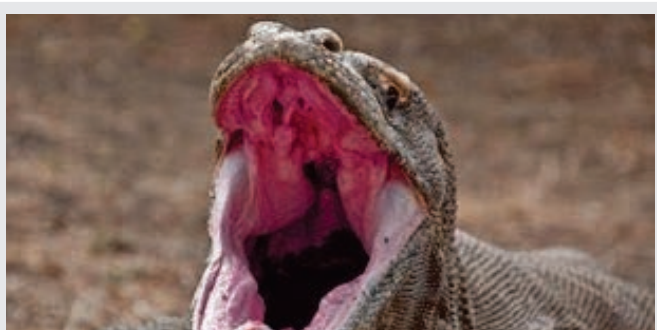


Quote of the Month....

"Cruising has two pleasures. One is to go out in wider waters from a sheltered place. The other is to go into a sheltered place from wider waters." Howard Bloomfield

Captains' Cruising Choice - Raja Ampat



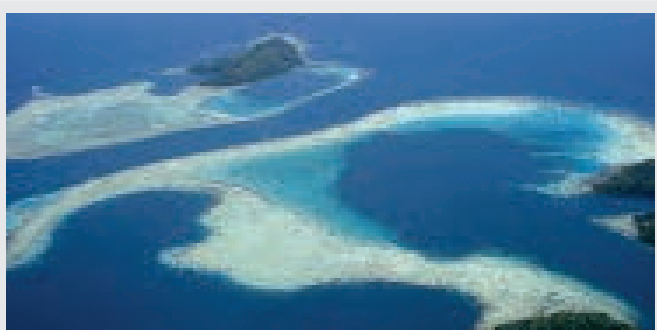
Komodo Dragon sounds alert. Property of APS Indonesia

A record number of Superyacht Captains have cruised the Raja Ampat area in the last six months report Richard Lofthouse and Jimmy Blee of Asia Pacific Superyachts. Among the visiting vessels, Jimmy refers to 'Captain Rick' from a well-known 50 metre Superyacht, who told him: "This place is truly amazing - the diversity of activities we can offer our guests combined with the natural beauty and friendly people make Raja Ampat the perfect cruising location for us. We love the place."

A Raja Ampat cruising journey takes you through one of the world's most exceptional marine areas and stunning sea and land scenes. Renowned for its biodiversity, Raja Ampat encompasses over 40,000 sq. kilometres in the northeast seas of the Indonesian Archipelago where the Pacific becomes the Indian Ocean.

The resulting currents stir up nutrient-rich water in the tropical climate, nurturing magnificent coral reefs and unparalleled marine life. A main attraction of Raja Ampat is the seascape, with incredible diving that reveals the most bio diverse coral reefs in the world. Above water is fantastic as well with islands cloaked in tropical jungle filled with unique flora and fauna, karst forests of rare orchids, sea eagles, tree kangaroos and beautiful birds of paradise.

Swan 86 S/Y Aspiration Superyacht available for charter in Phuket



Raja Ampat Photo property of APS Indonesia

Being located right on the equator, the Raja Ampat islands boasts amazing natural rainforest and thousands of species of birds, highlighted by the much sought after 'Bird of Paradise'.

To get a sense of Raja Ampat history, other land attractions include a visit to North and West Waigeo where you can see a traditional bamboo flute (suling tambur) performance. World War II caves, where the Dutch and the Japanese army built bunkers and a place where locals will sometimes perform a war dance, are on North Waigeo.

Lofthouse notes, "The feedback we get from the diving in Raja Ampat starts at 'breathtaking' and ends when our clients run out of superlatives! All of our clients, both Owners and Captains, rave about their Raja Ampat experience."

A Captain in the area for 17 years, Jimmy Blee adds: "After having the privilege of guiding recent boats, such as Octopus, through Raja Ampat I can honestly say it is my favourite destination in Indonesia to cruise. The jungle, the people, and of course the seaways are magnificent. It is a challenge to service boats in this remote part of the world but through persistence we have all the logistics and systems in place to provide everything our clients need."

For more information email richard@asia-pacific-superyachts.com and visit their website.

Maldives Tourist Vessel Rule Change



'Bird Island' in lagoon Photo property of APS Maldives

Reporting from the Maldives, Mohamed Hameed of APS talks about the recent vessel rule change: "After two years of hard work by our team, we finally can share the rule change for 'tourist vessels' as follows.

The 90day stay allowed in the Maldives is now changed to 180days for the boat; if the boat is registered in IMO the stay can be extended up to 270 days in total. According to the immigration law 'crews should fly to another country within 90days for an extension and on return they will get an additional 30days free of charge and 60 days with extension - same as first time. This can be repeated'. Hameed says this is very good news though giving the agent more responsibility and he also must be accountable by this rule change, made by the Ministry of Tourism

'TIP' - Eco-Friendly TP for Boats

Suggestion from Jeanette Tobin in New Zealand - "eco-friendly toilet paper & FANTASTIC for boats.... Greencane paper. This is a quality 2-ply toilet paper with a difference as white & soft paper is made using the abundant waste residue left over from the sugarcane extraction. With its high percentage of plant based material, Greencane is fast biodegradable - providing a non-blocking solution. Greencane is well established in Australasia as a leading sustainable paper brand recognised for its sustainable initiatives."

For more information email jeanette@asia-pacific-superyachts.com

Amazing Asia Pacific Marinas - Phuket



Photo Courtesy Yacht Haven Marina in Phuke, Thailand

Superyacht cruising is opening up beyond the usual hubs with marina facilities being developed and upgraded around the world. Leading marinas on the northeast coast of Thailand's Phuket Island Yacht Haven Marina and Ao Po Grand Marina are a prime example and the gateway to exploring the area's stunning islands and beaches.

Yacht Haven Marina offers an ideal starting point to explore the wonders of Phang Nga Bay and the islands. Just a 15 minute drive to Phuket International Airport, Yacht Haven has become a prime superyacht destination. Nick Wyatt, well-known to captains and yacht owners world-wide as the manager of Asia's popular superyacht marina, reports, "As a major full service marina in SE Asia, we believe Yacht Haven has an important role to play in driving this part of Thailand's tourism sector. Presently with a restaurant, bar, gym, pool and accommodation, plans are underway to upgrade and increase our shore side services. With a further 30 new Superyacht berths planned for the next year and the aspiration to constantly improve our personal service, at all levels, we aim to keep Yacht Haven Marina a secure, choice destination."

With a capacity of 200 berths and well placed for cruising the magnificent Phang Nga Bay, Ao Po Grand Marina can host yachts of any boat length from 6m up to 80m+ and has a special focus on facilitating Superyachts. The marina offers 24-hour access with no tide restrictions and a large part of the attraction is its proximity to major facilities. The fuel dock is ideally located with world class rubbish collection and security. Both marinas are located on the doorstep of the best cruising grounds in the Kingdom.

India Extends Visa-On-Arrival Facility to 180 Countries

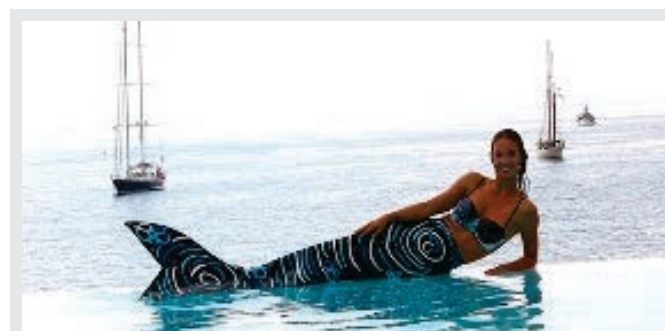
In a "Historic Boost for Tourism", the government of India announced recently that by the end of the year its visa-on-arrival facility will be extended to citizens of 180 countries at nine airports across the country. In a significant step towards liberalization of the visa regime, the government recently cleared two initiatives: visa on arrival and electronic travel authorization for all countries barring eight "prior reference". ETA will allow foreign travelers to apply for a visa from home and receive an online confirmation in five working days. "We have decided to extend visa-on-arrival to tourists from 180 nations. It will take 5-6 months to put the infrastructure in place. We hope to implement this from the next tourist session beginning October," planning minister Rajiv Shukla said.

The extension of visa-on-arrival and electronic travel authorization to citizens of 180 countries will be implemented initially at nine airports including Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Cochin, Hyderabad, Goa and Trivandrum. Both facilities are likely to be implemented by the end of the year. The decision was taken in a meeting convened by the Planning Commission that included representatives from the PMO, ministries of home affairs, external affairs and tourism.

ETA will be available for a 30-day period from the date of the tourist's arrival in India while VoA will also be for the same period for a single entry. "The facility will provide a major boost to the country's tourism sector. This is historic," Shukla said.

Charlie Dwyer's ASR Preview (OceanLive)

by Editor Hillary Buckman... Attracting around a dozen superlative superyachts, the Asia Superyacht Rendezvous is a unique event in the region for socialising and networking...



ASR at 'Kata Rocks' Photo property of Asia Superyacht Rendezvous

"In this week's OceanLive we speak to Charlie Dwyer captain of Yanneke Too and agent for Asia Pacific Superyachts on the success of the recent Asia Superyacht Rendezvous and why it is vital Australian businesses build strong relationships in the Asian market. Unfortunately in Australia and New Zealand, our manufacturing, both boat yards and suppliers are suffering due to our high dollar and mostly cheaper imports. If we are to continue manufacturing locally we need to get smarter and not compete on price but focus on quality and what both countries are known for, our creativity and ingenuity for exciting new products and services." Full story at www.oceanmedia.com.au

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APS team leaders of agent network in Asia

Have News?

Share comments of sea journeys, destinations and news from Owners & Captains & Crew are welcomed!

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Captain Contact: charlie@asia-pacific-superyachts.com

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