



ARRIVE AS A GUEST, FEEL LIKE A KING, LEAVE AS A FRIEND

# Update March 2013



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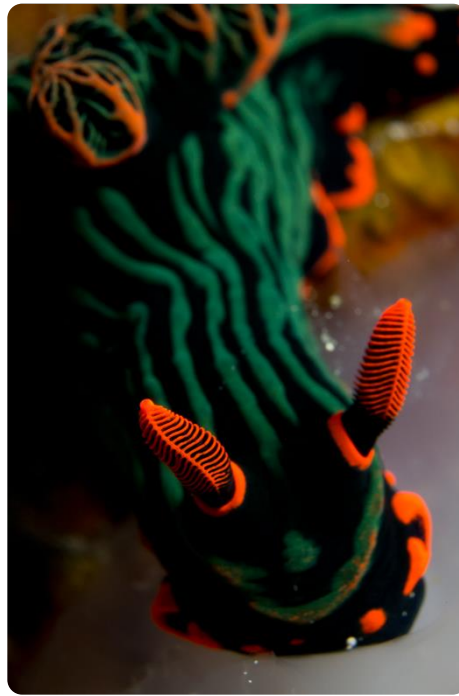
May I introduce myself?

I am commonly referred as **nudibranch**.

My closest relatives are (among others) mussels and squids, because we all belong to the phylum of molluscs.



Even though we are considered "naked", because we are not carrying around a housing anymore, we are not completely unprotected at the mercy of the environment. Our sophisticated defense mechanisms ranging from perfect camouflage to the storage of poisons, or stinging cells, pretty much destroys our predator's appetite.



We eat mainly sponges and corals. Our life cycle is actually very short. Most of us live for one to three months only and just a few up to one year.

To people above water I remain hidden and many novice divers overlook me easily. – But, look at me! How can that be? Most of us are with their blaze of color anything but inconspicuous. However, some of my colleagues are only just a few millimeters long, but there are also real posers among us that can grow up to 60 cm. And since I'm not so easy to spot, I have among the divers, especially underwater photographers, a big following.



You can find us from just below the surface till over 500 meters.  
Keep your eye out for me during your next dives.  
See you soon!



## Behind the scenes Training of the dive guides

A minimum of 50% of the employees are locals. In Raja Ampat it's not as normal as in other places in the world to have a good education. Some of our dive guides can hardly read or write. That means that our dive instructors Sabine & Armin train them with much more effort than we may think.

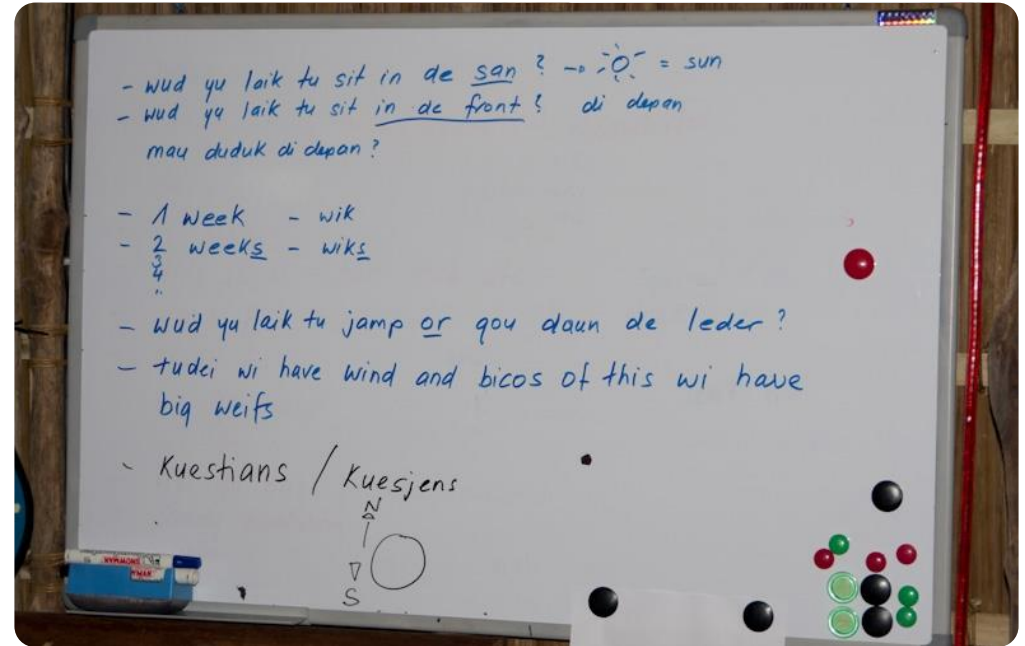
They don't train them only in diving as there's much more connected with being a dive guide: They also learn to handle different situations under and above water.





The guides get trained in guiding their buddy and in fulfilling the guests expectations. They may be grown up with the sea but they may have never explored the marine life of the Raja Ampat so close.





Because our guests are from all over the world, the guides also need to learn English to be able to speak with our guests and to do the briefings. They learn it in an adapted way as you can see on the right picture above.





West Papua boasts nearly 680 bird species, 43 of which are endemic. Therefore they may be seen nowhere else on Earth.



### Tracks through our little jungle

Follow the tracks into the rainforest and discover the high biodiversity it offers! - The hardly touched, original islands harbour more than 200 tree and mangroves types per hectare. Those are more locale types than in whole Europe.





There is a lot to explore when you leave the resort area and make your way through the jungle of Pulau Pef.



West Papua's insect fauna probably exceeds 100,000 species and may even realistically approach 150,000 sorts.



The flora of West Papua is one of the most diverse in the tropics as well as the least studied and understood. Botanists have assessed that the varied soil types may nourish as many as 20-25,000 species of vascular plants, including astonishing 3,000 orchids!



Some 140 lizards are already known in West Papua among which the Giant Monitor Lizard (*Varanus salvadorii*) stands out as the world's longest.



## Did you know?

We are the first ones with a wood fired oven in the whole Raja Ampat!  
We use it to make delicious pizzas or bake our own bread for breakfast.



Sampai jumpa!



RAJA4 DIVERS  
PULAU PEF - RAJA AMPAT

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