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The Lighthouse Consultancy: 24 Hour 360° Superyacht Support

The Lighthouse Consultancy's team have been assisting yachts in Indonesia since 2009. Company founder Andy Shorten and the team provide 24-hour support and advice to captains and management companies, from planning stages and documentation procurement, throughout the cruise experience until the vessel clears out internationally. Based in Bali to ensure ease of communication, he is, along with other Lighthouse representatives, also ready to provide support in the nearest port during cruise or clearance timeframes.

Fluent in Indonesian after over 20 years in the country, with a background in marine tourism involved in developing dive resorts and managing liveaboard vessels in the region, Andy has developed a network of logistical support professionals across Indonesia and utilises this to solve any of the operational and logistical issues that inevitably arise during cruises.

The company's ultimate desire and responsibility is to provide logistical support and offer advice to the vessel, ensuring the captain and crew feel that although in a remote area, they are still able to operate in a smooth and convenient manner, with access to provisions and amenities that are key to providing the best possible service to the vessel owners and their guests on board.

The team can call upon decades of local experience to provide advice relating to clearances and permits, crew and guest visas, bunkering, provisioning, cruise itineraries, international and Indonesian cruise guides and lecturers, transport, hotel logistics and commercial flight services, as well as assistance with helicopter operations and private aircraft ground handling at airports across the archipelago. The Lighthouse Consultancy team and their comprehensive network provide truly 360° support 24 hours a day.



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“The Lighthouse Consultancy is an all-around professional group of folks with an amazing array of skill sets. Their local knowledge of logistics, customs and clearance regulations, anchorages, dive locations, beaches and too many to list adventures was priceless and sincerely appreciated. They provided us with exceptional liveaboard guides whose ‘get-things-done’ attitude helped us out many times when we were in a difficult situation.

They are true team players, always willing to help when needed, day or night and a real pleasure to work with.”

Captain Tom Hartman, MY Party Girl



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Indonesia: The Ultimate Superyacht Cruising Destination

The planet's longest and most diverse archipelago, Indonesia is a terrestrial and marine paradise, consisting of huge mainland areas and over 17,000 mostly uninhabited islands- large, small and tiny.

The fertile waters that surround this water-borne nation are no less breath-taking and feature every type of tropical seascape, from sleepy mangrove backwaters and crystal clear coral atolls to wave battered basalt cliffs and current swept rocky sea mounts, all of them teeming with wildly colourful life.

The flora and fauna that can be found in this country of unparalleled natural beauty are boundless. Indonesia boasts some of the world's rarest plants, trees and land animals, and is home to a more diverse and concentrated collection of marine animals than anywhere else on earth.

With a rich human history of kingdoms, conquests and colonialism, Indonesia has been blessed with an exhilarating kaleidoscope of cultures, traditions and languages set amongst the dramatic scenery of an ever-changing landscape.

Combine these elements with a welcoming population and a wonderful year-round climate and it's easy to see why Indonesia is rapidly rising to the forefront of Asia's booming superyacht cruising and adventure portfolio.



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Landscapes of Incredible Diversity

The huge landforms and countless islands of Indonesia are as equally diverse as their marine counterparts. Volcanoes, 155 of them active, dominate the country and follow the archipelago's sweep eastward, forming the Indonesian "Ring of Fire". This unique terrain offers unparalleled opportunities to cruising guests for trekking and exploration, from undulating foothills to soaring rocky mountain peaks.

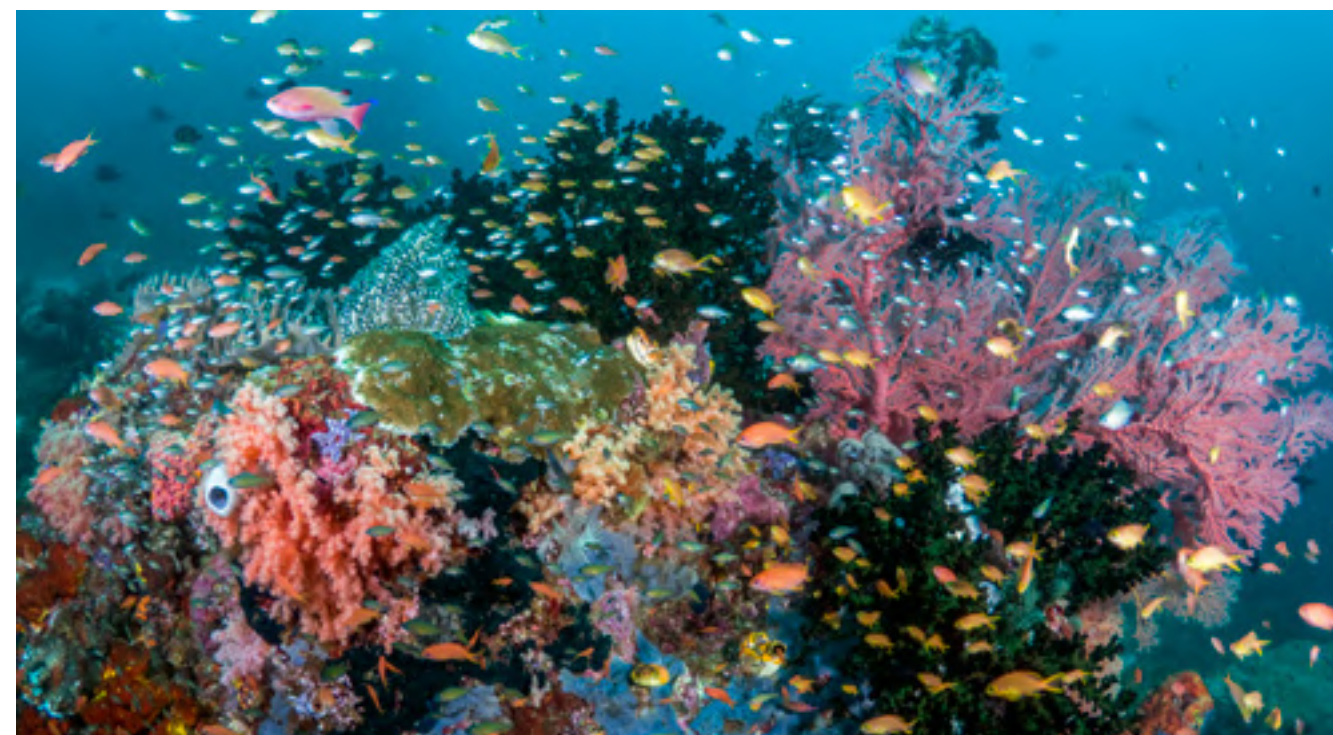
Grassy meadows, dusty hills and sandy coral atolls feature across the central Nusa Tenggara region, which then gives way to West Papua's mangrove-covered river deltas, high jungle and mountain peaks in the east. Indonesia, straddling the Wallace Line, has a greater range of animal species, both marine and terrestrial, than any other country on earth.



The Coral Triangle

All of Indonesia's premier cruise locations are situated within what is known internationally as "The Coral Triangle", a geographical term referring to an extensive area of tropical oceans and seas in south-east Asia. This includes parts of the coastlines of Malaysia in the west, the Philippines to the north, across Papua New Guinea to the Solomon Islands in the east and all the way down to its most southerly point, the world's newest nation, East Timor.

Positioned inside these boundaries is the entire eastern half of Indonesia, putting this part of the country at what marine scientists refer to as the global epicentre of marine biodiversity and a major centre for coral evolution, the "Amazon of the Seas".



Virgin Cruising Grounds

Cruising Asia has historically been the dominion of a limited number of exploration vessels or larger yachts. This is changing, and with an increasing number of superyachts visiting Indonesia, captains of these adventurous vessels usually return with tales of deserted beaches, stunning scenery and incredible adventure cruising, vowing to return as soon as possible.

Extended cruises offer the opportunity to explore all of the archipelago's world-famous locations, with many yachts opting to initially cruise the more well-known areas of the Komodo National Park and Raja Ampat, before embarking on voyages to the lesser known areas of Flores, Alor, the Banda Sea and the latest hotspots of Cenderawasih and Triton Bay.



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“The Lighthouse team were there to assist with regulations, transfers, advice, provisions and all manner of small problems at any hour, always with a solution and a smile.

It is a testament to the excellent support we received that we were able to roam so freely and give the owner the sense of exploration that is so integral to such an amazing and diverse country. There are many yacht support agencies worldwide who could learn a thing or two about how it should be done from The Lighthouse Consultancy.”

Captain Nolan Ross, MY Serenity J

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Komodo National Park

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Komodo: A Real Life Jurassic Park

Established in 1980 as a World Heritage Site, the Komodo National Park is located some 250 nautical miles east of the holiday island of Bali. Encompassing 1,817 square kilometres and comprising the three main islands, Komodo, Rinca and Padar, the park is considered to be one of the most exciting natural world adventure destinations on the planet.

Intrepid divers and explorers can experience some of the richest and unique marine environments in the world, get up close and personal with the ferocious Komodo Dragons and trek up and along desolate jagged ridges to the peaks of the park's breath-taking mountainous landscapes.

Cruises focusing their entire duration in Komodo National Park usually embark from the busy and bustling little port of Labuan Bajo, just over an hour flight from Bali. Many domestic airports in Indonesia have recently been re-developed, particularly in the major cruise destinations, and Labuan Bajo now sports a new modern terminal and a lengthened runway suitable for private jets.

For those with more time, extended cruises can embark from Bali, in which case the journey east to Komodo can be broken up with interesting days of diving, snorkelling and topside exploration of the islands of Lombok, Moyo, Satonda and Sangeang. Another alternative embarkation port is the town of Bima on the island of Sumbawa to the west of Komodo.

A cruise in Komodo is a journey around one of the most diverse and unique regions of the natural world, a land of dragons and dramatic landscapes, fierce currents and sparkling corals in seas teeming with spectacular marine life, a real-life "Jurassic Park" above and below the surface.



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“The Lighthouse Consultancy provide the most comprehensive information on cruising areas, itineraries, guides and provisions combined with the best support network. This is delivered at competitive prices with an attitude that ‘nothing is too much trouble’. I hope that you also choose to work with The Lighthouse Consultancy, they are a professional outfit - you will not regret your choice.”

Captain John Maclellan, MY Triple Seven

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Komodo: A Real Life Jurassic Park

Topside Komodo

While most of Indonesia is green and tropically lush, the Komodo National Park is more arid, the varied landscapes featuring rocky peaks, creature-filled green forests and grassy slopes and meadows that give a savannah type feel to the environment.

The two largest islands in the park, Komodo and Rinca, are home to many types of land-based fauna too. Snakes are common, especially during the wetter months, and it's not unusual to come across a cobra, python or green tree viper during a cross-country trek. Wild pigs and deer are plentiful while small groups of goats are resident on some of the smaller islands. This combination of habitat and prey creates the perfect environment for Komodo's most famous resident, the 150-kilo, 3-metre man-eating Komodo Dragon, the largest lizard on earth.



The beaches of the Komodo National Park are a dream, sandy with a background of rocks and hills, and mostly deserted. Great for trekking and beach-combing, however not such a good place for sunbathing- it is important to remember that the other residents of the islands are always searching for a snack.

Effortlessly swirling high up in the thermals close to shore, the breathtaking hunting displays by white-bellied sea eagles and brahmny kites are a show not to be missed. In the wooded areas, the trees screech, chatter and hoot with green imperial pigeons and yellow-crested cockatoos, just some of the birds that make their home in the park. During a land trek it is not unusual to come across huge water buffalo wallowing in the shady mud pools to cool down or mischievous crab eating macaque monkeys squabbling in the mangroves.



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Komodo: A Real Life Jurassic Park

Marine Komodo

The huge island nation of Indonesia is home to the world's most prolific marine ecosystem and the Komodo National Park is at the epicentre of all this wild activity. In excess of 100 dive sites have been pioneered throughout this spectacular seascape, comprised mainly of volcanic sea-mounts, pinnacles, walls, canyons and fringing reefs. The coral gardens, mangrove bays and sandy slopes, create an unmatched variety of very different and distinctive dive environments.

Between the sea-mounts, the vast coral reefs, often in shallow water, teem with unusual tropical reef animals. In fact, this area plays host to more than 1,100 different fish species, compared with 300 or 400 in the Caribbean.



The list of critter species is significant and for bigger animals, the dive sites with stronger currents play host to manta rays, sharks and many other larger pelagic species. Whales, dolphins and turtles have made the park a playground and even the rare dugong or sea cow can occasionally be spotted in the scattered mangrove forests.

North and south Komodo, despite being separated by only 15 nautical miles, offer two distinctly different underwater environments, with the northern area generally consisting of sparkling hard coral gardens and sea-mounts, and the exposed southern shoreline featuring dramatic surge smashed rocky islands and intricate bays offering sedate soft coral habitats and a mind-blowing density of cryptic critters.



Komodo is justly famous for its high-energy, adrenaline-pumping dives and the gusting currents that surge and swirl through the deep channels and around the islets and sea-mounts between Komodo, Padar and Rinca islands are key to the park's wonderful marine life. An experienced dive guide is essential in order to indicate not only the right time and tide to dive, but the correct entry point to gain maximum enjoyment from any dive.

Great visibility, massive cliffs of black basalt, colourful walls and dazzling coral gardens all combine to create one of the most prolific and diverse undersea ecosystems on earth. These attributes give Komodo the potential to become one of the world's ultimate yachting destinations.



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“Andy and his team assisted us from start to finish with all of our cruising logistics . . . I can unreservedly recommend The Lighthouse Consultancy as agents and when I return to Indonesia in the future I will be using their good services again.”

Captain Rob O’Donoghue, MY Serenity



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Raja Ampat

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Raja Ampat: The Four Kings

Located offshore from the north-western tip of the Bird's Head Peninsula, at the heart of the "coral triangle" lies the pristine Raja Ampat National Park. Spanning a vast 50,000 square kilometres, the region is described by many as Indonesia's final frontier. What is sure, Raja Ampat casts a spell on all who visit.

The name Raja Ampat refers to "Four Kings" who were empowered to rule over the four main islands that make up the region: Waigeo, Batanta, Salawati and Misool. In addition to these larger landmasses, many other smaller islands, and literally thousands of karst limestone islets, make up the total 1,500 islands in the region. Exploration of the area can focus on the northern or southern regions independently or can combine to create a longer cruise, to experience a selection of all that Raja Ampat has to offer. Anchorages in the cruise area are seldom further than 100 nautical miles from Sorong.

The embarkation port for Raja Ampat cruise time-frames is Sorong, the largest and busiest town on West Papua's north-west coastline. Sorong now features a newly re-developed airport with a long and wide runway that can accommodate private jets, however, it has domestic rather than international status, so there are special requirements that should be considered before arrival.

Local government and conservation organisations are working together to protect the future of Raja Ampat's natural treasures by making the National Park a protected zone. Some islands to the south have taken a further step by implementing huge no-take zones, where fishing of any kind is prohibited. In order that tourism contributes to the protection and the governance of the region, a Raja Ampat Tourism Tag, arranged in advance of any voyage through the area, is required for each individual visitor and a contribution is required for each vessel cruising in the area.



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“There is no question that the stellar service we received from The Lighthouse Consultancy made everything easily fall into place, allowing me to focus on our guests, routes and daily routines. I very much look forward to returning to Indonesia, hopefully, sooner rather than later, and Lighthouse will be the first call I make.”

Captain Ethan Lee, MY CV-9

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Raja Ampat: The Four Kings

Astonishing Topside Scenery

Raja Ampat is world-renowned for its spectacular above water scenery and sparsely inhabited tropical islands. Pristine rainforests decorate the tops of the dramatic limestone cliffs and there are hundreds of deserted bays and many other hidden treasures to discover around the countless islands. It's a kayakers wonderland, featuring an intricate coastline with caves, bays, gorges, hidden rivers, all of them teeming with exotic tropical flora and fauna.

Exciting topside adventures start on isolated white sandy beaches and opportunities exist for thrilling speedboat rides around the karst formation islets to explore cathedral-like caves. There is even the chance to visit a working pearl farm and purchase some of their valuable produce direct from the source.



For the lucky few, rainforest hikes past exotic orchids growing from jagged crevices can climax with the unique experience of witnessing the male Birds of Paradise performing their elaborate early morning courtship dances to attract a mate.

The lagoon anchorage at the island of Wayag is a visually stunning location to explore for a few days. Encompassed by vibrant vegetation and tranquil waters, the karst formations can be explored during lazy afternoon tender rides, there is something exciting and inspiring about exploring isolated bays where few people have ever been.

Caving explorations provide an interesting insight into a fascinating hidden subterranean world, and it is still possible to search for historical wartime artefacts and interesting remnants from human history that lie hidden from view.



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Raja Ampat: The Four Kings

Under The Surface

Raja Ampat's marine environments are spectacular, with something for the whole spectrum of marine enthusiast, from expert underwater photographer through to beginner snorkeller. The National Park boasts an astounding variety of marine habitats and inhabitants; this translates to wildly different diving experiences, from spectacular drift dives, astonishing reefs to magical critter sites. There are even sites unique to Raja Ampat, such as crystal-clear salt-water mangrove forests with brilliant coral gardens growing amongst the thick twisting roots. There are hundreds of known dive and snorkelling sites, while the potential for the exploration of many more in this unique area is considerable.



The shallow reefs of the north are a riot of colour, with unusual purple and orange soft corals prominent. These reefs cover every nook and cranny with incredible variety, and the interesting underwater topographical formations and subaquatic caverns are home to large schools of fish, and some of the rarest marine life in the oceans. In the south, plunging walls covered with dense multi-coloured soft corals rise up from the ocean floor.

Huge pelagic concentrations inhabit the sea-mounts and the remote islands and big animals are regularly spotted, with manta ray displays a common occurrence at a number of sites. These gentle giants are resident at one particular sandy bank in just 15 metres of water, and, when treated with the respect



that they deserve, they are not fearful of divers or snorkellers and provide dramatic up close and personal experiences.

All of these environments combine to form habitat for marine life in more shapes and sizes than any ocean in the world, from minute reef critters, found by the eyes of only the most experienced guides, to top predators and everything in between. Wave upon wave of fusiliers, damselfish, and chromis pulsate across the reef slopes while sharks, grouper, trevally and rays patrol the blue. Nestled within many of the sea fans one can find four different species of the much sought after pygmy seahorse. As a marine adventure destination, Raja Ampat hosts a variety of marine life that is unparalleled anywhere on the planet.



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“There were many logistical concerns during our time in Raja Ampat which The Lighthouse Consultancy made look easy, but I know this was definitely not the case. If you are looking for a reliable and professional agency that can take care of your cruising needs while in Indonesia, I would definitely recommend Andy and his team.”

Captain Graham Chilcott, MY Big Fish

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Cenderawasih Bay



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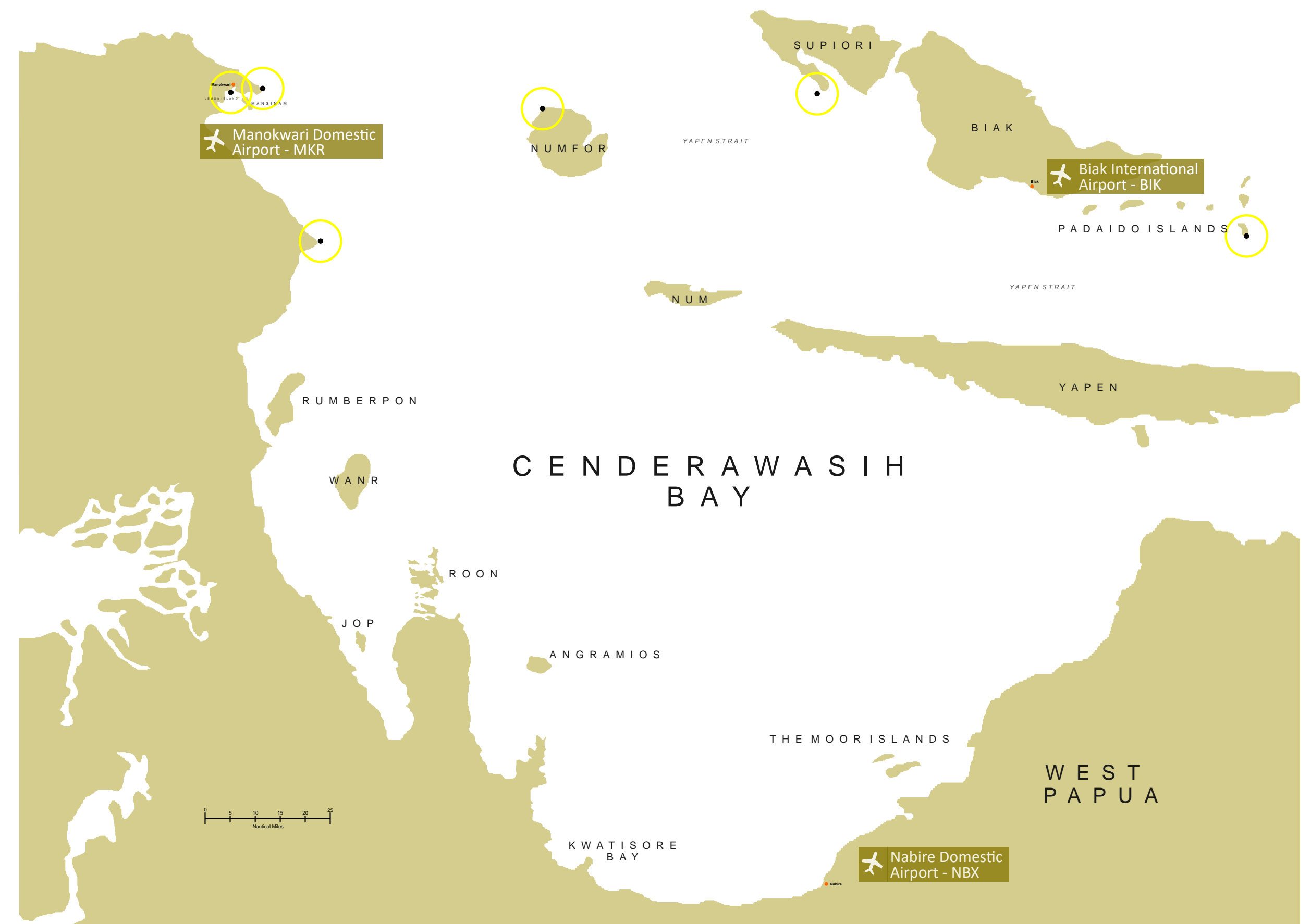
Cenderawasih Bay: Playground of the Giants

Located on the northern coast of West Papua, approximately 250 nautical miles east of Sorong, Cenderawasih Bay, combined with Raja Ampat make up what is known as The Bird's Head Seascape. Inside the bay, the marine park and outlying areas are situated on the north-east side of the Bird's Head Peninsula and include the towns of Manokwari and Nabire, as well as the larger island of Biak. Cruises in the region usually embark from Biak due to the airport having international status and a runway capable of accommodating heavier executive aircraft. Regular commercial flights also service the region, so provisioning is no more difficult here than other areas of Indonesia.

Cenderawasih Bay is an officially regulated National Park and has an affordable but complicated tourism fee system which needs advance planning. However, due to the remote nature of this area, there is a perceived autonomy here in local government and although all services can be acquired in the same way as they can in the more regularly visited areas, Cenderawasih has been observed as being one of the more expensive cruising areas in Indonesia.

Cruising Cenderawasih

The Cenderawasih National Park has some great diving, the reefs of the outer islands offer sparkling colour, healthy corals and marine life while picture-perfect sandy beaches surround tiny uninhabited islands. There are also chances to explore WWII wrecks and artefacts. The truly pristine island of Yapen, in particular, has spectacular topside treks, however, the main attraction and the stars of the Cenderawasih Bay cruise experience are the awe-inspiring whale shark interactions deep inside the bay at Kwatisore.



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"Thanks for making our trip to Indonesia so straightforward. The endless support and advice provided by the Lighthouse Consultancy turned a logistical nightmare into a walk in the park. Having the Lighthouse Consultancy assist us at every step along the way ensured a trouble-free experience and allowed us to maximize our time seeing the best of Indonesia."

Captain James A. Southgate, MY Playpen

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Cenderawasih Bay: Playground of the Giants

Whale Sharks

Encountering a whale shark in the wild is a humbling experience and Cenderawasih Bay has a whale shark encounter like no other. In Indonesia, it is common for fishermen to utilise large anchored boats that they turn into elaborate fishing platforms called bagans. In Cenderawasih the fishermen use nets underneath the bagans to catch baitfish at night. This activity has attracted the attention of the local population of whale sharks that like to patrol below and suck at the nets for a free meal. Fortunately, the local fishermen took their presence as a good luck omen and in time struck up a relationship with them, to the point where they can now hand feed baitfish to the whale sharks. Many of these awesome animals have been observed here at the same time, making for a truly spectacular experience for snorkellers and divers alike.



Topside Nature Reserves

Cenderawasih Bay retains a natural beauty becoming of the South Pacific, and the surroundings are home to a host of rare creatures. Living in the lowlands, gorges and hilly forests, some that are endemic to the area include forest wallabies, possums and bandicoots, along with the sleepy and secretive cuscus, all potentially spotted during treks through the forests. The whole continental-sized island of Papua has, along with the Amazon, the largest concentration of bird life on the planet with West Papua home to elusive and rare Birds of Paradise. In the Arfak Reserve, it is reckoned that 320 bird species have been recorded, with around 50% of these endemic to the region. These ornithological marvels help make Cenderawasih Bay a dazzling natural paradise.



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“Andy has a wealth of knowledge in Indonesia and was always available day or night to offer his support. Through his connections, he was able to make anything happen which proved to be critical in ensuring the success of our guest trips. I would not hesitate to recommend Andy at the The Lighthouse Consultancy to other Captains or yacht owners considering cruising through Indonesia.”

Captain James Knowles, MY Dragonfly

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The Banda Islands

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Banda: The Original Spice Islands

Dominated by the imposing 600-metre volcano Gunung Api, the Banda Islands host many treasures; historical, cultural and natural and this captivating destination also features an incredibly a rich marine environment. Infrequently visited due to both their remote physical location and the deep open ocean surrounding them, these islands and their adjacent dive sites offer the opportunity to explore yet another exciting facet of the Indonesian archipelago.

Due to being home to what was once the only known source of nutmeg in the world, the Banda Islands were the centre of the Spice Race throughout the 16th and 17th Centuries, with their exact location a closely guarded secret. Many battles were fought over control of the islands. These

days Banda town has a peaceful and sleepy village feel, with just a couple of hotels and a limited number of homestays hosting the handful of tourists that make it out to the region.

Cruising in the Banda Sea is somewhat curtailed by the steep underwater topography of the Banda archipelago, with one or two main anchorage areas that vessels usually return to after day long explorations to the neighbouring islands. Standing off is a certainty in some areas.

Ambon is the embarkation port and the sprawling metropolis features an international airport which can comfortably handle private aircraft. Ambon has multiple daily domestic connections to Bali and Jakarta which makes cruise logistics relatively smooth.



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SKARU REEF

Banda: The Original Spice Islands

History & Culture

Visitors can enjoy land expeditions throughout the nine small islands that make up the archipelago, but the main focus is usually on the island of Banda Neira with its remaining heritage sites from periods of Dutch and English colonisation. Fort Belgica is situated on the hill ominously overlooking the town, and the original cannons still reside in the turrets as if protecting the island against invaders. Other places of interest include a Dutch palace, an artefact filled museum, a quaint church and the nutmeg and almond plantations on Lonthor Island.

Banda hosts a remarkable variation of cultural and historical sites, but one of the most inviting features of the region is without doubt the excitement and enthusiasm with which adventurous visitors are welcomed by the local communities, showing their genuine warmth and affection.



The Banda Seascape

The pristine reefs that surround the shorelines of the fabled Spice Islands are home to some of the world's most beautiful underwater scenery. The region is famous for crystal-clear water on, coral encrusted walls, slopes and swim-throughs. Photographers and snorkellers can visit the fastest documented growing table corals in the world, covering the 1988 lava flow from Banda's volcano, Gunung Api.

Migrating whales and pods of dolphins are frequently seen here and the fertile volcanic mineral enriched waters seem to have offered the inhabitants a growth hormone. Over-sized specimens of many different species inhabit the pinnacles, slopes and lush walls of the area, forming a thriving marine paradise.



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Banda: The Original Spice Islands

The Banda Sea

Although the Banda Islands are the focal point of any trip to the Banda Sea there is a lot more to this immense body of water than the shining jewel that sits in the middle. This enclosed ocean is bordered by the southern islands of the Maluku Province that include, Wetar, Babar, Tanimbar, and Kei on the south side and Buru, Ceram, and the Lease Islands to the north. The Banda Sea occupies a total area of 470,000 square kilometres and is over 7,000 metres deep in places. On the west side the Banda Sea joins the Flores Sea and East Nusa Tenggara. To the east there are the Koon, Gorong and Watubela islands groups that sit close to Indonesian West Papua.



The Lease Islands

This small group of islands sit just below the much larger landmass of Ceram and were also an area directly involved in what was called “The Spice Wars” in the 17th Century. Topside there are, like the Banda Islands, a number of fortifications and interesting relics left over from these power struggles between the British and the Dutch.

Ambon is the regional capital and this is where the major international airport and centre for commerce can be found. Sailing to the east from here the other islands feature a wealth of very good diving and snorkelling sites as well as some fantastic beaches and land treks.



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“MY Wabi Sabi used the Lighthouse Consultancy’s services extensively throughout our time in Indonesia and simply put they were above and beyond expectations in every area of our dealings. Their tireless effort to ensure all our requests were met, our travels went seamlessly and the guests left with a great desire to return was nothing short of incredible.

I feel that Indonesia is one the world’s top cruising destinations supported by a team that I believe are at the forefront of providing support for visiting yachts.”

Captain Grant Butler, MY Wabi Sabi

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The Forgotten Islands & Triton Bay

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The Forgotten Islands & Triton Bay: Exploring The East

The untouched scenery of Triton Bay has been on the radar of marine biologists and dive enthusiasts for some time.

The protected bay is in some ways a micro-ecosystem, with unusual and interesting species, ranging from pygmy seahorses through to the whales and dolphins encountered in the area. A number of stunning beaches provide the opportunity for a perfect beach set up. Yacht interest in the region has been increasing gradually, particularly for those with dedicated diving interests or more time to meander through Indonesia's more remote cruising grounds.

Triton Bay is located on mainland Papua on the southern shores of the Birds Head

Seascape which includes the destinations of Raja Ampat and Cenderawasih Bay. Although it covers a relatively small area, it offers various unique activities both on land and water. The karst system lagoons are great to explore by tender or by kayak and there are even ancient rock paintings to be found at Namatote Island. The underwater world is accessible to both divers and snorkellers.

The broader area includes two distinctly different waterfalls; the most accessible being Momon waterfall, that tumbles directly into the ocean, and there is another which involves trekking inland into the jungle.

This particular cruising ground encompasses the eastern reaches of the Banda Sea, covering large distances, generally only possible to achieve on a visiting yacht at certain times of the year. The island chains of Watubela and the Forgotten Islands form a section of what is known as the 'Ring of Fire' and are way off the beaten track.

There are opportunities to explore remote reefs during diving, snorkelling, kayaking or fishing trips. Each island is distinctly different from the previous and each provides an interesting visual backdrop to the journey.



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“Andy and his team were our lifeline throughout the COVID period. With their ‘No Problems, Only Solutions’ mindset, they worked logistical miracles, getting spare parts, crew, and awesome quality provisions to us in literally the back end of nowhere. Made, our dive guide, is a legend, a very experienced diver with a vast knowledge base, always good-humoured and a pleasure to have on board.”

Captain John van der Straaten, SY Antares

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The Forgotten Islands & Triton Bay: Exploring The East

The Forgotten Islands

This relatively unexplored but exposed cruising area can be found on the southern borders of the Banda Sea. The islands follow two titanic oceanic ridges that curve up to the north-east and form a major portion of what is known as “The Ring of Fire”. The islands formed where these massive marine mountain ranges break the surface. Many feature active volcanoes and the pristine coral reefs and sea-mounts that surround them provide a spectacular environment for huge schools of fish and larger ocean creatures, such as migrating cetaceans. The entire region provides a wonderful playground for fishing, spear fishing and water sports enthusiasts, but the exposed location does create some anchorage challenges.



Watubela Islands

This chain of islands continues north along the eastern border of the Banda Sea to join with the large island of Ceram. These raised coral islands have some beautiful white sand beaches and there are a couple of sandy satellite islands perfect for beach BBQ's. The surrounding shallow reefs with their clear waters offer excellent snorkelling opportunities. For more spectacular marine experiences there are some deeper sea-mounts accessible to divers. The small communities that live and work on these islands welcome the occasional visitor warmly and may even share a taste of Sago, which derives from a palm tree and forms a staple part of their limited diet.



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The Forgotten Islands & Triton Bay: Exploring The East

Momon Waterfall

Anchorage close to Momon waterfall are very remote and rarely visited, so it is possible to stop for a couple of days of solitude amongst the untouched natural surroundings. The large freshwater waterfall powers into the ocean and taking a zodiac beneath the fall is an exhilarating experience and source of great amusement. There is excellent fishing as an option on the drop off to the west of the anchorage. Hornbills and many other species of tropical birds inhabit the treetops of the virgin jungle, and for those with a sense of adventure, it's possible to spot jungle kangaroo beneath the canopy – just make sure not to get lost.



Remote Marine Paradise

Underwater Triton Bay is full of colourful soft corals fed by the current rich waters of the area. Most of the sites are shallow and accessible to both divers and snorkellers. The wealth of marine life in this area is extraordinary and creates a wonderland of schooling fish and creatures small and large. Ancient limestone karsts create winding waterways through shallow, emerald lagoons and are great to explore in tenders or on kayaks and SUP for a more tranquil experience. In the northern channel the traditional fishing platforms draw in the ubiquitous whalesharks, providing another opportunity to swim with these gentle giants in Indonesia.



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Triton Bay & The Forgotten Islands: Exploring The East

Tual: Gateway to the East

The gateway to both of these island chains is the quaint and clean town of Tual, with its two main residential areas connected by a bridge between the islands. Located at the southern tip of the Watubela archipelago, Tual is the capital of the two Kei Islands and is one of the registered Vessel Declaration ports for international arrival into and departure from Indonesia. The location makes Tual a useful entry point for yachts travelling up from Australia as the alternative would be to go further north to Ambon.

The signature highlight of the Kei archipelago are the kilometres of white sand beaches throughout the islands, many of which are entirely deserted. Pasir Panjang is the longest with over 3km of soft, white powder sand and this west facing beach is the perfect setting to enjoy the uninterrupted views of the tropical sunset.

This is a very remote region that receives little attention, has few tourists and minimal yacht visits, but those that venture here receive warm hospitality from the local communities. A fascinatingly distinct animist culture adds to the appeal and by the bridge, a rainbow coloured village of houses built on stilts, is well worth a stop.

A dock offering the opportunity to move alongside is also a positive for this particular port. It is located 15 minutes from the Pasir Panjang beach which allows the crew to prepare the yacht for a boss trip and also to give an evening or two of relaxation. Practically, for guest arrivals, it is possible to board the guests at Pasir Panjang, but tide and fringing reef needs to be considered with the arrival time...

It's important to note that Tual is exposed. At certain times of the year this port may present a good clearance option for a yacht arriving into or leaving Indonesia, however may not be suitable for a guest trip, as there is little shelter. It's important to touch base with the Lighthouse team to establish if this region is a consideration for guest activities at the intended time of cruising.



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“The cruising grounds in this area were nothing short of spectacular. Andy and his team laid out a flawless and seamless itinerary with impeccable service, and no request was too big, out of reach, or unattainable.

The level of service from Lighthouse, combined with truly one of the most special locations in the world, made this the pinnacle of our world tour.”

Captain Scott Mason, MY Dancing Hare

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North Sulawesi

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North Sulawesi: Topside Treks & Cryptic Critters

Home to a major marine reserve, a large densely forested National Park, and some of the best “critter” diving on the planet, North Sulawesi has a little something for everyone.

The province of North Sulawesi is centred around the large city of Manado and the satellite port city of Bitung, at the far northern point of the island of Sulawesi. With an international airport in Manado and port facilities in both Manado and Bitung, the area is well located to welcome yachts arriving from surrounding destinations.

The western tip of North Sulawesi is home to the Bunaken National Marine Park, made up of a group of five islands predominantly featuring clear aquamarine water and stunning vertical coral encrusted walls. These islands are conveniently located only 10 miles from Manado City and offer high-quality diving close to the port. The northern tip of the mainland is home to the Tangkoko National Park with the Bangka island group lying a short distance from shore. On the east side of North Sulawesi, lies the major port of Bitung and the adjacent Lembeh island which hosts some of the best critter diving in the world.

The Manado side of the peninsula offers safe anchorages close to the mainland, but the islands of the Bunaken area have coastlines too steep for anchoring, so standing off is generally required during daily activities. The Lembeh Strait on the eastern side offers safe anchorages year-round with only short tender rides to the dive sites and other shore-side activities such as jungle and volcano treks.

The airport outside of Manado is large and modern offering full immigration and customs facilities for arriving jets. There are also multiple daily flights to Bali and Jakarta as well as three flights per week to and from Singapore.



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North Sulawesi: Topside Treks & Cryptic Critters

Topside Activities

The province of North Sulawesi is ringed by a string of perfectly shaped volcanoes, with the tallest being Lokon at 1,995 metres. Several of these are easily accessible from Manado, with only Lokon requiring an overnight camping trip and the panoramic views are certainly well worth the hike. No trip to this area is complete without a visit to the famous Tangkoko National Park, an 8,700-hectare nature reserve that is home to black Celebes crested macaques, hornbills, and the world's smallest primate, the spectral tarsier. Tours to the National Park can be arranged from either Bitung or Manado and range from a full day tour to a late afternoon or evening trip to watch the tarsiers feeding. For those wanting to see a little something different, the Minahasa highlands are located about one hour by car from Manado, the area is home to several mountain lakes and one of the world's most unique traditional food markets.



Marine Activities

With three distinctive diving areas located within very close proximity, the North Sulawesi region offers a little bit of everything for divers. The Bunaken National Park is home to sheer walls with thrilling currents sweeping along soft coral reefs teeming with clouds of fish. The Lembeh Strait is known as the “critter capital of the world” and the diving here is completely different from Bunaken; although the water is not the clearest, the amount of marine life is astounding. The cryptic critters found on the sandy slopes include wonderpus, rhinopias, frogfish, and even the poisonous blue ring octopus, along with many other strange fish and invertebrates. As a third option, the small islands around Bangka Island, off the north tip of Sulawesi, offer a good mix of both colourful current diving as well as many of the critters that have made Lembeh famous. A trip to Sulawesi showcases the diversity of the marine and natural environment of Indonesia.



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“Lighthouse provided us with great guides to explore the regions we visited as well as great quality hard working day help in between trips. The owners and guests loved the trip we put together with Andy’s help and are looking forward to returning for more.

I highly recommend Lighthouse and can honestly say that Andy is one of the best agents I have ever worked with. I look forward to bringing our vessels back to Indonesia and exploring more of the area. ”

Captain Llyn Buckwalter, MV Umbra

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West Sumatra

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West Sumatra: Indonesia's Surfers Paradise

One of the largest islands in Indonesia, Sumatra is home to an incredible variety of attractions, both on land and in the sea. In the Indian Ocean, off the west coast of Sumatra, lies a stunning cruising ground dotted with hundreds of picture-perfect tropical islands scattered 100 miles west of the mainland. These striking islands include famous names like the Mentawais, Nias and Telo, but also many hidden paradises such as the island of Enggano or the Batu Island group. For a little something different, the infamous Krakatoa Volcano island group lies at the far southern tip of Sumatra and the smoking "Child of Krakatoa" is an interesting attraction for history or geography buffs.

As the area is predominantly known for swell and surf, safe anchorages are a must and there are areas in all of the major island groups where yachts can anchor in a quiet harbour or on the lee side of an island, while still being a short boat ride away from a beautiful beach or incredible surf.

With its location near to Singapore, there are several entry points into Indonesia accessible in Sumatra, with Sabang or Padang being two options on the north and west coasts respectively. There are no National Parks in these islands, however, for each mini-region a yacht visits, such as Nias or the Mentawais, the vessel must report to the local harbour master and police in order to register her presence in the area to help avoid any unnecessary hassles.



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West Sumatra: Indonesia's Surfers Paradise

Activities

The main attractions in Sumatra are the world-class surf breaks found all along the offshore islands of the west coast. The Mentawai islands are perhaps the most famous waves in Sumatra, yet they offer relatively uncrowded breaks due to their remote location. A full-service expedition yacht can make the most of the area by accessing islands that are even more remote than the Mentawais; these include Enggano, Nias, and Panaitan, where the waves only see a handful of surfers each year. The area truly is a hidden paradise for surfers with beautiful white sand beaches, tropical blue water and world-class waves.

The original settlers of Mentawai and Nias island groups are culturally distinct from later "Indonesian" settlers and their way of life is still intact. There are several native tribes who still live a very basic way of life and their traditions are much different from typical Indonesian



villages. It's possible to visit these Neolithic people in several areas via a long, but rewarding, road journey. The main island of Sumatra itself is home to many unique species of endangered wildlife such as tigers, rhinoceros, gibbons, and the famous orangutan. Although the Sumatran tigers and rhinoceros are not frequently encountered, orangutans can be reliably spotted in several reserves such as Bukit Lawang, not far from the city of Medan.

For kayakers and snorkellers, the beaches and small tropical islands in the Mentawai group offer endless opportunities for exploration. The region is also perfect for beach lovers interested in isolation and privacy, with long stretches of pure white sand lined with picturesque palm trees. Although scuba diving in the Mentawais is not the main focus, there are still many areas with coral reefs that can quench the appetite of eager divers and snorkellers who want a marine activity to break up their day relaxing on the beach.

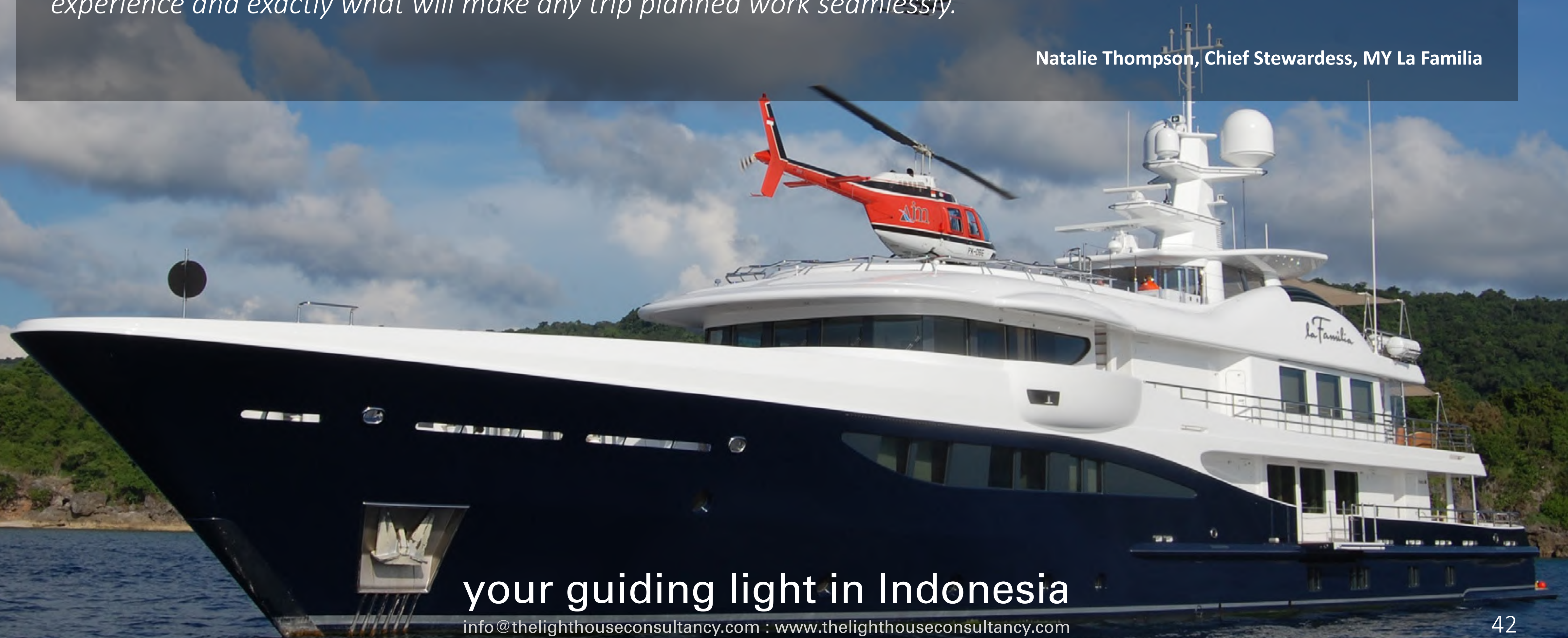


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“If you were to think about a great host and then apply that to a country, then you have this team. Responsive, attentive, alert, knowledgeable, hands on and all with clear steps and nothing hidden. Truly an effortless experience and exactly what will make any trip planned work seamlessly.”

Natalie Thompson, Chief Stewardess, MY La Familia



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Lighthouse Logistics

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Downtime Bali: Because Crew Matter

Bali: The Island of the Gods

Although Bali is an international tourist hub and probably the best known of the Indonesian islands it holds a charm created by its warm, welcoming people and their unique Hindu culture. It is often the first port of call into Indonesia for yachts arriving from Singapore, Thailand and locations further west and for very good reasons. Crew will certainly enjoy their downtime in Bali as there is something to suit every taste. There are cultural and scenic activities including visits to atmospheric temples and luscious rice paddy views. There is a huge diversity of tourist attractions from wake parks to night zoos. For the more active crew there is surfing, diving, trekking, cycling and canyoning. A more relaxing experience takes in the beaches, gourmet food at world class restaurants, shopping, spas and an array of trendy nightlife. Bali is the home port of the Lighthouse Team, the central office based in Sanur is located about 15 minutes from Benoa Harbour, and with 20 years of Bali living under their belts, well set to suggest some of the must-visit places on this beautiful island.

Benoa Harbour: International Port

Benoa Harbour is the international port, located on the eastern side of the southern tip of the island. The international airport is just a 10-minute drive from the port and is well connected with multiple daily flights from Dubai, Qatar, Singapore, Hong Kong, and Kuala Lumpur. A private jet terminal also increases the exclusivity of guests arriving privately. Depending on traffic, the Benoa Harbour complex is located about 15 minutes from the sleepy town of Sanur and a taxi ride of 30 minutes from the cool nightlife found in Seminyak. It's a little isolated from activities and requires a taxi or rental motorcycle for the crew to head off for entertainment.



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Bali Berthing: It's Getting Better

Benoa Marina

Since opening in 2019, Benoa Marina has improved as a facility and is currently the most 'yacht-standard' facility in Bali. The floating pontoons are the best that can be booked on the island. Lighthouse vessels up to 75 metres in length have been accommodated, with the possibility of larger yachts in the middle pontoon depending on draught. There is pontoon access to the shore, non-potable water at the berth, and shore power available on the dock, the largest being 440 amps. In 2023, a yacht club bar opened for visitors to enjoy views across the marina. It is possible to book berths in advance at Benoa Marina as long as deposits are made.



Big Boat Quay (BBQ)

For yachts up to 60 metres, there are three 'med style' stern-to berths at the BBQ, although this has been rarely used since the facility opened. This is more of a commercial setting than Benoa Marina, so it's a little rough and ready, and access is via a floating platform. Non-potable fresh water is usually supplied via 3,000-litre reservoirs, and the water is gravity fed or pumped to the vessel. There is also wired-in shore power. Technically, it is not possible to advance book a berth, so it's generally done on a first come, first served basis, but people generally try to help each other out, including moving out during arrival and departure manoeuvres.



East Dock

For larger yachts, the 250+ metres of commercial East Dock in Benoa Harbour gives an option to come alongside. This is a busy, commercial dock and is in regular use by cargo and passenger traffic. In quieter times it has been utilised by yachts for extended periods, it is often necessary for a vessel to move for commercial activities, passenger or cruise ship arrivals. There is no potable water or shore power available on the commercial docks, although fresh water reservoirs can be installed for vessels planning to stay for extended periods. This is the ideal space for large deliveries and a crane can be rented if any heavy lifting is required.



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Royal Bali Yacht Club (RBYC) Serangan Bay

If a yacht prefers life away from the commercial setting of Benoa Harbour and wishes to be closer to convenient crew activities, a facility in the bay to the north of Benoa is home to the Royal Bali Yacht Club. Currently options for vessels up to 90+ metres in three stern to med style berths, but 90 is a big yacht for this particular location. Operators plan to extend capacity this year after new floating concrete jetties are cast and installed. The area is a little exposed, both to wind and the larger swells that come through but Lighthouse has had multiple 60 and 70 metre yachts in the facility. Dayboat speedboats leave from the dock next door, so it has a busy period in the morning and afternoon. This has a cheaper nightly rate than Benoa and berths can be booked in advance as long as they are paid in full in advance. There is also a potential anchorage close by in the bay. Location is great for crew walking distance to south Sanur and 45 minutes to Seminyak.

Trip Preparation & Logistical Convenience

The island of Bali is a destination that offers Indonesia's most first world-ly convenience against a unique background of natural beauty. There is something to please everyone, making it the perfect place to recover, or prepare the yacht for the next trip. Logistically speaking, Bali is the most accessible location to complete simple maintenance projects and organise first world provisioning without any domestic shipping requirements. It is a convenient location for organising crew rotations, meeting up with visiting friends and family and the perfect place to receive guests for the next trip. This is a melting pot of cultures and maybe the chance to meet people and make new friends.



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Improved Fuel Specification

The improvements in facilities and maritime support in Bali are apparent not only in the berthing of yachts, but also in fuel quality, maintenance, consumables, and the availability of industry support services. Since 2022, it has been made legal for foreign-flagged vessels to receive the AGO product Pertadex at a selection of ports in the country. Although the price is higher, the low-sulphur fuel is a considerable improvement over the mandatory B30 MGO fuel, which must contain 30% biofuel. Bunkers are delivered by barge, either at the marina or to the vessel at anchor. In addition to Bali, Pertadex has been supplied in Sorong, Maumere, and Padang.

Surveys, LSA & FFE

As a convenient logistics hub, over the past years, it has also been possible to conduct annual surveys for Lloyd's, RINA, and other classification societies. Accredited surveyors based in Surabaya or Jakarta can be coordinated to visit for annual and 5-year surveys, radio surveys, and it's also possible to complete the servicing of LSA & FFE. Approved technicians visit the yacht at the port to certify the fire extinguishers and perform inflation tests on life jackets and immersion suits. It is possible to service life rafts too, although it's not straight forward, requiring the life rafts to be lifted down to transfer vehicles. They are then sent to approved testing facilities in Surabaya for inflation and replenishment of first aid and survival supplies before being returned to the vessel in Bali.



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"Andy and his team proved to be very valuable in often tricky situations with ensuring the visit was smooth and successful. I have no hesitation in recommending the shore side support services of The Lighthouse Consultancy to any large yacht fortunate enough to sail through the islands of Indonesia."

Captain Greg Monk, SY Sarissa

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Downtime Batam: Close and Convenient

Some owners prefer to keep their vessels closer to the international hub of Singapore. The marina at Nongsa Point, on the island of Batam, is a 15-nautical-mile jump from Singapore and can be a nice change of scenery from the expensive city facilities.

Batam, which is also a trade free zone within Indonesia and has a selection of shipyards with multiple ferry routes between Singapore and Batam each week, could be considered an option for some generic maintenance requirements.

Working closely with the team at Nongsa Point Marina, vessels up to 40 metres can move alongside a professional marina with shore power, potable water, and grey water disposal readily available. The marina facility has a lovely colonial-style clubhouse with a huge swimming pool, two restaurants, and a bar with a pool table and dart board. The popular facility is a nice meeting point for other vessel crews and owners. There are also accommodation options on the property, with both hotel rooms and villas.

Activities in Anambas: Keeping close to Singapore

150 nautical miles to the north-east of Singapore are the Anambas islands. These are the closest Indonesian cruising grounds to Singapore. It's an interesting group of islands with multiple beautiful beaches. Diving isn't of the same standard as the signature regions of Komodo or Raja Ampat, but for a convenient quick trip, Anambas can certainly be a viable consideration.



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Downtime Waisai: A Change of Scenery

On the other side of the archipelago 1,300 nautical miles from Bali, Waisai is the island capital of Raja Ampat and the gateway to the wonders of this incredible cruising. This small, quiet harbour offers an alternative location for crew downtime for yachts in the east of the country, usually considered by those doing trips in Raja Ampat or Cenderawasih Bay.

It's important to appreciate that Waisai is very remote, although there are twice-daily fast ferries to the larger town of Sorong on mainland Papua. In Sorong there are crew standard provisioning opportunities and the main airport but the anchorage is not necessarily an enjoyable port for extended downtime.

Waisai is one of the few ports where yachts can come alongside in Indonesia. Although the town is small and rather provincial, it has a marina / hotel with a bar and restaurant as well as other local eating options available on shore.

Activities in Raja Ampat: The Four Kings

The benefit of moving alongside in Waisai is that downtime activities for the visiting crew are plentiful. The diving or snorkelling in the famous Raja Ampat marine reserves are world-class and at the heart of the coral triangle. There is a chance to see marine life in all shapes and sizes, from minute reef critters to top predators.

Close to the town of Waisai there are trekking opportunities to see two endemic species of Birds of Paradise. These beauties perform dawn courtship dances which are very different to each other. From the yacht there are tender boat tours through unique karst systems at Kabui and along jungle rivers like Mayalibit which are close by. These tours can include visits to local Papuan communities.



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“Indonesia is a vast, diverse, and amazing archipelago. When cruising through the country we have used Lighthouse every time. The positive results for planning logistics, and execution of guest trips has been, in no small part, led to success due to Andy and team Lighthouse’s expertise and dedication.

Having the support of people that know the landscape, culture, and can speak the lingo is invaluable. I would recommend Lighthouse to anyone looking for top-notch shore-side support when cruising Indonesian waters.”

Captain Trent Jones, MY Maria

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Professional Guides: Cruising With Confidence

The Lighthouse Consultancy is acutely aware of the impact that a knowledgeable cruising guide can have on the enjoyment of any of Indonesia's unique cruising grounds. The sheer scale of the cruising regions and the number of anchorages and islands to be explored make cruising seem simple, but many scenic anchorages, signature dive experiences, treks for unique vistas, the best beaches or where to find certain flora and fauna can easily be missed without the assistance of highly skilled and qualified guides.

In addition, a guide must have enough experience to lead scuba dives and other water-sport excursions during cruises; this includes a very good awareness of the currents and conditions during diving, snorkelling and other marine-based activities. An in-depth understanding of oceanic conditions at several signature dive sites in Indonesia can make the difference between an incredible dive and a challenging experience.

While yachts are in the cruising grounds, interaction with local villages, both planned and unplanned is inevitable. An Indonesian speaking guide can alleviate communication challenges and enable the captain and crew to focus on serving guests rather than talking with local officials or village leaders; guides can also coordinate a visit to the village if guests are interested in cultural interactions.

The Lighthouse Consultancy has an extensive network of both international and local guides available to join cruises. Made Suarsana is a full-time guide with The Lighthouse Consultancy, leading trips throughout the archipelago with enthusiasm and hard work while highly experienced international guides Mike Veitch, Simon Marsh and Garry Bevan also work exclusively with Lighthouse.



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“The service from Lighthouse has been fantastic, they stop at nothing to get you what you need when you need it, no matter how remote you may be! The attention to detail, the communication and how the produce arrived on board was incredible and I learnt quickly I could rely on them. Definitely one of the best provision suppliers I’ve worked with!”

Zach Phillips, Executive Chef, MY Vava II



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Provisioning Assistance: Fresh Produce When & Where You Need It

The Lighthouse Consultancy's full-time provisioning consultants provide direct and personal support to the vessel Chef and Chief Steward. Their straightforward advice, knowledge and experience of multiple suppliers in Indonesia and expertise regarding the seasonal availability of provisions, quickly make their team integral to efficient provisioning.

Some supplies can be sourced directly in the local Indonesian ports. With a growing number of supermarkets found in these areas there is a limited but improving selection of vegetables, local meats and fish staples sufficient for the majority of crew provision requirements. However, as dependable availability of certain items can be a problem, most vessels opt for reliable provisioning, ordered in advance and shipped from Bali to arrive prior to the arrival of the guests.


Being based in Bali, The Lighthouse Consultancy team, have access to a reliable supply of high-quality provisions, sourced directly from local markets or producers, or from the numerous outlets that are more accustomed to servicing the huge number of international standard hotels on the island. For a specific ingredient or item requested by the owner or the chef, regular imports of luxury items can also be arranged with advance warning.

Shipments of food and provisions are quality controlled and then packed carefully by our team in ice cooled Styrofoam boxes. These are then delivered personally to the vessel in Benoa port or flown to the nearest domestic airport to the vessel's location, making use of the Consultancy's cargo network among the domestic airlines and airports in the region. Shipments can then be collected and delivered to the vessel in harbour or even a rendezvous at sea can be arranged.



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“During his time aboard Made proved to be an excellent dive guide, knowing all the great dive spots and the best times to dive them. He also arranged excursions ashore for us and dealt magnificently with the local bureaucracy. More importantly, he proved to be a very nice person to have on board, his English is excellent, and he was always helping the crew, we all became very good friends, and would love to invite him back on board another time.”

Captain Gordon Percy, SY Twizzle

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Custom Cruise Itineraries: Preparation & Planning

Utilising in-depth operational experience across the Indonesian archipelago, the Lighthouse team have developed a series of high quality, detailed custom cruise itineraries which give captains and crew a clear idea of the kind anchorages and potential activities available in each region. These itineraries also give owners a clear understanding of what adventures will be in store before the vessel even arrives in Indonesian waters.

Simple and informative, with great photography and graphics, these popular presentations are produced to suggest potential cruise time-lines, factoring in an individual yacht owner's preferences. These itineraries can focus on spectacular isolated beaches and nature laden treks through the whole spectrum of Indonesian marine activities and even land and air excursions into the astonishing heartland of this mesmerising country.

Over the last 20 years cruising this huge water-borne country, The Lighthouse Consultancy's network of guides and lecturers have accumulated a vast library of information. This enables the development of detailed yacht itineraries allowing vessels to visit Indonesia with confidence, safe in the knowledge that the experience of the Lighthouse Consultancy is supporting them every step of the way.

These branded documents can be as concise or as detailed as needed, from a simple four-page overview to a multi-chapter anchorage bible tailored to suit every type of unique Indonesian adventure. They are great for presenting to owners on tablets, laptops and televisions or even as professionally printed hard copies.



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'Lighthouse assisted Andromeda with complicated research for a broad-ranging Indonesian itinerary. Requests included; itinerary development, physical inspection of multiple destinations, arranging all logistics in support of +100m yacht and most challenging, seeking flight permits for the yacht's own helicopter. The Lighthouse Consultancy delivered on all points and did so with consistent good grace and good humour. It was a pleasure to work alongside the team in Bali.'

Captain Brendan O'Shannassy, MV Andromeda

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Pushing Boundaries: Extraordinary Excursions

Indonesia's marine paradises are incredible and guests will often be captivated with these attractions alone, without even considering the topside adventures found in this vast archipelago. The flora and fauna of the country are exceptionally unique. Indonesia is rightfully famous for the incredible diversity and beauty of the landscapes, from the high rocky grasslands and forests of the Komodo National Park to the spectacular karst limestone islands of Raja Ampat. With a 'Ring of Fire' of active volcanoes to hike and explore and a huge amount of unique wildlife to discover, topside explorations are an integral element to any Indonesian experience.

Visiting the many diverse cultures found throughout the cruising grounds also adds to a visitor's memories of the country, with warm and welcoming local communities providing delightful interactions throughout an itinerary.

In addition to the activities close to the anchorages, such as volcano climbing, unique wildlife excursions and safaris up to colourful lakes and mountains, Lighthouse can arrange expeditions to some of the country's most remote and remarkable locations, so that owners and guests can take full advantage of the wealth of sights, attractions and encounters that Indonesia has to offer. By pushing the boundaries, Lighthouse has successfully arranged anthropologist and art historian guided excursions for yacht owners to experience private fire dances, vibrant buffalo races and even war dances from wild tribes in the remote highlands and river deltas of West Papua.

Understanding the importance of the sense of adventure shared by yacht owners and their guests alike, The Consultancy works intensively to provide extraordinary excursions throughout this magical region.



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Special Projects: Expedition Planning

With twenty years in Indonesia, the Lighthouse Consultancy's experience of the workings of the country are substantial and the team is regularly approached to assist with unusual tasks and interesting challenges. In early 2020, working in conjunction with international expedition planners, Lighthouse facilitated and streamlined the logistical challenges for over 100 adventurers travelling through the archipelago on the world's only 185 metre residential cruise ship.

Specialist projects such as these are far removed from standard super yacht operations and require months of extensive pre-planning, followed by precision execution. The planning process involves coordination among a network of driven individuals and global organisations. The Consultancy is in a unique position to evaluate the requirements of unusual expeditions, basing decisions on historical experience and utilising a network of central and regional Government connections to anticipate and resolve potential difficulties, and generally help the expeditions run smoothly.



Special Projects: Filming & Media

Another unique element of The Lighthouse Consultancy is the multimedia production division. Born out of an understanding of the workings of Indonesian Government, Lighthouse has provided fixer services for multiple media productions in the country. The client portfolio includes BBC productions such as "Seven Worlds" along with projects with other world renowned production houses such as Plimsoll, Departure Films and Scubazoo.

Continuing the theme, the team of experienced professionals offer filming and photographing the Indonesian experience for visiting yachts. The production team has years of experience working in Indonesia on a variety of super yachts and other vessels, and creates memorable films highlighting the personal experience of yacht owners during their visit which is captured in the highest quality possible and delivered to the client in an eye catching cinematic film. Promotional productions are also offered for yacht owners wishing to showcase their vessel internationally.



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“Simply put, MY Eileen could not have achieved anything without the resourcefulness and dedication Andy and his team put in day in day out whilst we were in Indonesia. We found ourselves in an unfortunate technical difficult period and I have to say that Andy’s support was world class, if not possibly the best service I have ever received from an agent anywhere in the world.”

Captain Marc Micheletti, MY Eileen

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In Brief: Cruising Seasons & Anchorage Information

The following information is based on extensive experience in this part of the world, however, conditions in any area can be affected by weather patterns across South East Asia along with the Pacific and Indian Oceans. Anchorage options are affected by an individual vessel's requirements regarding depth and required swing room.

Bali, Komodo, Flores & Alor

Cruises in Komodo embark from Bali or from the ports of Labuan Bajo and Bima, which are closer in proximity to the Park but require domestic flights to reach them. Komodo is a year-round cruising destination, but experience has shown that July and August can be affected by blustery south-east winds and so the focus at this time is on the north shore areas. The main rainy season is from December to March when the area can be affected by winds from the north-west.

Heading east through to Alor limits anchorage choices for larger vessels, due to the steep drop-offs of the archipelago's underwater topography. Anchorage depths range from 40 to 60 metres.



Raja Ampat

Cruises in Raja Ampat embark from Sorong. The northern region is seen as an all-year destination with multiple anchorages available and the opportunity to sit out squalls around the many islands offering protection.

South Raja Ampat, around the Misool area, is more exposed and so cruising in July and August is not usually recommended, but conditions can be assessed during a flexible itinerary. More wind and rainfall will be experienced in July and August. The majority of anchorages throughout the Raja Ampat region have depths ranging from 40 to 65 metres.



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The Banda Islands

Cruises in the Banda Sea embark from Ambon. During the months of March, April, October and November the monsoon winds have historically dropped, however, the Banda islands are incredibly exposed and it is important to study weather forecasts at any time of year prior to visiting. Most itineraries avoid the months of June, July and August in Banda.

Anchorage in the Banda Sea are tricky due to the underwater topography of the region and it is impossible to have an itinerary moving to a new anchorage each night. Banda harbour offers the most prominent anchorage, at a depth of around 25 metres.



Cenderawasih Bay

Cruises in Cenderawasih Bay embark from Biak and can be visited throughout the year as the region is relatively well protected although West Papua's mountainous topography does contribute to regular rainfall. Combining Cenderawasih with Raja Ampat is possible, though this does involve a 250 nautical-mile mid-cruise relocation that runs along the north coast of the Birdshead Peninsula.

There are multiple anchorages available throughout the cruising region. Anchorage depths range from 30 to 40 metres.



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North Sulawesi

North Sulawesi offers two ports of embarkation, the first is Manado which has easy and convenient access to the International Airport which is only 20 minutes away from the city centre. Bitung, on the eastern side of the tip of Sulawesi, is a little further away and the journey from the airport to harbour takes around an hour and a half. Manado International Airport connects directly to Singapore with Silk Air, a subsidiary of Singapore Airlines.

The best season for cruising North Sulawesi is between October and June which avoids the south-east monsoon which becomes stronger during August. Anchorages are relatively easy all around the coastline with average anchoring depths of between 40 and 60 metres.



West Sumatra

Padang and Sabang are the easiest ports of embarkation for this region although it is possible to cruise from Singapore or Phuket, however, international clearances present their own challenges. The months between April and November bring the best swell and sea conditions for the excellent surfing at the Mentawais but the island chain is fairly exposed to the elements.

This area is also very popular with the world's surfing community, therefore, the further away from Padang a cruise goes the less crowded the surf breaks and beaches will be. Although the anchorages are somewhat exposed they are in fairly shallow water and it is generally possible to find the lee side for an overnight stay.



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Triton Bay

The nearest port of embarkation to Triton Bay is Kaimana which is located on mainland Papua. There are regular but limited flight schedules to Kaimana. This is a year round destination as it is relatively well protected although being Papua, rain can be expected. Weather forecasts should be evaluated before visiting the region as there is little protection after departing the shores of Papua. There are multiple anchorages throughout the region but the main area of interest is the strait between Pulau Aiduma and mainland Papua. Here you will find most of the better dive sites, a couple of lovely protected anchorages with plenty of swing room and numerous small secluded beaches, all ringed with jungle clad mountains.



The Forgotten Islands & Watubela

During the months of March, April, October and November the monsoon winds have historically dropped, however, these islands are incredibly exposed and it is important to study weather forecasts at any time of year prior to visiting. The main port in the area is Tual located on Kei Kecil although there are multiple smaller shallower anchorages on a few of the islands. Most itineraries out of Tual will be for beach focused activities. Anchorages in the Forgotten Islands are tricky due to the underwater topography of the region and it is almost impossible to have an itinerary moving to a new anchorage each night. It would be a consideration to avoid the months of June, July and August.



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“Indonesia stands out as the best destination I have travelled to in 33 years of sailing the world. Our two trips, to the East of Bali and Raja Ampat, were completely different; the scenery is simply stunning and even within a limited geographic area refreshingly different. The local populations were very warm and welcoming and genuinely excited to see the yacht and let us see their world.

It is however not an easy place to work and it was essential to have good local guidance. Lighthouse provided that brilliantly, allowing us to do some incredible things that left our guests delighted each and every day. The dilemma we have now is how other trips are going to compare.”

Captain Richard Bridge, MY Vava II

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In Brief: Cruising Permits & International Clearances

Despite the common perception that cruising Indonesia can be a complicated undertaking, the difficulties experienced are just different difficulties to those encountered in other areas of the world, and they are rarely insurmountable. Appointing The Lighthouse Consultancy to coordinate an Indonesian cruising timeframe will ensure a vessel is as prepared as possible for a visit.

Currently a Vessel Declaration Permit (VD) is required for a private yacht to visit Indonesia. The Vessel Declaration is a single entry permit, valid for up to one year, but extendable on two separate occasions. Once the application is submitted, vessels must report to Customs,

Immigration & Quarantine officials (CIQ) upon arrival in one of the 19 International Vessel Declaration ports. During the initial inspections for the vessel's international clearance, using the information submitted in the Vessel Declaration application and subsequently endorsed by customs officials, the vessel will be temporarily imported into Indonesia in order to be allowed to cruise the waters. The vessel is routinely exported at the end of the cruise timeframe during the final international clearance. As and when the vessel departs the country, a new application is required for any subsequent visit.



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There are several main ports that can be utilized to clear into Indonesia, and Lighthouse will generally recommend these based on the vessel's route and intended cruising destination. In all likelihood Bali, Kupang, Ambon, Tual, Sorong, Biak or Padang will be used. Lighthouse still advises that a member of their team is present during the international clearance to assist with translating the port and CIQ official's requests and requirements.

Important Note: With any longer duration of stay in the country, it is important to make plans regarding the visa considerations for crew and guests, as visas are not directly related to the vessel's status in the country. It would be recommended to contact The Lighthouse Consultancy team to discuss all elements of the new cruising permit requirements for visiting Indonesia.

Planning for the Vessel Declaration application requires:

- Ships Registration Papers & Operational Documents
- Four photographs of the vessel
- List of names and passports of all crew
- List of names of all guests
- Planned Ports for International Clearances
- Potential planned domestic route



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"We have been using Lighthouse for the past few years whilst cruising Indonesia. With the ever changing regulations/challenges in the area, we are shielded from the hassles and get to concentrate on showing the owners a good time. Its an incredible cruising ground, with beauty above and below the water."

Captain Andy Squire, MY Sapphire

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In Brief: Guest & Crew Visa Requirements

1. Visa Exemption

Duration: 30 Days, no extension

These visas are issued at multiple ports in Indonesia in the same way they are given to every international passenger arriving at international airports across Indonesia. They are essentially an exemption from needing a visa and are therefore free. So nothing needs to be arranged in advance and no payments are charged for the visa itself. These visas are not allowed to be extended beyond the allotted 30 days, the applicant has to leave Indonesia within 30 days of it being issued, either with a flight or with the vessel.

This type of visa is compulsory for ASEAN citizens (Filipino, Thai, Malaysian, Singaporean etc).

2. Visa On Arrival

Duration: 30 Days + 1 x 30 day extension

These visas are arranged upon arrival in several ports in Indonesia, but since the introduction of the Visa Exemption, it is imperative to request this visa, as the standard offering is the Visa Exemption. In remote areas however, the immigration department don't always have the status to issue Visa On Arrival, and so these visas must be arranged in advance through Jakarta. Before the initial 30 days expires, it is possible to extend the VOA with a visit to a local immigration office, to take photographs and fingerprints to go in the immigration system. Once that extension has happened the applicant receives an additional 30 days so a total of 60 days in the country.

The VOA is prohibited to be issued to ASEAN citizens (Filipino, Thai, Malaysian, Singaporean etc).



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3. Visitor Visa

Duration: An initial 60 days + 2 x 60 day extensions for a total of 180 days in the country

A Visitor Visa, also known as an E-Visa or B211, is the preferred visa used by yachts planning extended stays in the country. These visas are processed online before the applicant arrives in the country and must be sponsored by an Indonesian entity, so it is suggested that you contact Lighthouse in advance to arrange them. Once the relevant application documentation has been submitted and approved, the visa takes a few days to complete before a digital copy is released to the Lighthouse office. Following the release of the visa, the applicant has 90 days to enter the country to initiate the visa.

The visa is valid for 60 days, and after the initial period expires, the visa can be extended for an additional 60 days with a visit to a local immigration office, where photos and fingerprints are taken and entered into the immigration system. This process can be repeated once more for a total of 180 days in the country. It is, however, a single entry visa, so when the visa holder departs, it is reset and a new application is required for a new visa.

Special Visa Requirements

Some nationalities have special visa requirements to fulfil, for example their visa has to be approved in advance of arriving in the country regardless of how long the individual plans to stay, or a nationality can only enter on a visa exemption and not a VOA. It is imperative to check early with the Lighthouse team to plan for any anomalies. Israelis, Montenegrins, Colombians and a selection of other nationalities fall under these special visa requirements.



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"I particularly liked The Lighthouse Consultancy's honest 'tell it like it is' approach and flexibility when it came to handling logistics, thanks to their slick operations we always knew what was going on and what to expect at each stop along the way."

Captain Joshua Worthington, MY Norby

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In Brief: Customs Requirements & Shipping Challenges

Shipping in to Indonesia is somewhat complicated and requires coordination to avoid unnecessary delays.

Certain items can be imported as “Ship Spares in Transit”, but these are heavily controlled and regulated and should be confirmed whether it is feasible in advance of sending items so as to avoid difficulties. SSIT can generally only be processed when the vessel is in the port of Benoa in Bali, as the items have to be escorted to the vessel by customs officers, and signed on by the captain.

Other items need a specific permit to import, for example, a Chemical Import Licence or a Textile Import Licence and those items cannot be imported without these directly associated licences. Other items can be imported without a licence, but taxes between 20% and 50% and sometimes considerably more are levied.

Certain courier companies are able to process both SSIT and licensed imports and others will hold their hands up and blame everyone else, so it is important to choose the service providers and work with the right systems. Lighthouse have considerable experience with customs procedures and strongly advise getting in contact well in advance of sending items, to Indonesia to minimise the difficulties as much as possible.



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The Lighthouse Consultancy: Yacht Portfolio

- MV Alucia
- MY Amoha
- MY Andiamo
- MY Andromeda
- SY Antares
- MY Antipodean
- SY Aquijo
- MY Archimedes
- MY Asteria
- MY Beluga
- MY Black Pearl
- MY Big Fish
- SY Bliss
- MY Cloudbreak
- MY CV-9
- SY Cygnus Montanus
- SY Dallinghoo
- MY Dalooob
- MY Dancing Hare
- MY Deniki
- SY Destination
- MY Dragonfly
- MY Driftwood
- MY Dr No
- MY Eileen
- MY Endless Summer
- MY Equanimity
- SY Ethereal
- MY Galileo G
- MY Game Changer
- SY Gliss
- MY Gran Finale
- MY Happy Days
- MY Helios 2
- SY Hemisphere
- SY Hetairos
- MY Keri Lee III
- MY La Dea II
- MY La Familia
- MY Lady Christine
- MY Lauren L
- MY Legacy
- MY Maria
- SY Maya Ray
- SY Mystere
- MY My Spirit
- MY Naia
- Sportfisher Norby
- MY Northern Sun
- MY Pacific
- MY Pangaea
- MY Pamela V
- MY Paradise
- MY Party Girl
- MY Paraffin
- SY Path
- SY Pelican
- MY Playpen
- MY Promise
- MY Pursuit
- MY Redemption
- MY Rochade
- MY Sapphire
- SY Sarafin
- SY Sarissa
- MY Samax
- MY Samaya
- SY Sea Eagle
- SY Seahawk
- MY Seawolf
- MY Senses
- MY Serenity
- MY Serenity J
- SY Silvertip
- MV The World
- MY Triple Seven
- SY Twizzle
- MY Ulysses
- MY Umbra
- MY Vava II
- MY Vibrant Curiosity
- MY Vive La Vie
- SY Vivid
- MY Wabi Sabi
- SY Wavelength

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Austin Miller, Roy Mangersnes, Fred Barton, Drarg Richards, Paul Sewell, Andy Shorten, Skyflow Creations, James Southgate, Jessica Truter, Luca Vaime, Mike Veitch & Lukas Zimbhul

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