

EXPLORE!



Volcanoes, Dragons and Beaches
12 days

Indonesia - Trip code KM

Volcanoes, Dragons and Beaches

This adventurous trip showcases the islands of Bali, Flores and Komodo. Enjoy spiritual Ubud, the cultural heart of Bali before heading east to the lesser visited island of Flores. Travel through scenery lush with jungle, paddy fields and dramatic volcanoes, stopping to walk through tribal villages, and admire views of picturesque lakes and volcanoes. Board a boat for a night on the waters of the Komodo archipelago, stopping on Komodo and Rinca islands to search for the infamous Komodo dragon. End with time to relax on the golden sand beaches of Bali.

Trip highlights

- ★ **Ubud** - Visit a temple in traditional Balinese style
- ★ **Volcano Hike** - Climb Kelimutu Volcano for stunning views of three crater lakes
- ★ **Tribal Villages** - Walk through traditional villages on the unspoilt island of Flores
- ★ **Komodo National Park** - Look for Komodo dragons and overnight on a boat
- ★ **Bali beach** - Relax on the golden sand beaches of Sanur on Bali with the chance to explore Lembongan Island

ACCOMMODATION GRADE:

Standard

Our standard, mid-range accommodation offers a good level of service, often with other amenities such as a restaurant, bar, garden or swimming pool. Generally rooms will be comfortable with en suite facilities.

TRIP PACE:**Moderate**

Moderate pace tours are ideal if you want a holiday which combines exciting activities and experiences with plenty of time to relax and unwind. Typically you'll be active and busy for part of the day but then also have time to rest and recharge your batteries.

GROUP SIZE:**12 - 18**

Maximum group size ranges from between 6 to 20 people, depending on the type of trip, the transport and accommodation used and activities included. We rarely have groups that are smaller than five or six people and the average is 12 people plus an Explore leader.

Itinerary

Itineraries on some departure dates may differ, please select the itinerary that you wish to explore.

DAY 1 - Tour starts in Ubud, the cultural heart of Bali

Arrive in Ubud and check-in at the hotel. Located around 200-300 metres above sea level Ubud is surrounded by terraced paddy fields and is well known as the cultural heart of the island of Bali. The village itself is today a busy hive of artistic activity with many shops selling locally made bamboo furniture, wood and stone carvings, paintings and other arts and crafts. Traditional Hindu-Balinese dance performances take place most evenings.



Accommodation: Nick's Pension Hotel Bali (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: None

DAY 2 - From Ubud, visit a temple in traditional Balinese style, and walk to ancient Royal tombs

This morning we make our way to a local project, where we meet the staff who will help us create Balinese temple offerings, typically made up of small palm leaf baskets filled with flowers and rice, which we take with us to Tirta Empul temple. Here we have the opportunity to experience the ritual of entering a temple as a local Balinese would. We change into traditional dress and ask permission to enter by placing our offerings at the entrance. Here we may also bathe in the holy waters. We advise you dress in a white shirt or blouse for this day - you will be loaned a Balinese sarong for the duration of the visit to the temple.

From here we continue north to Gunung Kawi, where we walk down towards the Pakarisan River, along around 100 steps, to see beautiful 11th century Royal tombs cut into a sheer cliff face. We then make our way back up the steps to re-join our bus and return to the local project where we can enjoy lunch, before returning to Ubud for some for time in the afternoon - an ideal opportunity to explore the shops and market, or simply relax at the hotel.



Accommodation: Nick's Pension Hotel Bali (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast & Lunch

DAY 3 - Fly from Bali to Flores; drive through picturesque countryside to Moni

Today we fly to Ende on eastern Flores Island. On arrival we embark on a scenic 3 hour drive. Our journey takes us through a picturesque landscape of rice fields, coffee plantations and olive trees as well as small villages. We wind our way to Moni, our base from where we climb Kelimutu volcano, we drive alongside a river and see a beautiful gorge as we climb through the mountains to our destination.



Accommodation: Kelimutu Eco Lodge (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 4 - From Moni, climb Kelimutu volcano for views of three crater lakes

We have early start today as we make our way to the base of Kelimutu volcano. We climb to the summit for an unforgettable sunrise panorama. The walk takes around 30-40 minutes over a series of steps interspersed with flatter sections, the final 10-15 minutes covers 127 relatively steep steps. Our reward at the summit, on a clear day, is the view of three crater lakes; some of the most spectacular in the world. The names of the lakes translate to Lake of Old People, Lake of Young Men and Maidens, and Bewitched or Enchanted Lake.

The latter two lakes are in close proximity and share a crater wall, but the most outstanding feature of these lakes is their differing colours, depending on the changing mineral content of the water at any given time. You may see a turquoise lake next to a black one! It is then no surprise that this area of stunning and unusual natural beauty was once an important place for spiritual rituals. After some time to enjoy this beautiful place we make the journey back down off the volcano and return to Moni. Here we have some free time to see traditional Lionese ethnic minority houses, stone seats and a sacred cemetery in the village, or simply return to the hotel to relax.



Accommodation: Kelimutu Eco Lodge (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 5 - Scenic drive to the hill town of Bajawa

Today we leave the mountains behind as we head to the south east coast back to Ende, from where we drive along the coast past a stunning green stone beach, before winding our way back uphill to Bajawa, surrounded by lush jungle covered slopes and volcanoes. Bajawa is the spiritual heartland of the Ngada tribal people, who are made up from five tribal groups living in the surrounding area, each with their own customs, language, beliefs and traditional dress.



Accommodation: Edelweis Hotel (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 6 - From Bajawa, hike through traditional Ngada tribal villages

This morning we drive to Wolobobo, from where we enjoy magnificent views of Ebulobo and Inerie volcanoes. Continuing on we drive to the foot of Inerie from where we take an easy walk through several small traditional Ngada villages with a local guide. The largest village is Bena, where we find megalithic stones along with offering and meeting places in between rows of stilt houses with steep thatched grass roofs. Walking through the village gives a sense of going back in time.

The Ngada retain their animist beliefs after having been essentially forced to convert to Catholicism by Dutch missionaries in the 1920s, hence images of Jesus and Mary feature amidst pig jaws, buffalo horns and tribal art! From a viewpoint we can overlook the village, the volcano and the blue waters of the Sawu Sea, before we continue on and take a short walk to another traditional village called Luba, before returning to Bajawa.



Accommodation: Edelweis Hotel (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 7 - Drive through the beautiful countryside of central Flores to Ruteng

We spend the day making our way through a stunning landscape, passing dense jungle, active volcanoes and the rice fields of central Flores as we make our way west across the island. Finally we reach our destination of Ruteng in the district of Mangarai. This mainly Catholic city located at an altitude of 1170 metres above sea level and surrounded by paddy fields enjoys a cooler climate. We overnight here before our boat expedition into the Komodo archipelago.



Accommodation: Santa Maria Berduka (or similar)



Simple Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 8 - Cruise to Rinca Island for Komodo dragon safari walk; overnight on boat

This morning we make our way to the harbour and board our boat. All our meals for our two day cruise will be prepared and served on board, the first one being a lunch as we head off to our first port of call. We disembark on Rinca Island itself and meet with some of the national park's rangers (one ranger per group of five), who will lead us carefully along a trail into Komodo dragon territory to see if we can spot them. Komodo dragons, known locally as 'ora', are highly dangerous giant lizards reaching up to lengths of over 3.5 metres and weighing up to 150 kilos, more usually though they are around 2.5 metres in length.

Hidden in the undergrowth the Komodo dragons wait patiently for their prey, such as deer and water buffalo - which we are likely to see in the national park - and when the time is right they ambush their victim and bite into them releasing a toxic venom from glands within their lower jaw causing a slow death. We walk for around two hours across a relatively flat terrain covering around 5km. Komodo dragons are likely to be seen in greater numbers after the mating season which takes place between May and August.

We overnight on our private boat in simple shared accommodation, made up of double and single bunk beds in two mixed-sex cabins. Facilities include two toilets and a salt water shower, with a limited amount of fresh water for bathing. You may choose to sleep on deck under the stars as we anchor for the night.



Accommodation: Overnight Boat: Bintang Laut - Komodo National Park (or similar)



Simple Boat



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 9 - Cruise to Komodo Island for Komodo dragon safari walk; snorkelling and swimming off Pink Beach

This morning we make our way to Komodo Island itself where we take another safari walk with national park rangers to spot the Komodo dragons, and learn a little more about these imposing beasts.

Afterwards we make a short cruise to the beautiful Pink Beach, which take its name from the pink sand created from red coral. The beach itself is small but very picturesque and sees relatively few visitors. There are pockets of shade under some trees to chill out when not taking a dip in the shallow ocean water. Not to be missed, however, is the snorkelling on the spectacularly colourful coral reef a short swim from the beach. For those without their own snorkelling equipment this can be hired in advance from Labuan Bajo.

Komodo National Park was listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site in 1986 and includes the islands of Komodo, Rinca, Gili Mota, Nusa Kode and Padar. This diverse marine area boasts over a 1,000 species of fish, 260 species of reef building coral as well as a significant amount of other marine life.

After lunch we return to Labuan Bajo for the night before our return to Bali.



Accommodation: Puri Sari Beach Hotel (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast & Lunch

DAY 10 - Free morning; Fly to Bali and drive to Sanur Beach

The morning is free, either to relax at the hotel or perhaps to explore the small town and market of Labuan Bajo. This afternoon we fly back to Bali and drive to the beach at Sanur where we can relax for a day before our tour ends.



Accommodation: Puri Sading (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 11 - Free time at Sanur Beach; opportunity to visit Lembongan Island or explore East Bali

The day is free for you to choose how to spend it. You may wish to relax on the golden sand beaches of Sanur or explore the souvenir shops, cozy bars and small restaurants of the village itself. Alternatively, you can take a boat excursion to the nearby island of Lembongan, and spend the day snorkelling, taking a tour of the mangroves by canoe and relaxing on one of the island's many sandy beaches. Another option is a tour of East Bali starting with a cultural Barong dance performance, a visit to the bat cave of Goa Lawa, a walk through the traditional village of Tengagan and a visit to the water palace of Tritagangga.



Accommodation: Puri Sading (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



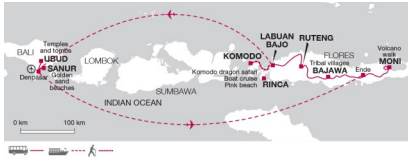
Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 12 - Tour ends in Sanur

Our tour ends after breakfast.



Meals Provided: Breakfast



Why book this trip

This is the perfect trip for travellers who want to experience the diversity of three of Indonesia's many islands. Not only will you see the more commercial side of beautiful Bali but head east to the less visited island of Flores with its volcanoes and tribal people. This holiday is perfect for the adventurous traveller who is happy to rough it for a night on a boat and enjoys being active. And of course you will hopefully see a Komodo Dragon along the way!

What's included?



Included meals

Breakfast: 11
Lunch: 3
Dinner: 1



Transport

Bus
Boat
Flight



Trip staff

Explore Tour Leader
Boat Crew
Driver(s)
Ranger(s)



Accommodation

1 nights simple boat
9 nights standard hotel
1 nights simple hotel

Trip information

Country information

Indonesia

Climate

Lying on the equator, Indonesia stays hot all year round, with daytime temperatures in the 80's (26°-28°C). Humidity is usually high. The wet seasons are roughly: Java- October to April; Bali- November to May; starting later the further east you travel. Nights are much cooler in the mountains than on the plains. Sea breezes normally keep the coastal strips of the islands from becoming too uncomfortable.

Time difference to GMT

+7

Plugs

2 Pin Round

Religion

Islam, Christian, Hindu

Language

Indonesian (official), numerous regional dialects, Sundanese, Javanese and some English.

Optional activities

The following excursions and/or activities are usually available and may be arranged locally. Estimated costs are provided below for guidance only, are on a per person basis unless shown otherwise, and may depend on the number of participants. Prices quoted are correct as of the date these tour notes were originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations. Please note: These activities are booked and paid for direct with the supplier and do not form part of your Explore holiday contract.

Lembongan Island - IDR 1,467,000, East Bali day trip: IDR 738,000, Massage (Labuan Bajo) IDR 190,000

Clothing

The region is tropical (humid) and days can be very hot. Casual clothes are the most practical, whilst tight fitting garments should be avoided. Please bring long skirts, trousers and shirts to cover yourself fully in order to respect local sensibilities and please bear in mind that short shorts are generally unacceptable. If you have a white shirt or blouse please bring it along for the temple experience, but this is not compulsory. Bring some warmer layers for the time spent at higher altitudes. Light rain gear and/or an umbrella is excellent in sticky, tropical conditions. A sunhat is essential as is swimwear. Long trousers and loose tops in light neutral colours are recommended for the Komodo walking safaris.

Footwear

Comfortable walking shoes, trainers and sandals.

Luggage

20kg

Equipment

Binoculars, torch, water bottle, insect repellent, high factor suncream (at least factor 15), good quality sunglasses and a lip salve with sun protection. You may also wish to bring your own snorkel and mask for snorkelling off Pink Beach.

Tipping

Explore leader

At your discretion you might also consider tipping your Tour Leader in appreciation of the efficiency and service you receive.

Local crew

Although entirely voluntary, tipping is a recognized part of life in this region of the world. Some local staff look to members of the group for personal recognition of particular services provided.

Accordingly you should allow approx. £35 for gratuities for local staff.

Country Information

Indonesia

Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Lunch price

£5

Dinner price

£9

Beer price

£1

Water price

£0.5

Foreign Exchange

Local currency

Rupiah (Rp).

Recommended Currency For Exchange

GBP will often get the best rates, EUR and USD are also accepted

Where To Exchange

Always check rates first. Banks and moneychangers usually have the best rates. Exchange is also possible at airports. Always keep receipts.

ATM Availability

In major towns.

Credit Card Acceptance

In major towns.

Travellers Cheques

Travellers Cheques are accepted but require the purchase receipt. Well known brands and higher denominations are recommended.

Transport, Accommodation & Meals

Transport Information

Bus, Boat, Flight

Accommodation notes

Booking a Single Room

All of our group tours are planned and operated on a twin-share basis, meaning that the standard cost is based either on individual travellers sharing accommodation with another group member of the same sex, or people who book together sharing accommodation. Please refer to the tour notes where the single room option availability is detailed on a night by night basis for this tour, and the price for the available nights is detailed on the dates & prices tab by departure date. For Self-Guided trips the Single Room supplement offers the option of a single room each and is charged per person. The Single Room supplement also applies to the third person in a party of three that will be accommodated in a single room.

We overnight on our private boat in simple shared accommodation, made up of double and single bunk beds in two mixed-sex cabins. Facilities include two toilets and a salt water shower, with a limited amount of fresh water for bathing. You may choose to sleep on deck under the stars as we anchor for the night.

Please also note that due to the remote nature of Bajawa, the region is prone to frequent power cuts. Water here is pump-driven, so on an occasion there is a power cut there may also be no running water.

Essential Information

FCO Advice

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office advice [click here](#).

For more information from Explore about travel advice, [click here](#)

Under 18 immigration guidance

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

Price Guarantee

Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee the price will not increase, whatever the circumstances. Before booking please ensure you have read our important tour pricing information. [Booking Conditions](#)

Visa and Passport Information

Indonesia: British nationals travelling to Indonesia for tourism purposes can enter the country without a visa for up to 30 days at certain ports of entry including international airports in Jakarta, Yogyakarta, Bali, Medan, Surabaya and Batam, and sea ports in Batam and Bintan. If travelling on a free visa you must also exit via one of these approved ports.

All passports must have at least 6 months validity remaining after departure from Indonesia.

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may consider applying through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. See www.travcour.com to download the relevant visa application for your trip, if applicable (UK citizens only), along with details of how to apply for your visa through Travcour. The Team at Travcour will be happy to answer specific questions relating to visa applications, please call them directly on 0208 5431846.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of a full passport, with the correct validity for your chosen destination.

Booking conditions

Before booking your Explore trip, please ensure that you read both our Essential Information and Booking Conditions.

Transfers

[Find out more about Trip Transfer Terms and Conditions before you book.](#)

Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found below in the dates and prices information.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer.

Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will now receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The transfers will be from the Explore designated airport or train station to the joining point of your tour, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Polar, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer [click here](#)

Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. The cost of many of our Polar Voyages will exceed the capped amount covered by standard insurance premiums and you will be required to pay an additional premium to cover the full value of your trip. Please ensure that you are covered for the full amount of your holiday cost, as insufficient cover could invalidate a claim under the policy. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom. Read more information about what travel insurance is required.

Flight information

Explore offers a wide range of flexible flying options to make joining and leaving our trips easy. Read more about them [here](#).

Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

Indonesia

Vaccinations

Nothing compulsory, but we recommend protection against malaria, tetanus, infectious hepatitis, typhoid and polio. Consult your travel clinic for latest advice on Malaria and Zika Virus. Please take preventative measures to avoid mosquito bites - these include mosquito repellent as well as long trousers and long sleeve shirts to cover up when necessary. Although not compulsory, travellers may wish to immunise themselves against Japanese encephalitis. Please check the latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at [Explore Travel Health](#) and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed by you before travelling.
