# Indonesia

## Highlights of the East: Sulawesi, Moluccas & Papua



**Western Crowned Pigeon by Glen Valentine**

*As a result of the remarkable biogeography of the region, our Highlights of the Eastern Indonesian archipelago provides very little overlap in bird species to our Highlights of Western Indonesia, with a phenomenal number of special and endemic birds.*

*We begin by exploring the prime highland site of Lore Lindu National Park on the island of Sulawesi. Boasting over 70 endemic species, the exceptional range of highly desirable birds we will seek include the endemic Hylocitrea, now placed in its own monotypic family, the indescribable Purple-bearded Bee-eater, bizarre and unique Geomalia, Fiery-browed Starling, Satanic Nightjar, Ivory-backed Woodswallow and the impressive Knobbed Hornbill.*

*We then wing our way to the nearby island of Halmahera, where we visit a lekking site for the highly sought-after Standardwing, surely one of the most bizarre birds-of-paradise! Here we also seek a mind-boggling number of Moluccan endemics including the spectacular Ivory-breasted Pitta, White (Umbrella) Cockatoo, Azure Dollarbird, Chattering Lory, Halmahera Boobook and Moluccan Owlet-Nightjar.*

*Moving further eastwards, we again enter a completely new biological zone as we arrive in Sorong, on the extreme western tip of New Guinea. Here we bird the famous Vogelkop, hosting a veritable feast of incredible*

*highlights such as Magnificent and King Bird-of-paradise, numerous imperial pigeons, fruit doves (Wompoo, Superb, Orange-bellied and Pink-spotted Fruit Doves to name a few), parrots (including the localized Black Lory and Moluccan King Parrot) and kingfishers (Red-breasted Paradise and Blue-black Kingfishers being two of the prime targets.)*

*We conclude our tour on the Raja Ampat Island of Waigeo, famed for the best snorkelling in the world! Here our targets in this tropical island paradise include Red Bird-of-paradise, the incredible Western Crowned Pigeon, Palm Cockatoo, Raja Ampat Pitohui, Waigeo Shrikethrush, Brown-headed Crow and much besides. And, as a way of celebrating the finale of this remarkable tour we will visit the display ground of quite possibly the most spectacular bird on Earth – Wilson's Bird-of-paradise!*

## *Itinerary & Map*

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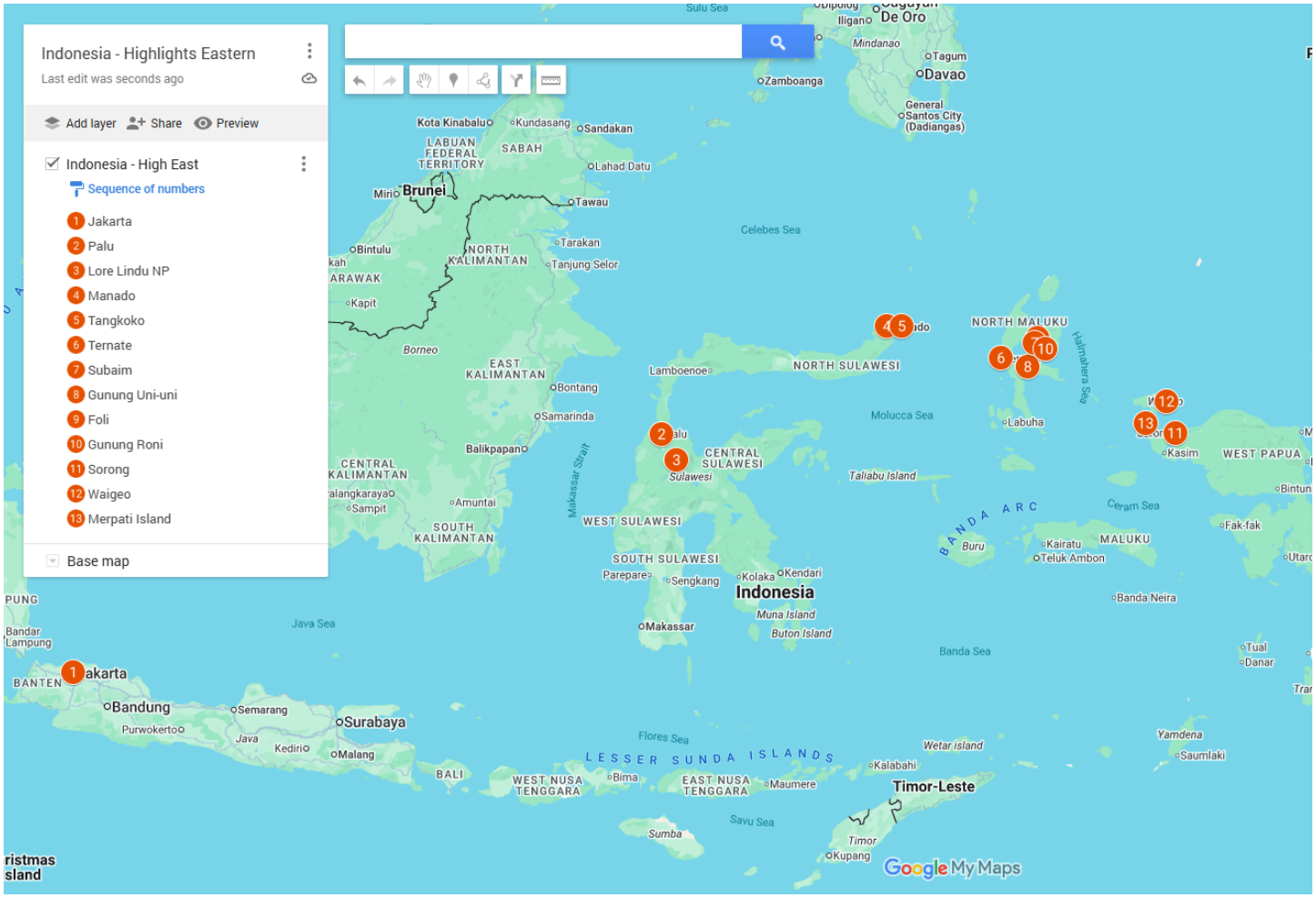
|---|---|
| **Day 1** | **Arrival in Jakarta** |
| **Day 2** | **Jakarta, flight to Palu, transfer to Lore Lindu National Park** |
| **Day 3** | **Lore Lindu National Park** |
| **Day 4** | **Lore Lindu National Park to Palu** |
| **Day 5** | **Palu, flight to Manado, transfer to Tangkoko Nature Reserve** |
| **Day 6** | **Tangkoko Nature Reserve** |
| **Day 7** | **Tangkoko to Manado, flight to Halmahera via Ternate, transfer to Subaim** |
| **Day 8** | **Foli & Gunung Uni-uni** |
| **Day 9** | **Gunung Uni-uni & Gunung Roni** |
| **Day 10** | **Subaim to Buli via Gunung Uni-uni; flight to Manado via Ternate** |
| **Day 11** | **Manado; flight to Sorong** |
| **Day 12** | **Birding the lowlands of Sorong** |
| **Day 13** | **Sorong lowlands, afternoon ferry to Waigeo** |
| **Days 14 & 15** | **Waigeo** |
| **Day 16** | **Boat trip to Merpati Island, ferry from Waigeo to Sorong** |
| **Day 17** | **Final departures** |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Sequence of numbers
1 Jakarta
2 Palu
3 Lore Lindu NP
4 Manado
5 Tangkoko
6 Ternate
7 Subaim
8 Gunung Uni-uni
9 Foli
10 Gunung Roni
11 Sorong
12 Waigeo
13 Merpati Island
Base map
Indonesia
Brunei
Jakarta
Bandung
Surabaya
Timor-Leste
Google My Maps

# *Birding sites in detail*

**SULAWESI**

**Lore Lindu National Park.** This superb reserve, the largest of the islands' national parks, supports most of Sulawesi's montane species and we can look forward to some fabulous birding!



**Red-backed Thrush by Glen Valentine**

Lore Lindu National Park is also one of the only accessible sites for the uncommon, often elusive, and monotypic Hylocitrea. This is a highland speciality that is quiet and reclusive in the moss-laden montane forest, but it does associate with mixed feeding flocks and working the many bird parties that move through the forest canopy and mid-story will be our best chance of locating this much-wanted, endemic species.

At twilight one morning, we will start birding in the montane forest for the scarce Cinnabar Boobook; and although uncommon, one of the first songs at dawn might be the vocal but secretive Great Shortwing that lurks in the thick understory. Near Lake Tambing we will search for feeding flocks given away by the sharp calls of Malia, a unique species of grassbird that forages nuthatch-like on the moss-covered branches along with attending species such as Pygmy and Cerulean Cuckooshrikes, Sulawesi Drongo, Sulphur-vented Whistler, Sulawesi Fantail, Lemon-bellied, Warbling and Black-crowned White-eyes, Turquoise Flycatcher, Citrine Canary-flycatcher and Sulawesi Leaf Warbler. Further searching could produce small flocks of Streak-headed White-eye (Sulawesi Heleia), the brightly coloured Sulawesi and Blue-fronted (Hoevell's) Blue Flycatchers singing from vine tangles, the splendid Fiery-browed Starling, Sulawesi Myzomela, Dark-eared Myza, Yellow-sided Flowerpecker, the lovely Ivory-backed Woodswallow, White-bellied Imperial Pigeon with its unique booming call, Black-billed Koel, and the impressive Sulawesi Myna.



**Pale Blue Monarch by David Hoddinott**

The extensive upper montane forest inside the reserve is mostly inaccessible due to the area's ruggedness, but the Anaso Track climbs the slopes of Gunung Rorekatimbu, the highest peak in the park at just over 2 500 meters, allowing us to search for high montane specialities.

Before dawn we will begin our ascent on foot, keeping our eyes and ears peeled for specialties such as Red-eared Fruit Dove and Grey-headed

Imperial Pigeon that sometimes sit out in the early morning. Although increasingly scarce and elusive, the brilliant Purple-bearded Bee-eater will hopefully be found near its breeding areas along exposed earthen embankments. We will undoubtedly be constantly serenaded by the timid Sulawesi Bush (Grasshopper) Warbler, although it may take a few tries to be sure everyone sees this surprisingly attractive species. Higher up the trail we'll keep an eye out for White-eared Myza and the flighty Mountain Serin. We also hope to encounter roosting Satanic Nightjar around the half-way mark and this is also a good area for the low-density Sombre Pigeon. It will take a bit of luck, but we'll scour the trail as we walk for subtle movements in the hope of finding the bizarre Geomalia that can sometimes be found hopping along the path, a large, disproportionate bird somewhat reminiscent of Madagascar's ground rollers. Spot-tailed and Dwarf Sparrowhawks are two of the scarce and retiring forest understory raptors that might be encountered. Fruiting trees sometimes produce views of the shy Sulawesi Thrush as well as the uncommon Crimson-crowned Flowerpecker and we'll also be on the lookout for the rare, retiring, and elusive Blue-faced and Tawny-breasted Parrotfinches and the distinctive song of the skulking Maroon-backed Whistler.



**Satanic Nightjar by Clayton Burne**

Three of Lore Lindu's rarest and least-known species are the Sulawesi Cuckoo, Sulawesi Ground Dove and the near-mythical Sulawesi Woodcock and although worth keeping a lookout for since they do occur at Lore Lindu, we'd be extremely fortunate to see or even hear any of these three very rarely encountered species.



**Knob-billed Hornbill by Adam Riley**

Overhead in Lore Lindu National Park, we can watch for Yellow-eared (Citrine/Meyer's) Lorikeet, while noisy Golden-mantled Racket-tails shoot by overhead and, with time in this habitat, we have a fair chance of finding this species perched on flowering trees. As the days warm up, we can also watch for raptors such as Sulawesi Serpent Eagle, Barred Honey Buzzard and Sulawesi Hawk-Eagle soaring above the forest, together with Purple Needletail.

Night-birding excursions will be undertaken to track down Sulawesi Scops Owl, Speckled Boobook and Sulawesi Masked Owl.

**Palu area.** Areas of grassy scrubland, and bushes could produce the rare and endemic Pale-bellied Myna, as well as Savanna

Nightjar on their day roosts, Barred Buttonquail, the localised Pale-headed Munia, Spotted Harrier, Blue-tailed Bee-eater, Lesser Coucal and White-shouldered Triller. The coastal salt ponds support Javan Plover, Pied Stilt and Barred Rail.



Hylocitrea by Glen Valentine

**Tangkoko Nature Reserve.** Sulawesi Nightjar can sometimes be found hawking insects over the forest here before dawn, and as the sun illuminates the forest, we will be watching for the secretive Green-backed Kingfisher that often reveals its presence by its distinctive whistled call.

The outrageous Knobbed Hornbill is regular here, while Black-naped Fruit Dove, the noisy Azure-rumped Parrot, Yellow-billed (Sulawesi) Malkoha, Great and Pygmy Hanging Parrots, Sulawesi Pygmy and Ashy Woodpeckers, Isabelline Bush-hen, Bay Coucal, Black-billed Koel, Pale-blue Monarch, the rare Pied Cuckooshrike, the gorgeous Purple-winged (Blue-crowned/Sulawesi) Roller and White-faced Cuckoo-Dove are all possibilities. Tangkoko also offers further chances to see several of the island's shy and low-density *accipiters* such as Spot-tailed, Vinous-breasted and Dwarf (Small) Sparrowhawks. Vibrant Grosbeak Starlings can sometimes be found nesting colonially in tower-block fashion in the trunks of dead trees. In the dense, dark forest interior, we'll be watching out for Sulawesi Lilac Kingfisher, the shy and unobtrusive Sulawesi Dwarf Kingfisher, Philippine Megapode (Scrubfowl) on the forest floor, Stephan's Dove, and the striking Red-backed Thrush. Our local guide often knows the whereabouts of a roosting pair of Ochre-bellied Boobook and one evening, we'll give the option to try for the extremely elusive and rarely seen Minahassa Masked Owl.



Fiery-browed Starlings by Adam Riley

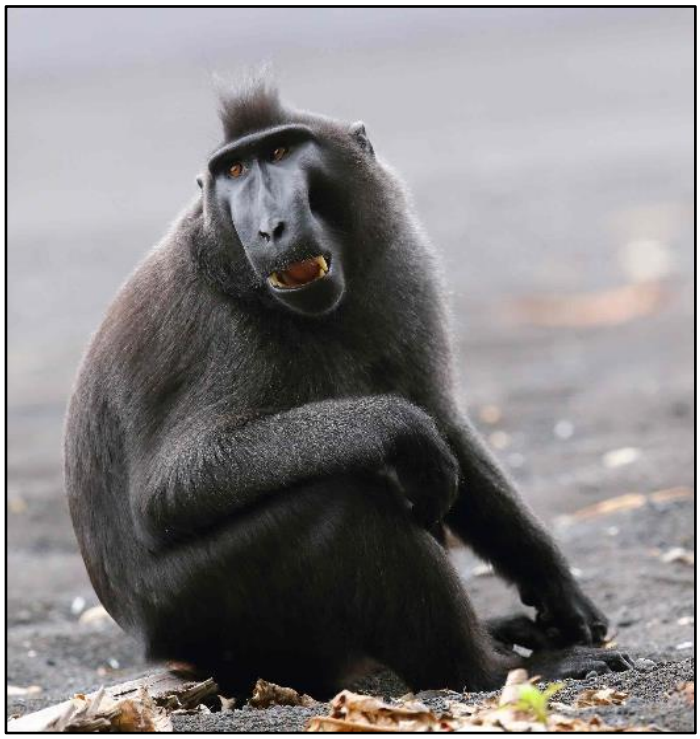
Mammals are also a great feature of this reserve, and we will almost certainly locate the wacky and endearing Sulawesi Crested Macaque, as we wait for the darling Spectral Tarsier to emerge from its roosting site in the early evening or perhaps even see them peaking their heads out from a tree hollow during the day.

**HALMAHERA**

**Ternate.** We'll visit a local feeding station where we should get good views of North Moluccan Pitta. Whilst waiting for the pitta to show up, we may also find Moluccan Dwarf Kingfisher, Sultan's Cuckoo-Dove,

Shining Flycatcher and possibly Barking Owl at a day roost.

**Ternate to Sofifi.** Although the speed-boat shuttle between Ternate and Sofifi is less than ideal for birding and neither are the conditions, we might still encounter Lesser Frigatebirds overhead and Beach Kingfisher when we reach the shore at Sofifi.



**Celebes Crested Macaque by Adam Riley**

**Foli.** Halmahera lies further to the east of Wallace's Line than Sulawesi, and consequently its avifauna contains a higher proportion of Australasian elements such as the sprightly Willie Wagtail, Shining Flycatcher and (Halmahera) Spangled Drongo. Parrots occur in abundance, with possibilities including Violet-necked and Chattering Lory, Red-flanked Lorikeet, Red-cheeked and the extremely handsome Great-billed Parrots, Moluccan Eclectus and White (Umbrella) Cockatoo, which has decreased rapidly in numbers but is still available with some dedicated searching. Pigeons are in close competition, and we will be searching for Scarlet-breasted, Blue-capped and Grey-headed Fruit Doves, Spectacled and Pied Imperial Pigeons and the impressive Great and Sultan's Cuckoo-Doves.

Perhaps the most remarkable bird on Halmahera is the magnificent Standardwing, an exceptional bird-of-paradise that performs a whimsical canopy display in the early morning. Setting out well before dawn, we will be in position under the display tree by first light and will likely hear the harsh calls of this species even before it becomes completely visible. As the light improves, the male's flamboyant white standards and metallic green epaulettes become brighter, and if a female arrives to check out the lek site we will be in for a real exhibition of spectacular leaps and wing folding!



**Standardwing by Glen Valentine**

Another very exciting species we will be targeting in the surroundings is the sensational Ivory-breasted Pitta that is encountered in these forests. Its distinctive call will hopefully allow us to track down this most impressive species that together with the Giant Pitta is the largest extant pitta on Earth! They are often heard and seen high up in the canopy, decorated with red, black, white, and turquoise, certainly a sight to behold! Rustling in the undergrowth might reveal the presence of the scarce Dusky Megapode and, with luck, we may bump into the rare Moluccan Goshawk. Pre-dawn, before heading into the Standardwing lek, we'll try and track down the scarce Halmahera Boobook and often-tricky Moluccan Owlet-nightjar.

**Gunung Uni-uni.** The air whooshing through the mighty wings of Blyth's Hornbill will be a regular sound as we continue searching through the intact hill forest for Dusky-brown Oriole, Moluccan and scarce White-naped Monarchs, Moluccan Flycatcher, and the furtive Halmahera Paradise-crow, which, despite its English name, is actually a bird-of-paradise! The booming sound of Goliath Coucal will eventually give away its presence, while we will also scan through the treetops for several cuckooshrike species, including Moluccan, White-bellied and the endemic Halmahera Cuckooshrikes, as well as Common (Wallacean) Cicadabird and Rufous-bellied Triller.



**Scarlet-breasted Fruit Dove by David Hoddinott**

It will likely take some coaxing to produce the exquisite Common Paradise Kingfisher that tends to stay in thicker forested areas, and we will also be targeting Blue-and-white Kingfisher. An outside chance exists for the shy and scarce Moluccan Dwarf Kingfisher, but we'd be very fortunate to see this species. Other likely possibilities during our time here include Northern Golden Bulbul, Variable Goshawk, the impressive Long-billed Crow, Moustached Treeswift, Metallic and Moluccan Starlings, White-streaked Friarbird, Black-chinned and Drab Whistlers, Cream-throated White-eye, Halmahera Flowerpecker, Island (North Moluccan) Leaf Warbler and Gurney's Eagle soaring overhead. If we are very fortunate, we may even see the scarce Moluccan King Parrot, which we have found on past tours. Gunung Uni-uni, like Foli and Gunung Roni, is also an excellent area for pigeons and parrots with all the previously mentioned species in these respective families being likely in this area. Night-birding could produce Halmahera Boobook, Moluccan Owlet-nightjar, and Moluccan Scops Owl, and with much luck, Barking Owl.



**Goliath Coucal by Glen Valentine**

**Gunung Roni.** All of the species mentioned for Foli and Gunung Uni-uni also occur in the secondary forest in this area that lies to the west of Subaim and is easiest accessed between Ternate and Subaim. Gunung Roni does however appear to be a slightly better area to encounter the very rare Azure Dollarbird, which is a widespread but very low-density endemic species. This is also a good area for Cream-throated White-eye, Goliath Coucal, Sombre Kingfisher and all of the pigeons and parrots on the island. It also appears to be the only realistic chance of seeing two rarely encountered cuckoos, namely the Moluccan Drongo-Cuckoo and Moluccan Cuckoo but we'd still require a hefty dose of luck to encounter either of these two species.

**Manado mangroves.** We'll search for the shy and scarce Blue-black Kingfisher, as well as Barred Rail, Little Kingfisher, Collared Imperial Pigeon, Orange-breasted Fig Parrot (could possibly be split off as Blue-fronted Fig Parrot in future), Buff-banded Rail, Eastern Osprey, the sumptuous Emperor Fairywren, Black Butcherbird, New Guinea Friarbird, Orange-fronted Fruit Dove, Brown-backed Honeyeater, Little Bronze Cuckoo, Glossy-mantled Manucode (bird-of-paradise indeed!) the ultra skulky Black Thicket Fantail and Large-billed Gerygone.



**Ivory-breasted Pitta by Glen Valentine**

**Sorong.** Having made our way north-east along the coastline, we'll enter an area of extensive, primary lowland rainforest that heartwarmingly still blankets much of the Vogelkop (Bird's Head) area. We will spend time enjoying the spectacular and abundant birdlife that the Vogelkop's Tamrau Lowlands have to offer.

The bird activity along the well-maintained but quiet road through this beautiful and verdant forest can be quite exceptional just after dawn with many fantastic and highly desirable species being fairly common and obtrusive. These include Coconut Lorikeet, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Double-eyed Fig Parrot, Pinon's Imperial Pigeon, New Guinea Friarbird, Orange-bellied Fruit Dove, Sultan's Cuckoo-Dove (recently split from the widespread Brown Cuckoo-Dove), the regal Blyth's Hornbill, Uniform and Glossy Swiftlets, Red-cheeked Parrot, the tiny Yellow-capped Pygmy Parrot, Tawny-breasted Honeyeater, Metallic Starling and Yellow-faced Myna.

These are likely to be supplemented by a number of scarcer and highly sought-after species such as noisy flocks of Papuan Babbler, Black Cicadabird, the recently split Southern Variable Pitohui, Ruby-throated and Dusky Myzomelas, Large Fig Parrot, Wallace's and Emperor Fairywrens, Magnificent Riflebird (more likely heard than seen), Lowland Peltops, Golden Myna, Pacific Koel, the impressive Channel-billed Cuckoo, the furtive Black-billed and Ivory-billed Coucals, Papuan Mountain Pigeon and Magnificent Bird-of-paradise.



**Emperor Fairywren by Glen Valentine**

Depending on how productive our roadside birding has been, as well as the status of the mid-morning bird activity due to overhead conditions (or lack thereof), we may opt to make our way into the forest interior along a very indistinct trail

and try our luck at a number of rare, tricky and mouth-watering forest interior species that could include the very rarely seen Red-breasted Paradise Kingfisher, as well as Spot-winged Monarch, Rufous-backed Fantail, Papuan Dwarf Kingfisher, the incredible King Bird-of-paradise, the secretive Black-sided Robin and Papuan Pitta (recently split from Red-bellied/Blue-breasted Pitta).



**Golden Monarch by Glen Valentine**

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

We will also spend time birding along a gravel road in the forested hills above Sorong. The birding here in this largely secondary forest can be excellent, even in the afternoon and we can expect to see noteworthy species such as Olive-crowned Flowerpecker, Black-browed Triller, Yellow-billed Kingfisher, Rufous-bellied Kookaburra, Zoe's Imperial Pigeon, Brush Cuckoo, brilliant Golden and Frilled Monarchs, Black and Olive-backed Sunbirds, Green-backed Gerygone and Grey-headed Cuckooshrike.

Other note-worthy species we might encounter include Pacific Baza, Grey-headed Goshawk, a wonderful range of fruit doves including Wompoo, Superb, Pink-spotted, Beautiful and Dwarf Fruit Doves, as well as Purple-tailed Imperial Pigeon, Palm and Sulphur-crested Cockatoos, the rare and localized Black Lory (virtually endemic to Vogelkop), the radiant Eclectus Parrot, Red-flanked Lorikeet, Black-capped Lory, Papuan Spine-tailed Swift, Grey Crow, Brown Oriole and the sneaky Rusty Mouse-warbler.



**Hook-billed Kingfisher by Glen Valentine**

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

**Sorong to Waigeo.** We should be able to get out onto the top deck soon after departing the port and spend the two-hour trip sea-watching for pelagics and cetaceans. Lesser Frigatebirds are likely to be abundant and if we are lucky, we may find a Bulwer's Petrel or some Wedge-tailed and Streaked Shearwaters. There's even a

chance of Tahiti Petrel and Wilson's Storm Petrels, both of which have been seen on previous crossings. We're also likely to encounter a few cetaceans such as Pantropical Spotted and Spinner Dolphins and with some luck, maybe one or two rarer species such as Short-finned Pilot Whale or even the magnificent Killer Whale.



**Palm Cockatoo by Glen Valentine**

**Waigeo.** We have the time to explore the riches of this wonderful island. On one day we will make an early start by driving inland for half an hour along a bumpy but wonderfully forested track to a series of hides/blinds especially erected to permit us to observe one of the most beautiful birds on Earth – displaying Wilson's Bird-of-paradise! No longer do we have to climb a brutally steep hill for three hours in order to sit and hope that this remarkable bird attends just one display lek located on a steep hillside as was the case in the past on the neighboring Batanta Island.

We will permit ourselves plenty of time to relax and really enjoy this fabulous bird, and for the photographers amongst us, this will be the opportunity of a lifetime! To sit in the hides watching these gorgeous birds, while Blyth's Hornbills and Sulphur-crested and Palm Cockatoos call overhead along with a supporting cast of Pinon's and Purple-tailed Imperial Pigeons, Common Paradise and Hook-billed Kingfishers, Black-sided Robin, Rusty Mouse Warbler and Hooded Butcherbird all vocalizing, duetting and displaying in the surrounding forest, is a fabulously evocative experience and certainly one of the major highlights of this entire tour. Once we are fully satiated with the Wilson's Bird-of-paradise, we will spend the rest of the morning birding along a lovely forested road with little or no traffic to disturb us. Here we will be targeting the scarce and strangely range-restricted and patchily distributed Brown-headed Crow, as well as the vociferous and fairly common Raja Ampat Pitohui (a recent split from Variable Pitohui) and the scarce and recently split Waigeo Shrikethrush.



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

On one afternoon we'll visit the display lek of the stunning and highly range-restricted endemic Red Bird-of-paradise where we'll hopefully have the opportunity to marvel at these incredible birds as they emit their loud, rasping calls to attract surrounding females. If

we are fortunate enough for a female or two to come in, we'll almost certainly be treated to one of the most amazing displays of colour and splendour in the natural world!



**Red Bird-of-paradise by Glen Valentine**

The forest edge is likely to turn up the impressive Blyth's Hornbill and a host of parrots that may include Black-capped Lory, Palm and Sulphur-crested Cockatoos, Red-cheeked and Eclectus Parrots and with much luck, the scarce Great-billed Parrot. Other conspicuous species we might see include Brush Cuckoo, Helmeted Friarbird, Brown Oriole and Yellow-faced Myna, as well as the extremely range-restricted Brown-headed Crow. A number of fruit doves and imperial pigeons are also likely to be seen sitting out in the last rays of light and may include the gorgeous Claret-breasted Fruit Dove, as well as Pied Imperial Pigeon.

On another day, we will be spend time searching for any species we may not have encountered during our first day's explorations of the island and these are likely to be the rarer or more secretive specialties such as Hook-billed Kingfisher, Olive Flyrobin, White-eared Catbird, Rusty Pitohui, Papuan Pitta, Waigeo Shrikethrush, Dwarf and Pygmy Longbills, Lowland Peltops, Black-shouldered Cicadabird, the extremely shy and secretive Sooty Thicket Fantail, terrestrial Dusky Megapode and the awesome Western Crowned Pigeon, as well as very slim chances of a further three very rarely seen ground dwelling pigeons: Cinnamon Ground Dove, Pheasant Pigeon and New Guinea Bronzewing.



**Beautiful Fruit Dove by Glen Valentine**

Other noteworthy species we are likely to encounter during our time on Waigeo include Stephan's Emerald Dove, Beautiful and Dwarf Fruit Doves, Rufous-bellied Kookaburra, Papuan Dwarf Kingfisher, Long-tailed Honey Buzzard, Ruby-throated Myzomela, Long-billed, Mimic, Tawny-breasted and Puff-backed Honeyeaters, Fairy, Green-backed and Yellow-bellied Gerygones, Grey Whistler, Northern Fantail, Spot-winged, Golden and Frilled Monarchs, Yellow-breasted Boatbill, Olive-crowned Flowerpecker, Black Berrypecker and Yellow-bellied Longbill.

Nocturnal forays from our lodge and further afield will hopefully yield the huge Papuan and Marbled Frogmouths, as well as Papuan Boobook and the very

attractive and endemic Waigeo Cuscus, a type of boldly-patterned and nocturnal marsupial. If we are very fortunate and with a lot of effort, we may even locate one or two of Waigeo's rare nocturnal species such as the miniscule Wallace's Owlet-nightjar, Greater Sooty Owl or the very rare Papuan Hawk Owl.



**Island Whistler by Glen Valentine**

**Merpati Island.** An hour long boat-ride will take us to the tiny islet of Merpati, situated in the Dampier Strait, where we shall have a relaxed morning's birding along the beach in search of regional small island specialists like Olive Honeyeater, Island Whistler, Lemon-bellied White-eye, Beach Kingfisher, Violet-necked Lory, Spice Imperial Pigeon, Varied Honeyeater, Arafura Fantail and Moluccan Starling and with much luck the secretive Dusky Megapode and the nomadic prasinorrhous race of White-bibbed Fruit Dove that is sometimes split as Small Island Fruit Dove.

## *Tour Grading & Key*

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|---|---|---|
| **Overall Ease** | 🟥 🟨 ⬜ | Moderately difficult birding, combined with some basic accommodations are taxing. Some steep hikes. Many long days with early starts, several flights. |
| **Birding Ease** | ⬜ 🟨 ⬜ | Birding can be demanding at some locations. Low density of several key species. Others require repeat efforts. |
| **Accommodation** | 🟥 🟨 ⬜ | Most accommodations are reasonable to comfortable, but those at Lore Lindu & Subaim area are basic. |
| **Walking / Trails** | 🟥 🟨 ⬜ | Some trails can be very muddy & steep to very steep. Long days on our feet. The Anaso Track hike is optional. |
| **Vehicles / Roads** | ⬜ 🟨 ⬜ | Comfortable vehicles. Sealed roads often have potholes, unpaved roads can be rough. Risk of occasional landslides. |
| **Photography** | ⬜ 🟨 ⬜ | Photography can reasonable, some basic hides, predominant forest birding. Limited time. |
| **Annoyances** | ⬜ 🟨 ⬜ | Can be very humid in lowlands. Sleep deprivation. |

# *Financial Arrangements and Important Notes*

Tour dates, prices, single supplement, approximate flight costs and tour spaces are displayed on our website.

Tour inclusions:

- All meals from dinner on day 1 to breakfast on day 17;
- Bottled drinking water;
- All lodgings;
- All ground transportation during the tour;
- All reserve entrance fees;
- All guiding services
- Tips for local guides, drivers and services.

Tour exclusions:

- Visa fees;
- ANY flights;
- Any beverages (including mini-bar charges at hotels);
- Optional excursions;
- Special gratuities;
- Telephone calls, 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.

**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 you feel that they have given you excellent service, it is entirely appropriate to tip them at your discretion.

- **Due to constantly fluctuating exchange rates, we quote our tours in 4 currencies. The tour price is 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. The same applies to approximate flight and single supplement rates.**
- **Rates are based upon group tariffs; if the tour does not have sufficient registrations, a small group supplement will be offered to confirm the tour.**
- **Tour prices are subject to unforeseen increases in tour related costs and may have to be adjusted as a result.**
- **The designated tour leader/s may be changed at short due to unforeseen circumstances.**
- **The itinerary is indicative only. Changes may need to be made to the order in which the tour is conducted, or some of the venues we visit closer to departure. We will attempt to adhere as close to the original program as possible.**

Highlights Tours offer a full birding experience in a shorter timeframe, focusing on the destination's key birding sites and species. They retain the pace and intensity of our Classic tours, including early starts, long field days and night birding where necessary. They are not designed to be easier, slower or more relaxed. Rather than attempting comprehensive coverage, we concentrate on the most important sites and a strong selection of priority species. They are ideal for birders seeking a rewarding, focused birding experience with limited time available.

- This tour involves some moderate walking with a couple of strenuous hikes possible at Lore Lindu. You should be in good health and of reasonable fitness to undertake this tour.
- We will be birding in some remote areas well away from modern medical facilities.

- Many of the hotels are of reasonable standard during the tour, although in some areas where we will be staying the only accommodations available are basic guesthouses with no piped hot water (flasks of boiled water are provided) and shared facilities (ie: Lore Lindu NP).
- Transport is in comfortable vehicles, each person having a window seat, and 4x4 vehicles where required.
- 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. Due to the nature of the topography, there is the possibility of landslides interfering with our trip, though we have minimised this risk by undertaking the tour during the drier season.
- 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. The humidity is often rather high. In montane areas, it will range from very cool to warm.
- 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 and Departure Details*

The tour begins with a welcome dinner on day 1 in Jakarta and concludes after breakfast of day 17 at Sorong Airport, West Papua.

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.

Soekarno–Hatta International Airport, Jakarta (IATA: CGK) is the main port of entry for international flights for this tour, while Sorong Airport, West Papua (IATA: SOQ) is the main point of departure. Soekarno–Hatta International Airports is well serviced by international carriers, while Sorong Airport has regular flights to both Jakarta and Makassar.

Visa requirements differ by country, nationality of the traveller and duration and purpose of your intended stay. It may be necessary to obtain a visa or an electronic travel authorization in advance of your travel. It is therefore vitally important that you check with your travel agent/consulate/embassy for exact visa requirements.

**DO NOT book any flights until the Rockjumper Team have officially confirmed the tour.**