Borneo, Sumatra & Flores Wildlife Safari

05–17 April 2020 (12 nights)

Highlights

- Visit the world's richest nation in terms of biodiversity
- Explore the unique ecosystems of Tanjung Puting, Way Kambas & Komodo National Parks
- Stay in eco-lodges supporting local communities
- View orangutans, gibbons & other primates on walks & river cruises
- Visit conservation centres
- Track endangered wildlife in their natural habitat
- Bathe Sumatran elephants
- Photograph prehistoric Komodo dragons
- Snorkel coral reefs in the Flores Sea
- Visit ethnic villages & learn about cultural differences
- Enjoy colourful traditional performances

This journey offers a unique opportunity to discover regions ignored by conventional tourism, visit conservation centres, engage with rangers/researchers and connect with local communities and guides. After meeting in Denpasar, Bali, we fly to Tanjung Puting National Park in central Kalimantan, on the island of Borneo. Here we stay at Rimba Eco Lodge and enjoy daily cruising on the Sekonyer River, spotting wildlife including orangutans, Proboscis monkeys, macaques along with lowland bird species. We visit orangutan feeding stations and learn about rescue and rehabilitation efforts. Nocturnal walks uncover luminous fireflies, pygmy primates and unique forest dwellers. Travelling the Indonesia archipelago, we travel to Southern Sumatra and explore the jungles of Way Kambas National Park, still home to tigers, rhinos and elephants. Whilst sightings are rare, the thrill of tracking these wild animals in their natural habitat is a ‘once in a life time experience’. Staying in Satwa Eco Lodge we use safari style vehicles and patrol river boats for a chance to see tapir, Siamese gibbons, deer and endemic birdlife. Visiting the nearby conservation centre and Elephant Response Unit, we bathe elephants and meet their mahouts. We experience a day in the ‘life of a villager’, with visits to local schools, markets, eco-tourism projects, rice and rubber plantations. Travelling east to Flores Island we explore Komodo National Park, home to the largest lizard in the world, the Komodo dragon. We plunge into the Flores Sea to snorkel over coral reefs and take a scenic drive to Mbeliling Forest to visit a Manggarai ethnic village. We return to Denpasar for a final celebration and an insight into Balinese culture.

DETAILS

Price: Twinshare / person (ex Denpasar)
Advanced Early Bird: A$6,550 until 11/11/2019
Regular: A$7,050
Single Supplement: A$660 (twin share may apply in Satwa Eco Lodge)

Note: For single people who prefer to share, we will try to find a suitable roommate, but if this is not possible the sole-use surcharge will apply.
Minimum Group size: 6 guests
Special Interest: Wildlife, Botanical, Conservation, Culture

Note: Can be joined with Sumatra Conversation Program

For bookings call 1300 197 201 | visit www.parktours.com.au | or email info@parktours.com.au
INCLUSIONS

- 12 nights twin share accommodation: 3 star hotels & comfortable eco-lodges with private western facilities
- Meals include: 12 Breakfasts (B), 8 Lunches (L), 10 Dinners (D)
- All transfers as listed in itinerary
- Internal domestic flights & taxes (Denpasar-Kalimantan-Sumatra-Denpasar; Denpasar-Flores-Denpasar)
- National Park, wildlife feeding stations, museum entry & photographic fees
- Unique experiences including: Way Kannan River cruise, Komodo National Park cruise
- Professional tour leader assisted when required by local tour guides, national park rangers
- Basic group tips where required e.g. porters, wait staff, bus drivers, hotel staff etc.
- Contribution to ‘Save Indonesian Endangered Species Fund’ (SIES)
- Pre-departure information pack

EXCLUSIONS

- Travel arrangements to start / from end of tour
- Airport transfers
- Passport & visa expenses
- Heavy or excess baggage
- Travel insurance
- Personal expenses e.g. drinks (water, alcohol, tea & coffee), laundry, telephone, optional tours / excursions, tour leader tip

FAQ

How & when to book?
Our biggest message to you is BOOK EARLY!! Many tours book out very quickly so the moral of the story is the early bird catches the worm! You save A$500 per person when you pay a deposit by the Advanced Early Bird date. To qualify for this price, we simply need to receive your completed Tour Booking Form and a deposit of A$500 per person per tour, by the date listed at the front of the tour itinerary. If your deposit arrives after this date, the tour balance will be at the regular price. To place your booking, simply visit www.parktours.com.au and select the “Bookings” page, or complete a Tour Booking form and return by post or email with your deposit. Once you have booked on a tour, we will stay in contact with regular mailings (see below).

What information and contact can I expect?
When you send your initial deposit, we will contact you to confirm your booking. Please do not book any flights or travel arrangements until our office contacts you to advise that your tour has been confirmed to depart. Once the tour has been confirmed to depart, a comprehensive pre-departure information pack will be sent to you, including a Tour A-Z, suggested packing list, medical questionnaire, balance of payment invoice, and pre / post accommodation options. The final mailing is sent approximately three weeks before departure and includes final tour information, meeting points, accommodation and guest list, and a Tour Companion.

What is the group size?
We specialise in small group travel with a tour size normally between 8 to 18 guests. Please refer to the front page for details on the minimum group size for this particular tour. All tours need a minimum number of participants to operate at the price listed in the itinerary. If the minimum number is not reached, a tour may still operate with a surcharge.

How fit do I have to be?
When you are assessing your ability to participate, age is not necessarily as important as your fitness and recent walking experience. Please read the tour walk rating and the day-by-day walking descriptions in the itinerary to determine if the tour is suitable for your fitness level. If you have any queries, we are happy to put you in touch with either the tour coordinator or tour leader to discuss your fitness in more detail.

What gear and equipment do I need to take?
Because we focus on half and full day walks, returning to our accommodation in the afternoon, you don’t need to carry any more than a daypack with rain wear, sunscreen, drinking water, camera and lunch. We recommend walking poles and hiking boots on most of our tours as they offer good ankle support and grip. A detailed packing list is included with your tour’s information pack.

TOUR LEADER

Suzanne Noakes is an adventurer by heart, travelling to every continent and developing a deep understanding of the variety and vibrancy of people and cultures around the world. Over the past 25 years she has travelled extensively throughout Asia Pacific, leading up to 100 expeditions for private groups, university alumni and conservation associations. Suzanne is known for her refreshing ability to interact with local people, allowing for a broad yet in-depth experience for travellers. Her expertise, humour, energy and rapport along with her warm personal style receive the highest praise from travellers. Suzanne is a long-term employee and tour co-ordinator with interNATIONAL PARKtours.
ITINERARY

05–17 April 2020 (12 nights)

**Day 1 - Sun 05 Apr | Bali (Denpasar)**
A short distance from Denpasar international airport, our hotel, Puri Bambu, is located near Jimbaran beach, close to shops and unique restaurants. Easy and reliable taxi transfer options are provided at the airport by Blue Bird Taxi, or you can request a private transfer through interNATIONAL PARKtours. Your tour leader will meet you in the hotel lounge for group introductions and tour briefing at 7pm, followed by a welcome dinner.

**Meals:** D

**Walks:** None

**Day 2 - Mon 06 Apr | Kalimantan (Borneo) / Rimba Eco Lodge**
It's an early morning transfer for our flight to Pangkalan Bun, Central Kalimantan/Borneo via Surabaya. On arrival there is a short transfer via taxi to Kumai Port, where we board a comfortable traditional boat (klotok) with a viewing deck. We settle in for a spectacular 2-3 hour cruise past lush vegetation and tropical rainforest to Rimba Orangutan Eco Lodge. Rimba is a timber lodge built on the banks of the Sekonyer River, with rooms connected via wooden walkways through the wetland forest. This is our base for the next two nights and is the perfect place to glimpse the first of our wildlife, hopefully wild orangutans or playful proboscis monkeys swinging through the tree tops.

**Meals:** B, D

**Walks:** Travel day

**Day 3 - Tue 07 Apr | Tanjung Puting National Park / Pondok Tanguis / Camp Leakey**
After breakfast, we board our klotok and explore the waterways of Tanjung Puting National Park, one of the largest conservation parks within south-east Asia and famed for being home to the endangered orangutan and other primate species like proboscis monkeys, gibbons and macaque. We visit orangutan feeding sites at Pondok Tanguis and Camp Leakey where we have the rare opportunity to observe rehabilitated (released) and wild orangutans, gibbons and other animals in their natural habitat. Created by Professor Biruté Galdikas in 1971, Camp Leakey was backed by famed anthropologist Louis Leakey who encouraged the study of the great apes because of their close genetic link to human beings. Galdikas is known as one of the 'Leakey Angels', the other two members of this exclusive club being Jane Goodall (studied chimpanzees in Tanzania) and Diane Fossey (studied mountain gorillas in Rwanda before her death). Simple local fresh meals including lunch, snacks and dinner will be served on board the klotok as we journey along the river, keeping an eye out for crocodiles, water monitors and a large range of endemic birdlife. Early evening we join a local ranger on a spotlighting adventure into the local forest, eager to find unique nocturnal creatures including the rarely seen Western tarsier (miniature primate). We return to Rimba after an amazing day of wildlife spotting.

**Meals:** B, L, D

**Walks:** 5km / easy-moderate walk with high humidity. Some short distance walks to feeding platforms & varied extended forest walks, agility required for disembarking boats and negotiating uneven terrain

**Day 4 - Wed 08 Apr | Pesalat Reforestation / Harapan feeding station**
This morning, we visit Pesalat Reforestation site and medicinal arboretum (established by the Indonesian Friends of the National Parks Foundation). We learn about the conservation efforts in this area and there is time to enjoy bird watching in the surrounding forest.

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and an opportunity to plant a tree. After lunch on board the klotok, we return to the eco-lodge for a siesta then prepare for check-out. Later in the afternoon, we re-join our river-boat and visit nearby Harapan orangutan feeding station for the chance to once again view these gregarious animals before continuing our journey back to Kumai Port. On arrival, we transfer back to Pangkalan Bun for an overnight stay at the comfortable Grand Kecubung Hotel. There is time to wander the nearby village to learn about the livelihood of the locals and marvel at their arts and crafts, in particular the orangutan wood carvings. As night falls, thousands of fireflies light up the river reeds like Christmas trees - a perfect backdrop for dinner.

Meals: B, L, D

Walks: 3-5km / easy-moderate walk with high humidity. Some short distance walks to feeding platforms & varied extended forest walks, agility required for disembarking boats and negotiating uneven terrain

Day 5 - Thu 09 Apr | Travel to Way Kambas National Park (Sumatra)

We have an early start as we embark on a busy travel day. Patience is required as our flights connect through Jakarta to Bandar Lampung airport in southern Sumatra. We then travel a few hours via local towns and villages to reach our accommodation at Satwa Elephant Eco Lodge, our base for the next four nights. The following days are spent exploring Way Kambas National Park, conservation and ecotourism projects, which is literally on the doorstep of Satwa Eco Lodge. One of the oldest reserves in Indonesia, the park was first established in 1972, covers over 1,300km² and is located in the Lampung province of southern Sumatra. The tropical climate and diverse ecosystems protect thousands of unique species including the last remaining Sumatran tigers, elephants and rhinos (sightings are rare). During our stay we also have the chance to view Malaysian tapirs, gibbons, Sambar deer as well as many bird species (over 300 species have been recorded so far). In the early evening, we meet dedicated rangers and passionate research team members from ALeRT (Alliance of Integrated Forest Conservation), a grassroots not-for-profit group who are committed to creating and maintaining habitat for endangered species.

Meals: B (breakfast box), D

Walks: Travel day

Day 6 - Fri 10 Apr | Wildlife Spotting / Elephant Conservation Centre

Taking breakfast with us this morning, we travel the short distance in our safari vehicle to explore Way Kambas National Park to spot the raucous and exuberant Siamang gibbon, rare and endemic Sumatran birds and smaller wildlife. In the afternoon we visit the Elephant Conservation Centre (ECC), where we will not only meet the elephants, but also the elephant carers (mahouts), who diligently look after these majestic creatures. We have the chance to help with daily duties like assisting with orphan elephant feeding time (take care - orphan elephants may seem small but they can weigh up to 100kg). It’s important to note that animal welfare standards in Indonesia differ to those you may be familiar with. Please keep this in mind when visiting any of these facilities and understand that the money and influence created by your visit to these sanctuaries is helping to improve the welfare and care provided. Join a local guide after dinner as we spotlight for owls, frogmouths, bats, civets and lorises in the surrounding fields.

Meals: B, L, D

Walks: 2-6km / easy to moderate forest walk (possible off track exploration)
Day 7 - Sat 11 Apr | Local Village / School / Market visit
A special treat awaits today as we visit Braja Harjosari village, school and market to meet locals and learn about their way of life and community projects. This is one of 37 villages next to the national park and has over the past years been affected by economic loss from damage to crops and gardens from hungry wild elephants. In consultation with Satwa Eco Lodge and conservation groups, village elders have developed ecotourism programs which help supplement their income otherwise dependent on farming. These include catering businesses, alternate food gardens such as dragon fruit, mushrooms, rubber trees, homestays and educational programs for international schools. The day ends with a colourful traditional dance and many smiling thankful faces, before we return to the eco lodge in the early evening for supper.

Meals: B, L, D
Walks: Short walks in villages & around gardens

Day 8 - Sun 12 Apr | Way Kanan River Cruise / Elephant Response Unit
After an optional early morning bird walk, we continue to explore Way Kambas National Park along the scenic Way Kanan River. Joined by local rangers, we are hopeful of viewing the endangered White-Winged wood duck, cheeky Long-tailed macaque, Silvered langur along with deer and maybe wild elephants feeding along the shoreline. Keep an eye out for crocodiles, tapirs and sun bears. On return, we enjoy a circuit track walk to learn more about the endemic flora found within the park. In the late afternoon, we head off track in our safari vehicle to meet with the rangers from the Elephant Response Unit. Operating on the edge of the national park boundary, we learn more about their roles on the patrol line, how they interact with the local community, keeping wild elephants at bay along with managing poacher threats within the park. We meet the elephants and lend a hand to wash these magnificent animals, providing treats of freshly gathered bamboo, grass and wild fruits. Time permitting, we return to the ECC to check up on our orphan elephants plus the colourful market.

Meals: B, L, D
Walks: 3km / bush track, cruise on small river boat

Day 9 - Mon 13 Apr | Return to Denpasar
With an early morning departure we connect with our flight via Jakarta returning to Denpasar for the evening. After being met on arrival and transferred to our central Denpasar hotel, there is time to ready ourselves for the continuing journey to Flores the following day. Dinner is your own choice tonight. Why not take the opportunity to enjoy a casual sunset dinner on Jimbaran Beach, only a short walk from the hotel. The carnival atmosphere is certainly one not to miss. Of course you can choose to stay in-house for a tasty treat from the hotel menu.

Meals: B
Walks: None

Day 10 - Tue 14 Apr | Travel to Bajo / Flores
We depart Denpasar mid-morning for our flight to Labuan Bajo (Flores). On arrival we transfer the short distance to our beachside lodge and base for the next two nights. Bajo is the gateway for exploration to the Komodo National Park, located in the Lesser Sunda Islands between Sumbawa and Flores. After lunch at the hotel, there
is a chance to discover the surrounds of Bajo village on an afternoon tour (extra cost), or simply soak up the beachside delights at the hotel with sun-downers prior to dinner (own cost either at the hotel or downtown Bajo).

Meals: B, L
Walks: Short orientation strolls

Day 11 - Wed 15 Apr | Komodo National Park
An early transfer to the harbour connects us with an ocean going vessel, ready to travel through this glorious archipelago towards Komodo National Park (final destination based on conditions). The Rinca and Komodo islands are both home to the famed Komodo dragons, the world’s largest lizard. This World Heritage listed park lies in the Wallacea region of Indonesia, identified by WWF and Conservation International as a global conservation priority area. We are joined by a national park guide on our exploration of the islands to view Komodo dragons in their natural habitat. The dense forest gives way to open grassy fields and a few scattered waterholes where the dragons often hunt for prey. Other wildlife on the islands includes water buffalo, deer, wild pigs, monkeys, and many exotic bird species. In the late afternoon we return to Bajo, stopping on the way to snorkel in the warm waters of the Flores Sea in search of manta ray and colourful sea life.

Meals: B, L, D
Walks: 5-8km / easy with some off-track walking, distance depends on location of Komodo dragons / non-slip shoes required as maybe wet and slippery

Day 12 - Thu 16 Apr | Manggarai Ethic Village / Denpasar
We leave early this morning for a scenic drive to the lesser visited hinterland. Along the way we stop at a co-operative ‘ikat’ weaving museum to learn the intricate technique used to pattern textiles, which are dedicated to individual cultural groups. We are invited to visit a Manggarai village for an immersion into traditional culture, from a warm welcome to viewing the energetic ‘stick and harvest’ dance. The Manggaraian people are famed for their long-standing heritage of ritual and ceremonial life, as well as distinct agricultural and architectural practices. We enjoy a lazy lunch before transferring back to Labuan Bajo airport and our return flight to Denpasar domestic airport. Our final night includes a farewell dinner and a chance to relive the adventures of our journey.

Meals: B, L, D
Walks: 2km / easy to moderate with humidity, uneven ground, some ascent/descent

Day 13 - Fri 17 Apr | End of Tour
We have a relaxed morning with the option to join a sightseeing tour of Denpasar including a visit to museums and local sites (additional cost). A hospitality room will be made available to those departing on later flights today, to freshen up before transferring to the airport. The local concierge can assist with taxi bookings.

Meals: B
Walks: Easy city strolls
WHY TRAVEL WITH US?

InterNATIONAL PARKtours have been leading small group walking holidays since 1975. Our like-minded guests bond easily and often create reunions, celebrations and friendships, many of them lifelong. Our tours are active with regular half and full day walks. Aside from walking, we also spend time meeting local people, tasting regional food and immersing ourselves in the culture and history of a destination. Our flexibility enables us to adapt to the likes, dislikes and agility of our travellers, and changing situations such as weather and unforeseen circumstances. In most locations, we stay 2-3 nights and sometimes longer. This allows us to slow down, unpack our bags and enjoy the local atmosphere at different times of the day. Accommodation is comfortable and unique plus locally owned and operated where possible.

Our guides are dedicated, informative people who share their passion and knowledge on local history, culture, wildlife and topography. Our journeys are designed to safeguard the ecosystems; benefit the communities we visit and contribute to the sustainability of destinations. Travel is a chance to change your perspective. Nature always provides a new view if we take the time to look.

“I find the organisation and attention to detail is always good. Having travelled quite a few times with IPT now I would not consider a walking tour with any other organization”

Catherine Eakin

“I have had a wonderful experience on my IPT trips. I know the accommodation, meals, etc. will have the level of comfort I’m looking for”

Anne Stanfield

Responsible Travel

For your protection, we are member of the Australian Federation of Travel Agents (AFTA). Your payments are kept in a client account until required for payment of your tour. We are accredited with AFTA Travel Accreditation Scheme (ATAS), a national accreditation scheme, endorsing travel agents who have met strict financial and customer service criteria. We also have advanced accreditation with Ecotourism Australia, are members of the Global Sustainable Tourism Council, and a Green Circle member of Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation (QORF).

Serendipity of travel

Our Leader and local guides will continually work on your behalf to provide a memorable journey. We have planned an intimate adventure, but adventure cannot be guaranteed. If indeed it could then it would lose its appeal.

Though we do the best we can to plan a smooth journey, sometimes things change at short notice. Some things may take longer than anticipated, transport and accommodation arrangements may alter, and you may experience occasional shortcomings and be frustrated by the ‘manana’ attitude; at other times you will be amazed by local efficiency. Tour itineraries may need to be modified but this is done so with your needs in mind and to provide the best tour experience.

So, be flexible, surprised and delighted with the serendipity that comes from being open to the unexpected. Your enjoyment of this journey is ultimately up to you.

Disclaimer of Liability

Although interNATIONAL PARKtours has prepared the Information contained in this itinerary with all due care and updates the Information regularly, interNATIONAL PARKtours does not warrant or represent that the Information is free from errors or omission. Whilst the Information is considered to be true and correct at the date of publication, changes in circumstances after the time of publication may impact on the accuracy of the Information. The Information may change without notice and interNATIONAL PARKtours is not in any way liable for the accuracy of any information printed and stored or in any way interpreted and used by a user.

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Anne Stanfield