

# Ethno Tour FAQs

**What form of money should we bring?** For your personal spending money we suggest you bring US \$. You need to understand that the exchange market in the 3<sup>rd</sup> world is a little strange to say the least. You will get a better rate if you exchange larger bills (\$100) and anything below a \$20 you won't be able to exchange at all in Indonesia. Any bill older than 2001 will not be exchanged either, so make sure they are new bills. You will also get a better rate depending on the quality of the bill. We would strongly recommend that you do not let them get wrinkled or folded. If they are too bad of shape, they won't be accepted at all. We can't even begin to try to explain why this system is the way it is, but these are the facts. In terms of how much money you will want to bring for personal cash, \$100-\$200 would be more than enough depending on what types of things you plan on buying.

**Do you know what shots we need to get?** Make sure you are up to date on the standard stuff like polio booster, tetanus, etc. We would recommend having Hepatitis A & B and Typhoid and a physician recommended malaria medication. However, for the most updated information on what shots/vaccinations you need, please check with your physician or on the CDC website, [www.cdc.org](http://www.cdc.org). The only other thing we would recommend is malaria medication.

**What are good gifts to bring for the families?** In terms of home-stay gifts, Sea Tribe people love keepsakes or remembrance items. Anything that is specific to your local area is a great idea! Cups, shirts, hats, key chains, balls, etc. with school or state names; Special chocolates or non-perishable food items that are specific to your town or state; candies, toothbrushes, toothpaste, etc. for kids. Small kitchen gadgets for the women are appreciated also (vegetable peelers, etc).

**What is appropriate clothing for us to wear, and how would we go about getting that?** Check out the packing list on our website. However, in general, you are coming to a 100% Muslim part of Indonesia which is the largest Muslim country in the world. It is pretty secular in dress, etc, but it is still a pretty conservative place. Women will need to wear long pants or long skirts all the time, except at Telunas Beach or at resorts on Batam. Guys also have to wear long pants all the time, except when playing sports. In that case shorts are permissible. Remember that it is hot and humid here, so typically thin cotton pants are much nicer to wear than jeans. Shirts should be over the shoulder (i.e. no tank tops). Bring a swimming suit, but make sure it's one-piece for women. You really shouldn't have to go and buy lots of new clothes, etc. You should be OK with finding stuff in your existing wardrobe.

**Do we need a visa to travel, there and if so what kind?** You will need a visa, but you will pay for it at immigration in Indonesia upon arrival. It will cost \$25 and is good for 30 days. Check our website for current immigration rules for both US citizens and for citizens of other countries.

**What are the living facilities like?** Simple. The houses you will be staying in while on the islands will be quite simple but very comfortable. They are built over the water. Your shower will be by means of a bucket that you dump over your body/head to get wet and clean. Your toilet is most likely a hole in the floor over the ocean though sometimes you may actually have a "squatty potty" in place of that hole. Either way, you won't have a toilet to sit on while in the islands. While at base camp, you will have western toilets and showers. Things will be simple, but if you've ever been tent camping, it will be very similar to that.

**What kind of luggage do we need?** We would suggest you bring a large back-pack, the kind used for Mountain hiking/backpacking. Borrow one from a friend if you don't have one because they are way too expensive to go and buy one. The reason we suggest this is simply because of the ease of transport in and out of boats, etc. Rolling a large suitcase isn't going to happen so you would have to carry it and that can be hard to do. Everyone will be expected to carry what they bring. Please only bring one bag and a small carry-on. I would recommend that your carry-on be something that can double as a day-pack that you could do a one-day hike with or put enough clothes, etc into for an overnight stay somewhere so you don't have to carry your large pack.