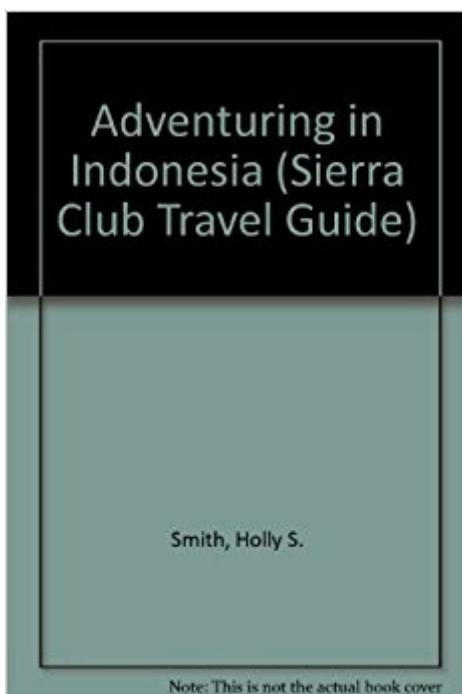


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# Adventuring In Indonesia: Java, Bali, Sumatra, Kalimantan, Sulawesi, Nusa Tenggara, Maluku, Irian Jaya



## **Synopsis**

The Indonesian archipelago consists of over 17,000 islands settled atop a spine of more than 400 volcanoes. In the latest addition to the Sierra Club Adventure Travel series, Holly Smith provides a wealth of savvy and sensitive advice on both outdoor and cultural opportunities in this enormously popular adventure destination.

## **Book Information**

Series: Sierra Club Adventure Travel Guides

Paperback: 528 pages

Publisher: Sierra Club Books for Children (April 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0871564297

ISBN-13: 978-0871564290

Product Dimensions: 8.4 x 5.4 x 1.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds

Average Customer Review: 3.5 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #6,260,493 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #16 in Books > Travel > Asia > Indonesia > Sumatra #49 in Books > Travel > Asia > Indonesia > Java #242 in Books > Travel > Asia > Indonesia > Bali

## **Customer Reviews**

Smith (How To Bounce Back Quick After Losing Your Job, NTC, 1993) weaves history, geology, zoology, and culture into a fascinating narrative to capture the beauty and mystery of this island archipelago. Indonesia is a destination not for the tourist but for the traveler. Smith covers the major destinations of Java, Bali, and Sumatra, as well as the less-traveled islands of Kalimantan, Nusa Tenggara, and Irian Jaya. She includes descriptions of dozens of treks for new and seasoned hikers and useful information on parks and reserves. Another excellent book from this series. Highly recommended for all travel sections. ?Kevin M. Roddy, Univ. of Hawaii at Hilo Lib. Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Holly Smith takes you on an astonishing, kaleidoscopic journey through Indonesia's volcanic chain of geological formations, rainforests, beaches, and coral reefs-home to rare birdlife, the world's largest flower (Rafflesia Arnoldi), orangutans, and komodo dragons-and one of the most diverse, fascinating, mysterious human cultures on earth. Pack your bags and head straight out to the

furthest reaches of the remote archipelago-from Sumatra to Java, Bali, Kalimantan, Sulawesi, Nusa Tenggara, the Moluccas, and Irian Jaya. Focused on natural phenomena, outdoor adventures, wildlife, and past civilizations, this excellent cultural guide arms you with crucial background information about the rich Indonesian setting that succors and surrounds the island of Bali. Devour and savor the juicy, 41-page chapter on Bali, which offers historical and cultural insight into family, community, and spiritual beliefs, and an overview of the island's myriad crafts and temples. Holly Smith has written a very rare, compassionate guide book on an eminently human scale: intelligent, conversational, and accessible in both language and tone, it breathes life into some of Indonesia's 350 unique ethnic subcultures. Smith finds a nation full of gracious, open-hearted, bright-eyed people: you will discover eager school pen pals in the hardscrabble highlands of Sumatra, meet Javanese tour guides who will become your friend for life, and be invited to share Sasak hospitality in traditional dwellings on unspoiled Lombok. Travelers will encounter a depth of automatic trust and inclusivity with which few Westerners are familiar (or even comfortable). Indonesians that you meet on the bus or in the "pasar" will invite you home to eat dinner and stay with their families (a Balinese crew member on a day trip to Nusa Lembongan promised to pray for me and my future success at his private family temple). This is how Indonesians express their sincere willingness to show you and take you inside their culture while they simultaneously satisfy their own compulsive curiosity about your alien Western lifestyle and values. To fully understand Bali and the welcoming embrace of its people, you must also view it within its larger Indonesian context: use this compendium of well-traveled and researched, on-the-spot knowledge to better approach and appreciate Bali, Indonesia's central jewel set in the very heart of the Republic.

Despite the promising title this book contains little extra information on trekking and other adventurous outdoor pursuits in remote parts of Indonesia. In fact it barely covers even the better-known parts of each region - you are better off buying a Lonely Planet or Rough Guide for practical travel information, or a Periplus guide for in-depth detail.

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