ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

Indonesia

Western Highlights: Greater Sundas and Dragons II

30th June to 13th July 2022 (14 days)



Bali Starling by Dubi Shapiro

Indonesia, spread across 17,508 islands and boasting over 1,600 bird species and nearly 400 endemics (more than any other nation in the world), cannot be ignored by the international birder! Delving first into Western Indonesia, we base ourselves on the island of Flores in the Lesser Sundas. Here we search for an array of ornate species such as Glittering Kingfisher, sensational Elegant Pitta, Wallace's Hanging Parrot, Flores Monarch and the bizarre Bare-throated Whistler before embarking on one of the undoubted highlights of the trip to Komodo Island. Here, 10ft long Komodo Dragons roam this almost prehistoric paradise alongside Green Junglefowl and the beautiful, Critically Endangered Yellow-crested Cockatoo.

A short flight takes us to the island of Bali, most famous as a beach tourism Mecca. Situated near the famous Bali Barat National Park, we target the few remaining truly wild Bali Starlings, alongside a supporting cast of Black-winged Starling, Cerulean Kingfisher and Javan Banded Pitta!

Departing Bali, we head to Way Kambas National Park, protecting a vast area of lowland forest in eastern Sumatra. Producing arguably the best nocturnal birding in the whole of south-east Asia, Way Kambas gives us excellent opportunities for such tantalising species as the bizarre Oriental Bay Owl, Reddish Scops Owl, Bonaparte's Nightjar and Buffy Fish Owl, as well as Gould's, Sunda and the rare Large Frogmouths. Not that we will bird at night only, for the forests here hold many diurnal delights, including the marvellous Malayan Banded and Hooded Pittas, Rufous-collared and Banded Kingfishers, Diard's, Scarlet-rumped and Red-naped Trogons, a fine selection of woodpeckers and broadbills, Crested Fireback, Cinnamon-headed Green Pigeon and Rufous-tailed Shama as some of the many highlights.

Finally, we make our way over to the Indonesian capital of Jakarta, to explore the Javan hot-spots of Cibodas and Gunung Gede-Pangrango National Park. These fabulous montane birding spots host most of Java's highland endemics and we shall bird diligently for such highlights as Javan Trogon, Javan Cochoa, Javan Kingfisher, Flame-fronted Barbet, Pygmy Bushtit, Orange-spotted Bulbul, Javan Hawk-Eagle, Spotted Crocias, Javan Tesia, Sunda Thrush, Javan Frogmouth and Yellow-throated Hanging Parrot, among many others.

THE TOUR AT A GLANCE…

Day 1	**Denpasar (Bali) and flight to Ruteng (Flores) via Labuan Bajo**
Day 2	**Golo Lusang and Pagal**
Day 3	**Ruteng to Labuan Bajo via Puarlolo**
Day 4	**Morning trip to Komodo Island and afternoon at Potawanka**
Day 5	**Labuan Bajo, flight to Denpasar and drive to Bali Barat National Park**
Day 6	**Bali Barat National Park**
Day 7	**Bali Barat National Park to Denpasar**
Day 8	**Denpasar to Bandar Lampung via Jakarta and drive to Way Kambas NP**
Days 9 & 10	**Way Kambas National Park**
Day 11	**Way Kambas NP to Cibodas via Bandar Lampung & Jakarta**
Days 12 & 13	**Cibodas and Gunung Gede National Park**
Day 14	**Cibodas to Jakarta and depart**

TOUR ROUTE MAP…



THE TOUR IN DETAIL…

Day 1: Denpasar (Bali) and flight to Ruteng (Flores) via Labuan Bajo. Our tour begins in Denpasar, Bali, where we'll meet for our flight to Labuan Bajo and then onto Ruteng, situated in the highlands further inland. We can expect to arrive in time for lunch and this afternoon we'll head out to the nearby highland forest site of Ranamese. Flock species at Ranamese might include Crested, Cream-browed, Yellow-ringed and Ashy-bellied White-eyes, Russet-backed Jungle Flycatcher, Pale-shouldered Cicadabird, Wallacean Cuckooshrike, Golden-rumped and Black-fronted Flowerpeckers and Brown-capped Fantail. The shy Chestnut-backed Thrush might also put in an appearance but it's the night-birding here that will be our main focus for the day for it is here that the once mythical but still very rare, localized and little-known Flores Scops Owl, as well as the equally-elusive Wallace's Scops Owl reside and we will try our luck at seeing these two rarities this evening. Finding either of these two species will, however, require a fair amount of effort, patience and luck!



Flores Scops Owl by David Hoddinott

Later in the evening, we'll head to our accommodation in Ruteng.

Day 2: Golo Lusang and Pagal. This morning we'll make our way to the nearby forest site of Golo Lusang and bird the high-altitude forest that blankets most of the hillsides in this area. Mixed

feeding flocks may yield a number of localised specialities such as Little Minivet, Sunda Pygmy Woodpecker, Crested, Ashy-bellied and Cream-browed White-eyes, Timor (Flores) Leaf Warbler, Mountain Tailorbird, Brown-capped Fantail and Russet-backed (Flores) Jungle Flycatcher. The sweet song of White-browed Shortwing (occurring here as a highly distinctive subspecies, sometimes split as Flores Shortwing) may give its presence away in the dense undergrowth by way of its loud, metallic song but is always a challenge to see and we may also encounter Barred and Ruddy Cuckoo-Doves, Rusty-breasted and Sunda Cuckoos (the latter split from Oriental Cuckoo), the mouse-like Pygmy Wren-babbler (Cupwing) in the dense, dark gullies, Dark-backed Imperial Pigeon, Scaly-crowned Honeyeater, Blood-breasted (Flores) Flowerpecker, the sought-after Bare-throated Whistler, Chestnut-backed Thrush, the highly elusive Tawny-breasted Parrotfinch and Russet-capped Tesia.



Elegant Pitta by David Hoddinott

In the afternoon we'll bird the mid-elevation site of Pagal, where we are likely to encounter noteworthy endemics and near-endemics such as Ashy-bellied White-eye (of the striking yellow form), Yellow-ringed White-eye (Wallace's Heleia), Crested White-eye, Golden-rumped and Black-fronted Flowerpeckers and the brilliant Flame-breasted Sunbird and we'll also keep a look and listen out for the rare Leaf Lorikeet, the tiny Russet-capped Tesia, Thick-billed Heleia, Black-naped Fruit Dove, Ruddy Cuckoo-Dove, Rusty-breasted Cuckoo and Dark-backed Imperial Pigeon. Fruiting trees could hold the desirable and elusive Wallace's Hanging Parrot and the rare Flores Green Pigeon.



Bare-throated Whistler by Adam Riley

This evening we can try once again in the upper-montane forest of Ranamese for the rare and elusive Flores and Wallace's Scops Owls if we did not encounter them last night.

Day 3: Ruteng to Labuan Bajo. This morning we depart Ruteng and make our way back westwards towards the coastal town of Labuan Bajo. En route we'll make at least one scheduled stop and this will be in the forest reserve of Puarlolo, situated in the hills above town. This very productive area of sub-montane forest is one of the only known sites for the rare and highly-threatened Flores Monarch, only discovered as recently as 1971 and we have an excellent chance of finding this species here. Other endemic and noteworthy targets at Puarlolo include Black-fronted and Golden-rumped Flowerpeckers, Yellow-ringed and Crested White-eyes, Thick-billed Heleia, the miniscule Russet-capped Tesia, the handsome Elegant Pitta, Brown-capped Fantail, Rusty-breasted Whistler, Little Minivet, the very rare

Wallace's Hanging Parrot and two scarce and shy forest-interior Thrushes that are best seen in the early morning and late afternoon: Chestnut-backed and Chestnut-capped Thrushes.



Komodo Dragon by Adam Riley

We also hope to have time in the late afternoon to visit a fairly new site, known as Mbeleling, at a slightly lower altitude. This forest site can be quite productive indeed and may yield some quality species that could include the rare Flores Crow, Elegant Pitta, Pale-shouldered Cicadabird, Dark-backed Imperial Pigeon and Leaf Lorikeet, as well as many of the more regular but still desirable species that we will almost certainly have seen by now.

We can expect to arrive at our very comfortable beach-side hotel in Labuan Bajo in the early evening to settle in for a two-night stay.

Day 4: Morning trip to Komodo Island and afternoon at Potawanka. Today will undoubtedly be one of the highlights of the entire trip. We will board a boat for the world-famous Komodo Island before dawn in order to arrive at the island with ample time for exploration and photography. On this arid 390 sq. km island, we will be met by one of the park's rangers and will then head off to the savannas and forests of this remarkable island, now a national park, in search of its most famous resident – which we have an excellent chance of observing.

The Komodo Dragon was discovered by Westerners only in 1910 when an official of the Dutch Colonial Administration mounted an expedition of armed soldiers to investigate stories of fire-spitting dragons exceeding 23ft in length. Two theories exist as to the reasons for such a huge lizard evolving; the traditional thinking was that the Komodo Dragon was an example of island gigantism, a biological phenomenon whereby island forms tend to evolve into larger taxa (and conversely continental forms become smaller). However, recent evidence indicates that the Komodo Dragon is an ancient relict of giant lizards that evolved in Australia but became extinct with other megafauna during the Pleistocene era. Measuring up to 10 ft (3 metres) and tipping the scales up to 200 lbs (90 kg), the Komodo Dragon is the super-predator on the island.



Glittering (White-rumped) Kingfisher by Dennis Braddy

Any creature they can overcome and

kill falls within their dietary range: from invertebrates and birds, fellow Komodo Dragons, right up to mammals as large as Water Buffalo and even humans! The bulk of their diet, however, consists of large mammals that have been introduced to these islands, notably Timor Deer, Wild Boar, Water Buffalo and goats. Animals up to the size of goats are swallowed whole, this process being aided by their loosely articulated jaws, flexible skull and expandable stomach. Nevertheless, this can be a slow process despite the saliva lubricating the meal, and Komodo Dragons have been observed to ram carcases against trees (sometimes even knocking trees down in the process) to force large prey items down their throats.



Flame-breasted Sunbird by Dennis Braddy

Komodo is home to far more than these incredible lizards: 32 mammal species, 128 birds and 37 reptiles are known from Komodo National Park. Native mammals occurring on the island include Asian Palm Civet and several bat and rodent species. Birds are prolific and we will search for Green Junglefowl, Orange-footed Scrubfowl, the critically-endangered Yellow-crested Cockatoo, Green and Pied Imperial Pigeons, the lovely Barred and Island Collared Doves, Common Emerald Dove, White-bellied Sea Eagle, Asian Koel, Collared Kingfisher, Blue-tailed Bee-eater, Black-naped Oriole, the scarce and unobtrusive Arafura Fantail, Black-naped Monarch, Wallacean Drongo, Rusty-breasted Whistler, Flame-breasted Sunbird, Helmeted Friarbird and, with a bit of good fortune, Beach Thick-knee (Stone-curlew).

In the late morning, when it becomes extremely hot on the island, we'll depart Komodo and have the opportunity to snorkel the remarkable coral reefs off Pink Beach before we begin our journey back to Labuan Bajo for lunch and a short break during the heat of the day before heading up to the forest site of Potawanka for some late afternoon and evening birding. En route back to Labuan Bajo, we'll keep an eye out for seabirds and possibilities include Lesser Frigatebird, White-tailed Tropicbird, Brown Booby and various terns, such as Black-naped, Lesser and Greater Crested, and Bridled. Schools of Indo-Pacific Bottle-nosed Dolphins may put in an appearance.



Yellow-crested Cockatoo by Adam Riley

Our afternoon at Potawanka will be dedicated to finding any species we may not yet have seen and these could include Chestnut-capped Thrush, the very rare and elusive Wallace's Hanging Parrot, Blyth's (Tenggara) Paradise Flycatcher and Thick-billed (Tenggara) Flowerpecker, while a vigil at dusk may produce Mees's Nightjar. There will also

be the option to embark on some night-birding in the area to search for Moluccan Scops Owl.



Javan Banded Pitta by Glen Valentine

Day 5: Labuan Bajo, flight to Denpasar and drive to Bali Barat National Park. After breakfast this morning, we shall take a short flight from Labuan Bajo to Denpasar. Switching to vehicles, we will spend most of the day driving up towards the western edge of the island, where the world-renowned Bali Barat National Park is situated. On our scenic route over the highlands of central Bali, we will soak in the unique Balinese Hindu culture with its abundant temples and acres of green rice paddies. We will also keep a lookout for birds along the way, including the stunning and near-endemic Javan Kingfisher, Long-tailed Shrike, Paddyfield Pipit, Pied Bush Chat and Black-crowned Night Heron.

Expanses of tall, seeding grass in and adjacent to the rice paddies could yield four very special birds in the form of White-capped (very rare), Javan and White-headed Munias and the beautifully patterned Java Sparrow, as well as the more common and widespread Scaly-breasted Munia. Greater and Lesser Coucals, Striated Grassbird, Cinnamon Bittern and Javan Pond Heron also occupy this habitat. We can expect to arrive at our beach-side hotel in the late afternoon.

Day 6: Bali Barat National Park. This wonderful reserve remains the last refuge for one of the world's rarest birds, the critically endangered and striking Bali Myna. We will explore dry monsoon forests as well as lusher lowland rainforest, mangroves, saltpans and savanna areas during our time here at the western end of Bali. Our main target over the next few days will be the extremely striking and endemic Bali Myna (Starling). Not only is it one of the most eye-catching of all the world's starlings, it also happens to be a bird on the brink of extinction. This is tragically due to the relentless trapping of the species for the international cage-bird trade, but its fortunes have improved in the last few years and there are currently believed to be around 200 wild birds in and around Bali Barat and West Bali National Parks. We have an excellent chance of seeing this, Bali's only endemic and much-desired species, during our time in the park.



Javan Kingfisher by Keith Valentine

The park harbours many other mouth-watering birds and we will be on the lookout for the rare and near-endemic Black-winged Starling (now just as rare and endangered

as the Bali Myna), Pink-necked and Orange-breasted Green Pigeons, Island Collared and Zebra Doves, Chestnut-breasted Malkoha, Plaintive Cuckoo, Lineated and Coppersmith Barbets, Oriental Dollarbird, Scarlet-headed Flowerpecker, regionally endemic Olive-backed Tailorbird and Olive-backed Sunbird.



Black-thighed Falconet by Dennis Braddy

Mixed species flocks often harbour Black-winged Flycatcher-shrike, White-shouldered and Pied Trillers, Scarlet and Small Minivets, Javan Cuckooshrike, Common Iora, Ashy and Hair-crested (Javan Spangled) Drongos, Racket-tailed Treepie, Common Flameback, Freckle-breasted Woodpecker and Cinereous Tit.

Green Junglefowl is another localised target species that occurs in fair numbers, most easily encountered in the early morning or late afternoon feeding at the edge of the tracks through the monsoon forest.

Blue-tailed and the stunning Chestnut-headed Bee-eaters can both be found hawking insects from exposed perches, while White-breasted Woodswallows, Grey-rumped Treeswifts and both Cave and Edible-nest Swiftlets forage overhead. We may also flush Savanna Nightjars during our forays or tape it into view in the early evening. Another specialty in the area is the splendid Javan Banded Pitta and we stand excellent chances of tracking down this beauty. We may also encounter several noteworthy raptors during our time in the area such as Brahminy Kite, White-bellied Sea Eagle, Crested Serpent Eagle, Changeable Hawk-Eagle, Black Eagle and the tiny Black-thighed Falconet.

The lusher forests elsewhere in Bali Barat National Park might produce the scarce Fulvous-chested Jungle Flycatcher, Black-naped Fruit Dove, Crescent-chested and Horsfield's Babblers, while the short, high-pitched call may alert us to the presence of another rainforest gem, the minuscule Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher that favours stream-side snags in the forest interior. If we are extremely lucky, we may encounter the rare and range-restricted Javan Flameback and Oriental Pied Hornbill.



Java Sparrow by Adam Riley

We are also likely to undertake a short boat trip across to the Brumbun section of the National Park, opposite

the Menjangan Island and here we have our best chance of finding the very rare and attractive Javan Sparrow. The coastal mudflats and Mangrove in this area may yield a few additional quality species, such as the uncommon and often-elusive Beach Stone-curlew, Lesser Adjutant, Great-billed Heron, Cerulean, Collared and Sacred Kingfishers, Mangrove Whistler, Lemon-bellied White-eye, the highly-nomadic Indonesian Honeyeater, Bar-winged Prinia and Lemon-bellied White-eye, as well as Black-naped, Greater and Lesser Crested, Little and elegant Roseate Terns.



Javan Plover by Adam Riley

A visit to a nearby salt works will produce a variety of wetland species, including our best chance of Sunda Teal, close encounters with Javan Plover and Pied Stilt. We will also try our luck with some of the area's rare owl species and, with a bit of effort and good fortune, we may find the sought-after Javan Owlet, Sunda Scops Owl and Brown Hawk-Owl.

Most people are surprised at the number of indigenous mammals that are encountered on Bali, including the abundant Crab-eating Macaques, many of which live around the temples where they are held sacred and therefore fed. They can also be seen far out to sea on the reefs at low tide, a behaviour which earned them their English name. Much rarer – and we will seek them out in the lusher forests – are Javan (or Ebony) Langurs. This species is endemic to Java and Bali, and troops of these black primates can be found in Bali Barat National Park and, if we are fortunate, we will also observe their bright chestnut youngsters. Javan Rusa are common and we should also see numerous Plantain Squirrels. Much tougher, however, is the huge Black Giant Squirrel, which prefers deeper forests and we might also observe Southern Red Muntjac and Wild Boar.



Black-winged Starlings by Glen Valentine

Day 7: Bali Barat National Park to Denpasar. This morning we have a final opportunity before breakfast to revisit the Menjangan area in search of any of Bali Barat's rare species that may still be eluding us thus far such as the rare Black-winged Starling, Yellow-eared Barbet or Javan Flameback. After breakfast, we'll depart the area and begin

making our way up into the highlands of Bali towards the town of Bedugul.



Oriental Bay Owl by Glen Valentine

We can expect to arrive in the picturesque, highland town of Bedugul around midday and we'll have at least some of the early afternoon to bird the extensive Bedugul Botanical Gardens that harbour a number of mouth-watering highland endemics that are otherwise only shared with neighbouring Java or a few other offshore islands. Targets include the often-elusive and nomadic Indonesian Honeyeater, the vocal Flame-fronted Barbet, Blood-breasted Flowerpecker, the scarce and unobtrusive Grey-cheeked Green Pigeon, Yellow-throated Hanging Parrot, Scarlet Minivet (here of the endemic orange-bellied race), Banded Fruit Dove, Dark-backed Imperial Pigeon, Mees's White-eye and with a lot of luck perhaps even a Javan Hawk-Eagle soaring overhead.

In the mid-afternoon, we'll depart Bedugul in time to reach our hotel in Denpasar in the early evening where we'll overnight before continuing further west and onto Indonesia's largest island of Sumatra.

Day 8: Denpasar, flight to Bandar Lampung via Jakarta and drive to Way Kambas NP. We depart Denpasar on an early morning flight to arrive in Jakarta and then connect with another short domestic flight across the Moluccan Straight to the island of Sumatra. We should land in Bandar Lampung, the gateway to the fabulous Way Kambas National Park, around midday and will then embark on the two-and-a-half-hour drive through small villages, rice paddies and agricultural fields that dominate Sumatra's lowlands to our comfortable and homely lodge, situated right at the edge of the national park. After a late lunch, we'll head into Way Kambas for some introductory, late afternoon birding.



Malayan Banded Pitta by Shailesh Pinto

This will likely be our birdiest site of the trip and highlights will no doubt be many and often-encountered and this afternoon we'll be trying for the endemic Sumatran (Buttikofer's) Babbler in the understory, as well as our first chance of the very rare and highly-threatened White-winged Duck at two small lakes at the edge of Way Kambas National Park. We would be very fortunate to see the duck, however, as they have become very rare here but we certainly do stand a chance of finding one. The remainder of the afternoon will be

spent enjoying the productive general birding that this fairly open-country, forest-edge section of the reserve has to offer and noteworthy species we are likely to find include the brilliant Scarlet Minivet, Orange-bellied, Scarlet-headed and Plain Flowerpeckers, Sunda Pygmy Woodpecker, Pink-necked Green Pigeon, Collared and Cerulean (Little Blue) Kingfishers, Grey-rumped and Whiskered Treeswifts, Plume-toed Swiftlet (recently split from Glossy) Swiftlet, fly-over Blue-rumped and Blue-crowned Hanging Parrots, Lesser Cuckooshrike, Ashy and Rufous-tailed Tailorbirds, Olive-backed and Brown-throated Sunbirds, Crested Serpent Eagle, Changeable Hawk-Eagle, the diminutive Black-thighed Falconet perched up on dead snags, Greater and Lesser Coucals, Common Hill Myna, Oriental Dollarbird, Yellow-bellied Prinia, Banded Bay, Rusty-breasted, Plaintive, Violet and Square-tailed Drongo Cuckoos, the handsome White-throated Kingfisher, White-breasted Woodswallow, Asian Palm Swift and large rafts of Lesser Whistling Ducks. If luck is on our side, our excellent local guide may even have a roost site for the impressive Buffy Fish Owl.



Reddish Scops Owl by Glen Valentine

At dusk, we'll look and listen out for Savanna, Large-tailed and Malaysian Eared Nightjars and thereafter we'll continue back along the road, stopping periodically to try for several very special nocturnal species. These are: the rarely-seen (outside of Way Kambas of course!) Large, Gould's and Sunda Frogmouths, the unique and unusual Oriental Bay Owl, Reddish Scops Owl and the almost-mythical Bonaparte's Nightjar (Way Kambas being the only accessible site on Earth for this species!) with its seriously bizarre call. Obviously, we won't be able to see all of these magical south-east Asian nocturnal gems on our first evening but any one or two of them would be a good start and we'll spend pre-dawn and post-dusk sessions chipping away at the long and mouth-watering list of night-birds until we've hopefully seen them all!



Rufous-collared Kingfisher by Shailesh Pinto

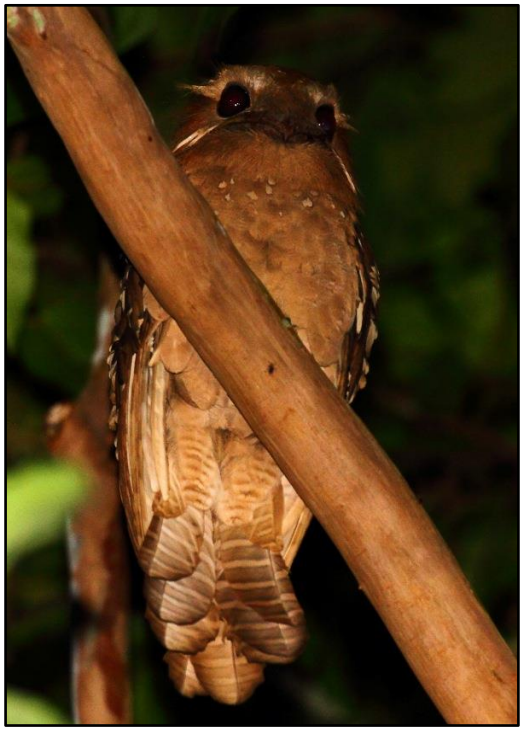
Days 9 & 10: Way Kambas National Park. Way Kambas offers some of the best lowland forest birding in the whole of Sumatra and in South-East Asia and harbours a fine selection of the region's most difficult and sought-after species. We have two full days to explore the main access track that bisects this amazing forest and our efforts here will no doubt turn up an incredible suite of rare and delectable avian specialties over the next two days!



Scarlet-headed Flowerpecker by Glen Valentine

In the forest understory we'll seek out mixed species flocks that support a wealth of babblers (Black-capped, Black-throated, Short-tailed, Chestnut-winged, Ferruginous, Rufous-crowned, Moustached, Sooty-capped, Scaly-crowned, White-chested and Chestnut-rumped Babblers, as well as Fluffy-backed and Pin-striped Tit-Babblers), bulbuls (Asian Red-eyed, Spectacled, Cream-vented, Olive-winged, Hairy-backed, Buff-vented and Yellow-bellied Bulbuls), as well as Black-winged Flycatcher-Shrike, Green Iora, Rufous-winged Philentoma, Greater Green, Lesser Green and Blue-winged Leafbirds, Bronzed and Greater Racket-tailed Drongos, Dark-throated Oriole, Asian Fairy Bluebird, Banded, Black-and-yellow, the scarce Dusky and mind-blowing Green Broadbills, Red-billed, Chestnut-breasted, Black-bellied, Raffles's and the rare Chestnut-bellied Malkohas, gaudy Red-naped, Scarlet-rumped and Diard's Trogons, Fiery Minivet, Black-naped Monarch, Blyth's Paradise, Grey-chested Jungle and Malaysian Blue Flycatchers, the shy Black Magpie, Velvet-fronted Nuthatch and the unobtrusive Chestnut-backed Scimitar Babbler. On the forest floor, we'll watch and listen carefully for the brilliant by shy and unobtrusive Hooded and Malayan Banded Pittas, as well as rarities such as the Mesite-like Rail-babbler and outrageous but very rarely seen Crested Partridge.

Other forest-interior species we'll be looking out for include the scarce White-crowned Hornbill, Rufous-collared, Banded and Oriental Dwarf Kingfishers, Common Emerald Dove, White-crowned Forktail and Rufous-tailed Shama.



Large Frogmouth by Glen Valentine

Woodpeckers also feature prominently and we can expect a fine selection of striking representatives of this favourite family, ranging from the miniature Rufous Piculet to the giant White-bellied Woodpecker, as well as Checker-throated, Crimson-winged, Rufous, Buff-necked, Buff-rumped, Grey-and-buff and Maroon Woodpeckers and if we are very fortunate, perhaps even the extremely scarce Olive-backed Woodpecker.

If we are lucky enough to encounter some fruiting trees, we might be entertained by a number of gorgeous barbets that could include the superb Coppersmith, tiny Blue-eared, dashing Red-crowned and subdued Sooty Barbets, as well as a feast of doves such as Little, Pink-necked and Thick-billed Green Pigeons, the usually-rare and elusive Cinnamon-headed Green Pigeon and the large Green Imperial Pigeon. Flowering trees could exhibit a variety of

nectar and insect feeders like Purple-naped, Ruby-cheeked, Plain and exquisite Crimson Sunbirds, splendid Orange-bellied, Crimson-breasted and Yellow-breasted Flowerpeckers and the flighty Little Spiderhunter.

We also hope to encounter several pairs and flocks of hornbills flopping over the canopy in the early mornings or late afternoons and these could include Bushy-crested, Black and Wreathed, as well as the rare and endangered Wrinkled Hornbill.

During early morning and late afternoon drives along the access road, we should encounter pairs and family groups of the striking (Malayan) Crested Fireback, feeding at the road-edge and another handsome species to look and listen out for is the spectacular Red-bearded Bee-eater that perches unobtrusively in the mid-canopy. One of South-east Asia's rarest and least-known species is the Malaysian Honeyguide and Way Kambas appears to be one of the better places in which to see this very tricky species, although we'd still need a remarkable amount of fortune to find one!



Red-bearded Bee-eater by Bob Lewis

Eventually, the road reaches the Way Kanan River and this area is especially good for the dazzling Blue-eared and gigantic Stork-billed Kingfishers, Black-and-red Broadbill and at dusk, Malaysian Eared Nightjar and Brown Hawk-Owl (Boobook).

Mammals are also well represented at Way Kambas and we may be fortunate enough to have encounters with Agile Gibbon and the impressive Siamang (another kind of gibbon). Many species of tree-shrew and squirrel frequent the forest as do troops of Long-tailed (Crab-eating) and Southern Pig-tailed Macaques, the endangered and endemic Sumatran Mitrid Langur/Surili/Leaf Monkey, the riverine-dwelling Silvery Lutung (Silvered Langur), Greater and Lesser Mouse Deer and Wild Boar. Way Kambas also protects some very rarely seen mammals, most of them nocturnal but our chances of seeing any of these species that include Sunda Clouded Leopard, Asiatic Golden and Marbled Cats, Banded Palm Civet and Binturong are extremely slim but certainly possible. Our chances are a little better of Malay Civet, Sunda Slow Loris, Sunda Colugo, Malayan Porcupine, Masked and Small-toothed Palm Civets, Red Giant Flying Squirrel, Horsfield's Flying Squirrel, Yellow-throated Marten and Sunda Leopard Cat but even these handsome mammals are rare and seldom-seen and require many long, consecutive nights of dedicated spot-lighting to have any reasonable chance of encountering them.



Bonaparte's Nightjar by Andrew Sutherland

Day 11: Way Kambas National Park, flight from Bandar Lampung to Jakarta and onwards to Cibodas. This morning we drive back to Bandar Lampung where we connect with our domestic flight back to Jakarta. Upon arrival in Indonesia's bustling capital city, we'll immediately make a hasty retreat out towards the forested highlands of Gunung Gede-Pangrango National Park, where we'll be based at our very comfortable resort near the park entrance for the next three nights. If time allows, we'll make a short stop in at the Bogor Botanical Gardens along the way and here we may encounter Ruby-throated and Grey-cheeked (Melodious) Bulbuls, Black-naped Fruit Dove, Blue-eared Kingfisher, Javan Munia, Cream-vented and Sooty-headed Bulbuls and Scarlet-headed Flowerpecker, as well as further chances of Freckle-breasted and Sunda Pygmy Woodpeckers.



Black-naped Fruit Dove by Shailesh Pinto

Thereafter, we'll depart for the highlands and climb our way up to the famous birding locality of Cibodas where we spend the next three nights.



Javan Trogon by Glen Valentine

Days 12 & 13: Cibodas and Gunung Gede National Park. Home to the vast majority of Java's endemic bird species, Gunung Gede-Pangrango National Park (named after the two impressive volcanoes that dominate the park's landscape) will be our primary focus for birding over the next two days. Here, amidst lush forest, rivers, waterfalls and high peaks, we'll search for a number of spectacular and highly desirable endemics, near-endemics and other more widespread but nonetheless special and sought-after species.

Along the lower section of the trail, we'll keep an eye open and listen out for the elusive Sunda Thrush along the trail-edge at dawn, before working through the regular mixed flocks for the marvellous Blue Nuthatch, Sunda and Mountain Leaf Warblers, Sunda Minivet, Trilling and Pied Shrike-Babblers, Javan Fulvetta, Mountain and Olive-backed Tailorbirds, Crescent-chested and Horsfield's Babblers, Black-winged Flycatcher-Shrike, Large Woodshrike, Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo, Rufous-tailed Fantail, Mees's White-eye (Javan Heleia), Indigo and Snowy-browed Flycatchers, Flame-fronted Barbet and Chestnut-breasted Malkoha.

Here, we also stand our first chance at encountering the beautiful Javan Banded Pitta. Gunung Gede is also an excellent site to see a number of understory skulkers that are usually tough to see in the rest of their ranges and these include Pygmy Cupwing, Eyebrowed Wren-Babbler and Lesser Shortwing. Endemic skulkers and songsters that we'll be searching for are Sunda (Javan Blue) Robin, the striking White-bibbed Babbler and much higher up the trail, the miniscule Javan Tesia and White-browed (soon to be split as Javan) Shortwing.



Javan Tesia by Glen Valentine

A small clearing in the forest allows for superb views of the surrounding volcanoes and forest and also affords us the chance of spotting soaring Javan Hawk-Eagle (a very low-density endemic), Black Eagle, Crested Serpent Eagle and Spotted (Indonesian) Kestrel in the mid-morning.

Further on, we'll look and listen out for noisy pairs of Spotted (Javan) Crocias, the very rare and endangered Rufous-fronted (Javan) Laughingthrush that is now completely restricted to the Gunung-Pangrango National Park, the gorgeous Javan Trogon, Sunda (Javan) and Orange-spotted Bulbuls, Javan Whistling Thrush, the brilliant White-flanked Sunbird and the scarce Brown-throated Barbet. If we are very fortunate, we might also find the rare and elusive Javan Cochoa, as well as the skulking Chestnut-bellied Partridge, Scaly (Horsfield's) Thrush, Volcano Swiftlet and Tawny-breasted Parrotfinch but these rare species are generally only seen with any regularity much higher up the mountain. Another virtually mythical species that is certainly possible anywhere on the mountain but requires a seriously hefty dosed of luck to encounter is the Sunda Woodcock.

The reserve also protects a good number of mammals and we hope to find Black-banded and Black Giant Squirrels, Horsfield's Treeshrew, Grizzled and Javan Langurs, and with a fair amount of luck, Javan Gibbon that will almost certainly be heard bellowing out their whooping calls across the valleys.



Blue Nuthatch by Glen Valentine

On our final afternoon in the Cibodas area, we are likely to visit to the nearby Cibodas Botanical Gardens where we can expect to encounter a number of eye-catching species, many of which we might have seen by now but several of which are likely to be new for us and highlights could include Trilling Shrike-Babbler, the stunning White-flanked Sunbird, vibrant and noisy Javan Kingfisher, Sunda and White-crowned (Javan) Forktails, Yellow-throated Hanging Parrot, Pygmy Bushtit, Rusty-breasted Cuckoo, the immaculate Blue Nuthatch, Fire-breasted Flowerpecker and with a fair

amount of luck, the rare and shy Sunda Thrush. If weather permits, we'll stay out until just after dusk, when we'll have an excellent chance of encountering the localised Salvadori's Nightjar, as well as Sunda Scops Owl, Javan Frogmouth and the impressive Barred Eagle-Owl.



White-flanked Sunbird by Glen Valentine

Day 14: Cibodas to Jakarta and depart. We'll have the early morning to enjoy some final leisurely birding around the Cibodas Botanical Gardens before making our way back to Jakarta where this fabulous two-week birding adventure through a fine selection of Indonesia's westerly islands will conclude in the early afternoon.

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 drinking water;
- All lodgings;
- Ground transportation;
- Reserve entrance fees;
- Extra activities as mentioned in the itinerary; and
- All guiding services (including tips for local guides and services).

The tour fee does not include:

- Visa fees;
- **ANY** flights;
- Any beverages;
- Special gratuities;
- Telephone calls and
- Laundry and other items of a personal nature.

Single Supplement: The single supplement cost for this tour will be charged if you wish to have single accommodation. If RBL cannot provide you with a rooming partner for these nights although you choose to share, the single supplement will become applicable. We will make all reasonable efforts to ensure that a rooming partner is found if you do wish to share.

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 registration 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 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.

Please Note:

- The intensity of walking on this Highlights birding tour varies from easy to moderate. You should be in good health and fitness to undertake this tour. 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.
- The hotels during the tour range from good to luxurious standard.
- The roads are mostly in fair condition, although we will encounter some curvy roadways with potholes; while in a few areas we have rougher unpaved roads to traverse.
- Most days in the lowlands will be hot, dry and sunny. At higher montane sites, overcast conditions are fairly frequent and some rain, heavy at times, can be expected while temperatures can be rather cool in the early morning or later afternoon. Humidity levels are often rather high.
- Several nocturnal outings will be taken to search for nocturnal birds, and combined with some long travel days and mostly early starts, long days in the field are to be expected.

ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE DETAILS:
This tour **does not** include **ANY** airfares. The tour will depart from Ngurah Rai International Airport, Bali (IATA: DPS) on the morning of day 1 with a short flight to Labuan Bajo. **Please ensure that you arrive the day before the tour starts, spending the night in Denpasar**. The tour will conclude at Soekarno–Hatta International Airport, Jakarta (IATA: CGK) in the early morning of day 14.

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:
Ngurah Rai International Airport, Denpasar (IATA: DPS), is the main port of entry for international flights for this tour, while Soekarno–Hatta International Airport, Jakarta (IATA: CGK) is the main point of departure. Both airports are well serviced by international carriers. **Please DO NOT book any flights until you have consulted the Rockjumper office for confirmation on the status of the tour.**