The Best of Irian Jaya and Raja Ampat

Papua Paradise Eco Resort

And

Triton Bay Eco Resort

Jan 3rd to Jan 21st 2029

This is a big one!

I have been thinking of going to Triton Bay since before Covid, and now is the chance. I enquired about dates and found that the earliest I could book to get the best time of the year was in 2029, so I've taken it. And as it is really remote and hard to get there, I have asked Allways for their recommendation for a second port-of-call, and they came back with Papua Paradise, which looks magnificent too. So we're going there first!

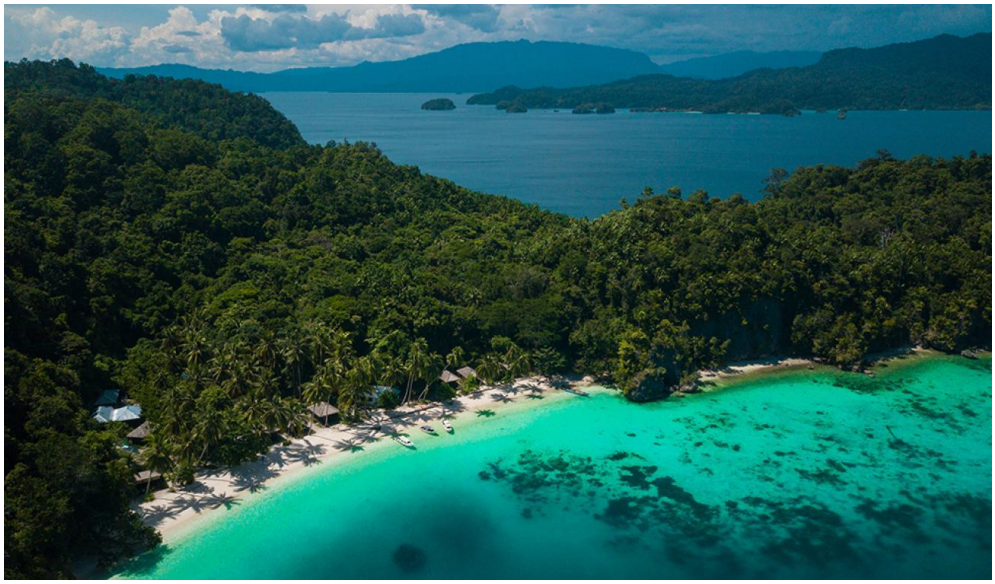
These are both top-line resorts, extremely remote, and so this is not a cheap trip. It is going to be one out of the box though! You have the choice here, come on both or chose which leg you'd like to be on.

Papua Paradise Eco Resort



Website: Papua Paradise Eco Resort

Located in the Birds Head Peninsula of Irian Jaya, the easternmost province of Indonesia, this is a spectacular resort located in the centre of the Raja Ampat area. Papua Paradise is located on a remote island two hours boat ride to the east of Sorong.



All of the rooms here are overwater, so expect to have fish, turtles, and small blacktip reef sharks swimming past your balcony!

Divers, we get up to four dives a day included in the package! The house reef is supposed to be excellent, and that is a must for snorkellers as well.

Snorkellers, you can join the divers on the dive boat when there is space, and I would recommend you do when they go to do the three piers day, and the manta day! Raja Ampat has a very famous manta dive site, but Papua Paradise has their own location they have found that they think is better! These snorkelling dive excursions are not included in the price of the trip, and are only available if there is space.

Also not included in the price of the trip are the excursions for birding, waterfalls and village tours. They tend to leave early in the morning and so we could dive afterwards. The red bird of paradise tour and the Wilson's bird of paradise tour are on my list of things to do here. Might be an early night or two, as there is a lot to do here for everyone, and an early morning or two is to be expected. All of these excursions are organised when we get there.

Papua Paradise Eco Resort Sorong (Sorong, Indonesia) Inclusions:

- Superior bungalow twin share (overwater)

- All meals
- Welcome drink and face towel
- Local coffee, tea, iced tea and drinking water Snacks plus homemade afternoon tea
- Free wifi in lounge area Up to 4 dives a day - excluding arrival and departure day
- Tank/weight/air fills/towel, water/fruits and hot tea
- Free nitrox for nitrox certified divers
- Mini bar in the room - replenished daily and complimentary
- Return transfer ex Sorong Airport

Exclusions at Papua Paradise

(Please note: **ALL** of the rooms at Papua Paradise are overwater!)

- Single supplement superior over water bungalow additional $1025 aud (inc overnight Sorong)
- Optional upgrade to deluxe overwater bungalow additional $875 per person twin share
- Optional upgrade to premier overwater bungalow additional $1975 per person twin share
- Dive equipment hire
- Staff gratuity
- Marine park fee 100,000 idr per person payable locally (subject to 2029 price increase)
- Bird, waterfall and village excursions

The following dive sites are in the area. I'm not sure which we will do, it will depend on the seas, weather, etc, but we are there at the best time of the year! This just gives you an idea of what you should see.

Cape Kri

Cape Kri is the stuff of legend. Holding the **world record for the most species of fish recorded in a single dive** (an incredible **374 species**, identified by ichthyologist Dr. Gerald Allen), this site is a biodiversity explosion. Strong currents bring in **swarms of barracuda, fusiliers, trevally, and snapper**, while reef sharks patrol the slopes. Every dive here feels like swimming through a living kaleidoscope of marine life.

Blue Magic

Just as its name suggests, Blue Magic is pure enchantment. This **offshore pinnacle** rises from the depths, attracting **both reef and oceanic manta rays** to its cleaning stations. Divers can hover as these graceful giants sweep overhead, often joined by

schools of jacks, tuna, and the occasional wobbegong shark tucked into the reef. Strong currents make this a thrilling site best suited to experienced divers.

Manta Sandy

For manta enthusiasts, Manta Sandy is a must. Located in the Dampier Strait, this shallow sandy channel is one of the region's **most reliable manta hotspots**. Rays glide in to be cleaned by small wrasse, often passing within meters of divers. Photographers love the consistency of encounters here, with opportunities for both wide-angle shots and close encounters.

Melissa's Garden

A paradise for coral lovers, Melissa's Garden features sprawling **hard coral gardens** that stretch across a submerged plateau. Schools of anthias, damselfish, and butterflyfish weave between the coral heads, while reef sharks and turtles cruise the edges. The sheer density and colour of the corals here make it one of Raja Ampat's most photogenic reefs.

Arborek Jetty

The small island of Arborek is famous for its **jetty dive**, a macro photographer's dream. Beneath the wooden stilts, divers can find **nudibranchs, pygmy seahorses, and ornate ghost pipefish**, along with schools of sweetlips and batfish weaving around the pilings. The jetty is shallow and calm, making it perfect for long bottom times and practicing underwater photography.

Triton Bay Divers



Website: Triton Bay Divers – Remote…and worth it

Triton Bay is a place I have been looking to go for quite a number of years now. When planning this trip I contacted them and asked for the best time of the year, when things are most likely to be going off, and this was it. I have booked out every room in the place. There are only eight. Only two of these eight are twins, so if you need a twin book early, rooms cannot be reconfigured. All rooms are by the beach! Some rooms will require an upgrade as priced below.



There are several reasons I want to dive here:

Their house reef is reputed to be superb, with its own endemic epaulette shark, which is probably best seen at night.

Whale shark diving and snorkelling is the main reason for the visit. Local fishermen have a floating fishing platform where they haul up nets, and the local whale sharks have learnt to come during this time where they feed on the leftovers. To top this off local bottlenose dolphin pods come to join in the fun. Whale sharks and dolphin at the same time! Snorkellers, you're a part of this too! They also mention the chance of a marlin. Probably a small chance, but that's something you don't see mentioned often.

Flasher Wrasse reef is another reason. In the late afternoon the males of these small wrasse start to display their colours, and it is amazing. Normally on a reef you get three or four of these little fish displaying. On this reef there are hundreds at once. There is a video on the website, check it out, it is amazing!

There are a ton of interesting dive sites on the website, I'll leave you to look at these as you will.

Inclusions:

- Seaview deluxe twin share (x4 rooms)
- Round trip scheduled transfers from Kaimana airport to resort.

- Full board accommodation including breakfast, lunch, afternoon snack and dinner Unlimited regular coffee, tea and water.
- 15 dives per diver Tanks weights and air fills Including one free trip will be offered to see the whale sharks to each diving guest
- One whale shark trip for divers and snorkellers both.

Exclusions:

- Single supplement seaview standard room additional $985 aud (inc overnight Sorong and Jakarta)
- Downgrade from seaview deluxe to gardenview deluxe (x2 only) reduction $200 aud per person based twin share
- Downgrade from seaview deluxe to seaview standard reduction $350 aud per person based twin share (x2 only and suitable for couples or singles only)
- Excludes compulsory Indonesia entry form to be completed by each traveller within 72 hours of arrival into Indonesia: https://allindonesia.imigrasi.go.id/
- Excludes Indonesia compulsory E Visa purchase via: https://allindonesia.imigrasi.go.id/
- Marine park fees 100,000 IDR per person payable locally (subject to 2029 price increases)
- Snorkelling trips for non divers accompanying divers $70 aud per person per day payable direct to dive operator (subject to space on dive boat)
- Staff gratuity
- Dive equipment hire
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Itinerary

Date		
Wed 3rd Jan 2029	Depart Melb for Jakarta, Indonesia QF 2.50pm, arrive 7.15pm	
Thur 4th Jan	Depart Jakarta for Sarong at 12.30am, arriving at 6.30am Staying at Swiss Bell Hotel, Sorong Swiss-Belhotel Sorong – 4-Star Hotel Near Sorong Airport & Raja Ampat	
Fri 5th Jan to Thurs 11th Jan	Papua Paradise Eco resort Sorong	
Fri 12th Jan	Leave Papua Paradise to have a night in Sorong at the Swiss Bell Hotel.	
Sat 13th Jan	Departing Sorong at 7.20am and arriving in Kaimana at 8.40am where we will be taken directly to Triton Bay Eco Resort	
Sat 13th Jan to Sat 20th Jan	Triton Bay Eco Resort	
Sat 20th Jan	Depart Kaimana at 2.55pm and arrive in Jakarta at 6.10pm. Stay at Swiss Bel Hotel Jakarta.	
Sun 21st Jan	Depart Jakarta at 3.30pm and arrive in Melbourne at 6.30am	

Costs

Total trip, both Papua Paradise and Triton Bay:

Diver twin share: $14,901.00

Non-diver twin share: $12,683.00

Papua Paradise only:

Diver twin share: $8,381.00

Non-diver twin share: $7,210.00

Triton Bay Resort Only:

Diver twin share: $9,255.00

Non diver twin share: $$8,208.00

Deposits Required:

- $1250 Per Person initial trip deposit.
- $1800 per person required by end of 2027 = $3050 per person total trip deposit.
- If only going to one destination:- $2000 per person international and internal airfare - Raja Ampat only or Triton Bay only - purchased 11 months prior to departure.
- If going for the whole trip:- $2500 per person for international and internal airfares - Raja Ampat and Triton - purchased 11 months prior to departure.
- Deposits paid are non-refundable and non-transferable
- Balance due 95 days prior to departure.

I hope I've given you enough information here to peke your interest! If you'd like to know anything I've missed, please don't hesitate to ask!

This will be a once-off trip to a very remote area with diving and snorkelling to rival anywhere!

Cheers

Ken