

A JOURNEY TO THE LAND OF PEARLS AND BIRDS OF PARADISE



Follow us to the Aru Archipelago, away from ordinary tourist routes, to discover the secrets of pearl farming and the exquisite dances of the Greater Bird-of-Paradise. A totally original and exclusive journey...

DAY 1 • Ambon – Dobo – Pulau Kenari

Early morning, you'll fly to Dobo, the main city of the Aru Islands, a tiny archipelago of a hundred islands spread over 8'500km². After a lunch at Batu Kora Beach, a place of great importance in the Arunese mythology, you'll sail to Pulau Kenari pearl platform, where Indonesian pearl farmer M. Gie started his empire back in the 80's. Overnight at Pulau Kenari.

DAY 2 • Pulau Kenari

To discover the secrets of the kept hidden pearl farming process, you'll follow the workers going to small platforms scattered in the sea to take care of the oysters and then the technicians operating them. They'll show you the material

they use and explain you their technique in an unprecedented open way.

You'll then reach Wasir Island, one of the very few places in the world where groupers are produced in an organic way. You'll have lunch at Wasir, and after the visit of the aquaculture centre, you'll head back to Pulau Kenari and enjoy the rest of your afternoon freely swimming around, fishing or playing volleyball with the employees. Overnight at Pulau Kenari.

DAY 3 • Pulau Kenari – Badi Gaki

Very early morning, you'll leave Pulau Kenari and travel back to Dobo. After a short break in Dobo, you'll sail to "Belakang Tanah", literally the Hinterland on a local boat. Your long

journey to the Badi Gaki jungle will take you through the unique sceneries of the Manumbai channel along which a few villages are installed. If time allows, you'll stop in Papa Kula Besar, one of them, where British naturalist Alfred Russell Wallace lived during his researches in Aru in the 19th century..

You'll then head to the village of Wakua where you'll embark on a motorized prau to go up a river bordered by mangrove trees. After an hour on the river, it'll be time to take walk another hour in the forest to reach the Badi Gaki Resort and your private bungalow, listening to the enchanting songs of the birds of paradise displaying not far away. Overnight at Badi Gaki Resort.

DAYS 4 – 8 • Badi Gaki

Every day, before dawn, you'll have the chance to walk to Bukit Vanen (The Greater Birds-of-Paradise's Hill) to observe them displaying. You'll have the choice between three hides to enjoy this incredible and unforgettable moment. The first one is built on the ground and allows you to see the whole dynamic of the parades. The two others are set about 25m up in the trees. Two persons only can sit in this hide, but the short distance from the birds (8-10m) ensures fantastic observations of the dances. After these feathers ballets, you'll spend the rest of your day either enjoying the river view terrace of your bungalow and the calm of the Resort, or by continuing your discovery of Aru's splendid jungle. Guided by hunters, you'll follow them in their day-to-day activities and learn a bit of their way of life. Trekking to try to observe other wildlife and flora is also possible. Other hides will be built to try to see the King Bird-of-Paradise displaying and, if available, parrots or cockatoos nests. You'll also discover how sago flour is extracted from trees and taste papeda, Moluccas staple food. In the evening, our staff will bring you around to discover the Aru night fauna. Amazing encounters guaranteed! Overnight at Badi Gaki Resort.

DAY 9

Badi Gaki - Wakua - Dobo

After a last morning in the Greater Bird-of-Paradise's world, you'll walk back to the river and sail to Wakua to enjoy your lunch. You'll then continue your journey to Dobo. Overnight at Grand Aru Hotel.

DAY 10

Dobo - Ambon

Mid-morning, you'll fly to Ambon and then to the destination of your choice.

PRICE

On request, depending on the guide (local/ expat), decreasing price with number of participants (minimum 2, maximum 8)

Longer stay and/or extension in Kei Islands possible. For more info and prices, contact us through: info@kasoartravel.com

INCLUDED

- Nights in double room
- Fullboard (except mentioned meals)
- Water, tea, coffee
- Transfers, visits, and excursions
- Access to the hides
- Unlimited trekking (day/night)
- River cruise on prahu
- Badi Gaki Conservation Forest entrance fee
- Biologist-photographer guide

NOT INCLUDED

- Flights to/from Dobo
- Accommodation/meals in Dobo
- Beverages (other then mentioned)
- Personal expenses
- Tips for drivers and local guides
- Cancellation insurance
- Unforeseeable programme changes

WHEN TO GO

The birds display between May and October but the best season lasts from mid-July to mid-October. All other activities are possible outside of the parades months.

TERMS

The general conditions of Kasoar TRAVEL apply.



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