

# Lesser Sunda Indonesia Birding Tour

West Timor / Rote / Flores / Komodo



# Less Sunda Endemics & Komodo Dragon

## 13 Days Remote Indonesia Expedition

Embark on an unforgettable 13-day birding expedition across the captivating Indonesian islands of West Timor, Rote, Flores, and Komodo. This "Endemic Explorer" tour is meticulously crafted for avid birdwatchers eager to discover the unique and often elusive avian treasures of the Lesser Sundas. Prepare to be immersed in diverse landscapes, from rugged mountains and lush forests to serene lakes and coastal shores, each harboring a distinct array of birdlife. Our journey will take us through key birding hotspots, seeking out remarkable Wallacean endemics and regional specialties. With experienced guides and carefully planned logistics, this adventure promises not only a wealth of incredible sightings but also a deep appreciation for the rich biodiversity of this extraordinary corner of the world.

### Itinerary

#### Day 1: Arrival



-Kupang - So'e Upon your morning arrival at El Tari Airport in Kupang, the capital of West Timor, you will be warmly greeted by our team. We'll then proceed for a delicious lunch at a local restaurant in Kupang, offering your first taste of Indonesian cuisine. Afterwards, we embark on a scenic drive inland towards So'e, an approximately 2-3 hour journey. Our birding adventure commences en route with a stop at the Olenasi area. On this notable site, we'll spend the afternoon until dusk searching for our initial set of target species. Anticipate exciting first encounters with specialties like the Black-breasted Myzomela, Timor Friarbird, the vibrant Streak-breasted Honeyeater, Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove, the active Timor Fantail, and as night falls, the elusive Timor

Boobook. Dinner will be at a basic but authentic local restaurant before we settle into the Bahagia II Hotel or similar in So'e for the night.

### Day 2: Birding in Mutis

An early start today, as we depart from our hotel at 5:00 AM to maximise our birding opportunities. We will drive to the Fatumnasi area within the impressive Mount Mutis Nature Reserve, a renowned haven for montane bird species. The entire day will be dedicated to exploring this exceptional reserve, trekking through its varied habitats in search of Timor's highland endemics. Key targets for the day include the highly sought-after Mount Mutis Parrotfinch, the colourful Tricoloured Parrotfinch, the subtle Timor Leaf Warbler, the striking Iris Lorikeet, and the charming Timor Blue Flycatcher. We will also be on the lookout for the magnificent Timor Imperial Pigeon, Yellow-eared Honeyeater, Island Thrush, Chestnut-backed Thrush, and the distinctive Timor Bushchat. After a full day of immersive birding, we will return to So'e for dinner and another overnight stay at the Bahagia II Hotel or similar.



### Day 3: Birding in Timau - Kupang

Another predawn start awaits us as we depart at 4:00 AM, driving towards the Timau region, specifically targeting the Lelogama area for a full day of birding. This area offers a different suite of species and habitats. We will have a packed lunch of bread and noodles to ensure we maximise our time in the field. Our dedicated birding efforts here will focus on locating species such as the Tricolored Parrotfinch, Timor Blue Flycatcher, the beautiful Olive-headed Lorikeet and Iris Lorikeet, the impressive Timor Imperial Pigeon, and the often-heard Timor Leaf Warbler. We also hope to find the tiny Timor Flowerpecker, the Flame-eared Honeyeater, Timor Heleia, Timor Bushchat, and the skulking Black-banded Flycatcher. In the late afternoon, we will commence our drive back to Kupang, enjoying dinner at a local restaurant en route before checking into the On The Rock Hotel or similar for our overnight stay.

### Day 4: Birding in Bipolo

We'll have an early departure from our hotel in Kupang to reach the Bipolo area, a well-known lowland birding site. Our morning will be spent exploring Bipolo's varied habitats, which can include savanna, light forest, and potentially some wetland areas, searching for its characteristic birdlife until midday. Here, we hope to encounter the Timor Sparrow, the striking Timor (Black-breasted) Myzomela, and the active Streak-breasted Honeyeater. After our morning session, we'll have lunch at a simple local restaurant. Following lunch, we will shift our focus to the Camplong area for an afternoon of further birding exploration, targeting any species we might have missed or getting better views. As the day winds down, we'll drive back to Kupang, have dinner at a local restaurant, and spend the night at the On The Rock Hotel or similar.



### Day 5: Kupang - Rote

This morning we will take a fast ferry from Kupang to Rote Island, a journey that typically takes between 1.5 to 2 hours, offering potential views of seabirds along the way. Upon arrival in Rote, we will check into our hotel in Ba'a, the main town, and then proceed for lunch at a local restaurant. The afternoon will be dedicated to our first birding session on Rote, as we drive to Pantai Baro. We will explore this coastal area and its surroundings until dusk, specifically targeting the unique endemics and specialties of Rote Island. Our key species for the afternoon include the recently described Rote Myzomela and Rote Fantail, the beautiful Jonquil Parrot, the distinctive Orange-

banded Thrush, and as evening approaches, the Rote Boobook. Dinner will be enjoyed in town before we settle in for the night at the Ricky Hotel or similar in Ba'a.

### Day 6: Birding in Rote

An early start will see us driving to the Bolatena area on Rote Island. We have the full day planned for birding, with options to either spend the entire day exploring Bolatena's diverse habitats, or returning to Ba'a for lunch and then heading back to the Pantai Baru area for afternoon birding, depending on recent sightings and conditions. Rote Island is home to several highly sought-after endemic species, and our efforts today will be focused on locating these treasures. Our prime targets include the Rote Fantail and Rote Myzomela, the often conspicuous Green Figbird, the striking Orange-banded Thrush, the beautiful Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove, the vocal Jonquil Parrot, the elusive Timor Blue Flycatcher (also found on Timor), and the impressive Pink-headed Imperial Pigeon. After a rewarding day of birding, we will have dinner at a local restaurant and stay overnight at the Ricky Hotel or similar.





### Day 7: Rote - Kupang

Our final morning on Rote Island will begin with an early drive to Lake Sotimori. This location offers opportunities for different species, particularly waterbirds, and we will spend the morning birding in this area until approximately 10:00 AM. Key species we hope to encounter here include the Rote Myzomela, Jonquil Parrot, Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove, and the diminutive Red-chested Flowerpecker, alongside various waterbirds that frequent the lake. Afterwards, we will return to Ba'a to catch the fast boat back to Kupang. Upon arrival in Kupang, we'll have dinner at a local restaurant and settle in for the night at the On The Rock Hotel or similar, preparing for our flight to Flores the next day. We might also have a chance for a final encounter with the Timor Boobook if conditions are favourable.



### Day 8: Kupang - Ruteng

Today we transition to the island of Flores. We will take a morning flight from Kupang to Ruteng, a town nestled in the highlands of Flores and a gateway to some of the island's best birding sites. Upon arrival, we will check into our hotel. Our first birding excursion in Flores will be around a coffee plantation near Ruteng, an interesting agroforest habitat that can hold several key species. After lunch at a local restaurant, we will drive to the scenic Ranamese Lake. This crater lake and its surrounding forest provide excellent opportunities for birding until dark. Here, we will be searching for species such as the Chestnut-backed Thrush, the stunning Ornate Pitta, Five-coloured Munia, the Flores Jungle Flycatcher, and as dusk settles, the distinctive calls of the Flores Scops Owl and Wallace's Scops Owl. We will have dinner in Ruteng and stay overnight at the Ara Garden Inn or similar.

### Day 9: Birding in Ruteng

A very early start is planned for today, as we depart at 4:00 AM for Golo Lusang, a forested area just a 20-minute drive from Ruteng. Our primary goal this morning is to search for the endemic Flores Scops Owl before dawn. Following our owling attempt, we will continue birding around the Golo Lusang forest and nearby areas until midday, exploring its rich avian diversity. Flores is renowned for its unique endemics, and we'll be looking for the Bare-throated Whistler, Flores Leaf Warbler, Cream-browed Heleia, Flores Warbling Flycatcher, the elusive Flores Shortwing, Flores Flowerpecker, Scaly-crowned Honeyeater, Flores Minivet, Brown-capped Fantail, Chestnut-backed Thrush, Five-coloured Munia, the White-rumped Kingfisher, Crested Heleia, and hopefully another chance for the Ornate Pitta. After lunch in town, we will spend the afternoon birding at a coffee plantation until dark, before returning to Ruteng for dinner and our overnight stay at Ara Garden Inn or a similar hotel.

### Day 10: Ruteng - Labuan Bajo

Our birding continues this morning with an early drive to the Pagal area. We will spend the morning exploring this location, which offers further chances for Flores endemics and other interesting species until around midday. We will be on the lookout for the stunning Banded Fruit-Dove, the Tenggara Paradise Flycatcher, Flores Green Pigeon, Wallace's Hanging Parrot, and the White-rumped Kingfisher. There's also a possibility of spotting the majestic Flores Hawk-Eagle and the Wallace's Heleia. After our morning birding session and lunch in town, we will embark on a scenic drive towards Labuan Bajo, a coastal town on the western tip of Flores that serves as the jumping-off point for Komodo National Park. We will check into the Puri Sari Beach Hotel or similar for our overnight stay.



### Day 11: Labuan Bajo - Komodo - Labuan Bajo

An exciting day awaits as we take an early morning trip by speedboat to the legendary Komodo Island, the heart of Komodo National Park. Our primary focus here, of course, will be to encounter the mighty Komodo Dragon, the world's largest lizard, during a guided trek on the island. While trekking, we will also keep an eye out for resident bird species and other wildlife such as the Timor Deer. Birding targets on Komodo include the magnificent Yellow-crested Cockatoo, Tenggara Oriole, Tenggara Whistler, and with luck, the Moluccan Scops Owl or Mees's Nightjar. We will also search for the Lesser Sunda Goshawk, Pied Imperial Pigeon, Green Imperial Pigeon, Tenggara Friarbird, Flores Spangled Drongo, the ground-dwelling Orange-footed Scrubfowl, and Green Junglefowl. Lunch will be a packed meal enjoyed at the picturesque Pink Beach. Afterwards, we return by boat to Labuan Bajo. If time permits, we will engage in some late afternoon birding in the southern vicinity of Labuan Bajo before settling in at the Puri Sari Beach Hotel or similar.



### Day 12: Labuan Bajo - Puarlolo - Labuan Bajo

This morning, we will drive to the Puarlolo area, another promising birding location near Labuan Bajo. We will spend the morning birding around this region, exploring its specific habitats until midday. Our target species here include the Tenggara Hill Myna, the elusive Flores Monarch, and another chance for the impressive Flores Hawk-Eagle. We'll also be searching for the Flame-breasted Sunbird, Wallace's Heleia, Crested Heleia, Thick-billed Heleia, White-rumped Kingfisher, Chestnut-caped Thrush, Chestnut-backed Thrush, Variable Goshawk, Ornate Pitta, Leaf Lorikeet (a subspecies of Olive-headed Lorikeet), and the vibrant Rufous-backed Dwarf

Kingfisher. Lunch will be enjoyed at a local restaurant in Melo village. The afternoon will be spent birding around the Mamis area, offering different perspectives and potentially new sightings before we return to Labuan Bajo for dinner and our overnight stay at the Puri Sari Beach Hotel or similar.

### Day 13: Labuan Bajo - Out

On our final day, we will dedicate the morning to some last-minute birding in the southern areas of Labuan Bajo, hoping to catch any remaining target species or enjoy final views of the region's birdlife. Key species for this final session could include the brilliant Cerulean Kingfisher, another opportunity for the Ornate (Wallace's elegant) Pitta, and the Chestnut-caped Thrush. After our morning birding, we will return to the hotel to prepare for check-out. We'll have lunch in town before transferring to Komodo Airport (Labuan Bajo) for your onward flight, marking the end of this incredible Lesser Sunda endemic explorer tour.

#### Bird Species (Endemics, Regionals, and Notables):

Black-breasted Myzomela, Timor Friarbird, Streak-breasted Honeyeater, Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove, Timor Fantail, Timor Boobook, Mount Mutis Parrotfinch, Tricolored Parrotfinch, Timor Leaf Warbler, Iris Lorikeet, Timor Blue Flycatcher, Timor Imperial Pigeon, Yellow-eared Honeyeater, Island Thrush, Chestnut-backed Thrush, Timor Bushchat, Olive-headed Lorikeet, Timor Flowerpecker, Flame-eared Honeyeater, Timor Heleia, Black-banded Flycatcher, Timor Sparrow, Rote Myzomela, Rote Fantail, Jonquil Parrot, Orange-banded Thrush, Red-chested Flowerpecker, Pink-headed Imperial Pigeon, Green Figbird, Five-coloured Munia, Flores Jungle Flycatcher, Ornate Pitta, Flores Scops Owl, Wallace's Scops Owl, Bare-throated Whistler, Flores Leaf Warbler, Cream-browed Heleia, Flores Warbling Flycatcher, Flores Shortwing, Flores Flowerpecker, Scaly-crowned Honeyeater, Flores Minivet, Brown-capped Fantail, White-rumped Kingfisher, Crested Heleia, Banded Fruit-Dove, Tenggara Paradise Flycatcher, Flores Green Pigeon,



Wallace's Hanging Parrot, Flores Hawk-Eagle, Wallace's Heleia, Yellow-crested Cockatoo, Tenggara Oriole, Tenggara Whistler, Moluccan Scops Owl, Mees's Nightjar, Lesser Sunda Goshawk, Pied Imperial Pigeon, Green Imperial Pigeon, Tenggara Friarbird, Flores Spangled Drongo, Orange-footed Scrubfowl, Green Junglefowl, Tenggara Hill Myna, Flores Monarch, Flame-breasted Sunbird, Thick-billed Heleia, Chestnut-capped Thrush, Variable Goshawk, Leaf Lorikeet, Rufous-backed Dwarf Kingfisher, Cerulean Kingfisher.

**Notable Animals:**

Komodo Dragon, Timor Deer

**Butterflies:**

Haliphron Birdwing, Silver Birdwing, Timor Yellow Tiger, Lemoult's Jezebel, Eileen's Jezebel, Timor Gull, Ocellated Charaxes, Mark's Charaxes, Mimetic Commander, Christopher's Flash, Lesser Sunda Painted Lady, Nephronides Palmfly, Detani's Palmfly, Tambora Palmfly, Lesser Sunda Green Swallowtail.

**Please visit [www.endemicexplorer.com](http://www.endemicexplorer.com) for complete tour details, pricing, and tour schedules.**



**Endemic Explorer LTD**

**71-75 Shelton St., Convent Garden, London WC2H 9JQ, United Kingdom.**