

INDONESIA BIRD TOURS APRIL & MAY 2017 & 2018

TOUR 1 – 15th to 28th April 2017 SUMATRA

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This tour features the island of Sumatra which is the 6th largest island in the world. It begins and ends in Bali as this is usually the easiest arrival point for visitors from abroad. After one night at our lodge near Denpasar we take a morning flight to Jakarta and a connection to Bandar Lampung in southern Sumatra. We spend the first 4 days in the extensive lowland forest of Way Kambas National Park. Our resident guide Haryono will lead us and expect to show us a great variety of the lowland forest birds. We then return to the airport and fly on to Padang in the higher altitude area in central Sumatra for the rest of the tour.

15 APRIL – UDAYANA ECOLODGE, BALI

Arrival at Ngurah Rai International Airport in Denpasar, pick-up by Ecolodges driver & transfer to the Lodge. Walk around the gardens of the Lodge where there is a variety of common birds and with luck we may see the beautiful Javan Kingfisher.

o/n Udayana Lodge, Denpasar

Possible birds: Cave (Linchi's) Swiftlet, Yellow-vented & Sooty-headed Bulbuls, Olive-backed & Brown-throated Sunbirds, Common Iora, Javan Kingfisher, Scarlet-headed Flowerpecker, Large-tailed Nightjar.

16 APRIL – BALI TO SATWA ECOLODGE

Fly Bali to Jakarta this morning and then a half hour flight to Bandar Lampung. Transfer (c.2.5 hours) to Satwa Ecolodge for 4 nights from where daily excursions will be made to Way Kambas National Park of which the entrance is just a few hundred metres from the Lodge. Afternoon birding today in the Park with Haryono and spotlighting in the first half-kilometre of the Park.

o/n Satwa Ecolodge

Possible birds over next 3 days: Black-thighed Falconet, Crested Fireback, Little & Pink-necked Green Pigeons, Jambu Fruit Dove, White-winged Duck, Blue-rumped Parrot, Black-bellied & Raffle's Malkohas, Red-naped, Diard's & Scarlet-rumped Trogons, Rufous-backed & Rufous-collared Kingfishers, Wreathed Hornbill, Rufous, Checker-throated, Maroon, & Buff-necked Woodpeckers, Hooded & Banded Pittas, Banded Broadbill, Malaysian Honeyguide, Cream-vented & Hairy-backed Bulbuls, Blue-winged Leafbird, Fluffy-backed Tit-Babbler, Tiger Shrike, Black Magpie; and spotlighting at night: Reddish Scops & Brown Hawk Owls, Large, Gould's & Sunda Frogmouths, Large-tailed, Malaysian Eared and Bonaparte's Nightjars.

17 to 19 APRIL – WAY KAMBAS NATIONAL PARK

We spend 3 full days in Way Kambas. Most species we hope to see are generally visible from the main track but we may deviate into the forest at times. At the eastern end of the forest we will board a river boat and paddle in both directions to parts of the forest otherwise not accessible, hopefully to find the rare White-winged Duck. There will be a chance to see the captive breeding programme for Asian Elephants and the endangered Sumatran Rhinoceros.

o/n 3 more nights Satwa Lodge

20 APRIL – WAY KAMBAS TO KERINCI

Today, after some early morning birding, we drive back to the airport at Bandar Lampung and take a flight to Padang via Jakarta. From Padang we drive up into Kerinci Sablat National Park, arriving at our guesthouse at Keresuk Tua in time for dinner. Mainly a travelling day but time for some birding on route.

o/n Guesthouse, Keresuk Tua

21 to 24 APRIL – KERINCI SABLAT NATIONAL PARK

We will be birding the forest around Mount Kerinci for 4 days, generally between 1800 and 2500 metres, although the summit is over 3800 metres.

o/n 4 more nights Keresuk Tua

Possible birds in this area: Red-billed Partridge, Javan & Dusky Woodcocks, Pink-headed Fruit Dove, Sumatran Trogon, Schneider's Pitta, Sumatran & Rusty-breasted Wren-Babblers, Sunda Forktail, Brown-winged & Shiny Whistling Thrushes, Montane & Black-capped White-eyes, Blyth's Shrike-Babbler, Grey-throated, Golden & Spot-necked Babblers, Blue Nuthatch, Sunda Cuckoo, Black-browed & Fire-tufted Barbets, White-throated Fantail, Rufous-vented Niltava; and spotlighting might produce Salvadori's Nightjar, Sumatran Frogmouth, Mountain & perhaps Rajah Scops Owls.

25 APRIL – KERINCI TO TAPAN ROAD

Last chance for high altitude birding this morning before heading west down the mountain to bird along the 44 km stretch of the Tapan Road between Sungai Penuh Mauro Sako for a new set of specialities at lower altitude. We spend 3 nights in the area and there is a possibility of finding tigers here.

o/n Sungai Penuh

26 – 27 APRIL – TAPAN ROAD

2 full days birding in this area.

o/n 2 more nights Sungai Penuh

Possible birds along the Tapan Road: Graceful Pitta, Blue-masked & Sumatran Leafbirds, Cream-striped and Spot-necked Bulbuls, Sumatran Treepie, Sumatran Green Pigeon, Marbled Wren Babbler, Crested Jay, Black Laughing Thrush, Banded Kingfisher, Helmeted Hornbill, Bronze-tailed Peacock-Pheasant.

28 APRIL – SANGAI PENUH – PADANG – JAKARTA – DENPASAR

Early morning birding before transferring back to Padang for a series of flights taking us back to Denpasar. Final night there for those on Bali extension, and for those departing unless there are suitable flights home this evening.

o/n Udayana Ecolodge, Denpasar

EXTENSION ON BALI – 29th April to 3rd May

Although heavily populated, Bali is an excellent birding locality with a wide variety of special Indonesian birds. The Bali Myna is endemic to the island and there are very few wild birds left. In addition many species are endemic to Bali and Java combined.

This is an optional 5 day tour of Bali, concentrating on Bali Barat National Park, home of the last few Bali Mynas, and then a day in the highlands near the inland town of Bedugul.

29 APRIL – DENPASAR TO BALI BARAT NATIONAL PARK

Meet any new arrivals this morning and the local guide. Travel by minibus heading north-west to the most well-known birding area in Bali, the extensive National Park at Bali Barat. This is the last refuge for some of Indonesia's rarest birds including the amazing endemic Bali Myna. Overnight at a quality lodge for 3 nights; bird the area for the rest of today and 2 more full days.

o/n Taman Sari, Pemuteran, Bali Barat

Possible birds over next 3 days: Crescent-chested & Horsfield's Babblers, Yellow-throated Hanging Parrot, Scarlet Minivet, Javan Banded Pitta, Mangrove Whistler, Rufous-backed Kingfisher, Fulvous-chested Jungle-Flycatcher, Savanna Nightjar, Chestnut-headed Bee-Eater, Orange-breasted & Grey-cheeked Green Pigeons, Bali Myna, Lineated & Coppersmith Barbets, Sunda Scops Owl, Bar-winged Prinia, Green Junglefowl. Menjangan Island: Black-naped Tern, Javan Plover, Lemon-bellied White-eye, Black-naped Oriole.

30 APRIL / 1 MAY - BALI BARAT NATIONAL PARK

Two full days birding the area, both forest and savanna, including a trip by boat to Menjangan Island.

o/n Taman Sari, Pemuteran, Bali Barat

2 / 3 MAY – BALI BARAT TO BEDUGUL

Travel by road eastwards along the coast and then inland to the Central Highlands and to the small town of Bedugul which is in the crater of a long extinct volcano. Another selection of speciality birds occurs here, one good site we will visit is Bali's only Botanical Gardens. Stay at quality resort for 2 nights.

o/n Handara Kosaido, Bedugul

Possible birds: Blood-breasted Flowerpecker, Mountain Leaf Warbler, Orange-fronted Barbet, Short-tailed Starling, Sunda Warbler, Lesser Shortwing, Sunda Whistling-Thrush, Fulvous-tinted Whistler, Ashy Drongo, Mountain Tailorbird, Lesser Cuckoo-Shrike, Ruddy Cuckoo-Dove, Dark-backed Imperial Pigeon, Grey-cheeked Bulbul, Black-winged Flycatcher-Shrike, Little Pied Flycatcher.

4 MAY – BEDUGUL TO DENPASAR

Early morning birding, then drive back to Denpasar. Transfer to the airport for the flight home, or overnight at **Udayana Ecolodge** for those on the Flores, Kalimantan & Java tour.

TOUR 2 – 4th to 18th May **FLORES, KALIMANTAN, WEST JAVA**

This tour begins and ends in Bali as this is usually the easiest arrival point for visitors from abroad. For the first night we stay at Udayana Ecolodge which is a short drive from Denpasar Airport. We then fly over to Flores, a long, narrow and diverse island, more sparsely populated than much of Indonesia and with some extensive forest containing some special birds, many endemic to just a few of the Lesser Sunda Islands. First we spend a day on Komodo Island to wonder at the huge Komodo Dragon, but not forgetting the very rare Yellow-crested Cockatoo and a selection of other difficult birds. Then we head off inland to the town of Ruteng, a good central location from which to explore the mountain forest in the vicinity for 2 days. We will be assisted by our knowledgeable local guide, Hery Kusambangara and hope to find most of the endemic bird species.

We then fly to Pangkalan Bun in the far south of Borneo and explore the edge of Tanjung Puting National Park by riverboat along the Sekonyer river. We also travel by boat to the south coast of Kalimantan at Tanjung Kalueng. As well as enjoying wild Orang Utans,

Proboscis Monkeys and other mammals, we hope to find a superb variety of birds including the strange and endemic Bornean Bristlehead, perhaps the rare Storm's Stork and up to 4 species of hornbills.

Our flights back to Bali go via Jakarta so we have added 3 nights in Java and 2 full days birding. First we visit the island of Pulau Rambut and the marshes at Maura Angke which are in easy reach of Jakarta, then 1 full day in the forested region to the south of the capital.

4 MAY – UDAYANA ECOLODGE, BALI

Arrival at Ngurah Rai International Airport in Denpasar, pick-up by Ecolodges driver & transfer to the Lodge. Walk around the gardens of the Lodge where there is a variety of common birds and with luck we may see the beautiful Javan Kingfisher.

o/n Udayana Lodge, Denpasar

Possible birds: Cave (Linchi's) Swiftlet, Yellow-vented & Sooty-headed Bulbuls, Olive-backed & Brown-throated Sunbirds, Common Iora, Javan Kingfisher, Scarlet-headed Flowerpecker, Large-tailed Nightjar.

5 MAY – NUSA DUA; BALI TO FLORES

Pre-breakfast visit to the nearby Nusa Dua Settling Ponds where we should find a good variety of water birds, along with sunbirds, munias, other small passerines and perhaps a water monitor. Then back to the airport for a flight to Labuan Bajo at the western end of Flores for a 3 night stay at Bajo Komodo Ecolodge. Some birding in the Lodge gardens and the nearby beach in the afternoon.

o/n Bajo Komodo Ecolodge

Possible birds: Purple Heron, Great & Little Egrets, Striated, Javan Pond & Black-crowned Night Herons, White-breasted Waterhen, Cerulean (Small Blue) Kingfisher, Blue-tailed Bee-Eater, Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker, sunbirds and flowerpeckers, Golden-bellied Gerygone, Island Collared Dove, Scały-breasted Munia, shorebirds. Bajo – Black-fronted Flowerpecker, Flame-breasted Sunbird.

6 MAY – KOMODO ISLAND

A full day trip to this island, well-known for its Komodo Dragons which are usually conspicuous a short distance from the quay. Leave before dawn in a slow boat which will take about 3 hours to reach the island but there should be a few coastal and seabirds on route. Breakfast and lunch on board, walking trails on the island, beach stop at the 'Pink Beach' for swimming and snorkelling if desired, return at dusk.

o/n Bajo Komodo Ecolodge

Possible birds: Crested & Black-naped Terns, Red-footed Booby, Lesser Frigatebird, Eastern Reef Egret, Great-billed Heron, Osprey, White-bellied Sea Eagle. Komodo: Yellow-crested Cockatoo, Helmeted Friarbird, Green Junglefowl, Orange-footed Scrubfowl, Black-naped Oriole, Lesser Coucal, Wallacean Drongo, Barred Dove, Green Imperial Pigeon.

7 MAY – FOREST & WETLAND SITES NEAR LABUAN BAJO

Spend morning birding local forests at Potawangka and Rareng looking for specialities like Wallace's Hanging Parrot and Great-billed Parrot, fruit-doves, etc. Afternoon at wetland sites and agricultural coastal areas (including Dolat) for shorebirds and water birds.

o/n Bajo Komodo Ecolodge

Possible birds: Flame-breasted Sunbird, Black-fronted & Blood-breasted Flowerpeckers, Green Junglefowl, Brown-capped Fantail, Wallace's Hanging Parrot, Great-billed Parrot, Flores Crow, Black-faced Munia, Flores Minivet, Black-naped & Black-backed Fruit-Doves, Elegant Pitta, waders including Javan Plover; Savanna Nightjar.

8 MAY – LABUAN BAJO TO PUAR LOLO & RUTENG

Leave Lodge after early breakfast for forest birding on route to Ruteng. Look for speciality species at Puar Lolo during morning then continue eastwards in afternoon. Birding at Danau Ranamese in late afternoon, a forested site by a small montane lake. Stay till dusk, or return at dusk for Flores Scops Owl, Wallace's Scops Owl & Mees's Nightjar.

o/n Susteran Monastery at Ruteng

Possible birds: Puarlolo: Crested & Thick-billed Dark-eyes, Lemon-bellied and Yellow-spectacled White-eyes, Asian Paradise Flycatcher, Flores Monarch, Golden Whistler, Black-faced Munia, White-rumped Kingfisher, Flores Hawk-Eagle, Spotted Kestrel. Ranamese: Chestnut-backed Thrush, Russet-backed Tesia, Golden-rumped Flowerpecker, Bare-throated Whistler, Yellow-browed Dark-eye, Elegant Pitta, Flores & Wallace's Scops Owls, Mees's Nightjars.

9 MAY – RUTENG: GOLO LUSANG PASS, GUNUNG RANAKA, PONG TODA

Birding in the Golo Lusang Pass during the morning, lunch in Ruteng, other forested sites depending on which species still sought.

o/n Susteran Monastery at Ruteng

Possible birds: Many of those mentioned earlier, Russet-capped Tesia, Flores Lorikeet, Bare-throated Whistler, Orange-footed Scrubfowl, Barred Cuckoo-Dove, Yellow-breasted and Timor Leaf-Warblers, Yellow-spectacled White-eye, Thick-billed Dark-eye, Timor Leaf Warbler, Wallacean Drongo, Scaly-crowned Honeyeater, Flores, Black-naped and Black-backed Fruit-Doves, Ruddy Cuckoo-Dove, Pale-shouldered Cicadabird, Rufous-chested Flycatcher, Chestnut-backed and Chestnut-capped Thrushes, Rusty-breasted Cuckoo, Elegant Pitta, White-browed Shortwing, Pygmy Wren-Babbler, Five-coloured Munia, Wallace's Scops Owl.

10 MAY – FLY RUTENG – LABUAN BAJO – BALI – JAVA - KALIMANTAN

A travelling day involving 3 or 4 flights, eventually getting us to Pangkalan Bun, a small airport in south-west Kalimantan. From here it is a 30 minute ride to Kumai by the Sekonyer River. We board our comfortable river boat by late afternoon and cruise up the river to Rimba Lodge at the edge of Tanjung Puting National Park, arriving after dark.

o/n Rimba Orang Utan Lodge

11 MAY – RIMBA LODGE, SEKONYER RIVER, TANJUNG PUTING NATIONAL PARK

All day birding along the river from the boat which will go at slow pace for birding and will stop or cruise slowly with the engine off for viewing and photography; visit one or two of the Orang Utan Rehabilitation Centres. Expect to see Orang Utans in the wild and other mammals such as Proboscis Monkeys, Silvered Langurs, Giant and Pygmy Squirrels, as well as birds. Spotlighting is available, both for owls & nightjars and also for mammals such as Lesser Mouse Deer & Colugo. Breakfast and lunch on board.

o/n Rimba Orang Utan Lodge

Possible birds over next 2 days: Long-tailed Parakeet, Little, Pink-necked, Thick-billed & Cinnamon-headed Green Pigeons, Storm's Stork, Lesser Adjutant, Black, Bushy-crested, Oriental Pied & Rhinoceros Hornbills, Bornean Bristlehead, Stork-billed & Blue-eared Kingfishers, Lesser Fish Eagle, Changeable Hawk-Eagle, Brown, Red-crowned & Blue-eared Barbets, various babblers including Short-tailed, Chestnut-winged & Scaly-crowned; Scarlet-rumped Trogon, Chestnut-breasted & Chestnut-bellied Malkohas, Asian Drongo-Cuckoo, Grey & Buff & Buff-necked Woodpeckers, minivets, and many more.

12 MAY – RIMBA LODGE, SEKONYER RIVER

A second day cruising down the river and exploring the forest at Camp Pasalat.

o/n Rimba Orang Utan Lodge

13 MAY – RIMBA LODGE, TANJUNG KELUANG

Day trip to the main river estuary at Tanjung Keluang for shorebirds, perhaps including Beach Stone Curlew. Explore open coastal habitat. Visit the turtle project and a chance to see Green and Hawksbill Turtles coming ashore at night.

o/n Rimba Orang Utan Lodge

Possible birds: many riverside birds as before, wintering shorebirds, Beach Thick-knee.

14 MAY – RIMBA LODGE, SEKONYER RIVER, RETURN TO JAKARTA

Morning riverboat birding for any species missed so far. Midday boat from Rimba to Kumai and back to Pangkalan Bun for afternoon flight to Jakarta. Check-in to hotel in Jakarta, close to coast.

o/n Sanno Hotel, Jakarta

15 MAY – PULAU RAMBUT ISLAND & MAURA ANGKE, JAVA

Jakarta is a huge capital city and air travel between Indonesian islands invariably passes through its airport. We take a boat to the island of Pulau Rambut, about 45 minutes ride from Jakarta. This island is home to some 20,000 breeding coastal and seabirds, the most famous species being the very range-restricted Milky Stork. Afternoon visit to Maura Angke to look for marsh birds from the boardwalk, including some very skulking species.

o/n Sanno Hotel, Jakarta

Possible birds: various herons and egrets, Glossy Ibis, cormorants, Milky Stork, Pied Imperial Pigeon, Lesser & Christmas Island Frigatebirds, Javan Coucal, Black-winged Myna, Slaty-breasted Rail, White-browed & Ruddy Crakes, Black Bittern, Racket-tailed Treepie, Sunda Woodpecker, Small Blue Kingfisher.

16 MAY – GUNUNG GEDE PANGRANGO NATIONAL PARK, JAVA

Leave hotel early for 3 to 4 hour drive south to this forested and volcanic area. All day birding the forests in the region, nocturnal birds at dusk.

o/n TBA

Possible birds: Pale Blue Flycatcher, Chestnut-breasted Malkoha, Spotted Crocias, White-breasted & Crescent-chested Babblers, Javan Whistling Thrush, Sunda Forktail, Trilling and Pied Shrike-Babblers, Blue-winged Leafbird, Blue Nuthatch, Pygmy Cupwing. Javan & Orange-breasted Trogons, Javan Hawk-Eagle, White-bellied Fantail, Chestnut-bellied Partridge.

17 MAY – GUNUNG GEDE PANGRANGO – JAKARTA - BALI

Birding in morning till c.10 am. Return north to Jakarta by c.2 pm from where we fly back to Bali arriving late afternoon. We will return in time for some evening flights for departure.

o/n Udayana Lodge, Denpasar

18 MAY – Departure

Transfer to the airport for flight home.

PRICES FOR 2017

Flores, Kalimantan, West Java – US\$ 4000; singles US\$ 4350

Bali extension US\$ 1450; singles US\$ 1650

Sumatra – US\$ 4100; singles US\$ 4400

The prices include all accommodation, meals, transport, internal flights and guiding. International flights are not included.