



WILD INDONESIA: BALI, KOMODO & BORNEO EXPEDITION 2024

Dragons, Coral Reefs & Orangutans

18-Day Indonesia Itinerary from July 18 – August 4, 2024

Bali, Komodo & Borneo – just the names evoke exotic imagines of dense forests, cloud-shrouded mountains, ancient temples, mysterious cultures and unusual wildlife. Indeed, all three places have all of these attributes and, in places, feel like a lost world that time forgot. A place where dragons still rule islands; undamaged coral hosts a profusion of fish; jungles overgrow ruins; rare snow-white Bali Mynas dance in the trees; and huge red Orangutans feed in the canopy. EcoQuest Travel is proud to offer an extraordinary journey to the islands of Bali, Komodo & Borneo! Bali is the cultural heart of Indonesia and we will explore temples, witness the grace and precision of Balinese dance and search for rare birds and primates. From Bali we will travel to Flores, an island in the Lesser Sundas archipelago. Flores is the gateway to the remote islands of Rinca and Komodo – home to the famous Komodo Dragons. In addition to the dragons these islands are home to an array of wildlife and some of the best coral reefs on earth. From Flores we travel to the remote swamp forests of Borneo where we will search for iconic wildlife such as Orangutans, Proboscis Monkey and the Slender-snouted Crocodile or False Gharial. EcoQuest Travel invites you to join us as we journey to wild Indonesia to snorkel with mantas, explore Bali’s temples and parks, watch thousands of giant Flying Foxes take flight, walk with dragons and search for amazing wildlife.

Days 1 & 2 – Thursday & Friday, July 18 & 19: Your Home Cities to Our Gateway City in Asia

You will depart from your home cities today and fly to your US gateway city – likely Detroit or Atlanta. From there you will board your flights to your gateway city in Asia – likely Seoul, South Korea. Please make sure to arrive at your home airports at least two hours prior to your scheduled departure time. You will arrive in your Asian gateway city the afternoon of July 19th and will transfer to your flight to Denpasar, Bali. Depending on the flight schedule, you will arrive in Bali either late the night of July 19th or early in the morning on the 20th.

Day 3 – Saturday, July 20: Arrival in Denpasar, Bali and Travel to Ubud

You should arrive in Denpasar, Bali either late last night or very early this morning. Once you arrive in Denpasar you will go through Indonesian immigration and customs before meeting Dave Davenport as you exit into the international arrivals terminal. If we arrive late the night of the 19th, or very early morning of the 20th, we will stay at a hotel near the airport to give us some much needed rest. We will meet again for a leisurely breakfast before departing for the picturesque hillside town of Ubud and the tranquility of the

Hotel Tjampuhan. This comfortable retreat is nestled into the forest and situated along the banks of the Wos River making it the perfect place to recover from our long days of travel. We will have lunch at the hotel and then in the afternoon we will visit some local artisans who make batiks and have a chance to do a bit of shopping before dinner. (B,L,D)

Day 4 – Sunday, July 21: Ubud, Bali



This morning we will explore the Sacred Monkey Forest Sanctuary. As the name suggests it is home to large troops of long-tailed macaques, but the forest also provides a haven for birds, butterflies and a myriad of other creatures. Three temples are found within the forest sanctuary including the atmospheric Pura Dalem Agung or Temple of the Dead. After exploring the temples, observing the monkeys and searching for birds and other wildlife we should have time to walk along Monkey Forest Road to browse the shops before having lunch at Lamak restaurant. Ubud is the cultural heart of Bali and the island’s center for Balinese art and dance. This afternoon will be free to explore Ubud. You could explore the numerous art galleries and museums, spend your time shopping or return to the hotel for a relaxing afternoon by the pool. In the early evening we will gather together at the hotel for dinner and after dinner we will be treated to a fascinating traditional Balinese dance performance. We will overnight once again at the Hotel Tjampuhan. (B,L,D)

Day 5 – Monday, July 22: To West Bali National Park

This morning, after breakfast, we will depart for West Bali National Park in the far northwest corner of the island. Once we arrive we will have lunch and check into our accommodations at the Mimpi Resort Menjangan. The Mimpi is situated close to the national park and has beautiful Balinese-style rooms with all the creature-comforts. In the late afternoon we will take our first excursion to West Bali National Park. This park is famous for protecting the last remaining Bali Mynas. Bali’s only endemic bird, this snow-white myna has been hanging on the precipice of extinction for a long time, but thanks to captive-breeding and reintroduction efforts its future looks considerably brighter. We will visit the Bali Myna Breeding Center this afternoon as well as have a chance to begin to explore the park. (B,L,D)

Days 6 & 7 – Tuesday & Wednesday, July 23 & 24: West Bali National Park

We will have two full days to explore West Bali National Park. While seeing the critically endangered Bali Myna in the wild will certainly be a target, there are many special species in this park, including some unique mammals. We will be on the lookout for our first Timor Deer or Rusa, Black Giant Squirrel and troops of Long-tailed Macaques and Ebony Leaf Monkeys – also called Javan Langurs. The birdlife is spectacular and hopefully will include Green Junglefowl, Crested Serpent-Eagle, Black-thighed Falconet, Pink-necked Green-Pigeon, Sunda Scops Owl, Javan Barred Owlet, Chestnut-headed Bee-eater, Oriental Pied Hornbill, Javan Banded Pitta, Javan Cuckooshrike, Black-winged Starling, Scarlet-headed Flowerpecker and Javan Sparrow. The morning of our second day we will take a boat trip through the mangroves in the park and this should



add some great waterbirds to our list including Great-billed Heron, Lesser Adjutant Stork, Javan Plover and perhaps as many as five Kingfisher species including Sacred, Collared, Cerulean, Rufous-backed and Javan. Water Monitors are also quite common in the park. We will have dinner and overnight at the Mimpri Resort Menjangan. (B,L,D)

Day 8 – Thursday, July 25: West Bali to Denpasar and on to Flores

We will depart early this morning for the drive from West Bali back to Denpasar. Once in Denpasar we will transfer to the airport or our flight from Bali to Labuan Bajo on the island of Flores. Once we arrive in Labuan Bajo we will transfer to our accommodations at the Puri Sari Beach Hotel. This is a new modern hotel located on the beach in Labuan Bajo. It has spacious rooms, a good restaurant and has a very convenient location close to the boat docks for our excursions. If we have enough time this afternoon we will explore and bird the hotel grounds. (B,L,D)

Day 9 – Friday, July 26: Rinca and the Dragons

This morning we will proceed to the boat docks to board our private boat for the one and a half hour journey to Rinca Island. Rinca Island is a part of Komodo National Park and is home to a large population of Komodo Dragons. With the help of our local guide we hope to find them at their favorite sunning spots. We will also look for dragon nests and search for other wildlife. Wildlife is more abundant on Rinca than it is on Komodo and we could see Long-tailed Macaques, Timor Deer and wild boar. Some of the birds we could spy include Orange-footed Scrub Fowl, Spangled Drongo, White-bellied Sea-Eagle and Yellow-crested Cockatoo. After our hike on Rinca, and our first dragons, we will return to our boat and travel to Kalong Island. Kalong Island is home to a huge roosting colony of Flying Foxes and in the early evening we will watch these giant bats take wing as they prepare to depart for Flores and a night of fruit-feeding. An incredible sight to be sure! After the bat exodus we will return to Flores and the Puri Sari Beach Hotel. (B,L,D)



Day 10 – Saturday, July 27: Komodo

Today we will have a full day to explore the desolate island of Komodo – the legendary home of dragons. It is a two and a half hour boat trip from Flores to Komodo, but the seas surrounding Komodo are some of the richest on the planet and while we churn our way toward the island we could be accompanied by dolphins or spot manta rays. Komodo is a dry rugged island with hillsides scarred by gullies – a perfect setting for dragons. Komodo dragons belong to the monitor family and are the largest lizard in the world. They are found only on Komodo, Rinca and a couple of surrounding islands. They are the apex predator on these islands preying on everything including deer, wild pig and even water buffalo. We will begin our dragon quest at the park headquarters at Loh Liang and, after picking up our local guide and a brief visit to the Komodo Nature Park Museum, we will hike to Banu Nggulung. The dry river beds of Banu Nggulung are the main viewing area for the dragons and a few are almost always present. We may hike to some other areas in the park as well. Despite their size, Komodo dragons can be surprisingly difficult to find in the wild, but with the knowledge of our local guide we should be able to seek them out. There is plenty of other wildlife along the trails and we could see wild boar, water buffalo and lots of birdlife. We will have lunch as we sail to aptly named Pink Beach along Komodo’s coast. After lunch we will snorkel the crystal clear waters off Pink Beach The fringing and patch reefs throughout Komodo hold an incredible variety of fish and marine invertebrates and Pink Beach is incredible with healthy coral, lots of soft coral

and a dazzling array of fish. In the late afternoon we will return to the Puri Sari Beach Hotel for dinner and overnight. After yet another spectacular tropical sunset the swathe of stars should be amazing! (B,L,D)

Day 11 – Sunday, July 28: Snorkeling and Manta Rays

This morning we will depart for the one and a half hour journey to Manta Point where we will snorkel among the coral gardens. The waters of Indonesia, and particularly around Komodo, Rinca and surrounding islands, are rich in marine life. This biodiversity is the result of the convergence of currents which bathe the water column and reefs with nutrients. This plankton soup sustains all the life in these waters from tiny coral polyps to whale sharks, manta rays and wintering whales. Manta Point is named after its most famous residents and we have a good chance to



snorkel with Manta Rays. These gentle plankton-feeding giants literally fly through the water and it will be a real thrill if we are lucky enough to swim with them! The waters and reefs at Manta Point are also home to huge schools of Trevallies, sea turtles, both White-tipped and Black-tipped Reef Sharks and a host of colorful reef fish. After our morning snorkel we will have lunch and hit another snorkeling site before returning to Flores and our accommodations at the Puri Sari Beach Hotel. (B,L,D)

Day 12 – Monday, July 29: Fly from Flores to Surabaya, Java

This morning we will transfer to the airport for our flight from Flores to Surabaya on East Java. Once we arrive in Surabaya we will transfer to the Sinar hotel for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

Day 13 – Tuesday, July 30: Fly from Surabaya to Pangkalan Bun, Kalimantan, Borneo and Travel to Tanjung Puting National Park

This morning we will fly from Surabaya to Pangkalan Bun in Kalimantan, Borneo. After we arrive in Pangkalan Bun we will travel to the nearby village of Kumai where we will board a boat that will take us into the heart of Tanjung Puting National Park. This park protects 1,174 square miles of diverse lowland habitats. Most of the park is covered with swampy terrain and peat swamp forest ribboned with blackwater rivers which flow into the Java Sea. At the mouth of these rivers are vast mangrove estuaries and inland tall tropical rainforest blanket the higher drier ground. The habitat diversity in Tanjung Puting leads to amazing biodiversity. It is home to one of the largest populations of wild Orangutans in the world. In addition to these fantastic apes there are eight other primate species including Borneo’s famous Proboscis Monkey. Many other mammals species call the park home as do 230 species of birds and two species of crocodile including the amazing Slender-snouted Crocodile or False Gharial. Reptile and amphibian diversity is high especially frogs, lizards and snakes. Fish diversity is also high and includes the rare “dragon fish” or Asian Arowana. Our boat journey into the park will provide our first opportunities to see wildlife. Our destination is our accommodations at Rimba Ecolodge. Rimba is ideally located deep within the park and will be a comfortable base from which we will explore the park. Once we arrive we will have lunch and then after a rest during the heat of the day we will spend the late afternoon searching for wildlife. (B,L,D)

Days 14, 15 & 16 – Wednesday, Thursday & Friday, July 31 & August 1 & 2: Tanjung Puting National Park

We will have three full days to explore the biodiversity riches of Tanjung Puting National Park. Seeing Orangutans in the wild is one of our top goals. There are feeding stations set up throughout the park,

including one at nearby Camp Leakey. Camp Leakey is a research camp made famous by Dr. Birute Galdikas and her groundbreaking studies of Orangutans. Rescued Orangutans are no longer released at Tanjung Puting, but both formerly released/rehabilitated and wild individuals come to these feeding stands. Long-tailed and Pig-tailed Macaques also show up at these feeding stations and sometimes Bearded Pigs



come in looking for leftovers. We should also see wild Orangutans out in the natural environment. Also cavorting in the treetops are White-bearded Gibbon, both Red and Silvered Langurs and Proboscis Monkeys. Squirrels and treeshrews are also abundant. Other mammals like Bornean Muntjac, Mouse Deer, both Smooth-coated and Small-clawed Otters, Bornean Slow Loris and Western Tarsier are present, but less frequently seen. Both Sun Bear and Sunda Clouded Leopard are present in the park, but we would have to be extraordinarily lucky to see either of these rare and shy carnivores. The birdlife in the park is varied and diverse. With the predominance of peat swamp forest, Tanjung Puting is home to many rare

specialties including Hook-billed Bulbul, Gray-breasted Babbler, Cinnamon-headed Green-Pigeon, Bornean Bristlehead, Black Partridge, Bornean Crestless Fireback, Gray-chested Jungle-Flycatcher and Copper Sunbird. Storm's and Lesser Adjutant Storks stalk the waterways and all eight species of hornbill found in Borneo are found in the park. Another of our target species is the Slender-snouted Crocodile or False Gharial. This large crocodile is quite common in the park, but very rare elsewhere. The False Gharial is found in the blackwater rivers and the immense Salt-water Crocodile is found in the mangroves and brackish lagoons. In addition to the crocodilians, Tanjung Puting is home to an incredible array of reptiles and amphibians which we will be on the lookout for – especially on our night explorations on foot and by boat. We will overnight each and take our meals at Rimba Ecolodge. (B,L,D)

Day 17 – Saturday, August 3: Tanjung Puting to Pangkalan Bun and on to Jakarta, Java and the Beginning of the Journey Home

This morning we will travel back to Pangkalan Bun and the airport for our flight to Jakarta, the capital of Indonesia on the island of Java. Once in Jakarta we will transfer to the Fairfield by Marriott near the airport for either day rooms or overnight depending on the flight schedules. For those beginning the long journey home it is likely that we will have day rooms until we transfer back to the airport for our overnight outbound flights. For those of you participating in the World Congress of Herpetology meetings in Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysian Borneo you will overnight tonight at the hotel. (B)

Day 18 – Sunday, August 4: Fly to Kuching or Arrival Home

For those of you participating in the World Congress of Herpetology meetings in Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysian Borneo you transfer back to the airport on the hotel shuttle this morning to fly to Kuching where our trip and our services will end. For those going home, it is likely that we will arrive in our international gateway city this morning where we will transfer to our flights back to the US. It is possible that we would arrive home today on August 4th, but it is also possible that we would arrive home on August 5th depending on the flight itinerary. (B at the hotel for those going to Kuching)

* Please note that EcoQuest Travel will make every effort to adhere to this itinerary, but dates, times, activities and prices are subject to change depending on scheduling and availability.

Cost:

\$5,567.00/person all-inclusive tour package

Airline Ticketing:

International airline tickets are not included in the above costs. EcoQuest Travel is a full service tour operator and we will gladly assist you with your international flights for this tour. We do not charge a service fee for this assistance to clients who book a tour with us. We are aware, however, that clients often prefer to use frequent flyer miles, or points, to purchase tickets or to shop online. Regardless of which method you choose EcoQuest Travel will be happy to help you with ticket prices, scheduling and ticket purchase. If you decide to obtain airline tickets on your own please make sure to check with EcoQuest Travel prior to purchasing your ticket to make sure the flights you have chosen will work with the tour itinerary and that the tour has sufficient participation to operate. Please be aware that once purchased, most airline tickets are non-refundable and carry a financial penalty for any changes. Also, it is essential that we receive a copy of your flight itinerary so that we may track you in case of missed connections, flight delays or other mishaps that might impact your arrival.



Note: Domestic airline tickets within Indonesia are also not included in the tour cost. They will be purchased in conjunction with your international tickets – hopefully this will save some money and tying them to the international tickets should help with checked bags.

What's Included:

- All boat and ground transportation within Indonesia
- All accommodations – based upon double occupancy (single supplement is available at an additional cost of \$633.00/person)
- All tours within the scheduled itinerary
- Meals are included throughout the trip except while in transit (please see the itinerary for details)
- Permits, entrance fees and guides
- The leadership services of EcoQuest Travel professionals

What's Not Included:

- International Airfare from the US to Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia and return from Jakarta, Indonesia (see the airline ticketing paragraph above)
- Domestic Airfare within Indonesia (see the airline paragraph above)
- Gifts and items of a personal nature
- Gratuities (for our local guides)
- Fees associated with obtaining a passport and visa
- Travel insurance (please see the Travel Insurance Section below)
- Costs associated with pre-trip medical planning (such as vaccines)

Travel Documents:

A passport valid for at least 6 months after our arrival is required for travel to Indonesia. In addition, Indonesia requires an entry visa available from their embassy in Washington DC. The fee for a single entry tourist visa is \$50.00, but this can and does change so we will update you before you apply. Complete instructions for obtaining a visa and visa application forms are found on the Indonesian Embassy's website: www.embassyofindonesia.org.



Group Size:

The trip cost is based on a minimum number of participants – 8 people. Although at least 8 people are required in order to make this trip a reality, we are able to accommodate up to a maximum of 12 people. If we have ten or more participants on this trip the price will likely go down and the savings will be passed on to you.

Health Requirements:

The Indonesian Government does not require any vaccinations; however, there are several vaccines that should be considered mandatory prior to traveling to tropical Asia. These include Hepatitis A, Typhoid, and Polio – note, if you have only had a Polio vaccine as a child the CDC recommends a booster and if you have had a booster as an adult you are covered. One should also check to make sure that routine vaccines against Tetanus/Diphtheria/Pertussis and Measles/Mumps/Rubella are up to date. Vaccines for Japanese encephalitis and rabies are recommended for travelers spending a longer time in Indonesia than we will be on this trip, but it is a good idea to discuss these vaccines with your doctor. Malaria is present in Indonesia and the use of anti-malarial medications should be considered mandatory for this trip. Information on travel-related diseases and vaccines to prevent them can be found on the Centers for Disease Control website at:

www.cdc.gov/travel

We highly recommend discussing all medical issues related to travel with your doctor well in advance of the proposed travel date.

Payments and Reservations:

A deposit of \$1,500.00 per person is required, along with your reservation form, in order to reserve space on the trip. This will help ensure necessary early deposits during this busy time of year. The reservation form is available on our website: www.ecoquesttravel.net and can be filled out online and submitted via email, or downloaded and mailed. We encourage you to send the deposit well in advance of the date the first payment is due, as paying the deposit is the only way to secure your spot. Personal checks, money orders and credit cards are accepted. If paying by personal check it should be made payable to EcoQuest Travel, Inc. and on the memo line please indicate: For Indonesia Trip 2024. If paying by credit card please go to our website (www.ecoquesttravel.net) and under the reservations menu there is PayPal button. Enter the amount of your deposit (\$1,500.00/person) and click the PayPal button which will direct you to PayPal's secure site. Once there you will enter your credit card details. After your initial deposit, EcoQuest Travel will send you invoices through PayPal for subsequent trip payments according to the schedule below:

- A payment of at least \$2,033.00 is required no later than January 26, 2024
- The remainder of the trip expense (\$2,034.00) will be due on or before April 26, 2024

Cancellation:

The initial deposit, as well as subsequent payments, will be used to purchase airline tickets and pay deposits for accommodations, travel arrangements, etc. in Indonesia. Therefore, if you must withdraw from the trip, irrespective of reason, a refund will not be possible. We strongly suggest that you protect yourself with the purchase of trip cancellation insurance. We will try to retain a wait list for this trip and it is possible that if you end up not being able to participate we will attempt to find a replacement for you; however, it is your responsibility to find a replacement or to have insurance.

- Please note that in the event EcoQuest Travel, Inc. does not have enough participants for this trip a refund of the initial deposit of \$1,500.00, and any subsequent payments, will be issued.

Travel Insurance

EcoQuest Travel, Inc. partners with Allianz Global Assistance (formerly – Access America) to provide the best possible travel insurance for our clients. They offer trip cancellation and worldwide emergency

services (such as emergency evacuation and emergency medical services) as well as a host of other benefits. You can find more information on Allianz’s website (www.allianzassistance.com) including how to get quotes and sign up. You do not have to use Allianz Global Assistance and may choose to use another company. In either case, EcoQuest Travel, Inc. strongly suggests the purchase of trip cancellation/medical insurance. If you do decide to purchase travel insurance from Allianz Global Assistance please give them the following EcoQuest Travel vendor (or ACCAM) number: F031120. This number identifies that you are working with an Allianz Global Assistance partner.

Note: Pre-existing conditions will be waived by Allianz Global Assistance if you purchase travel insurance within 14 calendar days of your initial trip deposit. For more information please see their website.

General Information

Upon receiving your deposit and reservation form you will be sent an information packet containing flight information, baggage requirements, hints on what to bring and other useful information. The climate will be hot and humid throughout the trip with rain possible. You will want to bring a camera and binoculars. Again, a more exhaustive list will be provided after you are registered for the trip.

Trip Leaders:

David Davenport: Zoologist and President – EcoQuest Travel, Inc.

Dr. Andrew Durso: Assistant Professor of Wildlife Biology and Naturalist for EcoQuest Travel, Inc.

.....

