

Raja Ampat and the Spice Islands

From **17/09/2026**
to **28/09/2026**

Ship: *Le Soléal*

From **Darwin**
to **Darwin**



Between **heavenly islands and unique coral reefs**, set sail to explore the legendary “Spice Islands” and Raja Ampat. From Darwin, set a course for **the Moluccas and Banda Neira**, the cradle of the nutmeg trade, between colonial vestiges and lush jungle. Then explore **the Raja Ampat archipelago**, a string of more than 1,500 islands and karstic cays rising from the crystal-clear waters of the Coral Triangle. In West Papua, discover the sublime **Kiti-Kiti Waterfall** before heading to **the Kai Islands**, a little slice of paradise boasting some of the most beautiful beaches in Indonesia.

Over 12 days, take the time to explore this part of the world and its **unique marine biodiversity** with expert naturalist guides. A rich history - you will be sailing along **the ancient Spice Route** - and breathtaking scenery await you, while the seabed will reveal itself during water-based activities.

The wildlife encounters are possible experiences and cannot be guaranteed.



The information in this document is valid as of 16/04/2026

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YOUR STOPOVERS :

DARWIN

Embarkation 17/09/2026 from 15:30 to 16:30

Departure 17/09/2026 at 17:30

Darwin is located in Australia's Northern Territory which is also known as the "Top End". It is the **capital city** and the most populated town of the Northern Territory. Darwin is a beautiful tropical city, a **melting pot of people and cultures**, over 50 different cultures live and work side by side that prides itself in its unique and friendly laid-back lifestyle. Come discover the town's still recent history through its emblematic buildings such as the new **Parliament House** opened in 1994, a magnificent example of tropical architecture or **Admiralty House** declared heritage place, a tropical-style home elevated on stilts that has survived two cyclones and numerous air raids.

AT SEA

Arrival 18/09/2026

Departure 19/09/2026

During your journey at sea, make the most of the many services and activities on board. Treat yourself to a moment of relaxation in the spa or stay in shape in the fitness centre. Depending on the season, let yourself be tempted by the swimming pool or a spot of sunbathing. This journey without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, depending on the activities offered, or to do some shopping in the boutique or to meet the PONANT photographers in their dedicated space. As for lovers of the open sea, they will be able to visit the ship's upper deck to admire the spectacle of the waves and perhaps be lucky enough to observe marine species. A truly enchanted interlude, combining comfort, rest and entertainment.

BANDA NEIRA, MALUKU ISLANDS

Arrival 20/09/2026 early morning

Departure 20/09/2026 late afternoon

From age-old traditional cultures and ancient vestiges, to coral reefs and lush green jungle... The attractions of the **remote Banda archipelago** seem endless. Better known as the legendary "**Spice Islands**" of the Ancient World, these small volcanic landmasses were the fabled prize of colonial powers for more than four centuries. Every colonial power of significance fought for control of these ten small islands that today have become largely forgotten. Walking the streets of **Banda Neira** is a surreal experience as your eyes are drawn to the eclectic **mix of Portuguese, Dutch and British architecture**, the remnants of a rich and tumultuous history. It is without doubt the most historically significant and interesting of all the "Spice Islands".

RAJA AMPAT ISLANDS, WEST PAPUA

Arrival 21/09/2026 midday

Departure 24/09/2026 late afternoon

If you are travelling the world in search for the most beautiful diving spots, you'll find what you're looking for in the **Indonesian Raja Ampat islands**. Off **Sorong**, ideally located in the heart of the illustrious "Coral Triangle", the 1,500 or so islets that make up the archipelago are the ideal place for admiring some outstandingly diverse coral reefs. At the junction of the Pacific and Indian oceans, **the Raja Ampat islands**, covered with lush jungle, are also extraordinary lands for hiking. Between multi-coloured lagoons, immaculate beaches and green landscapes, the Raja Ampat islands offer you a breath-taking palette of colours...

KITIKITI WATERFALL, MOMMON

Arrival 25/09/2026 early afternoon

Departure 25/09/2026 early evening

North of **Triton Bay**, in the Indonesian province of West Papua, lie the **Bomberai Peninsula** and **Sebakor Bay**. A real paradise for divers, this protected, authentic and very wild area boasts an exceptional biodiversity. Here, you will be able to admire the superb **Kitikiti Waterfall** where you could enjoy a swim or snorkel surrounded by lush nature, both on land and under water.

KEI ISLANDS, MALUKU ISLANDS

Arrival 26/09/2026 early morning

Departure 26/09/2026 midday

The Kei Islands are blessed with kilometres of stunning, yet almost entirely empty, **white-sand beaches** and a deeply hospitable population. Beneath the mostly Christian facade, Kei culture is fascinatingly distinctive. Local history holds that ancestors of contemporary Kei islanders came from Bali, part of the expanding Hindu Majapahit kingdom from the western archipelago. Enjoy a day of **swimming and snorkelling** on an idyllic uninhabited picture **postcard tropical island**.

AT SEA

Arrival 27/09/2026

Departure 27/09/2026

During your journey at sea, make the most of the many services and activities on board. Treat yourself to a moment of relaxation in the spa or stay in shape in the fitness centre. Depending on the season, let yourself be tempted by the swimming pool or a spot of sunbathing. This journey without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, depending on the activities offered, or to do some shopping in the boutique or to meet the PONANT photographers in their dedicated space. As for lovers of the open sea, they will be able to visit the ship's upper deck to admire the spectacle of the waves and perhaps be lucky enough to observe marine species. A truly enchanted interlude, combining comfort, rest and entertainment.

DARWIN

Arrival 28/09/2026 at night

Disembarkation 28/09/2026 at 08:00

Darwin is located in Australia's Northern Territory which is also known as the "Top End". It is the **capital city** and the most populated town of the Northern Territory. Darwin is a beautiful tropical city, a **melting pot of people and cultures**, over 50 different cultures live and work side by side that prides itself in its unique and friendly laid-back lifestyle. Come discover the town's still recent history through its emblematic buildings such as the new **Parliament House** opened in 1994, a magnificent example of tropical architecture or **Admiralty House** declared heritage place, a tropical-style home elevated on stilts that has survived two cyclones and numerous air raids.