ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

Indonesia

Buru Extension I

5th November to 10th November 2022 (6 days)



Black-tipped (Buru) Monarch by Glen Valentine

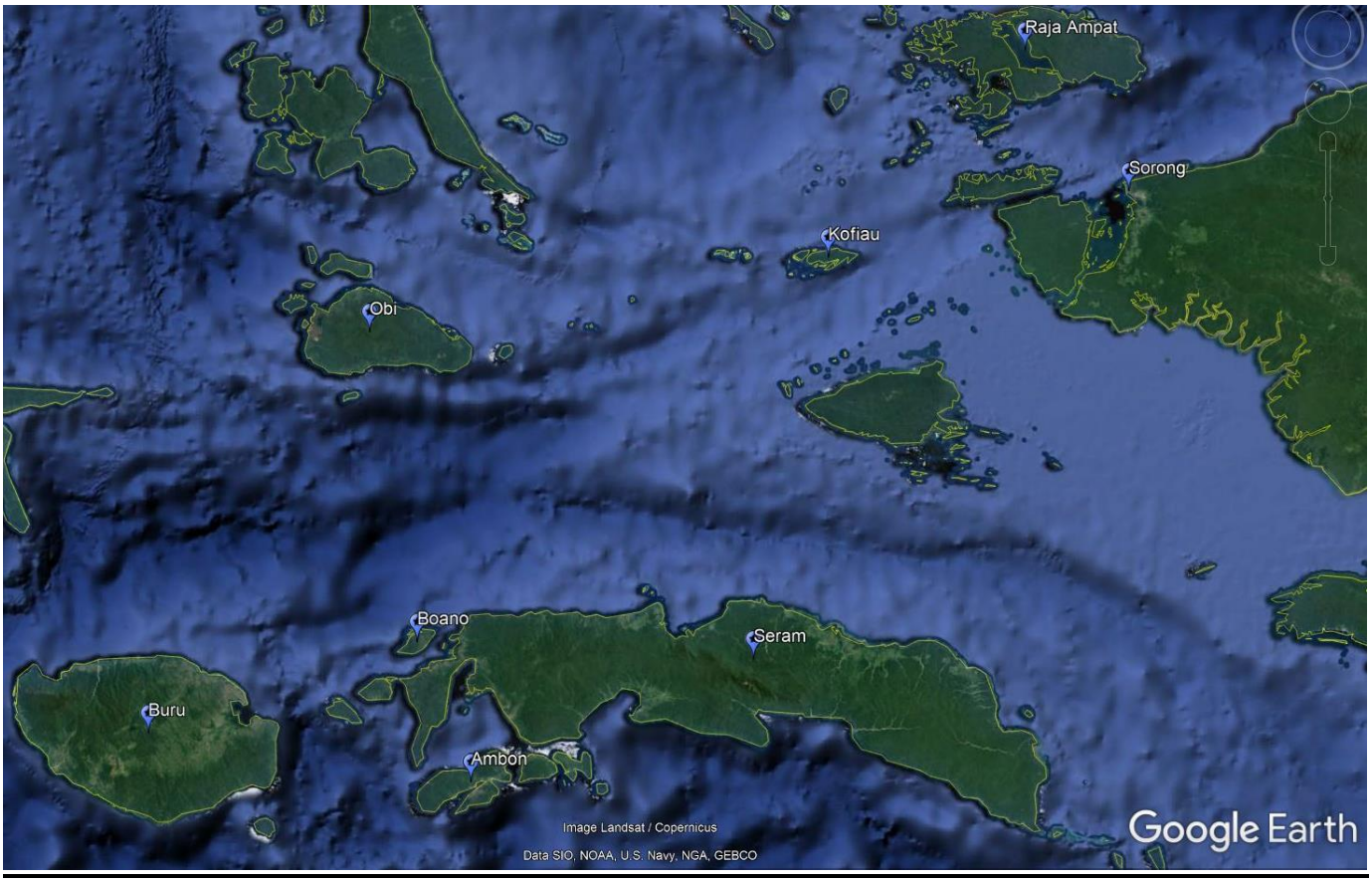
Our Buru Extension explores a beautifully forested island hosting up to 24 avian endemics including the little known Madanga!!! Other quality species include Buru Green Pigeon, Buru Mountain Pigeon, superb Buru Racket-tail, Moluccan King Parrot, Moluccan Masked Owl, Buru Thrush, Black-tipped Monarch, Buru Cuckooshrike, Buru Honeyeater and Tawny-backed Fantail among many others, and if we are very lucky, we may even find a supreme rarity such as the reputedly nocturnal Black-lored Parrot!

THE TOUR AT A GLANCE…

BURU EXTENSION ITINERARY

Day 1	**Ambon to Buru Island**
Days 2, 3 & 4	**Birding Buru Island**
Day 5	**Buru Island to Ambon and afternoon on Haruku Island**
Day 6	**Ambon Island and departure**

TOUR ROUTE MAP…



THE TOUR IN DETAIL…



Flame-breasted (Buru) Flowerpecker by Glen Valentine

Day 1: Ambon to Buru. Whilst in Ambon today, we will drive a short distance to search for the island's endemic Ambon White-eye at a remnant forest, as well as other species such as Claret-breasted Fruit Dove, Moluccan Flycatcher, Spectacled Monarch, Northern (Seram) Fantail, Island Monarch and Ashy Flowerpecker. Later on we will continue on to a small lake where we can enjoy some easy, open-habitat birding. This productive water-body is likely to produce a number of new trip birds, such as Australasian and Tricolored Grebes, Little Black Cormorant, Pacific Golden Plover, Red-necked Stint, Oriental Pratincole, Gull-billed Tern and Eastern Yellow Wagtail. In the late afternoon we will head back to our vessel for an early dinner before transferring to the ferry terminal for this evening's crossing to Buru.

Days 2, 3 & 4: Birding Buru Island. Buru is an oval-shaped, non-volcanic island that encompasses some 8 500 sq. km. This island is the third largest of the Maluku Islands after Halmahera and Seram. Once a political prison island, Buru has until recently been very difficult to visit, especially for a birder wandering around with binoculars! Happily, all that has changed and Buru is now a fabulous destination for the adventurous world-birder. Much of eastern Buru is relatively flat and, unfortunately, as is so often the case in the tropical lowlands, much of this area has been cleared and converted into farmland. We will therefore concentrate our attentions on the central and mountainous western half of the island where large expanses of relatively pristine montane forest still remain.

Our birding on Buru will focus on both the lowland and highland forest areas and each of these core areas support a different suite of specialties.



Buru Thrush by K. David Bishop

In the lowlands near the town of Bara, we will visit a remnant area of lowland forest where we will target such gems as the pretty Black-tipped Monarch, Buru Golden Bulbul, (Buru if split) Spangled Drongo, Black-faced Friarbird, Black-eared Oriole, South Moluccan Pitta, the scarce and shy Buru Dwarf Kingfisher (recently split from the once widespread Variable Dwarf Kingfisher) and Flame-breasted Flowerpecker. This is also one of the only known accessible areas on



Buru Green Pigeon by Glen Valentine

the island for the rare Buru Green Pigeon, which usually requires much patience, careful scanning and a fair dose of luck to find.

Here we may also find Amboyna Cuckoo-Dove, Variable Goshawk, Eastern Osprey, Black Eagle, Superb and Claret-breasted Fruit Doves, Spectacled Imperial Pigeon, Dusky Megapode (occasionally split off as Forsten's Megapode), Coconut Lorikeet, Red-cheeked Parrot, Moluccan Cuckoo, Pacific Koel, Lesser Coucal, Seram Swiftlet, Moustached Treeswift, Pale Cicadabird (a Moluccan endemic), Moluccan Flycatcher, Northern Fantail (a potential split as Buru Fantail), Black Sunbird, the regionally unique sub-species of Olive-backed (Sahul) Sunbird which is occasionally split as Black-breasted or Clamentia's Sunbird, and Black-faced Munia. Palearctic migrants are few and far between at this time of the year but we could still turn up something interesting such as a Chinese Sparrowhawk.

During the next three days with the aid of four-wheel-drive vehicles and some rather early starts, we will venture along well-made but now disused logging track into some fine upland forest that may take us to elevations of 1 400m or higher. Here, amidst some truly lovely forest, we will search for some of the least known birds in all of Wallacea: These include Buru Mountain Pigeon, Buru Racket-tail, South Moluccan Pitta, Wakolo Myzomela (the sub-species on Buru likely to be split as Buru Myzomela), the scarce and nomadic Buru Honeyeater, White-naped Monarch, the low-density Buru Cuckooshrike, Buru and Mountain White-eyes, the dapper Tawny-backed Fantail, shy and elusive Buru Thrush, scarce Buru Dwarf Kingfisher, Island Leaf Warbler (likely to be split as Buru Leaf Warbler), Streak-breasted Jungle (Warbling) Flycatcher, unobtrusive and scarce Cinnamon-chested Flycatcher, Chestnut-backed Bush Warbler (probably a good split as Buru Grasshopper Warbler), Yellow-throated (split from Australian Golden) and Drab Whistlers and Flame-breasted Flowerpecker. During nocturnal forays we will attempt to find two rare and little-known owls – Moluccan Masked Owl and the deep-forest dwelling Buru Boobook (a very recent split of Hantu Boobook that otherwise only occurs on the neighbouring island of Seram), while other possibilities include the lovely Moluccan Scops Owl and Large-tailed Nightjar.



Buru Golden Bulbul by Glen Valentine

Buru is also known for its rarities that include the almost unknown Blue-fronted Lorikeet (seen for the first time in many years in 2014) and the mythical Black-lored Parrot (only recently observed in the wild for the first time, it is thought to be largely nocturnal). We will also make a big effort to find the Madanga – initially thought to be a white-eye of sorts but now included with the pipits



Madanga by David and Judy Smith

and wagtails. This species is certainly different and may well even warrant unique family status! The Madanga was virtually unknown as a living bird until the first birding groups found it in 2016. The species has still been seen by fewer than 40 people on the planet but will be one of our primary targets.

More widespread species that we may encounter include Pacific Baza, Black Eagle, Variable Goshawk, Metallic (White-throated) Pigeon, Great Cuckoo-Dove, Common Emerald Dove, Superb, White-bibbed (Moluccan/Small Island) and Claret-breasted Fruit Doves, Little Bronze Cuckoo, the Austral-migrant Channel-billed Cuckoo, Oriental Dollarbird, Common Paradise Kingfisher, Spotted Kestrel, Red-breasted Pygmy Parrot, Red Lory, Eclectus, Red-cheeked and Great-billed Parrots, Moluccan King Parrot, Collared Kingfisher, Torresian Crow and Moluccan Starling.

Day 5: Buru Island to Ambon and afternoon on Haruku Island. We have the early morning for further Buru birding in order to search for any species we may have missed in the or wish for better views of in the lowlands. Thereafter, we will board our flight back to Ambon where we'll enjoy some late morning birding at a nearby forest patch.

In the afternoon, we'll embark on a very exciting boat trip to the nearby, offshore island of Haruku where we will spend the late afternoon and early evening waiting patiently for the rare and extremely localised Moluccan Scrubfowl (Megapode) to reveal itself. After what will hopefully be a successful and thrilling outing, we will return by boat to Ambon to freshen up and enjoy a delicious dinner.



White-naped Monarch by Glen Valentine

Day 6: Ambon and departure or begin the West Papuan Islands Cruise. Our tour of this remarkable region comes to an end this morning with our transfer to the airport, where we will connect with our departing flights from Ambon. For those continuing on the West Papuan Island Cruise, we will settle into their day rooms at our nearby hotel before meeting up with the rest of the guests to begin our explorations of Ambon.

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 dinner on day 1 to breakfast on day 6;
- Bottled or filtered drinking water;
- All hotel lodgings;
- Ground transportation;
- All activities mentioned in the itinerary;
- Reserve entrance fees;
- Local land owner fees;
- 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:

- All walking will be done at a reasonable pace. If you have any physical limitations or medical conditions of any sort, please do let the Rockjumper office know in advance. The Madanga hike is the most intense, and involves a fairly steep gradient, gaining roughly 250 meters in elevation. This hike is completely optional.
- We will be birding in some remote areas well away from modern medical facilities.

- 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.
- With early starts, some long days in the field are to be expected.

ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE DETAILS:

This tour **does not** include **ANY** airfares. The extension will begin at Pattimura Airport, Ambon in the afternoon, and will conclude at Pattimura Airport, Ambon (IATA: AMQ) on the morning of day 6.

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 best route in and out of Pattimura Airport, Ambon (IATA: AMQ) are via Makassar (IATA: UPG) or Jakarta (IATA: CGK). 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.**