Borneo, Sumatra & Flores

WILDLIFE SAFARI

24 March–04 April 2019 (11 nights)

Details

Price: Twinshare / person (ex Denpasar)

Advanced Early Bird: A$6,350 until 31/08/2018

Early Bird: A$6,550 until 23/11/2018

Regular: A$6,850

Single Supplement: A$660 (twin share may apply in Satwa Eco Lodge)

Note: Can be joined with Volunteer Conservation Tourism Program

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

Highlights

• Visit the world’s richest nation in terms of its biodiversity
• Explore diverse ecosystems of Tanjung Puting, Way Kambas & Komodo NPs
• Stay in unique eco-lodges supporting local communities
• View orangutans, gibbons & other primates on river cruises & in conservation centres
• Track animals in their natural habitat & bathe baby Sumatran elephants
• Photograph prehistoric Komodo dragons
• Snorkel the crystal clear waters & coral reefs of Flores
• Exploratory walks in the Flores Hinterland & visit Manggari ethnic villages
• Enjoy colourful traditional presentations
• Learn about conservation projects
• Meet researchers & support locals who protect endangered wildlife habitats

Searching for endangered wildlife in Borneo, Sumatra and Flores, we explore majestic rainforests, waterways and national parks to learn about one of the most bio-diverse places on earth. This journey offers the opportunity to discover regions ignored by conventional tourism, visit conservation centres, and meet rangers, researchers and locals who protect endangered wildlife habitats. Beginning with Tanjung Puting National Park in Kalimantan (Borneo), we stay at Rimba Orangutan Eco Lodge and enjoy daily cruising along the Sekonyer River. Here we are guaranteed to see orangutans, Proboscis monkeys, macaques, langurs and gibbons along with lowland bird species. We visit orangutan feeding stations and learn about the rescue and rehabilitation efforts. We travel to 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 Elephant Eco Lodge we use safari style vehicles for wildlife viewing with a chance of seeing tapir, sun bears, Siamang gibbons, deer and endemic birdlife. Visiting the nearby conservation centre, we bathe baby Sumatran elephants while meeting their mahouts and local staff members. Travelling east to Flores Island, we visit Komodo National Park which protects the largest lizard in the world, Komodo dragons. We enjoy crystal clear snorkelling over coral reef and view colourful fish around Rinca Island. A scenic drive to Mbelling Forest with a walk into Manggarai ethnic village completes our tour to one of the world’s richest nations in terms of its biodiversity, before we return to Denpasar.
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WALK RATING

Easy to Moderate: 2-10km per walking day (humidity, swamp crossings, agility required for entry into small river boats). Age is not necessarily as important as your fitness and recent walking experience, and anyone of reasonable fitness should be able to join this tour. We reserve the right to be flexible with the itinerary to allow for unforeseen circumstances including weather conditions and group fitness.

FAQ'S

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! To qualify for any of the early bird prices, you simply need to send a completed booking form and deposit of A$400 per person per tour, by the early bird dates listed at the front of the tour itinerary. We offer A$500 discount per person if you book by the Advanced Early Bird date and A$300 discount per person if you book by the Early Bird date. If your deposit arrives after any of the early bird dates, the tour balance will be at the regular price. To place your booking, simply visit www.parktours.com.au to pay your deposit and book online, or complete a Tour Booking Form, and post / fax / email it to us 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?
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Day 1 – Sun 24 Mar | Bali (Denpasar)
Our hotel is a short distance from the international airport, 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 either in-house or at a nearby restaurant (suitable shoes for beach and pavement walking).
Meals: D
Walks: None

Day 2 – Mon 25 Mar | Kalimantan (Borneo) / Tanjung Puting National Park
It's an early morning transfer for our flight to Pangkalanbuun, Kalimantan/Borneo via Surabaya. Soon you will get into the swing of transferring between airports via shuttle buses. On arrival there is a short transfer via taxi to Kumai Port, where we board a comfortable traditional boat (klotok) with a viewing deck. Relax with a spectacular two hour cruise through tropical rainforest to Rimba Orangutan Eco Lodge, our base for the next two nights. Rimba is a timber lodge built on the banks of the Sekonyer River, with rooms connected via wooden walkways through the wetland forest. It provides a wonderful base for viewing Kalimantan’s primate species including orangutans, proboscis monkeys, gibbons and macaque monkeys. All meals and guided visits to national parks and feeding platforms are included whilst at the lodge.
Meals: B, D
Walks: travel day

Day 3 – Tue 26 Mar | Pondok Tangui / 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 species. We visit orangutan feeding sites at Pondok Tangui 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 and snacks 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 to spotlight for unique nocturnal creatures including the rarely seen Western tarsier (miniature primate). Dinner will either be taken at the eco lodge or on board the klotok.
Meals: B, L, D
Walks: 5km / easy-moderate, 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 27 Mar | Pesalat Reforestation / Harapan feeding station
Today there is a morning visit to Pesalat Reforestation site and
medicinal arboretum (established by the Indonesian Friends of the National Parks Foundation) where we learn about the conservation efforts in this area. There is time to enjoy village walks, bird watching in the surrounding low forest and an opportunity to contribute by planting a tree. After lunch on board the klotok, we return to the eco-lodge for a siesta and 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. We enjoy dinner on board and are hopeful of viewing the mysterious fireflies along the way. On arrival we transfer to Pangkalanbuun for an overnight at the comfortable Blue Kecubung Hotel, given our very early flight the next morning.

**Meals:** B, L, D

**Walks:** 3-5km / easy-moderate, 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 28 Mar | Way Kambas National Park (Sumatra)**

With an early start 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 past local towns and countryside villages before reaching our accommodation at Satwa Elephant Eco Lodge, our base for the next four nights. With lush tropical gardens, the lodge and staff along with the warmth of local people will enhance our experience. Over the next few days, we explore Way Kambas National Park, conservation and ecotourism projects. The islands’ tropical climate and diverse ecosystems protect thousands of unique species and the world’s 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).

**Meals:** B (breakfast box), D

**Walks:** Travel day

**Day 6 – Fri 29 Mar | Wildlife Spotting / Elephant Conservation Centre**

We plan to visit Way Kambas National Park early this morning to spot the raucous and exuberant Siamang gibbon, rare and endemic Sumatran birds and smaller wildlife. 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. In the afternoon we visit the Elephant Conservation Centre 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 bathing the elephants in the wash pond and 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 spot-light for owls, frogmouths, bats, civets and slow lorises (weather dependent).

**Meals:** B, L, D

**Walks:** 2-6km / easy to moderate forest walk (possible off track exploration)
Day 7 – Sat 30 Mar | Local Village visit
A special treat awaits today as we visit Braja Harjosari village to meet locals and learn about their projects. Braja Harjosari, one of 37 villages next to the national park. Over the past years, this area has unfortunately been affected by economic loss brought about by sustained damage to crops and gardens from hungry wild elephants. In consultation with the Satwa Eco Lodge and village elders, they have developed an ecotourism program, which helps supplement their income otherwise dependent on farming. This alternative economy may play an important role for gradually changing local people's negative perception of Sumatran elephants, given visitors are interested to hear from villages about their wildlife conflict approach. During our stay we visit the local market, lend a hand in the rice paddy fields and view food gardens (mushroom / guava). The day ends with a farewell traditional dance and many smiling thankful faces, before we return to the eco lodge early evening.

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

Day 8 – Sun 31 Mar | Bambangan Wetland Walk
After an optional early morning bird walk (weather dependent), we continue to explore Way Kambas National Park with a visit to Bambangan Wetland. Keep a keen eye out for the critically endangered white wing duck, wild elephants and other animals that frequent this area to feed. We start our exploration from the Rangers Station, created especially for anti-poaching and reforestation projects. We will hear amazing stories from these rangers who have dedicated their lives to conservation and to ensuring the park is sustained for future generations. Early evening, we join representatives from the local wildlife rescue club for an informal presentation about the wildlife that lives within the nearby park. The presenters talk about challenges facing wildlife brought on by encroaching farm lands.

Meals: B, L, D  
Walks: 5-10km / bush track, flat terrain, swamps, wet walking conditions, possible chance of leeches (leech socks available from the lodge)

Day 9 – Mon 01 Apr | Denpasar
With a mid-morning departure we connect with our flight via Jakarta back to Denpasar. After being met on arrival and returned to our central Denpasar hotel, there is time to ready ourselves for the continuing journey to Flores the following day. Join your tour leader and the remainder of the group for dinner at the hotel or nearby restaurant.

Meals: B, D  
Walks: None

Day 10 – Tue 02 Apr | Flores / Bajo
We depart Denpasar early for our flight to Labuan Bajo (Flores). On arrival we transfer to our beachside lodge and base for the next two nights / three days. 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 explore the surrounds of Bajo village, join an optional snorkelling trip (own cost) or simply soak up the beachside delights at the hotel with sun-downers prior to dinner.

Meals: B, L, D  
Walks: short orientation strolls
Day 11 – Wed 03 Apr | Komodo National Park / UNESCO World Heritage Site

An early transfer to the harbour connects us with an ocean going vessel, ready to glide through this glorious archipelago towards Komodo National Park (final destination advised by captain 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 will be joined by a national park guide on our exploration of the island to view Komodo dragons in their natural habitat. The dense forest gives way to open grassy fields and a few scattered watering holes where the dragons often hunt for prey. Other wildlife on the islands includes water buffalo, deer, wild pigs, monkeys, and many exotic bird species. Late afternoon we return to Bajo, stopping on the way for an optional snorkel in the warm waters in search of the mysterious manta ray.

Meals: B, L, D
Walks: 3-8km / easy with some slopes & off-track walking, distance depends on location of Komodo dragons / non-slip shoes required as maybe wet and slippery

Day 12 – Thu 04 Apr | Mbelliling Nature Reserve / Ethic Village visit

We leave early this morning for a scenic drive taking us off the tourist beat to the lesser visited hinterland. We are invited to visit a Manggarai village for an immersion into traditional culture, from our 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 farewell lunch before being transferred to Labuan Bajo airport and return flight to Denpasar domestic airport. The planned arrival will be approximately 5:40pm, with plenty of time to connect with later evening international flights. Why not extend your stay in Flores and visit the spectacular coloured crater lakes of Kelimutu and traditional way of life rich in its traditions. Ask interNATIONAL PARKtours for full details on post touring options.

Meals: B, L
Walks: 3km / easy to moderate with humidity, uneven ground, some ascent/descent
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 life-long. 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, 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 & 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.

“IP* offers great value for money with their programmes. There is minimum spending money needed once on tour and there are no hidden extras along the way.”

Judy & Peter Hughes

“I know that you get the blue ribbon extras with IPT and I was in the mood to be spoilt.”

Judy Potkonen

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