Indonesia

Highlights of the West: Greater Sundas and Dragons



Bali Starling by Adam Riley

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.

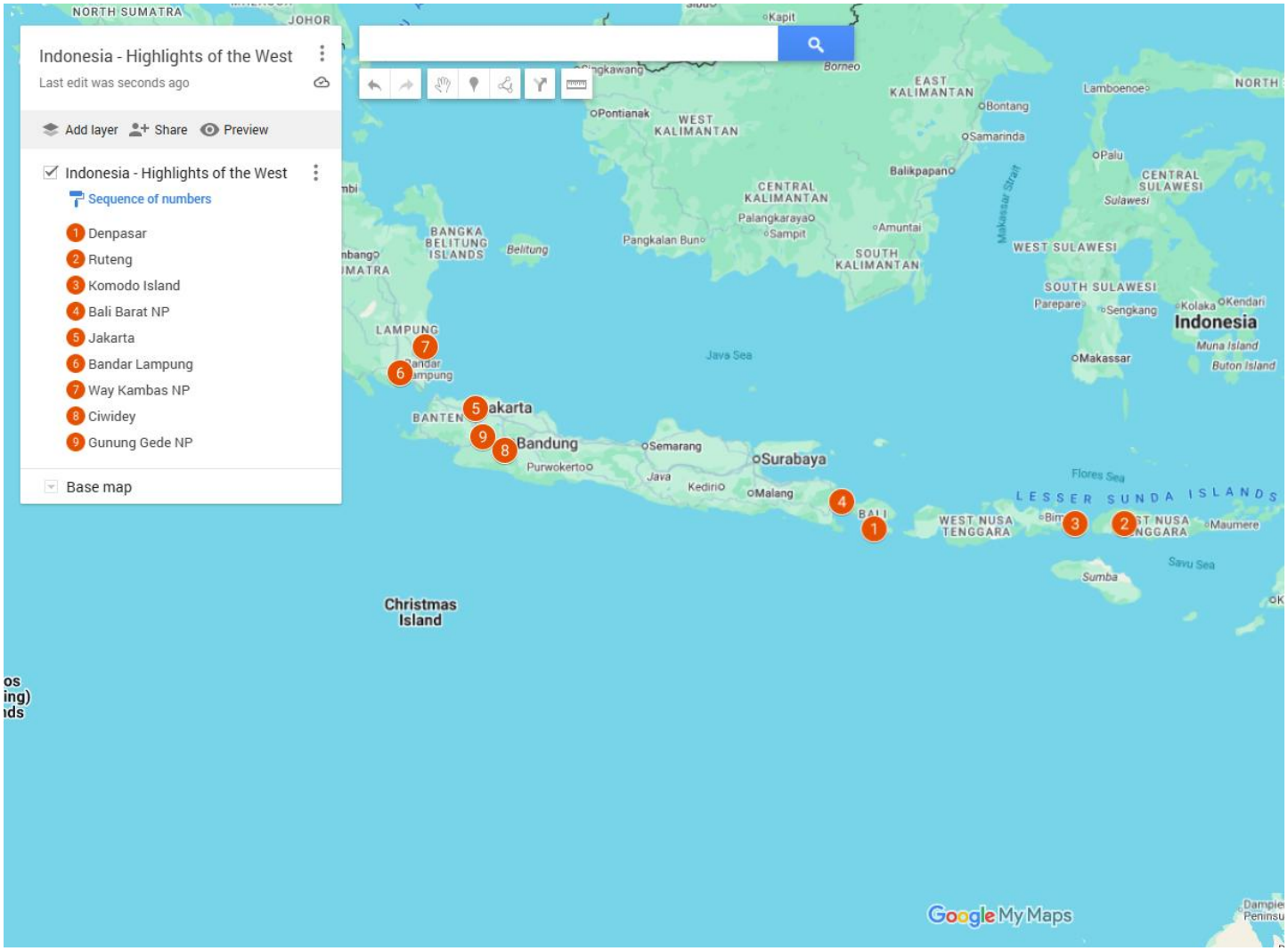
A short flight takes us to the island of Bali, most famous as a beach tourism Mecca. Situated near the famous Bali Barat National Park, we target the few remaining truly wild Bali Starlings, alongside a supporting cast of Black-winged Starling, Cerulean Kingfisher and Javan Banded Pitta!

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.

Itinerary & Map

Day 1	**Arrival in Denpasar (Bali); flight to Labuan Bajo, transfer to Ruteng (Flores)**
Day 2	**Golo Lusang & Pagal**
Day 3	**Ruteng to Labuan Bajo via Puarlolo**
Day 4	**Morning tour to Komodo Island, afternoon at Potawanka**
Day 5	**Labuan Bajo; flight to Denpasar, drive to Bali Barat**
Day 6	**Bali Barat National Park**
Day 7	**Bali Barat National Park to Denpasar**
Day 8	**Denpasar; flight to Bandar Lampung via Jakarta, drive to Way Kambas NP**
Days 9 & 10	**Way Kambas National Park**
Day 11	**Way Kambas NP to Bandar Lampung; flight to Jakarta, drive to Ciwidey**
Days 12 & 13	**Ciwidey (Kawah Putih) & Cibodas**
Day 14	**Gunung Gede National Park & Cibodas**
Day 15	**Cibodas to Jakarta & final departure**


Indonesia - Highlights of the West
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Sequence of numbers
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5 Jakarta
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7 Way Kambas NP
8 Ciwidey
9 Gunung Gede NP
Base map
NORTH SUMATRA
JOHOR
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Borneo
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WEST KALIMANTAN
Bontang
Samarinda
Palu
Balikpapan
CENTRAL SULAWESI
Sulawesi
CENTRAL KALIMANTAN
Palangkaraya
Sampit
Amuntai
Makassar Strait
BANGKA BELITUNG ISLANDS
Belitung
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SOUTH KALIMANTAN
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SOUTH SULAWESI
Parepare
Sengkang
Kolaka
Kendari
Indonesia
Muna Island
Buton Island
LAMPUNG
Java Sea
Makassar
BANTEN
Bandung
Semarang
Surabaya
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Flores Sea
LESSER SUNDA ISLANDS
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WEST NUSA TENGGARA
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Birding sites in detail

Flores



Flores Scops Owl by David Hoddinott

Ruteng (Ranamese). Situated in the highlands further inland from Labuan Bajo, Ruteng will be our base to bird the 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, however, require a fair amount of effort, patience and luck!

Ruteng (Golo Lusang and Pagal). 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 several 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.



Bare-throated Whistler by Adam Riley

We'll also make time to 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



Komodo Dragon by Adam Riley

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.

Puarlolo. Situated in the hills above Labuan Bajo, 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.

Mbeleling. Time permitting, we'll 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.

Komodo Island. This will undoubtedly be one of the highlights of the entire trip. We will board a boat for the world-famous Komodo Island before dawn 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



Elegant Pitta by David Hoddinott



Yellow-crested Cockatoo by Adam Riley

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.

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.

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. 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 appear.

Potawanka. We'll spend some time around Potawanka 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.



Chestnut-capped Thrush by Glen Valentine

Bali



Glittering (White-rumped) Kingfisher by David Hoddinott

Denpasar to Bali Barat. 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.

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 Starling. 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 will be Bali 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.



Black-winged Starlings by Glen 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.

Mixed species flocks often harbour Black-winged Flycatcher-shrike, White-shouldered and Pied Trillers,



Javan Banded Pitta by Glen Valentine

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.

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 Sparrow 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.



Javan Kingfisher by Keith Valentine

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.

Bedugal. The local botanical gardens harbour several 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.

Sumatra

Bandar Lampung to Way Kambas National Park. After landing at Bandar Lampung, the gateway to the fabulous Way Kambas National Park, we will embark on the two-and-a-half-hour drive through small villages, rice paddies and agricultural fields that dominate Sumatra's lowlands to our lodge near the edge of the national park.



Reddish Scops Owl by Glen Valentine

Way Kambas National Park. 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



Malayan Banded Pitta by Rob Williams

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.

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!

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,



Oriental Bay Owl by Glen Valentine



Rufous-collared Kingfisher by David Hoddinott

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.

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.

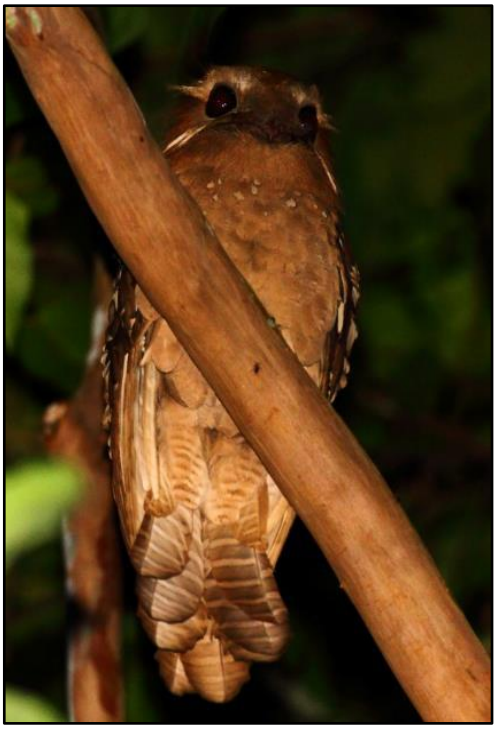
If we are lucky enough to encounter some fruiting trees, we might be entertained by a number of gorgeous barbets that could include the superb Coppersmith, tiny Blue-eared, dashing Red-crowned and subdued Sooty Barbets, as well as a feast of doves such as Little, Pink-necked and Thick-billed Green Pigeons, 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!



Scarlet-headed Flowerpecker by Glen Valentine



Large Frogmouth by Glen Valentine

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 spotlighting to have any reasonable chance of encountering them.

Java

Bogor Botanical Gardens. If time allows, we'll make a short stop 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.

Ciwidey (Kawah Putih). This relatively new location has many of the same species as Gunung Gede but is much easier to access and offers a far better probability of finding Volcano Swiftlet.

Typical species to be found here include Cave Swiflet, Pink-headed Fruit Dove, Mountain Serin, Salvadori's Nightjar, Javan Scops Owl, Javan Frogmouth, Javan Owlet, Sunda Scops Owl, Javan Cochoa, Javan Trogon, Javan Munia, Javan Tesia, Javan Heleia, Horsefield's Thrush, Cresent-chested Babbler, Tawny-breasted Parrotfinch, Banded Broadbill (Javan Broadbill), White-flanked Sunbird, Pied Shrike-vireo, Trilling Shrike-vireo, Sunda Minivet, Sunda Cuckooshrike, Sunda Cuckoo, Eyebrowed Wren-Babbler, Sunda Warbler, Mountain Leaf Warbler, Chestnut-bellied Partridge, Pygmy Bushtit, Rufous-tailed Fantail and Sunda Minivet.



Javan Tesia by Glen Valentine

Cibodas and Gunung Gede National Park. Home to most of Java's endemic bird species, Gunung Gede-Pangrango



Javan Trogon by Glen Valentine

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 and waterfalls, we'll search for several 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.

A small clearing in the forest allows for superb views of the surrounding volcanoes and forest and 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.



Blue Nuthatch by Glen Valentine

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.

Cibodas Botanical Gardens. We can expect to encounter several eye-catching species here, many of which we might have seen by now but several of which are likely to be new for us. 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.

Tour Grading & Key

Overall Ease		Moderately difficult birding, very long days & some basic accommodations are taxing.
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 hotels, some simple lodges (ie: Way Kambas)
Walking / Trails		Some trails can be very muddy. Long days on our feet.
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.
Annoyances		Can be very humid in lowlands.

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 lunch on day 1 to breakfast on day 15;
- 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.

- 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 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 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 and Departure Details

The tour departs 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 concludes at Soekarno–Hatta International Airport, Jakarta (IATA: CGK) after breakfast on day 15.

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.

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.

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.