

“ It's not much . . . but it's home ”



“ I think
it's brilliant ”

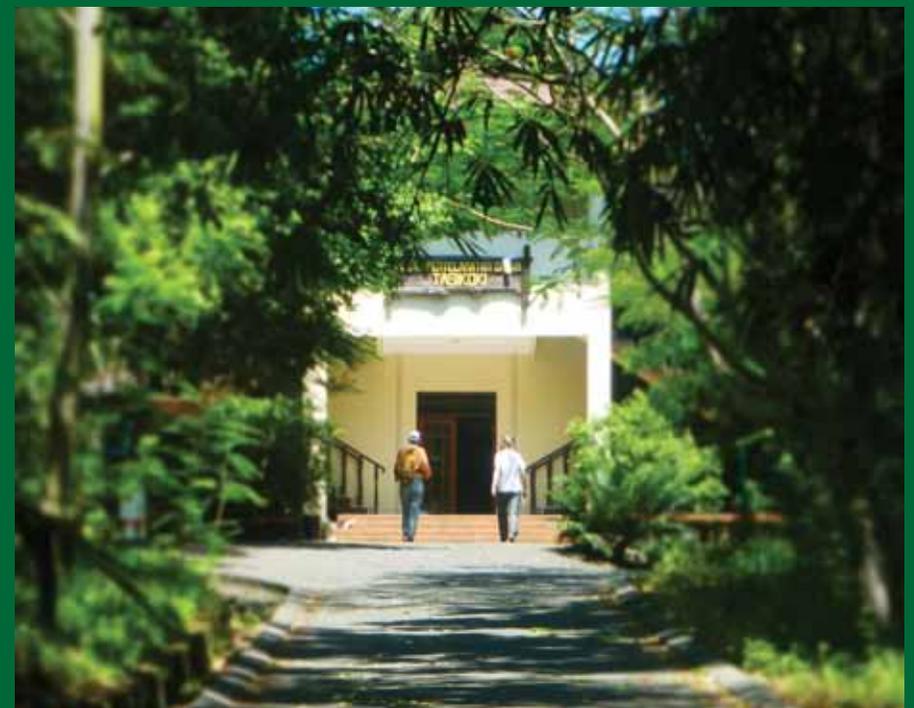
Pusat Penyelamatan Satwa Tasikoki - Tasikoki Wildlife Rescue Centre

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If you have ever volunteered abroad then you know that the living conditions for volunteers vary a great deal from project to project and of course people build up an image of what our volunteer accommodation might look like.

So in an effort to avoid your fears and preconceptions affect your decision to join us we are happy to tell you a bit more about the volunteer accommodation and facilities at Tasikoki."



Home Sweet Home & A Shared Living Space

The volunteer house was purpose built to house the volunteers several years ago when the volunteering program really took off.

There are two floors with the ground floor being used predominantly by our very successful education program. It has a very large open plan space that can seat a hundred people, which comes in handy as the space is used for conferences and meetings by local groups and agencies. There are male and female toilets on the ground floor as well.

Volunteers actually live on the first floor in two single sex dormitories with bunk beds. Unfortunately we do not cater for couples however you have the option of upgrading your accommodation to a private room in our guest house. here are more details about that below. There are beds for eight guys and ten beds for the ladies. A third bedroom is currently occupied by the Wildlife Rescue Centre manager and on occasion permanent staff such as the guest liaison or volunteer coordinator will use bunks in the dormitories as well.

The majority of the bunks have new mattresses on them. We started replacing the old ones with brand new ones in February of this year and we expect to have all of them completely replaced before the end of 2018.

Both volunteer dormitories have balconies with a stunning ocean view from the guy's balcony (sorry ladies.) The balcony doors are kept locked when there is no one in the dorm and at night.

We often asked if there is air conditioning in the dorms and at the time of this writing there is not, although we are considering it for the future. However, there are wall fans and some free standing fans in both dorms.

The nights are very warm in Sulawesi so there are open plan windows in all the dorms but these all have insect screens We insist that as soon as it gets dark all windows and doors are kept shut to prevent bugs coming in. But this is the tropics and bugs will still come into the room, we just try to prevent an insect invasion plus all the bunks have mosquito nets on them.

All the bunks have storage space and will have fresh bed linen for your arrival, with plenty of spare linen for your stay. We also have towels here but if you want to bring your own you are more than welcome to and maybe you might consider donating them when you leave :-)

There is a large communal living space with a sofa, dining tables and chairs with plenty of books in many languages as well as board games. If you read through the packing list we advise on what to bring as far as medicines and basic first aid but we do have a cabinet in the volunteer house with many of those remedies in case you run out.

Mealtimes

There is always fresh fruit and water available as well as tea and coffee. You can store snacks and perishables in large fridge and there is storage for dry goods in the kitchen, where we do our own individual washing up.

Volunteers get three plant based meals a day, prepared and cooked by our local Indonesian staff. There are no animal food products allowed on Tasikoki property. We believe that this runs parallel to our conservation mission but the kitchen will serve fish and eggs on occasion. These are prepared and served separately so as to prevent cross contamination with the plant based foods. Meals are typically served in the volunteer house but on occasion we will go and eat in the guest house, where the kitchen is based (more on that below) as it makes life easier for the staff in the kitchen.

If a plant based diet leaves you peckish then you can visit some of the local restaurants.

Bathrooms

The volunteers have access to four uni sex showers but we try to conserve our resources and encourage you to get wet, turn the water off, lather and rinse. If you come up from the beach then you can use the outside taps to rinse sand off. As you will see below, the drains here don't cope well with blockages and sand going down them will cause a flood.

There are of course toilet facilities for you however, Tasikoki does not provide toilet paper. This is something of a delicate issue but to be blunt volunteers go through it by the bucket load and it became to expensive. In an attempt to reduce the quantity of tissue paper we started encouraging volunteers to buy it themselves. You can also use the bum shower if you wish, which is how the locals do it.

it can take some practice but you use much less paper in the process. You need to be aware that toilet paper cannot be flushed away here because the Indonesian drains were not built with that in mind. There are bins for the toilet tissue in each of the toilets and yes, it gets composted.

Waste Management

At Tasikoki we reuse and recycle as much as possible so you will find several bins for items we can use with the animals, one for compostable card and paper as well as bins for glass and cans.

All cooked food leftovers are composted and uncooked food such as fruits and fruit peel go to the babirusa. We waste as little as possible at all times.

Alcohol

You will have the opportunity to buy alcohol at the supermarket but spirits are not allowed on Tasikoki property without the permission of the volunteer coordinator. This is simply because in the past over consumption of spirits has led to some very questionable behaviour.

Please use your own common sense when it comes to booze. Drinking too much here is, quite frankly, a dangerous idea. Bad behaviour due to alcohol will see you removed from Tasikoki at our earliest convenience.

Smoking

We have to be very strict with regards to smoking in Tasikok for the sake of the wildlife but we do have an area with cover if you want to smoke, just at the rear of the building.

WiFi

There is wifi but limited bandwidth and the staff have priority. We will give you the password on arrival but ask that you do not watch live football matches or stream Netflix at every opportunity.

Laundry

There is a washing machine on the ground floor for volunteers to use and whilst we keep some laundry detergent to hand we don't provide it on a regular basis. You will have the opportunity to buy some for yourself at the local supermarket. we would encourage you to try and put your load in with another volunteer to once more preserve resources. We have several large clothes horses which you can dry your clothes on but due to high humidity it can take a few days sometimes for everything to dry.

Communal Living

Communal living can be stressful particularly if you haven't done so since you were a student or if you have your own place. However, it can also be great fun if you bring the right attitude with you. But everyone involved has to be ready to compromise to a certain degree.

We do what we can to keep insects and other pests out but this is the tropics and you will find insects everywhere. House geckos can be seen all over the buildings at night, barking away and hunting for a crunchy arthropod snack. But they are harmless, unless they fall from the ceiling onto your plate or into your drink (been there, done that!)

The volunteer house is cleaned regularly by staff but you are expected to clean up after yourself immediately, wash up immediately and if you spill anything, even if it's just a crumb or grain of sugar, clean it away. if not the ants will find it almost immediately, bringing their little friends with them. Very soon it's a bugfest of biblical proportions. The volunteer coordinator and guest liaison will do their very best to look after you whilst you stay with us but they are not your parents so please do not take them for granted because you will feel their wrath and no one wants that Pandora opened.



The Guest House

There is one more residential building on site that you have access to and that is our eco lodge guest house.

The lodge is primarily used for international school and university students that visit Tasikoki as part of our education program as well as VIP guests. There are five air conditioned pods that can each house several visitors in bunk beds although some have single and double beds. The building also houses the kitchen where all of our food is prepped as well as several kitchen gardens immediately outside.

The guest house also has two floors, with the second floor being a games room with a pool table and table tennis. There is also the tower which is five stories high from which you can enjoy stunning 360 panoramic views of Tasikoki. You can see Mt Klabat, the highest point on Sulawesi, as well as the beaches and forests. It is the most popular place to go and watch sunrise from.

If you want some privacy you can upgrade your accommodation and stay in the guest house but priority goes towards visiting groups. Volunteers get a discount on the added cost and if you want more information on the rates prior to arrival you can email us at volunteer@tasikoki.org.