



NEWS FROM PULAU PEF

- Natural wonders Hidden Bay and Passage
- Clean up project with the village Kabui
 - Backstage: Logistics team Sorong
 - How we party on Pulau Pef
 - Did you know?

HIDDEN BAY AND PASSAGE NATURAL WONDERS





The Hidden Bay and the Passage are two out of many natural wonders of Raja Ampat. Above and underwater. And the great thing is, both are located very close to Pulau Pef.

It is almost impossible to withstand the urge to dive, snorkel or explore this dream world on a boat trip. The entry to the Hidden Bay is not visible on first sight. There is just a small opening in the mangrove forest that reveals the entry. Our captain knows the way by heart and he is cruising professionally through the river-like part and around the rocks. Suddenly the world is changing and it feels like you are in the middle of a labyrinth. An unreal world. Big limestone rocks pop out of the water with lush forest on the top. There are also bays, lagoons and caves. Without the captain you probably never find the way out of the Hidden Bay on your own.

Well, that's the typical landscape of Raja Ampat. That's what Raja Ampat is famous for!

The captain stops the engine and suddenly the world around us is totally quiet. It's so peaceful. A magical moment. To experience the complete silence of the Hidden Bay, this beautiful and untouched part of the world, is unique.



The underwater world in the Hidden Bay is stunning. You can't compare it with the other dive and snorkel sites here in Raja Ampat.

The best condition to dive or snorkel the Hidden Bay is with incoming current. We jump in the tropical water at the entrance of the Hidden Bay and drift into the bay. The underwater landscape looks unreal and diving feels more like being in a fairy tale. Soft corals everywhere in all kinds of colours, sponges, huge gorgonians and whip corals but also rocks that are the home of many nudibranchs.

There aren't too many fish in the Hidden Bay but encounters with barracudas, batfish, sweet lips or a wobbegong are always possible.



Another special experience is diving or snorkelling through the mangrove forest of the Hidden Bay.

It feels like drifting through a fairy tale. Some roots are covered in sea weed that looks like moss. Archer fish and cardinal fish are hiding between the roots, where they are protected from predators. It's also the place where they spend their childhood.





The first time you will see the passage is on your arrival by boat, shortly before you reach Pulau Pef.

The passage looks like a river and it separates the two islands Waigeo and Gam. At the entrance coming from Sorong you can see small and huge limestone rocks sticking out of the water. The stunning landscape leaves you speechless and takes your breath away.

WELCOME TO RAJA AMPAT!



The passage is one of our special dive sites. It's so different to any other divespot here in Raja Ampat. And to be honest, it's one of the sites that goes in the category of „SPECIAL“ and „MUST SEE“. But be prepared: You either love it or well, a little less ;-).

Due to the river-like opening, very often there is a ripping current in the passage. If that's the case you should be ready for action. You will be flying and with you the turtles, cownose rays or bumphead parrot fish. You may feel more like a bird than a fish.

Very often you encounter a school of barracudas in front of the two impressive caves that are linked under water. The barracudas couldn't care less about the current. Besides the caves you will see huge rocks with small canyons, purple and orange soft corals.



Close to the shore the rainforest reflects in the water. Lush gorgonians are growing at the walls and come up close to the surface. The walls are covered in orange and yellow soft corals, huge sponges in all kinds of colours, there are trunks by fallen trees and lots of colourful nudibranches. It's for sure a dive to remember.

Also fish wise you will be surprised every time when diving the passage. Maybe you find a blurring octopus or a spiny devilfish. He is not a beauty but very special.

A photograph of three children participating in a cleanup project. A young girl in a pink shirt and shorts stands on the left, looking towards the camera. Behind her, another girl in a white shirt and pink shorts holds a large green plastic bag. In the foreground, a boy in a white shirt and maroon shorts is crouching, filling the green bag with debris. They are standing on a wooden boardwalk or platform. In the background, there is a dense wall of green mangrove trees and a grey utility pole. Several black plastic bags of trash are visible in the background.

CLEAN UP PROJECT: KIDS COLLECT GARBAGE

A few months ago we started a new project with the neighbouring village Kabui. Every second week Pak Lodik, a charismatic person of influence from Kabui, is coming to our resort with a clutch of children from the Sunday School. Our aim is to keep the beaches on Pef and the surroundings clean.

First we explain the children the sense of this project and why it is important to keep the world clean of garbage and plastic. We hope to achieve a general understanding about the littering problem. It's our concern to start with the young generation and hopefully with a long-term effect.

Once the children got their garbage bags they hop on the boat and off they go. A few hours later they return with lots of bags full of rubbish, especially plastic. Now it's our job to count the full bags.

Wow, they were successful. We count 32 bags full of rubbish. That's a lot. Per bag we pay an amount we agreed on before. The money goes into the cash box of the Sunday School to buy books, school material and for special cases like the Christmas party.





After the work the kids are looking forward to get a cold sirup and a snack. The energy is back to sing for us - and sometimes they dance too ;-).

What happens with the rubbish? Raja4Divers will load the full rubbish bags onto our boat and we will bring the load to Sorong for disposal. Unfortunately there is no professional waste disposal as we are used to in the western world. But we still hope that our effort helps to keep Raja Ampat clean.

Our goal is also to sensibilise the children not to throw plastic and other things to the ground. Sooner or later they hopefully understand the reason why.

We do not only want to keep our beaches on Pef clean but also the beaches on the surrounding islands. On our dive boats we always have empty rubbish bags ready. Sometimes even our guests help to clean up the beach during the coffee break between the dives. The full bags will be returned by the boat crew and we finally bring them to Sorong for disposal.





BACKSTAGE: LOGISTICS TEAM SORONG

Today we introduce you the Logistics team in Sorong. Sultan, the leader of the team, Maya and Denny and not to forget Pak Kinas, our driver with the yellow taxi. As a team they take care of all our orders (groceries, building material, spare parts, petrol & diesel and so on). They go shopping, they load it to our boat and they also take care of administrative work. That's not all, they accompany staff, who are sick, to the doctor and they are also responsible for our rental house including the office in Sorong. The reconfirmation of domestic flights or guest relations for arriving and departing guests is part of their job too.

The busiest days for the trio are Fridays and Saturdays. These are the days when our guests but also staff are arriving or leaving.

On Friday evening the team Sorong is waiting at the harbour in Sorong to pick up the guests who are leaving the next day. The taxis are ready to bring the guests to the hotel. On Saturday morning Maya is busy with the arriving guests. She's picking them up at the airport and she is also supporting the leaving guests.



Sultan and Denny are at the harbour and busy with loading the luggage from the new guests on our transfer boat. To properly load the boat is not an easy task and requires some experience.

As soon as the boat is ready our new guests can board the boat. Now the final trip to Pulau Pef can start. The boat ride to paradise from Sorong to Pef takes another 3 to 3.5 hours.

That means we have a minimum of one boat per week travelling between Pef and Sorong.



For the team in Sorong it is always quite a challenge to manage the big orders, which we are sending by Email from the island. The most difficult part is to find everything we ordered in the shops in not so developed Sorong.

Groceries including bags of rice (75kg for 2 days), water gallons (12 gallons per day), Bintang beer, cleaning material, medicine, stationary, spare parts, bolts, ropes, motor oil, light bulbs, filter, pans, cable, computer monitors, buckets, cuttlery, and, and, and...



**THAT'S HOW WE PARTY
ON PULAU PEF**

To party, that's what we can here on Pulau Pef. The great thing is, we always find a reason to celebrate. It is either the birthday of one of our guests or staff, christening a new boat, the independence day of Indonesia, New Year's Eve, the birthday of Raja Ampat or the one of Raja4Divers.

Whenever there is a party going on the restaurant and kitchen team is very busy with the preparation of treats. They cook from morning until the evening, they bake cake in all kind of colours and they decorate.

After dinner we're full of energy. The party can begin. Everybody is dancing around a big bonfire to the music of our Pef band and later to disco music. Great atmosphere, happy people - Party.

Raja4Divers on Pulau Pef rocks!



Our resort is open all year round, our operation always running and therefore our staff busy every day. Finding time to celebrate the Independence Day is not so easy but with some organisation it's still possible.

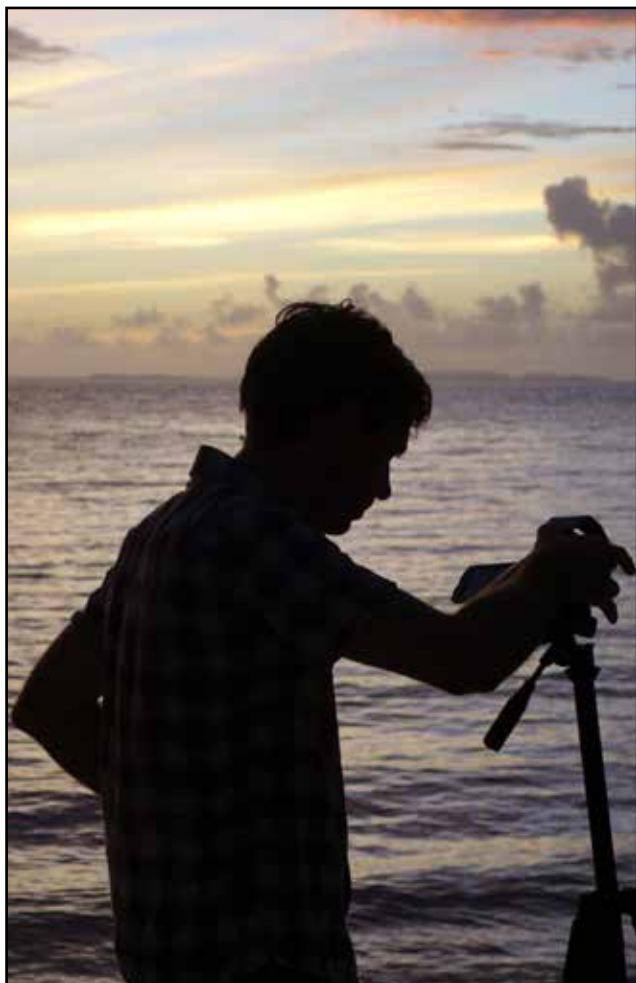
On 17 August is Indonesia's Independence Day. For the local staff it is very important to celebrate this special day together. The locals love to laugh, dance and doing games.

Men are proving their strength in arm wrestling, dancing in pairs holding a balloon with the forehead only, they compete in sack race and another discipline is eating big chips hanging on a line.

The whole day you hear the staff laughing and it's contagious.

So what can we say: Laugh every day and how often you can





Did you know?

We have a new Promo-Movie and we are very proud of it. It was absolutely exiting to be part of the whole planning and filming of the movie. Matthias Lebo from Liquid Images was busy for two weeks. He had to be at the right place at the right time and always keeping his equipment ready. Above and under water.

On and around Pef.

The first step of producing a movie is writing a script and a schedule, then the filming can start. Many factors have to be taken into account: The light and wind for the footage with the drone as well as the conditions on the dive sites. Having the perfect conditions in all situations is far from easy.

Once the shooting is done the whole material needs to be edited, cut and filed. The most difficult part is to make a selection and deciding on the final material.

Matthias did a great job. He was hiding in his bungalow and after long nights he presented his first result. We loved it. We had only minor changes. The background music gives the movie that final touch.

CUT AND [SHOWTIME!](#)



SAMPAI JUMPA



www.raja4divers.com

info@raja4divers.com

