



WILD INDONESIA: BALI & KOMODO EXPEDITION 2020

Dragons, Temples & Coral Reefs

16-Day Indonesia Itinerary from July 26 – August 10, 2020

Bali and Komodo – just the names evoke exotic imagines of dense forests, cloud-shrouded mountains, ancient temples, mysterious cultures and unusual wildlife. Indeed, both Bali and Komodo have all of these attributes and, in places, feel like a lost world that time forgot. A place where dragons still rule forests; undamaged coral hosts a profusion of fish; jungles overgrow ruins; and rare snow-white Bali Mynas dance in the trees. EcoQuest Travel is proud to partner with the North Carolina Zoo Society on an extraordinary journey to the islands of Bali and Komodo! 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. EcoQuest Travel and the North Carolina Zoo Society invite you to join us as we snorkel with mantas, explore Bali’s temples and parks, watch thousands of giant Flying Foxes take flight and walk with dragons.

Days 1 & 2 – Sunday & Monday, July 26 & 27: 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 27th 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 27th or early in the morning on the 28th.

Day 3 – Tuesday, July 28: 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. From the airport we will transfer to our hotel near the airport for a night of 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 – Wednesday, July 29: 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 our creatures. Three temples are found within the forest sanctuary including the atmospheric Pura Dalem Agung or the 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 – Thursday, July 30: 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 Mimpri Resort Menjangan. The Mimpri 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 it’s 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 – Friday & Saturday, July 31 & August 1: 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 and 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 Owllet, 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 such as 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 – Sunday, August 2: Snorkeling Menjangan Island

This morning we will board a boat that will take us to the north side of Menjangan Island. This island, and the waters surrounding it, are a part of West Bali National Park. This has protected the incredible marine habitats and the coral gardens on the north side of the island are lush and home to huge numbers of fish and marine invertebrates. There are no currents here so our morning snorkel should be both tranquil and exciting. After snorkeling the reefs of Menjangan we will return to Mimpri Resort and have the rest of the afternoon to relax and pack up in preparation for tomorrow’s journey to Flores. (B,L,D)



Day 9 – Monday, August 3: 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 enough time this afternoon we will explore and bird the hotel grounds. (B,L,D)

Day 10 – Tuesday, August 4: 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 site to be sure! After the bat exodus we will return to Flores and the Puri Sari Beach Hotel. (B,L,D)



Day 11 – Wednesday, August 5: 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 12 – Thursday, August 6: 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 transferring to the Mbeliling Mountain Ecolodge. This new lodge is situated on a mountainside with stunning views of the sea dotted with islands – including Komodo in the distance. The lodge is nestled in forest and borders a conservation area making it a haven for birds. It is also a convenient base for our birdwatching expeditions further inland. Mbeliling offers simple, but comfortable accommodations. The rooms have all the modern conveniences including air conditioning, ceiling fans, mosquito netting and even WIFI access. (B,L,D)

Day 13 – Friday, August 7: Birding Flores

We will depart early this morning to explore the forests of Flores. Driving one and half hours east of we will stop near Puarlolo Village and search for one of Flores's most elusive endemics – Flores Monarch. This area is rich with other bird species as well and we could see Green Junglefowl, Black-backed Fruit-Dove,

Elegant Pitta, Russet-capped Tesia, Thick-billed Heleia, Crested Dark-eye, Chestnut-capped Thrush and Rufous-chested Flycatcher. Although scarce, we will also be on the lookout for reptiles, amphibians and mammals. After a picnic lunch somewhere along the way we will visit the degraded forests near Potawangka Village. This area holds another endemic – Wallace’s Hanging Parrot. In addition we have chances to see Great-billed and Red-cheeked Parrots, White-rumped Kingfisher, Sunda Woodpecker, Yellow-breasted Warbler, Flame-breasted sunbird and both Black-fronted and Golden-rumped Flowerpeckers. We may stay until after dusk to look for nocturnal species before returning to the Mbeliling Mountain Ecologde for dinner and overnight. (B,L,D)

Day 14 – Saturday, August 8: Flores: Birding Flores

Today we will depart early for the Potawangka road to continue looking for the specialty birds of Flores. We also could visit the Puarlolo area again if we weren’t successful in finding the Monarch yesterday. There are some other areas to bird in Western Flores and depending on timing and what we have seen already we may visit some of these areas. After a full day of birding and exploring we will return to Mbeliling. (B,L,D)

Day 15 – Sunday, August 9: Flores to Bali and On to Our Asian Gateway City and the US

Today will be a long day of travel as we fly from back to Bali to begin the long journey home. Once we arrive in Bali we will pick up our luggage and check-in for our international flights. From Bali we will fly to our Asian gateway city. From our Asian gateway city we will have an overnight flight back to the US, but due to the magic of crossing the International Dateline we should arrive in the US on the same day, and around the same time, as we departed. Once we arrive in the US we will go through immigration and customs before transferring to our flights home. (B, and meals on planes)

Day 16 – Monday, August 10: Arrival Home

It is possible that you would arrive home late on the 9th, but due to flight schedules it is more likely that you will arrive home today.

* 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:

\$4,974.00/person all-inclusive tour package

\$ 280.00/person estimated airfare within Indonesia (see airline ticketing information below)

\$5,254.00/person all-inclusive*

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 included in the tour cost, but due to the volatile nature of the airline industry, we are only able to provide an estimated airfare at this time. The actual date of ticketing will determine the price. Typically, we are accurate in our estimates, but please note that there may be a difference in pricing at the time of ticketing. If ticket prices at the time of booking are lower than our estimates the savings will be passed on to you. Likewise if ticket prices exceed our estimates at the time of booking you will be invoiced the difference.

What's Included:

- ∞ All boat and ground transportation within Indonesia
- ∞ Domestic Airline Tickets within Indonesia – see above paragraph
- ∞ All accommodations – based upon double occupancy (single supplement is available at an additional cost)
- ∞ 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
- ∞ 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 \$1,000.00 per person is required, along with your reservation form, in order to reserve space on the trip. This will help insure airline seating space and 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 Bali/Komodo Trip 2020. 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 (\$1,000.00/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 \$2,127.00 is required no later than January 24, 2020
- ∞ The remainder of the trip expense (\$2,127.00) will be due on or before April 24, 2020

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 \$1,000.00, 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, film 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.

Dustin Smith: Curator of Reptiles and Amphibians for the North Carolina Zoo

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