Indonesia

Lesser Sundas Endemics



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, Little Sumba Hawk-Owl, Sumba Boobook, 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, 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 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 comprehensive, endemics-rich birding tour promises to be a classic among international birding adventures!

Itinerary & Map

Day 1	**Arrival in Denpasar, Bali. Flight to Waingapu (Sumba)**
Day 2	**Menggit Timbi area, drive to Lewa**
Day 3	**Lewa area; Lokotuma, Langgaliru National Park, KM51**
Day 4	**Lewa area: Langgaliru Forest & surrounds, drive to Waingapu**
Day 5	**Waingapu; flight to Kupang (West Timor), birding Noelbaki & Bipolo**
Day 6	**Kupang; ferry to Rote**
Day 7	**Rote**
Day 8	**Rote; afternoon ferry to Kupang**
Day 9	**Camplong & Bipolo**
Day 10	**Kupang to Bipolo or Camplong; drive to Soe & Oelnasi Forest**
Day 11	**Mount Mutis**
Day 12	**Oelnasi Forest, drive to Kupang**
Day 13	**Kupang; flight to Ruteng (Flores), drive to Kisol & Poco Ndeki Forest**
Day 14	**Poco Ndeki Forest**
Day 15	**Kisol to Ruteng via Ranamese Lake**
Days 16 & 17	**Golo Lusang & Pagal**
Day 18	**Ruteng to Labuan Bajo via Puarlolo**
Day 19	**Komodo Island & Potawanka**
Day 20	**Final departure**



Birding sites in detail

Yumba 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 Singing 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.



Brown Quail by Adam Riley

Menggit Timbi area. Located to the east of Waingapu, we will spend the morning birding the 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 seedeater habitat in case we still need any of the target munias or the rather elusive Red Avadavat.



Little Sumba Hawk-Owl by David Hoddinott

Lewa area. The forested foothills of the Lewa area host several extremely productive forest patches, as well as the extensive forest protected by the Langgaliru National Park.

We'll begin our search for the area's many exciting and endemic forest birds at a small tract of forest not far from our lodge. 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 Little Sumba Hawk-Owl and we'll also try our luck at the endemic subspecies of Eastern Barn Owl, as well as Mees's and Savanna Nightjars.



Mees's Nightjar by Glen Valentine

The extensive Langgaliru Forest is host to all of Sumba's forest-endemics as well as several 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 the park. 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 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 Sumba 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.



Sumba Myzomela by David Hoddinott

The core part of Langgaliru Forest has 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.

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.



Blood-breasted (Sumba) Flowerpecker by Glen Valentine

Noelbaki & Bipolo. Bipolo Forest harbours many of the island's sought-after and localised endemics but, 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. We'll be looking 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.



Sumba Flycatcher by Glen Valentine

We will also keep an eye out for the area's special parrots: Jonquil (Olive-shouldered) Parrot and Marigold Lorikeets, although both 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.

Rote. The tiny offshore island of Rote, situated just west of Timor will be our next port of call. 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'll be looking for the island's four endemics: Rote Boobook, Rote Fantail, Rote Myzomela and Rote Leaf Warbler. We're likely to encounter at least one or two of the diurnal endemics very easily 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.

We'll also be looking for several regional endemics that 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 here. 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.



Sumba Boobook by Glen Valentine

Camplong. Camplong is 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.



Rose-crowned Fruit Dove by Glen Valentine

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 excellent chance of flushing these two unobtrusive ground dwellers.

Mount Mutis. We'll take an early 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 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



Pale-shouldered Cicadabird by Glen Valentine

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.



White-bellied (Timor) Bush Chat by Glen Valentine

Tubu Humau. Time permitting, we may make a visit to this under-birded site where we stand a chance of seeing the very rare Timor Imperial Pigeon and Iris Lorikeet.

Lake Ranamese. Between Ruteng and Borong we pass by Lake Ranamese, surrounded by beautiful, moss-draped, endemic-rich montane forest. Wonderful, new Flores highland endemics on offer here 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 Tricolored Grebe.



Metallic Pigeon by Adam Riley

Poco Ndeki Forest. This fairly large mountain towers above the surrounding lowland forest. We should already encounter several of the area's specialties, but exciting new birds could include Black-fronted and Golden-rumped Flowerpeckers, Little (Flores) Minivet, the exquisite Glittering (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.

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.



Flores Green Pigeon by Glen Valentine

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, Glittering 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.

Ruteng. We'll make 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.



Moluccan Scops Owl by Glen Valentine

Golo Lusang & Pagal areas. We'll spend our time birding the forests around Golo Lusang and Pagal, in search of the area's many tough 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, Glittering

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 appear, 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.



White-rumped (Glittering) Kingfisher by Glen Valentine

Ruteng to Labuan Bajo. We'll depart Ruteng 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.



Flores Scops Owl by David Hoddinott

Puarlolo. This site is famous for harbouring the incredibly localised but fairly common Flores Monarch, which was only 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 (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.



Komodo Dragon by Glen Valentine

Potawanka Road. If Wallace's Hanging Parrot, Ornate Pitta or any of the lowland owls, or Mees's Nightjar have eluded us, we'll drive the short distance into the forested hills along the Potawanka Road to try and find them.

Labuan Bajo coastline. Time permitting, we can 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.

Komodo Island. 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 to arrive at the island with ample time for exploration and photography. On this arid 390km^2 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.



Bare-throated Whistler by Adam Riley

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 along 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!



Yellow-crested Cockatoo by Glen Valentine

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!

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 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).



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

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 appear 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.

Tour Grading & Key

Overall Ease		Moderate to challenging birding, some basic lodging, one difficult hike (optional) & hot, humid conditions are taxing.
Birding Ease		Birding can be demanding at some locations. Low density of several key species. Others require repeat efforts. Several late evening/early mornings for nocturnal species.
Accommodation		Most accommodations are reasonable to comfortable, but those in the Lewa area are basic.
Walking / Trails		Some trails can be muddy. Long days on our feet. The Gunung Mutis 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, despite the lack of hides & predominant forest birding.
Annoyances		Can be very humid in lowlands. Highlands are much cooler (morning/evening). Rain, heavy at times to be expected.

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 20;
- 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.**

- The intensity of walking on this 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 good 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 rather 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 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 and Departure Details

The tour departs from Ngurah Rai International Airport, Bali (IATA: DPS) on the morning of day 1. Do arrive the day before the tour starts (if not continuing 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 midday 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.

Ngurah Rai International Airport, Denpasar (IATA: DPS), is the main port of entry for international flights for this tour.

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.