



KASOAR
TRAVEL

THE MOLUCCAS • ARU ISLANDS

A JOURNEY TO THE LAND OF THE GREATER BIRD-OF-PARADISE



Follow us to the Aru Archipelago on the footsteps of Alfred Russel Wallace to discover the exquisite dances of the Greater Bird-of-Paradise in Badi Gaki Conservation Forest. A lifetime experience...

In the middle of the Aru jungle, in Badi Gaki, lays a steep hill known as Bukit Vanen, The Greater Bird-of-Paradise's Hill, since 2007. That year, journalist Miguel Garcia and biologist Loïc Degen shot their acclaimed documentary "Vanen, Plumes of Paradise" there. A few months before their arrival, from its own initiative, the family owning the land decided to protect its Vanen, starting an unprecedented conservation project in the Moluccas, and creating the first real protected area in the whole Aru. From a population of two adult males in 2007, Badi Gaki now enjoys the enchanting calls of almost a dozen displaying from May to October on three to four leks. Three hides to observe the birds await the travellers: one large on the ground where a dozen of persons can take place to see the whole display dynamics, not only the dances; two small 25m up in the trees where only two people can sit, but at a distance of 8 to 10m from the birds, which guarantees amazing observations. Other birds and fauna can be spotted during wonderful treks led by local hunters.

About 15min away from the Birds of Paradise's Hill, now stands the Badi Gaki Resort. Built by the inhabitants of nearby Wakua village only with materials from the forest, this resort is so integrated into the primary forest, it is almost impossible to see the other cottages. All the bungalows enjoy an exceptional river view and offer a simply outstanding luxury for a place like this: uge terrace, ensuite bathroom with running water, serviced room. You'll be guided in Badi Gaki by Wakua inhabitants or biologist and photographer Loïc Degen who started to visit Aru in 2001 and lost count of the number of trips he has done there. Going to Badi Gaki, besides supporting an exceptional conservation initiative of Arunese villagers, is like travelling to the end of the world, to a place off everything: off time, off tourism guidebooks, off the usual beaten tracks. A lifetime experience...

THE TOUR

Day 1 Ambon - Dobo - Badi Gaki

Early morning, you'll fly to Dobo, the main city of the Aru Islands. Providing the flight isn't delayed, 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. When you'll reach Wakua, you'll embark on a motorized prau to go up a river bordered by mangrove trees. It'll then be time to take a walk of about an hour in the forest to reach the Badi Gaki Resort. Overnight at Badi Gaki Resort.

Days 2-6 • 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. 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 trek in the jungle to try to observe other wildlife and flora, notably a great walk through a canyon style river.

Other hides can be built to try to see the King Bird-of-Paradise displaying and, if available, parrots or cockatoos nests. In the evening, our staff will bring you around to discover the Aru night fauna. Amazing encounters guaranteed! Overnights at Badi Gaki Resort.

Day 7 • 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 before continuing your journey to Dobo. Overnight at Grand Aru.

Day 8 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).

Possibility to stay longer and/or to follow our classical tour including the discovery of pearl farming.

For more info, contact us through:

info@kasoartravel.com

Or visit us on:

www.kasoartravel.com/en

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

TERMS

The general conditions of KASOAR TRAVEL apply.



Centennial Tower (lv129)
Jl. Jend. Gatot Subroto No 27
Jakarta Selatan 12950
T: +62 811 4703 077
info@kasoartravel.com
www.kasoartravel.com

