Pygmy Seahorse Cruise with Dr Richard Smith

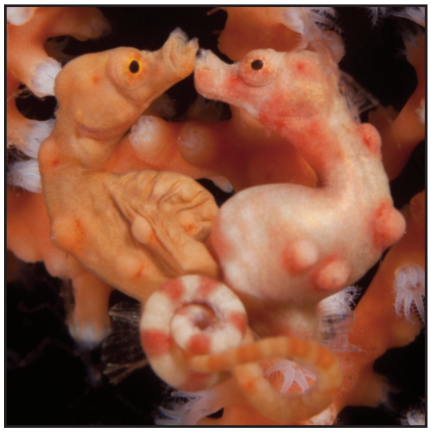
Raja Ampat aboard The Arenui - 5-16th February 2016

With five of the seven described species of pygmy seahorses, Raja Ampat is one of the best places on the planet to observe these diminutive fish. During this special pygmy seahorse cruise we will be on the hunt for them, whilst learning more about these and some of the other creatures that make this amazing area their home.

Raja Ampat is famed for having the world's most biodiverse coral reefs. The pristine reefs are bustling with a wide variety of unique creatures. Walking and wobbegong sharks, mantas and other rarities are all commonly seen.

Richard will conduct lectures on various aspect of marine biology, including talks on reef behaviour, finding your own critters and Raja Ampat's amazing diversity as well as talks on seahorses and his PhD research on the pygmy seahorse.

Itinerary



Setting sail from Sorong in West Papua, Indonesia, over the following twelve days (11 nights), we will explore the dive sites of the mega-diverse Raja Ampat.

Northern Raja Ampat has some unique dive sites, where Richard has observed several previously undocumented pygmy seahorse behaviours. The south too has a special red and white colour form of Denise's pygmy that is typical to this area.

Each day brings new adventures and new animals in Raja Ampat. As well as pygmy seahorses, we will encounter many of the endemic fishes of the area, and will of course visit manta cleaning stations. Critters aside, Raja Ampat has some of the most pristine reefs on the planet for us to enjoy!

Dr Richard Smith is a British born marine biologist, underwater photographer, writer and expedition leader. He has written scores of articles, published internationally, with a focus on marine life and conservation. In 2011 Richard was awarded the first PhD on the biology of pygmy seahorses, focusing on the reproductive behaviour, populations and ecology of these miniaure fish. With an undergraduate degree in Zoology and Master's in Marine Ecology he has a broad knowledge of both terrestrial and marine biology.

The Arenui is a boutique liveaboard, built in the style of a traditional Indonesian sailing boat or Phinisi measuring 43 metres in length. Built in southern Sulawesi in 2007, the Arenui accommodates up to sixteen divers in eight exceptionally spacious cabins, which are served by twenty two crew.

Trip Costs

Diver - USD $6,640.00
Single Supplement - 80% of trip cost ($11,656)
Payment Policy and Deposit
- A 30% non-refundable deposit reserves a place, with the remaining fee payable in full 90 days prior to departure.

Bookings
- for bookings and/or with any questions, please contact Richard:
Email - *Richard@OceanRealmImages.com*

Tour Includes
- 11 nights full board in a deluxe cabin
- Raja Ampat park fees
- All diving (maximum four dives per day)
- All meals, soft drinks, tea and coffee
- airport transfers to and from Arenui
- Half hour welcome massage

Tour Excludes
- Alcoholic beverages and speciality coffees
- Nitrox ($180 pp)
- Domestic flights

Mission Statement: We at Ocean Realm Images are extremely passionate about protecting the marine environment. The focus of our trips will be to observe and photograph marine life in an environmentally friendly way, without harming or stressing animals. We want everyone to enjoy their diving, but not to the detriment of the reef and its inhabitants.