

# INDONESIA: LESSER SUNDA ISLANDS SUMBA, TIMOR & FLORES SEPTEMBER 14 – OCTOBER 4, 2009

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*The islands of Nusa Tenggara, or the Lesser Sundas, stretch across the Java Sea north of Australia, between the islands of New Guinea and Bali. They are part of a unique region known as Wallacea, which contains a very distinctive fauna representing a mix of Asian and Australian species. This ecoregion has a tropical dry climate which has given rise to vegetation that is strikingly different from that of the rest of the Indonesian archipelago. Much of the natural habitat is composed of monsoon forests and savanna woodlands. These distinctive seasonal dry forests harbor unique species and are home to more than 70 endemic bird species, with new species still being discovered. As recently as 2001 the Sumba Owl was identified as a new species and intriguingly, another as yet undescribed Ninox species is rumored to exist in the mountains of east Sumba. At least seventeen species are globally threatened, such as the Critically Endangered Yellow-crested Cockatoo which today only occurs on Timor, Komodo and Sumba. The Sumba subspecies, known as the Cinnamon-crested Cockatoo, is likely to be elevated to species level in the near future.*

*The small island of Flores has 18 of Nusa Tenggara's endemic bird species, four of which are unique to the island. All four are globally threatened including the Endangered Flores Monarch and the Endangered Flores Scops-owl, which has only been recorded a few times in one small area over the last century. Twenty one bird species are endemic to the island of Timor and surrounding smaller islands, while Sumba has ten species endemic to the island. Indonesia has more IBAs or Important Bird Areas than any other nation on earth and many of these are found in the Lesser Sundas.*

*The area is still relatively poorly studied and it is likely that future taxonomic work will lead to a substantial increase in the number of species in this region. For example, the birds currently classified as Golden Whistler are clearly distinctive on each of the three islands as are the current subspecies of Rainbow Lorikeet, which are already treated by many observers as separate species.*

*The region is not heavily visited by Western tourists, but accommodation is good to excellent and the birding is not strenuous as it is mostly on the flat in a warm but dry climate. Most birding will be along quiet roads and wide, flat trails. The pace of life in the Lesser Sundas is relatively slow and the locals are laid back, very friendly and relaxed.*

**September 14-15, Days 1-2: Travel to Denpasar, Bali.** Participants should plan to arrive Denpasar (airport code DPS) anytime on September 15 with flights departing the United States late on September 13 or early September 14 with connections in Sydney, Hong Kong, Taipei or Singapore. Upon arrival in Denpasar and after clearing customs and immigration, you may proceed to the arrival lounge where a representative of our ground agent will be waiting for you and assist with transfer to our hotel. Those arriving in Denpasar early enough on September 15 are welcome to join the leader for dinner.

NIGHT: Udayana Eco Lodge, Jimbaran Heights, Bali (September 15)

**September 16, Day 3: Flight from Denpasar, Bali to Waingapu, the Capital of Sumba.** We'll make our way back to the airport this morning for a short but spectacular flight past steaming volcanoes and a myriad of emerald green islands set in turquoise seas to the dry island of Sumba. Each island in Indonesia is home to unique cultures and languages and Sumba is no different, with the various Sumbanese tribes famous for their daring horseback riding skills and their highly unusual style of fabric design known as Ikat.

At a population of 600,000 Sumba is at best sparsely populated. Most are Dutch Calvinists although a large minority are Roman Catholics. But underlying this is a very strong adherence to the age-old animistic practice known as Marapu, the influence of which can be seen throughout the island in the form of the beautiful architecture, complex ceremonies and megalithic tombs. In terms of the avifauna, Sumba is characterised by a low diversity of birds countered by its extraordinary distinctiveness, which is a mixture of Asian and Australasian influences. Most of the forests here are deciduous monsoon forests—in other words low and open with a warm but dry climate. We will drive straight to the charming village of Lewa, where we will commence our birding in the surrounding forests.

NIGHT: Hotel Merlin, Waingapu

**September 17, Day 4: Lewa Area.** Lewa is a small village about 90 min south west of Waingapu. A short distance from the village we will bird a small remnant patch of forest which is still terrific for most endemics. We will spend the day here in search of endemics such as Red-naped Fruit-Dove, Sumba Hornbill, Marigold Lorikeet, Sumba Myzomela, and Sumba Jungle-Flycatcher as well as more widespread species including the regional endemics Blood-breasted Flowerpecker, Apricot-breasted Sunbird, Lesser Wallacean Drongo, the simply gorgeous Chestnut-backed Thrush and the incomparable Elegant Pitta. We could also encounter Spotted Harrier, Variable Goshawk, Spotted Kestrel, Black-naped Fruit-Dove, Emerald Dove, Barred Dove, Australian Koel, Red-cheeked Parrot, Great-billed Parrot, Blue-tailed and Rainbow bee-eater, Pacific Swallow, Black-naped Monarch, Arafura Fantail, Plain-throated Sunbird, and Black-naped Oriole. Golden Whistler is an extremely interesting species in the Lesser Sundas, with highly variable forms on all three islands: Sumba *fulviventris*, Timor *calliope*, and Flores *fulvotincta*. Many believe this is a super species with each form representing a unique species. In the evening we will look for the endemic Mees's Nightjar, with their distinctive calls. We'll also make an effort to find two fascinating endemics: Little Sumba Boobook and Sumba Hawk-Owl.

NIGHT: Hotel Merlin, Waingapu

**September 18, Day 5: Manupeu Tanadaru National Park.** Manupeu Tanadaru National Park lies about seven km west of Lewa. This newly declared park protects some excellent forest, especially along the river near the village of Padiratana. This is another great place for a host of the Sumba endemics and other specialities, so we'll be on the lookout for Sumba Flycatcher, Sumba Green-Pigeon, Sumba Cuckoo-shrike (Pale-shouldered Cicadabird) and Sumba Brown Flycatcher. Small flocks of Sumba (Rainbow) Lorikeet are often seen flying along the river here. More widespread species include Brown Goshawk, which is rare in Asia, Gray Tit (a recent split from Great Tit) and Common Kingfisher.

NIGHT: Hotel Merlin, Waingapu

**September 19, Day 6: Morning Lewa; Afternoon at Yumbu Grasslands.** After some final birding this morning around Lewa to catch up with anything we may have missed here, we'll return to Waingapu for lunch. In the cooler afternoon we'll travel a short distance out of Waingapu, where the Yumbu Grasslands are the best site for the scarce and highly local endemic Sumba Button-quail. Here birds such as Indonesian Honeyeater, Australasian Bushlark, Zitting Cisticola, Brown Quail, and Zebra Finch are common. Australian Hobby is also a possibility, belying our location on the border of the Asian and the Australasian regions.

Further east of Yumbu, the Kadumbul wetlands are a permanent freshwater wetland, excellent for waders and waterfowl. Here we should encounter large numbers of Little Black Cormorant, Little Pied Cormorant, Purple Heron, Great Egret, Intermediate Egret, Wandering Whistling-Duck, the endemic Sunda Teal, Purple

Swamphen, Great Crested Tern, Whiskered Tern and White-winged Tern, Oriental Reed-Warbler, and Zebra Finch. Less common but always possible are Australian Pratincole and Oriental Plover.

NIGHT: Hotel Merlin, Waingapu

**September 20, Day 7: Early Afternoon Flight to Kupang, West Timor.** This morning we will visit the Yumbu Grasslands again and later, if time permits, the Waingapu mudflats, a short walk to the north east of the city centre. We should find Brahminy Kite, Lesser Sandplover and Greater Sandplover, Whimbrel, Common Tern, Little Tern, Little Egret, Javan Pond-Heron, Indonesian Cuckoo and Pale-bellied (Javan) Myna. We will then take the short but fascinating flight to Kupang in West Timor and drive straight to our very pleasant accommodation at Camplong.

NIGHT: Catholic Seminary, Camplong

**September 21, Day 8: Camplong.** Camplong Forest west of Kupang is a rather busy area but the birding is great! This mid-elevation forest around a village holds excellent birds such as Marigold Lorikeet, the nifty Black-banded Flycatcher, Timor Bushchat, Plain Gerygone, Black-breasted Myzomela, Timor Leaf-Warbler and Northern Fantail. Small flocks of the babbler-like Timor (Spot-breasted) Dark-eye move through midstory and we'll make a particular effort for the unusual endemic Buff-banded Bushbird with its distinctive loud call. In the evening we'll make an outing from our nearby hotel to look for the endemic Streaked (Timor) Boobook.

NIGHT: Catholic Seminary, Camplong

**September 22, Day 9: Bipolo.** Bipolo Forest is a small section of forest near the village of Bipolo that has some of the best birding in the region. The road along the eastern edge of the forest leads to rice paddies and ends at shrimp ponds that are good for a range of open country and wading birds. We'll bird along the road and through some easy, flat trails in search of Yellow-crested Cockatoo, the increasingly scarce Olive-shouldered Parrot, the gorgeous Cinnamon-banded Kingfisher (sure to be a trip highlight), another stunner: the Orange-banded Thrush, Timor Blue-Flycatcher, and the fascinating Timor Stubtail. This area simply abounds with birds and other goodies including Oriental Honey-buzzard, Black Kite, Black-backed Fruit-Dove, Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove, Slaty Cuckoo-Dove, Fawn-breasted Whistler, White-shouldered Triller, Spectacled Monarch, Streak-breasted Honeyeater, Brown Honeyeater, Yellow-eared Honeyeater, Helmeted Friarbird, Timor Friarbird, Timor (Olive-brown) Oriole, Timor (Green) Figbird, Greater Wallacean Drongo, Short-tailed Starling, Flame-breasted Sunbird, Thick-billed Flowerpecker (the distinctive subspecies here might be a future split), Red-chested Flowerpecker and Ashy-bellied White-eye.

In the nearby rice paddies or *sawah*, there is more excellent birding and our efforts here could yield Lesser Coucal, Barred Buttonquail, White-breasted Woodswallow, Tree Martin, Golden-headed Cisticola, Black-faced Munia, Nutmeg Mannikin, and the highly sought-after Five-colored Munia and Timor Sparrow. Other possibilities at the neighbouring shrimp farms include White-faced Heron, White-headed Stilt, Red-capped Plover, Marsh Sandpiper, Common Greenshank, Red-necked Stint, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper and Gull-billed Tern.

NIGHT: Catholic Seminary, Camplong

**September 23, Day 10: Camplong-Gunung Mutis.** We'll bird around Camplong in the early morning before driving to the town of Soe at the base of Gunung Mutis, the highest mountain in Timor, in preparation for our full day there tomorrow. The forests near Gunung Mutis are dominated by native eucalyptus trees and are well worth a couple of days birding. The road from Soe is not so good, but the mountain is very misty and cool. A welcome respite!

NIGHT: Hotel Bahagsia II, Soe

**September 24, Day 11: Gunung Mutis.** This beautiful forest holds some real treats such as Metallic Pigeon, the rare Timor Imperial-Pigeon, Pink-headed Imperial-Pigeon, Olive-headed Lorikeet, the rather difficult Iris Lorikeet, Tricoloured Parrotfinch and the very distinctive form of Pygmy Wren-Babbler, which surely is in

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reality an endemic species! We may encounter Red Junglefowl, Oriental Pipit, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Snowy-browed Flycatcher, Gray-headed Canary-Flycatcher, Pied Bushchat, and Long-tailed Shrike. The local race of Island Thrush is abundant.

Overnight: Hotel Bahagsia II, Soe

**September 25, Day 12: Gunung Mutis-Kupang.** This morning we will head back down to Camplong, where we will complete the day with some more birding at Camplong or Bipolo, depending on what we are still looking for, before returning to Kupang in preparation for our flight to Flores tomorrow.

NIGHT: Kristal Hotel, Kupang

**September 26, Day 13: Early Morning Flight from Kupang to Ruteng on Flores.** Although there are only 1.5 million people in Flores, at least eight unique languages are spoken here. Most Floresians are Catholics as a result of the influence of Portuguese missionaries and traders in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. In fact, the name Flores means “flowers” in Portuguese and gives some indication of the beauty of this island. We should have time to commence our birding on Flores at the nearby Ranamese Lake.

NIGHT: Dahlia Hotel, Ruteng

**September 27, Day 14: Danau Ranemese.** Ranamese Lake is a small volcanic lake about an hour’s drive from Ruteng. It’s very scenic with some great birds, including both endemic scops-owls. We’ll be on the lookout for Ruddy Cuckoo-Dove, Sunda Cuckoo, Stork-billed Kingfisher, Brown-capped Woodpecker, Wallacean Cuckoo-shrike, Flores Minivet, Little Pied Flycatcher, the distinctive subspecies of Mountain Tailorbird, Flores Leaf-Warbler, Brown-capped Fantail, Oriental White-eye (yellow-bellied form), Yellow-spectacled White-eye, Golden-rumped Flowerpecker, Mountain White-eye and Asian Paradise-Flycatcher. On the lake itself, we should find Pacific Black Duck to be common. But one of our main targets will be the fascinating and cute but skulking Russet-capped Tesia. In the evening we’ll search for the elusive Flores Scops-Owl and Wallace's Scops-Owl.

NIGHT: Dahlia Hotel, Ruteng

**September 28, Day 15: Poco Ranaka.** Poco Ranaka is a steep mountain on the ridge to the south of Ruteng. We’ll drive as far as it’s possible to drive up the road, and then walk downhill on a gentle grade. This is great birding in tremendous forest with views over the town of Ruteng and surroundings. Some of the birds we might encounter include Bonelli’s Eagle, Green Jungefowl, Barred Cuckoo-Dove, Dark-backed Imperial-Pigeon, Fork-tailed Swift, Flores Jungle-Flycatcher, Pygmy Wren-Babbler, Black-fronted Flowerpecker, White-browed Dark-eye, Sunda (Scaly-crowned) Honeyeater, Tawny-breasted Parrotfinch and Yellow-breasted Warbler. The astounding Bare-throated Whistler is happily common and extremely vocal here. This memorable bird will undoubtedly be another trip highlight. And with luck we may find the endemic but rare Flores Hawk-Eagle.

NIGHT: Dahlia Hotel, Ruteng

**September 29-30, Days 16-17: Kisol.** Early this morning we leave Ruteng for the road east towards Bajawa. This road soon enters protected forest within an hour’s drive from Ruteng and follows a ridge eastwards. Kisol is a remnant lowland forest on the south coast of Flores about 2 hours east of Ruteng. At Kisol we’ll search for the super White-rumped Kingfisher, Flores Lorikeet, curious Flores Crow, Flores (Thick-billed) Dark-eye and the elusive Chestnut-capped Thrush—a beautiful *Zoothera*. This is a great place to try for Wallacean and Moluccan scops-owls.

NIGHT: Wisma Arnoldus, Kisol

**October 1, Day 18: Drive from Ruteng to Labuan Bajo, Birding En Route.** The hill of Pocondeki contains good forest and Puar Lolo is a tiny patch of mid-elevation forest surrounding a telecom station that is the best site for Flores Monarch. A level track gives good access. Stopping at Puar Lolo on our journey, we’ll be on the hunt for Flores (Rainbow) Lorikeet, Golden-bellied Gerygone, the shy and retiring Flores Monarch (which

seems to prefer dense midstory), Rufous-chested Flycatcher and Crested Dark-eye. Later we'll make a short detour up the Pocowanka Road, which is a last stronghold for the diminutive Wallace's Hanging-Parrot. This road has patches of interesting secondary forest all along it and after about 10 km we pass through a small village. Directly after the village are many flowering trees along the ridge and amongst a multitude of friarbirds and drongos, we'll hope for a sighting of the increasingly scarce hanging-parrot.

NIGHT: Bajo Komodo Eco Lodge, Labuan Bajo

**October 2, Day 19: Komodo.** This fabled home of the Komodo Dragon is a three hour spectacular boat ride from Labuan Bajo. Of great interest to us is its healthy population of Yellow-crested Cockatoos, now highly endangered due to the cage bird industry. We may also find Great and Lesser frigatebirds, Great-billed Heron, Pacific Reef-Heron, White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Beach Thick-knee, Lesser Crested Tern, Green Junglefowl, Bridled Tern and Green Imperial-Pigeon. Collared and Sacred Kingfisher are common and this is a great place to observe the extraordinary Orange-footed Scrubfowl at work on its mound.

NIGHT: Bajo Komodo Eco Lodge, Labuan Bajo

**October 3, Day 20: Labuanbajo – Denpasar.** Depending on the time of our flight back to Denpasar, we may do some more birding along the Pocowanka Road or finish off our tour with some wader watching at mudflats in Bali, where Javan Plover is always a possibility. We will have our farewell dinner tonight in the delightful surroundings of our hotel, reflecting on what is sure to have been a memorable trip!

NIGHT: Udayana Eco Lodge, Jimbaran Heights, Bali

**October 4, Day 21: Depart Denpasar.** Participants may depart at any time today.

**EXTRA ARRANGEMENTS:** Should you wish to make arrangements to arrive early or extend your stay, please contact the VENT office at least **four months** prior to your departure date. We can very easily make hotel arrangements and often at our group rate, if we receive your request with enough advance time.

**TOUR SIZE:** This tour will be limited to 8 participants.

**TOUR LEADER:** Susan Myers

**Susan Myers** absolutely loves birding and traveling in Asia. As she says, "The combination of incredible and diverse wildlife, ancient and fascinating cultures, and the best food in the world is unique to this amazing continent." For more than 15 years Susan has led tours throughout the Orient, including several tours and expeditions in the Indian subcontinent, ten tours to Vietnam, countless trips to the Malay Peninsula and Borneo, plus many other tours in India, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Japan, Thailand, Indonesia, Taiwan, Cambodia, and the Philippines, as well as Madagascar, Irian Jaya, the Pacific islands and, of course, Australia. Susan was born in Melbourne of convict ancestry dating back to the establishment of the city, when her shoe-stealing forebear was released from Port Arthur in Tasmania and came to Melbourne to start a new life. She has been a birder and passionate naturalist since early childhood, running around barefoot in the bush chasing birds, lizards, and aquatic insects. Susan has been studying the fauna of Australia and Asia for over 20 years. Her experiences in Asia started at an early age when a short trip to Singapore cast a spell on her, never to be broken. That first sighting of a sunbird in the tropical rainforest led to the purchase of the first edition of *The Birds of South East Asia*, which she memorized before the age of thirteen! After her university studies in biological sciences, she moved to Japan where she lived for four years, learning the language and studying the natural history and culture; she has traveled there regularly ever since. A few years in Japan and extended travel and birding all over the region further strengthened her deep love of the wildlife and culture of Asia. Once a qualified nursing practitioner, Susan has also worked as a scuba dive instructor on Australia's Great Barrier Reef in Queensland, showing international visitors this marine marvel. She loves to explore new areas, and has recently undertaken

scouting trips to Myanmar, Cambodia, Taiwan, Sumatra, and Halmahera. She has published many papers and articles on ornithology and general ecology in a variety of respected magazines and scientific journals. Susan's deep affection for and appreciation of Asia and its wildlife, her special language skills, and her understanding of the different cultures of this region ensure an extra dimension to your tour.

**FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS:** The fee for this tour is **\$8175** per person in double occupancy from Denpasar, Bali and includes all meals from dinner on Day 2 to dinner on Day 20, internal flights (economy class) as stated in the itinerary, accommodations, ground transportation during the tour, gratuities, and guide services provided by the tour leader. The tour fee does not include airfare from your home to Denpasar and return, airport departure taxes, alcoholic beverages, special gratuities, phone calls, laundry, or items of a personal nature. Rates are based upon group tariffs; if the tour does not have sufficient registration, a small-party supplement may have to be charged.

The single supplement for this tour is **\$445**. You will be charged a single supplement if you desire single accommodations, or if you prefer to share but have no roommate and we cannot provide one for you.

**TOUR REGISTRATION:** To register for this tour, please contact the VENT office. The deposit for this tour is **\$500** per person. If you prefer to pay your deposit by check, your tour space will be held for 10 days to allow time for the VENT office to receive your deposit and completed registration form. If you prefer to pay your deposit using a credit card, your deposit must be made with MasterCard or Visa at the time of registration. The VENT registration form should then be completed, signed, and returned to the VENT office. Full payment of the tour fee is due 120 days prior to the tour departure date.

**EXCHANGE RATE SURCHARGES:** In the erratic global financial markets of today, it is difficult to predict foreign currency exchange rates over the long term or at the time of operation of a tour or cruise departure. Tour prices are based upon the rate of exchange at the time of itinerary publication. If exchange rates change drastically, it may be necessary to implement a surcharge. If a surcharge is necessary, every effort will be made to minimize the amount. In many cases, these additional foreign exchange rate surcharges are passed to VENT by its vendors and suppliers.

**FUEL AND FUEL SURCHARGES:** In the uncertain, often volatile oil market of late, it is difficult – if not impossible – to predict fuel costs over the long term, and more specifically, at the time of operation of this departure. Our prices are based upon the prevailing fuel rates at the time of itinerary publication. While we will do everything possible to maintain our prices, if the fuel rates increase significantly, it may be necessary to institute a fuel surcharge.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** Cancellation Penalties and Refunds are based on the following schedule: if cancellation is made 120 days or more before the tour departure date, the deposit less \$300 per person is refundable. If cancellation is made fewer than 120 days before departure date, no refund is available. This policy and fee schedule also applies to pre-trip and post-trip extensions, as well as any transfers from one tour to another. ***We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance for your protection.***

<u>If you cancel:</u>	<u>Your refund will be:</u>
120 days or more before departure date	Your deposit minus \$300.
Fewer than 120 days before departure date	No refund available.

**TRIP CANCELLATION & MEDICAL EVACUATION INSURANCE:** A brochure and application form for optional coverage for baggage, illness, and trip cancellation can be obtained through the VENT office. **We strongly recommend that you purchase trip cancellation insurance as soon as possible to protect yourself against losses due to accidents or illness. VENT recommends Travel Insured International as our preferred insurance provider.** Check with your insurance agent regarding coverage you may presently have via other insurance policies that may cover illness during your trip. **Waiver for pre-existing conditions is available; however, stipulations apply, usually requiring the purchase of the insurance soon after**

**registering.** Optional expanded insurance coverage is available and includes items such as work-related cancellation, medical upgrade, and a “Cancel for Any Reason” clause among others. **Contact Travel Insured International prior to registration for details.** Not all insurance providers provide the same levels of coverage. If you purchase insurance through a company other than Travel Insured International, please be advised that rules and stipulations may be different.

**Victor Emanuel Nature Tours is not a participant in the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires certain sellers of travel to have a trust account or bond. This business has a bond issued by Travelers in the amount of \$50,000. CST #2014998-50.**

**AIR INFORMATION:** Victor Emanuel Travel is a full-service travel agency and wholly owned subsidiary of Victor Emanuel Nature Tours (VENT). Victor Emanuel Travel will be happy to make any domestic or international air travel arrangements from your home and return. Please feel free to call the VENT office to confirm your air arrangements.

**BAGGAGE:** We request you limit your baggage to one large duffel (or soft sided suitcase) and one carry-on. Also, as a precaution, we recommend packing your binoculars, walking shoes, a change of clothes, personal medications and toiletries, and your travel documents in your airline carry-on bag. Please check with your airline for specific rules and regulations regarding the amount of luggage you are allowed to carry. Be prepared to pay excess baggage charges if you bring more than the allotted amount.

When travelling, it is suggested that you wear clothing and a pair of shoes suitable for birding in case your baggage is delayed. It is wise to carry several copies of a list of your expensive equipment—cameras, binoculars, tape recorders, spotting scopes, etc.—for customs inspectors. This list should include a description of the object (include the serial number if possible), place of purchase, and price. Visitors to Indonesia are rarely challenged about such equipment, but U.S. customs may be more difficult. However, if you are taking a large amount of equipment with you, it is advisable to declare this to a customs officer before you leave the United States.

**CLIMATE:** During the tour, you will experience a wide range of temperatures and climate, from the 70s, high 80s and 90s in the lowlands, to as low as 30 degrees at higher elevations. It is always possible we will encounter some rain. Generally it will be cooler in the morning and warm to hot, but dry at midday. At the higher altitudes of Gunung Mutis and other sites it will be noticeably cooler. A light sweater for the evening, especially if we go on a night drive, will be welcome.

**CLOTHING:** Lightweight, dull-colored field clothing is recommended throughout. This includes several pairs of pants and cool, comfortable shirts. Long-sleeved shirts, a dull-colored hat, and sunglasses are recommended for protection from the sun and mosquitoes. Long socks are very useful so that you can tuck in your pants and further avoid biting insects. Raingear is always essential in the Asian tropics, including waterproof pants, which are very useful in case we encounter rain while in a boat. A collapsible umbrella is ideal. Dress will be casual, although you may prefer something slightly dressier for the hotels in Denpasar. Please avoid *light or bright colors*. Dark, muted colors help to prevent spooking the birds, particularly when we are in the forest, and thus enable you to see the special birds and mammals. Twenty-four hour inexpensive laundry facilities are available at most of our accommodations.

Please remember that this area is rather conservative about standards of dress. Women should dress modestly; no halter tops, shorts or miniskirts, please. As should men – shorts are generally unacceptable at cultural sites and shirts should be worn at all times.

Although there will be few, if any, really rigorous walks or uphill jaunts, it is always possible we may encounter mud, slippery surfaces, and stony ground. We are on our feet for much of the day and it is MOST IMPORTANT that you provide suitable protection and support for your feet and ankles. Light-weight boots (of gortex or some similar material) that come up to the ankle and have a good lug-sole are ideal. Many people are apprehensive

that these will be too heavy; this is not true. The protection, grip and day-long comfort such boots afford is far superior to the seemingly comfortable sneakers/training shoes.

**CURRENCY:** Rupiah - IDR. Although there should be no difficulty exchanging major currencies in the main tourist areas, problems may occur elsewhere. Exchange facilities are available for all incoming and outgoing flights at the international airports. American Express, Visa and MasterCard are widely accepted in the major tourist areas with limited availability elsewhere.

**DOCUMENTS:** In order for United States citizens to enter Indonesia, a United States passport that is valid at least 6 months after departure must be presented upon entry into the country. For stays of 30 days or less in Indonesia, a visa can be obtained upon entry at \$20 USD per person (subject to change). For further information, you may wish to contact Pinnacle Travel Document Systems ([www.traveldocs.com](http://www.traveldocs.com) on the web or 888-838-4867 by phone), a company which handles visa procurement. Non-United States citizens should check with their consulate/embassy for instructions.

**EQUIPMENT:** You should have a pair of binoculars in good repair (please check before departure!!). Your tour leader will be carrying a spotting scope; however, you are **welcome and encouraged to bring your own if you so wish**. You should bring all the camera equipment and spare batteries that you will need; that being said, batteries are widely available. UV and polarizing filters are recommended, especially at higher elevations where glare can be a problem. Plastic bags are very useful to protect equipment from rain and dust. A small day pack (either waterproofed or with a strong plastic bag inside) is essential for carrying excess clothing, camera equipment, toiletries, food, and water. However, in many of the areas we will be birding, we will have regular access to our transport, which will be attended by a driver. Water bottles are important as we encourage you to carry a regular supply of water.

Insects such as mosquitoes and sand-flies can occasionally, but just locally, be a problem. Leeches are scarce. Insect problems are best dealt with by wearing long-sleeved shirts of sufficient thickness and density of weave that the “bugs” cannot bite through, long trousers tucked into long socks, and liberal coatings of Cutters or OFF. We recommend the pump-style containers.

Other useful items include:

- Flashlight or headlamp (as we will be out at night on a few occasions), and furthermore, a small flashlight or headlamp may be essential to find your way around your room at night.
- Handy-wipes and paper tissues are especially useful. All participants should carry sufficient for their personal needs for the entire tour.
- Spare glasses or contact lenses.
- One bath towel and face cloth.
- Sunscreen (strongly recommended, especially for ferry crossings where the UV is reflected back from the sea surface and can cause burning remarkably quickly). Lip balm is also essential.
- Umbrella—the collapsible type is easy to carry and useful both against rain and sun.

**HEALTH:** If you are taking prescription medication or over-the-counter medicine, be sure to bring an ample supply that will allow you to get through the tour safely. Please consult your physician as necessary. Remember to pack all medication in your carry-on baggage, preferably in original containers or packaging. As airline baggage restrictions can change without warning, please check with your airline for procedures for packing medication. Sanitation throughout Indonesia is relatively good in the better hotels, compared to most tropical areas of the world; however, in the more remote areas caution is advised. It is always advisable to treat water other than bottled water with caution. Ideally, stick to bottled drinks, tea, and coffee. You should not eat salads and uncooked vegetables outside the good hotels. And even then, check with your tour leader.

Typhoid vaccination is particularly important because of the presence of *S. typhi* strains resistant to multiple antibiotics in this region. There is no risk for yellow fever in Southeast Asia. Malaria is present and participants are strongly advised to take and seek the advice of their doctor with regard to the form of prophylactic to use. As

standard travel precautions, you should always be up to date with tetanus shots, and strongly consider inoculations against Hepatitis types A and B.

In addition to your physician, a good source of general health information for travellers is the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta. The CDC operates a 24-hour recorded Travellers' Information Line 877-FYI-TRIP (394-8747) or you can check their website at [www.cdc.gov/travel](http://www.cdc.gov/travel). Canadian citizens should check the website of the Public Health Agency of Canada: [www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/new\\_e.html](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/new_e.html) (click on travel health).

**MISC:**

Departure Tax – IDR 100,000 (apx \$10 USD)

Electricity – 220 volts; an adapter may be needed

Language – Bahasa Indonesia is the official language; there are an estimated 583 languages and dialects spoken in the archipelago.

Time - 14 hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time

**SUGGESTED READING:** Our website, [www.ventbird.com](http://www.ventbird.com) offers an affiliated online store that carries a wide variety of items for birding and nature lovers, including over 6,000 books. A portion of the sales from this store benefits the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. You may also visit such other online stores such as [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) and out-of-print or hard-to-find titles, [www.abebooks.com](http://www.abebooks.com) or [www.buteobooks.com](http://www.buteobooks.com) which specializes in ornithology books. You can also go to Andrew Isles bookstore for specifically the Asia-Pacific region at [www.andrewisles.com/AndrewIsles](http://www.andrewisles.com/AndrewIsles). They may also be able to obtain difficult and/or out of print books.

**Field Guides:**

Coates, Brian J. and K.D. Bishop. *A Guide to the Birds of Wallacea: Sulawesi, the Moluccas and Lesser Sunda Islands, Indonesia*. Dove Publications, Australia, 1997. This is the field guide for the region.

White, C.M.N. and M.D. Bruce. *The Birds of Wallacea - an Annotated Checklist*. British Ornithologists Union, 1986.

Strange, Morten. *A Photographic Guide to the Birds of Indonesia*. Princeton University Press, 2003.

**There is some excellent contemporary literature about Indonesia, including its natural history and its wildlife. The following is a small selection of titles that may be of interest.**

Daws, Gavan and Marty Fujita. *Archipelago: The Islands of Indonesia from the Nineteenth-Century Discoverie of Alfred Russel Wallace to the Fate of Forests and Reefs in the Twenty-First Century*. California University Press, 1999. A simply stunning coffee table book. Will make you want to go everywhere in Indonesia!

Dorai, Francis. *Insight Guide: Indonesia*. Edited by Scott Rutherford and Brian Bell. Langenscheidt Publishers; 5th edition, 2001.

Backshell, Stephen, David Lefman, Lesley Reader and Henry Stedman. *Rough Guide: Indonesia*. Rough Guides; 1 edition, 1999.

Lonely Planet Travel Guides: Indonesia by B Delahunty, P Greenway, J Lyon, C Taylor, P Turner and D Willett. Lonely Planet, *Edition 8*, 2007.

Turner, Peter. *Lonely Planet Travel Guides: Indonesia's Eastern Islands*. Lonely Planet Publications, 1998.

McNeely, Jeffrey A. and Paul Spencer Sochaczewski. *Soul of the Tiger: Searching for Nature's Answers in Exotic Southeast Asia*. University of Hawaii Press, 1995.

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