ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

Indonesia

Remote West Papuan Islands Cruise I

24th October to 6th November 2021 (14 days)



Displaying Wilson's Bird-of-paradise by Glen Valentine

Our fabulous and exhilarating Remote West Papuan Island cruise sets out to explore a myriad of isolated islands in this exceptionally beautiful part of Indonesia. We start off with some initial birding in the forests close to Sorong, West Papua, before heading off to Waigeo (one of the famous islands in the Raja Ampat

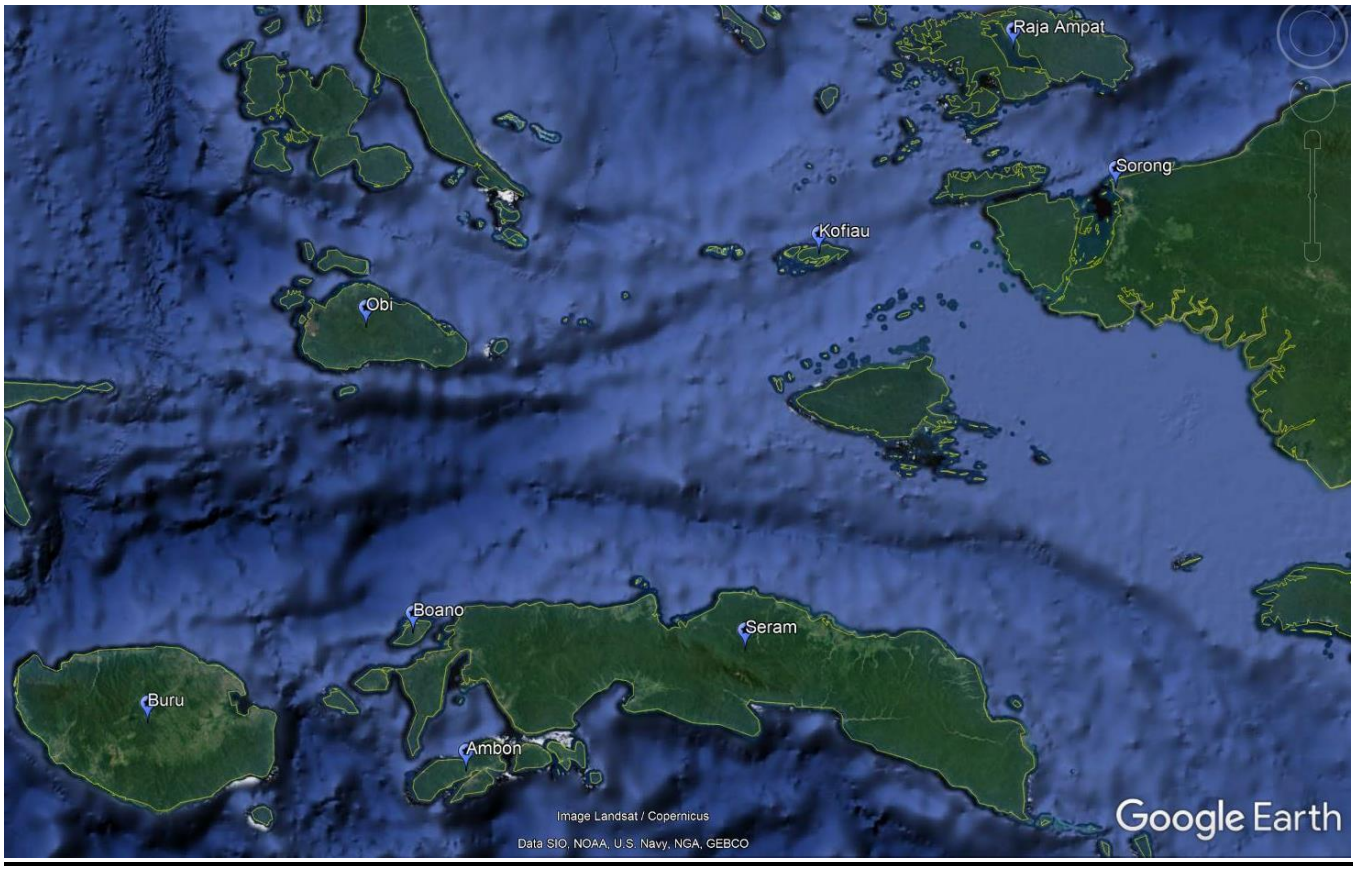
group) and then the very rarely-explored island of Kofiau, where will seek out some of our planet's rarest and least-known species. These include such extraordinary gems as Wilson's Bird-of-paradise (regarded by many as the most spectacular bird on earth!), Red and King Birds-of-paradise, Kofiau and Red-breasted Paradise Kingfishers, the stunning and rarely seen Blue-black Kingfisher and Kofiau Monarch. Thereafter we cross Lydekker's Line and head into the North Moluccas. Here we explore little-birded waters in addition to visiting the endemic-rich island of Obi for such delicacies as Carunculated Fruit Dove and Moluccan (Obi) Woodcock. Thereafter we continue south towards the Central Moluccan islands of Seram and Boano before ending in Ambon in search of an array of incredibly exciting endemics such as Salmon-crested Cockatoo, Lazuli Kingfisher, Purple-naped Lory, Seram Boobook, Long-crested Myna and Boano Monarch, to mention but a handful.

THE TOUR AT A GLANCE…

REMOTE WEST PAPUAN ISLAND CRUISE ITINERARY

Day 1	**Arrival in Sorong**
Day 2	**Morning birding on the Vogelkop (Bird's Head); PM birding Sorong Mangroves**
Day 3	**AM birding Vogelkop; PM sail to Waigeo**
Days 4 & 5	**Waigeo and other Raja Ampat Islands**
Day 6	**Raja Ampat Islands to Kofiau Island**
Day 7	**Kofiau Island to Obi Island**
Day 8	**Obi Island**
Day 9	**Obi Island to Seram Island**
Days 10 to 12	**Seram Island**
Day 13	**Boano Island**
Day 14	**Ambon Island and depart**

TOUR ROUTE MAP…



THE TOUR IN DETAIL…

Day 1: Arrival in Sorong and PM birding on the Vogelkop (Bird's Head). Today has essentially been set aside as an arrival day in the city of Sorong, located on the extreme western tip of New Guinea. We will have time to get settled into our very comfortable and elegant hotel but those who arrive before midday will have the opportunity for some introductory New Guinea birding at a nearby forest site this afternoon before a welcome dinner tonight. This afternoon we are already likely to encounter a number of exciting New Guinea species, while birding along a gravel road in the forested hills about a forty-minute drive from our hotel in Sorong. The birding here can be excellent, even in the afternoon and we can expect to see noteworthy species such as Olive-crowned Flowerpecker, Black-browed Triller, Yellow-billed Kingfisher, Rufous-bellied Kookaburra, Pinon's and Zoe's Imperial Pigeons, Sultan's Cuckoo-Dove (recently split from the widespread Brown Cuckoo-Dove), Orange-bellied Fruit Dove, Brush Cuckoo, Uniform and Glossy Swiftlets, Red-cheeked Parrot, the tiny Yellow-capped Pygmy Parrot, Tawny-breasted Honeyeater, Green-backed Gerygone, Grey-headed Cuckooshrike, brilliant Golden and Frilled Monarchs, Black and Olive-backed Sunbirds, Metallic Starling, Yellow-faced Myna and the migratory Grey-streaked Flycatcher during the course of the afternoon. A superb introduction indeed! This evening we return to our hotel in town for a welcome dinner.

Day 2: Morning birding on the Vogelkop (Bird's Head); PM birding Sorong Mangroves. This morning we head out early to the same forest that we visited yesterday afternoon but as is so often the case with New

Guinea forest birding one can expect a whole suite of different species from one day to the next. We will be looking out for all of the species mentioned for yesterday afternoon as well as a host of possible new and exciting ones. Here we will encounter a spectrum of wooded habitats ranging from scrub and secondary forest to primary moist lowland and hill forest. Most of our birding will be from an easily drivable road that bisects the birding habitat, thus affording us an opportunity to encounter a fair selection of mainland New Guinea species.



Orange-fronted Fruit Dove by Rob Leslie

Some of the birds we may encounter over-and-above what was mentioned for yesterday afternoon include Pacific Baza, Grey-headed Goshawk, a wonderful range of fruit doves including Wompoo, Superb, Pink-spotted, Beautiful and Dwarf Fruit Doves, as well as Purple-tailed Imperial Pigeon, Blyth's Hornbill, Palm and Sulphur-crested Cockatoos, the rare and localized Black Lory (virtually endemic to Vogelkop), the radiant Eclectus Parrots, Red-flanked Lorikeet, Black-capped Lory, Double-eyed Fig Parrot, Papuan Spine-tailed Swift, Grey Crow, Brown Oriole and the sneaky Rusty Mouse-warbler.

There are also a number of other great birds about including a wide range of honeyeaters such as the attractive Spotted, Green-backed, Plain and outrageous Long-billed Honeyeaters, as well as several confusing *meliphaga* honeyeaters like Mimic, Puff-backed and Scrub Honeyeaters. We also hope to find the wonderfully vocal Hooded and Black Butcherbirds, Golden and Boyer's Cuckooshrikes, the low-density Dwarf Koel, Shining Flycatcher (Monarch), Northern Fantail, Glossy-mantled Manucode (bird-of-paradise indeed!) and the extremely scarce Streak-headed Mannikin. If we are extremely fortunate, we may even encounter the very rare and declining Pesquet's (New Guinea Vulturine) Parrot squawking by overhead in the early morning.



Pinon's Imperial Pigeon by Adam Riley

We then head back to our hotel for lunch with time to freshen up before our afternoon excursion to the nearby Sorong Mangroves. Our recent surveys have shown that a few very special birds have been found to occur here including the rarely encountered Blue-black Kingfisher and Barred Rail while we also stand reasonable chances at finding gems such as Little Kingfisher, Collared Imperial Pigeon, Orange-breasted Fig Parrot (could possibly be split off as Blue-fronted Fig Parrot in future), Buff-banded Rail, Eastern Osprey, the sumptuous Emperor Fairywren, Black Butcherbird, New Guinea Friarbird, Orange-fronted Fruit Dove, Brown-backed Honeyeater, Little Bronze Cuckoo and Large-billed Gerygone.

Day 3: AM birding Vogelkop, PM sail to Raja Ampat Islands. This morning we will make our way north-east along the coastline from Sorong and then slightly inland into in area of extensive, primary lowland rainforest that heartwarmingly still blankets much of the Vogelkop (Bird's Head) area. We will spend the entire morning searching for several species that are mostly restricted to lowland primary forest habitat and are either absent or rare at yesterday morning's forest site.



Rufous-bellied Kookaburra by Rob Leslie

The bird activity along the well-maintained but quiet road through this beautiful and verdant forest can be quite exceptional just after dawn with many of the species listed for yesterday morning being present and obtrusive. These will hopefully be supplemented by a number of highly sought-after species such as noisy flocks of Papuan Babbler, Black Cicadabird, the recently split Southern Variable Pitohui, Ruby-throated and Dusky Myzomela, Large Fig Parrot, Wallace's Fairywren, Magnificent Riflebird (more likely heard than seen), Lowland Peltops, Golden Myna, Pacific Koel, the impressive Channel-billed Cuckoo, the furtive Black-billed Coucal, Papuan Mountain Pigeon and Magnificent Bird-of-paradise.

In the mid-morning we will head into the forest along a very indistinct trail and try our luck at a number of rare, tricky and mouth-watering forest interior species that could include the very rarely seen Red-breasted Paradise Kingfisher, as well as Spot-winged Monarch (a valuable comparison for later when we hopefully see the Kofiau Monarch), Rufous-backed Fantail, Papuan Dwarf Kingfisher, the incredible King Bird-of-paradise, the secretive Black-sided Robin and Papuan Pitta (recently split from Red-bellied/Blue-breasted Pitta).

If we are extremely fortunate, we may even encounter one or two of the area's much rarer species such as the very rare Yellow-gaped Honeyeater, Blue-black Kingfisher, Tawny Straightbill, unobtrusive Coroneted Fruit Dove, Lesser Bird-of-paradise and the almost-impossible-to-see Red-billed Brushturkey.



King Bird-of-paradise by Stephan Lorenz

After what should be an incredible morning's birding in one of the island's most intact and beautiful forests, we will head through to the harbor where we will board our ship and have the afternoon to settle in and enjoy a well-deserved lunch, as we set sail for the Raja Ampat Islands and specifically the picturesque and endlessly forested island of Waigeo.

Days 4 & 5: Raja Ampat Islands. On our first morning here we will make an early start



Pair of Red Bird-of-Paradise by K. David Bishop

with a pre-dawn landing on the south coast of Waigeo. Awaiting vehicles will then drive us inland along a wonderfully forested track to a series of hides/blinds especially erected to permit us to observe one of the most beautiful birds on Earth – displaying Wilson's Bird-of-paradise! No longer do we have to climb a brutally steep hill for three hours in order to sit and hope that this remarkable bird attends just one display lek located on a steep hillside as was the case in the past on the neighboring Batanta Island. We will permit ourselves plenty of time to relax and really enjoy this fabulous bird, and for the photographers amongst us, this will be the opportunity of a lifetime! To sit in the hides watching these gorgeous birds, while Blyth's Hornbills and Sulphur-crested and Palm Cockatoos call overhead along with a supporting cast of imperial pigeons, Common Paradise Kingfishers and Hooded Butcherbirds all vocalizing, duetting and displaying in the surrounding forest, is a fabulously evocative experience and certainly one of the major highlights of this entire tour. Once we are fully satiated with the Wilson's Bird-of-paradise, we will spend the rest of the morning birding along a lovely forested road with little or no traffic to disturb us. Here we will be targeting the scarce and strangely range-restricted and patchily distributed Brown-headed Crow, as well as the vociferous and fairly common Raja Ampat Pitohui (a recent split from Variable Pitohui). As the day heats up and bird activity diminishes, we will retreat to the coolness and comfort of our ship, affording us an opportunity to rest, relax, clean up and reflect on what should have been a very special morning indeed!

For the remainder of our time in the Raja Ampats we have seemingly endless options thanks to the flexibility of our vessel, enabling us to explore a range of small, offshore islands and habitats, as well as other parts of the extensive Waigeo Island.



Raja Ampat Islands Scenery by Glen Valentine

Our second morning will also be spent on Waigeo with a pre-dawn owling option where we stand a good chance of seeing Papuan Boobook and Marbled Frogmouth and with a hefty dose of luck, the rare and elusive Wallace's Owlet-nightjar. At dawn we will likely visit a display tree for the spectacular Red Bird-of-paradise. We will position ourselves on the wooden benches that have been perfectly built near the base of this tree and patiently wait for our

quarry to perform. We are hoping to obtain amazing views and photographs of these stunning birds as they call and display in the branches above us. Other quality species that we might encounter this morning after we are completely satisfied with our Red Bird-of-paradise experience include Papuan Dwarf and Hook-billed Kingfishers, Black Berrypecker, Golden Monarch, Pale-billed Scrub Wren, Yellow-breasted Boatbill, Pygmy Longbill, Olive Flyrobin, Moustached Treeswift, Great Cuckoo-Dove, Palm Cockatoo, Black-sided Robin and even an outside chance for very rare and seldom-seen species like Western Crowned Pigeon, White-eared Catbird and New Guinea Bronzewing.



Western Crowned Pigeon by Glen Valentine

On our first afternoon we will also take a boat trip through some scenically spectacular habitat where Limestone Karst formations rise out of the water creating a myriad of small islands that make for worthwhile exploration. Visually this is a wonderful way to spend the afternoon and we will also have excellent chances at finding a few noteworthy birds such as Spice Imperial Pigeon, Violet-necked Lory (possibly split in future as Scaled Lory), Beach Kingfisher, Pacific Reef Heron and White-bellied Sea Eagle with the impressive but scarce Great-billed Heron even being possible. Nicobar Pigeon is also known to occasionally inhabit these small islands but we would need to be rather fortunate to find this species. As the day draws to a close one of the outstanding highlights will be watching over 300 Great-billed Parrots coming into roost at one of these idyllic offshore islands.



Kofiau Paradise Kingfisher by Alasdair Hunter

On our second afternoon we will move over to the small island of Kri, which is well known in diving circles as a spectacular underwater site. We will have an opportunity to enjoy some memorable snorkeling in this area before heading onto the island itself for its avian specialty, the Dusky Megapode. This species can be difficult to connect with in other parts of its range as they are generally rather shy, however at Kri they are somewhat used to the presence of people making them a bit easier to observe. During our afternoon stroll through the dive resort grounds we may also find the localized Waigeo Cuscus, as well as Glossy-mantled Manucode, Hooded Butcherbird and Variable Goshawk.

This evening we begin sailing towards our last remaining islands of the Raja Ampats and these are the tiny islands of Agusta and Merpati where we will arrive in time for early morning birding.

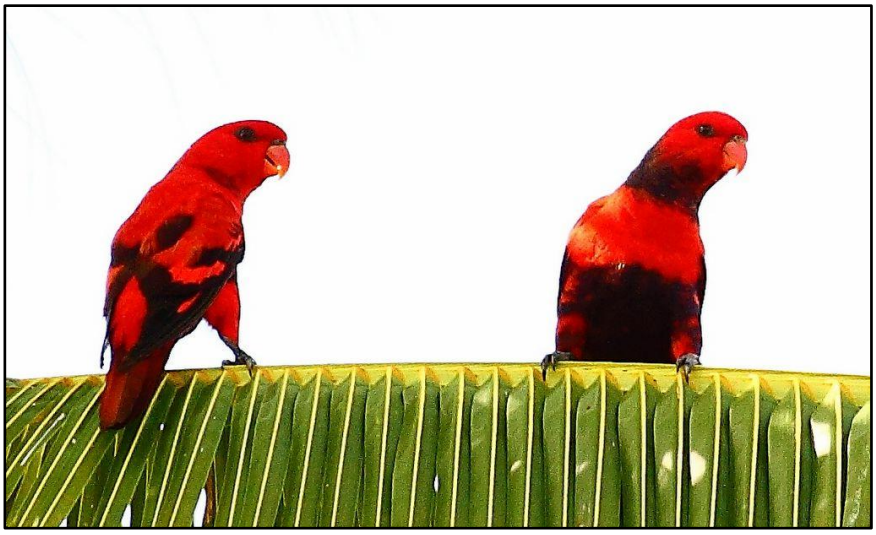
Day 6: Raja Ampat Islands to Kofiau Island. This morning we will have the unique opportunity to explore the wonderful and idyllic islands of Agusta and neighboring Merpati. We have special permission to land on and walk around the small island of Agusta where a number of small island/"supertramp" species can be found such as Violet-necked (Scaled) Lory, Olive and Varied Honeyeaters, Arafura Fantail (recently split from Rufous Fantail), Moluccan Starling, Lemon-bellied White-eye and the most special species of all, the incredibly localized and little-known Island Whistler, before departing in the early afternoon for Kofiau.



Island Whistler by Glen Valentine

During our cruise we will be sailing through waters that are rarely if ever visited by birders, which makes these crossings extremely exciting indeed. Some of the seabirds we will be looking out for include Bulwer's Petrel, Streaked and Wedge-tailed Shearwaters, Great and Lesser Frigatebirds, Brown Booby, and a great variety of terns including Black-naped, Bridled and Sooty Terns and Black and Brown Noddies. We should also encounter large numbers of Red-necked Phalarope wintering on these seas. In previous year's visits we have had some exciting surprises, including Christmas Frigatebird, Abbott's Booby, and Indonesia's first Beck's Petrel. While we don't expect to see any of these species, who knows what we could find!

Cetaceans are even less known and we will attempt to find and identify as many of these magnificent mammals as possible in what is a virtually unknown region for this group. The most common species seem to be Indo-pacific Bottlenose, Spinner and Pantropical Spotted Dolphins and Short-finned Pilot Whales while we have also recorded many other species including Sperm Whale, Dwarf Sperm Whale, Fraser's and Rough-toothed Dolphin, Melon-headed Whale, False Killer Whale and even the recently described Omura's Whale. We would be extremely fortunate to see any of these species but will certainly be on the lookout!



Violet-necked (Scaled) Lory by Glen Valentine

In the late afternoon or early evening, we shall arrive at the island of Kofiau, a tiny island almost half-way between the Raja Ampats and the southern tip of Halmahera. This island has virtually been unexplored by birders over the last century other than recent visits by Rockjumper during our West Papuan Island Cruises. The island hosts two known endemics: the spectacular Kofiau Paradise Kingfisher and the black-and-white

Kofiau Monarch, as well as a number of other exciting species and subspecies and will make for an exhilarating morning's birding tomorrow.



Olive Honeyeater by Glen Valentine

Day 7: Kofiau Island to Obi Island. We have the entire morning to explore the little-known island of Kofiau. David Bishop, together with Jared Diamond were the first field biologists to explore this island back in the mid 1980's and their work has recently been published in a scientific journal. Our recent trips have also been able to find the two fabulous endemics – Kofiau Paradise Kingfisher and Kofiau Monarch, so our chances of seeing these two incredibly range-restricted birds are excellent.

In addition to these specialties, we will also search for a good variety of other quality species that include Spotted Kestrel, Spectacled Imperial Pigeon, Variable Goshawk, the gorgeous Claret-breasted Fruit Dove, the island form of White-bibbed Fruit Dove (recently split by some authorities as Moluccan or Small Island Fruit Dove), the gaudy Violet-necked (Scaled) Lory, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, the migrant Channel-billed Cuckoo, Sacred Kingfisher, Oriental Dollarbird, Hooded Pitta, White-bellied Cuckooshrike, New Guinea Friarbird, Common Cicadabird, Black-browed Triller, Large-billed Gerygone, Northern Fantail, Spangled Drongo (possibly Kofiau Spangled Drongo in future), Great-billed and Eclectus Parrots, the miniscule Yellow-capped Pygmy Parrot, Black and Olive-backed (Sahul if split) Sunbirds, possibly Black-faced Munia, Little Bronze Cuckoo and Torresian Crow. On our 2017 trip we were delighted to find three almost unknown raptor species for Kofiau and these were Pygmy Eagle, Grey-faced Buzzard and Chinese Sparrowhawk, which again emphasizes the lack of ornithological surveying in this remote corner of the globe and highlights the potential for further exciting discoveries. We then head back onto our ship for lunch and commence our cruise to the equally little-known island of Obi.



Scarlet-breasted Fruit Dove by David Hoddinott

Day 8: Obi Island. Aside from early collectors and a team of students who recently spent several weeks on the island, very few birding groups have ever visited the island of Obi until 2016 when our first tour took place.

Having travelled westwards and crossed Lydekker's Line, we are now fully within the realm of Wallacea. Located in the very center of the Moluccas, Obi hosts two very special and poorly-known endemics: the

peculiar Carunculated Fruit Dove, and very recently rediscovered Moluccan (Obi) Woodcock. We will attempt to seek out both species in addition to a suite of other specials such as Blue-and-white Kingfisher, Moluccan Cuckoo (recently split from Brush Cuckoo), the rare and declining Chattering Lory, Red-flanked Lorikeet, Scarlet-breasted, Superb and Black-naped Fruit Doves, Cinnamon-bellied and Spectacled Imperial Pigeons, Oriental Hobby, Spotted (Indonesian) Kestrel, North Moluccan Pitta (recently split from Red-bellied/Blue-breasted Pitta), the rare and shy Moluccan Dwarf Kingfisher (recently split from Variable Dwarf Kingfisher), the endemic *rubrotincta* race of Dusky Myzomela, Black-chinned (split from Golden) and Cinnamon-bellied (Obi) Whistlers, the handsome Rufous-bellied Triller, the peculiar Paradise-crow (another odd bird of paradise that is split by some authorities as an Obi endemic), Moluccan Monarch, Moluccan Flycatcher, Hair-crested (Obi Spangled if split) Drongo, Northern Golden Bulbul (sometimes split from the Halmahera version as an Obi endemic), Northern Fantail (possibly split in future as Obi Northern Fantail), (Obi) Spangled Drongo and Halmahera Flowerpecker.



Cinnamon-breasted (Obi) Whistler by Alasdair Hunter

We will also have one evening to spend a bit of time trying to find Barking Owl, Moluccan Scops Owl and Large-tailed Nightjar.

Day 9: Obi Island to Seram Island. We have most of the morning to bird this exceptional little island for any species we may still need or desire better views of. At around midday we will begin cruising southwards towards the north coast of Seram, where we will spend several exciting days searching for an exceptional array of very rare and special species, most of them endemic to Seram.



Blue-and-white Kingfisher by K. David Bishop

Days 10 to 12: Seram Island. Anchoring and landing at Sawai, we have three full days in which to explore the rather large, mountainous island of Seram, in addition to an offshore island or two that we will visit using small boats.

Much of the area we will be birding during our time on Seram is within the important conservation area of Manusela National Park, which encompasses Seram's highest mountain Gunung (Gng.) Binaia at 3 057m. Most of our time will be spent birding along an impressive road that crosses the island from north to south and ascends to about 1250m in elevation, thereby permitting us a

chance for a very large percentage of Seram's endemic birds, including some of its very poorly-known high elevation specialties.



Carunculated Fruit Dove by Glen Valentine

Some of Seram's most desirable endemics include the likes of the spectacular and severely threatened Salmon-crested Cockatoo, the strikingly unique Long-crested Myna, Violet Crow and Lazuli Kingfisher. All of these species are best searched for in the lowland forests closer to Sawai and we stand a very good chance of seeing all of them during our time on the island. Other Seram specialties that we will be on the lookout for in the lowland forest zone but are not restricted to this elevation include the stunning Red Lory, Seram Swiftlet, Moluccan Cuckooshrike, Pale Cicadabird, Seram Golden Bulbul, (Seram) Spangled Drongo, Grey-collared Oriole, Seram Imperial Pigeon, Seram Friarbird, Moluccan Flycatcher and Ashy Flowerpecker. In the lower elevation forest, we may also encounter more widespread but nonetheless interesting species such as Pacific Baza, Common Emerald Dove, Claret-breasted Fruit Dove, Great-billed, Eclectus and Red-cheeked Parrots, Coconut Lorikeet, Metallic and Moluccan Starlings and Spectacled Monarch.

The majority of our time on Seram will be spent in the mountains where the bulk of the island's really difficult and least known species occur. Many of them are easier at higher elevations above 1500m, however with no access to this elevation we will need to keep a careful lookout for species such as Blue-eared Lory, Seram Honeyeater and Grey-hooded White-eye at the highest pass along the Trans Seram Highway. Many other quality species also occur here and we have high hopes of finding the rare and endemic Purple-naped Lory – unfortunately a highly prized species for the cage bird trade, which has been extensively trapped here for many years - Drab and Wakolo (Seram) Myzomela, the extremely scarce Rufous-necked Sparrowhawk, Seram Mountain Pigeon, Moluccan King Parrot, Moluccan Cuckoo, Island Leaf Warbler (possibly split as Seram Leaf Warbler in future), the very secretive and elusive Chestnut-backed Bush Warbler (the race on Seram could be split off as Seram Grasshopper Warbler), the seldom-seen Moluccan Dwarf Kingfisher (recently split from Variable Dwarf Kingfisher), Streak-breasted Fantail, the scarce and unobtrusive Cinnamon-chested Flycatcher, Drab and Yellow-throated Whistlers, Turquoise Flycatcher,



Raja Ampat Sunset by Glen Valentine

uncommon Rufescent Dark-eye and Seram White-eye. We would need an extraordinary dose of fortune though to see all of the above-mentioned species as there are a number of rare and elusive Seram mountain denizens mentioned in that list but we'll certainly try our best to find as many of them as possible. We will also require a similar amount of luck to come across the near-mythical Seram Thrush, which is a high-altitude species about which very little is known.



Salmon-crested Cockatoo by Alasdair Hunter

Nocturnal species that will be on our radar include the endemic Seram Boobook the rare and little-known Moluccan Masked Owl (the race on Seram might be a unique endemic to the island) and Moluccan Scops Owl. We are also likely to encounter the introduced Northern Common Cuscus during our nighttime forays.

During our time at Seram we will also use our boat's tender to visit a tern roost on an exposed sandbar. As many as ten different species of tern have been recorded in this bay and it is the only known wintering site in Indonesia of the critically endangered Chinese Crested Tern. We would need to have a huge amount of luck to see this much wanted bird, as only a single individual has ever been seen here and its presence seems to be intermittent. We will give it our best shot!

Day 13: Boano Island. We should arrive at Boano Island by mid-morning and will immediately head ashore to begin our search for the little known Black-chinned (Boano) Monarch. We have the entire day in which to seek out this endemic species, which has only recently been rediscovered. Other species such as Island Monarch and Northern Fantail (here a possible future split as Seram Fantail) can also be found, along with the migratory and rather skulking Gray's Grasshopper Warbler. This evening we will return to our vessel for a final celebratory dinner together while we slowly set sail towards the island of Ambon.



Seram Boobook by Glen Valentine

Day 14: Ambon Island and depart. We plan to arrive in Ambon just after dawn this morning. We should therefore have ample time to bird a remnant patch of forest to search for the endemic Ambon White-eye, in addition to further chances for species such as Claret-breasted Fruit Dove, Moluccan Flycatcher, Spectacled Monarch, Northern (Seram) Fantail, Island Monarch and Ashy Flowerpecker. Thereafter those heading home will transfer back to the ship to freshen up in the late morning before making their

way to the airport to connect with their onward flights home. Those continuing on the Buru Extension will drive a short distance to a small lake where we can enjoy some easy, open-habitat birding. This productive little water-body is likely to produce a number of new trip birds, although most of them will be widespread species. These include Australasian and Tricolored Grebes, Little Black Cormorant, Pacific Golden Plover, Red-necked Stint, Oriental Pratincole, Gull-billed Tern and Eastern Yellow Wagtail. Thereafter we will return to the ship to enjoy lunch on board. There will also be time this afternoon to pack and freshen up on board before to the exciting and endemic-filled island of Buru.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS:

Tour dates, prices, single supplement rates, approximate flight costs and spaces available for this tour are displayed on our website. Please see under IMPORTANT NOTES below.

This includes:

- All meals from lunch on day 1 to breakfast on day 14;
- Bottled or filtered (on the ship) drinking water;
- All lodgings with 2 nights at a hotel in Sorong and 11 nights on our Liveaboard.;
- Ground transportation at various island stops;
- All activities mentioned in the itinerary;
- Reserve entrance fees and landing permits;
- Local land owner fees;
- West Papua police travel permits;
- Landing fees; and
- All guiding services (including tips for local guides and services.)

The tour fee does not include:

- Visa fees;
- **ANY flights** (see above);
- Any beverages;
- Camera fees;
- Special gratuities; and
- Telephone calls, laundry and other items of a personal nature.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

a) Due to constantly fluctuating exchange rates, we quote our tours in 4 currencies. The tour price is however fixed only in the currency printed in bold, and the actual cost in the other currencies listed will be adjusted according to prevailing exchange rates at the time of final invoicing (usually 4 months before the tour.) The same applies to approximate flight and single supplement rates, which are also quoted in the respective fixed currency.

b) Rates are based upon group tariffs; if the tour does not have sufficient participants, a small party supplement will have to be charged.

c) Furthermore, these costs are subject to unforeseen increases in tour related costs and may have to be adjusted as a result.

d) Lastly, we may be forced to change or alter the itinerary and / or the designated Rockjumper leader/s at short or no notice due to unforeseen circumstances; please be aware that we will attempt to adhere as close to the original program as possible.

Tipping: As noted above, gratuities (drivers, hotel staff, restaurants, ship's captain and crew etc.) are included on this tour. However, this does NOT include your Rockjumper leader/s. If, therefore, you feel that he/they have given you excellent service, it is entirely appropriate to tip them.

Special Notes:

- Our time off the ship includes boat cruises and light-to-moderate walking and hiking in refuges and preserves. Physical demands will be easy to moderate, but please bear in mind that our land excursions may involve a moderate amount of walking and standing. We emphasize that no one will be subjected to physical demands that exceed their capabilities. All walking will be done at a slow pace. If you have any physical limitations or medical conditions of any sort, please do let the Rockjumper office know in advance.
- We will be birding in some remote areas well away from modern medical facilities.
- Your trip to Indonesia will be a moderately paced, but full travel experience in which birding activities are combined with relaxing cruise time. This trip offers considerable exposure to a seldom-visited part of the world, but with a clear emphasis on observing as many of the region's endemic and special birds as possible, as well as enjoying the scenic wonders of the islands we'll be visiting.
- Most days in the lowlands will be hot, dry and sunny, but overcast conditions are fairly frequent and some rain, heavy at times, can be expected in the afternoons. In montane areas it will range from very cool to warm. Humidity levels in the lowlands are often rather high.
- There will be limited opportunities for swimming and snorkelling at select sites along the cruise route. Our vessel is fully equipped with fins, masks and snorkels free of charge. Participants who prefer to bring their own equipment are welcome to do so, but should be aware of the weight this adds to their luggage.
- With early starts, some long days in the field are to be expected.

ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE DETAILS:

This tour **does not** include **ANY** airfares. The tour will depart from Sorong Airport (IATA: SOQ), West Papua on day 1 of the main tour. (**NOTE: Most flights to Sorong Airport are scheduled from, or via Makassar (IATA: UPG).** The cruise will conclude at Pattimura Airport, Ambon (IATA: AMQ) on day 13.

The above information in respect of arrivals and departures is a guide only. Precise arrival and departure information will be sent to you in your Tour Confirmation package once the tour has been officially confirmed. If you wish to arrive early and/or depart late and would like assistance in this regard, kindly contact the Rockjumper office.

FLIGHTS:

Jakarta and Bali are generally the main ports of entry for international flights into Indonesia. However, Sultan Hasanuddin International Airport, Makassar (IATA: UPG) is the preferred airport for connecting flights on this tour. The recommended route is to fly from Changi Airport, Singapore (IATA: SIN) direct to Makassar, Indonesia (IATA: UPG) on Silk Air. We have the capacity to advise you on the best route according to your preferences, but your local travel agent will best be able to book these flights for you. **IMPORTANT: please DO NOT book your international flights until you have consulted the Rockjumper office for confirmation on the status of the tour.**