

Drone Operator Requirements

Komodo National Park is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, home to fragile ecosystems and endangered species such as the famous Komodo dragon. To protect wildlife, ensure visitor safety, and preserve the tranquillity of the natural environment, drone use is tightly controlled under Indonesian conservation laws.

There are two important requirements to operate any kind of drone in Komodo National Park. *Without fulfilling both of these requirements, you cannot fly a drone in Komodo National Park.*

1. **[Get a SIMAKSI Permit](#)**

This is the first step for anyone who wants to fly a drone in the park. You can only use a drone if you have this permit. It ensures that your drone flights do not harm the environment or disturb wildlife.

2. **[Pay Drone Operation Ticket Fees](#)**

Once you have your SIMAKSI permit, you must pay a Drone Operation Fee. This fee helps manage and protect the national park. You can only pay this fee after your SIMAKSI permit is approved.

Park rangers and marine patrols are authorised to request your SIMAKSI and drone ticket. Non-compliance may result in **drone confiscation, fines, or ejection from the park.**

What is SIMAKSI?

SIMAKSI stands for Surat Izin Masuk Kawasan Konservasi, which translates to Permit to Enter a Conservation Area.

SIMAKSI is an official entry permit required to conduct any activity inside a conservation or national park area in Indonesia, including Komodo National Park. It is issued by the Balai Taman Nasional (National Park Office) under the Indonesian Ministry of Environment and Forestry.

The permit is designed to regulate and preserve the ecosystem within these areas. Drone usage at Komodo National Park is not allowed without having a valid SIMAKSI.

How much are the fees?

- **Core Tourism Zones:** IDR 2,100,000/day (approx. USD 125)
- **Non-Core Zones:** May be permitted without additional fee, but SIMAKSI is still required.

Note: Fees are per day and per drone, regardless of flight time. No pro-rata rates apply.

How to Get a SIMAKSI (for Komodo NP)

IMPORTANT: You must submit the SIMAKSI application at least 7 days before your trip. This allows 2-5 working days for evaluation and confirmation. Please apply early to avoid any delays.

As part of the application process, you will need to upload copies of the following documents:

- Permit Request Letter (Surat Permohonan - download template [here](#))
- Identification (Passport or KTP)
- Drone Pilot License
- Declaration Letter (Surat Pernyataan - downloadable when filling out the form)

Visit the official Komodo website: <https://www.siora.id/Service/Simaksi>

- Enter a valid email address to receive an application verification code
 - Check your spam folder if the verification code does not appear in your inbox.
- **Select Ijin Khusus** (Videografi/Drone) from the permit list
- Fill out the SIMAKSI application form
 - NOTE:** Citizenship for non-Indonesians is WNA
- Upload copies of supporting documents (Request letter, passport, drone license, declaration letter)
- Wait for processing (usually 3 business days)
- Receive approval and permit details
- Pay any associated fees (depending on the purpose)
- Keep the SIMAKSI document with you while in the park

How to Pay Drone Operation Ticket Fees

Once your SIMAKSI permit is approved, you must register your visit and purchase a drone operation ticket via the **SIORA reservation app**, which is the official system for Komodo Park visitor permits.

The SiOra App can be downloaded from the App Store or Google Play Store, or directly from the downloads tab on the SIORA website home page: <https://siora.id/>

1. **Register/Sign In**
 - Open the app and create an account with your email or phone number
 - Verify via OTP (one-time password)
 - Log in to the dashboard
2. **Start a New Reservation**
 - Choose Destination - **Komodo National Park**
 - Enter your visit dates, number of days, number of visitors (1) and nationality
 - Select '**Drone Operation**' under the activities list
 - Enter Boat Info -Ship Name **Indo Master**
3. **Upload Required Documents**
 - SIMAKSI PDF
 - Passport scan
 - Drone spec sheet or registration
 - Letter of compliance (stating you will follow park rules)
4. **Review & Confirm**

- Check total cost (2,100,000 IDR x number of days)
- If everything looks good, tap **Confirm Reservation**
- 5. Make the payment**
 - Choose a bank (e.g., BCA, Mandiri) or e-wallet
 - A Virtual Account number is generated
 - Make the payment from your app/bank
- 6. Download Your Ticket**
 - Once payment is confirmed, your SIORA drone ticket will be issued
 - Save a screenshot or print the QR code for offline use
 - You will also receive an email confirmation and PDF containing your payment and ticket details

DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR PERMITS

- SIMAKSI permit
- Drone ticket from SIORA
- Show these to rangers or marine patrols upon request.
- Fly only in approved zones and avoid restricted areas.

Approved & Restricted Fly Zones & Rules

You may only fly in designated areas approved by the park and must have a ticket for those areas. Your shooting plan must reflect this and will be reviewed during SIMAKSI processing.

Permitted Core Zones (With Paid Ticket):

- Padar Island (popular sunrise shots)
- Pink Beach (coastal flyovers only)
- Gilli Lawa Darat (Rolling hills and dramatic coastlines)
- Taka Makassar (sandbar & marine life filming)
- Manta Point (for reef and wildlife, with care)

Drone-Prohibited Areas:

- Kalong Island
 - Home to large fruit bat (flying fox) colonies that emerge dramatically at sunset. Drone noise and presence can disturb the bats and alter their behaviour.
- Rinca Island
 - Loh Buaya - one of the main habitats of Komodo dragons and an active conservation and monitoring zone. Drones are restricted to avoid stressing the wildlife, particularly near ranger stations and visitor trails.
- Komodo Island
 - Loh Liang - This is a core conservation area and key natural habitat for Komodo Dragons

Additional sensitive areas may also be off-limits, such as:

- Other Core Conservation Zones
 - These include coral reef sanctuaries, turtle nesting beaches, and pristine islands designated for ecosystem protection. Many aren't marked by signs, so having a detailed park map or ranger guidance is essential.

- Bird Nesting Areas
 - Especially in mangroves and cliffside forests where species like sea eagles and kingfishers breed.

If you're not sure whether you're in a fly zone, **ask a park ranger or local guide** before takeoff—they're incredibly helpful.

Other typically enforced rules:

- Max weight: 7 kg; Max altitude: 150 m
- Keep visual line of sight, stay away from airports/crowds, no flights from moving vehicles or at night

Penalties for Violations

- Enforcement by park rangers may include confiscation, fines, or denial of future access.
- Nationwide, drone violations can also result in administrative penalties—worth noting given the protected status of the park

Final Recommendations

- Start early — timelines for SIMAKSI and park processing can take several days.
- Respect restricted zones — they are enforced to protect sensitive wildlife.
- Carry originals and copies of SIMAKSI, payment proof, license, and registration when flying.
- Review the park's flight briefing for up-to-date no-fly areas and maps.