

# **Kalawai**

**A d v e n t u r e** ... in the footsteps of Wallace

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## **West Papua - Indonesia**

### **Raja Ampat, Vogelkop & Cendrawasih Bay Expedition**



Naturalist's expeditions

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2022 program



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Birds-of-Paradise - Leatherback Sea Turtles - Wayag Islands - Weyos Bay  
Whale Sharks - Pacific Manta Rays - Green Sea Turtles - Rainforest Treks  
Vogelkop Peninsula - Richest Coral Reefs on Earth - Cendrawasih Bay - Coastal Villages ...

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### *"... of ancient reptiles and giant fish"*

Raja Ampat, West Papua's "Four Kings", lies at the heart of the "Coral Triangle", World's epicenter of marine biodiversity. An archipelago of approximately 1500 islands, Raja Ampat offers so much more than its fabled reefs: it is an assemblage of some of the most incredible biological and geological features, both above and under water.

Words can do no justice to what you'll see and experience; it is a snapshot of the world in its most primeval state.

On this adventure, we will follow in the footsteps of the great Alfred Russell Wallace, 162 years after his exploration of the Island of Waigeo...

**Kalawai Adventure** designed this ship-based expedition to give participants a naturalist's experience of Raja Ampat, the Bird's Head (Vogelkop) Peninsula and Cendrawasih Bay. Led by a scientist who's worked over a decade in conservation and research in West Papua, they will gain a better understanding of the processes that influence the region's ecosystems as well as the challenges of protecting this incredible corner of our Planet.

So, buckle up and get ready for the trip of a lifetime!

### Highlights

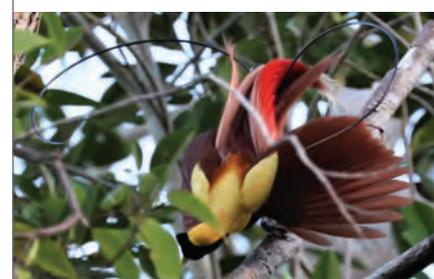
Whale sharks, manta rays, nesting leatherback and green sea turtles, Birds-of-Paradise, mind-blowing karst landscapes, coastal village visits, rainforest fauna and flora, snorkeling and diving the richest coral reefs on Earth, and much, much more!

### Expedition dates

Trips start and end in Jakarta. Dates are indicated on the Kalawai Adventure website. The maximum number of passengers is limited to 11.

### Physical effort & health considerations

West Papua is one of the last natural frontiers. As such, it is also one of the most challenging... and rewarding! The trip will be entirely ship-based and very comfortable (see the description of our vessel, the Shakti). However, we snorkel extensively and go on land almost daily for exploratory rainforest trips, and visit islands & villages. Most walks won't exceed two hours back and forth, on fairly flat terrain, but a more serious 6-hour hike up a river is also on the menu. Reasonably fit travelers of all ages will be able to take part in most of these terrestrial activities. Our four guides will provide extra help and care. Each participant will be able to choose what he/she wants to do according to his/her physical condition. To get a realistic idea of the adventure that awaits you, read the trip reports on: [geoffreygearheart.com](http://geoffreygearheart.com), in the **Kalawai Adventure** section.



# Kalawai Adventure

## Raja Ampat, Vogelkop & Cendrawasih Bay Expedition

2022 Program

It is essential that, before booking, you inform us of any medical issues and/or dietary restrictions. We can then counsel you on whether the expedition is indeed appropriate for you. A doctor's approval is required for some activities.

### Our route through Raja Ampat & the Vogelkop Peninsula

For this expedition, Kalawai Adventure is teaming up with the crew of the Shakti, a 32-m traditional "Phinisi" schooner. This beautifully crafted wooden ship has six air-conditioned cabins with bathrooms, five of which are equipped with a double and a single bunk, while the sixth cabin on the upper deck has two single bunks. We limit the number of passengers to 11, with a maximum of 2 per cabin. The Shakti has operated in Raja Ampat since 2000, making it the first Papua-based live-aboard. It is fully equipped for snorkeling and SCUBA diving. The cook prepares delicious dishes from fresh seafood and produce sourced in the different locations the Shakti visits. Individual meals are also prepared for those on special diets (vegetarian, gluten free, etc.)



We will sail from Sorong out to Raja Ampat's largest Island, Waigeo. This is where Wallace set up camp in 1860. Some of the highlights include the landscape and reefs of Alyui Bay and the birds-of-paradise of Gam. Our next stop will be the tiny island of Piai, where a conservation program saved the island's green turtle nesting population. Besides the turtles, Piai has an amazing fringing reef and teems with birds. From Piai, we will sail down to one of the gems of Raja Ampat: the Wayag Islands. After two days spent exploring Wayag's maze of karst "mushroom islands" and scaling its limestone hills, we will leave Raja Ampat for the Vogelkop (aka "Bird's Head") Peninsula, the northernmost tip of the island of New Guinea. This is where the last significant population of Pacific leatherbacks come to nest. Two nights in this wild place will give us the opportunity to discover giant turtles and other stunning wildlife. Before leaving the Vogelkop, we'll make a last stop: magical Weyos Bay, where we will hike up a mountain stream to reach a secluded waterfall.

### Cendrawasih Bay and the whale sharks

We will anchor at the southern end of Cendrawasih Bay, near the small village of Kwatisore, a stone's throw away from the "bagan" fishing platforms. Bagans use lift-nets that target a range of pelagic fish. Bagan fishermen, who hail from South Sulawesi, have developed a friendship with whale sharks, feeding them dead by-catch consisting primarily of small fish. This mutualistic relationship was discovered by outsiders only recently. Nowadays, there is a small tourism industry that relies on the interaction between humans and these most amazing creatures. The additional income the fishermen receive from visitors is a powerful incentive to protect the bay's whale sharks, which happen

to be mostly juvenile males. We will snorkel and dive amidst these friendly giants (the world's largest fish) and, at night, witness some clever Bagan fishing!

Not far from Kwatisore, at the end of a secluded mangrove-rimmed bay, is the trail to the display trees of the Lesser Birds-of-Paradise. On a dry morning, you'll be able to see the high-octane dances of the male birds. An unforgettable experience!

### Price

The price for this expedition is AUD 12,000 per person, for double share.\*

### What does it include?

Air, land & sea transportation from Jakarta to West-Papua and back, trip insurance, local permits and fees, guide wages, 13 days full accommodation aboard the Shakti. All hotels (3 nights in double occupancy rooms) are included as well as all breakfasts during transits. A celebratory dinner at the end of the trip is also included.



### What is not included?

International airfares, personal travel/health insurance, tips to the ship's crew and conservation staff in Papua (while we try to adhere to local standards, tips are entirely at your discretion), extra baggage fees, hotel lunches and dinners while in transit. Soft drinks and beer aboard the Shakti are also not included. Select SCUBA dives can be arranged (AUD 80/dive) and Wayag hill climbs are organized separately by the Shakti and charged AUD 100 per person (IDR and other major currencies accepted). Self-arranged ground transportation from Jakarta airport to the hotel and back will be reimbursed to a maximum of AUD 15 per ride (which should be enough!).

Recommended pocket money to spend in Indonesia is approximately 9 million IDR (~AUD 900), which should suffice to cover: 1) the extra costs listed above (except international tickets and travel/health insurance), 2) a recommended extra night at the hotel on the return, 3) shopping in Jakarta (with an amateur-level shopper in mind!). Get your IDRs from your local bank, exchange at the Jakarta airport or (less recommended) from a Jakarta ATM. Unspent IDRs can be changed back into most major currencies prior to departure.

\*see "detailed booking information"



### Itinerary in a nutshell

Day	Key activities
1	International travel. Overnight in Jakarta Hotel. Start of trip.
2	Meet fellow travellers. Travel to Papua.
3	Arrival in Papua. Board the Shakti . Start of cruise. Sail to Waigeo Isl.
4	Birds-of-Paradise. Sail to Alyui Bay. Night snorkel.
5	Snorkel and visit of pearl farm. Sail to Piai. Presentation by Geoff. Turtle patrol.
6	Morning walk, birding, snorkeling. Sail to Wayag. Sightseeing at Wayag.
7	Wayag hill climb / snorkeling / exploration.
8	Hill climb. Departure to Vogelkop Peninsula. Presentation.
9	Arrival at Jamursba Medi. Leatherback patrol.
10	Jamursba Medi: Batu Rumah camp visit, forest walk. Leatherback patrol.
11	Sail to Weyos Bay. Exploration of Weyos. Sail to Cendrawasih Bay.
12	Transit through Cendrawasih Bay
13	Whale sharks. Village visit. Bagan fishing action
14	Whale sharks/birds-of-paradise. Bagan fishing action.
15	Whale sharks/birds-of-paradise. Transit to Nabire. Last night aboard the Shakti
16	Transfer to Nabire airport. Arrival Jakarta. End of the expedition.

\*It is strongly recommended to have an extra 1-day "buffer" at the beginning and (especially) at the end of the trip, due to possible delays (ship, domestic flights, etc.) For instance: arrival in Jakarta one day before Day 1 and departure on Day 18.

### How safe is West Papua?

We often hear this question. The answer is that West Papua is one of the friendliest and safest travel destinations on Earth, providing basic precautions are taken. First and foremost, each traveler should visit his/her doctor to make sure all vaccines are up-to-date. Malaria is endemic to West Papua, so prophylactics are highly recommended. In terms of safety, the ongoing but low-intensity conflict between supporters of the "Free Papua Movement" and the Indonesian government is limited to a few urban focal points such as Timika (next to the Freeport gold mine) and Jayapura (West Papua's capital). **Kalawai Adventure** expeditions are held in wild, natural areas, far from potential civil unrest.

### Contact & Bookings

If you want to know more about our trips, or want to reserve your spot on next adventure, don't hesitate to contact Geoff:

**geoffgearheart@gmail.com / +61 431 452 135**

You can find a wealth of information, including a journal, pictures and videos by visiting the **Kalawai Adventure** section at: [geoffreygearheart.com](http://geoffreygearheart.com)

### Expedition leader



Dr. Geoffrey Gearheart is a marine biologist and oceanographer who has worked in research and conservation in West Papua for over a decade. From 2005 to 2008, Geoff worked as a biologist for Conservation International, spearheading their Raja Ampat sea turtle conservation program. He teamed up with a local Papuan non-profit to protect the archipelago's most important green turtle rookery at Pi ai Island. Geoff left for San Diego (USA) in 2008 to pursue his PhD at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, where he studied the leatherback sea turtles of Papua's Bird's Head (Vogelkop) Peninsula, and emperor penguins in Antarctica. Geoff is now based on North Stradbroke Island, Australia, with his family and continues his conservation work in the region. Over the years, he has developed a keen understanding of Papua's "big picture": the interactions between terrestrial and marine ecosystems and the challenges of preserving this unique corner of our planet. Building on a desire to share his knowledge of New Guinea's environment while supporting conservation through ecotourism, Geoff founded **Kalawai Adventure**, a name inspired by a Papuan fishing spear. He is now developing unique natural expeditions in Papua. You can learn more about Geoffrey by visiting:

[geoffreygearheart.com](http://geoffreygearheart.com)



### Disclaimer

Please keep in mind that bad weather conditions may force us to change our route. It is a fact that in such event, alternative plans often end up being more rewarding than the initial ones! Birds don't like to play in the rain so we might not see some of the avian highlights, which is why we have planned "make-up" sessions. Remember that trips to remote places such as Papua involve a fair amount of improvisation. **Kalawai Adventure** will do its best to adapt but cannot be held responsible for itinerary and/or activity changes due to factors beyond its control (e.g., weather, airline cancellations, mechanical issues, sickness).

### Travel map



### Detailed booking information & cancellation policy

To hold your spot, **Kalawai Adventure** requires a AUD 1,500, non-refundable safety deposit to hold your spot. When **Kalawai Adventure** has secured enough bookings to run the trip, you will be asked to pay the balance (AUD 10,500) within 14 business days. The trip will then be confirmed to all passengers, and we can start preparations! If we cannot secure enough bookings for a trip, you will get your initial AUD 1,500 deposit back.

If, for any reason, we have to cancel the trip (COVID border restrictions, acts of god, etc.), we will not be able to refund any money, but will endeavor to book you on another trip (will potential additional costs to cover hotel and domestic flights). **Kalawai Adventure** strongly recommends you purchase comprehensive travel/health insurance.



We will try our best to fill your space in case you cancel. If we manage to find a replacement, we will refund all your monies (incl. the safety deposit), but only after your replacement has paid in full. If you paid via PayPal, any PayPal fees incurred by **Kalawai Adventure** will be deducted from any monies returned to you.