



So you are thinking of volunteering at tasikoki?

It is a huge commitment you are thinking of making and not one to take lightly so we have put together a little bit of info for you about the conditions into which you are about to immerse yourself. If, after reading through all this information, you still want to make that commitment then we look forward to seeing you soon.

How much of the following have you considered already?

Local weather conditions (hint-it gets really hot and really humid)

What are the local customs? (hint - skinny dipping is seriously frowned upon)

Do I need any vaccinations? (hint - yes)

What kind of place is Tasikoki? (hint - we are not a cuddle farm and touching the wildlife is a no no)

Are there insects and bugs in Sulawesi? (hint - it's a tropical island people, what do you think?)

Do I need a visa to volunteer? (hint -unless you are an Indonesian national then most definitely)

What kind of wildlife do we have at Tasikoki? (hint - Sulawesi is a hot spot for the illegal wildlife trade and as a result we have a lot of animals. Over 400 and climbing)

Can I party every night away at the nearby nightclubs? (hint - not if you want to stay and what nightclubs? Tasikoki is kinda isolated and that's how we like it)

Still interested?

Then let's clarify all the above and much more. This is where the adventure starts.

Location, Location, Location

Tasikoki sits on a hill by the sea, overlooking the famous and stunning (seriously, like so famous and totally stunning) Lembah Straits, the site of a former coconut plantation. The nearest town is Bitung, approximately seven miles to the north of us. We are only a few hundred miles from the equator and north Sulawesi has it's own micro climate, producing a wet and a dry season. April to October is the dry season with daily temperatures of between 23 - 35C and only the occasional shower. The wet season sees many brief but heavy showers and temperatures that range from 23 - 30C and humidity levels of 80% almost daily. It will take your body a few days to acclimate.

You can find Tasikoki on Google maps if you want a closer look.

Respecting the Locals

Tasikoki is right next door to a local village with whom we maintain a buoyant and positive relationship, which fits right in with our aim of empowering the local people. Most Indonesians dress quite modestly, even when in the sea, when compared to western standards and they find too much bare skin offensive. It is important for all of our volunteers to remember this and not show too much skin. Ladies must always wear a bra and when on the beach wear a top that covers the shoulders and stomach. No bikinis and that goes for the guys too!

Vaccinations & Zoonosis

No one wants to get scratched or bitten by the animals or wildlife they care for but accidents can happen and we advise taking preventative actions to keep such incidents at bay. That is why we maintain a strict SAFE DISTANCE POLICY at all times but more about that later. A zoonotic disease is one that can jump from an animal to a human and we want to avoid those as best we can. In the mean time there are some essential vaccination that are compulsory. That includes up to date tetanus as well as Hepatitis A & B vaccinations. We recommend an up to date Typhoid jab as well.

There are other vaccinations that your doctor might suggest or even insist upon, such as a pre-rabies vaccination or Japanese encephalitis. Neither is present on site but you should discuss all of your options with your doctor. Tasikoki is not in a malarial zone but some people feel safer taking anti-malarial medication anyway.

Some vaccinations require a series of injections over several weeks and can be costly so you need to organize these in plenty of time and budget for them appropriately.

Rescue Centre or Cuddle Farm?

There are some rescue centers out there that actively use their cute 'n cuddlies to draw volunteers in thus securing funds but that ain't us people. Don't get us wrong, we have some cuties here whose level of cuteness is off the charts.

But we also maintain our SAFE DISTANCE POLICY at all times. Only veterinarian staff or keepers will come into contact with the wildlife we care for and even then that is only as a last resort. This is because our aim is to put the wildlife back into the wild wherever possible and this becomes more difficult to do whenever the wildlife becomes used to people. In addition, the wildlife we care for remains wild (the clue is in the name) and they will strike out if they feel threatened. Unless you are David Attenborough you won't be able to interpret the behaviour and calls of the wildlife and if you try to you might get hurt. So if you join us here we will expect you to adhere to the SDP at all times. Defying that policy could lead to your removal from Tasikoki and no one wants to be in that position.

Insects, spiders and scorpions oh my!

Come on, it's a tropical island, what did you expect? Tribbles!! Yes we have all of those (except the tribbles) but don't panic. Like the majority of the wildlife here, the bugs will leave you alone if you leave them alone, apart from the ants and mosquitoes but these too can be avoided if you take preventative measures. On the flip side, if you like your critters and bugs this is definitely the place for you.



The volunteer and the visa

Go grab your passport and check it's expiry date because you need at least six months validity before you enter Indonesia. All good? Let's continue and talk about your visa. In order to volunteer in Indonesia you must have a social cultural visa (type 211) and that is absolute, no discussion no debate! There are other visa types but you cannot volunteer on them. If you do, you risk expulsion from Indonesia and being blacklisted and barred from ever re-entering the country. You should check out the website for the Indonesian embassy in your home country for more information.

The Social Cultural visa lasts for sixty days from the day you enter the country but can be extended four times, with each extension granting an additional thirty days stay.

Your application for the visa must include a sponsorship letter from Tasikoki which we will begin preparing once you have paid your deposit to reserve your place here.

In order to process it we need:

1. a clear, colour scan of the photo page of your passport
2. your anticipated/planned dates of arrival at and departure from Tasikoki
3. your full postal address and occupation
4. the country and city from which you will apply for your visa.

Many embassies and/or airlines will require that you have a flight booked out of Indonesia in which case any flight out will do. It can always be canceled or changed once you get here.

Where the Wild Things Are!

At the time of updating this document Tasikoki currently has over 400 animals from nearly 50 species including but not limited to . . .

Orang-utan

Black Crested

Macaque

Salt water crocodiles

Cassowary

Western Crowned Pigeon

Palm Cockatoo

Javan Slow Loris

Heck's Macaque

Cuscus

Long Tailed Macaque

Green Iguana

Borneo River Turtle

Moor's Macaque

Sail-fin Lizard

Gorontalo Macaque

Tonkean Macaque

Eclectus Parrot

White Bellied Sea Eagle

Bare-eyed cockatoo

Sun Bear

Moluccan Cockatoo

Red & Blue Lorikeet

Babirusa

Javan Deer

Let's Get This Party Started . . . Or Not!

It's communal living here at Tasikoki in a purpose built building we call the volunteer house. There are two shared dormitories, a male and a female one, with bunk beds. The accommodation may not be the Hilton but it is functional and works for us. Communal living requires some effort on everyone's part to ensure the smooth running of the house and you may need to moderate your behaviour slightly. For example, everyone shares a domestic routine and everyone is expected to clear up after themselves. As for partying, well we do try and arrange things to do in the evenings for the volunteers but excessive drinking is just not gonna happen and no skinny dipping in the sea at night either. Remember we have villages next door that are of a very conservative mindset and they don't take kindly to naked foreigners romping drunkenly in the sea after dark.