

THE MOST BIODIVERSE REEFS IN THE WORLD

RAJA AMPAT EXPEDITION

After a **fully booked** expedition in Raja Ampat last year, we are excited to offer this beautiful route again to those we couldn't join the last one. South Raja Ampat includes the Misool island area, teeming with life hosted by vast, **thriving coral reefs** painting the underwater world in the most extravagant colours. Located in the most northeastern corner of the Indonesian Archipelago, the Raja Ampat islands connect the Pacific and the Indian ocean, resulting in continuous mixing of nutrients. **More than 2000 species of fish, (oceanic) manta rays, (endemic) sharks and 31 cetaceans species roam these waters.**

We are super passionate about Raja Ampat as we have both **lived here for years**, and can't wait to share our knowledge on marine life, conservation and the **local Papuan culture** with you on this trip!

Please email us to book your spot, limited spots available: irisuijttewaal101@gmail.com
wendymitchell720@gmail.com



QUICK FACTS

<14 guests | 21-28 February, 2025 (11D/10N) | Sorong – Sorong

USD\$ 4.740 / GBPE 3900 / AUS\$ 7530 per person

INCLUSIONS

Approximately 32 dives

All meals, (soda) drinks, beer & complimentary wine at dinner

Airport/hotel transfer to/from the liveaboard

Raja Ampat culture & history lecture

Fish & coral ID workshop

Underwater photography mentoring

Manta ray conservation lecture

Visit to heart-shaped lagoon viewpoint

Bird of paradise trekking

EXCLUSIONS

Flights

National Park fee (£100)

Port fee (£135)

“Raja Ampat is possibly the richest coral reef ecosystem in the world, hosting 75% of the world’s species of hard coral & fish. Hence the name: the last paradise. I could dive this region every day for the rest of my life and not get bored. The busy underwater scenes are full of surprises; I’ve even seen hammerheads and whale sharks on dives here, and orcas, false killer whales an elusive omura whales are commonly spotted from the boat.”

Wendy Mitchell, co-host



THE HOSTS

WENDY MITCHELL &
IRIS UIJTTEWAAL

Together, Wendy and Iris have spent over a decade in the remotest corners of Indonesia, logging more than a **thousand dives in Raja Ampat** alone. Wendy has been working with organisations such as Greenpeace and Oceanographic Magazine, and Iris, who has been based on **Arborek Island** in central Raja Ampat for over four consecutive years, had her photography published in NatGeo Magazine. Carrying a vast bank of knowledge on **marine conservation, diving and photography**, Wendy and Iris are always keen to share their knowledge – whether that’s through a workshop or while chatting after a dive.



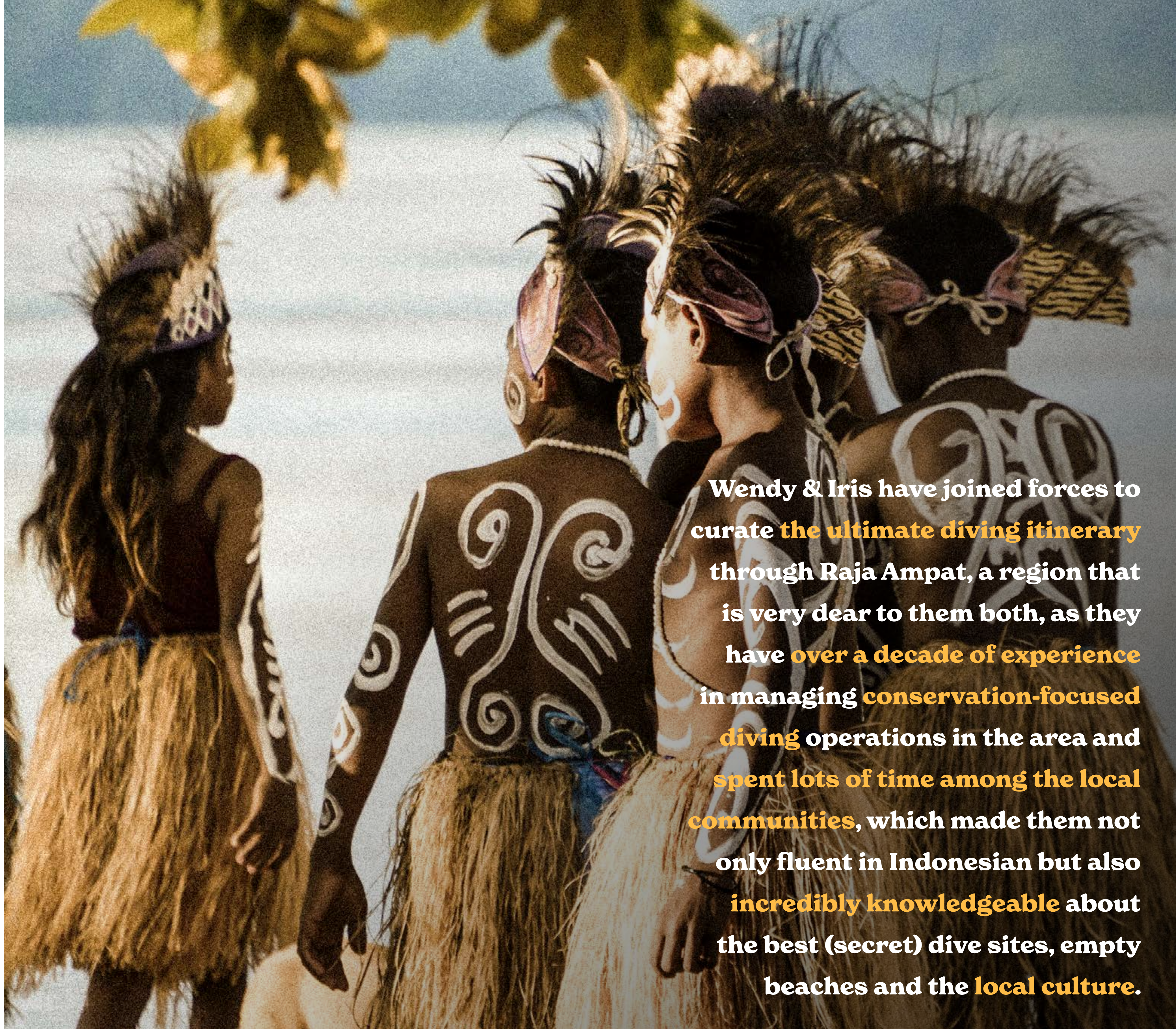
Iris

+62-81344603885



Wendy

+61-455263236



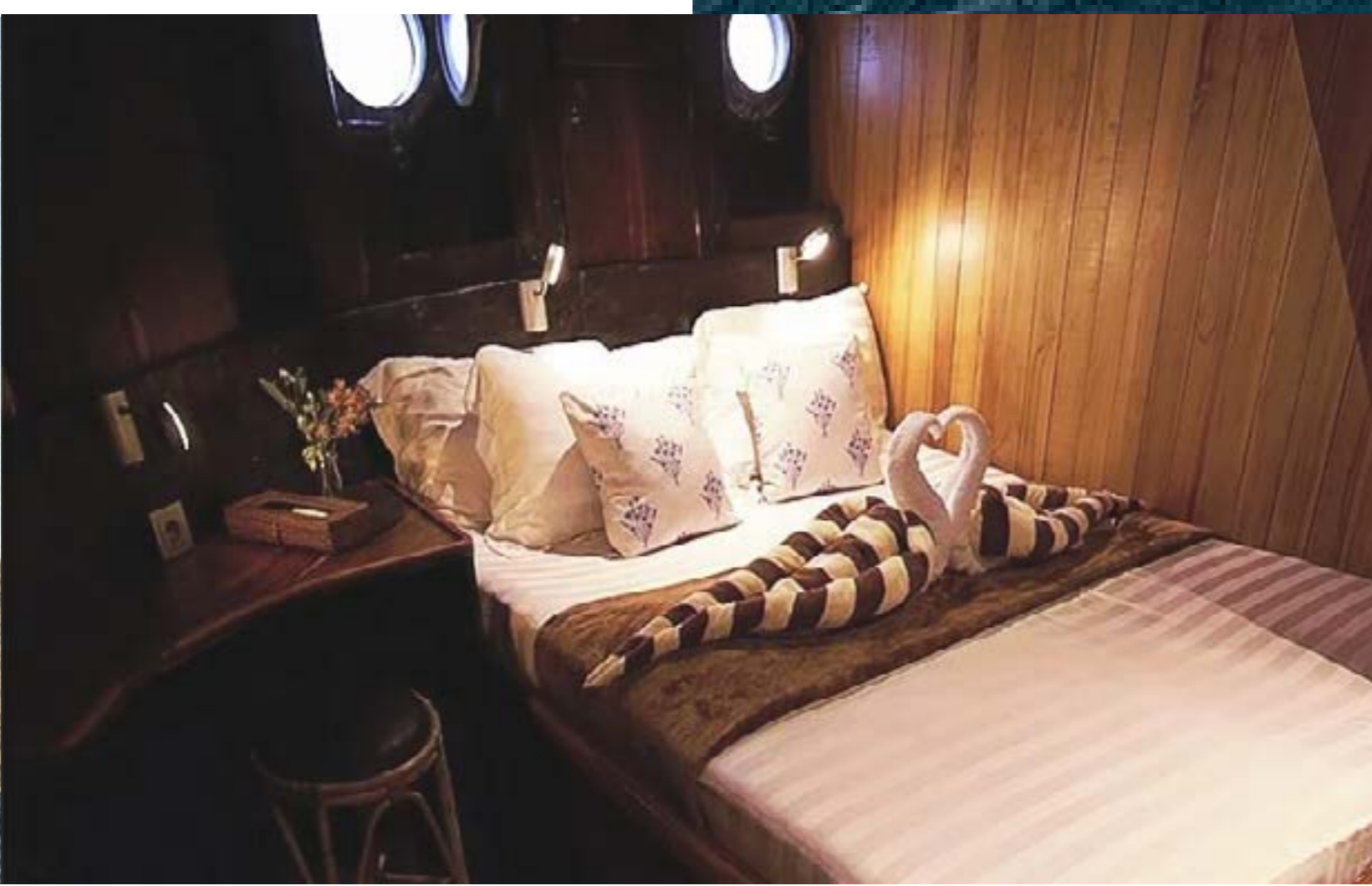
Wendy & Iris have joined forces to curate **the ultimate diving itinerary** through Raja Ampat, a region that is very dear to them both, as they have **over a decade of experience** in managing **conservation-focused diving operations in the area** and **spent lots of time among the local communities**, which made them not only fluent in Indonesian but also **incredibly knowledgeable** about the best (secret) dive sites, empty beaches and the **local culture**.



THE PHINISI

MID-RANGE LUXURY LIVEBOARD

The 42-meter long liveboard consists 7 cabins and can host a maximum of 14 guests. The 2 double and 6 twin cabins all have **air conditioning** and an **en-suite bathroom with hot water**. The boat also has a **dedicated camera room**. A blend of European, Japanese and Indonesian, **five delicious meals are served daily** and soft drinks, beers and **complimentary wine** at dinner are included. Dedicated to excellent, **5-star experience** both underwater and on board, the phinisi crew make sure every need is met. The **diving platforms** makes going on and coming off the tenders as easy as can be. Following **high safety standards** and quality of service, we will make sure you can lean back and relax during your trip through the Raja Ampat archipelago.



OUR 'WHY'

TRAINING LOCAL WOMEN TO BECOME OCEAN ADVOCATES VIA DIVE & MARINE SCIENCE TRAINING

Raja Ampat is often dubbed 'the last paradise', indicating this may well be the last place on earth where the coral reefs are so vibrant, so full of life and so beautiful. With **climate change** impacting marine ecosystems worldwide, Raja Ampat is changing. Living in Raja Ampat for years, **we have seen the change in reef habitats with our own eyes**; whether it's cyanobacteria smothering complete reefs, declines of fish populations on various dive sites or the low numbers of oceanic manta rays in recent years.

Seeing the subtle changes in underwater habitats inspired us to host these special liveaboard trips. The funds collected allow us to **build a community of female dive masters** who not only understand the reef, but have the tools to **protect it through knowledge, skill and equipment**. We hope they may be the start of something bigger, **a ripple effect**. Having lived among the Arborek community for years, we immediately had candidates in mind. The young women are selected based on interest and love for the ocean and positive 'can-do' mentality. **We teach them ourselves and ensure continuous mentorship**, also after the training is completed.

By joining an Expedition Biru trip, **you are helping us making our vision a reality**. Our capacity increases with every little bit, making it possible to train more women, faster. Thank you.

The profits of this trip will go directly towards the education (marine conservation and diving) of young women in Raja Ampat. We will be teaching them ourselves to ensure **high quality training, provide mentorship & develop lasting relationships.**

