

TIMOR-LESTE & INDONESIA

UNEXPLORED WONDERS OF THE ASIAN WORLD

October 06 - October 25, 2024
Led by Local Guides

Can be combined with Tasmania Extension (September 29 - October 04, 2024) **AND** Brunei Extension (October 25 - October 28, 2024)

One of the more unique and remote programs in the Spiekermann portfolio, this itinerary will take you on a journey that covers all of the best this world has to offer. You will have the opportunity to experience many features of Indonesia unseen by those traveling from the western world: endangered animals like the Komodo Dragon, indigenous tribes with rich cultural traditions like the Dani Tribe of Papua, and unique burial traditions like those that dwell in the Toraja Highlands. There's even a bonus visit to Timor-Leste, which offers an incredible glimpse into a country of early infancy. From big cities like Makassar to small villages like Wamena, this expedition is meant to cater to those that prioritize exploring every inch of our dynamic planet.

Ihab Zaki
Managing Director

Sunday, October 06
Arrive in Dili (TIMOR-LESTE)



Upon arrival in **Timor-Leste**, meet the guide and transfer to the *Timor Plaza Hotel* or similar for check-in, dinner and overnight. (D)

Note: Standard check in time is 3:00 pm. if you arrive on October 05 or early morning of October 06, an extra hotel night needs to be booked.

Monday, October 07
Dili



After breakfast, begin the tour of Timor-Leste's vibrant capital, begin with a visit to **Cristo Rei**, a giant statue of Christ that offers panoramic views of both the city and the magnificent coast. Head to the lively "**Tais**" **Market** to shop for the traditional Timorese textile, as well as other crafts and souvenirs. After lunch, head to visit the **Dili Cathedral**, an important religious and historical site in *Dili*. It has a striking design and is a place of worship for locals. End the day with a visit to the **Resistance Museum**, which utilizes exhibits, photos, and artifacts to chronicle the struggle for independence in Timor-Leste. Return to the *Hotel* for dinner and overnight. (B,L,D)

Tuesday, October 08
Dili (Maubisse)



After breakfast, begin the drive to the elevated town of **Maubisse** (2 hrs.). Situated nearly 1400 meters above sea-level, this old hill village offers unparalleled scenery views of *Timor-Leste's* landscape. Offering a break from the coast's humidity, spend time learning about local coffee growing techniques before lunch. After lunch, head back to Dili to see anything unseen over the last few days, including **Dili Port** to view the ships coming in and out of the country, the **Peace Park**, and **Sanata Cruz Cemetery**. Return to the *Hotel* for dinner and overnight. (B,L,D)

Wednesday, October 09
Dili - Balibo



Today, the adventure heads west toward the Indonesia border into West Timor. First, begin with a drive to **Liquica**, a coastal town that shows Timor-Leste's very apparent colonial past. With many **Portuguese buildings** and even an **old Dutch fort**, the European influence is very evident in this region. Depart *Liquica* for a trek (1.5 hrs.) along the coast and past the mountains to a village called **Balibo**. This small hill-town has an old fort that provides views of the vast local landscape. End the day with a **Cave walk** with your local guide then transfer

to the *Balibo Fort Hotel* for check-in, dinner and overnight. (B,L,D)

Thursday, October 10
Balibo - Kupang (INDONESIA)



Time to continue the journey further west and cross the **Mota'ain** border post from *Timor-Leste* into **Indonesia**. After border formalities, head out on a drive (1.5 hrs.) toward the town **Kefamenanu**. It is there that **Gua Bitauani**, a *limestone cave* that doubled as a hideout for the *Aplasi* tribe, the largest tribe in the area, can be found. The cave now serves as a very unique and scenic shrine to the Virgin Mary for local Catholics. After lunch, head on another drive (two-and-a-half-hours) toward *Oehala*. The **Oehala Falls** are a scenic and popular swimming destination for tourists and locals alike. From there, the final leg of the journey (2.5 hrs.) will adventure toward Indonesian Timor's largest city, **Kupang**. Transfer to the *Hotel* for check-in, and overnight. (B,L)

Friday, October 11
Kupang



After breakfast, begin the tour around *Kupang* to see some of the local sites. First up, the **National Museum**, where many different artifacts are used to show the evolution of all of the tribes within the nearby regencies. Next, head to the **Oeba Market**, a bustling traditional market known for being one of the oldest and most well-known markets in the city. It offers a wide variety of goods, from fresh produce to handicrafts. From there, venture to the **Monkey Forest**, a preserved natural habitat where various species of monkeys, particularly *macaques*, live freely. Visitors can observe the monkeys in their natural environment, which provides an opportunity to learn about their behavior and interactions. End the day by hopefully catching a sunset at the scenic **Lasiana Beach**, a great area to view unparalleled scenery and catch the local vibe. Dinner will be at one of the many cafes or restaurants near the beach then return to the *Hotel* for overnight. (B,L,D)

Saturday, October 12
Kupang - Labuan Bajo - Komodo Island



Depart in the early morning for **Labuan Bajo**, the gateway into **Komodo National Park**. After a short flight with a stop in the city of **Ende**, arrive in the early morning and meet the local guide at the airport. Take a short drive to the harbor to board the live aboard **boat** for the next two-days. After a two-hour cruise, the first stop will be

Rinca Island, the first opportunity to see the magnificent **Komodo Dragon** up close. After a few hours of dragon trekking, head back to the boat and take a short cruise to **Padar Island**. Situated in between *Rinca Island* and *Komodo Island*, *Padar* provides scenic views of *Komodo National Park* and the surrounding area. Hike to a great vantage point for the sunset or enjoy time on the beach. Head back to the boat for dinner and overnight aboard the ship as it sails across to *Komodo Island*. **(B,L,D)**

Sunday, October 13

Komodo National Park - Labuan Bajo 

Begin the day with an opportunity to see an unparalleled sunrise while aboard the boat! After breakfast aboard the boat, disembark on the shores of *Komodo Island* for another day of *Dragon trekking*. Choose after lunch to stay at *Komodo Island* or sail to **Pink Beach** back on *Padar Island* for scenic views, hiking, more animal viewing, or swimming. After *Pink Beach*. Make a quick stop at **Kelor Island** on the way back to *Labuan Bajo*, and transfer to *Meruorah Komodo Hotel* for check-in and overnight. **(B,L)**

Monday, October 14

Labuan Bajo - Makassar (SULAWESI) 

After breakfast, transfer to the airport in the early morning for our flight to **Makassar**, the capital of South Sulawesi with a short layover in Denpasar, Bali in between. Upon arrival, meet the local guide and transfer to *Santika Makassar* or similar *Hotel*, for check-in. then head out and walk through the bustling **Somba Opu Street** and view the 99 Domes Mosque from Losari Beach. Return to the *Hotel* for dinner and overnight. **(B,D)**

Tuesday, October 15

Makassar (Rammang Rammang)  

After breakfast, head to visit the stoic **Fort Rotterdam**, an old Dutch Fortress that still stands amidst rapid daily life in Makassar. See the Dutch influence up-close while still maintaining the Indonesian culture in the background. Head to **Paotere harbor**, the Makassarese and Buginese boat harbor, to see the lively atmosphere put on by both the fish traders and locals looking to take home a fresh catch. After lunch, take a boat trip up the **Pute River** to **Rammang-Rammang**, visiting some beautiful caves around the **limestone hills** on the way. The impressive stalactites and stalagmites naturally formed over many years, and they are a must-see to those that have not ventured to this part of the world. There will be a small amount of time to explore the **black karst stone forest**, trying to catch a glimpse of the rare karst stones and their various unique formations. Then sail back to the center of *Makassar* for overnight. **(B,L)**

Wednesday, October 16

Makassar - Pare Pare - Rantepao (Tana Toraja) 

After breakfast, begin a long, picturesque drive (8 hrs.) to the **Toraja Highlands**, the gem of *South Sulawesi*. Along the way, see the many **Buginese villages** with their unmistakable houses. The *Bugis* are the largest of the major ethnic groups that reside within *South Sulawesi*. There will be stops for photo opportunities during this

long journey. Lunch will be served at a seafood restaurant in the village of Pare-Pare. In the afternoon, stop near **Puncak Lakawan** to enjoy the spectacular mountain views. Upon arrival in **Rantepao** in the late afternoon, transfer to *Misiliana Hotel* for check-in, dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

Thursday, October 17

Rantepao (Lemo, Londa & Kete Kesu) 

The day's first stop will be **Lemo**, a village renowned for its unique **burial traditions** and the spectacular **cliff graves** that are characteristic of the Toraja culture. It is here where we will find the "**Tau-Tau**," which are **wooden effigies** or **statues** carved to represent the deceased. *Tau-Tau* adorn the impressive cliff graves within the village. These statues are placed in openings carved into the cliffs, creating a stunning and eerie sight. Later, continue to discover the secrets of baby trees in **Nonongan**. Onwards to **Londa**, with its ancient tombs featuring deceased that were not buried, but placed among the rocks. This is quite a sight to behold for any visitors from the western world. Lunch will be at a local restaurant in *Rantepao*. Then head to **Kete Kesu** with a stop in **Karuaya** to enjoy the beautiful Toraja panorama, Continue with a short walk to *Kete Kesu*, one of the oldest Toraja villages. Rows of **Tongkonan**, the original *Toraja village houses*, as well as traditional rice barns with colorful woodcarvings, can be seen here. Return to *Hotel* for dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

Friday, October 18

Rantepao 

Begin the day with a drive to **Pallawa** and **Sa'dan To'baranna**, *local villages* that are known as the weaving center of *Rantepao*. Wood carvings are also very prominent in this region of Toraja. After, drive up and stopover in **Tinimbayo** to enjoy the spectacular view of the megalith stones spread over the extensive rice fields. We will then head to a *burial cave* in the village of **Lokomata**, a sight that cannot be explained and can only be seen. Marvel at the sight of cliff-side mausoleum carved into a massive rock formation. After lunch at a local restaurant with a view overlooking the rice fields, continue to **Batutumonga**, and take a short, two to three-hour trek down to the **Lempo Village**. Get an up-close view of local life by interacting with villagers in the coffee plantation, bamboo forest and rice terrace. Finally, head to the **Bori Village** to see the incredible **stone menhir burial megaliths** before returning to the *Hotel* for dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

Saturday, October 19

Rantepao - Makassar - Jayapura (PAPUA)  

After breakfast, transfer to Palopo airport for our flight back to **Makassar**. Upon arrival check-in at the hotel inside the airport for a day of rest and freshening up before the early morning (2:00AM) flight to **Jayapura, Papua**. There may also be an opportunity to venture back into Makassar on own before the flight. **(B,L)**

Sunday, October 20

Jayapura - Wamena



Upon arrival in the early morning in **Jayapura**, the capital of the remote region of **Papua**, continue onward with another flight to the **Wamena** region. Meet the local guide then proceed to **Napua Hill** and visit **Sinatma Village**, to get a first glimpse of the region's most abundant group of indigenous people: **The Dani Tribe**. Known for their rich cultural heritage, distinctive customs, and strong connection to their ancestral lands, *the Dani Tribe* are a staple of the **Baliem Valley**. After driving into town for lunch, continue to **Wesaput** to see the impressive **hanging bridge**, **local market**, and surrounding area. Transfer to the *Baliem Pilamo Hotel* in Wamena for check-in and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

Monday, October 21

Wamena (Baliem Valley River Trek)



After breakfast, head out on a drive (45 min.) to **Sogokmo** in the South of *Baliem Valley*. This is the starting point for a trek to explore some small villages in the **Kurima** district for a few hours while on the way toward **Wesaput**. Pass through the **Dani Tribe's** famed sweet potato gardens and cross the *hanging bridge* over the **Baliem river**. Meet locals along the trail and participate in local activities while enjoying the beautiful scenery. Return to the *Hotel* for dinner and overnight. **(B,Boxed L,D)**

Tuesday, October 22

Wamena (Obia, Anemoigi & Sumpaima)



Enjoy breakfast at the Hotel then begin the drive to the **Obia Village**, one of the *Dani Tribe villages* that still preserves every element of their old way of life. Penis gourds, grass skirts, and round shaped houses (*honai*) are all pieces of evidence that show how things have not changed much throughout the tribe's history. While there, witness a traditional **pig feast** and **war dance**. These two attractions allow you an insightful view of the prehistoric age ways the *Dani* are still committed to. In the past, even the smallest of problems would cause a war to erupt between tribes. Anything from women, land possession, pigs or even looking in the wrong direction. See how the **tribal war** looked, with adult men approaching the battlefield with their body ornaments, spears, arrows, bone knives, and other weapons armed at their sides. After the war, the fighting factions would kill a pig and cook it together. After *the pig feast*, head to the **Anemoigi and Sumpaima villages**, not far from *Obia*. See the famed **250-year-old mummy**, still relatively preserved to this day! On the drive back to *Wamena*, visit the **natural cave at Wosilimo village** then return to the *Hotel* for overnight. **(B,L,D)**

Wednesday, October 23

Wamena - Jayapura



After breakfast, transfer to Wamena airport for our flight back to **Jayapura**. Experience a full day of sightseeing around the largest city in *Papua*. See **Sentani Lake** and its picturesque surroundings. Visit the **Anthropology**

museum, Visit the fast-paced **Hamadi Market**, where there will be an opportunity to see daily life in *Jayapura* up-close as well as the chance to purchase local crafts or souvenirs. Transfer to *Aston Jayapura Hotel* for check-in, free afternoon at leisure and overnight. **(B,L)**

Thursday, October 24

Jayapura - Jakarta (JAVA)



Transfer to the airport in the early morning for our flight to **Jakarta**, the capital and largest city in Indonesia. Upon arrival, meet & transfer to *Novotel Jakarta Gajah Mada* for check-in, free rest of the day at leisure & overnight. **(B)**

Friday, October 25

Jakarta - USA

OR continue to BRUNEI

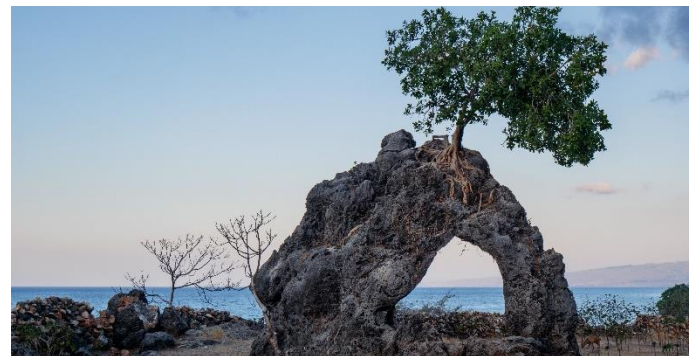


Transfer to the airport for your flight back to the US or continue your adventure to **Brunei**.

"We reserve the right to change the order of activities/visits or sites due to unexpected events such as flight cancellations or changes of schedule, or any other reasons beyond our control. We will do our best to ensure that any necessary changes when/if needed to meet the needs of our clients".

Special Trip Remarks:

Anyone wishing to join this trip must understand that in many places, the tourist infrastructure is very primitive. Some days are long and hard, and the level of services will not match those offered in more conventional tourist locations. There will be days filled with many hours of driving, with stops along the way to break up the time in a vehicle. The hotels are comfortable but lack some of the luxuries of the west. There may also be time spent walking in order to traverse between the remote villages. Indonesia is a predominantly Islamic country, and respect must be shown to their customs and traditions in certain locations. By signing up for this tour, participants are acknowledging their full understanding and acceptance of all terms and conditions and are admitting that they are in good physical and mental health and equipped with an open mind, sense of adventure and a tolerant and patient spirit to cope with the possible rigors of the tour.



Tour Cost (Land Only):

4 - 6 travelers \$7,995.00

7 - 14 travelers \$7,495.00

Per person sharing in double occupancy

Single Supplement: \$1,095.00

Price based on group size minimum of 4 participants and maximum of 14 participants

Trip Grade: II Lodging Level: **.****



Tour Includes:

- Airport/Hotel/airport transfers.
- Accommodation in hotels mentioned or similar.
- Meals as mentioned in the itinerary (B: Breakfast, L: Lunch and D: Dinner).
- Sightseeing in each city as per the itinerary.
- Services of professional English-speaking guides.
- Air-conditioned, private transportation.
- Entrance fees and donations to all sites and museums.
- Water on the bus during touring days.
- Special Permit to visit the Baliem Valley.
- Porters for Baliem Valley Trekking.
- Boat on Sentai lake and live aboard boat in Komodo.

Tour does not include:

- International air fare USA-Timor Leste / Jakarta-USA.
- Domestic flights (Kupang - Labuan Bajo - Makassar, Palopo - Makassar - Jayapura - Wamena - Jayapura - Jakarta - approx. \$1,200).
- Timor-Leste vVisa is \$30 and Indonesia is \$40.00 - subject to change.
- Beverages and drinks with or without meals.
- Laundry services throughout the program.
- Gratuities to guide, drivers, and porters.
- Transfers if not arriving/departing on scheduled tour dates.
- Dayroom/overnights necessitated by changes in airline schedules or early arrival.
- Travel protection Plan (highly recommended).

Trip Grade

II Active: Some hikes, slightly more demanding walks at or to sites, few elevations, comfortable but busy schedule and some long rides.

Lodging Level:

★★ **Basic:** Comfortable yet on the Spartan side, usually small but generally with private facilities. (2 or 3 stars)

★★★ **Superior:** Lodges and hotels with additional amenities, refined service, and comfort level acceptable to the western standards. (3 or 4 stars)

