Opportunities to partner with Gunung Bagging - the destination for hiking and travel enthusiasts in Indonesia

Background

Gunung Bagging was founded in 2009, and since then this user-focused website has grown into the best and most-visited source of information on mountain hiking across the Indonesian archipelago. Over the course of these 5 years, many passionate individuals have spent weekends and holiday periods exploring, documenting, and sharing information on the exciting and often remote corners of Indonesia. The primary goal of this has been to provide information on as many of the mountains across this vast nation as possible, so that others are well-prepared to visit these places too.

The information gathered is freely available online for all visitors – including tourism agencies, local authorities, tourists and potential tourists (both domestic and international), members of the Indonesian hiking community, volcano enthusiasts, scientists, writers, researchers and journalists.
How Can You Support Gunung Bagging?

We want to continue the development of the Gunung Bagging website and have a huge amount planned. In 2014 we plan ambitious, often lengthy mountain expeditions to areas about which there is little or no information in the public domain at the present time.

As we move into 2014, Gunung Bagging asks for support to continue this important and pioneering work – initially for a 12-month period.

From March 1st 2014, we want to support full time exploration activities to visit and document the mountains and help to develop eco-tourism in remote parts of Indonesia.

With support from just ten sponsors, it can be accomplished within just 1 year.

**We need about 1000 USD per month to cover the costs** of the expeditions listed below. Some months will cost more and some months will cost less. Just **ten individuals or companies donating 100 USD per month** for a period of 1 year would mean that all of the expeditions listed below could go ahead.

There are many deserving causes. We see poverty on a daily basis in Indonesia. But since the beginnings of the Internet age, many culturally valuable projects are possible with the support from donors who believe in the value of what can be achieved in both the short and long-term.

At Gunung Bagging, we spend a minimum of 10 hours per week on administrative tasks such as answering email queries from both domestic and international tourists, managing the site, editing and uploading trip reports, moderating comments, publicising the initiative via social media, and adding to the extensive photographic archives. We do not ask or expect to ever be paid for any of this.

The expeditions, on the other hand, are time-consuming and can be very costly and we require your support. Donated money all goes towards expeditions – transportation costs, basic accommodation when necessary, the payment of local guides, and simple food. If we have any funds left at the end of the 12 months it will go towards further Gunung Bagging expeditions later in 2015.

**Benefits of Support**

If you become a Gunung Bagging sponsor, there is a range of benefits:

- Logo and/or name on the Gunung Bagging homepage and the specific expedition pages that your funds supported. Expeditions proudly supported by YOU.
- Acknowledgement for your support by social media, including Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. We will like your Facebook page and post our thanks for your support.
- Presentation on the expeditions by Gunung Bagging founder, Daniel Quinn. Make your next event something to remember.
- Opportunity to join the expeditions, although these adventures are not for everyone!
Media and Public Acclaim

As the only English-language website of its kind, Gunung Bagging has been featured in many national and international newspapers and magazines and has become a trusted resource by many national and international organizations including the Smithsonian volcano team, The Jakarta Globe, The Jakarta Post, Tempo, Jakarta Expat, Venture magazine, Adventure Travel magazine and Peakbagger worldwide hiking community. We have led a BBC journalist to the crater rim of Gunung Merapi in order to see the topographical changes that have occurred as a result of the huge 2010 eruptions ([http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-pacific-11627431](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-pacific-11627431)) and we were the first to report the new post-eruption crater situation and elevation changes. The Smithsonian volcanologists regularly ask for contributions, such as recent photographs, to their bulletin newsletters and website database.

We have over 1,000 unique visitors to the website every week and, as we report on more mountains, this figure continues to grow. The broad geographical scope of the project has been of considerable help in encouraging responsible eco-tourism in previously less well-known areas. By spreading the load in this manner, the most popular ‘honey-pot’ mountain trails in Java also benefit. Instead of climbing Gunung Gede for the fifth time, our readers visit Gunung Parang near Jatiluhur or Gunung Puntang in the Malabar area south of Bandung.

Helping Local People

Reporting on lesser-known mountains encourages tourism to develop in new areas of Indonesia. This means more money entering the local economy and the long-term potential for permanent full or part-time income for local people. The number of tourists in Indonesia continues to increase every year with new eco-tourism destinations emerging. We encourage and support local people to take the opportunity to establish themselves as a local guide to lead tourists up a local mountain.

We encourage mountain guides to submit their contact details for inclusion on our growing online directory of local tourism services in remote areas. Those who receive positive feedback on Gunung Bagging from other trekkers are likely to be contacted on a regular basis.

The ‘Ribus’

Our list of Indonesian mountains with 1,000 metres of topographic prominence – known as the ‘Ribus’ – was the first list published specifically for Indonesia using objective, scientific criteria. There are 226 Ribus out there – and nobody has climbed to the top of more than 100 of them. Some of the Ribus don’t have official names and require up to a month to be climbed. Others can be hiked easily in just two or three hours. The opportunity for further exploration and reporting is enormous. In an age of ‘been there done that’ t-shirts, there are still many blank spaces to fill in for the mountain ranges of Indonesia.
Retaining Our Independence

Our editorial independence is of great importance and we have therefore never wished to be affiliated with corporations who may attempt to restrict what we write about. We also value webpage layouts that are clear, clean, uncluttered and free of intrusive advertising. Therefore, our website hosting costs are covered with the help of donations from kind supporters around the world.

The Photographic Archives

The Gunung Bagging image archive alone is probably the most comprehensive mountain photography resource to have ever been compiled for Indonesia. If maintained and further developed, countless future generations will benefit from free access to all of this material.

The crater rim of Gunung Merapi, Jawa Tengah (Dan Quinn, 2011)
Left: The active crater of Gunung Gamkonora, Halmahera, Maluku Utara (Dan Quinn, 2013)
Right: The huge granite mountain called Bukit Kelam, Kalimantan Barat (Dan Quinn, 2013)

Left: Fresh Sumatran tiger prints at the foot of Gunung Pantaicermin, Sumatera Barat (Dan Quinn, 2013)
Right: The main crater of Gunung Kaba, Bengkulu, Sumatra (Dan Quinn, 2013)

Left: The ridge of Gunung Tondongkarambu, Sulawesi Selatan (Dan Quinn, 2013)
Right: The smoking cone of Ili Ape, Lembata, Nusa Tenggara Timur (Dan Quinn, 2013)
Our Expedition Itinerary

MARCH 2014
- Northeastern Kalimantan Expedition. Mountains peaks on the itinerary include Kujat (2,204m) and Gay (1,476m), two peaks we have been informed are home to a number of rare Nepenthes (pitcher plant) species. The northern part of Kalimantan Timur is also home to a vast, largely undocumented karst area called Gunung Kulat within which are three mountains peaks we have recently added to our pages.

APRIL 2014
- A week exploring two of the mountains on the border of Indonesian West Kalimantan and Malaysian Sarawak. Gunung Berumput (1,590m) (also known as Mount Pueh on the Malaysian side) is a long, plateau forming a natural border between the two nations. Penrissen (1,326m) is more easily accessible and offers views of remote areas of West Kalimantan.
- A ten-day expedition to Gunung Sojol (3,030m) in Central Sulawesi. This is the longest single mountain hike in the whole of Sulawesi and is only climbed one or twice per year by Indonesian hiking clubs. It is the first of three expeditions to 3,000m-plus mountains in Sulawesi – and probably the most demanding.

MAY 2014
- The second of three trips to the very high mountains of Sulawesi this year. Gunung Gandangdewata (3,074m) is the highest mountain in West Sulawesi and apparently takes one week to complete a traverse from west to east. We will probably be enlisting the help of a University hiking club from Makassar that has already made a successful ascent.
- A proper exploration of the non-volcanic mountains of the island of Sumbawa is long overdue. Gunung Tambora is world famous for its 7km-wide crater, but very little is known in the wider world about Doro Maria (1,444m), Olet Takan (1,343m) and Olet Sangenges (1,840m). Nearby Sangeang (1,949m) is an island volcano which demands respect and caution due to frequent volcanic activity which often leads to the evacuation of the island.

JUNE 2014
- The third of three expeditions to the very highest mountains in Sulawesi. Gunung Balease (3,016m) is another remote mountain that requires at least a week to complete and is a serious undertaking.
- Bukit Raya (2,278m) is the highest mountain in Kalimantan (Indonesian Borneo). On the remote border of West and Central Kalimantan, it takes around 10 days to complete the hike. Despite several expeditions per year by Indonesian hiking clubs and researchers conducting fieldwork, there is still no definitive account of the hike available online. Gunung Bagging aims to publish a full account, along with a series of photographs, after we complete the expedition in early July. The access route for the mountain and National Park (Taman Nasional Bukit Baka Bukit Raya) is from the West Kalimantan side (Pontianak).
AUGUST 2014
- Gunung Leuser National Park. Led by experienced veteran hiker Nick Hughes who is an expert on this particular area of Aceh, we will be conducting a two-week expedition beginning at the end of July to one of Indonesia’s most remote areas. We hope to visit all three main peaks: Gunung Loser (3,404m), Gunung Leuser (3,119m) and Tanpa Nama (3,466m, the rarely-visited highest peak in the province and second most prominent summit in Sumatra).
- A ten-day expedition to the lesser-known mountains of Jambi province. Masurai (2,933m), Sumbing (2,507m) and Raya (2,543m) are all within easy reach of the town of Sunggai Penuh on the shores of Lake Kerinci. But little information is so far available about them.

SEPTEMBER 2014
- 10 days hiking Mekongga (2,650m) (the highest mountain in Southeast Sulawesi, requiring a minimum of five days’ trekking), and the peaks of Southeast Sulawesi’s islands of Kabaena, Butung and Wowoni.
- A ten-day expedition in conjunction with conservation initiative Heart of Borneo to visit an astounding natural landmark known as Puruk Sandukui (approximately 1,003m elevation), which is a hill crowned with a 250-metre vertical stone pinnacle! There are very few photographs of this incredible place in the public domain so, whilst we are unlikely to be able to climb to the top, we hope to put together a collection of photographs that everyone can access for free online. We also hope to visit another Central Kalimantan mountain, Gunung Kanamu (1,578m), about which very little is known.

OCTOBER 2014
- A week exploring Java’s easternmost mountains Ijen-Merapi (2,803m) and Baluran (1,265m). The summit of Gunung Merapi next to Kawah Ijen remains elusive for most hikers, despite having a Dutch triangulation pillar on top. We aim to create a trail to the highest point. Access to Baluran peak is more difficult but we are confident that we can convince National Park staff to accompany us on a rarely-made journey.
- The island highpoints of Komodo National Park plus Gunung Mbeliling (1,258m) on the island of Flores. These islands are visited by thousands of tourists every year. But not much has been published regarding reaching the tops of Komodo and neighbouring Rinca.
- A shorter trip to Central Sulawesi’s Gunung Tompotika (1,550m) on the Tompotika peninsula with help from the Alliance for Tompotika Conservation who look after the area.

NOVEMBER 2014
- A week climbing neighbouring mountains Gunung Niut (1,701m) and Gunung Merdai (1,410m) in the northern part of West Kalimantan province. The former has been climbed on several occasions (the summit is crowned with a Dutch-era triangulation pillar) but there is absolutely no information available on the latter.
DECEMBER 2014
- An expedition to **Lore Lindu National Park** in Central Sulawesi and the mountains that surround the provincial capital **city of Palu** – **Gunung Sidole (1,803m)**, **Bulu Nti (2,334m)**, **Gunung Torompupu (2,495m)**, **Gunung Gawalise (2,023m)** and **Gunung Nokilalaki (2,355m)**.

JANUARY 2015
- The most easterly 3000m-plus mountain in Indonesia (outside of Papua), Seram island’s **Gunung Binaiya (3,027m)** is climbed several times a year by hiking enthusiasts. However, the regular route leads only to the second highest summit. We aim to reach the true peak which may involve an extra day to open a route between the two. Following on from this will be a boat trip out to the Banda islands to climb and photograph the volcano island **Banda Api (640m)**.
- Another trip to Central Sulawesi (which is relatively dry at this time of the year) to report on the remote mountains in the eastern part of the province including some or all of the following: **Gunung Kandela (2,870m)**, **Gunung Katopasa (2,825m)**, **Buyu Lumut (2,403m)**, **Gunung Tokala (2,584m)** and **Gunung Pompangeo (2,590m)**.

FEBRUARY 2015
- The most significant natural landmark in the Riau islands, Lingga island’s **Gunung Daik (1,165m)** is crowned with three imposing cliff faces. Making use of the new Batam-Silanggit flight, this will be followed by expeditions to **Gunung Lubuk Raya (1,880m)** and the sacred Batak mountain of **Pusuk Buhit (1,982m)** (both in North Sumatra).

If you are not able to help by donating, there are other ways you can support us and see the above plan become a reality. Let your friends and colleagues know. Forward them this information. They might be able to help.
Our deadline for raising funds is January 31st 2014. If you have any questions about the proposal that are not answered above, or are interested in becoming a sponsor for a year, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Dan Quinn, December 2013.

Email: Danpquinn@gmail.com

Co-founder and editor Dan Quinn on Gunung Rantemario, Sulawesi Selatan (Don Bason, 2009)

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