

SEA TURTLES CONSERVATION IN INDONESIA



Sea turtles are at risk of extinction. Nowadays, four of seven known species of sea turtles are present in Indonesia and two of them are critically endangered. The population size of these reptiles has been decreasing and there are places where the decrease has reached 90 % during the last 50 years such as at East Kalimantan, Sumatra. Behind this are human activities: poaching of sea turtle eggs, destruction of beaches by tourism, sale of tortoiseshell souvenirs on local markets and the water pollution. Turtles have been also suffering due to destructive fishing practices as they die caught in trawl nets. Protection of sea turtles declared by both international conventions or by Indonesian law is ineffective.

Let's join those who help!

Our vision

A future where sea turtles and their habitats are sustainably protected, healthy, and safe from threat of extinction and destruction

Our mission

To contribute to sea turtle conservation at our own project sites by cooperating with local communities to create a future where both sea turtles and people can survive

Do you want to become a volunteer and help us to achieve our mission ?



IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR VOLUNTEERS

Please read carefully and make sure you understand everything

Volunteers will assist rangers in different aspects of conservation of sea turtles on islands and also in the villages of Maratua / Derawan / Balikpapan / Lenggong / Tanjung Redeb. Please note that the duties vary depending on where you are staying. Volunteers should expect to work up to 30h per week.

ON UNINHABITED ISLANDS (Bilang-bilangan, Mataha)

Your duties will include monitoring the nesting beaches either during the night or early in the morning. In the afternoon, other activities such as collecting waste on the beach, collecting data on the beach, helping rangers with making coconut souvenirs or ranger's house maintenance will be carried out.



General duties for program participants will include:

1. Helping beach patrols for nesting turtles - patrols are undertaken each night and early in the morning. The patrols serve several functions and may last between 4 - 6 hours. You can help rangers with:
 - searching for nesting activity and nesting turtles;
 - searching for any evidence of nests hatching;
 - collecting data on nesting turtles and nesting events;
 - checking nests already laid;
 - searching for any turtle stranding, whether sick or dead;
 - looking out for illegal poachers on the beach and report them to the rangers.

Occasionally turtles lay their eggs in unsuitable places. In such cases, rangers relocate the nest to a new site and the eggs are carefully moved and re-buried. After the nest has hatched we do a survey of the hatching success rate, which involves nest excavation and analysis of the shells left.

2. Collecting waste on the beach – usually during the morning or/and afternoon
3. Helping rangers in the house (repairing the house, cleaning, cooking, making turtle souvenirs, teaching the local rangers English)

Normal day on islands

6 am – beach monitoring
7-9 am – collecting waste on the beach
10 am - food
11am – 4pm – have a rest – you can explore the islands, snorkel
4 pm – beach monitoring, collecting waste on the beach
7 pm – food
7pm – 10pm – have a rest
10 pm – 2 am – night patrol

IN THE VILLAGES

(Maratua, Derawan, Balikpapan, Lenggong and Tanjung Redeb)

Your duties will focus on local population: mainly education activities for local children, playing with them, teaching English, collecting waste on beaches with local people



General duties will include:

- Help in designing school and community education activities (e.g. using drama, arts, songs and games) concerning marine environment and turtle conservation;
- Participating and helping at school - teaching English;
- Participate in marine conservation awareness events and assist in carrying out educational workshops and activities.

You can also explore the islands and snorkel in your free time

GENERAL INFORMATION

TRAINING

English and Indonesian are only accepted languages.

No special qualifications and experience are necessary except that all volunteers should **have high motivation** and must be **willing to work hard in warm and humid conditions**. Be sure that you can stand and work hard in warm and humid conditions before your coming. You also need to be friendly, initiative and communicative, be able to work in a group with local Indonesian rangers and live on the islands with only a few people, mainly locals.



DURATION AND SCHEDULE

We prepared theoretical recommend schedule but the schedule can be changed due to different preferences of the volunteers.

1. day	transportation from Berau airport
2. day	Tanjung Redeb, transportation to Lenggo
3. day	transportation to island Bilang – bilangan
4. day	island Bilang – bilangan
5. day	island Bilang – bilangan
6. day	island Bilang – bilangan
7. day	transportation to island Mataha
8. day	island Mataha
9. day	island Mataha
10. day	transportation to Lenggo, village of Lenggo
11. day	transportation to Tanjung Redeb
12. day	transportation to Berau airport

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

- **Passport** (needs to be valid at least 6 months from the date of entry).
- **Social visa** (necessary to go to UNINHABITED ISLANDS Bilang-bilangan, Mataha)
- **Travel/Health insurance** is OBLIGATORY for all volunteers and must cover medical emergencies abroad.

YOU MUST SUBMIT THE DETAILS OF PASSPORT, SOCIAL VISA, TRAVEL/HEALTH INSURANCE DOCUMENTS AND EMERGENCY CONTACT TO US AT LEAST TWO WEEKS BEFORE YOUR DEPARTURE DATE!

VISA

Check it by yourself how to get a social visa to Indonesia in the closest embassy or consulate. We will provide an invitation letter to you. Since islands of Mataha and Bilang – bilangan are part of protected area, volunteers are asked to use social visa (visit visa for the purposes of official visit, education or social-cultural reasons). People with a tourist visa are not allowed to entry protected islands. If you are applying from Prague, please visit the site of Indonesian Embassy in Prague (see the requirements for VISIT VISA) : <http://www.indonesia.cz/home/classification-of-visa-and-requirements/>

REQUIREMENTS

Volunteers are expected to fulfil certain requirements in order to participate in our program. Work is extremely demanding, both at a physical and mental level, and these requirements are just to ensure that volunteers can fulfill the requirements and enjoy their experience in our project.

- Volunteers need to be **motivated to help** and enjoy working outdoors
- Volunteers must be good swimmers, physically fit to walk long distances on soft, sandy beaches and nature trails, working in all weather conditions, and **keep smiling!**
- A background in biology, wildlife conservation or similar fields is preferred
- Previous experience with staying in tropical countries or in other sea turtle conservation projects is an advantage
- Able to converse, receive and understand instructions in English. Indonesian is an advantage but not necessary
- Minimum age of 18
- Travel insurance (but be careful because a lot of travel insurance don't run in isolated places)
- **Social VISA** (visit visa for the purposes of official visit, education or social-cultural reasons)
- Being able to work in remote areas under extreme conditions
- **Flexibility to adapt to changing schedules is required.** High/low tide, windy or stormy weather, bank holiday, late taxi driver... are conditions we cannot change.
- Ability to adapt to work at nights and sleep at days
- No alcohol consumption is allowed.
- Illegal drugs are not tolerated, and any use will result in immediate expulsion from the project.

CULTURE

In the villages of Maratua, Derawan, Balikpapan, Lenggong, Tanjung Redeb and on the islands you will be based in a small community, and you should be open and prepared to change and respect local Indonesian culture and habits. The villagers are kind and friendly, but not used to having foreigners in the village living with them. You might find the local's daily habits different from yours (you can hear Islamic prayer several times a day in villages), but consider that we are all different and that we should respect the culture of the country where we are. The exchange of culture and different way of seeing things enriches ourselves and brings positive effects.



Women are kindly asked to respect the local community culture and dress discreetly and conservatively at all times. Despite the warm climate, most locals wear long clothing as opposed to shorts and t-shirts. We recommend long pants, 3/4 trousers and long skirts rather than shorts or short skirts. We also advise you to keep your shoulders covered (please wear T-shirts with sleeves. No tank tops or shorts). Women will receive more unwanted attention if they do not dress conservatively. Going nude at beaches is illegal in Indonesia. No alcohol consumption is allowed.

Volunteers represent our organization by their behaviour so please do not put the conservation program under risk.

Volunteer will have meeting with the director of Konservasi Biota Laut Berau upon arrival in the office of the organization:

Jalan Mangga II, Gang Anunta 03, Tanjung Redeb

TRAVELLING TO/FROM BERAU

How to get to the starting point – Tanjung Redeb town in Berau area, Indonesia

Flights can be inexpensive, depending on which airline you book with. Your cheapest option might be to purchase a flight from your home country to Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur or Singapore and then continue by connecting flight with a low-cost airline to Balikpapan and then to Tanjung Redeb (Berau).

Check www.uticket.com, www.traveloka.com/ or <https://www.tiket.com/> for in country flights.

Use taxi (price approx. 120 000 IDR or 7,67EUR) from the Berau Airport to the office in Tanjung Redeb (address of Konservasi Biota Laut Berau office is: Jalan Mangga II, Gang Anunta 03, Tanjung Redeb).

How to get to protected islands – Bilang-bilangan and Mataha

Transportation from Tanjung Redeb to the islands (Bilang-bilangan, Mataha, Balikukup) and back is provided by the Konservasi Biota Laut Berau if it is in a schedule of delivery days. You will go 4 - 7 hours from Tanjung Redeb to Lenggo by car and then 3 - 4 hours to the islands by boat.

Out of schedule transportation will be charged with 300 Euro. There is no public transportation to these areas and depends on actual conditions.



ACCOMODATION

LIVING CONDITIONS

Accommodation depends on where you are staying.

On the islands volunteers will stay in tents or in the ranger's houses which are equipped with very basic kitchen and WC (Asian style WC – using of toilet paper is prohibited). You can have an Asian style shower in the toilet too. Electricity is working only a few hours a day. Be sure that you can live in simple conditions like this.

In the villages of Balikukup, Lenggo or Tanjung Redeb volunteers will stay in a homestay. The accommodation will be simple and clean but be prepared to live a simple lifestyle during your stay. You will be on very remote beaches and communities and need to be prepared to live without night life, shops, television, etc. and with limited variations of food. You will have enough free time during the day to walk and explore the beauty of the islands or to read a book. Volunteers are expected to take an active part on islands maintenance and cleaning, as well as cooking.

There is no internet and mobile phone signal on the islands.

There are cash machines with limited daily withdrawal in Tanjung Redeb (check if your bank account support this), but there is no exchange office so please change your money in Jakarta (at the airport).

FOOD

On the islands the Konservasi Biota Laut Berau provides the ingredients for lunch and dinner. Filtered water is always available for drinking purposes. Meals are prepared by the rangers but please help them. Rice, pasta and fish are always the basic ingredients (for breakfast take your own ingredients). "Goodies" such as proper coffee/tea, biscuits, sodas, cereals, and fresh fruit (on the daily basis) are not provided, so you should bring some with you if you believe they are essential. In this case, please buy all what you need in Tanjung Redeb (please think about what you will buy because there is only one fridge in the island and it is working only when electricity is on = 4 hour a day).



BENEFITS/COSTS/FEEs

BENEFITS/COSTS

Since there is no external funding to support the expenses of volunteers, volunteers are expected to pay a participation fee. Fee is **250 000 IDR (15.98 EUR)** per day starting the day of journey from Tanjung Redeb to port Lenggo and to the islands until you go back to Tanjung Redeb.

Bigger part of the fee is going to the government for your permit. It is because Bilang-bilangan and Mataha islands are part of protected area. The same reason you need to have the social visa.

Fee covers the costs of:

- Government permit to enter the protected area
- Transportation from Tanjung Redeb to Lenggo and back (4 -7 hours journey by car)
- Transportation from Lenggo to the islands (Bilang-bilangan, Mataha) and back (3 - 4 hours journey to islands by boat)
 - out of schedule transportation will be charged with 300 Euro
- Food in Lenggo
- Food and drinking water (2 meals a day) during the stay on islands
- Accommodation during the stay on uninhabited islands
- Training in conservation duties

Fee does not cover the costs of:

- Airfare
- Airport pick-up and transportation from Berau airport to Tanjung Redeb and back
- Travel/medical insurance
- Personal expenses
- Accommodation in the villages of Balikpapan, Lenggo or Tanjung Redeb - volunteers will stay in homestay. (We can recommend the homestay where volunteers can stay and we can book it for you).
- Food in Tanjung Redeb.

Payment of the participation fees is done at the office in Tanjung Redeb only on arrival, in cash. Payment should be made in local currency and we will not refund you the money if you decide to leave the project sooner than you planned.

You should bring cash (Euro, Dollars) from your country and exchange it into the local currency as soon as possible after your arriving to Indonesia. Exchange will not be possible in project area. We recommend bringing the whole amount needed for the entire stay in cash (daily participation fee + pocket money for personal expenses and leisure time).

THINGS TO BRING

Red items are mandatory!

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

- **Passport** (needs to be valid at least 6 months from the time of entry).
- **Social visa** (necessary to go to UNINHABITED ISLANDS Bilang-bilangan, Mataha)
- **Travel/Health insurance** is **OBLIGATORY** for all volunteers and must cover medical emergencies abroad.

Besides personal belongings (music, books, games, camera, sunglasses, etc.) we recommend to think of the following:

INSURANCE

Health services in project area are very basic and a doctor and a pharmacy are far away from the islands where you will spend the most of your time. We recommend insurances with good medical covering and please bring your own first-aid kit box. If you bring expensive things (photography or video cameras, etc) we also recommend additional insurance for that.

VACCINES

At time of writing there are no specific vaccines required to enter Indonesia, and it's not necessary to present your vaccination card. But we do advise you to have yours updated.

Recommended vaccines for travel to Indonesia : <https://www.tmb.ie/destinations/vaccinations-for-indonesia>
For the volunteers who apply from Czech Republic : <http://www.ockovani.cz/indonesie/>

CLOTHING

- Summer clothing, sweater for windy nights at the beach;
- Long-sleeved tops and trousers.
- Sandals as well as closed shoes, which will be needed to walk on rocky areas during beach patrols.
- Rain jacket/windbreaker;
- Hat and sunglasses (it is very sunny in Berau, and there is little shade/shelter).

WORKING EQUIPMENT

- **Headlamp and flash light (red filter)** + batteries (rechargeable ones are better, as we cannot recycle batteries);
- Day backpack;
- Water bottle;
- Watch;
- Alarm clock (travel clock/mobile phone);
- Working gloves for collecting waste on the beach;
- Plastic bag for collecting waste

CAMPING GEAR

- We can borrow you personal tent but if you prefer your private please bring it.
- You will also maybe need a pillow and comfortable camping mat;
- **Summer sleeping bag** or thin blanket;

SANITARY ARTICLES/PERSONAL MEDICATION

- **Sun lotion**: can be purchased in Indonesia, but it is expensive. Consider a high factor especially if you have a sensitive skin. You will spend A LOT of time on the sun. (coral reef friendly sun lotions are recommended)
- **Mosquito repellent**;
- Bio-degradable shampoo and soap if possible, but otherwise usual brands may be purchased in project area.
- Tampons and pads are difficult to find and they are of low quality, consider bringing these.
- Hand sanitizer gel may be useful, especially during your stay on islands.
- Towels;
- Personal medication (include diarrhea tablets, allergies pills, eye drops, contact lenses liquid if needed). Note that project area is extremely dusty, volunteers with asthma, allergies and those wearing contact lenses WILL have problems, and should bring their own medication/prevention.
- Dietary supplements if needed. Please note that there is no refrigeration on islands.
- Snorkel gear

OTHER

Luggage may not arrive with the plane due to airline failure. We recommend that you bring with you a carry-on bag with a change of clothes, along with your cards, documents and personal medicines.

There is no waste disposal system in project area that works. That's why everybody is responsible for taking back home all toxic waste (as e.g. batteries, empty shampoo bottles, etc.) that has accumulated during his/her stay, for proper disposal.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What kind of healthy care we should take before traveling? Do we need any vaccines?

Each volunteer should have their vaccines updated. If you have dental problems, you should visit a dentist before travel. Volunteers with asthma or allergies problems should look for medical advice and the necessary medication. Many volunteers travel with typhoid vaccine , tetanus vaccine and hepatitis a +b. But it is your responsibility and decision.

Two daily meals will be provided on islands of Bilang-bilangan and Mataha. What kind of food is served?

Meals are prepared by rangers of Konservasi Biota Laut Berau. Rice, pasta and fish are always the basic ingredients. Vegetables or fruits are limited due to the fact that electricity is working only 4 hours a day.

How is the water quality?

Water used on islands is brought from the mainland or it is boiled. (In both cases it is drinking water). In the villages of Maratua, Derawan, Balikpapan, Lenggo or Tanjung Redeb we recommend you to buy drinking water.

Are the accommodation and meals on islands covered by the participation fee?

YES, basic food is provided on islands. In the village of Balikpapan and Tanjung Redeb volunteers cover their own expenses.

How basic is the accommodation on islands?

Ranger's houses on islands are equipped with very basic kitchen and WC. Drinking water is provided, but of course water supply for showering and washing will be limited, main reasons are that the islands are hard to access and they do not have their own source of water. Each ranger's house has a small fridge and a small electric power generator which will work during 2-4 hours/day. It is not necessary to bring your own cup, plate, fork and spoon.

Are the islands safe?

Our islands are very safe due to the fact that only rangers and volunteers stay on the islands during both day and night. But your stay is on your own risk, we do not take responsibility for your health or your personal belongings.

ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION

You may find further information on

www.morskezelvy.cz

www.saveturtle.net

<https://www.facebook.com/morskezelvycz-607230715971714/>

Contact

hanka.svobodova@morskezelvy.cz

HOW TO APPLY

If you wish to help us and become a volunteer please send a [motivation letter, your CV and copy of the volunteer statement document with your signature](#) to hanka.svobodova@morskezelvy.cz. The successful applicants will be notified no later than 2 weeks after application. The project staff will do their best to meet your preferences in terms of participation periods. We will notify you if these are not available, to discuss alternatives.

Each volunteer must provide the Konservasi Biota Laut Berau staff with an emergency contact from home before their arrival to Indonesia.



HAVE A GOOD TRIP!!!

VOLUNTEER STATEMENT

This Volunteer Statement is given and personally signed by

Name and Surname:

Date of Birth:

Residence Address:

for the purpose of personal contribution (volunteering) to the 'Konservasi Biota Laut Berau' project:

I hereby state that I have read and fully understood the document named 'Sea Turtles Conservation in Indonesia', ver. [9/2019], provided to me by **Chráníme mořské želvy z.s. / Save turtle organization / Konservasi Biota Laut Berau**. I am prepared and willing to act accordingly and fully in compliance with the rules given in the document.

In particular, I confirm that

- my participation in the project and/or any actions related there to shall be performed in my own name, responsibility and danger;
- my current health condition allows me to participate in the project;
- I shall establish and maintain proper and respective health insurance for the whole duration of my stay; and
- I fully understand the nature of the activities to be performed by me and I am fully aware of the conditions in which the respective activities shall be performed.

I promise to follow all the instructions given by rangers and/or any other respective personnel, help in protection of sea turtles and not to compromise the reputation and/or good name of the **Konservasi Biota Laut Berau / Chráníme mořské želvy z.s. / Save turtle organization** or any other entities providing protection to sea turtles.

In _____ on _____
/Place and date of signature/

/Signature/