

## Tour Report Wildlife of Indonesia with Mike Dilger 8 – 23 October 2025

Sulawesi dwarf kingfisher



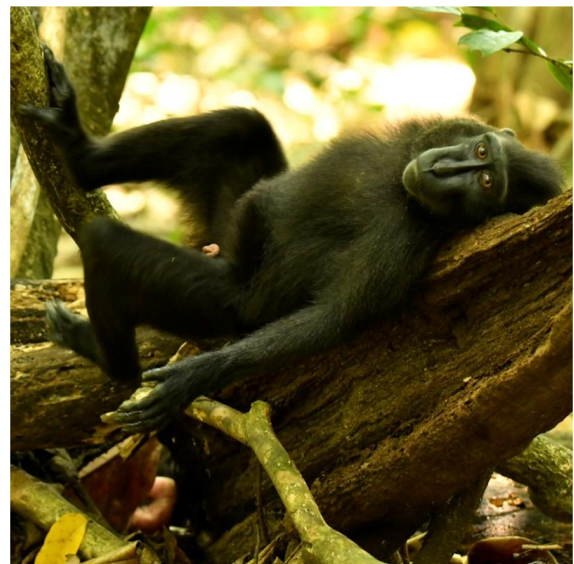
Komodo dragon



Orangutan



Black crested macaque



Compiled by Mike Dilger

**Wednesday 8 October 2025**

**Day 1:**

AM - FM7 Hotel to Soekarno-Hatta International Airport, Jakarta. Flight to Manado International Airport, Sulawesi. PM - Tembuan Valley, near Tangkoko National Park.

Having arrived in Jakarta a day earlier to prep for the trip, MD then met up for dinner with three of the guests who had also arrived in advance of the official start of the trip. After a fine dinner at the FM7 hotel, we all then retired for the night, before reconvening the following morning for a 6 am breakfast. MD was also delighted to find that the five remaining members of the group had indeed arrived on the previous evening's late flights, meaning the full complement of eight guests was ready and raring to go. After a quick bite and with everyone's bags loaded, we all jumped into the hotel's shuttle for the 15-minute drive to the main airport.

Leaving from Jakarta's SHIA Airport, we eventually worked out where Garuda flights left from and checked in smoothly, with the plane taking off at the allotted time of 9.20 am. The journey to Northern Sulawesi and the city of Manado from Indonesia's capital takes around 3 hours 20 minutes, and with Sulawesi also an hour ahead, it was around 1.40 pm when we disembarked the aircraft to be met in Arrivals by our local operator Franky, Wildlife Guide Stefen, assistant Mario and our driver up to Tangkoko. Conditions were hot and humid, so we were pleased to get into the air-conditioned minibus, with all our bags following in another vehicle.

With the airport positioned on the northeastern perimeter of the city of Manado, which had a population of around 600,000, we were soon out in open countryside and on the main road between Manado and Bitung. Along the way, our guide Stefen managed to point out lots of glossy swiftlets, a Javan myna and a couple of Brahminy kites, with the plan to stop for a spot of birding at the Tembuan Valley before arriving at Tangkoko later in the afternoon. Bamboo, coconut palms and rice paddies were abundant as we continued to make good progress.

After around an hour, we turned north off the Bitung road and headed towards the town of Likupang. Becoming steadily more rural, it was also obvious that we were steadily climbing in altitude, too. When passing through Ranowulu we continued our ascent uphill, with half-decent forest appearing on both sides, and suddenly had a clear view of away to the southeast of Tangkoko Volcano, reaching 1,149m, and seemingly clothed in very high-quality forest. Topping out at just over 400m asl, we then stopped at a tremendous viewpoint looking both northeast and down to a line of trees, with forest seemingly covering most of the terrain between our position and that of the sea some five or six kilometres away.

Stefen explained that this was an excellent place from which to spot a variety of forest birds high up in the trees, as our elevated position put the canopy immediately in front of us, almost at eye level. Despite it being quite windy, Stefen spotted some additional movement in the trees, which was caused by a number of Sulawesi black-crested macaques. A key target species for this leg of the trip, the best view anyone seemed to get was of a small flash of black fur, but Stefen told us not to worry, as this was one mammal that we'd hopefully see far better inside the National Park.

While continuing to scan for birds, one of the guests then spotted a Sulawesi bear cuscus high in a fruiting tree - what a find! Initially, it was busy eating before then proceeding to take a nap - presumably to digest its food. Never the most active animal, most of the group's time was actually spent looking at its rear, but with a degree of patience, everyone eventually saw the animal's head, face and long, woolly prehensile tail. MD explained that as Sulawesi is only marginally east of the 'Wallace Line', the wildlife on the island is also considered to be heavily influenced by Australasia, resulting in fewer mammals, but more marsupials than are found further west on Borneo and Sumatra. In fact, because Sulawesi is so close to the Wallace Line, it is the only island in the world that possesses both Old World monkeys, such as the macaques, and marsupials, like the cuscus.

Finally moving onto birds, MD then picked out a small bird perched with a patch of red on its breast, which Steven identified as being a male grey-sided flowerpecker - a very poor name for a species so exquisitely

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coloured and also a Sulawesi endemic to boot. In addition to the glossy swiftlets whistling past the trees, a couple of grey-rumped treeswifts then flew past, before a female brown-throated sunbird was picked up, close to where the male grey-sided flowerpecker had previously been seen.

Despite being a touch windier from our viewpoint than was ideal, the birds kept coming, as a male black-naped oriole flew directly past our position. Walking next through a small section of forest, we then reached a spot with the most incredible view across to Tangkoko Mountain away to the southeast and all the way to the sea, with Bangka and Talisei Islands away to the north. In the middle distance, we also had a tremendous view across a huge, forested ridge that was both an integral part of the National Park and a good place to scan for larger birds either flying above or resting in the canopy.

The first bird to be spotted was a green imperial pigeon perched in a distant tree, but clearly visible in MD's scope. And with the afternoon light in the perfect position, the gleaming white backs and dark faces of at least six or seven ivory-backed wood-swallows could clearly be seen as they fed around and perched in a dead tree some 700 or 800m away. While watching the wood-swallows, a small flock of Sulawesi-hanging parrots then flew straight past our position, before quickly disappearing out of sight.

From our vantage point, Stefen then pointed out a very distant white-necked myna, with a long tail and distinctive white breast, while the repetitive call of pied cuckooshrike called out of sight. With the birds now coming thick and fast, a couple of Asian fork-tailed palm swifts flew past, before a flock of around 16 silver-tipped imperial pigeons then passed in the opposite direction. Here, MD explained that pigeons were also a far more dominant part of the avifauna in Sulawesi than the forests found further west. Using the scope, MD then managed to pick up a female knobbed hornbill, with most guests managing to catch at least a glimpse of this charismatic bird in flight.

Somewhat closer to our position, a sooty-headed bulbul was picked up by MD on a dead tree, with Mario confirming this to be a common, cosmopolitan species across the archipelago. All the while, glossy swiftlets appeared to be abundant and could constantly be seen whizzing past. As we picked up the flock of silver-tipped imperial pigeons once again, this time perched in a tree much closer to our position.

Then Stefen's sharp eyes came up with the goods again as he trained the scope on a single dead tree containing one green imperial pigeon, at least five white-bellied imperial pigeons and a brief fly-by from a single pied imperial pigeon, which is considered a coastal forest species across Indonesia. The 'pied' also represented our fourth imperial pigeon species of the afternoon! The pigeons in the tree all then suddenly took off, enabling us to see how different the various species were on the wing, with the white-bellied appearing much darker in flight.

Walking back to our original position, the cuscus had barely moved as we trained the scope on a grey-streaked flycatcher instead. Everyone then took in a second white-necked myna, which was around ten times closer than the one we'd seen while gazing across the valley. This individual also appeared to have staining on its upper breast, which we surmised was either from pollen or the juice of a fruit from which it had been feeding.

Before leaving for our accommodation, Mario secured us some green coconuts from a nearby house, enabling us all to have a refreshing coconut drink at the end of a very promising first session. But as we dropped down to sea-level, via a long-winding road, there was still one more brief stop to come. With dusk now descending, we stopped at a section of the road surrounded by forest on both sides, before then proceeding to walk along a small path of no more than 20 metres into the interior. After a small, judicious amount of playback, and with the help of a torch, we succeeded in gaining a couple of superb views of firstly a Sulawesi Scops owl, before an ochre-bellied boobook delighted us with an appearance.

Thrilled with this nocturnal duo, we then headed down to our accommodation and were duly checked in to our individual cottages. This also gave everyone ample opportunity to rest and refresh before meeting up once more for our 7 pm dinner. Freshly prepared by the staff, the meal consisted of a fine array of chicken,

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fish, tofu, veg, corn fritters, rice and noodles - all washed down with beer! The last order of the day was then for MD to both compile the checklist of wildlife sightings, and run through a briefing as to the following day's activities, which would entail at 5.30 am start.

Thanking our hosts, we all headed for bed, excited about what lay in store for the next few days.

**Thursday 9 October 2025**

**Day 2:**

Tangkoko National Park - The Greenhouses walk and Tangkoko main drive

Meeting up for a 5.30 am breakfast of pancakes, omelettes and coffee, we were soon on our way. A drive of no more than a few minutes took us to an area of secondary forest, close by an area known as 'The Greenhouses', which was a local tree nursery. Standing on the approach road to the nursery, with trees along both sides, we then proceeded to scout for birds.

The first bird to be heard was that of a bay coucal, while also picking up a solitary green imperial pigeon. Scanning for movement, we then picked up two finch-billed mynas (or grosbeak starlings) high in a tree. As our patience was slowly rewarded, we next found a noisy azure-rumped parrot high in the trees, along with two very colourful ornate lorikeets and a single pied imperial pigeon. MD then managed to scope up a distant pair of hair-crested drongos with distinctively fluted tails while they perched out in the open. Birding as we walked, we eventually reached the entrance to 'The Greenhouses', where more azure-rumped parrots were observed both while perching and flying around.

Still early in the morning, and so relatively cool, the birds kept coming as we next spotted a yellow-sided flowerpecker, while a male brown-throated sunbird was observed sun-bathing in the early morning light. However, a Sulawesi brush cuckoo was somewhat shyer than the previous two birds and confined its appearance to a mere couple of seconds, before dashing off into the undergrowth. Here too, a couple more finch-billed mynas showed much better and closer than earlier, while a black-billed koel incremented our fledgling trip list by one more.

Still close to the entrance to The Greenhouses, our guide Stefen then picked up two pink-necked green pigeons roosting in a tree, before two more black koels were the next 'cabs off the rank' in a tree a little further back. Here too, a white-faced cuckoo-dove, and yet more azure-rumped parrots were also registered by the group. With everyone contributing, one of the guests then spotted a bird on top of a curtain of lianas, which was subsequently identified as being a male Sahul sunbird.

With the plant nursery located in the centre, we then followed a circular loop around the glasshouses, birding as we went, and in the process managed to add lesser coucal and buff-banded rail to the tally, with the latter spotted when crossing the path in front of the group. Sooty-headed bulbuls appeared particularly common, with a number picked up perched on the telephone wires, while their distinctive calls could also be heard coming from the forest.

Showing once again, we managed better views of a small flock of the spectacularly coloured ornate lorikeets, but also alongside the lorikeets, Stefen also picked out a single violet-naped lory, which he considered a particularly good find. Historically, this lory was mostly confined to the island of Halmahera (North Maluku), to the east of Sulawesi, but it appears to have recently expanded its range, with an increasing number of records in places like Tangkoko. To make the sighting even better, it was also a stunning bird to behold.

Continuing along our circuit, we were also now permitted our first clear views of the twin mountains of Tangkoko and Dua Sudara in the distance, with the latter's summit cloaked in cloud, much like the 'tablecloth' frequently covering that of Table Mountain in South Africa. Walking past the greenhouses, Stefen also explained that the nursery was an enterprise set up by a foreign NGO to help cultivate fruit trees and native species for revegetation projects around the fringes of the National Park. While learning about the nursery, we then spotted a flock of around 30 chestnut munia feeding on the grasses right next to the

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glasshouses, along with singles of both Sahul sunbird and lesser coucal.

Also taking a moment to admire the surrounding trees, one species with large, red flowers was particularly prevalent, which Stefen told us was an African tulip in the Family Bignoniaceae - *Spathodea campanulata*. While admiring this tree, we could also hear a spotted dove calling, before becoming quickly distracted when a pair of knobbed hornbill and a Sulawesi Crow flew right past and above our location, giving wonderful views of this pair of Sulawesi endemics. By now, the heat in the full sun was becoming quite intense, so we took a moment to rehydrate in the shade created by a large mango tree, whereupon a yellow-billed malkoha was discovered also taking shelter in the canopy. Branching back out into the heat, we then spotted another bay coucal, before admiring a large, black swallowtail butterfly (possibly *Papilio fuscus*) as it fluttered past the group.

Continuing our circular loop around the plant nursery, MD then found a single zebra dove, before the group took a moment to observe the swiftlets overhead. Most appeared to be glossy swiftlets, while a few browner uniform swiftlets were also picked up in the airspace above. MD then spotted a small raptor soaring above the trees, which was instantly recognised as a hawk, before being subsequently identified as a small sparrowhawk. In the scrubby vegetation close by, the distinctively streaked head of a lesser coucal kept periodically popping out of the bushes just ahead of us, while a noisy Isabelline bush-hen was decidedly less cooperative from in amongst some dense elephant grass.

While completing the loop, a second buff-banded rail then crossed the path in front of us, before we spotted a grey wagtail out feeding on the grass by the entrance to the glasshouses. Our focus then instantly changed from feathers to scales when a young Sulawesi monitor lizard crossed our path, enabling us to all get great views of this metre-long reptile before it scurried out of sight. While watching the lizard, Stefen successfully located yet another Sulawesi endemic, in the form of a purple-winged roller at the top of a tree.

Carrying on from here to the National Park itself, we entered Tangkoko via the main entrance, before stopping in the shade to enjoy a view of the river, whereupon we located a barred rail feeding away in the riffles. We then stayed put while Stefen and his assistant Ferdy went ahead to look for an endemic kingfisher, before coming back to retrieve us. Sulawesi lilac kingfisher is a forest species and invariably located well away from the water, and this was indeed the case here too, as our guides led us into some quality forest before pointing out this fine-looking bird while it quietly perched in the understory.

Moving back along the main path and even further into the park, we next came across a huge statue of the famous Naturalist Alfred Russel Wallace, who visited here in the 19th century while formulating his understanding of Indonesia's island biogeography. Also known as the co-originator of the theory of evolution, along with Charles Darwin, it was great to see him remembered here, having put Indonesia on the (metaphorical) map courtesy of his famous book 'The Malay Archipelago'. While admiring the statue, Stefen then pointed out a couple of Sulawesi-lined gliding lizards on a tree, with both displaying to each other as they took it in turns to raise their dewlaps. Also, while standing next to the statue, a lantern bug was placed in the scope, while the repetitive call of a black-naped fruit dove was also pointed out.

Taking a moment to enjoy the majesty of the forest, it was very noticeable that a number of strangler figs were present, including one specimen that must have been at least 40 metres tall. A number of other trees also had incredibly impressive buttresses snaking across the forest floor, and like all primary forests with a closed canopy of mature trees above, walking through the perennially gloomy and uncluttered understory was remarkably easy. While strolling through the forest, a squirrel was spotted in the process of running up a tree, which Stefen quickly identified as being a whitish dwarf squirrel.

Leaving us once again on the forest path to quickly check ahead, Stefen and Ferdy then disappeared off into the forest to look for the black-crested macaques, before returning to collect us with smiles on their faces. Following them no more than 100m further into the forest, we were suddenly surrounded by a troop of around 50. Considered a monkey that is equally as happy on the ground as it is in the trees, we then watched on with utter delight as they played with each other, groomed one another or indulged in play-fighting. It was an amazing moment, especially as this species is known for being incredibly tolerant of humans and

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even, on occasion, tends to regard us quite quizzically. Amongst the troop, plenty of babies and females could clearly be seen, indicating the population here was both healthy and capable of finding more than enough food. The macaques were also constantly interacting with each other and, in the process, making a variety of contact calls, which all contributed to making the encounter a real highlight. After 30 minutes of 'macaque adulation', we tore ourselves away from the troop, with everyone aware that they'd just been granted a very special audience.

Heading out of the forest and back onto the main path, we then walked back to the minibus before a short drive back to our accommodation. Already around 11 am, we then took a break to rest and recuperate before meeting up for our mid-day lunch of rice, fish, veggies, etc. A siesta then followed as we sat out the heat of the day, before reconvening once more for our afternoon visit back to Tangkoko NP.

Parking up, this time right by the entrance to the park, we all then walked into the forest along the main road before virtually bumping into the day's second troop of black-crested macaques. Once again, we were royally entertained by this charismatic monkey, with some asleep on the path, while other individuals spent their time grooming either family or friends. We also noted a couple of individuals with a missing eye each, as Steven confirmed that fights between rival monkey troops for that all-important territory can often be brutal. And then we saw a perfect example of this when the troop, as one, suddenly turned on an individual who, for some reason, had incurred their wrath. Initially, there was just posturing and teeth flashing, before the unwelcome intruder fled, before being attacked.

Carrying on along the main path, a few of the group at the front then managed fleeting views of a Philippine megapode on the forest floor, which can be a difficult species to see at the best of times. As the main path runs parallel to the sea, we then cut through for a quick look at both the beach and view across the water, where we could see some of the sea gypsies just offshore, with their floating homes. Further out, MD also managed to pick up the distinctive flight silhouette of a common sandpaper. Also here, the trees could be seen reaching right to the edge of the beach, and apart from the omnipresent plastic litter along the strand-line, it was quite the picture-perfect scene.

Once again, on the main path, we then plunged back into the forest and were soon surrounded by huge trees in what appeared to be the best old-growth forest we'd seen all trip. Stefan and Ferdy then disappeared off to scope out what was about, before eventually leading us to a location where they'd tracked down a green-backed kingfisher. Another kingfisher species which eschews water, this large endemic species was initially perched a couple of metres up, before a quick flutter down to the forest floor saw the bird catch and consume both a beetle and a millipede. Also close by, we successfully found a couple of pale blue monarchs and a second Sulawesi lilac kingfisher waiting in the understory.

With dusk now quickly descending, we followed our intrepid guides to a large, mature strangler fig, where a number of other tourists were already patiently waiting for a star guest to make an appearance. Explaining that the fig (and its host) was also the day roost of a family of spectral tarsiers, our patience was ultimately rewarded when the light levels dropped sufficiently for three individuals to come out. Initially nervous out in the open, while checking the coast was clear, we all managed good views before these tiny primates disappeared upwards and into the canopy. Despite there being quite a few folk jostling for the best viewing position, it was nevertheless another terrific moment, as we made a beeline for the park entrance. Stopping briefly before reaching the car, Stefan then attempted to see if any Sulawesi cuckoos could be persuaded to make a brief appearance with the help of playback. But despite hearing their calls from deep within the forest, they remained hidden, with the group settling instead for views of an enormous tarantula on the trunk of a tree.

Back at the cottages, and after a break to rest and refresh, we then enjoyed another lovely home-cooked dinner, prior to compiling the day's checklist, which also marked the end of another day on this memorable island.

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Friday 10 October 2025

### Day 3:

Tangkoko National Park - Tembuan Valley, Tangkoko NP, Glasshouse,

Meeting up for our usual 5.30 am breakfast, we were away once again at 6 am for another visit up the road to the two viewpoints looking out over the Tembuan Valley. Parking up, we began scanning the line of trees, and almost immediately secured fine views of a black-naped oriole perched high in the trees.

Having heard the call of black-naped fruit doves the previous day, we then managed to locate both a male and female high in a fruiting tree, along with a single bay coucal and a yellow-billed malkoha. Meanwhile, on the very top of one of the trees, MD's scope helped the guests appreciate the fine plumages of a pair of great hanging-parrots.

While the forest birds appeared intermittently, both species of swiftlet were a constant presence as they trawled the skies, before Stefen then picked up a male grey-cheeked green pigeon back amongst the trees. Patience is a strategy that definitely pays off when birding in tropical forests, and this was definitely the case when a period of little or no activity abruptly ended with the arrival of a white-rumped triller. Showing well, it then relocated to another tree, where its mate had been quietly sitting unnoticed by the assembled throng. Also picked up here was another white-necked myna, along with a single Sulawesi crow, a yellow-billed malkoha and an ashy woodpecker.

Now on a roll, a white-rumped cuckooshrike then made an appearance, which, despite having been heard on numerous occasions, up to that point had remained out of sight. But this was quickly eclipsed by a Sulawesi cicadabird, which excited even Stefen, declaring it a decidedly uncommon bird in Tangkoko's forests. And before leaving for the second viewpoint, we were treated to more views of another pair of black-naped fruit-doves and more great hanging parrots.

Moving on to the second viewpoint that offers commanding views both across Tangkoko and onwards to the sea, a male Sulawesi hornbill briefly flew past in the valley below, while a pair of collared kingfishers were far more obliging as they had their portraits taken in a nearby tree. One of the guests then picked up a few black-crested macaques feeding very distantly high up in the canopy, before a female Sulawesi hornbill proved equally reluctant to show well.

Like our previous visit, a small flock of silver-tipped imperial pigeons were picked up while roosting in a remote tree canopy, before two white-faced cuckoo-doves were located in the scope. These birds, however, were quickly disregarded as we enjoyed simply magnificent views of a pair of knobbed hornbills, when they flew right past our position - calling as they went. And with barely a moment to draw breath, a brahminy kite then sailed past on the morning's first thermals.

Hearing a distant, but noisy parrot-like call, the group then picked up a flock of seven or eight golden-mantled racquet-tails on the wing, but unfortunately, these did not fly any closer. And the parrot theme continued when we scoped up a distant, single parrot in the canopy of a tree, which Stefen subsequently identified as being an eclectic parrot, another species that has only recently been recorded in Sulawesi - being normally confined to islands further east, such as Halmahera and New Guinea.

Back at the minibus, we then took a short walk up the road, with forest on both sides, before following our guides along a forest path that initially took us down to a small stream, before heading back up again to a low-lying ridge. Here we attempted to find Sulawesi pitta, but despite hearing a distant one calling, had no luck and headed back instead towards Tangkoko. On the way, we briefly stopped by a lake close to the road, whereupon we immediately spotted two adult little grebes, along with a juvenile. On the trees along the water's edge, two oriental darters were also logged, with MD explaining that this species is often called 'snake bird', due to its long, sinuous neck. Here too, a second dose of home was provided by the discovery of a little egret high in one of the trees, while a small flock of scaly-breasted munias in grass close to the waterside has nowhere near the cosmopolitan distribution of the egret.

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Turning round to check out the habitat on the other side of the road, we then located another white-necked myna, before obtaining very brief views of an Isabelle bush-hen creeping around the edge of some farmed land recently claimed from the forest. Next up, one of the guests noted a cuckoo perched high in some trees, which then flew past our position, to briefly rest in a tree nearby, giving us just enough time to identify it as being a little bronze cuckoo - another species that is tricky to see, even at the best of times. Finally, another remote tree on the horizon held three birds, which the scope revealed to be three Sulawesi mynas - perhaps the day's star species - and yet another bird entirely confined to Sulawesi. These starlings were then joined briefly by a single finch-billed mynah, before all disappeared from view.

Delighted with our haul, we then moved further up the road before entering the forest once again. Initially heading down a slope, we then crossed a small stream before working our way up on the other side. Stefan and Ferdy then disappeared off to look for a Sulawesi dwarf kingfisher, leaving the group to pick up a bay coucal. After around 30 minutes, they returned to lead us further into the forest where they'd managed to track down this wonderful gem of a kingfisher, sat perfectly still on the loop of a liana. It was a simply stunning bird, and additionally allowed the photographers in the group to take a few photos before disappearing off into the understory. On the way back out of the forest, we also managed to locate yet another Sulawesi lilac kingfisher, alongside the far more common hair-crested drongo.

Back in the minibus, we then returned to the main entrance of Tangkoko, where macaques were once again relaxing along the park's main entrance road. Down by the river, at the entrance, MD then spotted a small raptor perched in a tree, which promptly flew off, but was soon relocated and photographed in a tree, allowing us to successfully identify it as a Sulawesi goshawk - another super bird. While watching the goshawk, we also managed to spot a Nankeen night heron at the back of the river. Having bagged a couple of new species, we then promptly secured another when a spot of playback revealed a Sulawesi babbler very close to the path edge. This is also an interesting species, as it is the only member of the babbler family to be found east of the Wallace Line, with all the other species found spanning a geographical range covering everything from Borneo to Indochina.

Meanwhile, just a few hundred metres away in Battu Puti village, a wedding was apparently taking place, which resulted in quite the surreal moment of listening to disco music while being in the middle of the primary rainforest. Heading back to the area around the greenhouses, we'd planned to carry out a spot more birding, but as it was still too hot, the only birds we picked up were a single green imperial pigeon, a few sooty-headed bulbuls and a brahmyn kite.

Deciding the temperature was too hot, we instead returned to the forest for some more macaque action, and as it was now late in the day, we were treated to a super display of behaviour as the whole troop socialised before heading for bed. A real highlight was provided by the youngsters as they played with one another, and the group just escaped being given an 'impromptu shower' by a macaque that had decided to go to the toilet from 30 metres above our heads!

With one of the guests keen to photograph the tarsiers again, he returned with Ferdy, while some of the guests headed straight back to relax at the hotel. This left MD, Stefan and three of the guests waiting at the entrance until dusk, whereupon we managed to get great views of a speckled boobook high above us in the trees - what a great way to end the day. Meanwhile, the tarsier visit had also been a success, with three having once again appeared. Back together again, we all enjoyed our final dinner at Tangkoko Hill Cottages before completing the day's checklist and retiring for the night.

**Saturday 11 October 2025**

#### **Day 4:**

AM - Boat ride to Mangroves. PM - Flight from Manado International Airport, Sulawesi to Soekarno-Hatta International Airport, Jakarta. O/N FM7 Hotel.

Meeting up at our (by now) regular start time of 5.30 am, MD and Stefan had arranged for a change to the itinerary involving a boat ride along the coast rather than a return to the forest. So after a quick hot drink

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and a banana, we were driven straight through Batu Puti Village and onto the beach, where we boarded two boats, with their skippers ready and waiting to take us out across the bay and into the mangroves. Being fairly overcast and not too hot, the weather was perfect for boating as we motored both north and along the shoreline from the village.

Passing a small, rocky peninsula guarding the entrance to the beach, we immediately noted a new species of heron fishing from a rock, before quickly whittling it down to great-billed heron. MD then picked up a blue rock thrush a little further around, along with a pair of collared kingfisher perching on a stick projecting from a vertical sand-bank. Moving along to the next bay, a second blue rock thrush was then logged, along with a single silver-tipped imperial pigeon in the trees above, before finding our second kingfisher species in as many minutes - courtesy of a common kingfisher, one of the few birds present on both Sulawesian & British lists.

While continuing along the coast, a dark-coloured form of Pacific reef-heron flew past, before a couple of common sandpipers were noted bobbing up and down on the beach. Here too, three or four Sulawesi crows flew past and above the boats. Heading next a touch further out to sea, we went over to where the sea gypsies were anchored up, and in the process spotted a flock of at least 50 black-naped terns using the floating homes as the perfect roosting spot. In addition to the terns, at least three Pacific reef herons could also be seen using the floating homes for a break in between fishing.

Motoring back towards the coast, the boats then entered a small creek surrounded by mangrove, with MD picking up around nine Kentish plovers and a single common sandpiper on the sandy hooked spit created by the tides. Slowly working our way up the creek, we were soon surrounded by mangrove on both sides, which, apart from some trapped litter, appeared to be in the most excellent condition. Along the way, we noted a juvenile black-crowned night heron, while Pacific swallows trawled for insects just above the water surface. A great-billed kingfisher then flew past the boat, with such a clearly big bill that perhaps it should have been called 'boat-billed kingfisher'! Turning the boats around, we then proceeded to re-find the kingfisher at the top of a tree, making this species our sixth different kingfisher on Sulawesi!

Hearing a distinctive song from the mangrove, Stefen quickly identified it as belonging to a golden-bellied gerygone, and after a bit of persistence, most of the group managed to see it while flitting around the mangrove bushes at the water's edge. Retracing our route back out of the creek, we were now in the perfect position and orientation to fully take in the three mountains of Tangkoko NP - which are Tangkoko itself, Dua Saudara & the smaller Mount Batu Angus. Heading back towards the village, we then took a small detour around a small, rocky island that must have been no more than a hectare in size.

Upon reaching the island, it was immediately apparent that the rock was also home to a large number of Pacific reef herons, with at least one of the rarer white-coloured morph spotted in amongst their darker cousins, and also a pair of white-bellied fish eagles. While circumnavigating the island, the first eagle was spotted perched high in a tree, before noting the second one in the air, as MD also picked up a lesser frigate bird high in the sky.

Now back at the beach, we thanked our boat handlers for a fabulous trip out and headed straight back to Tangkoko Hill Cottages. After breakfast, all that remained was to thank Stefen, Ferdy, Freddy, Wendy, Stephanie, Sandy and all our super-hosts for a simply wonderful stay. And with our bags packed in a separate car, we jumped into the minibus for the drive back to Manado.

Arriving at the airport in plenty of time, we boarded the plane for the three-hour flight back to Jakarta. Subsequently met at the airport in Jakarta by staff from the FM7 Hotel, and we then made the short transfer back to the hotel, before meeting up for a quick dinner a while later.

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**Sunday 12 October 2025**

**Day 5:**

AM - FM7 Hotel to Soekarno-Hatta International Airport, Jakarta. Flight to Medan Kualanamu International Airport, Sumatra. Transfer to Gunung Leuser National Park & the Ecolodge.

After a ridiculously early 4.30 am breakfast, we boarded FM7's 5 am shuttle back to the airport for our early morning flight to Medan, in northern Sumatra. And following a very efficient check-in, passed through to departures and on for our two-hour flight. Arriving in northern Sumatra ahead of schedule, we collected our bags, ready for the three-hour transfer to Gunung Leuser and our four-night stay on the edge of the park. On leaving the airport, we noted that tree sparrows were seemingly common in all the urban areas - with MD commenting on how different the species' Indonesian niche was to that of the UK, where tree sparrow is now largely confined to eastern arable areas.

Passing relatively quickly through the busy and bustling city of Medan, we then stopped at a large restaurant in the adjoining town of Binjai for a spot of lunch, before hopping back on board for another two-hour drive further west. Along the way, the sheer quantity of oil palms along the road was very noticeable, with Anwar talking us through the process of how palms are cultivated and the oil is extracted. Wildlife along the way consisted of very little, other than the cosmopolitan species of Javan myna and feral pigeon.

Eventually reaching the small touristic village of Bukit Lawang, which sits alongside the rushing Bahorok River, we then proceeded to cross a wobbly suspension bridge to reach our accommodation for the next four nights, while our bags followed behind us courtesy of an array of porters. Upon walking the short distance up to the Eco Lodge's reception, we could immediately see a large troop of long-tailed macaques hanging around the lodge's grounds, and with the troop entirely used to the presence of people, this allowed close-up views of this characterful monkey. On the short walk across the grounds, we also saw a couple of the far more arboreal silvery leaf monkeys feeding in one of the trees closer to the forest edge.

Once checked-in, we were shown to our rooms, giving everyone time to shower and unpack. Afterwards, many in the group chose to spend their spare time watching and photographing the macaques. Here we could see clear evidence of a hierarchy within the troop, where the youngsters were keen to constantly play with one another, while keeping well clear of the large males, who obviously ruled the roost and whose main job appeared to be that of keeping other monkey troops away from what was patently some prime real estate.

Meeting up once again at 3.30 pm, MD took the group for a short walk through the hotel grounds and across the bridge, noting the plume-toed swiftlets feeding over the water as we went. Very few birds were seen on this impromptu tour, but we all enjoyed getting lost in the town's byzantine roads before finally heading back for dinner at the Eco Lodge. Before dining, we met our main guide, Idris, who, along with Anwar and assistant guides Ju and Badley, would be accompanying us for the duration of our time in Bukit Lawang. Idris was primarily a mammal expert, as our original guide, with whom we were due to work with (and who was an expert on the birds), had become unavailable due to a recent bereavement. Fully satiated after our large buffet meal, and after a long travel day, we then retired to prepare for our first full day in the forest.

**Monday 13 October 2025**

**Day 6:**

Gunung Leuser National Park.

Meeting up with Idris, Anwar and all our guides for a 7.30 am start, after an earlier breakfast, we were soon ready to head off into the forest. Following, with Idris at the head, we departed from the rear of the lodge, before commencing a slow walk uphill that would take us into the forest, via a durian orchard and then a large rubber plantation.

As we walked uphill, we could hear a yellow-vented bulbul calling, while Idris pointed out a plant in the genus *Amorphophallus* with a snake-skin stem, which was also the same genus as the 'titan arum' -

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otherwise known as the 'corpse flower'. A little further up, one of the guests then spotted a woodpecker, which we subsequently identified as a female grey and buff woodpecker. While watching the woodpecker, we could also hear the frankly marvellous calls of white-handed gibbons calling from deeper within the forest. And in the trees adjacent to the path we picked up a troop of Thomas's leaf monkeys, which were immediately identifiable by virtue of their white bellies and striking back-and-white faces. Taking a moment to watch them peacefully eating leaves, we could also see a couple of youngsters being nursed by their mothers.

After a further 15 minutes walking, we reached the rubber plantation, where Idris demonstrated how the sap is extracted from a spiral scarring of the bark, before then being collected in a cup. This ancient technique of 'rubber-tapping' is now dying out due to the commercial production of rubber by synthetic techniques, meaning naturally produced rubber only currently sells for a paltry 66p a litre. This is another of the main reasons why palm oil production has become such a dominant force in Indonesia, as it produces both much higher yields and returns than offered by rubber.

A little further on, one of the guests then spotted a ruby-throated bulbul, as Idris explained that the official entrance to the park was still a short distance up ahead. Eventually reaching the top of a hill linked to a ridge-line, where a small lodge called 'Orang-utan Bungalows' was also positioned, we then took in a troop of silvery leaf monkeys as they passed our position. The 'silvery' is usually identified by its primarily silvery-grey fur, which contrasts with the more pied pelage of the Thomas' leaf monkey. Long-tailed macaques were also feeding close by, with a number occasionally flashing their white eye patches at both us and the other leaf monkeys, which is considered a clear sign of aggression.

Here too, Idris pointed out a male orange-bellied flowerpecker, which gave great views while feeding along the path. Back in the forest proper again, we eventually reached the entrance to the park, which was marked by a large portico, and temporarily adorned by a Thomas' leaf monkey resting in an adjacent tree. Heading uphill once again, it became apparent to the guests that the National Park had a much more varied topography than that of Tangkoko, which had been virtually flat! Still steadily climbing, we were now in far higher quality forest, as we passed an old birding tower that had long since become derelict. Close by, we noted a big tree skink on (perhaps unsurprisingly) a large tree, before then observing a long-billed spiderhunter feeding in the understory.

Then Idris picked out the distinctive and far-carrying 'gok' call of a rhinoceros hornbill calling from further in the forest. Deciding that we'd like to try and track this charismatic species down, we followed the call, until sure enough we managed to pick out two individual birds high above our heads in a tall, emergent tree. It was a spectacular, if brief, view that left us wanting more, but better views of the hornbill would have to be temporarily parked as our guides had suddenly gleaned information about a much 'bigger fish' - in the form of an orang-utan that was apparently lying in wait for us up ahead.

Walking through a gully and up a small but steep hill, we were suddenly and astonishingly in the mighty impressive company of a huge male orang-utan. Idris knew this particular animal well, and estimated him to be around 35 to 40 years old. Sitting in a tree some 15m above our heads, we had the most spectacular views, and could clearly see his huge cheek pads, indicating his advanced age and sexual maturity. Seemingly ignoring all his admiring fans down on the forest floor below, he then started moving through the trees, and whenever he reached a young sapling would use his weight like a giant pendulum to bend it in his direction of travel, making the young tree, in turn, look like it was in the teeth of a violent storm. We then watched agog as it crossed the path right in front of us, before temporarily disappearing out of sight. But the excitement didn't stop there, as unbelievably, a mother and baby were almost immediately located feeding at a distance of no more than 60 or 70m away from our current position. Obviously also used to the presence of tourists, the mother and youngster then began grooming each other, as we all became so entranced by one of the world's most sought-after animals that we completely lost track of time.

Having forgotten about the presence of the male, he then came across to our position in order to try and impress the female, in a repertoire that included waving and breaking branches, accompanied by the most astonishing mating call - while we had a front row seat! To make the sighting even more remarkable, there

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were barely any other tourists present apart from our group. In other words - 'the early birds had most definitely got the worm!' While watching the oranges we also had a visit from a small troop of pig-tailed macaques - which was a new species for all of the group, along with long-tailed macaques and Thomas's leaf monkey - but most only had eyes for the apes. As the male moved away, with the female apparently uninterested, both mother and (apparently) her daughter then came down to feed on leaves barely a few metres above the group's heads, before eventually working their way up into the canopy and across to the other side of the ridge.

Moving across, and with the help of a scope, we then relocated the orang pair feeding in a fruiting fig tree, before, and in a scarcely believable moment, they were then joined by the pair of rhinoceros hornbills we'd obviously seen earlier. No one could believe their eyes - surely Sumatra's two most iconic species cheek by howl in the same tree... it was by any measure an unforgettable moment.

To celebrate our stunning luck, the guides then brought out an array of fruit, including bananas, pineapple, passionfruit, watermelon & dragonfruit, which were all carefully laid out for us to tuck into. Our fruity elevenses was also consumed while watching a troop of long-tailed macaques looking enviously on at our food from a distance. Deciding we could not have done any better, we then headed down, hearing blue-crowned hanging parrots as we retraced our steps down to the lodge. Passing through the rubber plantation, we then picked up a pair of large and noisy raptors soaring past the ridge-line, which we subsequently identified as crested serpent eagles, primarily on their calls.

Back down at the accommodation, MD subsequently found that during the group's time up the hill, the local troop of long-tailed macaques - in a brazenly audacious act - had broken into his room, via the roof, and stolen some peanuts and a folder of documents! These were fortunately found down on the ground and near his bathroom, so no real harm had been done.

After lunch had been taken at the Eco Lodge, six guests plus MD and the guides took a walk across to Bukit Lawang, primarily to look for wildlife. Taking the small path northwards out of the Eco Lodge and northwards along the west bank of the river, we passed more long-tailed macaques, before reaching another bridge crossing the river - which was far more colourful than the main bridge. Over on the other side, we picked up a couple of yellow-vented bulbuls, while large numbers of plume-toed swiftlets could be seen, once again, feeding above the river. Tree sparrows were decidedly abundant around the village, while a couple of Pacific swallows on telephone wires made for a welcome addition. Picking our way through the byzantine streets, another sighting of the river allowed us to spot a single white-breasted wood swallow soaring on its distinctive triangular wings.

Up in a tree, a male brown-throated sunbird was observed, before we headed through the main tourist drag, with loads of sculptures and art for sale. Out on the other side, we bagged a sooty-headed bulbul high in a tree, while a flock of Asian glossy starlings were the next item of interest, with their juveniles looking very different to the adults. Now working our way slowly back to the Eco Lodge, a busy thoroughfare was adorned with a spotted dove on the wires, while on the other side, a small copse of trees held both a coppersmith barbet and a pair of pink-necked green pigeons. While here, we also noted a few Javan mynahs, with distinctive crests at the bases of their bills.

Stopping to admire a flowering tree that appeared to be attracting a lot of attention from various nectar-feeding birds, we all enjoyed super views of a male Van Hasselt's sunbird and brown-throated sunbirds, while a couple of zebra doves were spotted close by too. Now slowly starting to rain, this quickly turned into a tropical downpour of huge proportions as the heavens opened. We took shelter under one of the houses' eaves and waited for it to stop, but as there was no sign of the rain lessening in the short-term, Idris borrowed an umbrella from a nearby house and returned to the lodge to collect some more umbrellas. Handing out one for each, these proved invaluable as the rain was still very heavy, with a number of the paths temporarily converted to waterways. Splashing our way back, the downpour was a timely reminder as to why Gunung Leuser is called Tropical Rainforest!

Tasking time to dry off, we then took dinner, before reconvening at 7.30 pm for a reptile walk around the

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Eco Lodge's grounds. With the heavy rain finally having passed, we set off in light drizzle and almost immediately, Idris found a male Wagler's pit viper just a few metres from the reception area, high up in a palm. The walk proved incredibly productive as we logged a couple of striped stream frogs, an Asian common toad, two North Sumatra white-lipped frogs and a couple of different lizard species - these being later identified as a dusky earless agama and an Oriental garden lizard. A second pit viper was also found, before two painted bronze-back snakes were located in some low-down vegetation, too. Invertebrate-wise, Idris also pointed out some dwarf wood scorpions in some gently-rotting tree bark which were illuminated by a UV light, while a common parasol dragonfly, a harvestman, a stick insect and a couple of katydids completed a very successful haul. We also had four birds roosting under a leaf, but as they were so well hidden, we were unable to successfully identify them.

Bidding goodnight, we all headed to bed, in the full knowledge that the day had been nothing short of unforgettable.

**Tuesday 14 October 2025**

**Day 7:**

Gunung Leuser National Park.

After the usual 6.30 am breakfast, the full complement of guests, along with MD, Idris, Ju, Badley and Anwar, headed up the hill to see what other delights were awaiting us. Tackling the 200 steps back up the hill to the rubber trees, we once again found Thomas's leaf monkey in a similar spot to the previous day. Carrying on through the plantation, we then stopped at Orang-Utan Bungalows for a spot of birding and quickly observed both sooty-headed bulbul and an immature tiger shrike. Also noted here were yellow-vented and Asian red-eyed bulbuls, another orange-bellied flowerpecker, a male brown-throated sunbird and super views of a spectacled spiderhunter.

Reaching the resting post, beyond the official entrance to the park, we then came across our first long-tailed macaques of the day, as the entire troop passed by. Heading towards where we had previously found the oranges, we could also hear hornbills calling above our heads, before finally getting brief glimpses of these iconic birds through a few gaps in the canopy.

In the area where we saw the three oranges the previous day and close to a large fruiting fig tree, we then found a fourth orang-utan, this one being a young male, with less prominent cheek patches. After watching him for a while, we then dropped down the slope, where we secured distant views of a pair of white-handed gibbons, which were initially feeding in the trees, before then swinging off through the branches. While watching the gibbons, the young male orang proceeded to follow us down the slope, eventually stopping in a large tree almost directly above us - offering yet more brilliant views of surely the trip's most sought-after species.

Following news that MD's room had been potentially broken into (once again) by the long-tailed macaques, the group descended the hill to double-check on their own contents. Fortunately, it was nothing to worry about, as the material found from MD's room had actually been items stolen and unaccounted for on the first occasion.

Taking lunch back down at the lodge, six guests, MD and the guides then met up at 3.30 pm for a birdwatching walk around the grounds. Quickly hitting our stride in an area of scrub with trees, we picked up a raffles malkoha, followed by a superb, but brief sighting of three blue-throated bee-eaters. A little further on, we found a grey-breasted spiderhunter, a coppersmith barbet and a male banded woodpecker. While a mixed species flock, a little further, yielded a couple of orange-bellied flowerpeckers, ashy tailorbird and a stunning male verditer's flycatcher.

Crossing the lower bridge over into Bukit Lawang, we then noted a couple of Pacific swallows resting on the suspension cables, while on the outskirts of the village, at least a dozen white-breasted wood swallows could be seen swooping down to feed from their perching positions on the telephone wires. Briefly ringing the

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change to reptiles, our guides next pointed out a very large adult Asian water monitor, which also represented a nice warm-up act for the Komodo dragons we would hope to see later in the trip.

Moving further into the town, a couple of spotted doves and two zebra doves were picked up, before a scan of the surrounding trees picked up a pair of pink-necked green pigeons, a plain sunbird and a male pied triller. Heading back to the hotel after a very productive session, we then rounded off another packed day with our evening meal and the compilation of the day's checklist.

**Wednesday 15 October 2025**

**Day 8:**

Gunung Leuser National Park.

Rising for a 6.30 am breakfast, the intrepid group, led by Idris, Ju & Badley headed up the hill at 7.30 am and back into the forest. Away to the left, on the way up, we spotted, this time, a troop of silvery leaf monkeys, which handily also gave us the perfect opportunity to both catch our breath and enjoy the company of these charming primates. Passing both the rubber plantation and the Orangutan Bungalows perched on the ridge, we carried straight into the forest in order to follow two pairs of white-handed gibbons calling to each other - surely one of the most remarkable calls in the natural world.

Reaching the park entrance, we stopped once again to re-appreciate the sound of the gibbons. With a number of guides looking after most of the guests, MD went ahead with Idris and one other guest to see if we could get some recordings and photos of the gibbons in action. Arriving breathless, some 500 to 600m further along the trail, we were then serenaded by a pair calling right above our heads, with another distant pair responding - what an experience.

On the way back to join the group, MD and the guest caught up with a giant black squirrel, which had also been seen by a number of guests the previous day. Meanwhile, the rest of the group had also enjoyed a spectacular performance from the gibbons, having observed them both swinging and leaping in between the trees. All watching them pausing to eat, we then proceeded to witness the pair copulating in the trees, with some unsure as to whether or not we should be averting our eyes! While watching the gibbons' shenanigans, a small troop of Thomas' leaf monkeys and a single pig-tailed macaque were also added to our tally for the day, with a number particularly wary of the macaque after it had temporarily snatched Idris' bag earlier in the walk. While here, we also had the pleasure of watching a young male orang-utan swinging through the trees, before then proceeding to take a nap high up in the canopy.

Heading further along the ridge, MD and three guests then followed Idris down a very steep slope to catch up with a male argus pheasant, busily calling away. In possession of a 'theatre' from which it appeared to use both to call and display to potential mates, it did not seem in the least bothered by our presence. Close to two metres in length from beak to tail tip, the tail was enormous and composed of at least 50 shades of grey! And its call, uttered irregularly every few minutes, was nothing short of ear-splitting, particularly at such close quarters.

Walking back down to the Eco Lodge for lunch, we found a spectacled bulbul, which also represented a new bird species for the group. Initially heard singing from the undergrowth, after a little patience, it showed very well to all present. Back down by the river, we then took lunch with Anwar at the Wisma Leuser Sibayak Lodge a little further along the river from the Eco Lodge.

Post-lunch, MD and a few of the guests then walked over the colourful bridge and into Bukit Lawang in order to purchase a few souvenirs for friends and family at home. Returning back to the Eco Lodge, the rest of the afternoon was slated for rest and relaxation, prior to a relatively early dinner and a meet up with our guides for a night walk to the bat cave. Setting off with four guests and our torches, we followed the path out of the back of the lodge and through the durian plantation. The frogs here were particularly noisy, but on this occasion, none could be spotted for identification purposes.

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Eventually reaching the cave, after a walk of around 20 minutes, the precipitous nature of the entrance meant that only Idris, Ju, MD and two guests went inside. After working our way around several tight squeezes, we eventually reached the main cavern, where plenty of insectivorous bats could be seen hanging from the roof and flying around, with loud clicking sounds, patently the bats' contact calls, as opposed to their echolocation calls which would have been well above our audible range. Keen not to unduly disturb them, we kept our distance and were careful when shining our torches directly at the bats. Interestingly, a single bird also appeared to be roosting on a small ledge inside the caves, which was subsequently identified as a blue whistling thrush.

Heading back out to join the others waiting under a shelter near the entrance, one of the guests in the interim had found a small arboreal snake, which Idris identified as being a keeled slug-eating snake. Walking back to the lodge, a number of frogs were seen in shallow pools on the way out, which also successfully avoided being identified. With the evening now well past 9 pm, everyone bid each other goodnight and to get some sleep in preparation for another long travel day.

**Thursday 16 October 2025**

**Day 9:**

Gunung Leuser National Park AM. Flight to Soekarno-Hatta International Airport, Jakarta. O/N FM7 Hotel.

After another frankly enormous storm overnight, that had included thunder, and both sheet & forked lightning, the skies appeared to be clearing by the time MD and one other guest linked up with guides Idris, Ju for a quick walk around the Eco Lodge's ground.

It was also a case of the 'calm after the storm' as the somewhat smaller group than usual headed for the ponds and durian plantation that lie just behind the lodge's main buildings. The first bird of the morning to be picked up was an ashy tailorbird, while plume-toad swiftlets ploughed through the skies refuelling with a post-storm snack. A solitary pig-tailed macaque could also be seen feeding in a fruiting tree along the forest edge, along with a ruby-throated bulbul, while lovely views of a couple of blue-throated bee-eaters catching insects on the wing were well received by those present.

Also, a little further on, we located another fruiting tree packed with birds, and in fairly short order identified a couple of Asian red-eyed bulbuls, a few sooty-headed bulbul, a coppersmith barbet and any number of yellow-vented bulbuls. MD then spotted a small flock of very distant hornbills flying over the forest, which, based on their colour and behaviour, were subsequently identified as being wreathed hornbills.

With the fruiting tree such a rich picking ground for both birds and birders we stayed put here and also managed to log a couple of orange-bellied flowerpeckers and at least three different coppersmith barbets. Another species of barbet also appeared to be calling from close by, but initially, we couldn't pick it out from amongst the other birds. In the same productive tree, MD then picked up a single green iora from amongst a flock of various bulbuls and sunbirds, before we started walking back. In the small orchard next to the trail, Ju then spotted both an immature square-tailed drongo-cuckoo and a male blue whistling thrush - the species we'd previously seen roosting in the caves the night before. Also here, we noted two black-eared barbets taking a bath high up in a naturally-occurring bowl of water made possible by the removal of a large branch. The bee-eaters also gave more fine views as we walked back to the lodge.

Returning to meet the others for breakfast, we then packed before thanking our guides one final time for all their stellar work on our behalf. Bidding farewell to the hotel staff, too, we then began the journey back to Medan. Here, the trip back was fairly uneventful, with the highlight being when Anwar took the group on a short walk around a fruit market. Also taking some time to stop for lunch, we still arrived at the airport with plenty of time to spare, allowing for a leisurely check-in before taking the two-hour flight back to Jakarta. Arriving on time, the friendly staff from the FM7 Hotel were there, as per usual, to pick us up from arrivals.

Checking in, a dinner then followed at the hotel's Rooftop Bar, before the group then retired to bed, aware

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that the third and final leg of the trip was almost upon us.

**Friday 17 October 2025**

**Day 10:**

FM7 Hotel to Soekarno-Hatta International Airport, Jakarta. Flight to Labuan Bajo International Airport, Flores. Overnight Plataran Komodo Beach Resort

Rising at the decidedly respectable hour of 6 am, we enjoyed a quick breakfast before taking our leave of FM7 hotel and once more heading to the Airport - but on this occasion to domestic departures, for our flight to Labuan Bajo on East Nusa Tenggara (or Flores). Flying this time with the carrier Lion Air, the two-and-a-half-hour flight went seamlessly and we were delighted to meet both our bags and representatives from Plataran Komodo Beach Resort in Arrivals.

The trip across to the Plataran Beach Resort was no more than 15 minutes, and upon arrival, the group were simply blown away by the beach-side location, the quality of the rooms and the friendliness of the staff. Settling in, after a welcome drink and orientation by our butler Fabi, a number then reconvened for a delightful lunch in the Atlantis on the Rocks Restaurant, looking out across to a number of small islands, with Komodo in the distance. The food at the Plataran was nothing short of delicious, which left the group time to relax for the rest of the afternoon.

Before dinner, MD suggested a walk up to the viewpoint positioned just above and behind the restaurant. On the way to meeting two of the guests, a male ornate sunbird was seen feeding in the gardens. The group then sauntered up the short road, and with the temperature now dropping, were soon in amongst birds, with the dominant species being yellow-bellied white-eye - in flocks of anywhere between two and ten. Blue-tailed bee-eaters also appeared to be in good numbers, with ones and twos flying around in the valley below. And further away, across the valley and on the opposite ridge, at least three black kites could be seen soaring on thermals.

Back along the roadside, an Asian tit was noted, with all commenting on how similar the bird looked to a washed-out great tit. A little further up the road, we then managed brief views of an adult and juvenile pied bush chat. Next, turning a sharp left and almost back on ourselves, we then chanced upon a flock of Javan munias, with at least one white-rumped munia mixed in.

Scanning around from this terrific vantage point, MD then picked up a very distant view of a collared kingfisher on telephone wires, before four zebra finch were found much closer to hand. Eventually reaching the commanding viewpoint, we were treated to wonderful views right the way across the sea to both northern Komodo to the west, the mountainous island of Sabolo to the northwest and a number of smaller islands in between.

Joining a number of the other guests for a drink at the Atlantis on the Rocks Restaurant for a pre-prandial drink, we then relaxed for a while before taking a group dinner, on the beach in front of the Xanadu Restaurant. The food here was, once again, fabulous, with the staff super-attentive, and after a thoroughly enjoyable evening, we retired to our palatial rooms for a good night's sleep.

**Saturday 18 October 2025**

**Day 11:**

Plataran Komodo Beach Resort to jetty, to board the Tiger Blue - set sail.

After a wonderful night's sleep, many chose a slow start to the day, but MD was up with one guest at 7 am to birdwatch around the lodge's gardens. First to be noted here was a small colony of scaly-breasted munias communally nesting in a tree close to the restaurant, while yellow-bellied white-eyes, along with tree sparrows, were once again the dominant species.

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After a delightful breakfast, we met Dolvi from the Tiger Blue boat charter and bid farewell to our terrific hosts at Plataran as we boarded the minibus for the short drive down to the jetty back in Labuan Bajo. Paperwork dutifully completed, we then boarded a couple of RIB's to take us to our new home for the next four nights, which was moored out in the harbour. Receiving a warm welcome from the Tiger Blue staff, we were presented with a very refreshing juice before Arthur gave us a chat about how our time aboard would run, along with both an introduction to all the staff and a quick tour of the boat.

We then set off to the small island of Pulau Siaba Besar for our first snorkel of the trip. Dipping into the water we were immediately treated to a huge variety of corals and large diversity of fish, but due to the choppy nature of the swell, we jumped back in the boat and moved to another area, that was not quite as rich, but far more sheltered along the coast - but only after retrieving one of the members of our group, who had accidentally attached himself to another group in the water! These first sessions in the water were also an opportunity for those who had not snorkelled in a while to re-familiarise themselves with the equipment. The highlight of this swim was a hawksbill turtle, which was seen by most of the group. Fish here were well represented too - by moorish idols, butterflyfish, wrasse, parrotfish, triggerfish, trevally and many more.

Back in the boat, and thrilled with our first couple of sessions, we then set sail for north Rinca as we tucked into a fine lunch in truly delightful weather. While sailing south, MD also picked up both a pair of white-bellied fish eagles and a pair of ospreys. A few unidentified terns were also observed, which would hopefully be identified when closer to the boat. Heading along the northeast flank of Rinca (or the top right of the Letter 'Y'), we could see that despite many of the islands having become historically deforested, a number still had abundant mangrove along their margins, which appeared in excellent condition. An exception to this rule could be seen in the northeast of Rinca, where the higher land appeared covered in the native, deciduous forest scrub that would have originally covered many of the islands right across the Lesser Sundas.

Along the way, we also encountered a few soaring raptors, which all appeared to be black kites. One more snorkel then ensued near Kalong Bay, which entailed a drift along the coast, but despite suffering from, at times, poor visibility, MD managed to find a banded sea krait, while a number of distinctive nudibranchs and a stingray were spotted. Back onboard after our snorkel, we then took a short detour onto a small island called Strawberry Rocks, where the very rough rocks had a distinctive pinky-orange hue, with often swirling patterns. The colours, according to Arthur, were created by the iron in the rocks becoming oxidised either with or without water, while the swirling is a result of layered sediments then becoming deformed by pressure and heat. From here, we could also see the narrow strait of water separating Rinca from Flores.

Dropping anchor adjacent to a small island, with Rinca a touch to the south and Flores away to the east, Arthur explained that the large patch of mangrove adjoining the island was also home, by day, to a colony of around 2,000 Sunda fruit bats. The bats emerge at dusk, before then flying over to Flores for a night's feeding, hopefully allowing us to enjoy the spectacle of their commute across. We were, however, not the only boat present to witness the bats' emergence, with at least 50 other boats moored up, but as soon as dusk arrived, this mattered little, as all eyes were cast upwards when the bats began taking to the skies in small groups of 20 to 30 at a time.

It was a most unusual and yet fascinating spectacle to experience, and with them still streaming overhead, we retired to enjoy a fine dinner, washed down by Bintang beer and gin. As the boat then relocated, before mooring up for the night inside the top of Rinca's 'Y', we too took this as a cue to turn in ourselves for our first night aboard.

**Sunday 19 October 2025**

**Day 12:**

Onboard the Tiger Blue - North Rinca to Padar - Walk on Padar, Pink Beach & hike to the viewpoint.

After enjoying our first Tiger Blue breakfast, we took the RIB's across to the Ranger Station at Loh Buaya Resort on Rinca for a guided walk around a small portion of the island. Upon our arrival, Dolvi pointed out

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a banded sea krait that had somehow found its way inside the RIB, enabling everyone to see this mercurial and venomous, but ultimately unthreatening snake at closer quarters than perhaps some would have liked!

With the group already in 'full wildlife-spotting mode', an osprey, a brahminy kite and a few Pacific swallows were all picked up close to the landing point. Meeting the two assigned guides for our time on the island, they then took us over to meet our first Komodo dragons, in the form of three adults quietly sitting in the shade. To keep the dragons at bay, the guides were equipped with long, forked sticks - but being animals that were patently habituated to innumerable visitors, the sticks appeared unnecessary, particularly as the dragons barely moved a muscle throughout the duration of our time in their company.

Following our guides once more along the path/boardwalk, a couple of soaring Japanese sparrowhawks were noted overhead, before coming across another Komodo that was blocking our way, necessitating a quick detour through the bushes, where we spotted a couple of lesser Sunda dark-throated skinks. In a wallow further along the path, we then encountered four Asian water buffalo warily watching us from their muddy retreat. Consisting of two adults and two young calves, our guides explained that these animals may well have colonised Rinca naturally from Flores by swimming across the narrow straits, and had been on the island for as long as anyone could remember.

Yet further on, our guides pointed to a location where a Komodo dragon nest had recently been constructed, with the earth removal often initiated by orange-footed scrubfowl, before then being finished off by the female Komodo. The rubbery eggs are then laid in the soil before the young dragons emerge seven or eight months later. The youngsters will then often spend the first few years of life up in trees where they are safer from predators, including the cannibalistic adults. For reasons not entirely understood, there also appears to be a ratio of three males to every one female on the island.

As if to illustrate the guides' first point, we were then delighted to see a pair of orange-footed scrubfowl turn up to do some digging around the nest, with their enormous feet operating as very effective shovels. Now turning uphill and into the full sun, we found a barred dove, before another pied bush-chat popped into view. Continuing onwards to the top, we were suddenly able to enjoy the most amazing view that took in the north of Rinca and beyond to Flores. Dropping back down to the Ranger Station and onto the boardwalk again, we also caught up with a pair of Sunda teal, a single common sandpiper and lots of fiddler crabs on a small patch of fresh water, before bidding farewell to our guides and heading back to the boat.

Back aboard the Tiger Blue by 10.30 am, our next destination was the island of Padar, located in between Rinca and Komodo. Now heading out of the bay and in a north-westerly direction, it was wonderful to feel the wind on our faces after the dry heat on Rinca. Birding as we sailed, we identified a number of black-taped terns and greater crested terns, both in winter plumage, while lower down, small flocks of red-necked phalaropes in winter plumage either sat on the water or whizzed just above the surface. It was particularly exciting to see the phalaropes, as this is a species that breeds in tiny numbers on Shetland and the Outer Hebrides each spring, before choosing to spend the winter close to the Ring of Fire.

Reaching Padar's west coast, we could clearly see the island's famed 'Pink Beach', but before heading for the sand, we all enjoyed a drift snorkel past a couple of rocky islets, with the highlights provided by another hawksbill turtle and plenty of fine coral stands with their attendant fish. Here too, seemingly guarding the entrance to the breach, we caught up with yet another pair of white-bellied fish eagles.

After lunch, we then took the RIB's across to Pink Beach, with the first wildlife sighting conducted from the boat while watching a young male Javan deer cooling off down at the water's edge. By the time we had set foot on the beach, the number of deer had swollen to three, including a stag with a fine set of antlers. While here, we were also able to see the vivid red pieces of coral washed ashore, which, when ground up, help give the beach its name. Taking a leisurely walk along the beach, the heavens then opened, with everyone getting a thorough soaking before we could be picked up once again. The rain, however, had also successfully cooled off what had become a searingly-hot day, giving welcome relief to most of the group.

Now off, once again, this time to the southeast corner of Pulau Padar, we noted a strong-billed heron and

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Sunda crow as we took a southerly bearing. Reaching the beach, Escobar, Dolvi, four guests and MD then headed up to the commanding viewpoint that would offer views along the peninsula and towards Rinca. Being a very steep walk, three of the guests stayed at a viewpoint about halfway up, while MD, one guest and Escobar headed up to the top.

The summit was around 170m above sea level, and despite being decidedly busy with other tourists, the panorama was nothing short of sensational, and not only offered vistas of both sides of the Padar peninsula, but also views of three different beaches - including the Pink Beach we'd walked along earlier and also that of Tiger Blue moored out in the bay. While enjoying the scenery, MD also had a house swift fly over the summit as well.

Meanwhile, those who had stayed at the lower station had already headed back to the boat and were lucky enough to have eight to ten bow-riding spinner dolphins accompany them on their return journey. Both groups also managed to record a number of feral goats on their descent too.

Taking dinner at around 7 pm, Dolvi, Escobar, MD and one guest then all headed back onto Padar at 8.30 pm, primarily to look for reptiles. Joined by a couple of Park Guards and with torches at the ready, we began our search for herps initially around the back of the Ranger Station. The first snake encountered was both mobile and high up in a tree, but was seen sufficiently well to be still identified by one of the guides as being a lesser Sundas bronzeback. A second, equally mobile, bronzeback was then encountered, before MD & the guest spotted both an Asian house gecko and a slightly less welcome brown rat.

Dolvi then called us over to admire a pit viper he'd found, which we subsequently identified as a lesser Sundas white-lipped pit viper, along with a large brown preying mantis. The pit viper was a rich emerald green, and apparently possesses another colour morph that is bluish-green. Before the end of the evening, we'd picked up a further two green morph pit-vipers and a third bronzeback. Heading back to the boat, most of the other guests had already gone to bed, so the late returnees retired to their quarters too, in preparation for another busy day in paradise.

## **Monday 20 October 2025**

### **Day 13:**

Onboard the Tiger Blue -South Rinca and Nosakode, Manta Point - South Komodo

Lifting the anchor at around 5 am, the Tiger Blue then sailed around to the southwestern corner of Rinca, and in the small horseshoe of water in between the southern part of the island and the much smaller island of Nusa Kode. We had travelled down to south Rinca with the precise aim of looking for slightly wilder Komodo dragons than the relatively tame ones we'd previously seen in the north of the island.

With the Tiger Blue now anchored up, and following breakfast, the group then set off in the two separate RIBs to slowly cruise along Rinca's southern coastline. Almost immediately, a substantial male Komodo of at least 2.5m in length was spotted on the beach. By approaching from the water, this enabled both RIBs to get no further than 4 or 5m away, as all the photographers in the group went into overdrive. As it slowly walked along the beach, the world's largest lizard was salivating too, and at one point even had a little swim in the shallows, necessitating a rapid retreat on our part to give the dragon more room. The only other noticeable element while watching the dragon was the unbelievable amount of litter along the shoreline, with Arthur confirming that Indonesia has a huge rubbish issue. This problem is particularly acute at places like South Rinca, where all manner of debris out at sea gets funnelled in by the currents, before then being washed ashore by the tides.

While motoring along, we were also keeping a keen eye out for birds, and spotted another pair of white-bellied fish eagles, a couple of Wallace drongos at a nest and a single collared kingfisher too. Taking the boats next over to the north shore of Nusa Kode, we worked our way along the coast here too, but only managed to pick up a juvenile little heron and a couple of Pacific reef herons. Deciding richer picking might lie back over on South South Rinca after all, we re-crossed the strait, but here dragons were still in decidedly

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short supply, meaning we had to settle for a variety of butterflies, a brahminy kite and a strong-billed heron, while the other RIB managed to spot a couple of rays, a hawksbill turtle, a wild boar and a Javan deer.

Back on board the Tiger Blue, we set sail once more, but this time for the southern portion of Komodo. Having negotiated around the southwest corner of Rinca, we instantly hit the open sea and were thrilled to encounter hundreds more red-necked phalaropes either on or just above the water. And while watching the phalaropes, several brown boobies and lesser frigate birds were noted further out.

With little wind and clear blue skies, we were grateful for the breeze created by our motion while heading across the strait. Mooring up, we prepared for a snorkel at a location close to a series of offshore rocks that collectively is known locally as 'Manta Alley'. Jumping into the RIBs, we were soon in the water and looking down could immediately see the unmistakable shape of Oceanic manta rays, with wingspans at least 4m across at a depth of between 10 and 15m below us. In fact, there were such good numbers cruising past and below us that at any one time we could see at least two or three, with one guest counting a grand total of seven in just one view!

Back on the boat, all agreed it had been the best snorkelling session by far as we set a bearing north and along the Komodo's eastern shore. Passing Padar Island to our immediate east, we then headed in the direction of 'another' Pink Beach, this time on Komodo, which in the afternoon light did take on a pinkish hue. Back in the water once again, we encountered some terrific coral and a wide range of fish, including triggerfish, wrasse & parrotfish, with the highlight provided by a couple of very obliging hawksbill turtles. Afterwards, a number took a stroll along the Pink Beach, which also involved landing on Komodo for the first time, while those happy to stay onboard, took the opportunity to put their feet up.

All back aboard, we then set sail, with our destination later that evening the northeast coast of Komodo, where we'd be mooring up for the night. Still passing the island on our port side, one of the guests then spotted a wild boar down at the water's edge before we finally lost the light. All that remained was to enjoy a lovely meal onboard the boat before retiring for the night in the knowledge that our final, full day with Tiger Blue loomed large.

**Tuesday 21 October 2025**

**Day 14:**

Onboard the Tiger Blue - Rinca to Pulau Padar

Meeting on the deck at 6.15 am, all were ready for the early morning hike up to a commanding viewpoint on Gili Lawa Darat Island, just off the northeastern corner of Komodo. The reason for starting early was that walking up in the cool of the early morning would be infinitely more preferable to underrating the ascent in the full heat of the day, plus hopefully, wildlife would be busier at this time too.

Once we had checked into the Ranger Station, we were ready to go, with the first wildlife to be logged being a Javan deer and a collared kingfisher. The scenery here was pretty arid, with occasional patches of thorny scrub, and as we moved ever upwards and into the full sun we were soon perspiring! Perched nearby, on the way up, was a pied bush chat, which was seen well with the help of MD's scope. But the intense heat, even at this time of day, meant much of the wildlife was already keeping a low profile.

Leaving a few folk at a large bend with one of the Tiger Blue staff, the remaining group surged onwards and upwards, noticing a pair of singing bush-larks in the dry grassland close to the path en route. A couple of Japanese sparrowhawks were also observed overhead during our ascent, in addition to a pair of grey-headed fish-eagles circling down in the bay below us. Despite the number of folk already at the top of the climb when we too arrived, the view was still sensational, with all who'd made it to the top enjoying a 360° vista of land and sea. Heading down, before it got even hotter, the group who had stayed further down had managed to pick up an ornate sunbird, Sunda crow, pied bush-chat and collared kingfisher while waiting for our return.

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Back onboard, a very well-deserved breakfast was taken before another snorkelling session, this time through the channel between Komodo and Seraya-Besar. This proved to be one of the finest, with both hawksbill and a single green turtle seen while in the water. The coral here was possibly the best of the entire trip as well, with huge table and brain corals a standout feature.

Setting sail a short while later, with a bearing both eastwards and back towards Labuan Bajo. The precise destination here was the southeast corner of the island Pulau Seraya-Besar, where we would spend the night just offshore, following on from a beach party. Back in the open water, one of the guests then spotted a large number of birds at sea. Heading in the same direction, there was plenty of activity in the water too, with what appeared to be tuna leaping, at times, clear of the water as they too chased smaller fish. This activity had, in turn, pulled in birds from all around, and for a short while, we weren't sure where to look. Terns were especially abundant, with at least one sooty in amongst a far larger number of great crested terns. A shearwater could also be seen scything through the air, which appeared to be a wedge-tailed seawater, before a pomarine skua was then observed both chasing terns and forcing them to drop their hard-won meal back into the sea below. After a while, the tuna then erupted much closer to the boat, enabling us to see the skua more clearly.

Mooring up close to Pulau Seraya-Besar, we then enjoyed one of the best meals of the whole trip, with the chefs having prepared a whole variety of sushi for our lunch. The rest of the afternoon was then designated as leisure time while the staff ferried everything across to the island for our dinner and party later that evening. Finally ready for us, as dusk descended, the effort the staff had gone into making our last night was nothing short of stupendous. A large bonfire had been created, along with a large dining table, lights and a bush kitchen, with bean bags laid out and starters for us to enjoy.

After another wonderful meal, which was served on the beach, the Tiger Blue Band started up and covered a number of Indonesian and Western songs, complete with a guitar, all manner of percussion instruments and a few singers and dancers! It was an absolutely wonderful party and it was with much sadness that we eventually boarded the RIBs to take us back to the Tiger Blue later that evening.

### **Wednesday 22 & Thursday 23 October 2025**

#### **Day 15 & 16:**

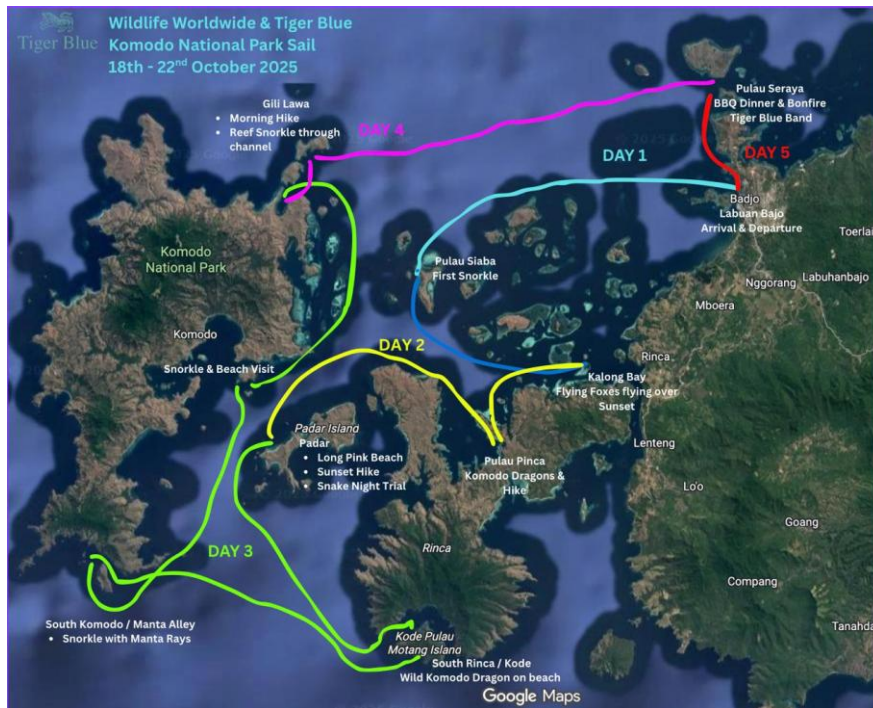
Back to Labuan Bajo & flight to Soekarno-Hatta International Airport, Jakarta. Use of the day room at the FM7

Waking up to another beautiful day aboard the Tiger Blue, we bid a very fond farewell after breakfast to a couple of guests who were due to stay for an extra few days on Pulau Seraya-Besar. The guests duly dropped off, and we then headed back to Labuan Bajo. All the staff on board the Tiger Blue had been nothing short of fabulous and it was very hard to say goodbye as we thanked them for an unforgettable time on board. Back on dry land, we then passed through the cruise terminal and onwards to the airport. Having been able to check in beforehand, the two-hour flight back to Jakarta was very straightforward, whereupon we each had use of a day room in FM7 in order to prepare for our flights leaving for London just after midnight.

Using this time to pack, and in some cases re-pack, we said goodbye to one guest who was meeting family in Jakarta, before the somewhat depleted group then headed for the airport. Travelling via different airline carriers meant that goodbyes were conducted at the airport, marking the end of a trip that had successfully taken in a most astonishing array of wildlife right across the archipelago, with plenty of thrills along the way, and which by every measure had been a superb trip in the very finest of company.

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The route taken aboard Tiger Blue - with thanks to Arthur Wilkinson



Photos clockwise from top right: Thomas's langur & rhinoceros hornbill (both © Stefan Gustafsson), Sulawesi lilac kingfisher, the Tiger Blue, pig-tailed macaque & Wagler's pit viper (all © Mike Dilger)

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# Checklist for Wildlife of Indonesia with Mike Dilger



	Common Name	Scientific Name	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8	Day 9	Day 10	Day 11	Day 12	Day 13	Day 14	Day 15
	<b>BIRDS</b>																
1	Sunda teal	<i>Anas gibberifrons</i>												✓			
2	Philippine megapode	<i>Megapodius cumingii</i>		✓													
3	Orange-footed scrubfowl	<i>Megapodius reinwardt</i>												✓			
4	Great argus	<i>Argusianus argus</i>								✓							
5	King quail	<i>Synoicus chinensis</i>			✓												
6	Short-toed coucal	<i>Centropus rectunguis</i>		✓	✓												
7	Lesser coucal	<i>Centropus bengalensis</i>		✓	H						H						
8	Raffles's malkoha	<i>Rhinortha chlorophaea</i>							✓								
9	Green-billed malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus tristis</i>		✓	✓												
10	Black-billed koel	<i>Eudynamys melanorhynchus</i>		✓													
11	White-eared bronze cuckoo	<i>Chalcites meyerii</i>			✓												
12	Sulawesi brush cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis virescens</i>		✓													
13	Fork-tailed drongo-cuckoo	<i>Surniculus dicruroides</i>									✓						
14	White-faced cuckoo-dove	<i>Turacoena manadensis</i>		✓	✓												
15	Spotted dove	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>		H				✓	✓								
16	Rock dove	<i>Columba livia</i>					✓										
17	Pink-necked green pigeon	<i>Treron vernans</i>		✓				✓	✓		✓						
18	Grey-cheeked green pigeon	<i>Treron griseicauda</i>			✓												
19	Zebra dove	<i>Geopelia striata</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓								
20	Seram mountain pigeon	<i>Gymnophaps stalkerii</i>	✓		✓												
21	Green imperial pigeon	<i>Ducula aenea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓											
22	Pied imperial pigeon	<i>Ducula bicolor</i>	✓	✓													
23	Silver-tipped Imperial pigeon	<i>Ducula luctuosa</i>	✓	✓	✓												
24	Black-naped fruit dove	<i>Ptilinopus melanospilus</i>		H	✓												
25	Buff-banded rail	<i>Gallirallus philippensis</i>		✓													

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26	Barred rail	<i>Gallirallus torquatus</i>		✓															
27	Isabelline bush-hen	<i>Amaurornis isabellina</i>		H	✓														
28	Kentish plover	<i>Anarhynchus alexandrinus</i>				✓													
29	Common sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		✓		✓							✓						
30	Red-necked phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>											✓	✓					
31	Pomarine jaeger	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>																✓	
32	Sooty tern	<i>Onychoprion fuscatus</i>																✓	
33	Greater crested tern	<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>										✓	✓					✓	
34	Common tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>											✓					✓	✓
35	Black-naped tern	<i>Sterna sumatrana</i>				✓													
36	Wedge-tailed shearwater	<i>Ardenna pacifica</i>																	✓
37	Lesser frigatebird	<i>Fregata ariel</i>				✓												✓	✓
38	Oriental darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>			✓														
39	Pacific reef heron	<i>Egretta sacra</i>				✓						✓	✓	✓	✓				
40	Little egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>			✓								✓						
41	Black-crowned night heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>				✓													
42	Nankeen night heron	<i>Nycticorax caledonicus</i>			✓														
43	Little heron	<i>Butorides atricapilla</i>																✓	
44	Medium egret	<i>Ardea intermedia</i>									✓								
45	Eastern cattle egret	<i>Ardea coromanda</i>				✓													
46	Great-billed heron	<i>Ardea sumatrana</i>				✓								✓	✓	✓			
47	Sulawesi nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus celebensis</i>		H		H													
48	Grey-rumped treeswift	<i>Hemiprocne longipennis</i>	✓																
49	Asian palm swift	<i>Cypsiurus balasiensis</i>	✓																
50	Fork-tailed swift	<i>Apus pacificus</i>																	✓
51	Bornean swiftlet	<i>Collocalia dodgei</i>																✓	
52	Plume-toed swiftlet	<i>Collocalia affinis</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
53	Glossy swiftlet	<i>Collocalia esculenta</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓													
54	Bare-legged swiftlet	<i>Aerodramus nuditarisus</i>		✓	✓														
55	Edible-nest swiftlet	<i>Aerodramus fuciphagus</i>											✓	✓					
56	Ochre-bellied boobook	<i>Ninox ochracea</i>	✓																
57	Speckled boobook	<i>Ninox punctulata</i>			✓														
58	Sulawesi scops owl	<i>Otus manadensis</i>	✓																
59	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>											✓	✓	✓	✓			
60	Crested serpent eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>							✓		H								

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61	Dwarf sparrowhawk	<i>Tachypiza nanus</i>		✓													
62	Japanese sparrowhawk	<i>Tachypiza gularis</i>												✓		✓	
63	Brahminy kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓							✓	✓	✓	✓	
64	Black kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>										✓	✓	✓	✓		
65	White-bellied sea eagle	<i>Ichthyophaga leucogaster</i>				✓									✓		
66	Grey-headed fish-eagle	<i>Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus</i>											✓	✓		✓	
67	Rhinoceros hornbill	<i>Buceros rhinoceros</i>					✓	✓	H								
68	Knobbed hornbill	<i>Rhyticeros cassidix</i>	✓	✓	✓												
69	Wreathed hornbill	<i>Rhyticeros undulatus</i>								✓							
70	Sulawesi hornbill	<i>Rhabdotorrhinus exarhatus</i>			✓												
71	Purple-winged roller	<i>Coracias temminckii</i>		✓													
72	Blue-tailed bee-eater	<i>Merops philippinus</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	
73	Common kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>				✓											
74	Sulawesi dwarf kingfisher	<i>Ceyx fallax</i>			✓												
75	Great-billed kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis melanorhyncha</i>				✓											
76	White-throated kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>		✓	✓												
77	Sulawesi lilac kingfisher	<i>Cittura cyanotis</i>		✓	✓												
78	Green-backed kingfisher	<i>Actenoides monachus</i>		✓													
79	Collared kingfisher	<i>Todiramphus chloris</i>			✓	✓						✓	✓		✓	✓	
80	Coppersmith barbet	<i>Psilopogon haemacephalus</i>					✓	✓		✓							
81	Black-eared barbet	<i>Psilopogon duvaucelii</i>								✓							
82	Grey-and-buff woodpecker	<i>Hemicircus concretus</i>					✓										
83	Banded woodpecker	<i>Chrysophlegma miniaceum</i>						✓									
84	Ashy woodpecker	<i>Mulleripicus fulvus</i>			✓												
85	Golden-mantled racket-tail	<i>Prioniturus platurus</i>			✓												
86	Moluccan eclectus	<i>Eclectus roratus</i>			✓												
87	Blue-naped parrot	<i>Tanygnathus lucionensis</i>		✓	✓												
88	Blue-crowned hanging parrot	<i>Loriculus galgulus</i>						H									
89	Great hanging parrot	<i>Loriculus stigmatus</i>	✓	✓	✓												
90	Ornate lorikeet	<i>Trichoglossus ornatus</i>		✓													
91	Violet-necked lory	<i>Trichoglossus squamatus</i>		✓													
92	Sulawesi pitta	<i>Erythropitta celebensis</i>				H											
93	Golden-bellied gerygone	<i>Gerygone sulphurea</i>				✓											
94	Pied cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina bicolor</i>	H		✓												
95	White-rumped triller	<i>Lalage leucopygialis</i>			✓												

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96	Pied triller	<i>Lalage nigra</i>							✓								
97	Sulawesi cicadabird	<i>Edolisoma morio</i>			✓												
98	Ivory-backed woodswallow	<i>Artamus monachus</i>	✓														
99	White-breasted woodswallow	<i>Artamus leucorhynchus</i>						✓	✓								
100	Green iora	<i>Aegithina viridissima</i>									✓						
101	Black-naped oriole	<i>Oriolus chinensis</i>	✓		✓												
102	Wallacean drongo	<i>Dicrurus densus</i>														✓	
103	Hair-crested drongo	<i>Dicrurus hottentottus</i>		✓	✓												
104	Pale-blue monarch	<i>Hypothymis puella</i>		✓	✓												
105	Tiger shrike	<i>Lanius tigrinus</i>						H	✓								
106	Sulawesi crow	<i>Corvus celebensis</i>		✓	✓												
107	Cinereous tit	<i>Parus cinereus</i>										✓					
108	Singing bush lark	<i>Mirafra javanica</i>															✓
109	Ashy tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus ruficeps</i>							✓		✓						
110	Pacific swallow	<i>Hirundo javanica</i>				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
111	Spectacled bulbul	<i>Rubigula erythroptalmos</i>									✓						
112	Ruby-throated bulbul	<i>Rubigula dispar</i>						✓	✓								
113	Asian Red-eyed bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus brunneus</i>							✓		✓						
114	Yellow-vented bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus goiavier</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓						
115	Sooty-headed bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus aurigaster</i>	✓	✓	✓	H		✓	✓	✓	✓						
116	Lemon-bellied white-eye	<i>Zosterops chloris</i>										✓	✓				
117	Sulawesi babbler	<i>Pellorneum celebense</i>			✓												
118	Grosbeak starling	<i>Scissirostrum dubium</i>		✓													
119	Sulawesi myna	<i>Basilornis celebensis</i>			✓												
120	White-necked myna	<i>Streptocitta albigollis</i>	✓	✓	✓												
121	Asian glossy starling	<i>Aplonis panayensis</i>						✓									
122	Javan myna	<i>Acridotheres javanicus</i>	✓				✓	✓		✓							
123	Grey-streaked flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa griseisticta</i>	✓														
124	Verditer flycatcher	<i>Eumyias thalassinus</i>							✓								
125	Blue whistling thrush	<i>Myophonus caeruleus</i>								✓	✓						
126	Blue rock thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>				✓											
127	Pied bush chat	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>										✓			✓		
128	Yellow-sided flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum aureolimbatum</i>		✓													
129	Orange-bellied flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum trigonostigma</i>						✓	✓		✓						
130	Grey-sided flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum celebicum</i>	✓		✓												

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131	Long-billed spiderhunter	<i>Arachnothera robusta</i>						✓									
132	Spectacled spiderhunter	<i>Arachnothera flavigaster</i>						✓									
133	Grey-breasted spiderhunter	<i>Arachnothera modesta</i>							✓								
134	Plain sunbird	<i>Anthreptes simplex</i>							✓								
135	Brown-throated sunbird	<i>Anthreptes malacensis</i>	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓						
136	Van hasselt's sunbird	<i>Leptocoma brasiliana</i>						✓									
137	Black sunbird	<i>Leptocoma aspasia</i>		✓													
138	Ornate sunbird	<i>Cinnyris ornatus</i>									✓	✓					
139	Sahul sunbird	<i>Cinnyris frenatus</i>		✓	✓	✓											
140	Scaly-breasted munia	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>			✓							✓					
141	Javan munia	<i>Lonchura leucogastroides</i>									✓						
142	Chestnut munia	<i>Lonchura atricapilla</i>		✓													
143	Eurasian tree sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓		
144	Grey wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		✓						✓							
	<b>MAMMALS</b>																
1	Common bear cuscus	<i>Ailurops ursinus</i>	✓														
2	Javan deer	<i>Rusa timorensis</i>										✓	✓	✓			
3	Spinner dolphin	<i>Stenella longirostris</i>										✓					
4	Sunda fruit bat	<i>Acerodon mackloti</i>										✓					
5	Gursky's spectral tarsier	<i>Tarsius spectrumgurskyae</i>		✓	✓												
6	Long-tailed macaque	<i>Macaca fascicularis</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓
7	Southern Pig-tailed macaque	<i>Macaca nemestrina</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓						
8	Crested macaque	<i>Macaca nigra</i>	✓	✓	✓												
9	Thomas's langur	<i>Presbytis thomasi</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓						
10	Lar gibbon	<i>Hylobates lar</i>							✓	✓							
11	Siamang	<i>Symphalangus syndactylus</i>									H						
12	Sumatran orangutan	<i>Pongo abelii</i>						✓	✓								
13	Whitish dwarf squirrel	<i>Prosciurillus leucomus</i>		✓	✓												
14	Black giant squirrel	<i>Ratufa bicolor</i>							✓	✓							
15	Slender squirrel	<i>Sundasciurus tenuis</i>								✓							
16	Silvery langur (lutung)	<i>Trachypithecus cristatus</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓						
17	Feral goat	<i>Capra hircus</i>											✓				
18	Wild boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>												✓	✓		
19	Brown rat	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>											✓				

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Select fish seen aboard the Tiger	
Humbbug damsel	<i>Dascyllus aruanus</i>
Golden sergeant	<i>Amblyglyphidodon aureus</i>
Big-eye travally	<i>Caranx sexfasciatus</i>
Sergeant major	<i>Abudefduf vaigensis</i>
Clark's anemone fish	<i>Amphiprion clarkii</i>
Orange-fin anemone fish	<i>Amphiprion chrysopterus</i>
Regal angel fish	<i>Pygoplites diacanthus</i>
Threadfin butterflyfish	<i>Chaetodon auriga</i>
Lined butterflyfish	<i>Chaetodon lineolatus</i>
Raccoon butterflyfish	<i>Chaetodon lunula</i>
Vagabond butterflyfish	<i>Chaetodon vagabondus</i>
Moorish Idol	<i>Sanctus cornets</i>
Tall-fin batfish	<i>Platax teira</i>
Orange-lined triggerfish	<i>Balistapus undulatus</i>
Schooling bannerfish	<i>Heliochus diphreutes</i>
Yellow moon wrasse	<i>Thalassoma lutescens</i>
Dusky wrasse	<i>Halichoeres marginatus</i>
Blue-spine unicornfish	<i>Naso unicornis</i>
Trumpetfish	<i>Aulostomus sp.</i>
Neon damsel	<i>Pomacentrus coelestis</i>
Ember parrotfish	<i>Scarus rubroviolaceus</i>
Sand lizardfish	<i>Synodus dermatogenys</i>
Pacific lionfish	<i>Pterois volitans</i>
Dotted butterflyfish	<i>Chaetodon semion</i>
Keyhole angelfish	<i>Centropyge tibicen</i>
Red-tooth triggerfish	<i>Odorous niger</i>
Wedge-tailed triggerfish	<i>Rhinecanthus rectangulus</i>
Western clownfish	<i>Amphiprion ocellaris</i>
Lined surgeonfish	<i>Acanthurus lineatus</i>
Orange-blotch surgeonfish	<i>Acanthurus olivaceus</i>
White-margin unicornfish	<i>Naso annulatus</i>

Yellow-ribbon sweetlips	<i>Plectorhynchus vittatus</i>
Round batfish	<i>Platax orbicularis</i>
Pacific triangular butterflyfish	<i>Chaetodon baronessa</i>
Majestic angelfish	<i>Pomacanthus navarchus</i>
Two-coloured parrotfish	<i>Cetoscarus bicolor</i>
Velvet surgeonfish	<i>Acanthurus nigricans</i>
Fox-face	<i>Siganus vulpinus</i>
Tuna spp.	<i>Thunnus sp.</i>