



HAMMERHEADS, SPICES & CRITTERS

BANDA SEA EXPEDITION

After a fully booked expedition in Raja Ampat last February, we are excited to offer a new destination for our next expedition: the Banda Sea. We have observed an increased curiosity about this region boasting incredible coral reefs hosting hammerheads, volcanic islands populated by hundreds of sea kraits, outer-worldly macro life and a fascinating history.

Embark on an unforgettable journey with us this October as we set sail for the mystical Banda Sea. A realm steeped in history and teeming with natural wonders, the region is home to the tiniest macro creatures to the majestic hammerhead sharks.

It's one of our favourite regions in Indonesia, and offers a true off-the-beaten-path experience we can't wait to share with you.

Wendy & Iris

Please email us to book your spot, limited spots available: irisuijtewaal1101@gmail.com
wendymitchell720@gmail.com

QUICK FACTS

Max 14 guests | October 21-28, 2024 (8D/7N) | Ambon - Ambon

USD\$ 4270 / ± GBP£ 3250 / ± AUS\$ 6350 per person

INCLUSIONS

Approximately 24 dives

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

Airport/hotel transfer to/from the liveaboard

History of Banda Islands lecture

Marine biology workshop

Underwater photography mentoring

Conservation/sharkfinning lecture

Visit to Banda Neira with guide

Visit to Lava Flow

EXCLUSIONS

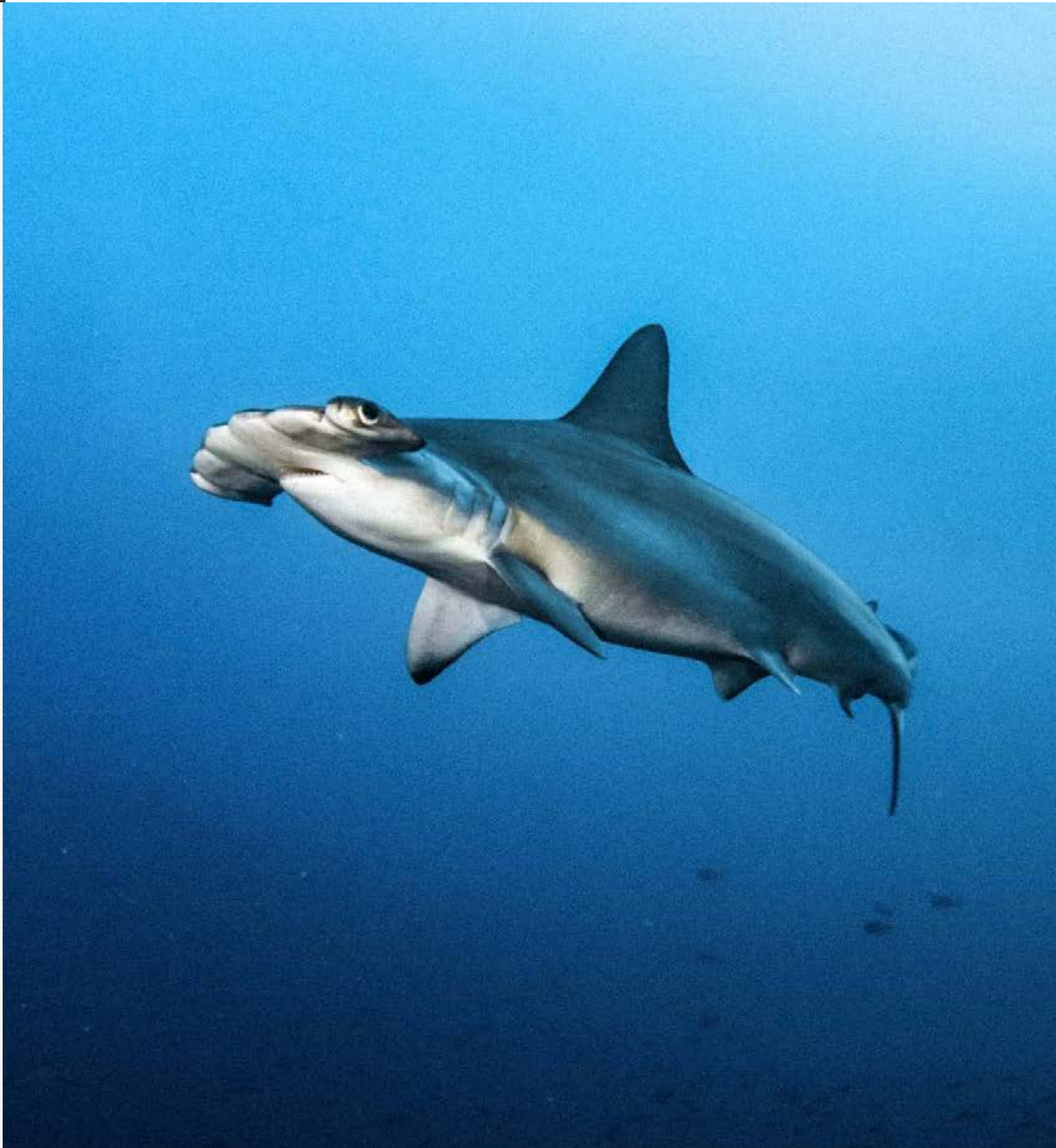
Flights

National Park fee (£160)

Port fee (£120)

“Learning about Indonesian history through books and conversation, it seems the story of the Banda Islands might well be the most astonishing. When I finally visited, the region touched my heart in a unique way. Since the fall of the VOC (Dutch East India Company), time moved past as the Banda Islands lay forgotten. Luckily, it’s fringing coral reefs somehow remained untouched when history was made on land, as did the kind hearts of the Bandanese.”

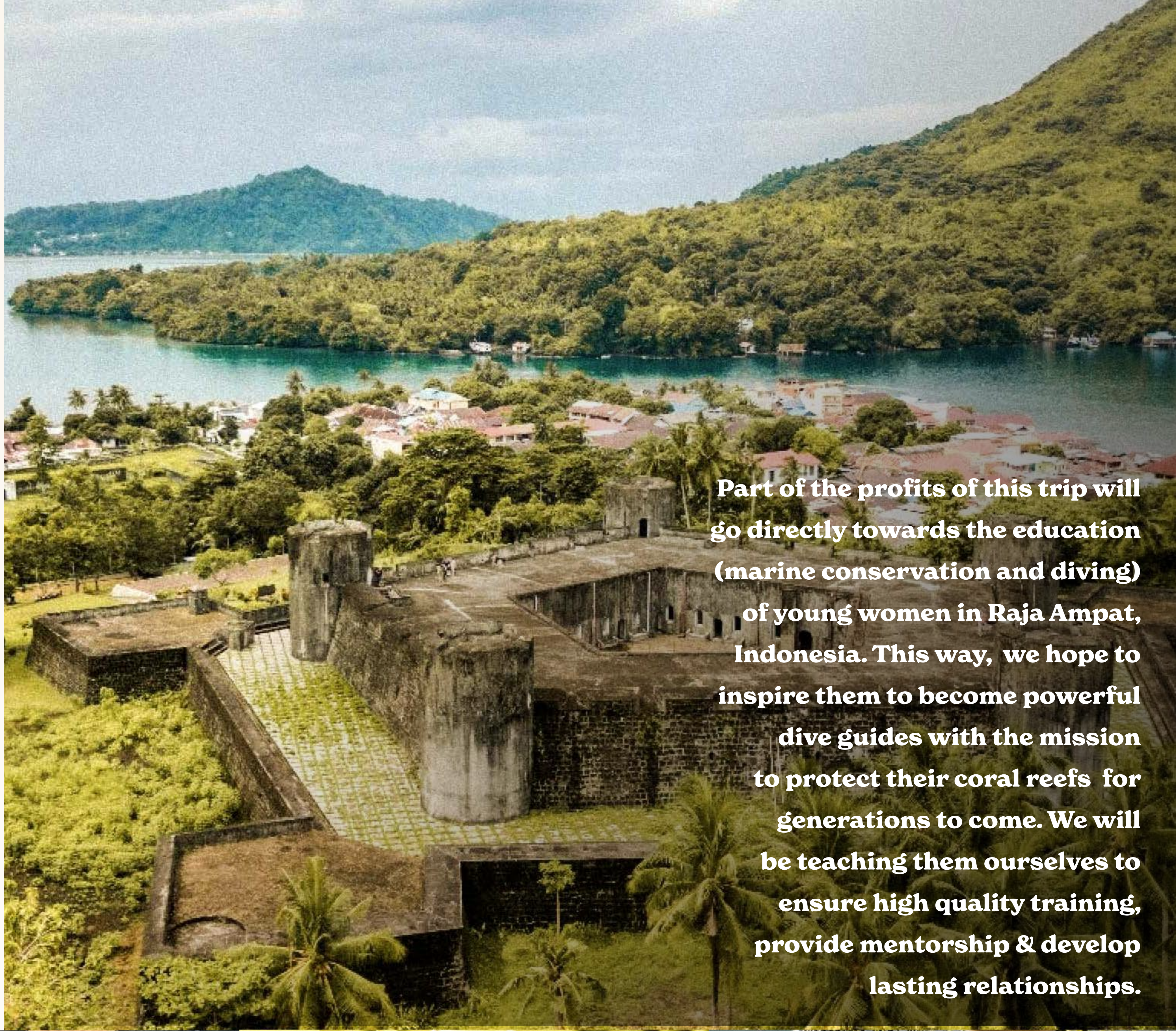
Iris Uijttewaal, co-host



THE HOSTS

WENDY MITCHELL &
IRIS UIJTTEWAAL

Together, Wendy & Iris have over a decade of experience in managing conservation-focused diving operations in the remotest corners of Indonesia, which made them not only fluent in bahasa Indonesia but also incredibly knowledgeable about the best (hidden) dive sites and Indonesian culture. Wendy has been working with organisations such as Greenpeace and Oceanographic Magazine, and Iris' photography's been 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.



Part of the profits of this trip will go directly towards the education (marine conservation and diving) of young women in Raja Ampat, Indonesia. This way, we hope to inspire them to become powerful dive guides with the mission to protect their coral reefs for generations to come. We will be teaching them ourselves to ensure high quality training, provide mentorship & develop lasting relationships.



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 Banda Sea.



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, both Wendy and I 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.

