



Natural Selections

BIRDING, WILDLIFE, AND PHOTO TOURS



Komodo dragons

Herping Indonesia: Komodo, Bali and Java

13 Nights/14 Days

Our Indonesian herping tour immerses you in the biodiversity and maritime paradise of central Indonesia, its islands and oceans, its animals and plants, and its people and culture. The vast Indonesian archipelago extending from Indochina to Australo-Papua regions is made up of over 17,000 islands, and is one of the world's hottest biodiversity hotspots. In fact, many sources credit Indonesia as the most species-rich country on Earth.

Our tour will be focusing on two smaller islands Bali and Flores (along with islands of Komodo National Park), and the much larger island Java where the capital city of Jakarta is located. Although located close-by, each of these islands harbour a unique assemblage of fauna and flora in contrastingly different habitats. They are also home to some of the most iconic and charismatic reptiles on the planet including Komodo dragons, king cobras, blue pit vipers, blue coral snakes, dragon snakes, flying snakes and flying lizards. Your itinerary is meticulously planned using local knowledge and the insights of field scientists to give you optimal exposure to what these three islands have to offer with regard to herpetofauna. Led by our team of leading local herpetologists and naturalists, we'll dive deep into wildlife, people and culture of Indonesia, and explore the balance between conservation, traditional ways of life and the natural environment.

Tour Overview

Day 1: Arrive Bali Ngurah Rain International Airport (DPS), herping in Sanur

Day 2: Fly to Labuan Bajo in Flores and head to Komodo NP

Day 3: Explore Komodo NP

Day 4: Explore Komodo NP and Labuan Bajo

Day 5: Herping in caves of Cunca Wulang

Day 6: Fly to Bali and look for King cobras

Day 7: Herping in central hills of Ubud

Day 8: Fly to Java

Day 9: Herping in populous Bogor
Day 10: Explore Mt. Halimun-Salak NP

Day 11: Explore Mt. Halimun-Salak NP

Day 12: Herping in the riverine habitats of Banten

Day 13: More herping in populous Bogor

Day 14: International flights home from Soekarno-Hatta International Airport (CGK) in Jakarta

Banded Sea Krait



13 Night/14 Day Itinerary:

Day 1, Arrive Bali and night herping in Sanur:

Arrive in Bali. Pick up and transfer to our resort in Kuta (transfer time ~30 min). After dinner we'll drive to the nearby region of Sanur for night herping of the mangroves and beaches there. While the habitat is secondary and mixed with human activity, herping here is an experience in itself for the remarkable way in which snakes and people co-inhabit this area.

Dog-faced water snakes are common along the shores here, as can be white-lipped pit vipers and Tokay Geckos as well. If time allows, we will also visit a nearby beach which can be productive for banded sea kraits.

Notable species: keelback water snakes (*Xenochrophis* spp.), Schneider's bockadam (*Cerberus schneiderii*), sea krait (*Laticauda*

colubrina), white-lipped pit viper (*Trimeresurus insularis*), tokay gecko (*Gekko gecko*).

Meals: Dinner

Lodging at 3+ star hotel in Kuta

Day 2, Fly to Flores and sail to Komodo NP:

Today we transfer to the airport (transfer time ~30 min) and head to Labuan Bajo in Flores on the early flight from Bali (flight time ~1 hr). After pick up from airport, we board the traditionally-made live-on-board boat that will be our home for the next two nights and head to Rinca island (travel time ~2.5 hrs). Rinca is one of the three largest islands in Komodo National Park, though less well-known and less visited than the rest. Habitats here on Rinca mainly comprise dry monsoonal forests and thorny shrublands. Tonight's adventure will consist of night-time herping along trails and streams that traverse this habitat, and we will be on the lookout for sleeping Komodo dragons, white-lipped pit vipers, Russell's vipers, cat snakes, green vine snakes, tokay and bent-toed geckos, and even the occasional Asian Palm Civet and Hawk-eagle. We'll spend the night anchored near Rinca and sleep on our boat.

Notable species: Komodo dragon (*Varanus komodoensis*) green form of white-lipped pit viper (*Trimeresurus insularis*), Siamese Russell's viper (*Daboia siamensis*), tokay geckos (*Gekko gecko*), bent-toed geckos (*Cyrtodactylus* spp.),

Timor python (*Malayopython timoriensis*), Lesser Sundas cat snake (*Boiga hoeseli*), Lesser Sundas bronzeback (*Dendrelaphis inornatus*), little file snake (*Acrochordus granulatus*).

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging on live-aboard boat, shared rooms

Day 3, Explore Komodo NP and the tropical reefs around:

The next two days of exploring Komodo National Park will take us to two different, highly productive sites within the park.

Today will begin with a morning of day-time herping on the island of Rinca, and will mainly target Komodo dragons of all sizes, and the occasional diurnal snake species such as the Indonesian spitting cobra. Notable mammals and birds here include rusa deer, crab-eating macaque, Asian wild buffalo, wild boar, yellow-breasted cockatoo and orange-footed scrub fowl. Our herping will be along a mix of dry stream beds and rugged trails through monsoonal forest and dry scrub habitat. After lunch, we'll head to the island of Komodo (travel time ~2 hrs) for a visit to Komodo's famous pink beach followed by some of the best snorkelling on Earth. We'll anchor off-shore and enjoy some of our Earth's highest diversity of corals. In addition to the many beautiful corals and myriad forms of marine life, green and hawksbill sea turtles are commonly seen here. After dinner we'll begin nocturnal herping



White-lipped Island Pit Viper (blue phase)

on the island of Komodo with a few of our targets being the blue form of the white-lipped pit viper, Komodo dragons and Russell's vipers. Crab-eating frogs are often seen here as well, around buffalo wallows and wet areas.

We'll spend the night anchored near Komodo and sleep on our boat.

Notable species: Komodo dragon (*Varanus komodoensis*), blue form of white-lipped pit viper (*Trimeresurus insularis*), Indonesian spitting cobra (*Naja sputatrix*), Boschma's gliding lizard (*Draco boschmai*), multiple skink species (*Cryptoblepharus* spp. and *Sphenomorphus* spp.), Sunda rat snake (*Coelognathus subradiatus*).

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging on live-aboard boat, shared rooms

Day 4, Herping at Komodo Island and Labuan Bajo:

We'll finish off at Komodo with a final morning of herping on the island, and targeting the same species as the prior day(s). Around lunch time our boat will depart for Labuan Bajo and en route, we will pause to do some drift snorkeling where giant manta rays, many with a wing span of up to 3 meters, congregate to feed within food-plentiful ocean currents. It is not uncommon to see up to a dozen of these magnificent giants here, and our boat will remain with us throughout as we float along effortlessly with the mantas.

Once back at Labuan Bajo (travel time ~3 hrs), we'll transfer to our beach resort, and after dinner will embark on night-time spotlighting in and around Labuan Bajo. Habitat here is similar to Komodo with the addition of agriculture and edge habitat, and our main target here will be the very rare yellow phase of



Reticulated Python

the white-lipped pit viper. Common here are bronzebacks, vine snakes, and in the numerous creeks, homalopsid mud snakes. Also seen here are Asian water monitors, either sleeping in trees or hunting crabs in the mangroves.

Notable species: Komodo dragon (*Varanus komodoensis*), yellow form of white-lipped pit viper (*Trimeresurus insularis*), Indonesian spitting cobra (*Naja sputatrix*), Boschma's gliding lizard (*Draco boschmai*).

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging at Puri Sari Beach Hotel or similar

Day 5, The scenic landscape of Cunca Wulang:

Today we head to the Cunca Wulang region in western Flores for a day of exploring and herping. The waterfalls, riverine habitats and small limestone caves in this region provides home to an array

of species similar to the assemblage at Komodo NP including rat snakes and mock vipers. The little-known Flores ground snake has been also reported from the general area. Some of the caves are famous for reticulated pythons that frequent the entrances to feed on clouds of bats that exit and enter the caves each evening and morning. We'll enjoy this scenic area with a full day trip exploring and herping in arid, rocky monsoonal forest riverine areas, and palm oil plantations searching for the above-mentioned species.

In the evening, we'll head out for night-time spotlighting in the general area for reticulated pythons, various colubrids, vipers and other nocturnal herps. Night-time spot-lighting here can also produce slow loris and those bizarre gliding mammals known as colugos! Given the availability of water, this area also harbours a relatively rich diversity of amphibians. We will return to

Labuan Bajo for the night.

Notable species: reticulated python (*Malayopython reticulatus*), lesser sunda rat snakes (*Coelognathus subradiatus*), mock viper (*Psammodynastes pulverulentus*), Flores ground snake (*Stegonotus florensis*).

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging at Puri Sari Beach Hotel or similar

Day 6, From Labuan Bajo to Bali, King Cobras:

After breakfast, we'll leave Labuan Bajo in early morning flight to Bali (~1 hr) and then transfer to central Bali for an encounter with king cobras. The population of king cobras here is known from an area managed by a community group which protects the snakes and their habitat. Guides from this community will take us along as we herp areas of bamboo forest and agricultural areas interspersed with riparian habitat. We will be on the lookout for adult king cobras as they hunt, and will also be on the lookout for nests that our local guides will have previously scouted for us. Paradise flying snakes are also seen on occasion in this area, so we'll hope for luck with them as well.

We will head to Ubud in the central hills of Bali for the night. After dinner we'll head out for night-time spotlighting in agricultural habitats (especially paddy fields) around Ubud. The lush paddy fields and the adjoining streams are home to

a large number of snakes including cat snakes, kraits, slug eaters, pit-vipers and keelback water snakes as well as amphibians.

Notable species: king cobra (*Ophiophagus Hannah*), Malayan krait (*Bungarus candidus*), multiple species of amphibians, multiple species of geckos, sunbeam snake (*Xenopeltis unicolor*), vine snake (*Ahaetulla prasine*), mangrove cat snake (*Boiga dendrophila*), dog-toothed cat snake (*Boiga cynodont*), painted bronzeback (*Dendrelaphis pictus*), keelbacks (*Xenochrophis* spp.), slug eaters (*Pareas carinatus*), green form of white-lipped pit viper (*Trimeresurus insularis*).

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging at Ubud Tropical Garden or similar*

Day 7, Ubud in the central hills:

Depending on yesterday's success with king cobras we may want to spend another morning searching for the kind of snakes. If we did well, however, we'll spend the morning with Bali's leading naturalist observing, photographing and learning about the plethora of herp and bird life that makes Ubud home. Ubud is the cultural capital of Bali in the middle hills region and there is a richness of native wildlife here. A patchwork of paddy fields, agriculture and edge habitat, the area is also home to flying lizards, tree skinks, water monitors, great-crested canopy lizards, and more. In the evening we will transfer to Kuta for our last night in Bali. After



King Cobra

dinner we'll head out for nocturnal spot-lighting in man-made habitats and semi-agricultural areas for commensal species such as toads, geckos, rat snakes and wolf snakes.

Notable species: great crested canopy lizard (*Bronchocela jubata*), common flying lizard (*Draco volans*), keelbacks (*Xenochrophis* spp.), green form of white-lipped pit viper (*Trimeresurus insularis*), wolf snakes (*Lycodon* spp.), rat snakes (*Ptyas* spp.).

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging at 3+ star hotel in Kuta*

Day 8, Heading to Java and herping in Bogor:

After breakfast we will transfer to the Denpasar airport in Bali and fly to Soekarno International Airport in Jakarta on the morning flight (flight time ~2 hr). We will then take a ~3 hr road trip to the township of Bogor. After a restful afternoon, we will head to a mix of agricultural

land (especially paddy) and secondary habitats in close proximity (~30 min from resort) for night time herping. These habitats are home to a range of arboreal colubrids, water snakes and vipers and provide a good introduction to how reptiles here coexist with humans. Also known from the general area are Sunda scops owls (*Otus lempiji*), forest cats (*Prionailurus* sp), civet cats (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*), slow loris (*Nycticebus javanicus*), and otters (*Aonyx cinerea*). We head back to Bogor for the night.

Notable species: vine snake (*Ahaetulla prasina*), painted bronzeback (*Dendrelaphis pictus*), water snake (*Enhydris enhydris*) and green viper (*Trimeresurus albolabris*).

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging at at Green Savana by Aston or similar*

Day 9, Ciliwung Herpetarium and herping in Bogor:

In the morning we will visit the Ciliwung Herpetarium (~30 min travel time) to learn the reptile and amphibian conservation initiatives taking place in Java and for potential photo opportunities for various local species.

In the afternoon we will explore the urban canal systems and riverine habitats which are home to a range of snakes, especially pythons due to the large population of rodents inhabiting the area.

At evening, we depart on a ~4hr walk through home gardens, grasslands and then secondary forest, while crossing several streambeds in search of racers, kraits, and colubrids. We will also explore a limestone ridge that's inhabited by a large bat colony as well as some micro-endemic isopods. Several kingfisher species, Sunda pangolins, Sunda

porcupines, colugos and wild boar are often sighted in this area.

Notable species: water monitor (*Varanus salvator*), green racer (*Gonyosoma oxycephalum*), reticulated python (*Malayopython reticulatus*), kraits (*Bungarus fasciatus* and *B. candidus*), triangle keelback (*Xenochrophis trianguligerus*), Indo-Chinese rat snake (*Ptyas korros*), and the endemic, endangered and newly discovered tree frog *Chiromantis trilaksonoi*.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging at Green Savana by Aston or similar*

Day 10, Mt. Halimun-Salak National Park:

Today we head to the high-altitude (~1000 m above sea level) montane forests with clear streams at Mt. Halimun-Salak National Park for the day (travel time ~2 hrs). These largely primary forests are some of the last remaining of its kind in Java. We will explore several water courses and rock-outcrops within the park for dragon snakes, coral snakes and a wide range of amphibians. We will continue spotlighting at night time. Night time in these altitudes get colder (in tropical standards) and may reach 15C.

This area is also home to Javan leopards (*Panthera pardus*), Javan trogon (*Apalharpactes reinwardtii*) and the Javan hawk eagle (*Nisateus bartelsi*). We will spend the night close to the national park.

Blue Coral Snake





White-lipped Island Pit Viper
(green phase)

Notable species: blue coral snake (*Calliophis bivirgata*), dragon snake (*Xenodermus javanicus*), anglehead lizard (*Gonocephalus kuhlii*), reed snakes (*Calamaria* spp), pearly tree frog (*Nyctixalus margaritifer*), flying frogs (*Rhacophorus reinwardtii*, *R. margaritifer*), horned frog (*Megophrys montana*), and many other amphibian species.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging at Lido Lake Resort or similar

Day 11, Mt. Halimun-Salak National Park:

We will spend the day herping and exploring a different side of the Mt. Halimun-Salak National Park today. The habitats and conditions are similar to those on the previous day, and it will provide us more opportunities to encounter very unique species such as the blue coral snake and dragon snake, and

angle-head lizard that show restricted distributions. This site is also known for its caecilians-unique legless amphibians. The breathtaking scenery in the park is also worthy experiencing.

Notable species: blue coral snake (*Calliophis bivirgata*), dragon snake (*Xenodermus javanicus*), anglehead lizard (*Gonocephalus kuhlii*), reed snakes (*Calamaria* pp), pearly tree frog (*Nyctixalus margaritifer*), flying frogs (*Rhacophorus reinwardtii*, *R. margaritifer*), horned frog (*Megophrys montana*), and many other amphibian species including caecilians.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging at Lido Lake Resort or similar

Day 12, Herps of Banten:

Today we will do a ~4 hr road trip heading to Banten region in the west of Java. We will opportunistically do quick herping sessions at midway locations, mostly in secondary forests. Once in Banten, we will visit riverine forests and adjoining palm oil plantations for the evening and night time. Although the vegetation structure at Banten is similar to that of Bogor, Banten is substantially rural, and therefore is home to a different assemblage of species. We will target Malayan pit vipers, one of the region's most medically important snakes. Slow lorises, nightjars, scops owls, and colugos are often seen during the night time in this area. We'll spend

the night in Banten.

Notable species: Malayan pit viper (*Calloselasma rhodostoma*), mangrove snake (*Boiga dendrophila*).

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging at Mutiara Carita Cottages or similar

Day 13, Bogor Botanical Gardens and city:

Today we'll will head back to Bogor and visit the Bogor Botanical Gardens, a great location for several species of native opportunistic fauna including agamids and birds. We will also get an opportunity to visit the local traditional markets surrounding the botanical gardens.

After a relaxed afternoon and evening, we'll head for the last night of herping on a university reserve near our hotel (~30 min from resort). This highly vegetated property is home to a range of arboreal colubrids, water snakes and vipers.

Notable species: water monitor (*Varanus salvator*), green racer (*Gonyosoma oxycephalum*), reticulated python (*Malayopython reticulatus*), kraits (*Bungarus fasciatus* and *B. candidus*), triangle keelback (*Xenochrophis trianguligerus*), Indo-Chinese rat snake (*Ptyas korros*), and the endemic, endangered and newly discovered tree frog *Chiromantis trilaksonoi*.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging at Green Savana by Aston
or similar

**Day 14, Transfer to Jakarta airport
and flights home:**

After an early breakfast, we will
transfer to the Jakarta international
airport (transfer time ~3 hr) to
head back home.

Meals: Breakfast

Included in this itinerary:

Private herpetologist guide
throughout, all ground/airport
transfers, return flight from Bali to
Flores, one-way flight from Bali to
Java, lodging as indicated (2 nights
on a live-onboard traditional boat
and 3+ star-level resorts for the
other nights), meals beginning with
dinner on arrival day to breakfast
on departure day, bottled water for
transfers, all national park entrance
and guide fees, snorkeling
equipment while at Komodo NP,
detailed briefing notes to prepare
for the tour, all local taxes.

* Please note that cabin
accommodation on the live-
onboard boat at Komodo will be on
shared basis. Also, if we choose to
do the king cobra trip twice, it will
add an additional US\$ 110 per
person on top of the tour price.

Not Included:

International flights to and from



Komodo National Park

Indonesia, travel or medical
insurance, food/drinks not
mentioned, any extra and optional
day tours or visits, tips, other
personal items such as alcoholic
beverages, gifts, laundry, etc.

Travel insurance:

It is mandatory that you take out
comprehensive insurance cover for
cancellation, personal injury, death,
medical expenses, repatriation
expenses and evacuation expenses
before you travel on this tour. We
strongly recommend your
insurance also covers cancellation,
personal liability and loss of

personal property (as tour
organizer or third-party service
providers will not cover the costs
incurred in such). Please check
that the insurance covers all of the

activities that you are going to be
participating in. Some policies
exclude certain adventure
activities.



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