



## **Tico Tours** **Sulawesi & Halmahera: Endemics**

### **Duration- 21 Days**

Expect 300+ species

#### **Day 1: Jakarta/Bali - Makassar**

Arrive in Makassar South Sulawesi at the Hasanudin airport from Jakarta or other international port entry in Indonesia. If time is permitted then we can go birding at nearby fishponds to see *Woolly-necked Stork*, *White-shouldered Triller*, and other shore birds.

Overnight in a hotel near Hasanudin airport. (D)

#### **Day 2: Karaenta forest - Makassar - Palu - Lore Lindu National Park**

We will arise early morning and drive into Karaenta National Park for seeing *Sulawesi Dwarf Hornbill*, *Black-ringed White-eye*, *Piping Crow*, and the yet to be described *Muscicapa Flycatcher*. Stop on the way to Bantimurung National Park, where we can see breeding cage of butterflies. Transfer to the airport for our flight to Palu (the capital city of Central Sulawesi), onwards driving to Rama Garden hotel for overnight. Afternoon birding around Palu valley.

Overnight in at Rama Garden Hotel near the park.

#### **Day 3-5: Lore Lindu National Park.**

Lore Lindu National Park (2290 square kilometers) is home to almost 80% of Sulawesi's endemic birds. The park is elevated to an altitude of 2,350 meters and includes spectacular montane rainforest around Mount Rorekatimbu. The lowland forest in the park has become badly degraded, so it is the higher-altitude endemic birds that we will concentrate on here.

We will spend three days exploring montane species at Lore Lindu National Park, including *Purple-bearded Bee-eater*, *Satanic Nightjar*, *Geomalia*, *Sombre Pigeon*, *Red-eared Fruit Dove*, *Golden-mantled Racquet Tail*, *Golden-mantled Racquet Tail*, *Sulawesi Serpent Eagle*, *Pygmy Cuckoo-shrike*, *Grey-headed Imperial Pigeon*, *Sulawesi Ground Dove*, *Great Shortwing*, *Maroon-backed*

*Whistler, Olive-flanked Whistler, and Greater Honey-eater* should be seen along Anaso track.

Salibu forest, Lake Taming, and Padaeha roadside should produce other endemic species such as *Sulawesi Cicadabird, Piping Crow, Knobbed Hornbill, Rufous-throated Flycatcher, Blue-fronted Flycatcher, Sulawesi Thrush, Crimson-crowned Flycatcher, Caerulean Cuckoo-shrike, Malia, Sulawesi Babbler, Lesser Honey-eater, Small Sparrow-hawk, White-bellied Imperial Pigeon, Ivory-backed Wood-swallow, Sulawesi Goshawk, White-necked Myna, Fiery-browed Myna, Yellow-billed Malkoha, Speckled Boobook, Cinnabar Boobook, and Streak-headed Dark-eye.*

Overnight in the guesthouse

#### **Day 6: Lore Lindu National Park - Palu**

After breakfast drive down to Palu. Birding along the way. Salt ponds and rice fields are good place for Mynas and shore birds.

Night in Swiss-bell Hotel

#### **Day 7: Palu – Manado (Via Makassar) - Tangkoko Nature Reserve**

We will travel by Air to Manado via Makassar, onwards driving to Tangkoko Nature reserve. Despite the small size of Tangkoko Nature Reserve, it is home to 9 Kingfisher species!! It is also the place where you have the best chance of seeing the elusive *Red-Backed Thrush* and the *Small Sulawesi Hanging Parrot*. Our trips here include spotlighting at night, which provides the opportunity to see one of Sulawesi's most curious animals and the smallest mammal on earth - the Spectral Tarsier. We may also encounter Black Macaque monkeys.

Overnight at Mama Roos homestay near park

#### **Day 8: Tangkoko Nature Reserve (North Sulawesi)**

Full day of birding in the park. We will start birding in the early morning and will spend the day looking for *Green-backed Kingfisher, Lilac-cheeked Kingfisher, Ruddy Kingfisher, Dwarf Kingfisher, Red-bellied Pitta, Hooded Pitta, Spotted-tailed Goshawk, Blue-backed Parrot, Philippine/Tabon Scrubfowl, Bay Coucal, Stephan's Dove, Emerald Dove, Red-backed Thrush, Grey-sided Flowerpecker, and Yellow-sided Flowerpecker.*

Overnight at Mama Roos homestay

**Day 9: Tangkoko Nature Reserve**

Full day of birding in the park. We should connect with *Sulawesi Scops-owl* and *Yellow-breasted Racquet-tail*. In the afternoon, we use a boat for birding on Mangrove forest along Lembeh Strait looking for *Sulawesi Masked Owl*, roosting on a cliff, *Grey Heron*, *Pied Imperial Pigeon*, *Blue Rock Thrush*, *Little Tern*, and with luck, *Great-billed Kingfisher*. We will also observe night birds including *Sulawesi Nightjar* and *Sulawesi Scopsowl* as well as tarantulas.

Overnight at Mama Roos

**Day 10: Tangkoko - Kotamobagu - Gunung Ambang**

After breakfast, we will bird along the roadside of Temboan Hill, then head for Kotamobagu, near Bogani Nani Wartabone National Park. The trip will take around 5 hours. Afternoon birding at Gunung Ambang for highland species including the rare *Matinan Flycatcher* and *Cinnabar Boobook*, the boobook was described only as recently as 1999 and its calls only described in 2005. This bird has still been seen by just a handful of birders! We may also look for the rare and endemic *Scaly-breasted Kingfisher*.

Bogani Nani Wartabone National Park (formerly known as "Dumoga-Bone") comprises 3000 square kilometers of protected tropical jungle and ranges from sea level to 1920 meters. It supports a large proportion of the wildlife that is found at low to middle altitudes on Sulawesi. Birds here include the equally spectacular *Sulawesi Serpent Eagle* and *Sulawesi Hawk Eagle*, *Golden-mantled* and *Yellow-breasted Racquet-tails*, *Knobbed* and *Sulawesi Hornbills* and *Purple-winged Roller*.

Overnight at Patra Jasa or Senator Hotel

**Day 11: Bogani Nani Wartabone National Park**

We will arise early in the morning and drive to Tambun where we should see the endemic *Maleo* on its nesting ground. We also should see *Red-bellied Pitta*, *Sulawesi Goshawk*, *Isabelline Bush-hen*, *Black-billed Koel*, *Wandering Whistling-Duck*, *Bay Coucal* and *Black-naped Monarch*.

Afternoon birding at Tapakolintang and Toraut for seeing *Maroon-chinned Fruit-dove*, *Isabelline Bush-hen*, *Ochre-bellied Boobook*, *Speckled Boobook*, and *Sulawesi Black Pigeon* (all endemic species).

**Day 12-13: Bogani Nani Wartabone National Park**

Still birding in the park. Toraut forest and Molibagu roadside all good places for many endemic species.

Overnight in the hotel

**Day 14: Gunung Ambang - Kotamobagu - Tomohon**

This morning we will again visit Gunung Ambang for chance to hear the morning calls of *Matinan Flycatcher*, and with luck, *Scaly-breasted Kingfisher*.

We will return to the hotel, pack our stuff, then the journey continues to Tomohon with stop at Woloan village, where we can see traditional wooden houses designed with Minahasan motif called modular home.

Overnight Onong's Palace in the Minahasa Highlands. Here we will have time for shopping, emails, and phone calls.

**Day 15: Tomohon - Ternate - Sidangoli/Halmahera**

Transfer to the airport, for flight to Ternate (North Maluku), onwards via a speedboat to Sidangoli, Birding on mangrove forest to see *Beach Kingfisher*. After lunch go birding along logging road of Kali Batu Putih/KBP for seeing *Long-billed Crow*, *Blue-capped Fruit Dove*, *Red-cheeked Parrot*, *Goliath Coucal*, *Eclectus Parrot*, *Gurney's Eagle*, *Shining Flycatcher*, *Spectacled Monarch*, *Golden Bulbul*, *Blyth's Hornbill*, *Moluccan Boobook*, *Moluccan Scops-owl* and *Moluccan Owlet-nightjar*.

Stay at a guesthouse (very basic accommodation)

**Day 16: Sidangoli - KBP - Malifut**

Depart early morning and birding along roadside Kilometers 11-12. Exploring endemic species such as *Sombre Kingfisher*, *Paradise Crow*, *Halmahera Cuckoo-shrike*, *Chattering Lory*, *Spectacled Imperial Pigeon*, *Cinnamon-bellied Imperial Pigeon*, *Halmahera Flowerpecker*, *Violet-necked Lory*, *Blue and White Kingfisher*, *Scarlet-breasted Fruit-dove*, and *Grey-headed Fruit-dove*. Journey will be continued on driving to Lame forest, birding along roadside where is chance to see *Moluccan Goshawk*, *White Cockatoo*, *Paradise Kingfisher*, *Moluccan Hanging Parrot*, *Moluccan Cuckoo-shrike*, *Ivory-breasted Pitta*, and *Cream-throated White-eye*. After lunch birding along the beach to see shore birds.

Stay in a guesthouse at Malifut village

**Day 17: Malifut - Daru - Foli**

We will arise early in the morning and drive to Daru, then onwards via a boat across to Foli. Arrive in Foli, then continue walking along logging road then into deep forest to witness the incredible lek display of *Standardwing* (Bird of Paradise).

Night in a guesthouse at Foli village, or return to the accommodation at Malifut

**Day 18: Foli - Daru - Tobelo**

Today is second day exploring for Standardwing (if we missed the day before) and other endemic species of Halmahera. Then return to Daru where a vehicle will be waiting for driving us to Tobelo. Stop at Kali Paca as an easy birding site nearby roadside. Check-in at Elisabeth Inn in Tobelo town. We may make a late afternoon trip using a paddling canoe through the mangrove forest before reaching a black sandy beach at Pantai Simau on Galela. Here is a chance to see *Moluccan Scrubfowl*. With luck and right season only can see this megaphode.

Night at Elisabeth Inn

**Day 19: Tobelo - Sidangoli - Ternate**

After breakfast, we will drive to Sidangoli and then via a speedboat to Ternate.

Check-in and overnight at Amara International Hotel

**Day 20: Ternate - Manado - Bunaken Island**

Transfer to the airport for a flight return to Manado, then onwards via a speedboat across Bunaken Marine National Park. Here, you can do snorkeling or scuba diving and have time to relax after a long and satisfying birding trip.

Night at Daniel's cottage on Bunaken Island

Day 21: Bunaken - Manado - Airport.

After breakfast we return to Manado City. Shopping and emailing before heading to airport for your return home. (Breakfast included).

***Price (based on 4 persons) \$4317.85 USD***

Due to currency fluctuations and fuel cost we reserve the right to adjust any pricing prior to departure if necessary.

Bookings require a 50% deposit, balance due one month prior to tour departure.

**Includes:**

All transportation, accommodation (based on a shared room), 3 Meals per Day + Mineral Water, English speaking guide, park permits, conservation fees, domestic flight as stated in itinerary.

**Does not include:**

Extra beverages in hotel, alcoholic drinks/soft drinks, laundry, phone calls, extra personal expenses, diving fees (Optional) etc. Any kind of expenditures not mentioned on items included and incurred due to flight cancellation/delays or due other causes beyond our control.