Bay, as well as some of the most beautiful (and uninhabited!) white sand beaches in West Papua. Revel in breathtaking snorkelling and diving on the sheer walls of Tridacna Atoll (named for the plethora of giant clams on the reef) and again at Wild Fish Reef. After lunch, we'll be treated to an informative presentation on what to expect when we encounter tomorrow's giants and then everyone will be given the opportunity to enjoy a mid-afternoon adventure boat ride through Auri's spectacular Karst islands. Later in the day, snorkel over a trio of American WWII fighter jets mysteriously sunk in formation in only a few metres of water. End the day with beach drinks on our very own pristine sand spit as the setting sun turns the Cenderawasih sky to fire.

Days 5 - 6 Cenderawasih Bay

The whale shark (Rhincodon typus) is the biggest fish in the sea! They feed predominately on plankton (although in Cenderawasih they've taken a liking to small baitfish!) and can grow to more than 12 metres in length. There are several places in the world where snorkelers can seek out a close encounter with these gentle giants – however we are pretty sure that nothing compares to a whale shark encounter in Cenderawasih Bay! Most encounters with whale sharks are fleeting – although they mostly swim slowly, mouths open and gulping buckets of microscopic plankton – they don't have any trouble cruising past even the most determined snorkeler. But not in Cenderawasih Bay – here whale sharks linger close to the surface for extended periods and the reason for this unusual behaviour is not difficult to appreciate – they have long become accustomed to taking advantage of small fish that spill from the nets of local fishermen. This 'learnt behaviour' provides even the most inexperienced snorkeler with a unique opportunity to truly interact with these mammoth fish. Join the crew for many 'once in a lifetime' experiences! Two days will also afford ample opportunity to explore further afield. The Cenderawasih Marine Park features over 15,000km2 of relatively undisturbed marine and coastal habitat and the extensive coral reefs rank amongst the finest in the world. Cenderawasih is renowned for its diversity of coral reef fish species. Over 1040 species inhabit the park including numerous species of colourful butterfly fish, angelfish, damselfish, parrotfish, rabbitfish and anemone fish.



Renowned Australian ichthyologist Dr. Gerald Allen has called Cenderawasih the "Galapagos of the East" in reference to the numerous endemic species of fish and coral and also because local evolution seems to be heading very much on its own trajectory! Species of mollusc are also particularly diverse and four species of turtle are often seen – the hawksbill turtle (Eretmochelys Imbricata), the green turtle (Chelonia mydas), the Pacific ridley turtle (Lepidochelys olivacea), and the leatherback turtle (Dermochelys corlacea). Dugong (Dugong dugon), coconut crab (Birgus latro), dolphin and various shark species are often frequently sighted inhabitants.

Day 7 Roon Island

Roon Island is known for its excellent and varied dive sites, beautiful shallow snorkelling reefs, friendly villagers and stunning aerial scenery. Begin the day with either an energising snorkel on the lovely reefs of the Numamuran Strait or a dive at the southern end of Roon – where a Zero fighter lies on a hard coral slope in just 12 metres of water and green turtle, barracuda and surgeonfish are known to swim alongside equally curious divers. After morning tea have another go at snorkelling or diving on the unique underwater geological formations. In the afternoon join a walk around the village at Yende and discover the local culture – the village church contains a bible that dates back to 1898! Then all too soon we'll steam east into the Auri Islands for one last reflective moment with your fellow-adventurers – celebrate an adventure-packed Cenderawasih sojourn with farewell sunset drinks on the beach!

Day 8 Darwin

Enjoy breakfast on-board before a private car transfer to Biak Airport and your chartered flight back to Darwin.

Please Note:

This itinerary is provided as example only – prevailing conditions, local arrangements and indeed, what we discover on the day, may cause variation.



YOUR SHIP: TRUE NORTH

YOUR SHIP: True North

VESSEL TYPE:

LENGTH:

PASSENGER CAPACITY:

BUILT/REFURBISHED:

The TRUE NORTH allows discerning adventurers to experience wilderness in surroundings more akin to one of the world's most exclusive hotels. Guests are able to take advantage of a number of lavish vantage points including a sundeck, a forward observation lounge, a ship's lounge and an alfresco bar. The ship's naturalist presents interpretative information on plasma screens and, an internet cafe enables convenient communication with the outside world. A popular venue on any North Star cruise, the lower deck dining room offers the ultimate in comfort and uninterrupted vista - large panoramic windows ensure that guests never miss any of the action, even when they are enjoying the 'finest in fine dining'. All cabins feature stylish decor, en-suite facilities, in-house entertainment and satellite telephones. The Explorer Class staterooms and the River Class cabins offer king size beds that can be converted to singles and the Ocean Class twins feature roomy single beds. Multiple expedition boats provide guests with greater opportunity to do "what they want, when they want" and, to add yet another dimension to adventure, most cruise options feature an onboard helicopter!The purpose built TRUE NORTH is able to explore the upper reaches of shallow river systems - guests need only step out of their cabins to experience wilderness and, the latest in computer controlled motion stabilizers ensures a



comfortable ride.



INSIDE YOUR SHIP

Upper Deck

Explorer Class

1. Bradshaw
2. Dampier
3. Durack
4. Parker King

Main Deck

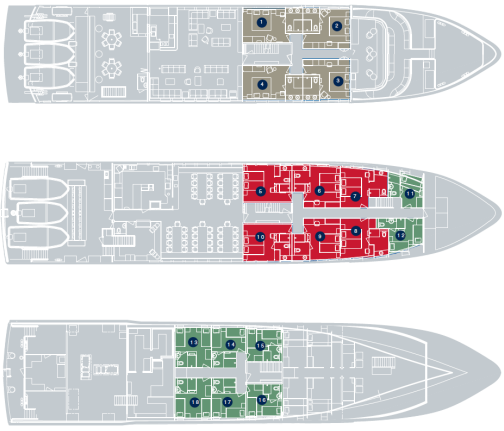
River Class & Ocean Class

5. Prince Regent River
6. Mitchell River
7. Berkeley River
8. Drysdale River
9. Hunter River
10. King George River
11. Camden Harbour
12. Lacepede Islands

Lower Deck

Ocean Class

13. Koolama Bay
14. Montgomery Reef
15. Jackson Falls
16. Kings Cascade
17. Imperieuse Reef
18. Atlantis Bay



Explorer Class - Stateroom



Ocean Class - Twin



Ocean/River Premium Cabin



River Class - Double





PRICING

28-Sep-2027 to 05-Oct-2027

Ocean/River Premium Cabin	£15498 GBP pp
River Class - Double	£16798 GBP pp
Explorer Class - Stateroom	£18298 GBP pp
Ocean Class - Twin	£14298 GBP pp

05-Oct-2027 to 12-Oct-2027

River Class - Double	£16798 GBP pp
Ocean/River Premium Cabin	£15498 GBP pp
Explorer Class - Stateroom	£18298 GBP pp
Ocean Class - Twin	£14298 GBP pp