

Indonesian Big 5

TIGERS AND DRAGONS IN THE WILDS OF ASIA

- Explore the wilds of Indonesia, searching for orangutan, tigers, rhino's, elephants and komodo dragons
- Tours led by Dr. Claire Vaux Oelrichs, coordinator of Save Indonesia's Endangered Species (S.I.E.S)
- Explore the forests of Sumatra, the wilds of Borneo and the dramatic Komodo Islands
- Visit projects supported by the S.I.E.S and meet wildlife researchers working in the region



Summary

Steppes Discovery, in exclusive co-operation with the Save Indonesian Endangered Species Fund (SIES), offers a select group of intrepid travelers the opportunity to explore Indonesia's rich wildlife in areas rarely seen by outsiders. From the rainforests of Sumatra where tigers still prowl, to elephants and rhino sanctuaries in little visited parks, from the island of Borneo and the fabled "Man of the Forest" to the land of dragons in Komodo, this tour is unlike any other. Our unique partnership with SIES allows us to camp in regions not open to conventional tourism, away from the crowds in areas of pristine wilderness. The tour also includes a contribution to SIES to allow them to continue their much-needed work.

Overview



Join Steppes Discovery and scientist Dr. Claire Oelrichs from Save Indonesias Endangered Species on a wilderness safari to Indonesia, to discover the unique wildlife, ecology and cultures of the world's largest archipelago.

This unforgettable, two-week journey provides an opportunity to learn more about conserving the forests and wildlife of Indonesia. Join in conservation discussions and meetings with locals, explore majestic rainforests, bathe Sumatran elephants, discuss issues of breeding the almost extinct Sumatran rhinoceros, track Sumatran tigers in highly threatened forest reserves, follow dragons in Komodo and enjoy the wonderful hospitality of the Indonesian people.

Your experts



DR CLAIRE OELRICHS

Dr. Claire Oelrichs is a veterinary surgeon, conservationist and coordinator of the Ecolodges Indonesia Conservation Fund and the driving force behind S.I.E.S.

She travels regularly in Indonesia, working closely with the national parks and the Guides Training Courses to raise awareness of protecting the wildlife and their habitat and will offer you a wonderful insight into Indonesia.

Itinerary



Day 1

On arrival in Jakarta, you will be welcomed by Dr Oelrichs and then driven to the nearby FM7 Hotel. This large, comfortable hotel is ideally located only a short drive from the airport and this evening you will enjoy a welcome dinner, where you will get to know the rest of your group and Dr Oelrichs will run through the adventure ahead whilst discussing the work of the S.I.E.S. Overnight on a bed and breakfast basis.

Day 2

This morning, you are taken to the airport for your flight to Pangkalan Bun in Borneo, home to Asia's only great ape and one of the world's most iconic animals, the Orangutan. Your adventure begins with a boat ride through the mangrove forests to Rimba Eco Lodge, in the heart of Tanjung Puting National Park, your home for the next three nights. Each room is raised on a wooden walkway over the forest and overlooks the Sekonyer River, with resident macaques and proboscis monkeys found around the lodge. From here you will have the chance to explore the forests and come face to face with Indonesia's most enigmatic creatures, following orangutans through the park or watching them come to their specially adapted feeding platforms.



Day 3-4

For the next two days, you will explore the forests looking for orangutans. Head out each day in your own private boat (Klotok) with a simple lunch of noodles and vegetables on board. The river itself is also home to crocodiles, water monitors, kingfishers and the proboscis monkeys. Return to the lodge each day for dinner.

Day 5

This morning is an early start as you return to Pangkalan Bun in time for your flight to Bandar Lampung in Sumatra. After a drive of around two hours you reach Way Kambas National Park, established in 1924 in a 1,300kmsq forest and one of the oldest protected areas in Indonesia. Primarily known for its elephant population and the nearby elephant and rhino sanctuary, you can also expect to see macaques, gibbons, langurs and siamangs, as well as larger (and more elusive!) mammals such as tapir, Sumatran tiger, clouded leopard and honey bear. There have also been more than 300 species of birds recorded here, including the Rhinoceros Hornbill and White Winged Duck.



You will be based at the Satwa Elephant Eco Lodge, a short walk from the park entrance, is set in a beautiful walled garden full of tropical fruit trees, next to a pleasant rural village. The spacious rooms have ceiling fans, hot water showers and western style toilets, as well as electricity for recharging camera batteries. The open restaurant offers delicious, home-cooked Indonesian food, with a picnic box provided if you are out in the forest for the day.



Day 6

Today you will be split into two groups for the next 3 days.

Group 1- You will pack an overnight rucksack and head out to Kalibiru Atas for a night in the forest, in an area known for the elusive tigers. Whilst the camp is a very simple affair (basic dome tents in the middle of the forest – with the river used for washing) everything is provided for you. You will be accompanied by trained National Park Tiger Guides and whilst the chances of seeing tigers are slim, the area is home to much of their prey. This is also a wonderful opportunity to camp in the wilds of the rainforest, listening out for nocturnal animals such as the nightjar, or the rare clouded leopard.





Group 2 - This morning is an early morning bird walk and after breakfast you will visit the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary, supported by the SIES, where you can closely observe four rhinos living in semi-captivity. The animals come to a stall every morning for feeding and a veterinary check. As they are used to humans this provides some wonderful photo opportunities and the chance to discuss the conservation efforts here with their vets.

You then have the option to visit the nearby Elephant Conservation Centre, where you will not only meet the elephants, but also the elephant carers (mahouts) who look after them. You may also be given the chance to help bathe them in the river, before enjoying an elephant ride through the surrounding plains. Please bear in mind that the animal welfare standards found in Indonesia are very different from those in the west although visits here help to improve the centre. After dinner, embark on a night walk to look for owls, bats and bush-babies.



Day 7

Group 1- After an early morning walk to see what animals may have passed by in the night, you return to the lodge to freshen up and after lunch you head out to the Way Kanan River on a boat safari and bush walk. Here, you can search for Hornbills and Kingfishers as well as wild elephant that come to the riverside to drink.

Group 2 - Camping wild in Kalibiru Atas.

Day 8

Group 1 - Morning Rhino Sanctuary and afternoon Elephant Conservation Centre

Group 2 - Return to camp, Way Kanan River safari and evening night walk.



Day 9

This morning you head back to the airport for your flight to Bali, changing planes in Jakarta. On arrival here you are met and taken to the Udayana Kingfisher Lodge, located in 30 hectares of bush overlooking the beautiful Mount. Agung and Jimbaran and Benoa Bays. The remainder of the day is at leisure.



Day 10

This morning you are flown to Labuan Bajo on the island of Flores and on to Komodo Eco Lodge, a simple but welcoming lodge that overlooks the beach and offers great sunsets from the upstairs open bar and dining room. The rest of the day is spent at leisure relaxing at the lodge, enjoying a simple river cruise or trip to a nearby bat cave (own expense).

Day 11

This morning after a very early start (04:30), you board the boat for the ride across to Komodo National Park, where you will spend time in the company of the world's largest lizard and one of the country's most unique inhabitants – the komodo dragon. In many ways, the barren and desolate landscape of Komodo befits these prehistoric-looking inhabitants, as they wander among the burnt grasslands and savanna trees. Lunch is served on the boat at Pink beach where you can enjoy some spectacular snorkeling, with the iridescent water set against the dry island, seemingly full of life. You will then head to Rinca island to search for more dragons before returning to the lodge.



Day 12

After a relaxed morning, you are flown back to Bali where you can enjoy a farewell meal before departing tomorrow.

Day 13

Today is at leisure before you are transferred to the airport for your flight home.

Date

Dates 2012

10th to 22nd June
03rd to 15th September

Dates 2013

16th to 28th June
08th to 20th September

Main tour cost

*From £2,695.00 per person 2012 in twin share excluding international flights from the UK

*From £2,895.00 per person 2013 in twin share excluding international flights from the UK

*Based on availability and 10 people travelling.

INCLUDES

Transfers and domestic flights, all accommodation, meals (except lunch on day 2 and lunch and dinner on day 13), activities as shown, park entry fees, local leaders, local boat transport and transfers where required. A donation to SIES.

EXCLUDES

All international flights from the UK Visas, vaccinations, travel insurance (mandatory), drinks, laundry, telephone calls, personal expenses and gratuities, meals other than those shown.

TRAVELING FROM OUTSIDE THE UK

We are happy to quote you either in US Dollars or Euros – with or without flights - to the destination city. Due to recent currency fluctuations, we will quote you separately for this. However, please contact us for more details.

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

If you are happy to share accommodation with a fellow traveller of the same sex then you will not be charged a single supplement for your holiday. This is of course dependent on there being another same sex traveller on the trip who is also wanting to share. If we cannot find a partner with whom you can share then unfortunately we will be left with no choice but to pass on the single supplement, imposed by the properties we are using. We will endeavour to keep this supplement to a minimum. Naturally should you wish to have a single room then this is possible by simply opting to pay the single supplement as per the itinerary.

The cost for a guaranteed single room is £395pp 2012 and £495pp 2013

Important information

Travel in Indonesia

Please remember that this tour visits areas in rural Indonesia, where tourism infrastructure is very limited and services and facilities are very different from those in the west. Delays and unexpected changes are very much part of travelling in this part of the world and it is important that you remain flexible. However, for those prepared to venture off-the-beaten-track, you will find that this trip offers some fantastic wildlife experiences.

Level of Participation

As the rehabilitation programme is ongoing in the region, under no circumstances will you be allowed physical contact with the wildlife. Please respect the wishes of our hosts and the welfare of the animals themselves by adhering to this rule.

Accommodation, Food & Alcohol

The lodges we use are clean and comfortable. All rooms are en suite with showers and toilets and are either air-conditioned or have ceiling fans. All have mosquito nets, bedding and towels. It is important to remember, however, that you will be staying in areas of true wilderness and solar power is used in keeping with many of the Lodge's ethos of eco-tourism. With this in mind, hot water can be erratic, so please use it sparingly. A flexible attitude and sense of humour are essential. Meals are simple but plentiful and are typically Indonesian, with lots of rice and an abundance of tropical, seasonal fruit. Vegetarians are easily catered for. Please note, the Rimba Lodge does NOT stock beer, only local wine which, whilst palatable, can be very expensive. If you wish to drink alcohol, please bring it with you prior to arrival.

Vaccinations And Visas

It is your responsibility to obtain a visa for Indonesia. At present, assuming you hold a UK or US passport, a visa for 30 days is granted on arrival and costs around \$50. A full passport is required and must be valid for up to six months after the return date of travel. If you are traveling on a passport of any other nationality, please refer to the website of your own Indonesian Embassy in your country of residence. We recommend the following inoculations: Typhoid, Tetanus, Hepatitis A and Polio. Rabies is present in Borneo (but not in the Pangkalan Bun region) and Malaria is also present. However, we strongly recommend you consult your local GP prior to traveling.

Age Restrictions

Participants must be aged 18 and over for this particular group tour.

Weather

We operate our group tours during peak season, which runs from June to September, when there is less chance of rain. However, short storms can be expected at all times of year and temperatures in the rainforest are warm and the humidity is high. You will need to get accustomed to the humidity. Drinking plenty of water is necessary at all times of year.

Essential Items

Once the booking is confirmed, we will provide you with a very comprehensive trip dossier, which will include information on clothing and equipment and details on visas, vaccinations and other travel requirements.

Fitness and Health

In order to enjoy this trip at its best, a very good level of fitness is required. You will potentially be walking for long periods of time, through a challenging rainforest environment in very high humidity. We **STRONGLY** recommend all our clients undertake a regular exercise programme prior to departure to ensure they are not left behind and miss out on tracking the orangutans. However, the trip is very much designed to allow people to enjoy the walking at a comfortable pace and to enjoy the flora and fauna en-route.

Our commitment

Save Indonesia's Endangered Species works with communities and local Indonesian initiatives in long term development projects to support the conservation of national parks, protected areas and other wild places of Indonesia.



SIES seeks out local Indonesian conservationists in private or government employment and NGOs and supports and empowers their ideas and efforts through education, project support and ecotourism. There are many Indonesian conservationists who flourish with ideas, commitment and energy if they are engaged, empowered and supported. The most passionate force to protect Indonesian endangered species is within the country itself. This tour includes a donation to allow SIES to continue their much needed work – for more information on SIES, please look at their website, <http://siesfund.org>

Our travel partners, accommodation, service providers and ground agents are all carefully chosen for their commitment to the environment, with most being quality, family-owned businesses, reflecting the unique character of the places, the abiding hospitality of the people and the remarkable spirit of the wilderness.

Now come along and see for yourself. With us it won't cost the earth!

Want to discuss this trip?



Please call **Chris** on **(00 44) 1285 880 936** for more details or e-mail him on chris@steppediscovery.co.uk to make a booking.

Having travelled extensively through Indonesia, including Java, Sumatra, Bali (and the surrounding islands,) Sulawesi and Borneo, Chris has developed a passion and understanding for these wild and captivating areas. Having come face to face with orangutans and rhino's in the country, he will be more than happy to share his enthusiasm for one of Asia's most fascinating regions.
