Combining scenery of outstanding natural beauty, diverse wildlife and storied histories, our Spice Islands and Raja Ampat expedition is a unique journey of discovery and adventure like no other.

Aboard Coral Discoverer, cruise these exotic islands where villagers have remained shielded from the outside world and communities are only now emerging into the 21st century.

The centrepiece of our expedition is a five day exploration through the nature lover’s paradise that is Raja Ampat. Snorkel or dive pristine and brightly coloured reef systems that offer perhaps, the very best snorkelling and diving in the world today.

Retrace the great European explorer routes that set out to discover the Spice Islands, which in the 12th to 15th centuries supplied the world’s nutmeg and mace. This is a remarkable voyage of discovery.

OUR RANGE OF EXPEDITIONS INCLUDE

> Myanmar > SE Asia > Great Barrier Reef
> Tasmania > The Kimberley > Cape York & Arnhem Land
> Papua New Guinea > Spice Islands & Raja Ampat

INCLUSIONS

> Three meals per day plus morning and afternoon tea
> Selected beer and wine during lunch and dinner service
> 24 hour soft drinks, tea and barista-style coffee
> Captain’s welcome and farewell drinks
> Access to islands, marine and national parks
> Guided tours on Xplorer expedition vessel, Zodias, glass-bottom boat and kayaks
> Touring as described in the itinerary
> Services of expedition staff and lecturers including briefings and knowledge-sharing sessions
> Port taxes and government charges imposed by government authorities
WEATHER
Raja Ampat lies on the equator. Air temperatures are relatively constant with a daytime average maximum of 31°C (89°F) and a nightly minimum of 25°C (78°F) – although high relative humidity can make it feel hotter. The ocean is warm year-round, with average surface temperature of 29°C (84°F). Being a tropical environment, there is always a chance of a brief shower, but there’s far less chance of rainy days during the northwest monsoon between October and April. The winds are also calmer at this time of year.

PACKING TIPS
Due to the warm, tropical climate of this region, guests should pack lightweight clothing which can be layered. Because wet-landings are common, pants which you can roll-up, shorts, or a cotton skirt/dress are at ideal at times. A lightweight long-sleeved shirt will help provide protection from the sun, and it is also advisable to bring a sunshirt or ‘rashie’ for beach visits and swimming, as well as a bathing suit and sarong.

Please refer to the General Packing Tips in the Day to Day section for more packing tips.

MONEY MATTERS
The official currency for Indonesia is the Indonesian Rupiah - if you wish to purchase any souvenirs from local villages we suggest you bring small denominations as locals may not have change. A limited amount of currency is available on board so we do suggest that you exchange money into Rupiah prior to departure from your home port. Due to the remote expeditionary nature of this itinerary, traditional ATM’s and familiar branded money exchange vendors are not widely available.

It is not possible to obtain cash at the villages and towns we visit. We suggest you bring enough local currency with you for the duration of the cruise. Indonesian currency can be purchased at Darwin airport.

LOCAL CULTURE
Official Language: Bahasa Indonesia is widely spoken, but many people in the Raja Ampat region speak a Papuan dialect. Some locals will not speak English.

Religion: The culture of Raja Ampat is predominantly Papuan and Christian, with some Islamic influence as well. The population of the Spice Islands area is predominantly Muslim. Always ask permission before entering local places of worship.

Barter: In the villages, while bartering is acceptable, the second price is usually the final price. In Banda, again bartering is ok, but needs to be approached with a good nature and a smile.

Dress: Please note that some villages in Indonesia may have a more conservative dress code for visitors, so it is advisable to wear a shirt which covers the shoulders and shorts/skirts which cover the knees. We recommend covering your shoulders in the town of Banda.

Photography: In villages, please ask before taking photos of people, especially those in traditional dress. Whilst picture taking is usually ok, please remember that these are people going through their everyday lives, and not on display for the tourists.

Hours: Typical opening hours are 1000 to 1800, however these hours vary in cases of religious holidays.
VACCINATIONS AND HEALTH REQUIREMENTS
We strongly recommend consulting your medical advisor prior to your cruise. You should be up to date with routine vaccinations, and it is advisable to consult with your travel doctor about vaccinations against Hepatitis A, Typhoid, Japanese Encephalitis, and Rabies. The government of Indonesia requires proof of yellow fever vaccination only if you are arriving from a country with risk of yellow fever. While we will travel through areas where malaria is present, we will generally be on board at the times when mosquitoes are most active, however it is always a risk. Talk to your doctor about how you can prevent malaria while travelling. Zika virus has been reported throughout Indonesian but the risk to travellers is low.

GIFTS FOR LOCALS
The local people are generally very friendly and welcoming. If you wish to bring gifts for village children, school supplies such as pens and pencils and sports equipment (soccer balls, etc) are always appreciated.

SCUBA DIVING/SNORKELLING OPPORTUNITIES
You will have several opportunities to enjoy excellent snorkelling and SCUBA Diving though-out your cruise. Below is a list of some locations where diving/snorkelling may be offered - dependant on weather/conditions.

Diving Options -
We strongly advise all guests to review Coral Expeditions policy on scuba diving to ensure you meet all medical requirements. Obtaining a recent dive medical is advantageous along with dive insurance - a must in remote areas.

• Banda – Lava Flow
• Wagmab
• Mesemta
• Aljui Bay
• Hidden Bay

WALKS & HIKES
Most walks on this itinerary are leisurely and no more than 1-2km, through villages and over beaches. There are a couple of longer, more vigorous walks on offer, which involve uphill climbs - an alternative activity will be offered for those that want to adapt a more leisurely pace. It should be noted that most walks will be over rough and uneven ground and in warm temperatures.

SUGGESTED READINGS
• Spice Islands – Ian Burnett
• Diving & Snorkelling Guide to Raja Ampat & Northeast Indonesia 2016 – Simon Pridmore
• The Spice Islands Voyage – by Tim Severin
• The Malay Archipelago: The Land of the Orang-Utan and the Bird of Paradise – by Alfred Russel Wallace
Launched in 2005, Coral Discoverer set a new benchmark standard for small ship expedition cruising in Australia.

The 1800-tonne Coral Discoverer is the grand vision of Coral Expeditions, pioneers in expedition and adventure cruises around Australia, Papua New Guinea and South East Asia. Her shallow draught and manoeuvrability allow her to go where larger vessels cannot. Her tender vessel, Xplorer, can seat all 72 passengers for excursions to beaches and rivers. Coral Discoverer is equipped with latest technology active stabilisers to ensure comfortable cruising in open waters and is fitted with modern safety and navigation equipment and satellite wireless internet facilities.

SHIP CREW

Your Coral Expeditions crew is headed by the Captain, Expedition Leader, and Purser. Our deck and hospitality crew are available throughout the day to assist you. Questions regarding daily activities should be directed to the Expedition Leader.

SHIP STATISTICS

CONSTRUCTION
› Steel

REGISTRY
› Australian

LENGTH
› 63 metres (207 feet)

BREADTH
› 13 metres (43 feet)

DRAUGHT
› 3 metres (10 feet)

SPEED
› 11 knots

SHIP CONTACT DETAILS
› Telephone +61 7 4242 4191 (for emergencies only)
ON BOARD POLICIES

NO KEY POLICY
When at sea, Coral Expeditions operate a “no key” policy for safety reasons on all of our vessels. If required, our Purser will care for any of your valuable items in the ship’s safe.

OPEN BRIDGE POLICY
There is an open bridge policy on board. All guests are welcome in the bridge at any time unless otherwise advised by one of the officers.

GRATUITIES POLICY
Our crew have no other agenda than your delight and tipping is completely optional. Should you choose to recognise the service provided, please make any gratuities payable to the Purser (in cash only) for equal distribution to all crew.

SMOKING POLICY
Smoking is permitted on the Main Aft Deck only. There is a no smoking policy throughout the interior of the ship. There is a total smoking ban when travelling on tender vessels and refuelling.

SHIPBOARD ACCOUNT
Upon embarkation, we will automatically open your personal shipboard account. We operate a chit system and for your security, ask that you sign each chit as you order from our bar, shop or make any other on board purchases. At the end of the voyage your account may be settled in AU $ cash; by American Express; Visa; MasterCard or Diners Club (regret no Travellers cheques).

MOBILITY/HEALTH REQUIREMENTS AND INSURANCE COVERAGE
A cruise on the Coral Discoverer is suitable for guests of all fitness levels, however a reasonable level of mobility is required to travel and enjoy all your cruise itinerary has to offer. All participants should be in good general health, able to walk reasonable distances over sometimes uneven terrain, and stand during excursions. Please note we do not have lifts/elevators on board, and all guests must be able to make their own way up and down stairs, especially in case of an emergency. Hikes/walks do vary in intensity and where possible groups will be split to suit easy and moderate walkers.

While senior crew are trained in remote area first aid, it is important to note that we do not employ doctors on board our cruises. As our itineraries cover remote regions, they are not suitable for those with serious medical conditions. Any ongoing medical issues should be disclosed to reservations staff at the time of booking. We strongly encourage all passengers to obtain appropriate travel insurance, which covers cancellation costs and evacuation expenses.

DIETARY NEEDS & SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS
Special dietary needs (gluten-free, vegetarian, etc) can be catered for, however our reservations team must be notified in writing of specific requirements at least three weeks prior to your cruise, along with any special anniversaries or birthdays you may be celebrating whilst aboard.

SAFETY ON BOARD
On a Coral Expeditions cruise, the safety of our guests is our top priority. Upon boarding you will be briefed about our emergency procedures and given tips for how to move about the vessel in rough conditions. Throughout the cruise, safety announcements will be made via the public address system and can be heard throughout the ship. Always listen to the advice of your Purser and Captain.

It is essential that you take certain safety precautions. Here are some basic rules:

• Walk, never run, aboard the ship, and be extra careful when walking on wet or damp decks.

In rough weather note especially:

• Do not stroll about the ship unnecessarily.
• Hold on to handrails on stairways. Be very careful in the bathroom.
• Doors should be latched open or kept closed during heavy seas. Use the handles and never hold a door by its frame as the ship’s movement may cause the door to close on your hand.
• Secure items in your bathroom and on your bureau, or place in drawers.
• Use care when carrying anything, always ask for assistance if/when needed.

SEASICKNESS
Prevention is key – so you should discuss appropriate measures with your doctor or pharmacist prior to travel. If you do become seasick whilst on board, please advise the Purser so that they can attend to your needs appropriately. A variety of seasickness treatments will be available on board.

MANAGING CONTAGIOUS ILLNESS WHILST ON BOARD
If you become ill whilst on board, please alert the Purser to your symptoms. You may be requested to remain in your Stateroom whilst symptoms persist or asked to wear a protective mask, in order to contain the spread of any contagion. Frequent handwashing, utilising the sanitizing hand gels placed around the vessel, and using tongs provided on the meal buffets will all help to prevent the spread of sickness.
**MEALS & BEVERAGES**

With a maximum of 72 guests, our chefs have the creative freedom to prepare small batch meals from scratch. Our dining room offers open seat dining without the need to reserve a table, allowing you to dine with old or new friends on each occasion. Standard meal times are 7:00am – 8:30am for breakfast, 12:30pm for lunch and dinner at between 7:00pm and 7:30pm – subject to change depending on daily activities. Breakfast and lunch are buffet style while dinner is a mix of buffet and a la carte. Delicious morning and afternoon tea is also provided, as is 24-hour access to tea & coffee and complimentary house beer and wine with lunch and dinner. The desalinator ensures that water on board is safe to drink. There is also bottled water available for purchase.

**BAR HOURS**

There are three fully stocked bars on board with an excellent selection of wines, beers and spirits. Bar hours are 10:00am to 12:00am midnight. The laws governing our liquor licence prohibit alcohol being brought on board and consumed by guests.

**DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION**

Announcements will be made via the public address system and can be heard throughout the ship. Attention to the announcements is important as they contain information regarding safety and activities on and off the ship and dining times. A Daily Newsletter outlining excursion information, meal hours and onboard activities for the following day will be delivered to your Stateroom each evening during turndown. The Expedition Leader will also go over the next day’s activities at pre-dinner drinks each evening.

**LECTURES/PRESENTATIONS**

A series of lectures will be presented during the cruise. These presentations are an integral part of your expedition and are designed to lend greater depth and understanding to your experience. The lecture series, films and slide-shows will be presented in the Bridge Deck Lounge.

**ON BOARD LIBRARY**

There is a comprehensive resource library on board with an excellent selection of books covering natural history, geology, local cultures, and flora & fauna, as well as some fictional novels and paperbacks to enjoy.

**GIFT SHOP**

Coral Expeditions souvenirs including shirts, hats, backpacks and other items are available for purchase.

**LAUNDRY SERVICE**

Limited laundering services are available on board. Laundry bags and forms are stored in your wardrobe for collection by Cruise Attendants. Charges for this service will be posted to your onboard account. As the service is for laundering only, mini ironing boards and irons are available at the Purser’s desk.

**TOILETRIES/ TOWELS / HAIRDRYERS**

Basic toiletries including shampoo, conditioner, body wash, lotion and hand soap will be provided in your stateroom ensuite. Shaving kits and dental kits are also available upon request. Hairdryers and separate towels for bathroom and swimming use are also provided.

**DRESS CODE ON BOARD**

The atmosphere on board is casual and relaxed. There is no formal dress code, and ‘smart casual’ attire is requested for dinners.

**GENERAL PACKING TIPS**

We recommend that you pack simply and lightly. Clothing that you can layer will prepare you for all kinds of weather. The following clothing list is designed to assist you in preparing for your expedition – more specific information regarding clothing and the weather conditions are included in the Helpful Hints section at the beginning of this document.

- Long, lightweight pants for hikes/walks
- Rain jacket, lightweight
- Sweater, sweatshirt, jacket, or light wrap
- Sunhat with brim
- Bathing suit and/or board shorts (for itineraries with swimming opportunities)
- Personal toiletries/hygiene products and any prescription medications
- Sunscreen & insect repellent – a supply is also kept on board, however if you have brand preferences or sensitivities you may wish to bring your own
- Good walking/hiking shoes, rubber-soled
- A couple pairs of sunglasses – essential protection against sea glare
- Rubber sandals called “river walkers” or “aqua soles” – thick-soled mesh socks for wet landings/beach
- Sandals or thongs for on board use
- Binoculars (essential for bird watching)
- Small flashlight/torch
- Backpack (preferably waterproof) suitable for carrying your photographic equipment
- Plastic water bottle or canteen

Please note there are no specific luggage weight restrictions on the Coral Discoverer, and there is ample room to store luggage in your Stateroom under your bed or in the cupboard. However please note any airline weight restrictions when packing if travelling by air to/from your cruise.
SHIP FACILITIES

WINDOWS & AIR-CONDITIONING
The ship is air-conditioned throughout and passengers are able to modify room temperature in their Stateroom. Please note, for safety reasons the windows and portholes on this vessel do not open.

ELECTRICITY
Voltage on board Coral Discoverer is 220/250 Hz, 50 cycles AC (standard Australian 3 pin plug). A slanted 2-pin adapter plug will work while on board, however with the 3rd pin missing, the item will not be grounded. For our international guests a limited number of adapters are available on board but we recommend you bring your own for use on board and in the hotels before and after the voyage. Some hot rollers and video camera battery packs require heavy-duty converters rather than the normal travel type. Please check your equipment to be sure you bring what is necessary for your personal needs. Bathrooms on board Coral Discoverer are equipped with both 110V and 220/240V outlets for electric shavers only.

STAIRS
There is no elevator or passenger lift aboard Coral Discoverer. There are approximately 12-13 steps on each flight of stairs.

EXERCISE AREA
For those wishing to stay active on sea days, there is an exercise equipment area on the Sun Deck.

TENDER VESSELS
Xplorer
A specially designed aluminium excursion vessel with high horsepower engines that will accommodate all guests at one time. It is located on a hydraulic platform at the stern of the ship, and passengers are able to walk straight onto the vessel from the Main Deck. The Xplorer will be used for landings and for extensive exploration of rivers, tributaries and islands. For your added convenience and comfort, the Xplorer is equipped with an awning and toilet.

Zodiacs
We carry onboard three inflatable landing craft (Zodiacs). Designed for expedition work, these large and heavy-duty inflatables are extremely safe. Separate air compartments retain a large reserve of buoyancy even if the boats are damaged. The flat bottom design permits these crafts to land directly onto the beaches. Expect nonetheless to wade through shallow water to reach the shore.

Glass Bottom Coral Viewing Vessel
For out-of-water coral viewing, we carry on board a glass bottom viewing vessel allowing an informative and dry reef experience. Please note, this vessel is not used on the Kimberley/Cape York Arnhem Land itineraries.

Kayaks
Both double and single kayaks are available for use at select points throughout your cruise (itinerary dependent - not available for use on our Kimberley/Cape York & Arnhem Land cruises).

COMMUNICATIONS
Whilst travelling through remote areas, you may not have access to internet/mobile reception through your own provider for extended periods of time. Coral Discoverer is equipped with an onboard communications system, and guests are able to purchase a pre-paid satellite internet card aboard the ship and then connect to the internet through either a laptop computer, a mobile device or the ship's onboard computer. Calling cards can also be purchased and used to make calls from your stateroom. Please note, as this is a satellite connection there may be disruptions in service from time to time. In addition, to help you keep in touch with news from home and abroad during your cruise we subscribe to a daily news service and copies of this publication are made available to guests each day.

Note: Internet access on the ship is contracted by Coral Expeditions to an international cruise industry service provider and is a satellite connection. While every effort is made to ensure uninterrupted service, from time to time there may be periods of disrupted service due to lack of satellite coverage in remote areas or other technical issues that are beyond Coral Expeditions’ control. Internet access is available in all public areas but not guaranteed in cabins due to the steel structure of the ship.

WI-FI PRICES
60 mins – $40, 120mins - $60, 240 mins - $90

CALLING CARDS
Available in $25 increments – calling costs vary

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT RESERVATIONS:
Telephone +61 7 4040 9999
Fax +61 7 4035 5995
Free Call (within Australia) 1800 079 545
Email reservations@coralexpeditions.com
Online www.coralexpeditions.com