

# Tour itinerary

## Coral Reef Workshop

### Papua Paradise Eco Resort & Gangga Divers 17<sup>th</sup> may– 31<sup>th</sup> may 2025

#### Day 1 - 17<sup>h</sup> may 2025 - Arrival

After your arrival at Sorong in the morning, you will be picked up from the airport and transferred to a comfortable hotel lobby, where complimentary breakfast buffet and/or lunch are provided.

We suggest you to book a flight with an early arrival at Sorong (before 12:00 noon) in order to catch our 14:00 boat. We offer daily transfers to our guests (arrival and departure). If your flight arrives in the afternoon, you may have to spend a night in Sorong and transfer the next day. The departure is at 2 pm latest at the port, the boat transfer lasts approx. 90 min.

#### Day 2 - 18<sup>th</sup> may - Workshop

*Fish - Workshop incl. two morning dives.*  
Your first workshop starts today. At the Fish - Workshop you will learn about the **family characteristics** and ways of life of the various reef fish using vivid and descriptive methods - on the two morning dives as well as on land. Your **fish identification** skills, whether beginner or professional, are being developed further. In the evening there will be an interesting **lecture on the fish of the Indo-Pacific**.

#### Day 3 – 19<sup>th</sup> may - Workshop

*Fish - Workshop incl. two morning dives.*  
We proceed with two further specially briefed "fish dives" in the morning so that the results of the previous day will be further deepened. You will learn to work with scientific databases, like **fishbase** to obtain all kinds of information about fish. Together we will draw up a **fish species** list. After dinner, you can expect an entertaining **fish ID quiz** and a **certificate** of workshop content.

#### Day 4 – 20<sup>th</sup> may - Day at free disposal

Today is a day at leisure. For example, you can go diving individually today and apply your fish knowledge underwater. Two dives a day are not enough for you? Then book a unlimited dive package in advance so that you can do up to 4 dives on this day. Or get to know the top dive sites at the "Fam Islands" and book a day trip including three dives. The trip to Fam is subject to weather/sea condition and is chargeable 75 euro per person.

#### Day 5 - 21<sup>st</sup> may - Workshop

*Coral workshop incl. two morning dives.*

The **corals are the builders of the reefs** and create this very fascinating habitat in the first place. Reason enough to take a closer look at this group of animals! Using the "**Indopacific Coral Finder**" as a tool for the systematic **coral ID**, you will be able to determine any hard coral down to genus level at the end of the workshop! At the exciting **coral presentation** in the evening you will learn a lot about coral reef ecology - about reef formation and erosion, zonation, the different reef types and coral groups.

#### Day 6 – 22<sup>nd</sup> may - Workshop

*Coral workshop with with two morning dives and one fluorescence night dive.*

On the second day the focus is on corals and **coral identification**. During the two dives during the day we collect dead broken **coral fragments** in order to take a closer look at the fine skeleton structure by use of **stereomicroscopes**.

At the end of this workshop you will also receive a **certificate** of participation in the workshop contents and you can test your acquired coral knowledge in an entertaining **coral quiz!**

A highlight at the end is definitely the **fluorescence night dive**, where you can make the reef glow using blue light lamps!

#### Day 7 – 23<sup>rd</sup> may - Day at free disposal

Would you like to have a day off today and take part in another interesting land excursion? This time perhaps a little bit culture such as a the "Arefi Village Tour"?

Why don't you take a kayak tour on your free day to explore Birie island from the water? Or take a land excursion to the magnificent Batanta Island waterfall with swimming or join a rainforest trip to the endemic birds of paradise? The trip for the Wilson Bird of Paradise is subject to weather condition and is chargeable 100 € per person. Would you rather go back underwater? Then book your individual dive trip, this time perhaps to the famous Raja Ampat "Kri".

#### Day 8 – 24<sup>th</sup> may– departure / prolongation

Today ends the first week of the Coral Reef workshop in Raja Ampat. Would you like to take part in further workshops with Stephan and explore the underwater world of Raja Ampat even better? Then we strongly recommend that you extend your next week at Papua Paradise Eco Resort! Alternatively, you can combine your trip with a liveaboard cruise in Raja Ampat or another destination in Indonesia.

## Day 9 – 25<sup>th</sup> may - Workshop

*Invertebrate workshop incl. two morning dives.*

At the beginning of week 2 the invertebrate workshop continues to focus on **coral reef ecology**:

Food web, predator-prey relationships, parasitism and symbiosis, functional groups such as algae grazers, today's threats to coral reefs and environmental protection. We take **samples of microorganisms** in the reef, in the sand and in the water column – for examination under the **stereomicroscope**. We will create a **zoological drawing** by taking a close look at the morphology of the various groups of organisms.

The **evening lecture** on the sheer endless interrelations in the reef gives you a good overview of coral reef ecology, as well as a good preparation for the next exciting workshop day. After the lecture, **plankton** will be fished using lights on the jetty - for examination under the stereomicroscope the next day!

## Day 10 - 26<sup>th</sup> may - Workshop

*Invertebrate workshop with with two morning dives and one night dive.*

After lunch we will examine the **plankton sample** with the bizarre life forms and larval stages of different reef inhabitants. In the following of the **microfauna and flora**, the focus today is on the **larger invertebrates**, various crustaceans, clams, snails, seastars, sea urchins, sea cucumbers, worms, bryozoans, sea squirts and sponges. Many of them you will already encounter during the two day dives. But most of these creatures are hidden deep in the reef's cracks and crevasses during the day and it gets really exciting during the night dive...

Also at this workshop a **species list** of all encountered groups of organisms will be compiled. At the end there will be an entertaining **invertebrate quiz** as well as the **certificate** of workshop participation.

## Day 11 – 27<sup>th</sup> may - Day trip

Today, a full day trip to one of the famous Raja Ampat dive sites including three dives is on the schedule.

Depending on weather conditions we will go either to "Kri", "Mansuar" or to the "Fam Islands" to explore some of the most unique reefs in advance of the upcoming Raja Ampat Workshop!

## Day 12 – 28<sup>th</sup> may - Workshop

*Raja Ampat workshop incl. 2 morning snorkel trips.*

During the Raja Ampat workshop you will explore the habitats of the **seagrass beds** and the **mangroves** adjacent to the reef during the two snorkeling trips and recognize their immense importance for the **coral reefs** and the complex interdependencies of these neighboring ecosystems.

Back on land this will be worked up accordingly. You will see that both are fascinating and highly underestimated habitats!

Like the coral reefs, mangroves are also under immense pressure, losing 1-2% of their total area every year, 3-4 times faster than the decline of rural forest types.

**Environmental protection** will therefore be the topic of the fourth and final **evening lecture**.

## Day 13 - 29<sup>th</sup> may - Workshop

*Raja Ampat-Workshop incl. 2 morning snorkel trips.*

On the second day of the Raja-Ampat workshop we will be snorkeling along the **seagrass beds** and **mangroves** around Birie Island again and explore the flowing transition of these habitats to the coral reef. What are the differences and similarities between these habitats? Who are the inhabitants, most of whom live hidden in the sediment? We will again take **samples** and examine them in a final **stereomicroscope session**. We conclude the last workshop day with a relaxing late afternoon dive!

## Day 14 – 30<sup>th</sup> may - Day at free disposal

The workshops are over and you look back on two unique weeks. You have gathered many impressions of Raja Ampat and now you see things under water with different eyes.

Relax today on your hammock or finish off with a massage in the unique spa area overlooking the sea.

It is also a good idea to write down all the impressions and deepen them with the help of the interesting workshop booklets. Our coral reef expert Stephan Moldzio will be happy to answer your questions!

## Day 15 – 31<sup>st</sup> may - departure

Now it's time to say goodbye - your workshop tour ends today. The boat departure time from the resort to Sorong is at 7:00 AM.

Earliest departure from the resort is 7:00 AM in order to catch a 10:30AM flight. If your flight departs before 10:30 AM, you will be transferred to Sorong one day in advance.

