



**INDONESIA: SULAWESI AND HALMAHERA –  
SPECTACULAR ENDEMIC BIRDING**

**14 – 31 JULY 2023**



*Maleo, the only member of the monotypic genus Macrocephalon in the Megapode family, is endemic to the island of Sulawesi. We will be looking for it on this tour.*

This small-group birding tour of Indonesia visits the two endemic-filled islands of Sulawesi and Halmahera. These two islands straddle the equator and sit between the islands of Borneo to the west and New Guinea to the east. They also offer some of the best birding on the planet.

Sulawesi, accessed through its capital city Makassar, in the southwest of this interestingly-shaped island (also a convenient international arrivals entry point into Indonesia and the start/end point of our tour) is the westernmost of the two islands and is part of the Greater Sundas (along with Borneo, Sumatra, and Java). The other island, Halmahera, is more Australasian in nature and is part of the North Maluku Islands (also known as the Moluccas). We enter Halmahera through the town of Sofifi, reached by boat from the small island of Ternate, to the west of Halmahera (the closest airport to Sofifi).

This tour provides some incredible birding opportunities with a dose of adventure too, likely to leave you with a firm desire to explore further throughout this bird-filled Indonesian archipelago. Both islands are to the east of the famous Wallace Line, an invisible faunal boundary line which divides the biogeographical realms of Asia and Wallacea (a transitional zone between Asia and Australia) and named after the British naturalist Alfred Russel Wallace.

The avifauna of Sulawesi and Halmahera is distinctly Wallacean, headlined by the bizarre mound-nesting megapode **Maleo** on Sulawesi and the **Standardwing** (also known as Wallace's Standardwing or Standardwing Bird-of-paradise), whose raucous calls echo through the forest on Halmahera, as they bounce around their display leks – a magical sight.



*We will visit a lek of the rather unique (Wallace's) **Standardwing**, a range-restricted bird-of-paradise and one of many spectacular birds we will look for on Halmahera.*

The birding on these islands is excellent, with a variety of stunningly colored endemic kingfishers which illuminate the forest in the Sulawesi lowlands (such as **Lilac Kingfisher**,



**Green-backed Kingfisher**, and **Sulawesi Dwarf Kingfisher**), the **Hylocitrea** (a highly sought-after monotypic family), the enigmatic **Geomalia** (an aberrant ground thrush), and the **Satanic Nightjar** in the mountains. Further to the aforementioned **Standardwing**, the island of Halmahera also supports the large **Ivory-breasted Pitta**, several spectacular kingfishers such as **Common Paradise Kingfisher**, **Blue-and-white Kingfisher**, and **Sombre Kingfisher**, the unobtrusive **Scarlet-breasted Fruit Dove**, the bizarre **Moluccan Owlet-nightjar** (just one of a multitude of great nightbirds possible on the tour) and a variety of other regional endemics and distinct subspecies. It is highly likely that a number of birds we see on this tour will be further split into new species.

The above is just a few of the potential highlight birds we will be looking for. Some of the many other targets include **Gurney's Eagle**, **Sulawesi Nightjar**, **Purple-bearded Bee-eater**, **Sulawesi Pitta**, **North Moluccan Pitta**, **Invisible Rail**, **Blue-faced Rail**, **Grey-headed Fruit Dove**, **White-necked Myna**, **Red-backed Thrush**, **Ashy Woodpecker**, **Knobbed Hornbill**, **Sulawesi Hornbill**, **Blyth's Hornbill**, **Yellow-billed Malkoha**, **Ochre-bellied Boobook**, **Halmahera Boobook**, **Scaly-breasted Kingfisher**, **Beach Kingfisher**, **Great-billed Kingfisher**, **Azure Dollarbird**, **Sulawesi Blue Flycatcher**, **Great Shortwing**, **Sulawesi Streaked Flycatcher**, **Malia**, **Rufous-bellied Triller**, **Piping Crow**, **Black-ringed White-eye**, **Lompobattang Flycatcher**, (Halmahera) **Paradise-crow** (a member of the bird-of-paradise family), and **Goliath Coucal**. There are also plenty of brightly colored parrots (especially on Halmahera, which has a more Australasian feel than Sulawesi) such as **White Cockatoo**, **Eclectus Parrot**, **Great-billed Parrot**, **Violet-necked Lory**, **Chattering Lory**, **Moluccan King Parrot**, and **Moluccan Hanging Parrot**. A highly rewarding and thoroughly exciting tour is guaranteed here!



*A large **Green-backed Kingfisher** waits patiently for its prey (usually a lizard) low in the forest understorey in northern Sulawesi, where it is an endemic.*

This tour can be combined with our **West Papua: Birds-of-paradise and Endemics of the Arfaks and Waigeo** tour which follows on after this tour and connects with a wide-range of highly sought-after birds-of-paradise such as **Wilson's Bird-of-paradise, King Bird-of-paradise, Arfak Astrapia, Black Sicklebill, Western Parotia** (and many more), as well as a spectacular list of kingfishers such as **Red-breasted Paradise Kingfisher, Yellow-billed Kingfisher, and Hook-billed Kingfisher**, plus fruit doves, parrots, and jewel-babblers to delight.

Following that tour, we also have our **Papua New Guinea: Birding Attenborough's Paradise** tour which seeks out over 20 bird-of-paradise species, such as **Blue Bird-of-paradise, Ribbon-tailed Astrapia, King of Saxony Bird-of-paradise, and Princess Stephanie's Astrapia** as well as numerous sought-after species, many of them endemic, including several monotypic families and endemic families. There are so many staggeringly beautiful birds in this region so why not come exploring with us, we would love to show you around!

## Itinerary (18 days/17 nights)

### Day 1. Arrival in Makassar

A non-birding day. You will be met at Sultan Hasanuddin International Airport, Makassar, after your arrival in Sulawesi and will be transferred to our nearby hotel for the rest of the day at your leisure. We will meet for a group welcome dinner together in the evening.

Overnight: Makassar

### Day 2. Makassar to Malino

After breakfast we will leave the city and drive east towards the town of Malino where we will spend the night. Malino is situated on the edge of the Bantimurung-Burusaraung National Park which unites a number of protected areas together. Much of the park is hilly with seriously impressive karst limestone landscape – you can see this as you fly into the airport in Makassar.

As we leave the city, we will look for some of the interesting species found in Makassar, such as **Pale-bellied Myna, Barred Buttonquail, Woolly-necked Stork, Pale-headed Munia, Chestnut Munia, Scaly-breasted Munia, Clamorous Reed Warbler, Golden-headed Cisticola, Lemon-bellied White-eye, Common Kingfisher, and Javan Pond Heron**, amongst other more widespread and common open-country and farmland birds.

In the afternoon we will commence our first forest birding session where we will hope to find range-restricted endemics such as **Lompobattang Flycatcher, Black-ringed White-eye, Red-eared Fruit Dove, Sulawesi Thrush, and Hylocitrea**. **Hylocitrea** is a major tour target as it is a Sulawesi-endemic, monotypic family; there are two subspecies and both are possible on the tour, we have a chance of the other subspecies in the Lore Lindu area. At night we will look for **Sulawesi Scops Owl, Speckled Boobook, and Sulawesi Masked Owl**.

Overnight: Malino

### Day 3. Malino to Rammang-Rammang (via Makassar)

We will spend the morning in the same highland forest area as the previous afternoon and will look for **Lompobattang Flycatcher**, **Black-ringed White-eye**, **Red-eared Fruit Dove**, and **Hylocitrea**, once again, along with other species such as **Piping Crow**, **Bay Coucal**, **Sulawesi Blue Flycatcher**, **Sulawesi Myzomela**, **Sulawesi Fantail**, **Sulawesi Leaf Warbler**, **Malia** – a large (c12 inches/30 centimeters), bizarre and slightly enigmatic endemic bird, that is now considered to be part of the Locustellidae (Grassbirds and Allies) family, **Sulawesi Swiftlet**, **Sulawesi Serpent Eagle**, **Sulawesi Thrush**, **Sulawesi Drongo**, **Black-crowned White-eye**, **Warbling (Mountain) White-eye**, **Sulphur-vented Whistler**, **Spot-tailed Sparrowhawk**, **Golden-mantled Racket-tail**, **Turquoise Flycatcher**, **Citrine Canary-flycatcher**, **Snowy-browed Flycatcher**, **Crimson-crowned Flowerpecker**, **Sulawesi Bush Warbler**, **White-necked Myna**, **Fiery-browed Starling**, and **Dark-eared Myza**.



*White-necked Myna is a stunning yet widespread species on Sulawesi.*

After our morning birding session, we will head back into Makassar then head northeast to the Rammang-Rammang area, another part of the huge Bantimurung-Burusaraung National Park, likely passing through Karenta Forest along the way. Here we will look for **Green-backed Kingfisher** (this area holds a distinct local subspecies and much-touted split as 'Black-headed Kingfisher'), **Sulawesi Streaked Flycatcher** (a species described as recently as 2014), **Yellow-billed Malkoha**, **Sulawesi Pitta**, **Black-ringed White-eye**, **Yellow-sided Flowerpecker**, **Grey-sided Flowerpecker**, **Black Sunbird**, **Black-billed Koel**, **Knobbed Hornbill**, **Sulawesi Hornbill**, **Ashy Woodpecker**, **Piping Crow**, **Sulawesi Babbler**, **Sulawesi Goshawk**, and more.



In the evening we will have another owling session in the area around our ecolodge where we will hope to find **Sulawesi Masked Owl**, **Sulawesi Scops Owl**, **Speckled Boobook**, and **Great Eared Nightjar**.

Overnight: Rammang-Rammang



*There are not many woodpeckers to the east of the Wallace Line, **Ashy Woodpecker** is the largest of them, at 12 inches (30 centimeters) and is endemic to Sulawesi.*

#### **Day 4. Rammang-Rammang to Makassar, then fly to Manado and on to Tangkoko**

We will check out of our lodge and then make our way back to Makassar but go via the Karenta Forest area for our final birding in the Bantimurung-Burusaraung National Park area where we will have another look for **Green-backed** (Black-headed) **Kingfisher**, **Sulawesi Streaked Flycatcher**, **Sulawesi Pitta**, **Piping Crow**, and **Sulawesi Hornbill**, along with the other species listed for the afternoon of day 3.

We will likely grab lunch in one of the many outlets in Makassar airport before we take our short flight north to the town of Manado. On getting through the airport in Manado, we will continue in a northeasterly direction to the village of Batuputih Bawah, close to Tangkoko Batuangus Nature Reserve. We will likely start birding in the local area late in the afternoon after first getting checked in to our accommodation, where we might find **Black Sunbird**, **Brown-throated Sunbird**, **Olive-backed Sunbird**, and **Pale-blue Monarch** in the garden. We will have two full days (days 5 and 6, as well as the morning of day 7 birding the excellent Tangkoko environs and our time here is sure to be a tour highlight).

Overnight: Tangkoko Area, Batuputih Bawah

### Days 5 - 6. Tangkoko area (including Tangkoko Batuangus Nature Reserve, mangrove boat trip, and Temboan Hill areas)

Tangkoko Batuangus Nature Reserve is practically as far north as you can go in Sulawesi, not far from the tip of the Minahassa Peninsula – the long arm that bends out from Palu in central Sulawesi (where we will find ourselves later in the tour!). The geography of this island and adjacent Halmahera is fascinating, and the birds even more so! We are sure to really enjoy ourselves over our two full days here as we bird on foot and by boat as we look for four gorgeous endemic kingfishers: **Sulawesi Dwarf Kingfisher**, **Lilac Kingfisher**, **Green-backed Kingfisher** (the “Green-backed” subspecies rather than the “Black-headed” subspecies referenced in days 3 and 4), and **Great-billed Kingfisher**, along with beauties such as the ginormous **Knobbed Hornbill** and smaller **Sulawesi Hornbill**, gaudy **Sulawesi Pitta**, plus so many others like **Sulawesi Hawk-Eagle**, **Sulawesi Serpent Eagle**, **Sulawesi Goshawk**, **Spot-tailed Goshawk**, **Red-backed Thrush**, **Philippine Megapode**, **Sulawesi Myna**, **White-necked Myna**, **Grosbeak Starling**, **White-rumped Triller**, **Pied Cuckooshrike**, **Sulawesi Cicadabird**, **Grey-rumped Treeswift**, **Yellow-billed Malkoha**, **Purple-winged Roller**, **Bay Coucal**, **Ashy Woodpecker**, **Black-naped Oriole**, **Hair-crested (White-eyed Spangled) Drongo**, **Isabelline Bush-hen**, **Barred Rail**, **Buff-banded Rail**, and maybe even the mythical **Blue-faced Rail**, with some luck.



*On this tour you will see many stunningly beautiful birds, **Knobbed Hornbill** does take that up a notch, this huge bird is gorgeous.*

Parrots, pigeons, and doves are common here and we could see **Yellow-breasted Racket-tail**, **Golden-mantled Racket-tail**, **Blue-backed Parrot**, **Ornate Lorikeet**, **Great Hanging Parrot**, **Pygmy Hanging Parrot**, **Silver-tipped Imperial Pigeon**, **Green Imperial Pigeon**, **White-faced Cuckoo-Dove**, **Black-naped Fruit Dove**, **Oberholser's Fruit Dove**, **Superb Fruit Dove**,



**Grey-cheeked Green Pigeon, Pink-necked Green Pigeon, Sultan's Cuckoo-Dove, Stephan's Emerald Dove, Spotted Dove, and Zebra Dove!**

The park is also great for three really cool mammals, the tiny **Spectral Tarsier** (the smallest monkey in the world), (Sulawesi) **Celebes** (Black-) **Crested Macaque**, and (Sulawesi) **Bear Cuscus** – a marsupial! We are, after all, in that fascinating Wallacean mix-zone between Asia and Australasia.



*The **Celebes Crested Macaque** is a rather interesting mammal, very reminiscent of some of the African primates.*

Nightbirds are usually plentiful here and **Ochre-breasted Boobook**, **Speckled Boobook**, **Minahassa Masked Owl**, **Sulawesi Scops Owl**, **Great Eared Nightjar**, and **Sulawesi Nightjar** are all possible, and we will hope to find some of these on day roosts while we are out birding in the forest too.

Our mangrove boat trip will likely yield a different range of species, this is the best area for the aforementioned **Great-billed Kingfisher**. We will also be on the lookout for **Great-billed Heron**, **Pacific Reef Heron**, **Striated Heron**, **Brahminy Kite**, **White-bellied Sea Eagle**, **White-rumped Cuckooshrike**, **Common Kingfisher**, **Collared Kingfisher**, **Sacred Kingfisher**, **Pied Imperial Pigeon**, **Channel-billed Cuckoo**, **Lesser Frigatebird**, **Slender-billed Crow**, and **Golden-bellied Gerygone**. There may be some early shorebird migrants about too such as **Eurasian Whimbrel**, **Grey-tailed Tattler**, or **Common Sandpiper**.

Overnight (two nights): Tangkoko Area, Batuputih Bawah





*Endemic to Sulawesi, we will hope to find **Ochre-breasted Boobooks** on their day roost, it is worth it just to see their incredibly intense bright yellow piercing eyes!*



***Great-billed Kingfisher** is a shy Sulawesi endemic found in the mangroves. We will take a boat ride during our time in the Tangkoko area to locate this species.*

### Day 7. Tangkoko to Tomohon (Gunung Mahawu)

After a final morning birding the wonderful Tangkoko area, we will travel to the town of Tomohon, located to the south of Manado. We will have a late afternoon birding session on nearby Gunung Mahawu where we will look for the endemic **Scaly-breasted Kingfisher**. We will also be back here the following morning.

Overnight: Tomohon

### Day 8. Tomohon (Gunung Mahawu) to Ternate, then on to Halmahera

We will be back on the mountain at dawn hoping for some great birds. We will likely be greeted by a dawn chorus of booming **White-bellied Imperial Pigeons**, plus some of the following species: **Rusty-breasted Cuckoo**, **Bay Coucal**, **White-faced Cuckoo-Dove**, **Sultan's Cuckoo-Dove**, **Red-eared Fruit Dove**, and **Superb Fruit Dove**. We will search for **Scaly-breasted Kingfisher** and while looking for that we might also find **Purple-bearded Bee-eater**, **Sulawesi Pitta**, **Spot-tailed Sparrowhawk**, **Red-backed Thrush**, **Sulawesi Blue Flycatcher**, **Citrine Canary-flycatcher**, **Rufous-throated Flycatcher**, **Snowy-browed Flycatcher**, **Turquoise Flycatcher**, **Pale-blue Monarch**, **Sulawesi Bush Warbler**, **Sulawesi Pygmy Woodpecker**, **Sulawesi Myzomela**, **Sulphur-vented Whistler**, **Sulawesi Babbler**, **Streak-headed White-eye**, **Warbling (Mountain) White-eye**, **Black-crowned White-eye**, **Crimson Sunbird**, **Yellow-sided Flowerpecker**, **Crimson-crowned Flowerpecker**, and **Grey-sided Flowerpecker**.



*Formerly called Mountain White-eye, following a recent taxonomical reworking of some Zosterops species these birds have now been merged into **Warbling White-eye**, regardless of their English names they are delightful little birds.*



After our morning birding session, we will drive back to Manado where we will board a flight to Ternate in the North Moluccas. Ternate is a spectacular volcano and the flight into the island is well worth having a window seat for! Once through the small airport we will take a short car ride to the harbor where we will board our private speed boat taking us to the town of Sofifi on Halmahera. Once on land we will get into our 4x4 vehicles and start the drive to our base for the next four nights. The drive takes about four hours; we head south out of Sofifi passing through some agricultural land (lots of coconut plantations) and then we will turn east as we go over an impressive mountain range (where we will see some gorgeous rainforest – and potentially stop if we see something very interesting), after reaching the opposite coast we will then head north again, finally reaching our idyllic beachside resort. It will be a long day but well worth it. This area of Halmahera has been chosen as our base as it offers excellent accommodation, great food, fantastic snorkeling during the down time, and most importantly it offers unparalleled birding on the island with all of the island endemics possible in the forest close to the lodge.

Overnight: Weda Bay

### Days 9 - 11. Halmahera Birding

We will have three full days to focus our attention on a range of Halmahera island endemics as well as many North Moluccan regional endemics. Our first morning will see us make an early start to get into the forest before it is properly light, the reason for this is to get in place to wait for the amazing display of (Wallace's) **Standardwing**. This bird-of-paradise does not look like much in the field guides but let us assure you when you see it in real life, it is a stunner!



*Notice the four, white, wing-standards floating about on this (Wallace's) **Standardwing**. The male makes all sorts of interesting noises as it hops around its display perches in the lek, flashing its blue-green breast shield (see photo on page 2) and four white wing-standards.*

There is also a second member of the bird-of-paradise family present on the island, the (Halmahera) **Paradise-crow**. As its name suggests this is a very crow-like bird-of-paradise that has a beautiful duet and makes a wide-range of interesting sounds, alas, it's not the best-looking bird-of-paradise but it is nonetheless a very interesting bird and we will hope for some good views of this one too.

Another big (literally) target is the **Ivory-breasted Pitta**. This is definitely one of the best-looking pittas in the world and is actually, on average, the largest. We will hope for some good views of this one, as well as the smaller and also beautiful, but possibly more secretive **North Moluccan Pitta**. We will also keep our eyes peeled on the ground for **Dusky Megapode**, **Nicobar Pigeon**, and if we are incredibly lucky maybe even the **Invisible Rail** (the clue is in the name!).



*We will hope for a repeat of the excellent views of Ivory-breasted Pitta here.*

The area is full of fruit doves and pigeons and we will look for **Blue-capped Fruit Dove**, **Grey-headed Fruit Dove**, **Superb Fruit Dove**, **Scarlet-breasted Fruit Dove**, **Great Cuckoo-Dove**, **Sultan's Cuckoo-Dove**, **Spectacled Imperial Pigeon**, **Cinnamon-bellied Imperial Pigeon**, and **Pied Imperial Pigeon**. Parrots are abundant here too and over the course of our stay we will hope to get perched views of many, such as **White Cockatoo**, **Moluccan King Parrot**, **Great-billed Parrot**, **Eclectus Parrot**, **Violet-necked Lory**, **Chattering Lory**, **Red-flanked Lorikeet**, **Moluccan Hanging Parrot**, and more!

Kingfishers, too, are very well represented in Halmahera and we will hope to find **Moluccan Dwarf Kingfisher**, **Sombre Kingfisher**, **Common Paradise Kingfisher**, **Azure Kingfisher**, **Sacred Kingfisher**, **Blue-and-white Kingfisher**, and **Beach Kingfisher** – the latter two are possible around our accommodation, watch out for the **Beach Kingfisher** as you take a swim



right outside your room! A common sound here is the huge, heavy wingbeats of **Blyth's Hornbill** and we should get repeated good views of this impressive species. Other large birds often in the area can include **Azure Dollarbird**, **Goliath Coucal** and **Gurney's Eagle**.

There are so many other interesting birds here, and we will build our list of specials, likely finding **Rufous-bellied Triller**, **Halmahera Flowerpecker**, **Dusky-brown** (Halmahera) **Oriole**, **White-streaked Friarbird**, **Dusky Friarbird**, **Black-chinned Whistler**, **Drab Whistler**, **White-naped Monarch**, **Moluccan Monarch**, **Moluccan Flycatcher**, **Moluccan Goshawk**, **Rufous-necked Sparrowhawk**, **Variable Goshawk**, **Moluccan Cuckooshrike**, **Halmahera Cuckooshrike**, **Moluccan Cuckoo**, **Rufous Fantail**, **Island Leaf Warbler**, **Cream-throated** (Halmahera) **White-eye**, **Northern** (Halmahera) **Golden Bulbul**, and **Long-billed Crow**.



*Beach Kingfishers are often right outside our rooms so we will hope for some good views.*

Nightbirds we will search for during our stay include the uncommon **Halmahera Boobook**, **Barking Owl**, **Moluccan Scops Owl**, **Large-tailed Nightjar**, and **Moluccan Owlet-nightjar**. We will hope to see some of these on day roosts, otherwise in early-evening owling sessions.

Overnight (three nights): Weda Bay

## Day 12. Halmahera to Ternate then fly to Makassar

Reluctantly we will leave our lovely beachside resort as we prepare to leave the beautiful and remote island of Halmahera and start our journey back to Sulawesi. Essentially a travel day, we journey by 4x4, speedboat, and plane back to Makassar where we hope to arrive in the afternoon.

Overnight: Makassar

**Day 13. Makassar to Palu then on to Lore Lindu**

We will take a morning flight from Makassar to Palu in central Sulawesi. On leaving the airport we will start our journey to Lore Lindu National Park, our next base for a few nights. Along the way we will likely stop for a few open-country birds such as **Blue-tailed Bee-eater**, **Lemon-bellied White-eye**, **White-shouldered Triller**, **Red Collared Dove**, **Pale-headed Munia**, **Black-faced Munia**, **Chestnut Munia**, and maybe even day-roosting **Savanna Nightjar**.

As we reach the Lore Lindu area we will make some roadside stops where we might find **Red-eared Fruit Dove**, **Fiery-browed Starling**, **Sulawesi Thrush**, **Pygmy Cuckooshrike**, **Cerulean Cuckooshrike**, **Great Shortwing**, and the bizarre **Geomalia** (now considered to be an aberrant ground thrush and not a babbler as previously thought).

Overnight: Lore Lindu Area

**Days 14 - 15. Lore Lindu National Park area (Anaso Track and Lake Tambling area)**

Lore Lindu National Park protects some of the largest tracts of montane rainforests remaining on Sulawesi. We will have two full days here as well as the morning of day 16. We will likely focus our birding attention on two areas while here, the famed Anaso Track (considered a tough hike) and Lake Tambling. There are a lot of new birds for us here with potential highlights including **Hylocitrea** (the monotypic family), **Purple-bearded Bee-eater**, **Geomalia**, **Malia**, **Sulawesi Streaked Flycatcher**, **Sulawesi Woodcock**, and **Satanic Nightjar**.



*The unusual **Geomalia** is usually a shy and secretive bird but we will hope to get some views during our time in Lore Lindu National Park. (Photo Allin Sawuwu)*



Plenty of other highlight species here will make our birding time really exciting with further possibilities including **Snoring Rail**, **Great Shortwing**, **Purple Needletail**, **Sulawesi Pitta**, **Sulawesi Thrush**, **Red-backed Thrush**, **Rufous-throated Flycatcher**, **Blue-fronted Blue Flycatcher**, **Sulawesi Blue Flycatcher**, **Mountain Serin**, **Grey-headed Imperial Pigeon**, **Sombre Pigeon**, **Sulawesi Ground Dove**, **Red-eared Fruit Dove**, **Oberholser's Fruit Dove**, **Scaly-breasted Kingfisher**, **Green-backed Kingfisher**, **Sulawesi Drongo**, **Piping Crow**, **Yellow-billed Malkoha**, **Sulawesi Hornbill**, **Knobbed Hornbill**, **Ivory-backed Woodswallow**, **Sulawesi Goshawk**, **Dwarf Sparrowhawk**, **Spot-tailed Sparrowhawk**, **Sulawesi Masked Owl**, **Minahassa Masked Owl**, **Eastern Grass Owl**, **Speckled Boobook**, **Cinnabar Boobook** (the currently undescribed "White-spotted Boobook" form), **Ashy Woodpecker**, **Sulawesi Pygmy Woodpecker**, **Golden-mantled Racket-tail**, **Citrine Lorikeet**, **Maroon-backed Whistler**, **Streak-headed White-eye**, **Sulawesi Leaf Warbler**, **White-eared Myza**, and **Crimson-crowned Flowerpecker**.

Overnight (two nights): Lore Lindu Area



*Sulawesi Masked Owl is one of several exciting nightbirds possible on the tour.*

## Day 16. Lore Lindu to Palu to Luwuk

We will have a final morning birding around the Lore Lindu National Park area before we drive back to Palu, where we will board our afternoon flight to Luwuk in the east of central Sulawesi. On clearing the airport, we will make the short journey to our comfortable hillside hotel where we will enjoy some excellent views of the bay as we relax before our evening meal.

Overnight: Luwuk

### Day 17. Taima

We will have a long day today as we look for one of the most charismatic birds of Sulawesi. We will make an early start from Luwuk in order to reach Taima on the tip of eastern central Sulawesi in the morning, where we will hope to watch a breeding colony of **Maleo** at fairly close quarters. The set up at this site is great, with jobs provided to local people who help monitor and protect the birds, this has massively reduced hunting pressure on this Endangered (BirdLife International) species. We will view the breeding area (a sandy beach that looks like it has had bombs dropped on it, due to all the nest holes dug by the birds!) from blinds and/or a tower hide depending on whether you like heights or not. We will view the area and the birds in small groups, so as not to disturb them.



*We will visit a breeding colony of the interesting and Endangered (BirdLife International) endemic **Maleo** which will hopefully be a really nice way to end our tour of Sulawesi and Halmahera.*

While in the area we will look out for other species that may be found here, such as **White-rumped Cuckooshrike**, **Sulawesi Babbler**, **Red-backed Buttonquail**, **Golden-bellied Gerygone**, **Black-naped Oriole**, **Philippine Megapode**, **Grey-cheeked Green Pigeon**, **Black-naped Fruit Dove**, **Green Imperial Pigeon**, **Isabelline Bush-hen**, **Collared Kingfisher**, **Purple-winged Roller**, **Great Hanging Parrot**, **White-breasted Woodswallow**, **Grosbeak Starling**, **Hair-crested (White-eyed Spangled) Drongo**, **Great-billed Heron**, **Sulawesi Serpent Eagle**, **Barred (Sulawesi) Honey Buzzard**, and **Sulawesi Hawk-Eagle**.

After lunch we will drive back to Luwuk, likely stopping at some rice paddies or forest patches along the way in case there are any potential last-minute additions we can make to, what is sure



to be, a pretty impressive bird list by this time. We will have a final group evening meal together. during which time we will try and pick a 'bird of the trip'; not likely to be an easy decision!

Overnight: Luwuk

### Day 18. Luwuk to Makassar where tour concludes

Non-birding day. After a leisurely breakfast at our hotel we will fly back to Makassar where the tour will end in time for an afternoon departure out of Indonesia or your further travel (such as our **West Papua: Birds-of-paradise and Endemics of the Arfaks and Waigeo** tour). Please do not book your onward flights until we have confirmed the internal flight times which may be subject to change!

Overnight: Not included

*Please note that the itinerary cannot be guaranteed as it is only a rough guide and can be changed (usually slightly) due to factors such as availability of accommodation, updated information on the state of accommodation, roads, or birding sites, the discretion of the guides and other factors. In addition, we sometimes have to use a different international guide from the one advertised due to tour scheduling.*

<b>Duration:</b>	18 days
<b>Group Size:</b>	4 - 8
<b>Dates:</b>	14 - 31 July 2023
<b>Start:</b>	Sultan Hasanuddin International Airport, Makassar, Indonesia
<b>End:</b>	Sultan Hasanuddin International Airport, Makassar, Indonesia
<b>Prices:</b>	IDR 105,422,783 per person sharing – based on 4 - 8 participants, which includes the domestic flights (2023)
<b>Single Supplements:</b>	IDR 9,210,906 (2023)

### Price includes:

All domestic flights (Makassar – Manado, Manado – Ternate, Ternate – Makassar, Makassar – Palu, Palu – Luwuk, Luwuk – Makassar)

All accommodation

Meals (from dinner on day 1 until breakfast on day 18)

Drinking water – please bring a refillable water bottle

Expert tour leader

Local bird and wildlife guide/trackers fees

Birdwatching site entrance fees and travel permits

Mangrove boat tour in Tangkoko area

Speedboat return travel between Ternate and Sofifi

All ground transport and tolls/taxes while on tour, including airport pick-up and drop-off

**Price excludes:**

Flights to/from Sultan Hasanuddin International Airport, Makassar, Indonesia

Expenditures due to flight cancellations/delays or other causes beyond our control (force majeure)

Visa fees if visa required

Departure tax

Items of a personal nature, e.g. porter fees, gifts, laundry, internet access, phone calls, snorkeling/diving trips, snorkeling/diving equipment hire, excess luggage charges for internal flights (baggage limited to 20 kg per person), etc.

Any pre- or post-tour accommodation, meals, or birding/sightseeing/monument excursions

Soft/alcoholic drinks

Personal travel insurance

Gratuities (please see our [tipping guidelines blog](#))

**Physical toughness:**

The birding on this tour is a mix of flat forest trails and roadside birding, gently sloping low hills (on a mix of proper trails and more “off-piste” – e.g. if we have to go and look for a day-roost of an owl, or a hornbill nest, or pitta etc.), some short forest trails that might be considered tricky in places by some people, e.g. when we go to the Standardwing lek in Halmahera (particularly when the heat and humidity of some areas is considered), and one difficult hike (the Anaso Track – a former logging track that is now a heavily eroded gulley but offers some of the best birding in Lore Lindu National Park). Most days we will take a “siesta” during the middle of the day when the heat is at its strongest and bird activity generally wanes which will be good for resting and relaxing for a few hours. We have local guides and other support staff with us so if at any time anyone in the group wants to opt out of an activity that will be possible. Please read the important information on the ‘[General Information](#)’ tab about this tour on the website and please ask us for any extra information you require, we are happy to help.