



Sail Samal 2 Raja Ampat Sail Karimata 2016

Information Booklet



<https://www.facebook.com/SailSamal2RajaAmpat>

email: lucseawalker@gmail.com

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General Info

Sail Samal 2 Raja Ampat Website and Contact Information

Sail Samal 2 Raja Ampat is an Internet-based event and is promoted, organized and managed using our facebook pages and email only. We do not use phone, fax or postal mailings

Visit our Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/SailSamal2RajaAmpat> has the latest information and updates as well as links to useful web sites, videos on YouTube, blogs and websites from sailors who have made parts of this journey before.

There is a lot of useful information out to help you make the best of your cruise from Samal to Raja Ampat and other parts of Indonesia. While it is true that there is fun to be had in discovering new things, the old adage that “warned is armed” is also true, especially in matters that result in “Culture shock”. Lots to look at and enjoy already even before you go to Indonesia.

Any questions and comments can be posted on our Facebook page as well as directly to the organizers at <lucseawalker@gmail.com>

Purpose of this document

This document is to give you a summary of the important information needed from a sailor’s perspective. It gives intending participants an overview of the route, dates, planned events as well as requirements to register in the rally and information on officialdom in both the Philippines and Indonesia. It is in no way a complete guide to the Philippines or Indonesia and good cruising guides & tourism guidebooks will be most useful to you, especially if you plan to go explore on your own after the rally. Indonesia is an amazing country and we hope, as our previous participants have, that you will discover some of this huge county, with its diverse regions and most of all the wonderful and friendly people and leave with fond memories.

The information contained in this document and all information Sail Samal 2 Raja Ampat provides to you in our publications and on our facebook pages is the OFFICIAL government information, regarding such things as Indonesian Visa renewal, entering intermediate ports in Indonesia, filling of gas bottles, checking out from Indonesia. You will hear and read from previous yacht’s blogs and websites, many participants before you have done these things in different ways but we can only advise you of the official regulations. Also keep in mind that things do change so what was true yesterday might not be true today ... what is true in one place might not be true in another ... also our own personal attitudes do influence greatly the attitude of the people we deal with ... and take everything you hear with a grain of salt ..., what should be evident for sailors ☺

This document is not your entry form, and it should always be read together with the information provided on our facebook page, that is updated regularly. This document covers preliminary information only, and when you arrive at Holiday Oceanview Marina in Samal, Philippines, you will be given additional more up-to-date information during the Rally Technical Briefing given in the 2 weeks preceding the rally departure (check on our facebook page for exact date in April 2016).

Schedule of Events 2016

The events will be jointly organized and coordinated; in the Philippines by Holiday Oceanview marina, the local authorities of Sarangani Islands and in Indonesia by the regencies of Sangihe, Morotai, Raja Ampat & Karimata Islands, the Provincial Administrations and local Tourism & Culture offices.

The full program details in each port of call will only be announced when yachts arrive there. That way program can adapt to circumstances at the time like current weather, number of participants, etc.

It is important that you arrive within the indicated time frame in your first entry port in Indonesia as we will insure that all officials are there to clear you in with a minimum of difficulties and rapidly.

After being cleared in, you are not required to follow the rally schedule, you are not expected to attend every scheduled event and you are free to make your own way across Indonesia and just participate in the events that suit your personal schedule.

Sail Samal 2 Raj Ampat is a moving program of events; if you arrive at a port of call before or after the scheduled dates you will not receive the same level of support than if you arrive during scheduled visit. During the events, tourism guide will be provided as well as free tours and events. Local private tour operators will also be ready to take you on organized activities.

This being said, everyone will be happy to see you at any time in the year and will try their best to help you in many ways.

Here is the initial draft of the schedule of events.

18 Apr – 02 May Holiday Oceanview Marina, Samal island, Philippines

Special events for the Sail Samal 2 Raja Ampat participants

THU 21 APR 4:30pm - Technical briefing by Rally Coordinator Luc Callebaut

FRI 22 APR 6pm - Rally Potluck BBQ

Date TBA - Rally Games

Date TBA - 4th Nautical Flea Market at Oceanview Marina

TUE 26 APR - Cheene goes to Indonesian Consulate to drop passports for Indonesian visas

WED 27 APR - Cheene gets passports back with Indonesian visas

FRI 29 APR 830am – Skippers' special van to Immigration

FRI 29 APR 6pm - Rally Potluck BBQ

SAT 30 APR 6pm - Kick-Off Party at Camp Holiday

TUE 3 MAY 9am - Rally departure – yachts exit marina and parade

06 May – Sarangani Islands, Philippines

Welcome Ceremony by local community + activities (details TBA)

10-17 May – Sangihe Island, Indonesia

Yacht check-in to Indonesia and Welcome Ceremony in Tahuna + activities (details TBA)

20-26 May - Morotai Island, Indonesia

Welcome Ceremony in Daruba + activities (details TBA)

1 – 11 Jun – Wayag Islands, Indonesia

Welcome by Park Rangers + free time

21-28 Jun – Waisai, Waigeo, Raja Ampat, Indonesia

Welcome Ceremony in Waisai + activities (details TBA)

3 July – Sorong or Tual, Indonesia – Renew Visa or Check Out

Time to renew visas for these continuing to cruise Indonesia!

By now, the Southerly trade winds should have arrived so it is a good opportunity to go N, E or W. Options that yachts have discussed:

- Sail back towards the Philippines, to arrive in Davao City in August for the famous Kadayawan Festival (held 3rd week in August every year in Davao).
- Check out of Indonesia in Sorong, to sail North towards Palau.
- Renew Visa or Check out of Indonesia and head East towards PNG.
- Renew Visa and continue with the rally to arrive in West Kalimantan by end of October. Yachts can join Sail Indonesia Rally or sail on their own anywhere they like, not forgetting to renew visas before the end of each 30-day period. Keep in mind that each participant has to exit Indonesia before the end of his 6-month since entry in Sangihe.

July – Sep – Oct – Free Time

Many areas to explore on your way to Kalimantan: Bau Bau, Wakatobe, Takabonerate, Komodo, Bali, Lombok to name a few.

End October – Karimata Islands, Indonesia

SAIL KARIMATA 2016 FESTIVAL

Events to be announced.

End October – Belitung or Nongsa Point Marina

End of October/ Beginning of November

Yachts check out of Indonesia and sail towards Singapore or Malaysia.

Check Out of Indonesia

IMPORTANT NOTE: Each yacht is responsible for contacting Customs and the Harbor Master for vessel inspection & clearance out, and Immigration for passports exit stamps.

Keep in mind that each participant has to exit Indonesia before the end of his 6-month stay in Indonesia. This cannot be extended.

Please email Rally Control to inform them when you exit out of Indonesia.

Sail Malaysia Rally

Yachts ending up in the Singapore area at the end of the Sail Indonesia Rally have the opportunity to join Sail Malaysia 2016 from Puteri Harbor (near Singapore), heading northwest toward Thailand.

Rally Entry Documents, Costs & Procedure

The Registration Form has to be completed and sent by email with all required attached scanned documents at least one (1) month before rally departure date. See separate document.

Registration Fee

A non-refundable registration fee of 100 USD per yacht has to be deposited also a minimum of one (1) month before rally departure date. Payment should be made - either in cash to Luc Callebaut or Holiday Oceanview Marina office staff Cheene - either by Paypal as a personal gift (not a business transaction) to sloepmouche@gmail.com. This registration cost is reduced to only US\$ 50 for any yacht that participated in previous rallies from Samal to Indonesia.

This registration fee covers administrative and miscellaneous expenses related to the yachts documents that you need to obtain your visa in advance at the Indonesian Consulate in Davao and for the organization costs of the rally. Should CAIT and TIP still be required for this year's rally, these will also be included in the modest registration fee. (At present the full laws have not been implemented yet so we

don't know what the situation will be for this year's rally BUT you don't need to worry about that! We will take care of it).

What other benefits do I get from participating in the rally? Holiday Oceanview Marina offers you 2 free weeks of berthing just prior to the rally (see conditions below), you get to participate to all activities happening in the marina; you get to participate for free to many activities and meals offered by the different regencies; you get free use of the moorings in Sangihe & Raja Ampat; you get to participate to all special activities happening during the Sail Karimata Festival; you get this information booklet and are invited to the technical briefing in April; you get the benefits of traveling with other yachts sharing the same interests; you get more protection and assistance from local authorities as part of a organized rally.

What is not included?

Each captain and crew is responsible for the cost of his Indonesian Visa here before departure (about USD50) and then later in Indonesia for Visa Extensions if and when required.

You are responsible for any Port Charges or Marine Park permits if levied. You are responsible for any optional tour costs you decide to do. You are responsible for any fine if not following local laws.

Visa extensions will have to be applied for by you about 1 week before expiration of your current visa. This must be done in an immigration office in Indonesia. Extensions are given for only 1 month at the time.

Each captain has to email us to let us know that he is clearing out of Indonesia and email us a copy of his Customs clearance out documents right away so we can prove your vessel has left Indonesian waters, if asked.

After the Rally to Raja Ampat

After the final rally events in Raja Ampat, there are several options

- You can join the Sail Raja Ampat 2 Samal rally in July and sail back to the Philippines
- You can continue at your own leisure arriving in Karimata Islands in October for the second part of the rally
- You can cruise on your own, or you could rejoin Sail Indonesia 2016 when they pass by
- You can spend more time in Raja Ampat and exit Indonesia on your own via any exit port. Suggested ports for common routes are:
 - Sorong if you plan to sail to Palau
 - Tual if you plan to sail to PNG or Australia
 - Kupang if you plan on sailing to Australia

Philippines Info

Cruising in the Philippines

There is a good deal more information about cruising in the Philippines available in two free “cruising guides” downloadable from this source:

<http://svsoggypaws.com/files/index.htm#se-asia>

Google Earth Chart collections for the Philippines, and some waypoint files in GPX format can be downloaded from Terry Sargent’s site, here:

<http://yachtvalhalla.net/navigation/terrystopics.htm>

Departure point: Holiday Oceanview Marina on Samal Island



Holiday Oceanview Marina is located on Samal Island, next to Davao City, Mindanao, Philippines. 07°11'94 N-125°42' 74 E .

See www.HolidayOceanviewMarina.com for exact location and directions on how to get there.

Please contact the Holiday Oceanview Marina in Samal Island before your arrival to reserve a berth for your vessel: info@holidayoceanviewmarina.com .

The marina management and staff will assist you on arrival and during your stay.

It is advisable to arrive in the marina at least 2 weeks before the rally departure in order to provision, make any repairs, and most of all, participate in the activities organized specially for the

rally participants. During that time, after obtaining your cruising permit, you will be able to get your Indonesian visa at the General Consulate of Indonesia in Davao.

If you need to be hauled out or plan to do major work on your vessel, you should contact the marina well in advance and make sure you get there with sufficient time to have your vessel hauled out and re-launched before the rally departure date (keep in mind that everything often takes twice as much time as we originally think it will!)

Weather and Tides

If you are coming from the North, in the Philippines already, or coming from Palau & Micronesia, you should have favorable northerly winds in January to April as well as low typhoon risk in that area. If you are coming from the West, January to March is a good time to cruise the northern Philippines. If you are coming from the SE (PNG) you could sail to Helen’s Reef enroute to Davao/Samal.

The current running along the East coast of Mindanao tends to be Southerly all year long.

Sailing inside Davao bay is generally in fairly calm waters and you can sail by tacking if necessary from one side of the bay to the other. See more current and wx info on the Holiday Oceanview website.

Here are some links to weather sites for the Philippines:

Cruising in this area... with nothing but a Pactor, I'd just be using GRIB files

If you have an internet connection, then Windy.com

<https://www.windy.com/?10.455,124.321,6>

Note, the numbers after the question mark are lat/long for center of the screen, and the 6 is "how high is my eye. This particular link centers on the center of the Philippines. But you can center it anywhere and zoom in and out, and then make your own bookmark. To move the center of the map, just click with the mouse, and grab and move.

It defaults to "today" and you can move the slider at the bottom to look at the forecast.

Important Note: This is just a sexy presentation of the GRIB files. If you don't have internet, you can still obtain GRIB files the old fashioned way (email via Winlink or Sailmail, etc)

Here's the once-a-day satellite "analysis" by the Philippine weather sources

<http://www.typhoon2000.ph/t2kgraphsat.gif>

If you want a "TV Analysis" you can get that here:

<http://weather.com.ph/>

And a moving satellite photo:

<http://www.ssd.noaa.gov/jma/wpac/flash-rb.html>

or this one which is from the same satellite, but more detailed:

<http://www.goes.noaa.gov/sohemi/sohemiloops/shirgmscolw.html>

Here's an example of the Japanese Met weather fax products:

<http://www.jma.go.jp/en/g3/>

If you're going further west, here's the Singapore weather site

<http://www.weather.gov.sg/weather-marine-surface-wind>

Philippines Quarantine, Customs and Immigration on arrival

If your yacht is not yet in the Philippines, please make sure you follow the proper procedure on arrival.

Philippines authorities are fairly easy to deal with so it is no reason to ignore rules. The following info applies to vessels making their entry in Davao/ Samal ... please check for any different procedure if you enter the Philippines in a different port of entry as procedures may vary from one region to another!

You can proceed directly to Samal Island and enter the Holiday Oceanview Marina before clearing in. The authorities are not usually coming on your vessel to check you in. The skipper and all crews have to go see Immigration in Davao as well as Quarantine and Customs as soon as possible. Immigration will grant you a 30-day free visa (except for a small charge for arrival by sea). If staying more than 30-days before your exit for Indonesia, you will be required to go back at Immigration in Davao and pay a fee for another 30-day visa (after that, you can obtain 2 or 6 months at the time). Quarantine and Customs do charge a very minimal fee as well. These 3 offices are located nearby Davao and can all be reached by inexpensive public transport or taxis.

Philippines Customs and Importing boat parts into the Philippines

There is no "boat in transit" preferred treatment as far as Philippines Customs is concerned and pretty heavy import duties are levied on anything imported in the Philippines.

There are however two ways a cruiser can get things shipped in.

- Packages sent from the USA via USPS and arriving at the main post office in Davao City. So far, only a flat fee of 100 pesos (about \$2.50 USD) is charged. It has been reported that packages with small-declared value coming from other countries also only paid that same flat administrative fee. It can take 4-6 weeks for a package to make it's way from the US to the marina.
- Use a Balikbayan shipping company. Check online to find the company closest to the shipping origin. Note that most Balikbayan companies are pop and mom Filipino stores that organize this service for the expat Filipino community in their area.

Shipping has to be pre-paid and often delivered to their place of business (some do pickup in some areas). The best is to contact these Balikbayan companies in advance so you can get their own packing boxes (come in different sizes at fixed price). The cost is based on the size of the box and is usually a flat fee. Weight is not an issue as long as 1 or 2 people can lift the box, since it will come by sea. Transit time varies from 1 to 2 months.

Air service at different rates is also offered (something around \$7 USD per pound, with some minimum). Check with the management of the Holiday Oceanview Marina to obtain the correct address to receive your packages via the marina address.

There are companies in the U.S. that will accept your Amazon, etc shipments and consolidate them into a Balikbayan box. And there are probably the same service available in Australia and other countries with a significant Filipino population.

Holiday Oceanview Marina Pre Departure Perks & Functions

The Holiday Oceanview Marina Management offers two (2) weeks of free in-water dockage, just prior to the rally departure date, to all boats duly registered in the rally and departing at the official kick-off time. Sorry this free dockage cannot be transferred for another period or offered to any vessel not departing at kick-off.

In the 2 weeks prior to the rally, participants will be invited to special events like, Game party with numerous prizes, marine flea market, cruisers workshops on different subjects, amateur radio exams (if 3 VEC are present) as well as kick-off party. Special vans will also drive skippers and crew for provisioning and checkout formalities.

Here is the 1st video you might want to watch before departure to whet your appetite ☺

Video: Sail Sangihe 2014 - Events in Philippines

<http://youtu.be/Y8fvtLrd5PI>

Getting Indonesian TIP and Visa

During your stay at the Holiday Oceanview marina, after obtaining your Cruising Permit (however this is done, see Indonesia section), you will be able to get your visa at the General Consulate of Indonesia in Davao. It is a 2-day process that the marina management will assist you with.

Checking out of the Philippines

Checking out of the Philippines is a very painless process. You need to visit Customs, at the nearby port in Davao, to get your clearance out, and visit Immigration in the city of Davao to get your passport stamped.

The Holiday Oceanview Marina will provide a shuttle for the skippers to complete these formalities just before the rally departure.

Note that if you have been in the Philippines for over 6 months, there is an additional step you must do ahead of time with Immigration.

Anchorage in the Philippines

Once you leave the Holiday Oceanview marina you have many possible anchorages in the Gulf of Davao and Sarangani just south of the bay. You can easily do day trips so you avoid night passages or take rest in case of unfavorable weather. A series of GoogleEarth chartlets, anchorages and waypoints for the Philippines can be obtained from Terry Sargent on s/v Valhalla, either by borrowing Terry's USB drive, or by downloading the information from his website, here:

<http://yachtvalhalla.net/navigation/terrystopics.htm>

Various Anchorages in the Gulf of Davao

In this document we will only list major anchorages. There is much more information about various anchorages in the Gulf of Davao in the Philippines Compendium, which can be found [here](#).

Thanks to s/v Valhalla and s/v Soggy Paws for sharing their information.

Sarangani and Balut Islands Anchorages

These islands are approximately 105 nm south of the Ocean View Marina, with a well-sheltered anchorage, AND internet and cell phone coverage. So it makes a convenient stopping place to shelter overnight and make repairs if necessary.

You have several possible anchorages in Sarangani and Balut islands. This is your last stop before exiting the Philippines and entering Indonesian waters.

The best protected anchorage from all wx is inside Port Patuco.

Entrance WP 05° 28.7234' N / 125° 27.9674' E. Enter the bay with good light as there are some places where you could run aground, in the channel as well as in the end of the sheltered anchorage.

Anchor around 05° 28.5881' N – 125° 28.5881' E in less than 40ft, mud. The people of this tiny village at the southern extremity of the Philippines are friendly and you should even be able to access internet via your mobile phone.



You can also anchor off Balut (the western island), if you don't mind being less protected from waves and swell.

This is a fairly wide open area in about 40-45 feet. 05° 24.0844 N / 125° 25.5569 E But there are reefs to the north and south, easy to avoid in good visibility.

You can get a Globe cell internet connection there and be near a Philippines Coast Guard station.

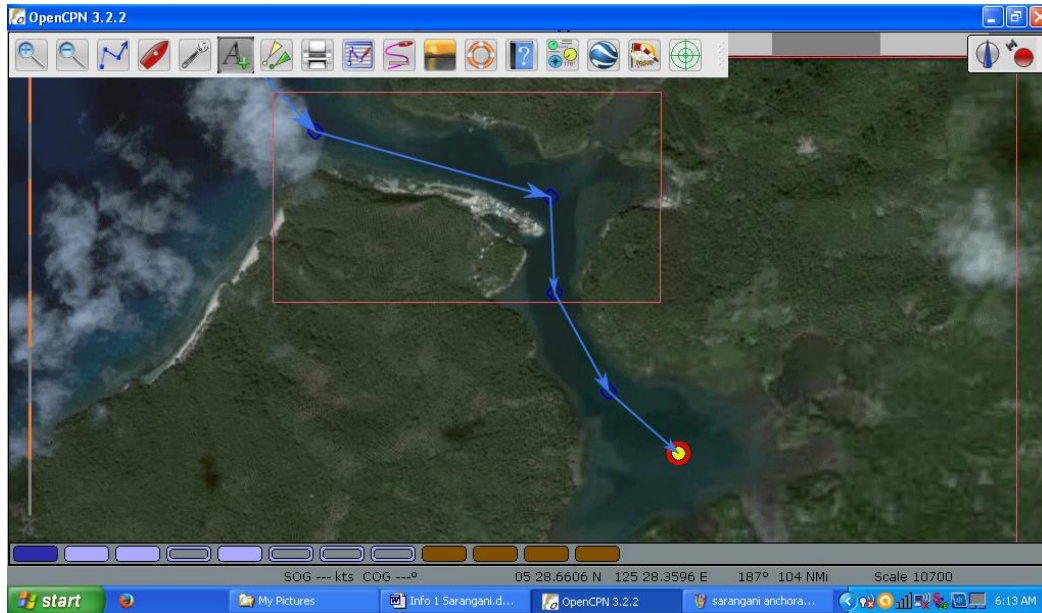


Figure 1 - Route In to Port Patuco

Security in the Philippines

We are working on perhaps getting an escort or extra patrols when the Rally leaves Samal.

Emergency Phone Numbers

In an emergency in the Philippines, calling Mayday on channel 16 may not get a response from anyone. (However, it might, so it should always be attempted). Due to the large amount of ship traffic in Davao, none of the cruisers stand by on Channel 16.

Here are some phone numbers we have been given to call if an incident arises.

If you are calling from a non-Philippine phone, preface the numbers with +63 and drop the leading zero.

Smart and Globe refer to the two primary cell phone carriers in the Philippines. If you have a Philippines cell phone, call the number that matches your carrier, and it costs less.

Oceanview Marina Office (Cheene Canencia)

0919-476-0289

Task Force Samal Hotline 24/7

“Task Force Samal” is police/military force with the responsibility for safety and security on Samal Island.

Smart: 0949-4392-7320

Globe: 0915-1340-0635

Philippine Navy East Mindanao Operations Center

Smart: 0908-811-0626 (Responder spoke no English Dec 2015)

Globe: 0917-302-5600 (Call would not complete as dialled 23 Dec 2015)

Alternate: 0939-820-9318

Philippine Navy Coastwatch Station at Tinaca Point (Southernmost Tip of Mindanao)

935-781-9535

Philippine Coastguard Supposedly Manned 24/7

Smart: 0921-743-9444 (No answer 23 Dec 2015)

Globe: 0915-122-6712 (checked OK Dec 2015)

Indonesia Info

Introduction to Indonesia

"Indonesia is the largest archipelago in the world. It is an exotic mix of cultures, people, traditions and customs, food, wildlife and plant life. Running approximately 3000 miles along the equator, Indonesia is comprised of around 13,000 islands and has the world's fourth largest population, made up of around 350 distinct ethnic groups and languages. Blessed with an abundance of spices and natural resources it has been an important trading region since the 7th century. During that time Indonesia has been influenced by foreign powers attracted by the abundant natural resources including Arab, Indian, Malay, Chinese, English, Dutch and Portuguese traders."

"Traveling through Indonesia on a yacht is very different to a short holiday visit to a resort - Things are never the same, procedures and costs in government offices sometimes will change from one day to the next depending on the official you meet and most certainly from one place to the next. There are no clear rules of engagement and getting things done in Indonesia is often a bureaucratic nightmare requiring many photocopies of all your documents combined with occasionally having to make "facilitation payments" to ease the way or speed the process up when dealing with officials or obtaining goods or services."

"These things alone combine to mean it is a very different kind of place and sometimes getting the simplest of tasks done can take all day. There are often no set procedures or clear rules of engagement and the concept of time in the manner familiar to the western mind is not familiar to the Indonesia society and the wonderful phrase "Jam Karet" delivered with a smile, translated as "rubber time" will explain why the parts you are waiting for or the taxi you have ordered are late or does not arrive all."

The text above was quoted verbatim from Sail Indonesia 2015.

Cruisers are often surprised at how welcomed they feel ... often they are treated like stars, people asking to take photos with them, they are invited to local weddings, festivities ... all very generously. While English is not widely spoken, many people, especially the young generation tries to learn English and a chance to practice their English with passing cruisers is a good opportunity!

Indonesian Bureaucracy and its challenges

Since 1998 Indonesia has undergone major changes in the way the country is administered. The power formerly in the hands of the Central Government in Jakarta has been slowly given out to the provinces. The result of this is that often there is no uniformity of rules and regulations especially for western type cruising yachts and consequently, the regulations can and may often be different at each port or stopover that you will visit. This confusion is sometimes used by the government officials for their own personal financial gain.

There is not any easy way to manage the confusion that will confront you as you move from port to port each with their own different interpretation and implementation of the shipping regulations. Even today the paperwork for shipping is still a complex and often meaningless array of not 20th but 19th century forms and documents. For example you may be given a "De-ratting Certificate" or a large green health book called "Buku Kesehatan" which may be important in some ports but at another port, the port officials may not even be interested in it. To avoid complicating the situation you should not produce either of these documents at any following port unless you are specifically asked for them.

The reason for this is that if you offer it and the officials don't know what to do with it may cause you delays. Both these documents are for use on ships over 500 tons, however in some ports every vessel is issued with them.

Since 2004 foreign flagged yachts are now only required to check with Port Officials at their Port of Entry and Port of Exit. There is now no requirement for yachts to check in and out of each intermediate port as was required in the past and, of course, you had to pay for this procedure. However this process has now

sometimes been replaced by an "Anchoring Fee" for which there is of course a cost of \$5-10 USD at each stopover and you may be asked to produce your yacht's paperwork yet again.

Temporary Importation Permit (TIP)

At the end of 2015, some laws were enacted to remove the obligation to obtain a CAIT and Temporary Import Permit. The first of these laws has been signed by the Indonesian latest president in an effort to promote marine tourism.

However, it takes some months for the full implementation of new laws and these have to be included in the rules and regulations that Immigration and Customs are following. Therefore at this time, we are uncertain if participants in this year's rally will need that paperwork. But regardless of CAIT and TIP, some paperwork will still be required to establish a cruising permit necessary to obtain your advance visa.

Keep in mind that these new rules are being implemented and the transition period might present challenges as the new rules are being understood and followed, sometimes with different interpretations.

Sail Samal 2 Raja Ampat will arrange all these necessary documents so YOU can apply for your visa just before departure.

At your final port of call in Indonesia, the boat must be cleared out of Indonesia with Customs and the Port Captain.

Also at some ports there is a now a requirement that the boat captain or agent must submit an RKSP Rencana Kedatangan Sarana Pengangkut (Notice of Arrival) at least 24 hours before the boat arrives otherwise there may be penalty of Rp.5.000.000 around \$550 USD. This is done for your entry in Sangihe by the rally organizers.

There is also a new requirement similar to what Singapore and recently Thailand implemented: all yachts have to have an class B or higher AIS turned on at all times (except when in a marina).

The above bureaucratic information is according to the Government Regulations and is the best we have at this time and as explained above it may not be followed by all Customs Officials in all ports. This information will be updated on our facebook page as we become aware of it but there may some times when local variations and implementation of these regulations are different in some ports, and as such we can take no responsibility for the complete accuracy of this information.

Handling Officialdom

Document copies and boat stamps

Always keep numerous copies of boat registration papers, crew list, passports, visas, port clearances, quarantine certificates, TIP, boat import document, insurance and anything else you could think of. The Indonesian bureaucracy will demand copies of most official documents when you clear into the different ports. Having a stamp made with your boat details on it and stamp all the documents you are handing over to officials, seem to please them.

Visa Extensions

If you have a "Social Visa" it is extendable for a total period of up to 6 months; however it is validated for **only 60 days** (NOT 2 months) when you first arrive in Indonesia.

At least 5 days prior to the expiration of this initial 60-day period you must have it extended. If you plan to participate in Sail Karimata 2016 (in October) you will still have enough time to exit Indonesia in Belitung or Nongsa Point Marina before the end of your 6-month stay.

Firearms in Indonesia

Indonesian regulations regarding firearms and ammunition are very restrictive and strictly enforced. All weapons *MUST* have a registration certificate from the country of origin. Proof of purchase is *NOT* acceptable. Declare *ALL* firearms and ammunition on arrival in the country to the Indonesian Customs.

In 2004, a Charter Boat Captain spent four months in a Bali jail for not declaring his shotguns and ammunition.

In 2005, a Sail Indonesia Rally skipper declared his two shotguns to Customs in Kupang with the receipt from the store where they were purchased in the USA. In accordance with the regulations in the USA these weapons were not required to be registered in the USA and as he could not produce a registration certificate his guns were confiscated. He was also threatened with court proceedings and a possible 16 year jail term. It required considerable negotiations and the intervention of his country's diplomatic mission to resolve the issue and his guns were never given back to him.

Illegal drugs

The penalties in Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand for the possession or trafficking in drugs are extremely severe and in some cases will attract the death penalty.

Weather

The predominant weather system in the region during the rally period (until Raja Ampat) is the end of the North-Easterly trade winds ranging up to 25 knots and the transition period before the SE monsoon (the second part of the rally from July). In the Indonesian chain of islands, northerly afternoon sea breezes can also be expected. So the tradewinds should be favorable to sail South from the Philippines to Raja Ampat in April-May. In May-June there can be little or no wind for days at a time so always carry enough diesel fuel.

Navigation

Indonesian waters offer spectacular sights and experiences but sailing close to the shore at night is not recommended unless absolutely necessary. Indonesia is an island nation with thousands of trading and fishing boats of varying types and sizes; at night, many of these boats will not show any lights at all or worse, show navigation lights that may be reversed, confusing or simply wrong. Take care as close to ports the sea is often very polluted with plastic bags and other rubbish (trash), which can block your water intakes and in some cases it the past has wrapped around the propeller.

Never rely on any shore based or port navigation lights operating correctly in Indonesia.

Charts and Current Information

Most charts, whether paper or electronic, are inaccurate. Confirming positions with Google Earth, SAS Planet or guaranteed reference points can give you more accuracy. Recording your trace (track) can be useful to go out of anchorages, especially in poor visibility.

If following local fisherman, make sure they understand your draft is much deeper than theirs!

Eyeball navigation always is your last resort and most accurate form of navigation! If you see a reef in front of you and the chart does not show any... guess what is correct!

Cruisers find that some editions of the CM93 or different charts might be more accurate in some areas than others. Check with other cruisers before departure and while cruising Indonesia. A good cruising guide and notes from other cruisers can also provide useful information as far as exact routes and waypoints. Information will be shared during the technical briefing.

Google Earth Chart Collections for Indonesia can be downloaded from several sources:

<http://yachtvalhalla.net/navigation/terrystopics.htm>

<http://svsoggypaws.com/gecharts/> (none for Indonesia yet)

Fish traps and nets

When approaching Indonesia and sailing in Indonesia in both coastal and deepwater areas keep a good look-out for fish traps looking like wooden houses built on stilts, with no discernable lights and undetectable on radar, due to their wooden construction.

You may encounter fish traps, nets and fish attraction devices (FADs) of all shapes and sizes on a regular occurrence. Usually they are located close to civilization; however, sometimes you find them in major shipping lanes and entrance channels. At times they do display a flashing light array, but this was only visible at close range. You may also encounter a fleet of small fishing vessels serviced by a larger vessel or the small vessels are zooming to/from the mother vessel.

You need to be vigilant to avoid collisions and be entangled in fishing nets.

All these crafts are particularly difficult to see at night, and often there is not even a mast or sail to alert you to their presence. Radar is not always able to detect these craft and it is always advisable to be alert and vigilant. Always have a person on the bow with a spotlight to check for clear water ahead close to the shore and of course keep your speed down.

Also the number of pearl farms in Indonesia is increasing; it is now usual for these farms to be patrolled by boats with armed guards.

Tugs towing barges

Be careful anytime you see a tug. In Indonesia they frequently tow barges with long towing lines that can run up to four nautical miles and sometimes even longer. At night they seldom display any navigation lights on the tug or the barge. Keep a good lookout and use your radar and AIS to avoid tugs.

Piracy and Security Issues

A piracy attack against a pleasure yacht has not occurred for over 10 years, however theft from yachts may occur here and there and when you are anchored close to a village or in port, storing inside or locking things might be a good idea. If a place has bad reputation, do a "neighborhood watch".

Travel Tips

Money

In this part of the world cash is king, so travel with a reasonable reserve of cash. Only a few businesses in large cities accept credit cards. In the larger towns you may find an ATM and banks, however, it may only accept one type of credit card, so make sure you carry both a Mastercard and a Visa card.

Exchanging foreign currency can be problematical. The easiest currency to convert into Rupiah is the US dollar. But many notes will be rejected if the series issue date earlier than 2006 or if bills are marked, torn or defaced even in some minor way so if you bring any US\$ for later exchange, make sure they look like you printed them the night before!

Giving to the Locals

You are going to meet some very poor people in Indonesia who will offer you enormous hospitality and generosity. Before you arrive, I suggest thinking about what you could offer along your voyage. If you look on your own boat, you can probably prepare boxes of things you can give away (I call this our "gifts & briberies" boxes ... you will be amazed at how many things you do carry onboard and do not really need. It will be a win-win situation: your yacht will gain available volume and loose weight ☺ You can also bring things for the kids like school supplies.

Language

English is not widely spoken away from the main centers. But the Indonesian language, Bahasa Indonesia is not a difficult language, so get yourself a phrase book and at least arrive with a few words. And remember, if in doubt, smile.

Most of the children have a little English from school. Learning some essential phrases and/or a phrase book/dictionary is useful. The people that do speak some English often like to practice it and are delighted if you speak a little Indonesian.

There may also be a number of official guides who can assist you during your stay. These young people are generally students at the local university who wish to practice and improve their English language skills. They will provide valuable assistance to you and can accompany you to the markets, bank and shopping etc. No formal payment is required but if you wish, you can give a tip or gift to the guides that help you as well as pay for any food and refreshments.

Dress in Indonesia

Dress standards mean a lot in Indonesia, always wear smart casual clothes especially when dealing with officials and it is best not to wear expensive jewelry when you are out and about. Remember Indonesia is the world's largest

Muslim country and as such women in particular, should always dress modestly.

Ceremonies

For all religious groups these ceremonies are very important and are taken very seriously. Always be respectful and comply with local customs. Sometimes you will be invited to participate in some of these ceremonies, particularly singing and dancing. In the less formal ceremonies anyone able to play an instrument will be warmly welcomed to join in, you will be amazed by the different dances and music of the regions. Indonesian love karaoke so you might have your own song ready, they will love it!

Duty Free Alcohol

Most yachts will have duty free alcohol on board. Indonesian laws regarding taking it ashore from your yacht are no different than in most other countries in the world. If you take any ashore for your own consumption, be very discreet as the fines from the local authorities can be very high.

For those of you who drink beer, the cost of a large bottle of beer (Bintang) in Indonesia can be Rp12,000-25,000, which is less than US\$3... but it can also be impossible to find or be 10x the price! Wines might also be difficult to find.

It is easy to stock up in Davao before you leave for Indonesia, and the marina assists by running a shuttle bus to a large Costco-like store where you can buy food and alcohol.

Medical Services

Away from the main urban areas medical services vary from limited to non-existent. If you need medical treatment SOS International Medical Clinics in Bali, and Jakarta offer a first class service. The SOS contact in Bali is International SOS, Bali Jalan Bypass Ngurah Rai Number 505X Kuta 80221 24 hours Alarm Center number +62 361 710 505

In Indonesia medical supplies are very reasonably priced and are available at most "Apotik" stores, prescription drugs are usually available however their quality and authenticity is not always guaranteed. The very popular stomach upset known as "Bali Belly" may not be in fact a bug but rather the result of different food or too just much fun, a very effective remedy you may wish to try first are the activated charcoal pills called "Norit" again these are easily obtained from any Apotik store.

Electricity

The electrical power supply in Indonesia is 220 volts at 50 Hertz.

Phone Service

The country code for Indonesia is 62, the cell phone network is available at all towns through Indonesia and is the best way to keep in contact with family and friends.

On arrival purchase an Indonesian SIM card for your phone from one of the many shops as the SMS service is very cheap. Please note that if you have a pre-paid cell phone it may be locked to another network and may not work in Indonesia.

Internet

There are internet facilities in all Indonesian cities and most towns, however these services can be sometimes slow and unreliable. After you arrive you can purchase an internet SIM card for your tablet or to put in a USB dongle that you plug in your laptop or PC. Coverage is good right in the main towns but will be non-existent anywhere else.

Many cafes and hotels have WIFI connections or you can go to a *WARTEL* or *WARNET* shop is where you can find internet facilities.

Land transport

In Tual and all large towns and cities the most effective means of transport are the local buses, small mini vans called 'bemos'. You can also go on motor tricycles or 'o-jek' (motos). Many places are small enough that walking is the best way to get around.

Leaving a Clean Wake

Remember that everything you do as a "yachtie" in Indonesia will set expectations among the population for cruisers who follow behind you, for years to come.

Unless you want this remote paradise to turn into another tourist destination where the kids follow you around with their hands out, think carefully before you are too generous. It's always better to "trade" than to just "give". This gives the local population their respect, and keeps you from setting unrealistic expectations, which will weigh on the next yachtie to pull into the anchorage, who may not be able to be as generous as you are.

Spare Parts and Supplies

Obtaining yacht spare parts in Indonesia is almost impossible, engine spares may be available but they will be difficult to locate away from the main centers, you should take any spares that you may need before Singapore with you, especially fuel filters. Some parts when found are often of quality #2 (Chinese imitations)

Importing Yacht Parts

This is a complicated and difficult process as the Indonesian Customs procedures are very bureaucratic for yachts in transit and in any case these services are only easily available in ports of entry and exit such as Kupang, Bali, Surabaya, Batam and Jakarta. Do not rely on the postal service in Indonesia as it very slow and unreliable. *Most important*, according to Customs Regulations, to avoid having to import taxes on items you are expecting, even though you will be taking them with when you leave Indonesia, you will need to go to the **Fedex** or **DHL** office with your paperwork to make import arrangements **BEFORE** the items arrive in the country, if you do not do this you will have to pay the full Indonesian import duty of around 30-50 percent and there is no way around this. Avoid using Fedex for delivery in Bali, many yachts have had problems with clearing incoming items with the local agent the FEDEX office is actually in Jakarta.

Diesel Fuel

"Solar" as diesel fuel is called, is available everywhere in ports in Indonesia, however it is sometimes contaminated with foreign material so a good supply of filters is recommended. It is cheap by world standards with prices ranging from Rp7500 to Rp12,000 per liter which depending on the supplier,

Rp7500 is the pump price and of course there will be delivery charges if you have it delivered to your yacht. In many places, you cannot get jerry-jugs filled at the pump (illegal). You also might need special permits to get fuel. The rally organizers will help you with that.

LPG Gas Bottles

All Indonesian fuel and gas supplies are under the control of the government owned company - **Pertamina**.

Indonesian government regulations do not permit gas bottles with non-Indonesian connections to be refilled in Indonesia so you should try to refill all your bottles in the Philippines to have as much as you can before needing to refill.

You could also have your gas system modified to take Indonesian bottles while you are in the country (local tanks and regulator are inexpensive. As you cross the country you may find some places that will fill your non-Indonesian gas bottles by gravity, but the official regulation is that this is not allowed.

Food and Provisioning

More and more, food around the world is getting everywhere the same thanks to big multinational corporations ... so you will find lots of brands you are used to in small to sometimes big supermarkets. Local markets offer a myriad of produce grown locally and local meat. Try to eat what the locals eat, you will find new and tasty foods ... all part of experiencing cruising! In bigger cities, especially ones with many expats, or foreign tourists, you will find provisioning. Western style delicacies such as wines, cheeses, processed meats, olives & other similar western style foods.

In all towns there are a number of open air fresh food markets with a large array of very fresh fruit and vegetables at cheap prices. Go early!!! There is also a fresh fish and meat market. Be warned – it is not for the faint-hearted as you

never know what you might find trussed up and offered for sale and the smell of fish and meat can be quite overpowering for the Western senses as there is no refrigeration. It is helpful to have command of basic Bahasa Indonesia (particularly numbers) if you are going planning to shop at these fresh food markets.

Bargaining

Bargaining is the system of commerce in the smaller local markets away from the large stores and supermarkets and usually around 60 per cent of the original asking price is about what you could expect to pay, but again as with all things in Indonesia there are no universal rules.

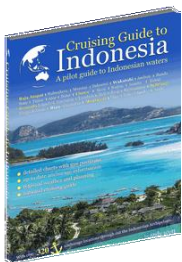
Drinking water

Do not drink tap water as it is not drinkable. But you can find bottled water, also in large 20 liter returnable blue bottles available everywhere costing around 30,000 Rupiah plus your refundable deposit for the bottle.

Useful reference materials

There are three cruising guides that cover Indonesia. First pick is the new Cruising Guide to Indonesia. The Imray publication Southeast Asia Cruising Guide Vol 2 is the first pick for those making the trip along the Archipelago, with 101 Anchorages a good supplement.

Cruising Guide to Indonesia - 2014



Cruising Guide to Indonesia (1st edition, 2014) by Andy Scott.

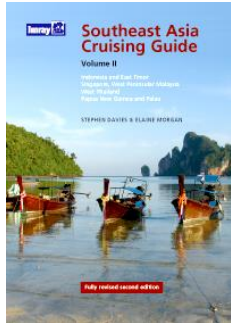
Area covered: Indonesia

This fairly new publication covers the cruising grounds of Indonesia and is probably the best available. With 18,000 islands covering some two million square miles of pristine tropical water and a rich and vibrant culture there are plenty of places to see unencumbered by crowds. This guide covers everything the prudent navigator needs to safely ply these waters and enjoy the largest island nation in the world. Includes comprehensive anchorage maps and descriptions.

It is possible to purchase a PDF file for immediate download online at <http://www.cruisingguideindonesia.com/> and it is available in sections if you only plan to go to one area of Indonesia.

Southeast Asia Cruising Guide – Vol II - 2008

Southeast Asia Cruising Guide (Volume II) (2nd Edition, 2008), by Stephen Davies & Elaine Morgan
(only has scant information about the Raja Ampat area)



Area covered PNG, East Timor, Indonesia, Malaysia, West Thailand

This is the book of choice for cruisers heading from Darwin through Indonesia to Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand. It is also excellent for the more northerly trip via PNG, Palau, and then through Indonesia. Stephen Davies and Elaine Morgan's detailed text provides cruise planning information, an extensive discussion on climate, technical data concerning radio and weather forecasting services and general background commentary on each country. Each region is then treated in detail and pilotage information is given for key harbours. This pilot is a unique source of information for cruise planning and also will be an essential reference for yachtsmen on passage.

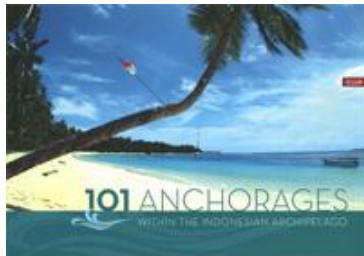
Lonely Planet Indonesia (latest edition)

It's always useful to have the Lonely Planet that covers the area you are traveling in, to give you background information about what's ashore.

A downloadable version can be purchased online at the Lonely Planet website:

<http://shop.lonelyplanet.com/indonesia/indonesia-travel-guide-10/>

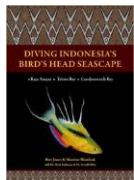
101 Anchorages in Indonesia



Area covered Indonesia

Recently reprinted, 101 Anchorages covers cruising anchorages throughout Indonesia, mostly along the Sunda Islands Archipelago (Timor to Java), but also Maluku, Sulawesi, Kalimantan & Sumatra. Each anchorage includes a rating, approach suggestions, hazards, weather suitability, pictures, maps, water clarity, local facilities & attractions, all presented in an easy to read sailing format. It covers more cruising anchorages than the Imray Guide, although in less detail. Some coverage in eastern Indonesia. Certainly worth getting if cruising

through Indonesia



Diving the Bird's Head Seascape (Book)

This is THE diving guide to the Raja Ampat area of Indonesia. Available in print format on Amazon.com, not available in downloadable format. Has waypoints and dive descriptions for many dives in eastern Indonesia.

[Amazon Link](#)

The Indonesia Compendium by Soggy Paws

Cruisers notes about cruising in Indonesia.

Available for download free here: <http://svsoggypaws.com/files/index.htm#se-asia>

Indonesia's Underwater Paradise

This is a brochure from the Indonesian Tourism Department that can be downloaded as a pdf file.

<http://www.visitindonesia.ae/voila/wp-content/documents/Indonesia's%20Underwater%20Paradise.pdf>

Bird's Head Seascape Website

Information about visiting in a private yacht (permits required, etc) and maps with dive waypoints.

<http://birdsheadseascape.com/>

Chartlets and Waypoints from Valhalla

Downloads of Google Earth and SAS Planet (satellite and other imagery) charts, as well as GPX waypoint files suitable for OpenCPN (and other programs) can be found here:

<http://yachtvalhalla.net/navigation/terrystopics.htm>

This information will be passed around on a "thumb drive" at Oceanview Marina during the Technical Briefing for the Rally.

Anchorage in Indonesia

Many anchorages tend to be in deep water or in very shallow water in Raja Ampat. Have plenty of ground tackle and be ready to tie up ashore in certain places. Sometimes you can anchor on shallow sand banks but these might be away from land and may have currents going against the wind and thus can be uncomfortable when windy.

More information about anchorages in Indonesia can be found in The Indonesia Compendium, available free online here: <http://svsoggypaws.com/files/index.htm#se-asia>

Downloads of Google Earth and SAS Planet (satellite and other imagery) charts, as well as GPX waypoint files suitable for OpenCPN (and other programs) can be found here:

<http://yachtvalhalla.net/navigation/terrystopics.htm>

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Sangihe Anchorage - Tahuna harbor



On the west side of Sangihe Island lies your first port in Indonesia. Normally not a full port of entry, for the rally, the officials needed will come from Manado where they normally reside. They will be in Tahuna for a few days when the rally yachts are expected. Entry formalities will be painless and easy because officials will be ready for us! Tourism office and local authorities will be all ready to take care of the fleet.

A series of moorings (about 30) have been installed on the north side of the harbor in 2013 so you don't have to anchor in deep water... but as usual, you better check the underwater part of the mooring too as they might not have been checked or maintained... Hopefully during the time in May, you won't get any swell in the bay making the anchorage uncomfortable and access ashore sometime hazardous and not for the faint of heart with the floating dock (more like a bucking bronco!). New floating dinghy docks have been installed in 2016 and this should be a big improvement!

Be ready to join the local community, as honored guests. Enjoy several days of cultural activities and sight seeing tours. The hospitality and the number and kinds of activities that the Festival Sangihe organizers arranged always amaze us yachties: from boat tours to assisting, rehearsal of "brass" bands with instruments fabricated from local bamboo, lunch put on by all the women in a village, demonstration of a traditional fish "round-up" out on the reef, bus trip and a short bush hike to a beautiful waterfall, Bentor ride to the forest to see the production of Sago (Sagu) Palm flour, beach visit, topped off by a sunset vista down to Tahuna city below. Some evening there might be entertainment like local social dancing, bamboo brass band orchestras, vocalists, comedians, and more. You will be seated as Guests of Honor on stage.

You will meet Marcello, a young tour operator, who will offer very moderately priced tours to a waterfall, volcano hike and scuba in the bay (Japanese wreck right near one of the moorings).

More videos to entice you to visit!

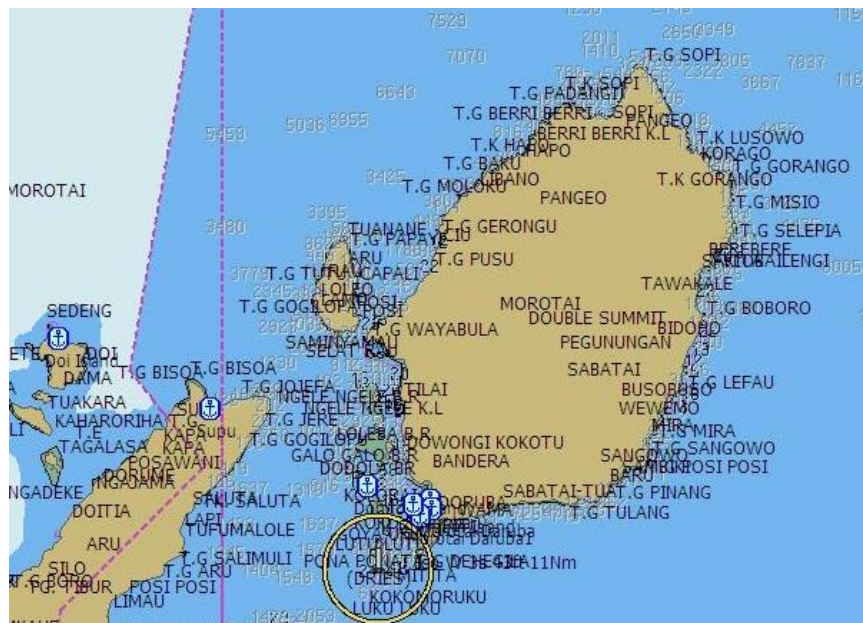
Video: Indonesia – Glimpses of Sangihe Regency

<http://youtu.be/4dNnlFM4EU>

Video: Sail Sangihe 2014 - Events in Sangihe in Indonesia

<http://youtu.be/O6AxaXrMbj0>

Morotai Anchorage - Daruba town anchorage



Good holding in 30-40ft, sand around 02deg03.23'N-128deg17.25'E.

The floating dinghy dock is at the end of the bay.

The tourism office, working with, local authorities will organize a few special events for us, like an official welcome with traditional dance and nice food.

They will offer some modestly priced bus tour and boat tour to Mac Arthur's island and neighboring small islands. You also might be able to go on a modestly priced boat tour to waterfalls and do some scuba diving.

You will have guides from tourism helping you to get laundry done, fuel and gasoline delivery, free tourism pamphlets, ... We might be invited several nights for dinner by the different authorities (Regent, Governor, Local Council). We might have a bus tour around town & WWII artifacts; we might go on a boat trip to 2 small islets nearby. The Battle of Morotai during WWII was an important turning point in the war. We will visit the new WWII Museum commemorating the event and honoring General Mc Arthur.

Some folks have problems getting money at the local banks, which don't exchange cash, or had ATMs that didn't like certain credit cards. So get what you can in Sangihe or later, in Tobelo.

Video: Indonesia - Mini Tourist Guide to Daruba on Morotai Island

<http://youtu.be/jTCHGrZHIAAs>

Video: Indonesia - Raja Cascades on Morotai Island

<http://youtu.be/GmQPqL-S KA>

Video: Indonesia - Glimpses of Morotai Outer-islets

<http://youtu.be/AmY4u01viM4>

Video: Sail Sangihe 2014 - Events in Morotai Island

<http://youtu.be/2TvNWUjZ5ol>

Tobelo (On the Way to Raja Ampat)

You can anchor off Kumu Island, just opposite of Tobelo Harbor on a shallow coral shelf (room for 2-3 boats)(01deg43.720'N-128deg01.163'E). You can use the frequent and inexpensive water-taxi to go to town (only ~25 cents US/pers) ... that way, you don't have to leave your dinghy in the dirty harbor.

Tobelo is one step up from Morotai as far as local businesses & fresh food market. Prices are lower than in Morotai probably due to more abundance of locally grown produce here.

You can go diving with the govt dive center located on nearby Kakara Island (they can pick you on your boat). You should meet Yus, the tour liaison from the Tourism Office again and do some scuba/snorkeling and touring with him: dive on seamounts and on the underwater volcano with warm water vents ... You will enjoy the numerous soft corals and reef life here. Despite dynamiting in the past, the reefs are healthy when you know where to go! (Another good reason to go with the locals.)

You can take a land tour to see three fresh water lakes, one waterfall hike (beautiful, with a rock arch), hot springs (perfect soaking temperature after hiking), and WWII artifacts in Kao (not that exciting). Have meals in inexpensive local restaurants. Visit some small hotels/resorts like the Kupa Kupa Beach Cottage well run by Ona and Lutz (German), inexpensive and located on a nice beach. Only negative point is the possible volcanic ash on your deck depending the wind conditions and the volcanic activity nearby.

Video: Indonesia - Mini Tourist's guide to Tobelo on North Halmahera Island

<http://youtu.be/5QEIfI7clXc>

Video: Indonesia - Kalmede waterfall & Mamuya Hotspring in Tobelo

<http://youtu.be/vCxgd1SleyU>

Video: Indonesia - Glimpses of Tobelo scuba diving

http://youtu.be/4lbCFqgK_c0

Video: Indonesia - Another glimpse at Tobelo

http://youtu.be/XRYzor_n1Uw

Bobolo Bay

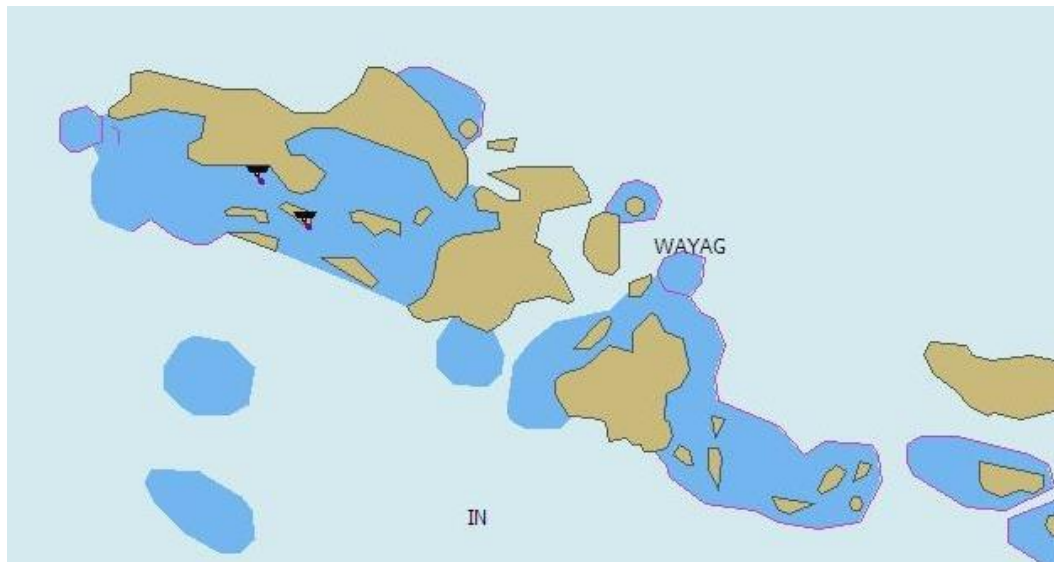
Bobolo Bay is a convenient anchorage to avoid too many overnights on the trip to Raja Ampat. You can anchor in a small bay in 45ft, corals (01deg32.125'-128deg30.958'E). Natives might paddle to offer you coconuts. Anchorage can be rocky with weak shifting winds every so often. No easy way to go ashore but you probably will be in a hurry anyway.

Note: don't try to anchor on the side of the bay near the village (too deep), and avoid the shallow area between the 2 sides of the bay. You'll end up on the side fairly close to a tall cliff.

LELAI Pt (lee of Petak Pt)

Another convenient stop enroute. You can anchor in 30ft, sand, quite far from shore.(01deg24.170'-128deg44.657'E). If you experience a big swell, you might not be able to land either but again you will be moving towards Raja Ampat. From here on the best is to make one overnight passage and aim straight for Wayag. Now, you will leave North Maluku province and enter the Raja Ampat province, Diving highlight!

Wayag Anchorage



Wayag is a magic place that should not be missed if visiting the Raja Ampat region. If you enjoyed the scenery of the karst islands of Vavau in Tonga or Palau... this is even more dramatic. Great photo & video opportunities. Incredible scenery. This is the area that appears on all brochures of Raja Ampat. Some live-aboard dive boats installed 2 sturdy moorings here that one can tie to when available (please, vacate when any passenger boat needs them). Mooring 1 = 00deg10.187'N-130deg01.072'E / Mooring 2 = 00deg09.800'N-130deg01.473'E. You can also find many idyllic areas to anchor in clear water .. just

watch out to not swing on shallow reefs and bommies. Good snorkeling and scuba diving on the outside. Nice secluded beaches at low tide.

Here is how to find the path to a stunning overlook: Go to the northern-most big boat mooring...from there, with your back to the open ocean and facing into the lagoon, look to your right hand side to the ridge of karst rock formations (south of you). Now look for a long white sand beach that uncovers at low tide and almost disappears at high tide. You will need to be careful of shallow reefs if the tide is especially low. Once at the beach (the tourist boats often plant sticks near the beach to tie the dinghy to), walk into the forest and you will find the path that starts up the side of the mountain. The path is easily seen as you ascend up the rocks. The only tricky part (where we almost gave up) is near the top. The beaten path leads to a very dangerous looking crevasse that looks too hazardous to climb. Just back track a ways and you will find the path takes a sharp left as you descend (right, as you face upward) that takes you around the hazardous area. It is worth the climb; the views are breathtaking, as you can see both sides and both moorings and the incredible colors and formations of Wayag.

You can go by dinghy everywhere in the lagoon and snorkel in several places near both entrances. Explore the west entrance (too shallow for any boat) and snorkel drift inside. Have some nice dives on the isolated rock islets NW of the main entrance. Check the dive guides for info and pay attention to strong surge and current. Nice pristine sand beaches covered at high tide with a few exceptions, where you can have a great beach BBQ. Wayag is a real pleasure for the eyes: such beautiful colors, all blues, greens and white! You will have no difficulties staying here several days or come back some day to spend weeks here peacefully!

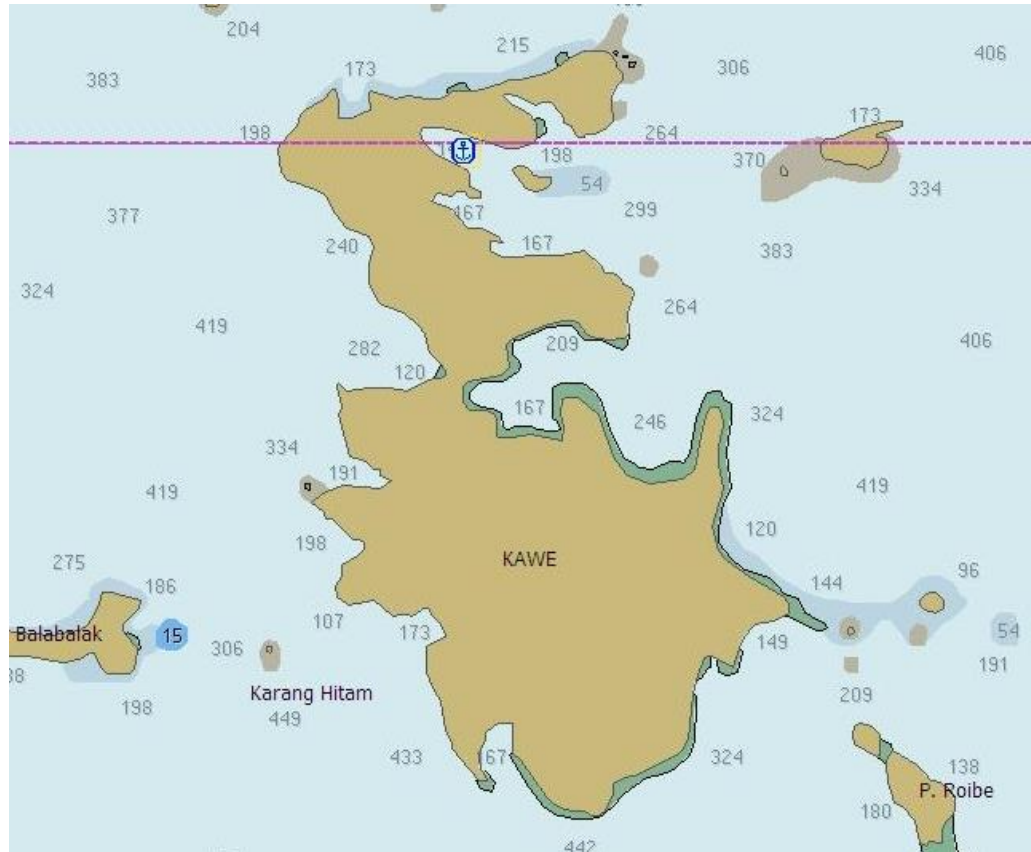
Video: Indonesia – Wayag Islands

<http://youtu.be/tk-CnBfVKxl>

Video: Indonesia - Wayag Islands revisited

<http://youtu.be/dZ-Cv36Qv44>

Kawe Anchorage



You can anchor right on the equator at 00deg00.24'N-130deg07.69'E in one of the bays on the east side. On a little island nearby, you can visit the monument erected by the hydrographic and tourism offices to mark the equator. The passengers of many charter dive boats in the area visit this place. From here it is a dinghy ride to dive One Tree Rock. For safety, have 2 dinghies as you might encounter strong currents and might take turns diving; one team making surface watch or following the bubbles of the others for a drift dive. Lots of fish here. The diving around the several isolated rocky islets is probably good because of the current bringing nutrients. A few bays below, you can visit an old abandoned copper mine settlement.

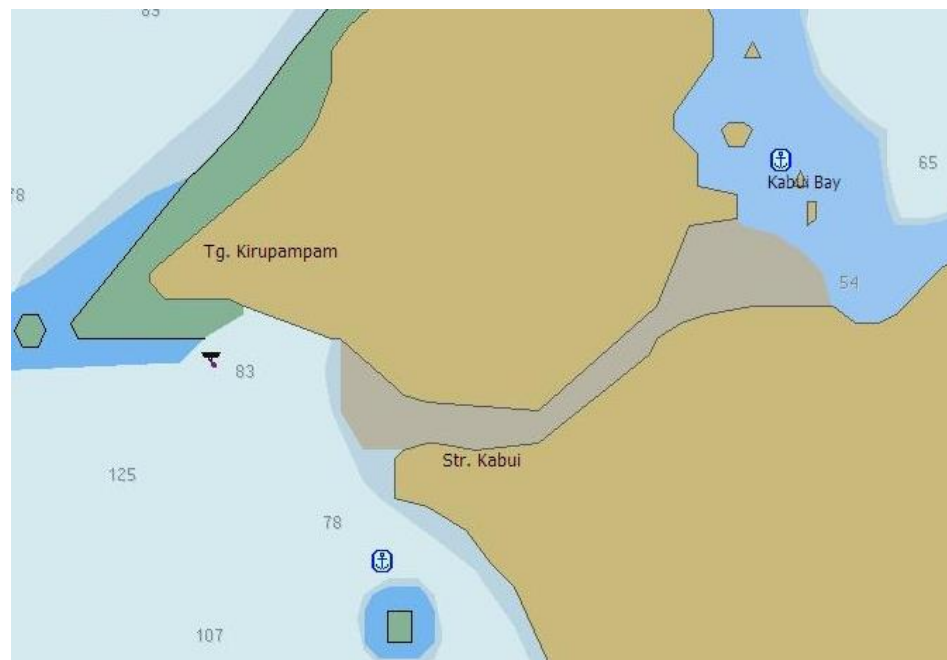
Video: Indonesia - Kawe Island in Raja Ampat

http://youtu.be/b_VvfiS3sfM

Kabui Bay and The Passage



This interesting bay of beautiful karst islets is located between Waigeo and Gam Islands.



Coming from the west, you could enter the bay through the west pass (The Passage, or Kabui Pass). It is important to time your passage carefully since the current can run more than 5kts either way. Best is to anchor at 00deg26.262'S-130deg33.166'E on a 10-30ft seamount (watch out for another seamount just 100 yds to the west as that one dries at low tide! From there you are close to the entrance of the channel and you can explore it by dinghy and get an idea of current strength and tide direction. It is about 1,5nm from this outside anchorage to the inside anchorage just off the Kabui Bay Yacht Club (Warikaf Homestay). You can then anchor around 00deg25.42'S-130deg34.19'E in 45ft of sand & coral rubble. Go in about 1 hour before high tide so you have a mild current with you through the passage. This pass is one of the popular dive spots in Raja Ampat and you most probably will see some local dive boats doing drift dives here with their customers. Follow them and you will find the bat cave and another cave that you can snorkel or dive into and come up inside and see light and trees and vegetation through the roof.

When you go visit Daoud Mayor, the manager of the homestay you will need to use smile, jests and imagination to communicate with him or ask one of the dive guides passing by to translate for you. Daoud let you use and take all the spring water you need, he can also spearfish and prepare a meal at the restaurant. Passing cruisers help him with technical stuff and small gifts of useful items like gasoline for his outboard and household items. We now dubbed his place the Kabui Bay Yacht Club and decorated with old flags and banners, and installed an LED light in his restaurant hut, and filled the battery to his solar panel w/ water (he didn't know he was supposed to do that), and hope the battery will recuperate enough to run the light.

A nice calm bay to snorkel or explore by dinghy. You can anchor on a small shallow area in 30ft at 00deg23.68'S-130deg42.03'E. It's a peaceful natural area where one feels isolated from it all. Plenty of karst islands to explore by dinghy to hear & see endemic birds, snorkel around the islets, see bats in caves, caverns, wall paintings and other natural curiosities. A visit to Pef Island is worth it but be aware of expensive anchoring fee and expensive services offered by the European resort that is located there.

Video: Indonesia - Raja Ampat - Sailing Trimaran thru the Kabui Passage

<http://youtu.be/JHn-lsI9Uos>

Video: Indonesia - Diving the Kabui Bay Passage in Raja Ampat

<http://youtu.be/AKfa7J0m7Cc>

Wasai Anchorage



Be aware that this less than 10yrs old Capital town does not show on your old CM93 ... and to make things trickier, the town is located about 30 nm East of the Waisai Pt and bay we do see on our chart!

The Sail Raja Ampat 2014 organizers, with the help of the local govt., installed nine beefy moorings widely-spaced in an out of the way area along the south coast just before getting to Wasai. Position: 00deg26.46'S-130° 46.71'E in front of Waiwo Dive Resort. We dove to check this mooring and we were impressed at how strong it was built ... not like most flaky moorings we see in other places! Under the gigantic orange soft-sided, reflectively taped mooring buoy, there is 15ft of beefy chain with oversized shackles clamped to $\frac{3}{4}$ in steel cable then another piece of chain shackled to a giant eye embedded in a concrete block of approx 4 ton. It turns out that the owner, Becki, of the Waiwo Resort was the one to get the moorings made. The resort welcomes cruisers. You can book some diving or meals and climb up the hill to see birds and a nice vista. You may even see a "cuscus", a possum type animal in the trees of the resort. If you do some diving with them they will even offer you a ride to the Wasai public market and refill your drinking water bottles. You can also get wash water from the spigot at the resort. They have most reasonable rate for diving in the area (approx \$50 usd). All the dive centers basically go to the same areas to dive. Meals were basic Indonesian, but tasty and nicely presented. You will finally get internet aboard, which you might not have had since Tobelo.

During the strong south winds, 2 boats found a small space in the ferry terminal harbor, in the so-called new marina, but there is not much room at all and you get ferry wakes.

You will be welcomed by the 'Raja Amp at Tourism folks and treated to festivities, and activities and some nice gifts.

You can anchor in 30ft of black sand/mud from river estuary at 00deg25.800'S-130deg49.410'E. One note, if you are approaching from the west; you will see a pile of rocks in the bay, stay offshore until you

see these rocks well on your port side when you turn in toward the big cement “pier” w/ monument. There is very shallow reef to their west side. There you are right in front of the town.

For scuba divers, we recommend the Raja Ampat Dive Resort, located just a few miles west of Wasai (00deg26.398’S-130deg44.429’E) Enjoy many scuba dives to GREAT dive sites with an abundance of soft corals, myriads of fish (big schools of small and big fish) and even a close encounter dive with manta rays. Arif, the Indonesian manager/dive guide, is very friendly, competent and professional with attention to details, especially safety.

You can go with them for a short walk at sunrise/sunset to see the famous red birds of paradise and also had a very nice dinner at the resort. They have fast dive boats and do not hesitate to take you long ways out! We anchored at 00deg27.52’S-130deg45.52’E on a 15-40ft shoal and they can pick you up on your boats ... but they promised to install some moorings just in front of the resort for future visitors. The diving is the most spectacular and colorful with the most exotic sea creatures you might have seen in many years of coming across the Pacific. Because of its geography, it is one of the richest areas of marine biodiversity in the world. The dive with the mantas is excellent

Video: Indonesia – Diving with mantas in Raja Ampat

<http://youtu.be/eG4OKsCbXNM>

Video: Indonesia – Raja Ampat Dive Resort

<http://youtu.be/2ISRQket7P4>

Video: Indonesia – Raja Ampat Dive Lodge

<http://youtu.be/cxcJL040jMM>

Video: Indonesia – Diving Raja Ampat with Waiwo Dive Resort

http://youtu.be/Y1G_XkwDR14

Mansuar Island (On the Way to Sorong)

Off the Raja Ampat Dive Lodge, you can tie to one of the 2 moorings in front of the resort at 00deg34.59'S-130deg36.85'E. Difficult otherwise to find any place to anchor in less than 100ft! This is space-available mooring, and the caveat is that it's pretty often that at least one mooring will be needed every 2 days. If you are one boat, it should be no problem. Dekka, the manager is very nice and make you feel welcome. The resort is beautifully blended into the surroundings and is one of the most upscale in RA. Indulge yourselves with meals at the resort as well as to scuba diving with their dive operation. Keep in mind that most Indonesian dive guides from the majority of dive resorts and live-aboards are not certified as Divemasters or Instructors...that being said, some veterans are much more skilled and conscientious than any rookie Instructor.

Batanta Island- off Birie Island

You can anchor close to the Papua Paradise Eco Resort to do some diving with them. One boat could possibly anchor in the bay on the backside of the resort very close to the end of their jetty on the shallow area. Perhaps the resort will have installed some moorings by the time you visit??

You can anchor on top of a large shallower flat coral plateau in 10-30ft at 00deg46.22'S-130deg45.11'E. This area is totally exposed to all sides, but in mild wx, rolling might be acceptable for a multihull. There is a tidal current that switches 180 every 6 hrs. Chris & Lea, the managers, are very friendly plan to become cruisers themselves someday.

You can also go to the nearby Batanta Waterfalls, if no torrential rains in the days before. If it has been raining hard, that makes the outpour of water too dangerous to walk another 40 min to see the second fall. The boat trip thru the mangrove channel is nice, though.

Papua Paradise is a Hungarian owned resort with many over-water bungalows, a nice buffet restaurant for guests (but Chris and Lea might be convinced to let yachties buy dinner depending on space and food availability). Have a nice meal with a great pasta dish, as their cook followed an Italian cuisine workshop...great change from Indonesian. They accept walk-in divers on space available basis, as houseguest satisfaction is necessarily their first priority. A great dive you can do with them is a totally calm dive under a pier in less than 25 feet, where you spent over an hour poking around and discovering amazing bizarre sea creatures with wondrous shapes and forms and behaviors.

Raja Ampat is famous for this kind of "muck" diving, where you just poke around in boring looking surroundings and discover these wonders of nature.

Ayemi Islet, East part of Batanta Island:

We anchored at 00deg48.762'S – 130° 53.620'E in 30ft of sand and coral rubbles. Watch out for pearl farm buoys in deeper water but it is easy to pass between groups and anchor in the shallower water off the beach. Calm anchorage making a perfect break between Wasai and Sorong if you have the wind against you.

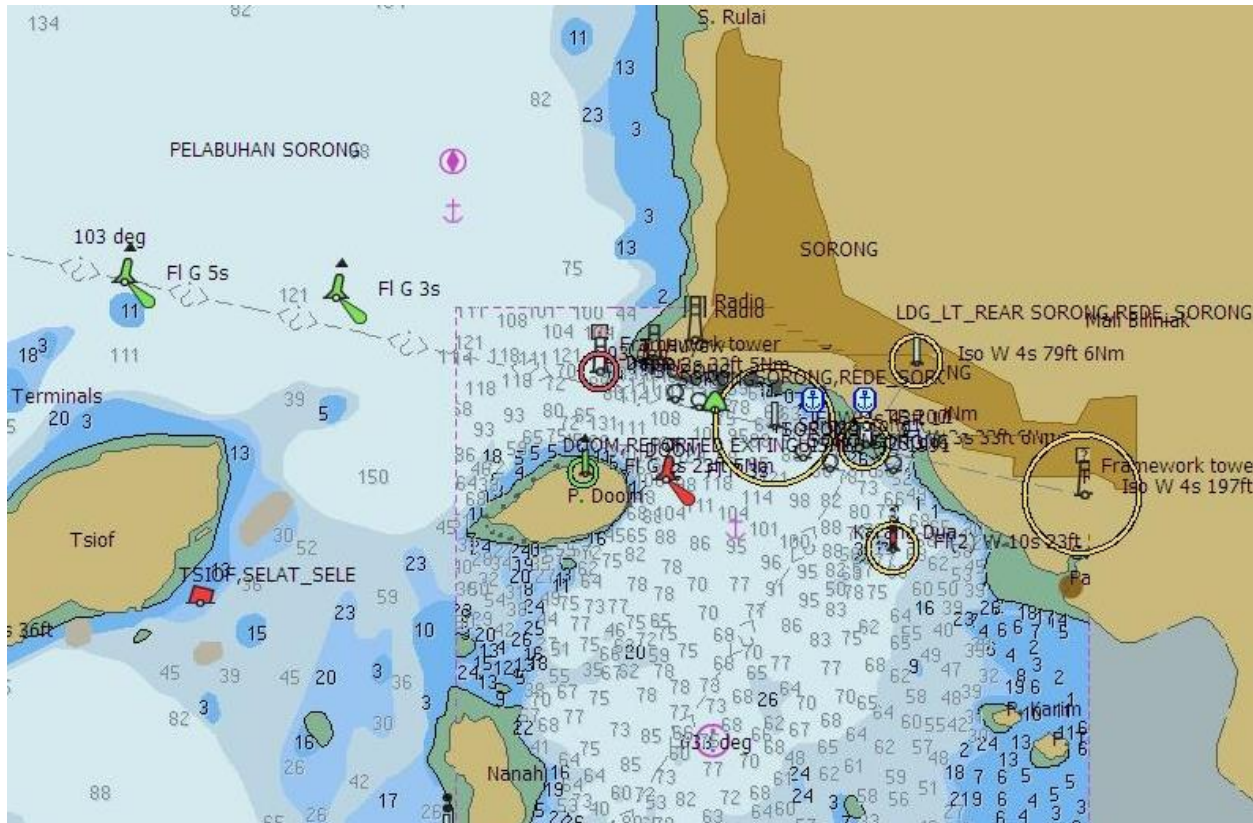
Video: Indonesia – Batanta waterfall

http://youtu.be/D5865EfQw_4

Video: Indonesia - Diving with Papua Paradise Eco Resort in Raja Ampat

<http://youtu.be/Qt4vAfZFB0>

Sorong Anchorage - Nicknamed “So wrong” by some cruisers (see below)



A very busy port with a fair size city. You can anchor in 50-60ft around $00^{\circ} 52.88'S-131^{\circ} 15.11'E$ in front the Hasamina harbour where the dive charters (Indonesian-type boats) use the rickety wooden dock to transfer passengers and cargo. Lots of fishing boats are anchored in this busy place and you might get the feeling, entering the harbor in the late afternoon, that this is the kind of place where things get stolen and disappear very quickly to places far away (and you were right!). Each year several dinghies gets stolen here (obviously a gang with connections with law enforcement) Often they sink, destroy oir abandon your inflatable dinghy and just steal the engine. No engine too small or too old! If you were considering getting a new Yamaha or Tohatsu outboard, you are in luck; they are for sale new and at a competitive price here!

In town, you will be happy to re-provision at SAGA, the mini-mall supermarket. You can find plenty of fresh produce, frozen foods, bread, ...In fact you will find a lot more “White Folk” (westerner) food (real cheese!, ham, French butter...) because all the live-aboard dive charter boats (about 40 of 'em) provision for their American, Australian, and European guests in Sorong. Yellow public buses take you there or anywhere close in town for 2000-3000 Rp /pax. Another interesting area to yachties is the place where you can get outboard and other marine items: Semeru Teknindo Lestari, Eksan Hamadan speaks English. Take the “A” bus and get off near a store with a big sign: MultiMart. It's across from the big gas station/convenience/liquor store (Yes, Liquor!)

Another good source if you need any special marine parts is PT Intraco Dharma Ekatama, located at Jalan Rajawali No.66, Sorong. These guys, raised in Singapore, are very helpful and efficient. While they might be a little more expensive, they can provide many services like ordering parts from Java, money changing, fuel provisioning...) Niko Saputra ; mobile number: 0852 5477 6088 or Victor Saputra; Mobile number: 0812 4833 831

You can also anchor in much cleaner water and peaceful place south of Doom island, a small island right off Sorong town at 00deg53.497'S-131deg13.818'E in 30ft of good sand. In strong southerlies, you could anchor on the north side of the island.

You can check out of Indonesia here in Sorong, (one of the few ports with Customs to check you out) to sail to Palau by example so by seeing the different govt agencies to do that. First go to the harbor captain (3/4 miles walk to the left when you leave the gate of Hasamina Harbor, on the main road). Gave him your last internal port clearance. No fee, no difficulties. Then go see Customs (up the hill, just opposite of where you come out of Hasamina harbor), also friendly, Give them all the required paperwork (printed from the documents emailed to us by the rally organizer (Dr Aji Sularso). They will most probably come aboard to inspect your vessel and after you will be required to leave at once. On our departure day, go to the Immigration office, a yellow bus ride away (Bus "B") and have your passport stamped out. Only a short waiting time, no fees. Then go see Customs again and go together on your boat. They probably will take some photos of the outside of the vessel and come aboard for the paperwork. Easy & friendly, no fee. It is nice to see that govt agent's corruption is being eradicated little by little ☺

Footnote: Some rally participants had differing experiences when renewing their visas for another 30 days. Be sure to have a new sponsorship letter for the renewal.

Stories ranged from not-very-nice immigration people who charged 1 million rp/ person (about \$100 us), but got the visa same day, to 1 million for 2 people, to people having to wait 4 days to 1 week for the process to be done (computer down w/ Jakarta office), but the fees less, to what should be the norm: application papers given one day, extension given the next and cost about 350,000rp/person. This is Indonesia. Take it all with equanimity, but don't get taken!

Further videos of interest

Video: Indonesia – Glimpses of Sail Morotai 2012 yacht rally

http://youtu.be/_RtbnHQM1Qg

Video: Indonesia - Raja Ampat 2012 Festival in Waisai

<http://youtu.be/B4nDZCIZC1U>

Sailing West Towards Sail Karimata and Singapore

Video: Indonesia – Glimpses of Penemu & Fam islands

<http://youtu.be/QxEh6I7MMYg>

Video: Indonesia – Glimpses of Baubau Regency

<http://youtu.be/dmAX-dCu930>

Video: Indonesia – Glimpses of Kepulauan Selayar Regency incl Takabonerate Natl Park

<http://youtu.be/QAxAb5kdt6o>

Video: Indonesia – Medana Bay Marina & Hotel on Lombok

<http://youtu.be/fik5Wam9z9U?list=UU8BW6gbDectAb8p8NwICrSA>

Video: Indonesia – Views of Bali

http://youtu.be/_1_CuhqZxic

Video: Indonesia - Bali - Glimpses of Ubud and the Mansion Baliwood Resort

<http://youtu.be/0iEAm4ZIZWA>

Video: Indonesia - Kumai river to see Orangutans

<http://youtu.be/6hbH8vNPG2g>

Video: Indonesia - Glimpses of East Belitung Regency

http://youtu.be/Zp6RTXvs_g0

Karimata Islands Anchorage

Details about anchorages recommended for Sail Karimata 2016 Festival will be given at the technical briefing in April.