



Photos courtesy of PT. Putri Naga Komodo

## Komodo Kayaker • Indonesia 10 Days • 9 Nights • Various Dates • £1,500

On this 10 day itinerary, we will paddle our sea kayaks to some of the most remote beaches on earth, drift over coral reefs and visit islands inhabited by mythical Dragons.

We will be visiting the remote province of Nusa Tenggara and the islands of Flores, Rinca, as well as uninhabited islands in the Komodo National Park.

This is a truly unique expedition to a fascinating destination.

### Highlights

- Visit the world renowned **Komodo Park** and Rinca Island
- See the **largest lizard** on the planet
- Paddle among some of the most **remote islands** in Indonesia
- **Snorkel amongst pristine coral** and schools of fish
- Experience one of the best **eco-expeditions** around

### Overview

If you crave adventure and remote places, want cultural immersion and like being in the outdoors, love a physical challenge but also cherish quiet times of relaxation, then our Kayaking Komodo expedition is for you.

You will be escorted around the Komodo National Park by one of our well trained kayaking guides who not only will give you pointers on how to kayak but also inform you on what you are experiencing on the trip.

Our objective is to visit the home of the mighty Komodo Dragon. The Komodo Dragon's sheer size and power is unbelievable growing more than 3 metres in length and weighing over 150kg. Although they plod along at a leisurely pace, do not be fooled, when called for, the Dragon can run up to 30 kilometres an hour and strike at lightning speed. We will see a number of these magnificent animals at close range – an experience you will not forget.

The Komodo Dragon however is just one attraction of the park, you'll also likely see buffalo, deer, monkeys and wild pigs. We will be visiting uninhabited islands, snorkelling in crystal clear water above pristine coral. The area boasts some of the best marine life on the planet, with dozens of reefs in which we will snorkel. We will visit sites where manta ray and turtle are common. We will visit caves and islands packed with flying fox as well as remote communities that live off the sea. Our nights will be spent beneath the stars on some uninhabited island.

As part of this expedition, you will be helping to preserve the local eco- system through donations from No Roads and cleaning the park of all plastics as we go. Through the work that we and other like minded organisations do, we hope that the Komodo National Park will remain an attraction for our children's children.

The Kayaks used are double Komodo Sea Kayaks considered one of the best double kayaks in the world. They are comfortable and very stable and easy to manoeuvre – with plenty of space for carrying day bags, flippers, masks etc. We provide a 3:1 Kayaker:Guide ratio ensuring your safety and great service.



The Komodo Kayaking Expedition is a fascinating journey to one of Indonesia's remoter parts. It is a journey into the past, when dinosaurs roamed the earth.

Food on the support boat is excellent and there is plenty of it. Fresh fish is bought daily from local fishermen. The cuisine is Indonesian (flavoured but not hot spicy) with rice and noodles and plenty of fruit.

The snorkelling is some of the best you will see from just about every viewpoint: clarity of water, range of coral and anemones and fish.

## Itinerary

### Day 1

Arrive in Bali and transfer to hotel. We use a 3 ½ - 4 \* hotel. Free time to relax - Overnight in Hotel.

### Day 2

Fly Bali to Labuan Bajo. Arrive at Komodo Labuan Bajo airport (B).

You will be met at the airport by one of our team members and taken to Bajo Komodo Eco Lodge. This afternoon you will meet with your Guide and then head off for a tour to the Mirror Stone Caves and if possible witness the famous Manggaraines traditional fighting dance (Caci Dance). Overnight in Hotel.

### Day 3

Labuan Bajo – Kanawa Island (B)

Today we start paddling. But before we start our Guide will go through some safety issues and we will do a short practice paddle to ensure the kayaks are set up for individual needs. After lunch we set out for our first destination, Kanawa Island approximately 2 hrs from the eco-lodge. Kanawa has small guest houses to accommodate us and a great walk up to the hill top for views over the park we will be paddling around. It is also home to some great coral reefs and fish populations so a spot of snorkeling is encouraged.

### Day 4

Kanawa - Mangyatan Island – Tatawa Island (B, L, D)

After breakfast we will start SW towards Tatawa Island. On the way we may also stop on Mangyatan Island to snorkel in its pristine waters. We will set up camp here and have a chance to explore Tatawa's peaks. There is simply no better place for a sunset than our campsite, with the sun falling behind the mountains of Komodo Island itself. Overnight on the beach in a tent.

### Day 5

Tatawa – Wanilu (B,L,D)

Today really depends what the tide is doing, as we really need the current with us when paddling to Wanilu Island (not far away but a relatively long stretch of sea to cross). If all goes well we will track Tatawa's western coast for a while and then if the current is with us, we may shoot off its tail towards the uninhabited Tengah Besar, a small island really in the middle of nowhere, awesome. We will then head to Wanilu Island – where we will set up camp

### Day 6

Wainilu Island – Nusapimpe. (B, L, D)

Early morning we will rise and paddle to the Rinca Rangers Office to look for Komodo Dragons. Rinca (pronounced Rin – cha) is the best place in the park to see the Dragons as their numbers and density are quite large there. We will be shown around the park by a trained Ranger who will explain the eco-system, the Dragon's habits, the life of other inhabitants on the island such as the Macaque, Buffalo, Deer, Tree snakes etc.

After a drink at the Ranger's Café we will start paddling north towards Nusapimpe off the coast of Rinca. Lunch, snorkeling and relaxing will be followed by a sunset paddle to a small mangrove island (Kaaba) inhabited by bats. This is a great sight with thousands of bats flying into the night sky for their evening meal. We will return to Nusapimpe to do the same.

### Day 7

Nusapimpe - Labuan Bajo (B)

We head back to "civilization" with a 2.5 hr haul to the Eco Lodge. We will paddle along the Flores coast and observe village life from

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the water. Once back at the hotel we will clean up have lunch and relax. This is a great time to swim in the pool or get a massage. Overnight at Hotel.

## Day 8

Today we head inland towards the Cunca Wulang Waterfalls. After a hour drive we will start our short trek to a nearby village and then onto explore these great waterfalls. The falls themselves have gauged a large canyon out of the landscape leaving some great swimming holes behind. This day trip will give us another perspective of Flores life from it natural beauty to the people that live there. (B,L)

## Day 9

Labuan Bajo – Bali (B)

We will have a bit of free time before we fly back to Bali today. We can have a swim at the Eco Lodge pool, go into town and walk around the harbour or just relax on the sprawling veranda overlooking the sea. You will be met at Bali airport by the hotel and taken there. You can either stay the night at the hotel or fly out to your next destination later that evening. Either way you will have a room available to yourselves at the hotel. Overnight Hotel

## Day 10

End of Expedition – or why not check out some of our expedition extension ideas.

NB: the itinerary is subject to slight change due to weather and currents.

## Expedition Grade

### Moderate

This expedition is considered moderate as there are no long walks and our paddling days of 4 hours are broken up by lunch and swims. No kayaking experience is necessary. Accommodation on Flores is in a very comfortable eco-friendly hotel. While temperatures can be high (mid 30's), crystal clear water and pristine coral reefs will be more than enough to keep you cool.

### Expedition is Led by No Roads

### INCLUSIONS

- Kayak use with all safety gear including vest, paddle etc
- Accommodation in Bali
- Accommodation in Labuan Bajo
- Support boat throughout
- Radio contact between Kayakers, Support Boat and Rangers Office
- All domestic flights
- National park fees
- Professional guide throughout expedition
- Tour to Mirror Caves
- Airport transfers
- Ranger and local guide fees
- All meals as indicated in itinerary
- Toilet tent
- Transfers to and from accommodation in Flores (Bajo Komodo Eco Lodge).

### EXCLUSIONS

- Airport taxes
- Transfers to and from Denpasar Airport, Bali
- Snorkel and flippers (these can be hired in town or through the hotel)
- Camera fees within Komodo National Park
- Visa to Indonesia
- Personal expenses
- Beverages
- Extra meals not mentioned in inclusions such as the eco-lodge
- Tips to guides and other staff (optional)



## Expedition Schedule

This expedition is open between March and December for group sizes 2 - 10. The best time of year for these expeditions is March to October as these are the driest and usually the most settled months. If there are 2 or more of you, you can tell us when you want to go (assuming we have availability). We also have the following scheduled trips:

### 2011 (price for 2011 = £1500)

03 Sep - 12 Sep 2011	17 Sep - 26 Sep 2011	29 Sep - 08 Oct 2011	13 Oct - 22 Oct 2011	03 Nov - 12 Nov 2011
19 Nov - 28 Nov 2011	01 Dec - 10 Dec 2011			

### 2012 (price for 2012 = £1750)

29 Mar - 07 Apr 2012	12 Apr - 21 Apr 2012	19 Apr - 28 Apr 2012	28 Apr - 05 May 2012	03 May - 12 May 2012
10 May - 19 May 2012	17 May - 26 May 2012	24 May - 02 Jun 2012	07 Jun - 16 Jun 2012	14 Jun - 23 Jun 2012
21 Jun - 30 Jun 2012	28 Jun - 07 Jul 2011	05 Jul - 14 Jul 2012	19 Jul - 28 Jul 2012	26 Jul - 04 Aug 2012
02 Aug - 11 Aug 2012	09 Aug - 18 Aug 2012	16 Aug - 25 Aug 2012	23 Aug - 01 Sep 2012	30 Aug - 08 Sep 2012
06 Sep - 15 Sep 2012	13 Sep - 22 Sep 2012	20 Sep - 29 Sep 2012	27 Sep - 06 Oct 2012	04 Oct - 13 Oct 2012
11 Oct - 20 Oct 2012	18 Oct - 27 Oct 2012	25 Oct - 03 Nov 2012	01 Nov - 10 Nov 2012	08 Nov - 17 Nov 2012
15 Nov - 24 Nov 2012	22 Nov - 01 Dec 2012	29 Nov - 08 Dec 2012	06 Dec - 15 Dec 2012	

## Extension Options

Email us for some extension ideas - whether diving in komodo's, rafting in Bali and may more

## USEFUL INFORMATION

### INDONESIAN TOURIST VISA

From February 2004, Indonesia has imposed a US\$25 entry Visa. This Visa is for 30 days and can be purchased on arrival at Denpasar airport in Bali. While personal photos are not required it is advised that you bring the exact amount to prevent any delays.

### PRE DEPARTURE INFORMATION

Once your expedition is confirmed we will send you detailed Pre Departure Information which includes a list of recommended clothing and personal equipment, along with other relevant information to help you prepare for your trip.

### OUR GUIDES AND TEAM

This expedition is led by No Roads Expeditions. The guides have been carefully selected for their ability and temperament. Each guide has training and proven abilities in eco-friendly methods, safety and, careful trek operations, keeping the health and happiness of the paddlers as well his crew, uppermost. Our guides are committed to making sure that all our paddlers have an enjoyable time, comes back safe and are overwhelmed by their experience. Your guide will be a friend and companion, who takes pleasure in showing you his/her country's specialties and, perhaps, meet his/her home and family too.

## FAQs

### Sea-kayaking... What's it like?

Sea-kayaking is a most wonderful way to explore the world. It's inexpensive and environmentally-friendly, does not require months of training and superior strength, and is good for the body and soul. Sea-kayaking can take you beyond the reach of civilisation into the natural world, into the space between earth, sea and sky.

### Is it easy to learn? Do I have to be fit?

No prior experience is necessary. As long as you are in good health and have a sense of adventure, you will quickly master the skills needed to paddle and steer your kayak. Our experienced guides will give an introductory lesson at the beginning of the journey, and will be there to help and keep everyone happy and safe throughout.



## **Would the expedition be too hard/too easy for me?**

It does have some challenging sections but they are not beyond the person with general fitness. If you are physically fit and have a sense of adventure then these expeditions are for you.

## **Is it safe?**

The Komodo Islands are a sheltered island group and as such large swells are uncommon. There are sections of the sea that have amazing whirlpools, but these are easily navigated through.

The sea-kayaks we use are sleek and very stable, and all are equipped with the usual safety features. The No Roads guides have kayaked, worked and adventured in wild places for many years, and are skilled in risk-management and emergency medical care. Finally, each expedition has a support boat that can help out anyone in trouble and we have radio contact with the Park Rangers office.

## **Do I need to be able to swim?**

No. In the unlikely event that your sea-kayak should capsize, you will easily exit the boat and your high-buoyancy life-jacket will keep you afloat. Even snorkeling is possible for non-swimmers, with the help of your guide and your life-jacket.

## **What's our group size?**

We keep our groups small, a maximum of eight on each, to minimize our impact on the places we pass through, and to maximize our enjoyment of each day.

## **Are the kayaks singles or doubles?**

We use double kayaks, which means you will be paddling with another person. You may like to book with a friend and paddle together, or you may be happy to get to know your fellow travelers by kayaking with them. For more experienced kayakers we can convert the kayakers into a single if you wish.

## **What about the sleeping arrangements?**

Nights are usually spent on deserted beaches however we have some nights in small villages perched over the water.

Back in Labuan Bajo we stay at the best eco-friendly hotel called Bajo Eco Lodge. This hotel has been built with the environment in mind, so recycling is a major feature of the hotel. It also has one of the few pools in the region.

## **Is diving possible?**

The snorkeling and scuba-diving around the park are world-class, and are highly recommended activities. Snorkeling equipment can be hired or bought in Labuan Bajo. If you wish to SCUBA we suggest you extend your stay and organize a dive from the hotel in Labuan Bajo. All equipment is available for hire.

## **Apart from the sea-kayaking, snorkelling and scuba-diving, what else is there to do?**

Where do we start... there's lying in hammocks, reading books, going fishing, swimming, beach-combing, meeting the locals, walking through forests, bird-watching, taking photos, exploring, playing beach volleyball, and coconut petanque, dining with friends, sharing stories, watching the sun set, playing guitars, gazing at stars, sleeping soundly.... You'll love it!

## **Why don't we visit Komodo Island itself?**

While the island of Komodo has Dragons on it, Rinca is a much better place to witness the Dragons. Furthermore, the seas around Komodo and Rinca are riddled with strong currents, whirlpools and mysterious swells and the stretches between Komodo and the Rangers Office are at times treacherous and too far to paddle to be enjoyable. It simply is too risky to paddle there taking into account various levels of skill and fitness of the group members.

## **THE KAYAKS**

No Roads uses some of the best double sea kayaks in the world, the Australian manufactured Komodo. The Komodo's versatility to convert from a single to a double kayak makes it a perfect craft for expeditions. They have supreme stability. In fact we have never seen anyone fall out of these kayaks.

Made from durable plastic and with heaps of storage, the Komodo is the perfect expedition kayak for the Komodo Islands. This is not a sit on top kayak, the Komodo is a full sit in kayak with rudder pedals.