

Big Five Presents  
*Indonesia*

*Indonesia is a country of islands...more than 17,000 islands that encompass a world of cultures, pristine islands, unique and rare wildlife, and adventure activities from exploring cave systems to spectacular diving.*

*With 238 million people in 33 provinces, this is the world's fourth most populous country. It is also home to the world's third largest island, Borneo, which itself still conjures up images of explorers and wild places, headhunters and pirates. The Indonesian archipelago has been an important trade region since at least the seventh century. Many nations have influenced these islands as traders, adventurers and others arrived from China, India and Europe. So, too, came Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam and Christianity. Dutch colonialism held sway for more than 350 years before Indonesia gained its independence after World War II. Across its many islands, Indonesia has hundreds of distinct ethnic and linguistic groups. Yet, they have established a collective identity that comes from having a national language that still allows for ethnic diversity, and religious pluralism that functions within a majority Muslim population. Bali and Lombok are two of the country's most famous islands, with lively culture, tranquil mountains, traditional villages and stunning beaches. Indonesia has vast areas of wilderness that support the world's second highest level of biodiversity. Its flora and fauna are a mix of Asian and Australasian species. The islands of the Sunda Shelf (Sumatra, Java, Borneo and Bali) were once linked to the Asian mainland, and have a wealth of Asian fauna. Large species such as the tiger, rhinoceros, elephant and leopard were once abundant as far east as Bali. The islands' most celebrated species is the highly endangered orangutan, currently found in only the rainforests of Borneo and Sumatra. Indonesia still beckons to adventurers to dive its crystal clear waters; to discover life in the jungle treetops; and to savor whitewater rafting and cave exploring.*



Indonesia



## Suggested Itinerary

### Day 1: Jakarta, Indonesia

This is the exotic capital and largest city of Indonesia, located on the northwest of the island of Java.

### Day 2: Jakarta / Pangkalan Bun, Borneo

Borneo is the third largest island with one of the oldest rainforests in the world.

### Day 3: Pangkalan Bun / Tanjung Putting National Park

This national park on the island of Borneo is famous for the endangered orangutan.

### Day 4: Pangkalan Bun / Semarang / Yogyakarta

Yogyakarta is a center of classical Javanese art and culture such as batik, ballet, drama, music and puppetry.

### Day 5: Yogyakarta

The city is known for its 17th-century Sultan Palace, the old market of Beringharjo and Prambanan Hindu temple.

### Day 6: Yogyakarta / Borobudur

Borobudur is a ninth-century Mahayana Buddhist shrine with 2,672 relief panels and 504 Buddha statues.

### Day 7: Yogyakarta / Depart

## Custom Options

### Diving & Moyo Islands (3-5 days)

The islands offer brilliant scuba diving in pristine waters. Moyo Island is a nature reserve east of Bali.

### Komodo Island (3 days)

Home to the famous Komodo dragon and for having one of only seven pink beaches in the world.

### Lombok & Bali With Ubud (5 days)

These islands boast miles of sand beaches, luxury resorts, spas, endless water sports and traditional cultures.

### Sulawesi & Toraja (3 days)

In the mountainous region of South Sulawesi, the Toraja have a fascinating traditional culture.

## About Indonesia

**Borneo (Indonesian: Kalimantan):** The island is the third largest in the world. North of Java, it is at the geographic center of Maritime Southeast Asia. The island is divided among three countries: Brunei, Indonesia and Malaysia. Approximately 73% of the island belongs to Indonesia. The Malaysian states of Sabah and Sarawak in the north occupy about 26% of the island while Brunei, located on the north coast, comprises just one percent. Borneo encompasses one of the oldest rainforests in the world.

**Diving & Moyo Island:** Indonesia Archipelago is made up of more than 17,000 islands; most uninhabited. Once on the spice trade routes, they became lost to history. Now they are being rediscovered little by little. Divers come to explore a water world of powerful beauty and biodiversity. The island of Moyo is a nature reserve east of Bali. It is home to a deer sanctuary for the indigenous deer; and its hilly forest shelters seven species of bat as well as monitor lizard, python, macaque monkey and wild boar.

**Komodo Island:** Komodo Island's most famous residents are the remarkable Komodo dragons, the largest monitor lizard on earth. It also inhabits the nearby islands of Rinca and Padar. The great lizard shares the island with wild buffalo, deer, pig and various species of tropical birds such as cockatoo. The island's roughly 2,000 residents are descended from convicts who were exiled to the island and later mixed with islanders. The island Komodo is part of the Lesser Sunda Islands and forms part of the Komodo National Park. The island is a popular destination for scuba diving. Komodo has a pink sand beach, one of only seven in the world. The color comes from a mixture of white and red sand, formed from a type of marine plankton species.

**Lombok & Bali With Ubud:** Lombok is less developed and more rugged than Bali. It has the country's third largest volcano, Mount Rinjani, which is part of national park that counts among its residents rare black ebony leaf monkey, long-tailed gray macaque, Rusa deer, barking deer and a host of birds. Lombok's history is seen in Ampenana's grand palace and temple, Narmada Water Palace and the Hindu-Muslim Lingsar Temple. Bali sits in the western end of the Lesser Sunda Islands. The town of Ubud retains its identity through distinctive arts, temples and palaces. It was inhabited as far back as the Bronze Age. Megalithic ruins and stepped pyramids were found as well as a giant Bronze Age gong known as "Moon of Pejeng." Hindu-Buddhist culture spread through Bali between the tenth and 12th centuries, leading to the establishment of temples and monasteries. Eloquent Balinese dances, dramas and puppet plays originated in these early kingdoms.

**Sulawesi & Toraja:** Sulawesi is one of the larger Sunda Islands, and the world's 11th-largest island. About 127 species here include two types of dwarf buffalo, pig, palm civet, tarsiers and macaque. The settlement of South Sulawesi by modern humans is dated to 30,000 BC. In the 16th century, Makassar was the dominant trading center of eastern Indonesia. The indigenous Toraja people inhabit a mountainous region of South Sulawesi. They are known for elaborate funeral rites, burial sites carved into rocky cliffs, massive peaked-roof traditional houses and colorful wood carvings. Toraja funeral rites are social events. The cliffs at Lemo display ancestral sculptures and hanging graves.

**Yogyakarta:** At the center of the city is the kraton, Sultan's palace, which is surrounded by densely populated residential neighborhoods that occupy land that was formerly the Sultan's sole domain. The core of the modern city is to the north, encompassing the Dutch colonial-era buildings and the commercial district. Jalan Malioboro sports rows of pavement vendors, a nearby market and malls that are the main shopping area for tourists.

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## Best Time To Go

*This region is enjoyed year around. It is generally hot and sunny, though it usually rains some every day with more rain during the monsoons. Southwest monsoon season is from late May to September, and Northeast monsoon from November to March. Borneo is possible year round, but best March to October, during the dry season, but it still rains in the forest.*

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\$350 - \$500 per person per day

Land only, double occupancy

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*Consider enhancing your adventure by including the following destinations: Cambodia § Laos (p49-52), China (p53-56), Malaysia § Singapore (p69-72), Thailand (p81-84), Vietnam (p85-88)*

