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- [Main page](#)
 - [Contents](#)
 - [Featured content](#)
 - [Current events](#)
 - [Random article](#)
 - [Donate to Wikipedia](#)
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-
- Interaction
- [Help](#)
 - [About Wikipedia](#)
 - [Community portal](#)
 - [Recent changes](#)

Article [Talk](#)

Read [Edit](#) [View history](#)

Komodo (island)

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Coordinates: 8.55°S 119.45°E﻿ / ﻿−8.55°S 119.45°E﻿ / -8.55; 119.45

Komodo is one of the 17,508 [islands](#) that compose the [Republic of Indonesia](#). The island is particularly notable as the habitat of the [Komodo dragon](#), the largest lizard on Earth, which is named after the island. Komodo Island has a surface area of 390 square kilometres and a human population of over two thousand. The people of the island are descendants of former [convicts](#) who were exiled to the island and who have mixed with [Bugis](#) from [Sulawesi](#). The people are primarily adherents of [Islam](#) but there are also [Christian](#) and [Hindu](#) congregations.

Komodo New 7 Wonders of Nature



Northern tip of the island

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congregations.

Komodo is part of the [Lesser Sunda chain](#) of islands and forms part of the [Komodo National Park](#). In addition, the island is a popular destination for [diving](#). Administratively, it is part of the [East Nusa Tenggara province](#).

Contents

- [Description](#)
- [History](#)
- [Modern day](#)
 - [Fauna](#)
 - [Pink Beach](#)
- [See also](#)
- [References](#)

Description [\[edit\]](#)

Komodo is part of the [Lesser Sunda chain](#) of islands and forms part of the [Komodo National Park](#). It lies between the substantially larger neighboring islands [Sumbawa](#) to the west and [Flores](#) to the east. The island's surface area covers 390 square kilometres.

History [\[edit\]](#)

The earliest stories (among Westerners) of a dragon existing in the region circulated widely and



Geography

Location	South East Asia
Coordinates	8.55°S 119.45°E
Archipelago	Lesser Sunda Islands
Area	390 km ² (150 sq mi)

Administration

Indonesia

Province [East Nusa Tenggara](#)

Demographics

Population	c. 2000
Ethnic groups	Bugis , others

Deutsch
Eesti
Español
Esperanto
Euskara
فارسی
Français
Galego
한국어
Hrvatski
Bahasa Indonesia
Italiano
Basa Jawa
Кырык мары
Lietuvių
Magyar
Bahasa Melayu
Nederlands
नेपाली
日本語
پنجابی
Plattdüütsch
Polski
Português
Română
Русский
Scots
Simple English
Српски / srpski

attracted considerable attention. But no Westerner visited the island to check the story until official interest was sparked in the early 1910s by stories from [Dutch](#) sailors based in [Flores](#) in [East Nusa Tenggara](#) about a mysterious creature. The creature was allegedly a dragon which inhabited a small island in the Lesser Sunda Islands (the main island of which is Flores).

The Dutch sailors reported that the creature measured up to seven metres (twenty-three feet) in length with a large body and mouth which constantly spat fire. Hearing the reports, Lieutenant Steyn van Hensbroek, an official of the Dutch Colonial Administration in Flores, planned a trip to Komodo Island. He armed himself, and accompanied by a team of soldiers he landed on the island. After a few days, Hensbroek managed to kill one of the lizards.

Van Hensbroek took the dragon to headquarters where measurements were taken. It was approximately 2.1 metres (6.9 feet) long, with a shape very similar to that of a [lizard](#). More samples were then photographed by Peter A. Ouwens, the Director of the Zoological Museum and [Botanical Gardens](#) in [Bogor, Java](#). The records that Ouwens made are the first reliable documentation of details about what is now called the Komodo dragon (or Komodo monitor).

Ouwens was keen to obtain additional samples. He recruited hunters who killed two dragons measuring 3.1 metres and 3.35 metres as well as capturing two pups, each measuring less than one metre. Ouwens carried out studies on the samples and concluded that the Komodo dragon



Vegetation on Komodo Island



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 [Edit links](#)

was not a flame-thrower but was a type of [monitor lizard](#). Research results were published in 1912. Ouwens named the giant lizard *Varanus komodoensis*. Realizing the significance of the dragons on Komodo Island as an endangered species, the Dutch government issued a regulation on the protection of the lizards on Komodo Island in 1915.

The Komodo dragon became something of a living legend. In the decades since the Komodo was discovered, various scientific expeditions from a range of countries have carried out field research on the dragons on Komodo Island.^[1]

Modern day [\[edit\]](#)

Komodo has a human population of over two thousand. The people of the island are descendants of former [convicts](#) who were exiled to the island and who have mixed with [Bugis](#) from [Sulawesi](#). The people are primarily adherents of [Islam](#) but there are also [Christian](#) and [Hindu](#) congregations. Administratively, it is part of the [East Nusa Tenggara province](#). The island is also a popular destination for [diving](#) and it has been included into the controversial [New7Wonders of Nature](#) list since November 11, 2011.

Fauna [\[edit\]](#)

The island is famous not only for its heritage of convicts but also for the unique fauna which roam it. The [Komodo dragon](#), the world's largest living lizard, takes its name from the island. A type of [monitor lizard](#), it inhabits Komodo Island and some of the smaller surrounding islands, as well as part of western Flores. [Javan deer](#) also inhabit the island, though they are not native. Other fauna include [water buffalo](#), [banded pigs](#), civets, cockatoo and



Komodo dragon



macaques.

Pink Beach [edit]

Komodo contains a beach with "pink" sand, one of only seven in the world. The sand appears pink because it is a mixture of white sand combined with red sand, formed from pieces of [Foraminifera](#).

See also [edit]

- [Islands of Indonesia](#)



Wikimedia Commons has media related to ***Komodo (island)***.

References [edit]

- ↑ "Sejarah Pulau Komodo" [📄](#). *indonesiaindonesia.com*.

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