

# Raja Ampat Biodiversity Eco Resort



**Raja Ampat** Biodiversity Eco Resort is located on a private white sandy beach on the island of Gam in the Dampier Strait in central Raja Ampat, West Papua New Guinea.

Reynaldo Andaluz and Patricia Sanz, owners of Raja Ampat Biodiversity Eco Resort, are aware that the term "eco resort" is bandied around too easily and rather describe their operation as an "eco-concept" resort. Reynaldo explains: "Our intention, as divers and nature lovers, is a resort that practises environmentally-sustainable eco-tourism in the hope of managing our natural resources to help improve the lives of the surrounding community, as well as maintaining the quality of the environment around the island of Gam".

The resort allows guests to connect with Mother Nature in one of the most celebrated diving destinations on the planet. What is even more amazing is that these ideals do not have to break the bank because at Raja Ampat Biodiversity Eco Resort we offer our guests flexible à la carte full-board diving and accommodation packages, including the following:

- Various accommodation options with a selection of superior beach-front cottages, standard beach-front cottages or budget rooms.
- A choice between diving packages of two or three dives per day, which allows guests to choose how much diving they would like to do.
- The opportunity to choose the length of your stay at the resort, facilitated by the fact that we offer a no-minimum stay and no-fixed check-in or check-out times.

Raja Ampat Biodiversity Eco Resort is an intimate resort which offers dives of up to 75 minutes, comfortable and spacious accommodation and exotic and colourful cuisine. With a maximum of 14 divers at any given moment, you will feel right at home.

Following an "eco-concept" model, the resort layout is arranged to cause the least amount of disturbance to the natural flora and fauna, and the landscaping is left to return to its natural state, with grass giving way to native ground cover. Together with our Papuan-style buildings, the resort blends in beautifully with the natural surroundings, offering a full nature experience. Built by craftsmen from the neighbouring villages, these buildings are built from local, sustainably-sourced materials.

On a daily basis, the resort's operations revolve around reducing adverse environmental impact where possible. We conserve, reduce and recycle valuable resources, with features like traditional Indonesian mandi-style showers (to conserve water), water dispensers, kitchen supplies which are bought in bulk and containers which are re-used to store fuel. Recycling bins dot the site and guests are asked to assist in the safe disposal of old batteries and plastic products by taking them home with them. We upcycle old engine oil by using it to waterproof timber to protect it from the sun, we turn old sheets into rags for cleaning purposes and we sell aluminium cans in Waisai, Raja Ampat, where they are recycled. The resort is also 100% solar photovoltaic powered.

Supporting and being integrated into the local community is an essential aspect of any resort that seeks sustainability. The staff



members are primarily made up of local Papuan people, most of whom are hired without any previous experience in the hospitality or diving industry and who are trained in all areas of the business. Local guides are also involved, leading jungle excursions to see the famous birds of the island paradise. The resort also makes yearly contributions to the local villages in the form of rice, sugar, flour and other staple foods.

With a strict policy which prevents reef fishes from being served, most produce, where possible, is sourced directly from the local villages. All the cooking is done with natural coconut oil, which is made exclusively by local women, and foods such as village-grown spinach, sweet potatoes, green papaya, chillies and seasonal fruit all make it to the resort's tables.

Reynaldo concludes: "All of our guests agree on the spectacularly rich flora and fauna, both above and below the water in Raja Ampat. We worry that many might consider today's reality the benchmark of extreme biodiversity and beauty, yet I cannot imagine what these reefs must have been like in the past and what they could or should have been like now. With this in mind, we urge you to take a few simple measures to limit the impact of your activities wherever you live". **5**

## QUICK FACTS

**Province:** Yenas Beach, Gam Island

**Area:** Raja Ampat Regency, West Papua New Guinea, Indonesia

**Website:** [www.rajaampatbiodiversity.com](http://www.rajaampatbiodiversity.com)

**Email:** [info@rajaampatbiodiversity.com](mailto:info@rajaampatbiodiversity.com)

**Telephone:** +34 717 710 880

**GPS coordinates:** 0°27.678'S 130°41.933'E

**Catering:** Fully catered

**Restaurant:** Yes

**Average cost PPPN:** \$225

**Dive centre:** Yes

**Other activities:** Snorkelling, kayaking, bird watching, nature walks and island-hopping excursions to some of the local villages in Raja Ampat.

# biodiversity

dive resort raja ampal

## eco resort



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