

## Komodo Island Trek



Approximately 2 Hours



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Enjoyed it?



4.4 out of 5

Value



3.9 out of 5

**12** out of **13**(92%)reviewers would recommend this product to a friend.

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**Komodo National Park** lies within an area known as the Wallacea—the domain of a fierce and rare species of reptile that looks like a dinosaur, but is called a **Komodo dragon** and, of course, is not even remotely related to either a dinosaur or a dragon. Instead, the Komodo dragon is the remnant of a once widespread ancient order of monitor lizards that today survives on only a handful of these islands. Approximately 1,100 of this protected species remain on Komodo Island. This giant reptile often measures up to 11 feet in length and can weigh more than 300 pounds. Like other monitor lizards, the head is tapered, the ear-openings are visible, and the neck is long and slender. The Komodo dragon is a carnivore, and preys on the deer and wild pigs that inhabit the island. They also sometimes eat their own young. It is a good swimmer and, for short distances, quite swift on land. The island of Komodo itself is about 60 squares miles in area and is volcanic in origin, with dramatic landscapes of 2,000-foot craggy mountains, deep arroyos, canyons, savannahs and monsoon rain forests. Fresh water is scarce on the island, collected during the monsoon season in a few isolated areas. Human habitation is therefore limited to only one settlement in Slawi Bay. Once ashore, you will be escorted on foot to **Komodo National Park** for a **walking tour** in search of the Komodo dragon. Accompanied by park rangers and an English-speaking guide you will walk about one mile (roughly 1½ hours) to the fenced area near Banunggulung to look for the dragons. You'll have a chance to take some photos here. Guests with less walking ability can walk partway or just stay at the ranger station where Komodo dragons are occasionally seen. An **open bar** with soft drinks and mineral water

is available to you at the ranger station and reception area. The monsoon forests of Komodo teem with activity of other wildlife, particularly in the morning before the sun is at its peak. Squawking cockatoos flock in often leafless trees, disturbing large green imperial pigeons, black-napped orioles, sun birds, flowerpeckers, and noisy friarbirds, while shiny black dragons and enormous crows soar nearby. Finally, you will reach the finish point and have some **free time** for local souvenir shopping.

**Notes:**

Wildlife sightings are likely but are not guaranteed. The Komodo dragon is wild and is not artificially fed by the local authorities. The park rangers accompanying the tour will decide which route the trek will follow. Weather conditions can be extremely hot and shade is limited; dress accordingly, wear sunscreen and a hat, and bring bottled water.

**Short Trek on Komodo Island**



Approximately 1½ Hours



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to the dragon viewing spot at Hutan Asamand you'll have a chance to take some photos here. Guests with less walking ability can walk halfway or just stay at the ranger station where Komodo dragons are occasionally seen. An **open bar** with soft drinks and mineral water is available to you at the ranger station and reception area. The monsoon forests of Komodo teem with activity of other wildlife, particularly in the morning before the sun is at its peak. Squawking cockatoos flock in often-leafless trees, disturbing large green imperial pigeons, black-napped orioles, sun birds, flowerpeckers, and noisy friarbirds, while shiny black dragons and enormous crows soar nearby. Finally, you will reach the finish point, where you'll have **free time** for local souvenir shopping.

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## The Secret Village of Kampung Komodo



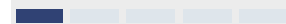
Approximately 4 Hours



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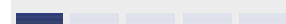


Enjoyed it?



1 out of 5

Value



1 out of 5

0 out of 1(0%) reviewers would recommend this product to a friend.

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|

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It's no secret that dragons are on the agenda for most people who visit the island of Komodo, but those wanting to dig a little deeper will delight in a visit to the 'other side' —literally and

figuratively—of this astounding island. Away from the dragons and surrounded by Komodo National Park is **Kampung Komodo**—a small **village** that is mostly ignored by the many visitors who come to see the island's legendary wildlife. Historians believe that the early Komodo islanders were subjects of the Sultan of Bima. Bima is a city on the east coast of Sumbawa Island, so Komodo's remoteness meant its affairs were infrequently addressed by the Sultan. Thus the village infrastructure of Kampung Komodo is very limited—in fact, the average level of education here is roughly that of a fourth grader. There is an elementary school located right in the village, but new students are not recruited each year. The village's water supply is a natural spring a couple of miles away and waterborne illness is commonplace. Despite the village's economic problems, the people are quite delightful and enjoy a charming community living system. They are talented craft-makers too. Arriving by tender at Loh Lian Bay's pier in Komodo National Park, you will walk 350 yards to the new concrete pier and board a large **wooden boat**. It is a 30-minute ride to Kampung Komodo Village. Upon arrival, you will meet the villagers who will be excited and proud to introduce you to their customs and traditions. You'll visit the school and spend time with the children, speaking English and playing simple games with them. Leaving the village you'll continue your boat ride to beautiful **Pink Beach**, located in **Komodo National Park**. Most of the sand is white, but a smattering of red sand naturally mixed in gives parts of the beach an overall pink cast. Stunning coral formations and clear water make this the ideal place to snorkel. Relax, sunbathe, swim and enjoy the peaceful surroundings before you return to the ship. At the end of the tour, the small fiberglass boat will transfer you from the wooden boat to the Komodo jetty.

Notes:

This tour is part of a community effort to support the local people. Your participation on this tour directly benefits the inhabitants of Kampung Komodo and the local school. You will not see Komodo dragons on this tour. Weather conditions can be extremely hot and shade is limited; dress accordingly and bring bottled water. Weather conditions can be extremely hot and shade is limited; dress accordingly, wear sunscreen and a hat, and bring bottled water. If you wish to snorkel, bring your own gear from the ship, as snorkel gear is not available for rent.