

# INDONESIA

## SULAWESI & HALMAHERA

### SEPTEMBER 23 - OCTOBER 14, 2010

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*The province of Sulawesi, formerly known as the Celebes, in Indonesia is the large, rather odd shaped island variously described as shaped like a spider or an orchid to the east of Borneo and west of New Guinea. Indonesia has the highest rate of endemism of any country and Sulawesi has the highest number of endemic bird species of any of the Indonesian islands. Arguably, more than 70 species are found nowhere else! Additionally there is a whole suite of endemic mammals and plants. Halmahera, the largest of the Moluccas or Spice Islands, lies just a short distance to the east and has a similar odd shape but a totally different avifauna. It has an equally remarkable 22 endemic birds! Travel in Sulawesi and Halmahera is a real adventure and, although not especially difficult, it is certainly off the beaten track! Indonesia is one of the most exciting birding destinations on earth and these fascinating islands should not be missed. There is no doubt that birding in Sulawesi and Halmahera is a remarkable experience.*

*We will visit three of Sulawesi's national parks: Tangkoko, Lore Lindu, and Dumoga-Bone. These evocative names conjure up images of all sorts of exciting birds and we won't be disappointed! From the cool mossy cloud forests to the luxuriant lowland rainforests, our targets will include the extraordinary Maleo, a suite of endemic raptors, some cracking kingfishers, the unusual Purple-bearded Bee-eater, the colourful Knobbed Hornbill, some tricky forest-dwellers like Geomalina and Great Shortwing, some amazing endemic starlings and many more.*

*Our jumping off point for Halmahera is the small island of Ternate. Dominated by a gently smoking volcano, it is the most important town of the fabled 'Spice Islands'. This island is much drier and has more affinities with the Australasian region than Sulawesi but an equally rich selection of endemics, including the famous Wallace's Standardwing, certainly one of the strangest of the birds of paradise. We should be able to watch this fabulous bird at a display site, but we'll also be keen to find the huge and stunning Ivory-breasted Pitta as well as other endemics such as White Cockatoo, Goliath Coucal, Moluccan Owlet-Nightjar and the rare Moluccan Scrubfowl.*

*Accommodation ranges from excellent to basic, but all with private facilities; excellent food; moderate pace with some day treks; the climate is hot and dry with a chance of rain at any time; travel by 4WD vehicles and minibuses.*

**September 23-25, Day 1-3: To Makassar, Sulawesi.** Flights generally depart the USA on Day 1 with connections in Bali or Jakarta, and after crossing the international dateline, arrive Makassar, Sulawesi (airport code UPG) by mid-afternoon of Day 3. Upon arrival and after clearing customs and immigration, we will transfer to our very comfortable hotel by our ground agent for a well deserved rest. We will meet for dinner this evening to discuss our plans for tomorrow.

Night: Pantai Gapura Hotel, Makassar Hotel

**September 26, Day 4: Morning Karaenta Forest. Afternoon fly to Palu. From Palu drive to Lore Lindu.**

Karaenta Forest is a remnant forest patch on limestone outcrops, close to Makassar. It is home to the very localized Black-ringed White-eye, a species restricted to southern Sulawesi, and this will be our prime target. A number of other Sulawesi endemics also occur and this morning will provide an excellent introduction to Sulawesi's magical avifauna. In particular we will be keeping a keen eye out for Silver-tipped Imperial Pigeon and Sulawesi Dwarf Hornbill, two species that can be hard to come by elsewhere. Sulawesi Babblers (one of the very few babblers to be found east of Wallace's Line) sing from the undergrowth, noisy Hair-crested Drongos call from the roadside (the distinctive form here has a white eye) and the canopy is home to Grey-sided and Yellow-sided flowerpeckers and Black Sunbirds, while Grey-rumped Treeswift patrol above the forest. In open areas near Makassar we may, depending on water levels in the paddies, find a number of interesting species including Cinnamon Bittern, Woolly-necked Stork, Sooty-headed Bulbul, White-shouldered Triller, Pied Chat, Zitting Cisticola, White-breasted Wood-Swallow, and Scaly-breasted and Pale-headed Munias. Travel from Makassar to Palu. On arrival in Palu we depart directly for Lore Lindu National Park.

Night: Kamarora Guest House, Lore Lindu

**September 27-30, Days 5-8: Lore Lindu.** This wonderful area supports most of Sulawesi's montane species and we can look forward to some fabulous birding! Our accommodation at Kamarora is some distance from the Anaso Track where most of these montane birds are found but the surrounding forest can also be very worthwhile with birds such as Barred Buttonquail, White-bellied Imperial Pigeon (with its unique and remarkable call), Rufous-throated Flycatcher, Sulawesi Myzomela and Yellow-bellied White-eye, amongst others, all possible. Driving from Kamarora to the top part of the Anaso Track we will walk downhill in search of such goodies as Red-eared Fruit-Dove, the rare Sombre Pigeon, flocks of Golden-mantled Racquet-tail, the mysterious Diabolical Nightjar, Maroon-backed Whistler, Pygmy Cuckoo-shrike, the enigmatic Malia, Sulawesi Thrush and very exciting Great Shortwing. At the bottom of the track we'll spend some time at Lake Taming where the surrounding forest supports still more excitement in the form of flocks of Yellow-and-green Lorikeet, Dark-eared Honeyeater, Rusty-bellied Fantail and Ivory-backed Woodswallow. Along the roadsides we'll search for Sulawesi Woodpecker, Piping Crow, Sulphur-bellied Whistler, Cerulean Cuckoo-shrike and Sulawesi Blue Flycatcher to name but a few!

Nights: Kamarora Guest House, Lore Lindu

**October 1, Day 9: Morning in Lore Lindu National Park, return to Palu, flight to Manado.** Return slowly to Palu, birding en route. A number of open country birds and waterbirds can be seen in the magnificent and ancient paddy fields stretching between the park and Palu. Return to Manado. We will stop to check through the flocks of Chestnut Munias for the localized Black-faced Munia and we may well see Lesser Coucal and Eastern Yellow Wagtail. Later we will catch a flight to Manado.

Night: Santika Premiere Seaside Resort, Manado

**October 2, Day 10: Flight to Ternate; boat to Sidangoli, Halmahera.** This morning we catch our flight to Ternate, Halmahera. Ternate is little more than a huge smoking volcano rising to over 5500 feet (1700m). The perfectly-shaped cone, which last erupted in 1987, is one of a chain of small volcanoes which guard the western approaches to Halmahera. Ternate was formerly of vital importance as one of the world's few sources of cloves, but today it is a little visited but charming backwater with only the crumbling remains of its colonial past as a reminder of its one-time significance. On arrival at Ternate we will make the short boat crossing to Sidangoli in the north of Halmahera, looking out for Great and Lesser Frigatebirds, Brown Booby and both Bridled and Greater Crested Terns from the ferry. This evening we will have our first chance to look for Halmahera's impressive selection of nightbirds. Nightbirding here is exciting and we have a great chance of finding Moluccan Scops Owl, Moluccan Hawk Owl, Large-tailed Nightjar and the weird and elusive Moluccan Owlet-Nightjar.

Night: Sidangoli Guest House, Sidangoli

**October 3, Days 11: Drive to Tobelo; boat to Foli.** Halmahera is by far the largest island of the Moluccan archipelago (now known as Maluku) with a contorted shape not unlike a small version of Sulawesi. The Moluccas are famed as the ‘Spice Islands’ and in the 15th and 16th centuries completely dominated the world trade in cloves, nutmeg and mace. Halmahera lies further to the east of Wallace’s Line than Sulawesi and consequently its avifauna contains a higher proportion of Australasian elements. Few birdwatchers have visited Halmahera, yet some of the world’s rarest and least known birds occur here, including many endemics. Today, we will travel further north, to the town of Tobelo, from where we will take a speedboat across the bay to the village of Foli for a two nights stay. During the journey we will encounter our first Moluccan endemics, with some excellent roadside birding.

Night: Foli Guesthouse, Foli

**October 4, Day 12: Foli.** The Foli area was made famous in David Attenborough’s birds of paradise film. This is the location of one of the display trees of the magnificent and rare Wallace’s Standardwing (or Standard-wing Bird of Paradise). This extraordinary bird of paradise only occurs on Halmahera and neighbouring Bacan and was for many years thought to be extinct until its rediscovery in the 1980s, and this is indeed our prime reason for visiting this site. As we wait under the tree at dawn, we will first hear the loud display calls as the first glimmers of light appear through the canopy. As the sun rises, the activity rapidly increases and gradually our monotone surroundings will gain colour as flashes of glistening green breast-shields and orange legs will be seen. Before we know it, we will be engrossed in the spectacular display going on just a few metres above us. Males, with white standards sticking out in all directions, call loudly and suddenly leap into the air before parachuting back down to their perch in the hope of attracting a rather drab female. When one appears, she causes a near riot as rival males tussle over the ultimate prize!

We will then spend the rest of the day searching for the many Halmahera endemics that occur here. The other main, very exciting, drawcard is the sensational Ivory-breasted Pitta which can be found in good numbers. Its wolf-whistle-like calls will echo around the forest and before too long we should be able to track down this most impressive species. Other hoped-for species include Variable Goshawk, Dusky Scrubfowl, Scarlet-breasted, Blue-capped and Grey-headed Fruit-Doves, Spectacled, Cinnamon-bellied and Pied Imperial Pigeons, White Cockatoo (still fairly common despite the ongoing forest clearance), Red-flanked Lorikeet, Chattering and Violet-necked Lories (both declining due to trapping), Moluccan Hanging-Parrot, Red-cheeked, Eclectus and Great-billed Parrots, Goliath Coucal, Blue-and-white and Sombre Kingfishers, Common Paradise-Kingfisher, Purple Roller, Blyth’s Hornbill, Moluccan, Halmahera and White-bellied Cuckoo-Shrikes, Rufous-bellied Triller, Golden Bulbul, Long-billed Crow, Paradise Crow (which is not a crow but a bird of paradise!), and Halmahera Oriole – Wallace’s famous friarbird mimic.

Night: Foli Guesthouse, Foli

**October 5, Day 13: Morning at Foli; return to Tobelo.** After a final morning at Foli, we will return to Tobelo. During the return trip we will keep our eyes open for any interesting seabirds or cetaceans. Species we have seen in the past include Red-footed Booby, Long-tailed Skua, Aleutian Tern, Spinner Dolphin and Short-finned Pilot Whale. This evening we will make an excursion to some volcanic black-sand beaches north of Tobelo. We will need to arrive after dark as our target species, the rare and seldom seen Moluccan Scrubfowl, comes to the beaches at night to lay its eggs. Numbers coming each night fluctuate greatly and we will need some luck to see one of these globally threatened birds illuminated in the spotlight beam.

Night: Tobelo Hotel

**October 6-7, Days 14-15: Tobelo to Sidangoli.** This morning we will drive back south to Sidangoli for two nights, birding as we travel. Although the habitat around Sidangoli has been systematically degraded in recent years, there are a number of species that are easier to find here than in the relatively intact habitats around Labi Labi. As well as having a second chance to look for any species we have missed so far, we will also be on the lookout for Pacific Reef Egret, Pacific Baza, the impressive Gurney’s Eagle, Brush Cuckoo, Beach and Variable Dwarf Kingfishers, Slaty and Shining Flycatchers, the delightful White-naped and Spectacled Monarchs, Willie

Wagtail, Common Golden Whistler, Flame-breasted Flowerpecker and the perky Cream-throated White-eye. With luck we will also find the rare Azure Roller (or Purple Dollarbird), although this species has become increasingly difficult to find in recent years.

Nights: Sidangoli Guest House, Sidangoli

**October 8-9, Days 16-17: Sidangoli to Ternate by boat; fly to Manado; drive to Tangkoko National Park.**

This morning we will return to Ternate then take a short flight to Manado then continue to Tangkoko National Park. This wonderful park of coastal and montane forest supports a good range of the region's endemic birds and we should see many spectacular Wallacean species such as Black-naped Fruit-Dove, the unusual Azure-rumped Parrot, Yellow-billed Malkoha, Sulawesi Dwarf Kingfisher or Ashy Woodpecker. This park boasts a huge population of the amazing Knobbed Hornbill as well as the unique primates - Crested Macaque and Spectral Tarsier, which we have an excellent chance of finding (and photographing) at dusk as they exit from their shelter in the huge fig trees that are a feature of this area. We'll also take a boat out to an area of mangroves in search of Black-billed Kingfisher, stopping to admire a beautiful pair of huge Sulawesi Owls in their traditional cave roost.

Nights: Pereng Benteng Resort

**October 10, Day 18: Travel from Tangkoko to Dumoga Bone.** Our next destination, Dumoga Bone offers equally exciting birding. After a fairly long but interesting drive we will explore the park and surrounding areas. We will cross the stream behind our accommodation and enter the lowland forest where we will search for Sulawesi Black Pigeon, the elusive Sulawesi Ground-Dove, Yellow-breasted Racquet-tail, Bay Coucal, Green-backed Kingfisher, Sulawesi Dwarf Hornbill and the simply stunning Red-bellied Pitta which is quite common here. At night spotlighting can be very rewarding with Sulawesi Scops Owl, Sulawesi Masked Owl and Ochre-bellied Hawk-Owl all recorded around the park headquarters.

Night: Dumoga-Bone Guest House

**October 11-12, Days 19-20: Dumoga-Bone.** Dumoga-Bone is primarily an area of lowland rainforest. Although there is also some montane forest on the slopes of the surrounding mountains. Here clear rivers rush through lush rainforest which, as in most of the country, is under severe pressure from human exploitation! At Tambun we will hope to find one of Sulawesi's most enigmatic birds – the Maleo. This large megapode uses geothermal heat to brood its eggs in this communal breeding ground and we have a very good chance of seeing the birds as they inspect their nests. Maleos lay their eggs colonially in the ground in areas where the soil is heated volcanically. This way the eggs can be left to incubate themselves completely unattended and the youngsters are able to fly strongly almost as soon as they come out of the egg! Unfortunately predation, especially by humans, takes a massive toll (almost all the nesting grounds are known to the local people). At Dumoga-Bone many of the eggs were, until recently, taken to be reared in the safety of a hatchery, ensuring a considerably higher success rate than in the wild. Unfortunately, the recent economic difficulties in Indonesia have led to such projects being closed down, or at least reduced in scale, making the future of this wonderful species highly precarious.

Other species we may well look for at Dumoga Bone include Lesser Fish Eagle, the unusual isolated population of Spotted Harrier, Buff-banded and Barred Rails, White-browed Crake, the beautiful Maroon-chinned and Black-naped Fruit Doves, Sulawesi Black Pigeon, the secretive Yellow-breasted Racquet-tail, Black-billed Koel, Bay Coucal, Lilac-cheeked, Great-billed and Sulawesi Dwarf Kingfishers, the dazzling Green-backed Kingfisher, the colourful Blue-breasted Pitta, and Pied Cuckoo-Shrike. With luck we will also find one of the park's scarcer inhabitants such as Sulawesi Ground-Dove or Red-backed Thrush. At dusk we should see the huge, harrier-like Great Eared Nightjar floating over the forest and at night we have a good chance of finding Sulawesi Masked Owl and Ochre-bellied Boobook as well as another chance to find the rather cute Speckled Boobook and Sulawesi Scops Owl.

Nights: Dumoga-Bone guest house

**October 13, Day 21: Morning at Dumoga-Bone drive back to Manado.** After a final morning at Dumoga-Bone we will drive back to Manado for an overnight stay. In the late afternoon and evening we will look for White-rumped Cuckoo-Shrike and the localized Sulawesi Nightjar, both of which are endemic to the Sulawesi region.

Night: Santika Premiere Seaside Resort, Manado

**October 14, Day 22: Departure home.** Today you will be transferred to the Manado International Airport (airport code MDC) for flights connecting through Jakarta homeward bound. Time permitted, we may do some last minute birding around the hotel this morning.

**EXTRA ARRANGEMENTS:** Should you wish to make arrangements to arrive early or extend your stay, please contact the VENT office at least two 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.

**PLEASE NOTE:** This tour itinerary depends closely on internal flights, which may change from the itinerary listed without notice. If this happens, the itinerary will be altered and we will take all reasonable precautions and actions to ensure the tour follows the advertised itinerary as closely as possible, with all of the special regions still being visited.

**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 Asia, including at least a dozen 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. 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. 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 (Burma), 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. Susan is the author of a new field guide to the birds of Borneo, published in mid 2009.

**FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS:** The fee for the tour is **\$8775** per person in double occupancy from Makassar, Sulawesi. This includes all meals from Dinner on Day 3 to Breakfast on Day 21, accommodations as stated in the itinerary, ground transportation during the tour, internal flights as stated in the itinerary (economy class), gratuities, and guide services provided by the tour leaders. It does not include airfare from your home to Makassar with return from Manado, Sulawesi, 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 **\$505**. 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.

**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.

**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.

**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, a cancellation fee of **\$250** per person will be charged unless the deposit is transferred to a new registration for another VENT tour that will operate within the next 12 months, in which case the cancellation fee will be **\$100** per person. 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. *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 \$250*
Fewer than 120 days before departure date	No refund available

\*Unless the deposit is transferred to a new registration for another VENT tour that will operate within the next 12 months, in which case the cancellation fee will be \$100 per person.

**TRIP 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.

**Medical insurance which covers you for emergency evacuation/repatriation during the trip is also recommended for this tour.** This coverage is included in the Worldwide Trip Protector plan offered by *Travel Insured International*. A good website for information and acquisition of emergency evacuation/repatriation insurance is: [www.insuremytrip.com](http://www.insuremytrip.com).

**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 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.

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. Twenty-four hour inexpensive laundry facilities are available at most of our accommodations.

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

**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 - 13 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.

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

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

**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 Discoveries 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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