ROCKJUMPER
Worldwide Birding Adventures

Indonesia

Lesser Sundas Endemics

27th July to 15th August 2023 (20 days)



Cinnamon-banded Kingfisher by Glen Valentine

Indonesia, spread across 17,508 islands and boasting over 1,600 bird species and over 600 endemics (far more than any other country on Earth!) should be at the forefront of every international birder's destination list! Rockjumper is proud to offer an extensive suite of tours to this mind-bogglingly biodiverse region that includes this comprehensive exploration of the endemics-rich Lesser Sundas. This diverse and rugged chain of volcanic islands, stretching across the Java Sea between Bali and New Guinea, supports over 100 Indonesian endemics with more than 80 of these restricted to the Lesser Sundas. Our tour visits five of these islands (Sumba, Timor, Rote, Flores and Komodo) and targets every single one of the area's localised and highly sought-after endemics occurring on these five islands, other than a few isolated species restricted to East Timor. The Lesser Sundas fall within a region known as Wallacea and its avifauna is a startling mix of Asiatic and Australasian families. Starting and ending in

Bali, we explore montane rainforests, lowland monsoon forests, wetlands, mangroves, coastal mudflats, grasslands and dry scrub. We begin this epic birding adventure in eastern Sumba, where mouth-watering specialties include Red-naped Fruit Dove, Sumba Hornbill, Least and Sumba Boobooks, Mees's Nightjar, Sumba Green Pigeon and the little-known Sumba Buttonquail. Our next leg of the tour takes us to West Timor and the tiny island of Rote, situated just off western Timor. Over the course of the next week, we hope to encounter avian specialties such as Timor and Rote Boobooks, Pink-headed Imperial Pigeon, Jonquil Parrot, Tricolored and the yet-to-be described Timor (Mt. Mutis) Parrotfinch, Flame-breasted Sunbird, Orange-sided and Chestnut-backed Thrushes, Cinnamon-banded Kingfisher, Black-banded Flycatcher, Timor and Black Cuckoo-Doves, Buff-banded Thicketbird, Timor Stubtail and Timor Sparrow to mention just a few!

We end the tour on Flores Island, where the magnificent Flores Hawk-Eagle, White-rumped (Glittering) Kingfisher, sensational Ornate Pitta, Wallace's Hanging Parrot, Leaf Lorikeet, Wallace's and Flores Scops Owls, Flores Monarch and the superb Bare-throated Whistler will be among the many targets on the island. One of the undoubted highlights of the trip will be the visit to Komodo Island just off of Flores, where 10ft (3m) Komodo Dragons roam this almost prehistoric paradise along with Green Junglefowl and Orange-footed Scrubfowl. Here we will also seek the beautiful and critically endangered Yellow-crested Cockatoo. The Lesser Sundas has something very special to offer the keen birder and nature enthusiast and this 20-day comprehensive, endemics-rich birding tour promises to be a classic among international birding adventures!

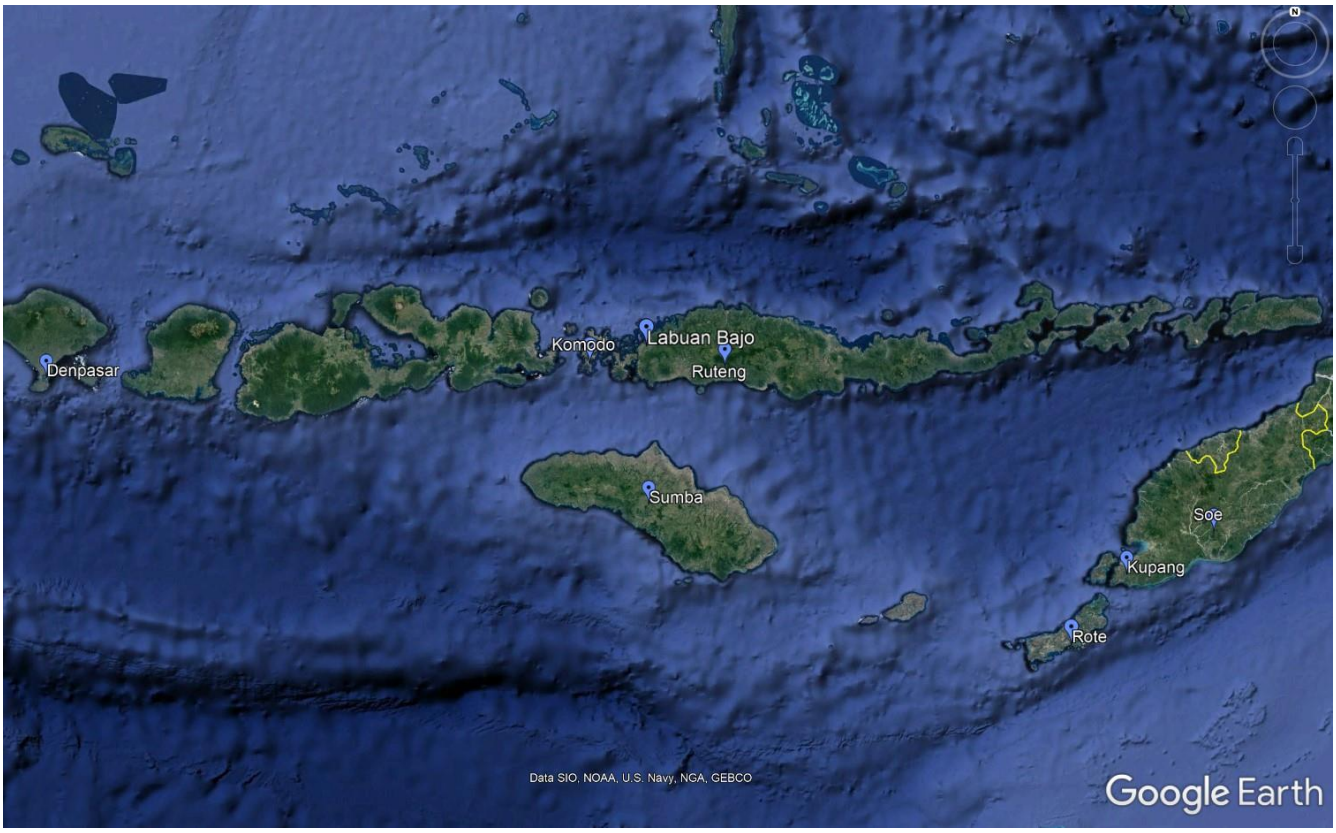
THE TOUR AT A GLANCE…

THE ITINERARY

Day 1	**Arrival in Denpasar, Bali, flight to Waingapu (Sumba)**
Day 2	**Menggit Timbi area, drive to Lewa**
Day 3	**Lewa area: Lokotuma, Langgaliru NP, KM51**
Day 4	**Lewa area: Langgaliru Forest & surrounds, drive to Waingapu**
Day 5	**Early flight to Kupang (West Timor), birding Noelbaki & Bipolo**
Day 6	**Kupang to Rote by ferry**
Day 7	**Rote**
Day 8	**Rote & afternoon ferry to Kupang (Timor)**
Day 9	**Camplong and Bipolo**
Day 10	**Kupang to Bipolo or Camplong & drive to Soe and Oelnasi Forest**
Day 11	**Mount Mutis**
Day 12	**Oelnasi Forest and return to Kupang**
Day 13	**Fly to Ruteng (Flores), drive to Kisol and Poco Ndeki Forest**
Day 14	**Poco Ndeki Forest**
Day 15	**Kisol to Ruteng via Ranamese Lake**

Days 16 & 17	**Golo Lusang and Pagal**
Day 18	**Ruteng to Labuan Bajo via Puarlolo**
Day 19	**Day trip to Komodo Island; PM Potawanka**
Day 20	**Labuan Bajo and departure**

TOUR MAP



THE TOUR IN DETAIL…



Brown Quail by Adam Riley

Day 1: Arrival in Denpasar, Bali, flight to Waingapu (Sumba). Our Lesser Sundas tour begins at Ngurah Rai Airport in Denpasar, Bali, where we meet before our internal flight to Waingapu, eastern Sumba. Upon arrival at Umbu Mehan Kunda Airport in Waingapu, we will transfer to our nearby hotel for lunch. This exciting and endemics-rich birding tour will begin in earnest this afternoon as we undertake the relatively short drive to the Yumbu area. Top of the target list here will be the endemic and little-known Sumba Buttonquail (Sumba's only non-forest endemic). We will traverse the surrounding grasslands where we have an excellent chance of finding this ground-dwelling bird. Other grassland species that we may very well find while searching for the Buttonquail include Horsfield's (Australasian) Bush Lark, Brown Quail, Sunda Zebra Finch and Pied Bush Chat. Later in the afternoon, we may have time to explore the nearby mangroves, rice paddies and coastal thickets where we hope to encounter Brown (Indonesian) Honeyeater, Barred Dove, Collared and Sacred Kingfishers, Olive-backed Tailorbird, Pale-headed, Black-faced, Javan, Scaly-breasted and possibly the scarce and nomadic Five-colored Munias, White-shouldered (Lesseur's) Triller and Javan Myna. After a good introduction to Lesser Sundas birding, we will make our way back to Waingapu in the late afternoon for an overnight stay.

Day 2: Menggit Timbi area, drive to Lewa. After breakfast, we will drive to the Menggit Timbi area, to the east of Waingapu, where we will spend the morning birding the fairly extensive wetlands, grasslands, woodland and thickets that dominate this bird-rich area. A wealth of waterbirds can be found here and new species could include Australian Pelican, Wandering Whistling Duck, the range-restricted Sunda Teal, Pacific Black Duck, Little Pied and Little Black Cormorants, White-faced Heron, Pied Stilt, Australasian Swamphen, Australasian Darter, Australian Pratincole White-browed Crake, Buff-banded Rail, Yellow Bittern, Dusky Moorhen, Australian Reed Warbler, Cinereous Tit, Ashy-bellied White-eye and Broad-billed Flycatcher (Monarch). We'll also search any good Munia habitat in case we still need any of the target Munias or the rather elusive Red Avadavat. In the late morning we return to



Least Boobook by David Hoddinott



Mees's Nightjar by Glen Valentine

Waingapu for lunch, departing thereafter for the fairly short (1 and a half hours) drive into the forested foothills of the Lewa area, our base for the next two nights. Several extremely productive forest patches, as well as the extensive forest protected by the Langgaliru National Park, still remain in this area and these will be our focal points for the next few days. This afternoon, we begin our search for the area's many exciting and endemic forest birds at a fairly small tract of forest a mere fifteen minutes' drive from our guest house. Before dusk approaches, we may encounter such gems as the gorgeous and endemic Red-naped Fruit Dove, Sumba Green Pigeon, Pale-shouldered Cicadabird, Sumba Brown Flycatcher, Wallacean (Sumba Spangled) Drongo, Spotted (Indonesian) Kestrel, Blood-breasted (Sumba) Flowerpecker, Flame-breasted Sunbird, Rusty-breasted (Sunda Brush) Cuckoo, Yellow-ringed White-eye (Wallace's Heleia), the stunning Elegant Pitta and Tenggara Paradise Flycatcher to mention just a few. At dusk, we hope to see another very special endemic species, the Least Boobook and we'll also try our luck at the endemic subspecies of Eastern Barn Owl, as well as Mees's and Savanna Nightjars before making our way back to our accommodation in Lewa.

Day 3: Lewa area: Lokotuma, Langgaliru NP, KM51. This morning we will strike out for the extensive Langgaliru Forest, where all of Sumba's forest-endemics can be found, together with a number of other desirable species. After driving through Langgaliru Forest in the dark, we'll arrive at dawn at the head of a short trail that takes us through open grasslands to a viewpoint over the northern section of Langgaliru, where we'll spend the first half of the morning. The views and habitat here is spectacular and we hope to lay our eyes on several of the island's most elusive and charismatic endemics. The magnificent Sumba Hornbill and Yellow-crested Cockatoo (the Sumba subspecies shows an orange crest and cheeks and is sometimes split as Orange/Citron-crested Cockatoo, which would become an extremely



Sumba Myzomela by David Hoddinott



Blood-breasted (Sumba) Flowerpecker by Glen Valentine

localised and critically endangered endemic) will be top of the list but we'll also be on the lookout for the supporting cast of Red-naped and Black-naped Fruit Doves, the now-rare Eclectus and Great-billed Parrots, more regular Red-cheeked Parrot, Wallacean Cuckooshrike, Apricot-breasted Sunbird, gorgeous but scarce Marigold Lorikeet, Sumba Myzomela and Tawny Grassbird. In the late morning we'll return to the core part of Langgaliru Forest where we'll spend the rest of the morning searching for other tantalizing endemics and specialties such as Elegant Pitta, the immaculate Cinnamon-banded Kingfisher, the scarce and often-elusive Sumba Flycatcher, Sumba (Russet-backed) Jungle (Warbling) Flycatcher, Chestnut-backed Thrush, Spectacled (Wallacean) Monarch, the beautiful Rusty-breasted (Tenggara) Whistler, Tenggara Paradise Flycatcher and the more widespread but nonetheless beautiful and endearing little Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher.

In the afternoon, we'll likely return to Langgaliru Forest in search of any species we still require. Targets could include some of the island's trickier endemics like Sumba Brown and Sumba Flycatchers, Red-naped Fruit Dove, Yellow (Orange)-crested Cockatoo and Sumba Hornbill. At dusk, we'll position ourselves at a very good locality for the impressive and endemic Sumba Boobook and our chances of seeing this handsome, endemic owl are excellent. There's also a chance of Eastern Barn Owl and Mees's Nightjar here and we'll certainly keep a look and listen out for these species should we have missed them last night.

Day 4: Lewa area: Langgaliru Forest & surrounds, drive to Waingapu. This morning we'll likely return to the luxurious forest of Langgaliru where we'll target any of Sumba's special endemics that we may still be missing, as well as any other new trip birds that might be around.

We have further chances for the magnificent but rare (at least locally!) Eclectus and Great-billed Parrots, as well as the regal Sumba Hornbill, Marigold Lorikeet, Yellow (Orange)-crested Cockatoo, the striking Cinnamon-banded



Sumba Flycatcher by Glen Valentine



Sumba Boobook by Glen Valentine

Kingfisher, Sumba Green Pigeon, Red-naped and Black-naped Fruit Doves, Wallacean Cuckooshrike, Pale-shouldered Cicadabird, the superb Elegant Pitta, Arafura (Supertramp) Fantail, Sumba Myzomela, Apricot-breasted Sunbird, Ashy-bellied White-eye, as well as Sumba's three endemic flycatchers: Sumba, Sumba Jungle and Sumba Brown Flycatchers. Other more widespread but no less-desirable species that we will also be on the lookout for today include Brown Goshawk, Spotted Harrier, Black-shouldered and Brahminy Kites, Short-toed Snake Eagle, Spotted Kestrel, Rusty-breasted Cuckoo, Green Imperial Pigeon, Blue-tailed and Rainbow Bee-eaters hawking insects from exposed perches, Short-tailed Starling, Large-billed (Southern Jungle) Crow and Brown-throated Sunbird.

The afternoon will be spent wherever we might still require new species or any of the island's remaining endemics and where the best chances exist for these species. In the late afternoon, we'll return to Waingapu for an overnight stay before flying to Timor tomorrow morning.

Day 5: Early flight to Kupang (West Timor), Noelbaki & Bipolo. This morning we board a short, early morning flight to Kupang, West Timor. Upon arrival, we'll check into our nearby hotel and then spend the remainder of the morning birding along the Kupang coastline. Here we may find several new shorebirds such as Pacific Reef Heron, Ruddy Turnstone, Grey-tailed Tattler, Greater Crested Tern and, if we are lucky, perhaps a Lesser Frigatebird or White-tailed Tropicbird may entertain us overhead. In the surrounding woodland, scrub and mangroves we hope to get to grips with our first Timor endemics that could include Plain (Timor) Gerygone, Fawn-breasted Whistler, Streak-breasted Honeyeater (Timor Meliphaga), the rather shy and unobtrusive Timor Friarbird, Drab Swiftlet and Blue-cheeked (Red-chested) Flowerpecker, while the scrubby grasslands may yield the more widespread but never easy to see Red-backed Buttonquail.



Rose-crowned Fruit Dove by Glen Valentine

This afternoon, we pay our first visit to one of the last remaining patches of lowland forest in West Timor. Bipolo Forest harbours many of the island's sought-after and localised endemics but,



Orange-sided Thrush by Glen Valentine

as it is unfortunately currently unprotected, the future of the forest and its special birds does not look very promising and several of the area's specialties have certainly become a lot rarer over the past decade. This afternoon we'll search for specialities such as Timor Friarbird, the rare and attractive Timor Sparrow, Timor Blue Flycatcher, Rose-crowned and Banded (Black-backed) Fruit Doves, Green (Timor) Figbird, Olive-brown (Timor) Oriole, Wallacean (Timor Spangled) Drongo, the endemic subspecies of Wallacean Cuckooshrike, Fawn-breasted Whistler, Northern (Timor) Fantail and Pacific Emerald Dove. Blue-cheeked (Red-chested) and Thick-billed (Tenggara) Flowerpeckers, Flame-breasted Sunbird, Flame-eared and Streak-breasted Honeyeaters and Black-breasted (Timor) Myzomela may be seen feeding on flowering trees and bushes, while the beautiful but elusive Orange-sided Thrush will be sought in the forest understory.

We will also keep an eye out for the area's special parrots: Jonquil (Olive-shouldered) Parrot and Marigold Lorikeets, although both of these have become increasingly rare here over the past few years. We'll stay out just after dusk to search for the recently split, endemic Timor Boobook, as well as the endemic subspecies of Eastern Barn Owl before returning to Kupang for an overnight stay.

Day 6: Kupang to Rote by ferry. The tiny offshore island of Rote, situated just west of Timor will be our next port of call and our base for the next two nights. The island has only recently made it onto the international birding radar but since it is so easily accessible and supports four endemics, it is a must-visit addition to any birding tour of the Lesser Sundas. We have the afternoon to begin our birding on the island in search of the island's four endemics: Rote Boobook, Rote Fantail, Rote Myzomela and Rote Leaf Warbler. We're likely to already encounter at least one or two of the diurnal endemics this afternoon and at dusk we'll search for the handsome Rote Boobook and the endemic subspecies of Large-tailed Nightjar that is likely to be split in future as Timor Nightjar.



White-bellied (Timor) Bush Chat by Glen Valentine

Day 7: Rote. Today we target Rote's four endemics, as well as several other mouth-watering regional



Timor (Bar-necked) Cuckoo-Dove by Glen Valentine

endemics that are otherwise shared with Timor. Several of these can be tricky to find during our time in West Timor so it would be great to get as many of them out of the way as possible during our time on Rote. These include the striking Jonquil (Olive-shouldered) Parrot, Pink-headed Imperial Pigeon, Black Cuckoo-Dove, Olive-brown (Timor) Oriole and Green (Timor) Figbird. While searching for these prime targets, we'll also likely encounter White-bellied (Timor) Bush Chat, Timor Stubtail, Timor Blue (Warbling) Flycatcher, Fawn-breasted Whistler and Orange-sided Thrush. We'll have this evening to search again for Rote Boobook and Large-tailed (Timor) Nightjar should we have missed them yesterday.

Day 8: Rote and afternoon ferry to Kupang (Timor). We have this morning to continue birding and exploring Rote for any of the above-mentioned specialties we may still need before catching the afternoon ferry back to Kupang.

Day 9: Camplong and Bipolo. Today promises to be another endemics-filled day as we explore Camplong, a productive area of foothill forest just east of Kupang. This beautiful patch of forest varies quite considerably from Bipolo Forest and is an excellent area to find some of Timor's more elusive endemics. Included in this fantastic suite are Black Cuckoo-Dove, Cinnamon-banded Kingfisher, Orange-sided Thrush, Timor Stubtail and Spot-breasted Heleia (Timor Dark-eye). Birding along the road and trails, we also hope to encounter White-bellied (Timor) Bush Chat, the secretive Black-banded Flycatcher, Timor Blue Flycatcher, Blue-cheeked (Red-chested) and Thick-billed (Tenggara) Flowerpeckers, Timor Leaf Warbler, the stunning Tricolored Parrotfinch and the ultra-skulking Buff-banded Thicketbird. Other more widespread species we are likely to encounter this morning include Little Bronze Cuckoo (sometimes split as Gould's Bronze Cuckoo), the delightful Spectacled (Wallacean) Monarch, Little Pied Flycatcher, Banded and Rose-crowned Fruit Doves and Sunda Bush Warbler. In the late afternoon, we'll return to Bipolo in search of any species we



Banded Fruit Dove by Glen Valentine

might still need there such as Timor Sparrow, the rare Pink-headed Imperial Pigeon, Jonquil Parrot or Timor Boobook.



Pale-shouldered Cicadabird by Glen Valentine

Day 10: Kupang to Bipolo or Camplong & drive to Soe; PM birding Oelnasi Forest. This morning we depart Kupang for the highlands of West Timor. However, we'll stop in for some morning's birding at either Bipolo or Camplong, depending on which target, endemic species we may still need. Noteworthy new species we might encounter this morning include Crested (Oriental) Honey Buzzard, Australian Hobby, Lesser Coucal, Pacific Baza, Black-faced and White-breasted Woodswallows, Short-toed Snake Eagle, Bonelli's Eagle, Australian Pratincole, Tree Martin and Striated Swallows feeding overhead, White-faced and Striated Herons, several species of resident and wintering shorebird such as Javan and Red-capped Plovers, Far Eastern Curlew, Marsh and Sharp-tailed Sandpipers and Long-toed Stint. We can also expect to see and possibly achieve improved views of many of the specialty endemics already mentioned above before arriving in Soe, at an elevation of around 800m (2700ft), a pleasant break from the heat and humidity of the lowlands.

This afternoon, we'll spend our first of probably two sessions at Oelnasi. This area of Monsoon Forest continually produces good sightings of several of Timor's toughest endemics, most notably Black and Timor Cuckoo-Doves, Black-banded Flycatcher and Buff-banded Thicketbird. It is also a good back-up site for Timor Boobook and Eastern Barn Owl and is one of the only sites on the tour for the endemic subspecies of Large-tailed Nightjar, likely to be split soon as Timor Nightjar. Oelnasi also offers good general birding and we may very well also encounter Cinnamon-banded Kingfisher, Banded Fruit Dove, Pale-shouldered Cicadabird, Common (Wallacean) Cicadabird, Timor Stubtail, Green Figbird, Wallacean (Timor) Drongo and Jonquil Parrot during our time here. If we still need Brown Quail or Red-backed Buttonquail we'll walk some scrubby fields nearby where we stand an



Red-backed Buttonquail by Glen Valentine

excellent chance of flushing these two unobtrusive ground dwellers.



White-rumped (Glittering) Kingfisher by Glen Valentine

Day 11: Mount Mutis. This morning, we embark early on the drive up into the mountains towards the small village of Fatumnasi situated to the north of Soe. The entire day will be spent birding the montane forests and lower altitude native Eucalyptus woodlands that cloak Mount Mutis. The fairly extensive Mount Mutis Nature Reserve is shrouded in wonderful mossy forest and protects many of the island's most wonderful endemic species. One of the toughest endemics, the rare Timor Imperial Pigeon, occurs here and will be a major target species for today, although we would be very fortunate to encounter this mega rarity that is a lot easier to see in East Timor and on Wetar. We should, however, encounter Metallic Pigeon in the forests, while a host of other fabulous species that may entertain us during the day include Island Thrush, Yellow-breasted and Timor Leaf Warblers, Warbling White-eye, the shy and skulking Pygmy (Cupwing) Wren-babbler, Chestnut-backed Thrush (decreasing rapidly in numbers due to trapping for the cage-bird trade), the recently described Eucalypt Cuckoo-Dove (split from Little Cuckoo-Dove), Snowy-browed Flycatcher, Flame (Yellow)-eared Honeyeater, Yellow-throated (Tenggara) Whistler (here with a pure white throat!), Jonquil Parrot, Wallacean (Timor Spangled) Drongo, Blood-breasted (Timor) Flowerpecker, Olive-brown (Timor) Oriole and Timor Blue (Warbling) Flycatcher. We will also keep a look out for flocks of Olive-headed Lorikeet overhead and the lower-altitude forest and secondary growth may yield the very rare Iris Lorikeet if we are extremely lucky, as well as the gaudy Tricolored and recently discovered Timor/Mount Mutis Parrotfinches.



Metallic Pigeon by Adam Riley

Day 12: Oelnasi Forest and return to Kupang. This morning we will once again bird the nearby Oelnasi Forest in search of any species that are still outstanding. These may include rarities like Black and Timor Cuckoo-Doves and Black-banded Flycatcher. After lunch, if time allows, we can head up to the Tubu Humau area, an under-birded site where we stand a chance of seeing the very rare Timor Imperial Pigeon and Iris Lorikeet in the late afternoon if we missed them yesterday at

Mount Mutis. In the late afternoon, we head back to Kupang for our final night's stay on West Timor.



Moluccan Scops Owl by Glen Valentine

Day 13: Fly to Ruteng (Flores), drive to Kisol and Poco Ndeki Forest. After breakfast this morning, we head to Eltari Airport in Kupang and board our flight to the highland city of Ruteng on Flores Island. Upon arrival, we will drive to the low elevation, coastal town of Borong, our destination for the next two nights. En route from Ruteng to Borong we pass by Lake Ranamese, surrounded by beautiful, moss-draped, endemic-rich montane forest. We'll spend an hour or two birding along the roadside in this habitat and we can expect to encounter at least a few new Flores endemics before lunch that could include the miniscule Russet-capped Tesia, Cream-browed White-eye (Eyebrowed Heleia), Brown-capped Fantail and Flores Leaf Warbler. Thereafter, we continue the drive towards Borong to check into our hotel for the next two nights. After lunch, we'll drive forty minutes to the edge of the lowland forest around the base of Poco Ndeki, a fairly large mountain that towers up above the surrounding lowlands and a birding mecca. We should already encounter several of the area's specialties this afternoon and exciting new birds could include Black-fronted and Golden-rumped Flowerpeckers, Little (Flores) Minivet, the exquisite White-rumped Kingfisher and Flores Crow. At dusk, we'll begin our search for Moluccan and the rare and elusive Wallace's Scops Owls, as well as Mees's Nightjar, should we still need it.

Day 14: Poco Ndeki Forest. We have the entire day to explore the fabulous Poco Ndeki Forest in search of a multitude of extremely special avian delicacies on offer at this prime locality that is usually the "birdiest" of all the sites visited during this tour! Poco Ndeki is one of the best places to see the very impressive and critically endangered Flores Hawk-Eagle, the rare and elusive Flores Green Pigeon and the recently recognised Ornate Pitta and we have an excellent chance of finding all three of these highly desirable species. We will also try our best to track down the area's other target species that include Flame-breasted Sunbird, the endemic subspecies of Wallacean Cuckooshrike, Black-fronted and Golden-rumped Flowerpeckers, Little Minivet,



Little (Flores) Minivet by Glen Valentine



Flores Scops Owl by David Hoddinott

White-rumped Kingfisher, Tenggara Paradise Flycatcher, Black-naped Monarch and Russet-capped Tesia bouncing around on the forest floor. The distinctive calls of the Flores Crow should pinpoint us to the whereabouts of these strange corvids and we hope to encounter a wealth of other great birds during the day, such as Variable Goshawk, gorgeous Olive-backed and Brown-throated Sunbirds, Black-naped Fruit Dove and Tenggara Swiftlet. We'll have another chance this evening for Wallace's and Moluccan Scops Owls and Mees's Nightjar.

Day 15: Kisol to Ruteng via Ranamese Lake. Today we head back to Ruteng, but not before making a very productive and enjoyable birding stop in the forests surrounding Ranamese Lake. Here many high-altitude forest species are to be sought in the beautiful cloud forest that surrounds the shore. Wonderful, new Flores highland endemics on offer include Flores (Russet-backed) Jungle Flycatcher, the striking Bare-throated Whistler (which displays brilliant red bare skin on its throat when it emits its incredibly loud, varied and melodic song), the near-endemic Brown-capped Fantail, Cream-browed, Crested and Warbling White-eyes, Scaly-crowned Honeyeater, Russet-capped Tesia, tiny Pygmy Cupwing, stunning but extremely shy Chestnut-backed Thrush and Flores Leaf Warbler. The lake itself usually holds several pairs of Pacific Black Duck and Tricoloured Grebe.

This evening we'll have our first of possibly several attempts to try and track down and obtain views of Flores's least-known and toughest endemic, the once mythical Flores Scops Owl. Seeing this species will, however, require exceptional effort, patience and a fair amount of luck thrown in as well! While searching for this mega owl, we will also have further chances of finding both Wallace's and Moluccan Scops Owls. Later in the evening, we'll head back to our accommodation in Ruteng, where we will be based for the next three nights.



Flores Green Pigeon by Glen Valentine

Days 16 & 17: Golo Lusang and Pagal areas. The next two full days will be spent birding the forests around Golo Lusang and Pagal, in search of the area's many tough



Bare-throated Whistler by Adam Riley

endemics that we may not yet have found. New species we hope to encounter include the rare and elusive Wallace's (Flores) Hanging Parrot, Leaf (Flores) Lorikeet, Dark-backed Imperial Pigeon, Thick-billed Heleia, Chestnut-backed Thrush, Flores Jungle Flycatcher, Sunda Pygmy Woodpecker (one of very few woodpeckers that crossed Wallace's Line) and Ruddy Cuckoo-Dove.

Obviously, we will also encounter an array of magical species that we may already have seen during the past few days, such as Little Minivet, White-rumped Kingfisher, Russet-capped Tesia, Bare-throated Whistler, Black-fronted, Blood-breasted (Flores) and Golden-rumped Flowerpeckers, Scaly-crowned Honeyeater, Cream-browed and Crested White-eyes, Banded Fruit Dove, Flame-breasted Sunbird and Flores Hawk-Eagle, among many others. The sweet song of White-browed (Flores) Shortwing (occurring here as a highly distinctive subspecies that is very likely to be split soon as Flores Shortwing) may give its presence away in the dense undergrowth and we might also be fortunate to encounter Barred Cuckoo-Dove in the forest canopy. Other species that may entertain us in these highland forests include Mountain Tailorbird, Rusty-breasted and Sunda Cuckoos and the mouse-like Pygmy Cupwing (Wren-babbler) in the dense, dark gullies. If we are very lucky, the rarely-seen Sunda Thrush and highly elusive Tawny-breasted Parrotfinch may also put in an appearance but we would have to be extremely fortunate to encounter either of these two rarities during this tour. We may also encounter Bonelli's Eagle and Rufous-bellied Eagles patrolling the forests overhead and, in the evenings or early mornings, we'll have further chances of tracking down the little-known and recently rediscovered Flores Scops Owl.

Day 18: Ruteng to Labuan Bajo via Puarlolo. This morning we'll depart Ruteng after breakfast and drive eastwards for a few hours towards Labuan Bajo. Depending on what we've seen thus far, we might make one or two roadside stops along the way if we still haven't seen the elusive Leaf Lorikeet or if we're longing for perched views of this scarce endemic. These stops might also yield Ruddy Cuckoo-Dove and Crested and Thick-billed Heleias. We'll likely arrive at Puarlolo, our scheduled birding site for this morning in the mid to late morning. Paurlolo is famous for harbouring the incredibly localised but fairly common Flores Monarch, which was only



Crested Heleia (White-eye/Dark-eye) by Glen Valentine



Komodo Dragon by Glen Valentine

discovered in 1971. Puarlolo is "The" place to see this once mythical species that is very rarely encountered anywhere else on the island. Paurlolo is also a very good site for the recently described Ornate Pitta (recently split from Elegant Pitta), Chestnut-capped Thrush (a very rarely seen species anywhere else in its South-east Asian range), Rufous-chested Flycatcher and a number of the Lesser Sunda's forest endemics such as Black-fronted and Golden-rumped Flowerpeckers, Chestnut-backed Thrush, Crested and Thick-billed Heleias (White-eyes/Dark-eyes), Yellow-ringed White-eye (Wallace's Heleia), Russet-capped Tesia and Brown-capped Fantail. After a wonderful morning's birding, we'll continue to Labuan Bajo on the western edge of Flores, where we will check into our beachside hotel and enjoy lunch before the afternoon birding session. There will be several options available to us this afternoon, depending on what we've seen thus far. If we still need any of the Puarlolo specialties, we'll likely return to Puarlolo for the late afternoon. Otherwise, if Wallace's Hanging Parrot, Ornate Pitta or any of the lowland owls or Mees's Nightjar have still eluded us, we'll drive the short distance into the forested hills along the Potawanka Road and spend the afternoon and early evening there. Alternatively, if we've already had success with all of these species, which we certainly hope is the case then we'll take a leisurely stroll along the beach towards a nearby estuary. This is a great little birding site for the late afternoon and has afforded us excellent views of specialties such as Lemon-bellied White-eye (generally a Supertramp (small island) specialist that is unlikely to be seen anywhere else on this tour), Barred Buttonquail, Beach Stone-Curlew and Great-billed Heron. We might also encounter several species of wader and other water associated species, as well as Sunda (Island) Collared Dove during the outing.



Yellow-ringed White-eye (Wallace's Heleia) by Adam Riley

Day 19: Day trip to Komodo Island, PM 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



Yellow-crested Cockatoo by Glen Valentine

arrive at the island with ample time for exploration and photography. On this arid 390sq km island, we will be met by one of the park's rangers and will then head off into 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 10ft 3in (over 3m) and tipping the scales at an average weight of up to 200 lbs (90 kg), the Komodo Dragon is the super predator on the island. 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 the dragons' 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!



Wallacean (Flores) Cuckooshrike by Glen Valentine

Komodo is however, home to far more than these incredible lizards: 32 mammal species, 128 birds and 37 reptile species 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 too and we'll search for Green Junglefowl, Orange-footed Scrubfowl, the Critically



Orange-footed Scrubfowl by Adam Riley

Endangered Yellow-crested Cockatoo, Green Imperial Pigeon, the lovely Barred and Sunda (Island) Collared Doves, Little Cuckoo-Dove, White-bellied Sea Eagle, Asian Koel, Black-naped Oriole, Black-naped Monarch, Wallacean (Flores Spangled) Drongo, Collared Kingfisher, Blue-tailed Bee-eater, Rusty-breasted (Tenggara) Whistler, Olive-backed (Ornate) Sunbird, Helmeted Friarbird and, with a bit of good fortune, Beach Stone-Curlew (Thick-knee).

After lunch on the island, we'll have an opportunity to snorkel the remarkable coral reefs off Pink Beach before we begin our journey back to Labuan Bajo. En route we will 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 Bottle-nosed Dolphins may put in an appearance or perhaps even a Dugong, which we were very fortunate to see on our 2013 tour, and maybe even the tiny Bulwer's Petrel, which generally prefers deeper waters, may pass by our boat. We should arrive back on the mainland in the mid-afternoon with time in the late afternoon to either bird around the lodge grounds or nearby or return to Puarlolo or Potawanka. We'll return to our beach resort in the late afternoon with time to freshen up and enjoy a final dinner on this fascinating island.

Day 20: Labuan Bajo and departure. After a final breakfast at our hotel, we will head to Komodo Airport and board our internal flight back to Denpasar on Bali from where we fly our separate ways. We will no doubt conclude that the past 20 days have yielded many very special and highly memorable experiences together with some of the most prized, localised, exotic and desirable birds on earth!

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 20;
- 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 Lesser Sundas birding tour varies from easy to moderate, however, there will be an option of a tougher trail in the Gunung Mutis Nature Reserve. You should be in good health and of reasonable 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 are of a reasonable standard. However, the standard is probably inferior to that which many of you will be used to in more modern and first world countries. Some nights will be spent at fairly basic hotels, while others will be at very comfortable ones. The two nights at the Lewa Guest House on Sumba will be extremely basic with minimal facilities and shared bathrooms/washrooms. There are no shower facilities here except for an outside cubicle with a bucket of cold water. However, the owners and staff here are extremely friendly and hospitable and try their very best to accommodate our "western needs". The food here is also excellent!
- 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, humid and sunny, but overcast conditions are fairly frequent and some rain, heavy at times, can be expected in the highlands, mainly in the Ruteng/Golo Lusang

area. In montane areas, it will range from very cool (early mornings and nights) to warm during the day.

- Several nocturnal outings will be taken to search for night birds and combined 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 Ngurah Rai International Airport, Bali (IATA: DPS) on the morning of day 1. Please arrive early on this morning or preferably the day before (if not continuing on from the Bali Birding Extension) to ensure that you do not miss the connecting flight from Denpasar to Mau Hau Airport, Waingapu (IATA: WGP) in East Sumba. The tour will conclude at Ngurah Rai International Airport, Bali (IATA: DPS) by noon on day 20.

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. 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. **Please DO NOT book any flights until you have consulted the Rockjumper office for confirmation on the status of the tour.**