

EAST INDONESIA TOURS & TRAVEL

explore east Indonesia with the expert!

KALIMANTAN – SULAWESI – BALI 25 DAYS / 22 NIGHTS

Highlight of This Tour:

- Three islands of Indonesia in one trip
- Original route and never been put together as one tour route.
- A perfect balance between all kind of activities in one holiday package; volunteer work at WWF program, houseboat cruise experience, village ecotourism, trekking, diving / snorkelling & bicycling.
- Visiting one of WWF orang-utan and honey bear rehabilitation centre (both of native Borneo fauna) Kalimantan.
- Visit the Dayaq tribe of Kalimantan.
- River cruise on our own private house boat into the heart of Kalimantan.
- Possible of spotting fresh water dolphin
- Visiting some typical long house of the Dayaq
- Stay at local ecotourism village project in Sulawesi
- Trekking in the beautiful highland of the Toraja
- Visit homemade silk weaving and fisherman floating village
- Diving & snorkelling at the southern part of Sulawesi
- Bicycling in Bali
- A lot of rest in the whole tour program

DAY 01: AMSTERDAM – SINGAPORE – BALIKPAPAN

Depart Amsterdam's Schipol with Singapore Airlines for Singapore. You will arrive the next day. Change your plane into silk Air for a flight to Balikpapan, the Capital of East Kalimantan Province, Indonesia.

DAY 02: BALIKPAPAN – SAMBOJA LESTARI PROJECT (LD)

Upon arrival at Balikpapan Sepinggang Airport with Silk Air from Singapore, You will be picked-up at the airport and transferred in around 1 hour to your comfortable lodge at Samboja Lestari. Samboja Lestari comprises an area of 2000 ha which used to be all tropical rainforest. Due to illegal logging, shifting cultivation and the drought and fires caused by El Nino most of this forest was destroyed. The Bos Foundation (Balikpapan Orangutan Survival Foundation) concerned with both the natural habitat as well as with its inhabitants, bought this area and planted it with all sorts of indigenous tree species, flowers and fruiting trees. The Samboja Lestari project has the mission to recreate the rainforests that once stood in this area thereby creating a natural habitat for the orangutan and other wildlife. The project has also created many jobs for the people of Samboja village and neighboring villages.

Just recently Samboja has opened its doors for visitors, a beautiful built Lodge that can accommodate up to 50 people. There are several nature trails that allow you the chance to spot some of the animals that have returned to this regenerating forest: many bird species, snakes, small mammals (deer, pigs) and several wild primates (gibbons, 2 species of macaques, proboscis and red leaf monkey's). The area is also the home of the world's largest sun bear project as well as of an extensive orangutan rehabilitation center. Visitors are encouraged to assist the local staff in their daily activities.

Around 80% of all income will be generated to the use of projects in Sambajo Lestari.

DAY 03: SAMBOJA LESTARI PROJECT (BLD)

Follow the nature trails in search of wildlife, learn about native plant species and about regeneration of tropical forest, have a look at the orangutan rehabilitation center or observe the behaviour of the sun bears. There are local guides available.

DAY 04: SAMBOJA LESTARI – START OF THE MAHAKAM RIVER CRUISE (BLD)

Early start and you will be driven in around 2 hours to the small town of Loa Janan on the banks of the Mahakam river. Here you will board your houseboat that will function as your hotel and restaurant dur-

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ing 5 days. The boat consists of two floors: below is a closed space surrounded by windows that can be all opened and is used for eating and relaxing. There is a small open deck on which chairs are placed. Upstairs is a large air-conditioned room (around 13 m x 3,5 m) that can hold around 12-13 people. Comfortable mattresses are placed on the floor and not on beds because the ceiling is, in accordance with typical Kalimantan riverboats quite low around 1,80 meter. There is a western toilet and shower on this floor and an Indonesian style toilet on the lower floor.

The Mahakam river is one of the longest rivers in Kalimantan. It finds its way through the lands of several Dayak-tribes, known for their mystical practices, their silent stalking through the deepest darkest jungle, their longhouses and their appearance with long earlobes and heavily tattooed wrist and ankles. Although quite modern these days, still a lot of the old mystic can be traced and some of the older men and women still keep their long earlobes and their tattoos. The smaller children are still carried in sometimes beautiful decorated typical baby carriers to the fields and forests.

Near its estuary the Mahakam is quite broad but it gets smaller and smaller the more inland you travel. The first part of the river, near Samarinda and Tenggarong, is the main highway. Relatively small tug boats pull enormous barges full of coal and wood down river to Samarinda, and there is a lot of boat traffic with passengers traveling down and up streams. Once you are 'out of town', the scenery changes and becomes more rural. Small villages with lots of activity taking place at the riverbank, including people fishing in canoes, women beating clothes on river stones and once in a while a floating toilet that passes the boat.

**The feasibility of the Mahakam program described here depends on the water level of the Mahakam. It could be possible that you spend 1 or 2 nights in a small village instead of on board. It is also possible that several sights can not be reached. Travel times also very much depend on the rate of flow of the Mahakam river.*

DAY 05: MUARA MUNTAI – MANCONG – TANJUNG ISUY – MUARA MUNTAI (BLD)

In the morning you will arrive in the town of Muara of Muara Muntai. This is one of the many towns built on the river with the 'main road' full of boats of all shapes and sizes zipping up and down transporting people as well as animals, produce, wood, engines and virtually anything that can fit on a boat. A large part is built on stilts and the smaller roads are made of wood. Together with your guide you explore this typical river village. Shortly after Muara Muntai you will get in a small motorized canoe with loud engines and cross the Jempang Lake. This lake is one of the biggest lakes in the Mahakam area, which supports around 32 bigger and smaller lakes. Its size very much depends on the water level of the Mahakam. The bigger lakes and wetlands are the home of the rare and threatened Irrawady dolphin.

You will find the first part of the Jempang lake stark and quite lifelessness. But in no time, you will enter a totally new environment of green lush everglade-type wetlands. Entering the Ohong Creek you will find yourself surrounded by much higher and dense vegetation and will have the opportunity to spot some wild-life like birds and the proboscis monkey with their funny nose. In Mancong you will visit a nice renovated and decorated longhouse. You will be greeted by the villagers (Dayak Benuaq tribe) with a dance performance. Afterwards you will continue to the houseboat for your diner and overnight

DAY 06: MUARA MUNTAI – IRRAWADY DOLPHIN PROJECT – MELAK (BLD)

You will be cruising further upstream. Not far from Muara Muntai you will enter the Bolongan-river. Here the Irrawady dolphin is monitored every day by a foundation and is your chance quite reasonable to see one of these unique freshwater dolphins. Afterwards you return to the Mahakam, which will get narrower and village life from both banks is well visible. You will pass and stop at typical Dayak villages. You will still cruising upstream of this mighty river.

DAY 07: MELAK – DAYAK TOUR – TENGGARONG (BLD)

After breakfast, full day tour using local transport. You will visit an old longhouse of Eheng, observing their daily lives. Afterwards you continue to the Ombau Asa waterfall and have a swim in a refreshing pool at the base of the waterfall then continue to a national park where you have the chance to spot the rare

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black orchid flower in its natural place. In Melak you will board the houseboat again and continuing traveling towards Tenggarong.

DAY 08: TENGGARONG – LOA JANAN – BALIKPAPAN - MAKASSAR (BL)

In the morning you will arrive at Tenggarong, the centre of the former powerful Kutai-sultanate. You will visit the Mulawarman museum and have a look at the impressive collection of heirlooms, ceramics, Dayak art's and culture items. Tenggarong is the place where your Mahakam-trip will come to an end. You will be transferred by car to Balikpapan airport where you will fly to Makassar, the capital of South Sulawesi province.

DAY 09 / 10: MAKASSAR – WATERFALL / KARTS – ECOTOURISM VILLAGE PROJECT (BLD)

After breakfast, we will drive to the nature park of Bantimurung waterfall, where you can walk around and enjoy the nature. We will drive to the Village in the karts mountain area. We will make 2 hours hike in this beautiful nature, visiting cave with prehistoric paintings (date back to 3000 BC) such as red hand painting and several painting of animals. We will spend the night at a village in the top of the Karts mountain.

Our host for two nights will be a local community that live in a village with traditional Bugis houses in the stilt. The villagers live from farming, collecting palm wine and and make palm sugar and possibly your host will invite you to take part on their daily activities.

DAY 11: TOMPOBULU – TORAJA (B)

After Breakfast we will say good bye to our host then we proceed to Toraja Land, the land that still preserve the old traditions the way hundreds of year ago. We will stop at a coffee shop with a spectacular view over Buntu Kabobong (Erotic Mountain). Lunch at the local restaurant in Pare Pare then check – in at Toraja Prince Hotel.

DAY 12: TORAJA - FREE PROGRAM (B)

Free program on your own. You could visit whatever events available in the region. You could visit Lemo (Grave in the rock cliff), Londa (grave in the cave), Kete Kesu (traditional houses & rice barns with hanging coffin behind the complex) and many other places. Funeral ceremony is also a very interesting event. The Torajan make a big “party” for the beloved one and sacrifices a lot of buffaloes & pigs to accompany the spirit to Puya, the spirit land.

DAY 13, 14 & 15: TORAJA TREKKING (BLD)

After breakfast, we will explore the natural beauty of Toraja. We will go on 3 days and two nights trekking, visiting the remote area. We will visit many traditional villages, perhaps attending funeral ceremonies in one village, overnight at the Tongkonan, the traditional house of the Torajan tribe, enjoy dine and (local wine) local style provide by our cook and a lot of hidden beauty that you can only witness in this part of the world.

In the afternoon of Day 15 you will be back to Rantepao

DAY 16: TORAJA – FREE PROGRAM (B)

Free program on your own to visit whatever place or interesting objects that you do not cover yet on day 12. You can also spend the day by the pool at the hotel.

DAY 17: TORAJA – SENGGANG (B)

After breakfast, we will proceed to Sengkang, the center of Bugis district. The Journey via the eastern cost of Sulawesi and you could see Gulf of Bone sea sometimes. Lunch at the local Restaurant in Sengkang and then Check – in at Hotel Apada. After rest for a while, we will make small sight seeing tour visiting Lempangan village, the village of silk weaver. In this village all adult women working in a home industry of silk weavings. You can watch how the local woman makes complicated pattern on their weavings. Around 04:00 PM we will proceed into the river bank of Lake Tempe. We will hire local fisherman motorized canoe

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and we will visit the fisherman floating village in the middle of the lake. You will have coffee or tea with fried banana at one of the floating house while observing the way of life of the villagers. By sunset we will proceed back to Sengkang and on the way you will enjoy spectacular colour of sunset. Lake Tempe is also rich with birds and you can see them well by sunset.

DAY 18: SENKANG – BIRA (B)

After breakfast, we will continue our journey to Bira beach, the most southern tip of Sulawesi Island. On the way we will stop at Watampone and visit the local museums that contain the past glory of the Bugis people. In Bonto Bahari, several kilometers before Bira, we will stop at the local wooden boat builder. You can watch the craftsmanship of the local people on making big wooden boat that past from generations.

DAY 19 / 20: BIRA (B)

Free on your own to relax in this fine powdery white sandy beach. You can go for snorkelling, diving with local dive operator, or even renting a small boat to visit local village in Liukang island. These two days will be spent in relax surrounding.

DAY 21: BIRA – UBUD (B)

After breakfast we will proceed to Hasanuddin airport of Makassar on a 5 hours journey. Upon arrival, check in for your flight to Bali. In Bali you still will drive about two hours to ubud, the art centre of Bali, and in the elevation of 700meters above sea level.

DAY 22: BICYCLING TOUR UBUD

After breakfast, you will be pick up and transfer to a beautiful spot of Kintamani, where you will enjoy panoramic view over Mount Batur and its lake. Start your bicycling tour and visit local people house or a chance to help the farmer planting their Padis at the rice field.

DAY 23: UBUD – FREE PROGRAM

You are free on your own to spend your last day in Bali. Shopping, visiting painting galleries, visit the art market of Ubud or simply relax by the pool are some idea of “activities”.

DAY 24: UBUD – AMSTERDAM

After breakfast free on your own till the time to transfer you to the airport.

DAY 25: ARRIVAL AMSTERDAM