

TOURISM INFORMATION FOR NORTH SULAWESI

To Our Visitors,

Welcome to North Sulawesi, the "Land of Smiling People" and our **1-Year Anniversary Edition**. It goes without saying that there are a number of factors that have helped sustain our effort. First of all, we would like to thank you, our guests for continuing to visit our destination. Secondly, we would like to thank our advertisers and contributors to this endeavor. The contributors, especially, make a significant effort to this publication in that they donate their time to photograph and write many of the stories that you see in this magazine.

We continue to welcome contributions and comments regarding our magazine. As always we hope that you will take this copy of What's Happening back to your home country and pass on your experiences here in our friendly province.

Last but not least, we hope to see you back here soon, in order that you may visit some of the attractions that you missed this time.

Please visit our website in the future to download previous editions of What's Happening as well as future ones.

Warm regards,

Ninny Ruata Barnes

Editor: "What's Happening"



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Cover Photo:

Photograph taken by Bill Marsden.

Overripe clove fruit taken with a Nikon Coolpix 880 on macro setting.

A New Hippocampus in Bunaken's National Park

Bunaken's National Park still holds many surprises. One of them is we recently discovered a new species of pigmy Seahorse.

One of our guides was diving with a couple of photographers in a place we do not dive regularly, because there are mainly small critters

and not a lot of bigger fish.

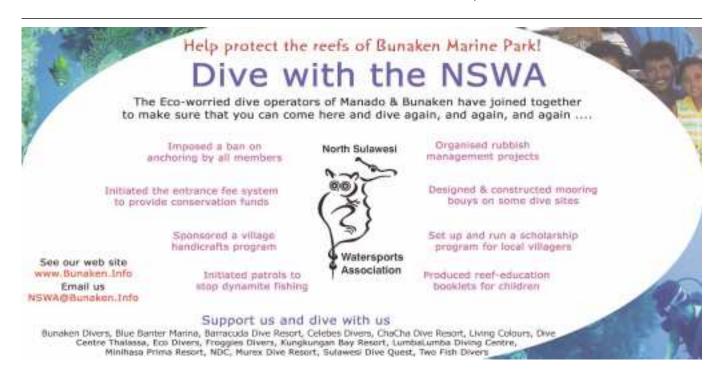
Hence Pontoh, the guide, was swimming along the wall very slowly in order to find the very small animals that macro photographers just love, when suddenly his attention was caught by a tiny completely white thing that jumped from one seagrass bit to another: it was a seahorse and very flat almost like cardboard and no bigger than 2,5 cm! imagine the excite-



Bunaken's National Park bietet noch immer sämtliche Überraschungen. Vor kurzem haben wir sogar eine neue Art Zwerg-Seepferdchen entdeckt. Einer unseren Guides war mit einige Fotografern am tauchen auf einen Ort die wir nicht so oft betauchen

weil es dort hauptsächlich Macrotierchen gibt und wenig Grossfischen.

Hence Pontoh, der Guide, ging langsam der Wand Entlang um eben die kleine tieren zu finden die bei Fotografern so beliebt sind, als er plötzlich ein ganz kleiner weisser ding sah, die von einer Grasshalm zu ein ander am überspringen war : es war ein Seepferdchen und sehr dünn, fast so wie Karton und nicht



ment, he had never seen the like before and he has been free-diving this reefs ever since a little boy, when he used to help his dad with the fishing. He thought he knew every secret of his reefs, especially since he started diving many years ago, and could stay down much longer and satisfy all the curiosity he always had about his "back-yard".

Hence came back from the dive very excited, and next thing we organized a boat so that all of us could go and admire his discovery. It is really a very cute little seahorse as you can see, and we gave it temporarily the name Hippocampus Pontohi, after the person who found it, and we hope that once they are fully described, which is being done right now, they can keep that name in honour of the first him.

Very soon in another spot we discovered a brown coloured couple, male and female, and the male with his pouch full of eggs. Then a couple of days later two green ones, and then on a different reef again, two yellow ones.

They live on different kinds of seagrass, and they seem not to mind currents, obviously the seagrass they live on, offers enough protection.

Hope to see you soon somewhere underwater on our astonishing reefs. ■

Text by: Christiane Muller Photo by : Hansjörg Berger (Giorgio)

Did you know the water temperature around Bunaken National Park ranges between 27°C - 29 °C all year round. länger als 2,5 cm! Sie können sich sicher die Aufregung vorstellen, nieh vorher hatte er so eine Gesehen, obwohl er schon von Kind ab unter- schnorkelte um Vater bei der Fischfangst zu helfen. Er dachte er kannte jeder Geheimnis von seinen Korallenriffe, um so mehr weil er schon sehr viele Jahren mit Atemautomat taucht, und dadurch viel Länger ünter bleiben kann um seine Neugier nach seinem "Hintergarten" zu befriedigen.

Hence kam natürlich sehr aufgeregt bei der Base zurück, und wir organisierten gleich ein Boot damit wir allen seine Entdeckung bewundern konnten. Der kleiner Seepferdchen sieht wirklich sehr süss aus, wie Sie selber hier auf die Foto sehen können, und wir nannten hin vorlaüfig Hippocampus Pontohi, nach der

Entdecker; wir hoffen er kann der Name seiner Entdecker behalten, auch nachdem die Offizielle Beschreibung die gerade im gang ist, fertig ist.

Schon schnell nachher fanden wir bei einen anderen Stelle, ein braunes Pahr, Männchen und Weibchen, und der Männchen hatte der Beutel voller Eier. Ein pahr Tagen später fanden wir zwei grünen, und nachher auf wieder eine ander Stelle, zwei gelbe.

Sie leben auf Mehresgrass, verchiedener Art und sie können auch gut gegen Strömung, offensichtlich gibt das Gras genug beschützung.

Ich hoffe Sie mal Unterwasser bei einer unsere bezauberende Wände zu treffen. ■



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Cloves (Cengkeh)-

Sangihe Talaud's fickle black -





This year is a special year, an unusual break with routine. After a good harvest last year, everyone was amazed when the clove trees started to fruit again. Although not a great harvest ("panen raya"), this year the gods seem to have blessed the people of Sangihe Talaud, because the clove trees have fruited again. Or so they thought. But the epithet "Indonesia wins again" applies equally to the poor farmers of the islands off North Sulawesi, because as the farmers watched the fruits form and ripen on the trees, they also watched the price fall from Rp 80,000 per kilo, to as low as Rp 25,000 per kilo by the peak of the harvest.

Still, everyone is busy harvesting the cloves. People will travel from Minhasa to help with the harvest, that can only be achieved by climbing the tree and

pulling the branches in to the trunk with a specially designed double hooked bar. Then the fruit, pale green or slightly red can be plucked off the branch and carefully placed in the nylon sac or basket carried by the farmer. One tree can take over a day to harvest, with a 'good' yield being 60-70 kg of green fruit. Each kilo of fresh harvested fruit will be only 300 g when fully dried.

Each village is heavy with the scent of drying cloves. Each road side or even a row down the middle of a road in narrow areas, is lined with Hessian sacks covered with cloves. In three to four days in a dry sunny period the Green and red fruit shrinks and darkens through orange, brown to the familiar brown-black nail that we love in baked ham and mulled wine. Very little of this crop is exported, an estimated 95% goes up in smoke, the heart of the Indonesian tobacco industry.

A specialty of the Maluku islands just next door, this spice is one of the highest value exports for the small scale farmer. Fruiting from about the fifth year, a tree can remain productive for over twenty years. Except in Talaud, where there are orchards full of cloves, most plantations seem ramshackle and disordered, in fact this is a highly evolved multi-crop; coconuts interspersed with nutmeg produce an export harvest three to four times a year. Banana's and breadfruit are grown for home and local consumption. And the ferns can be harvested for *pakis*.





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Volume 3, Issue 1



The Philippines, a quick two hour flight away. Wanna experience a completely different culture, hit the links, go to casino, and breathe lots of diesel fumes- Davao is the place!! Currently Bourag Airlines offers a once a week flight on Mondays. There is currently talk of putting on a second flight on Fridays, which was what the schedule used to be. If your lucky you can even ask the flight crew if you can visit the cockpit- and sometimes you get the jump seat inside the cockpit.

I stayed at a place called Red Knight Gardens operated by Ray & Paz, a lovely couple who do there best to make your stay a pleasant one. Paz is Philippino, while Ray is from the UK, there different cultural backgrounds have blended together quite nicely

to operate their small inn. The Red Knight Garden has a total of 23 rooms, some

studios, 1 BR, and 2BR units a small pool and a bar restau-

rant that serves an ok breakfast. Prices start as low as \$16 per night, including, free local phone calls, AC, cable (HBO, Cinemax). Venturing our by taxi is quite easy, you can go almost anywhere for 50 Pesos, that's only a dollar. Flag fall in a non-AC cab is 20 Pesos. If you play golf, try the Lanang Country Club where the greens fees are only 1,100 pesos (\$20) per day and \$4.00 for a caddy, want an umbrella girl add \$4.00. Nightlife abounds and the casino, only minutes away from Red Knight Garden certainly will be happy to accept your donations. Whatever you do, don't miss the outdoor restaurants outside the spot called the Venue, the dining spots only opened up about 3 months ago but they offer any type of European

Continued on page 9



Most are organically grown - the cost of applying fertilizer and the reticent nature of fruition makes it not effective to add expensive chemicals.

But the two types of clove (Zanzibar and Kelotok) that is exceptional to this area with it's own mystique and legend. They say that every harvest needs to have a sacrifice, indeed in early August two people fell to their deaths on the same day. The porters at Tahuna port tell of the tree that is so large it takes six people to ring it at arms stretch and half a village to harvest it.

But most trees do not reach this exception. A seedling planted and well tended will fruit for the first time in five or six years, then continue to fruit cy-

clically for the next twenty years or so. Guaranteeing two of the most typical tropical smells, - Enchanting exotic spices and smoking Kreteks.

Bill Marsden is a technical advisor for Yayasan Laut Lestari Indonesia.

Yayasan Laut Lestari Indonesia are undertaking a long-term programme to reduce environmental degradation and raise the standard of living of the Coastal communities of Sangihe Talaud. Working with communities, Local NGO's and Local Government.

YLLI would like to thank Yayasan Kelola Sangihe Talaud team for their help in researching this article.

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GETTING AROUND TOWN RLIJE RIJS STY



Getting from A to B is always somewhat of an experience here in Indonesia and Manado is no exception. Each town boasts its own form of public transport and for Manado it is the ubiquitous Blue Bus, otherwise known as mikrolets or Bis Kota.

These minivans seem to be breeding at an alarming rate and threaten to completely clog the main thoroughfares in the town. They do however provide an invaluable service of cheaply moving the populace around. And are a great bonus for tourists as well.

The going rate for getting around town is officially 950 Rupiah but don't expect any change from 1,000. For this princely sum you can speed up and down the Boulevard or round about Jalan Sam Ratulangi and jump off at any point.

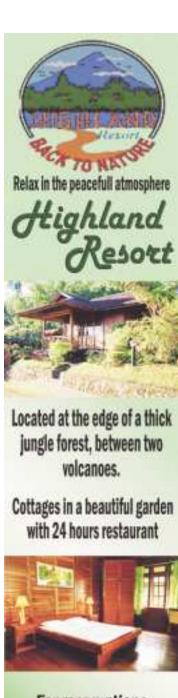
Getting on or off a mikrolet is an art in itself. Merely standing on or off the pavement and looking somewhat intently at an approaching mikrolet may be all you require to get them to swerve

in front of all traffic behind them and come to a screeching halt in front of you. Failing that, a slight flick of the wrist will indicate your interest.

All mikrolets have a small sign located on the front windscreen to indicate their destination and may also outline which route they are taking (lewat ...). Best to check with the driver to see if he's going your way. Getting off a mikrolet should also present little of a challenge. Most have a buzzer you can press or simply poke the driver or a quick yell out should suffice. Again, a swerve and a screech will have you tumbling off onto the pavement again.

At this point it would probably help to have your 1,000 Rupiah ready. Frustratingly however, many locals choose to wait until they have disembarked before they commence ferreting through their purses for a few grubby coins or notes to be thrust back in the direction of the driver. In the process, a line of traffic has banked up behind the mikrolet thus further clogging the Manado roads.

Aside from all manner of livestock who may accompany you on your journey (beware of chickens pecking your feet), the true hazard involved in mikrolet riding may well be the real threat of temporarily losing your hearing. Some mikrolet drivers insist on blasting the town with their choice of house music with EXTRA BASS. It's not uncommon to actually FEEL a mikrolet coming before hearing it, let alone even seeing it! Enjoy a Manado experience local style, wrap your knees up near your ears and fold yourself into a mikrolet seat and soak up a few of the local sights. But don't forget to jump off before you get too far out of town! By: Louise Lane





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Schools in the Village



Did you ever wonder what a school was like here in North Sulawesi. Well I need to tell you that the classrooms tend to be ill lit, toilet facilities minimal (by western standards) and generally quite different from the school you attended back in Holland, UK, USA or Singapore.

Several years ago the GM at Tasik Ria Resort decided to continue a program that he had been part of at Kungkungan Bay Resort which entailed expanding the cultural performances that were given during weekly BBQ's at the resort.

The beach was prepared from late afternoon with tables and chairs set out bordered by a long buffet spread. The area for the children's cultural performance was well lit

by spotlights and had a bonfire ready to be ignited at the precise moment that the kid's warrior dance began. All was set to go. As the sunset over the bay and people got changed for dinner, they would begin drifting in to the BBQ area. The General Manager would then kick off the festivities with a short introduction and request, something very simple. He would explain that schools in Indonesia are quite different than back home and that over the last several months donations were given by the guests which went





to a children' group that would benefit the children directly. It was decided between the guest and the GM that a combination basketball court, bad-

minton court would be the perfect solution.

Several months later the project was completed. Hats off to Tasik Ria Resort for supporting the local culture. We hope that other hotels and resorts and dive operators will take this example in order to build long term relations with the communities within which they operate. The importance of this relationship building will offer you the visitor a continued positive experience in North Sulawesi and furthermore help to continue building the culture of our people.

directly to the school for projects that were administrated by the hotel. These projects included running water for toilets & new sections of roof. This program went quite smoothly for over one and a half years and was chugging along quite well. Then the most amazing thing happened. A guest that was staying at Tasik Ria Resort approached the GM and indicated that he had a sum of money that was looking for a home. A close friend of his had died that year and one of the wishes of the deceased was that some money be given

The Philippines...

Continued from page 6

cuisine that you could imagine including raw oysters and Oysters Rockefeller. Truly a European flavor, dining under the stars with lots of choices, great people watching spot. If you haven't seen a jeepney you are in for an eye extravaganza, multi-colored combined with stainless steel resting on top of 4 wheels spewing clouds of diesel fumes. For all their polution they still bring a smile to you

face admiring the creativity of moving art, each one truly is a masterpiece.

This truly is a don't miss if you have the time, especially if you want to hit the links and do a bit of gambling.



Dive Bunaken with Eco Divers (PADI Gold Palm IDC Centre)



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Daily diving and snorkelling trips to Bunaken National Park

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Tasik Ria Resort also offers:

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- restaurant

Eco Divers Manado (at Tasik Ria Resort)



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Moreover, the funds are controlled by a multi-stake-holder management board comprised of the North Sulawesi Watersports Association, villagers from the 30 villages in the park, local tourism, fisheries and environmental government agencies, and the local university's marine sciences department. This setup ensures that the money collected cannot be used by any corrupt officials but rather is directed to the most important programs needed in the park (as agreed by this diverse set of interests).

The Bunaken Entrance Fee:

your money making a difference!

Now that you've arrived in Manado and enjoyed a few breathtaking dives in the Bunaken National Marine Park, you may be tempted to ask: "Just where does my Rp 150,000 entrance fee go anyway"? The answer will probably surprise you, as Bunaken's entrance fee system is the first of its kind in Asia, and is being held up as a model system by marine conservationists around the world. The most important aspect of Bunaken's system is that the money collected remains with the Bunaken Management Advisory Board to fund conservation and village development programs in the park - instead of heading to the national coffers as with every other national park in Asia (and many throughout the world)! This makes a world of difference, as it means your money goes towards managing the very reefs you've come to enjoy.

To date, the Bunaken entrance fee system has been extremely successful; having been inaugurated on 15 March 2001, the system collected US\$125,112 from

March 2001 through August 2002, including \$83,109 in 2002 alone. These fees were collected from 21,908 domestic visitors and 11,174 international visitors from 43 different countries.

So, you ask, where did that money go? Each year, the management board makes a yearly work plan in which it prioritizes the most urgent conservation issues in the park for funding. For the past 2 years, the unanimous top priority has been the

development of a joint villager/ranger/police patrol team to stop destructive fishing practices such as blast and cyanide fishing and other illegal activities





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such as mangrove cutting and capture of endangered wildlife such as turtles and dugongs. The patrol system, while extremely effective, has also been expensive, costing over \$85,000 to date (helped out by \$33,000 in grants from WWF Wallacea).

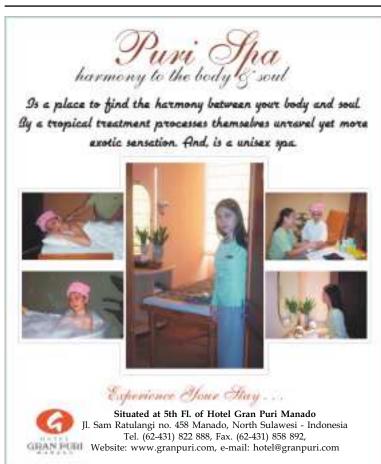
The second priority has been village conservation and development programs aimed at garnering the support of the nearly 30,000 villagers in the park. Over \$35,000 in the past year has been dedicated to programs in 24 villages, including mangrove replanting, conservation education for children, and construction of public wells, community information boards, docks, toilet facilities, and garbage disposal areas. The entrance fee has also helped fund a village VHF radio network and has even begun working on the plastic trash problem

from Manado, though it is clear that solving the trash problem is a government issue that will require significantly larger funding than the entrance fee can provide. For a detailed monthly update on the financial report from the board, please check the website www.bunaken.or.id.

Sounds good, but has this money made a difference? Absolutely, according to villagers, scientists and divers alike! Villagers from throughout the park have heralded the development of the patrol system (and the village radio network) – which has allowed villagers to help stop the blast and cyanide fishing that was threatening not only your diving but also their livelihoods and their children's future! Villager fishers have also reported an increase in fish catches since the bombing and cyaniding have stopped. Scientists studying

Bunaken's reefs have documented an 11.3% increase in live coral cover between January 2001 and September 2002 on









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Bunaken Island alone - almost unheard of in a time when environmentalists around the world are sounding the death knell for many of the world's

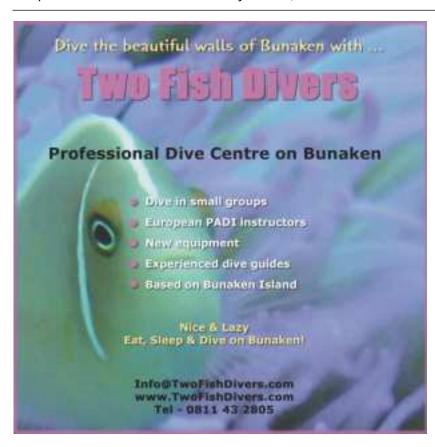
Perhaps most importantly to you, this difference is very noticeable to divers. Mr. K.Y. Lee, a dive tour leader from Singapore who has made 38 trips to Bunaken since 1991, says that for the first time in 10 years he is seeing sharks or turtles on almost every dive - he recently made a single dive with 9 turtle sightings! Both Michael Aw and Mike Severns (professional underwater photographers who produced the stunning books Beneath Bunaken and Sulawesi Seas) have likewise commented on their increasing satisfaction with the number of fish in the park. As Mr. Lee enthusiastically claims, "I never get tired of Bunaken's beauty; every dive here is like the first time." Note that Mr. Lee is putting his money where his mouth is – in the past year he has donated marine VCD's, t-shirts, and scholarship funding towards village conservation education programs in the park in a bid to encourage Bunaken's villagers to take care of their resources.

International recognition of Bunaken's success has also been forthcoming from a number of environmental organizations. The International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) has chosen Bunaken as its single Asian demonstration site for sustainable reef tourism, while the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) Southeast Asian Marine group has selected Bunaken as one of four model marine protected areas in the region. The World Wide Fund

> for Nature (WWF) continues to expand its programs in the park and uses Bunaken as a model for work elsewhere in Indonesia.

Here in Indonesia, the Indonesian Department of Nature Conservation in Jakarta has chosen to make Bunaken one of its "centers of excellence" for training for other parks. Thirteen other national parks from throughout Indonesia (as well as one each from Vietnam, Malaysia and the Philippines) have visited Bunaken in the past year and a half to study its management system. With luck, the lessons these national parks have learned from Bunaken will help ensure that Southeast Asia's reefs can prosper and be worthy of their title as the global center of marine biodiversity. Happy diving!

Dr. MV Erdmann. Marine Protected Areas Advisor, NRM/EPIQ North Sulawesi



Page 12 What's Happening Well if you want a challenge try Mt Mahawu (1311

Undaunted!!

meters) in a wheelchair. Several months ago I had the pleasure of meeting Wolfgang. At the time we were somewhat concerned that maybe the resort did not have all the correct facilities for someone that is handicapped. Our fears were unwarranted because Wolfgang may have been in a wheelchair but the last thing you would call him is handicapped. Not only did

Wolfgang dive during his entire stay but he also requested a tour to Mt Mahawu. A team of hotel employees willingly agreed and away they went to tackle this mountain. The rest is history as documented by the photos. Wolfgang sent us the photos, (upon our request) in order that we might challenge anyone who has the time and the courage (in some cases) to visit our

other attractive wonders of North Sulawesi. • JHB







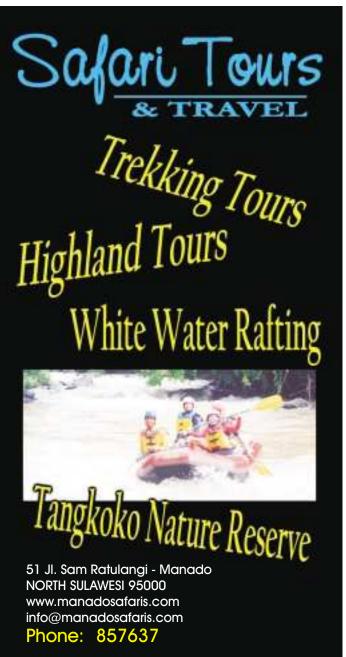
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Tourism Manado- A New Theatre



On the evening of July 15th, 2002 the gods of weather were smiling on Manado, at the opening of Manado's first open air theatre. Reminiscing of times spent in Yogyakarta and Bali, small groups of expats and local Manadonese were anxiously awaiting the inauguration of this spacious area in the center of Manado. After a few speeches, which were fairly short by local standards, we moved into the various performances. We were presented with a full evening of traditional bamboo music, local Minhassan dance, as well as a political satire theatre skit

performed by a Manado (off off Broadway) theatre group. Finally to top it off there was a parade of children, with their paintings, all of whom had received awards of excellence in various school contests. Towards the end, fireworks lit up the skies to bring the evening to a wonderfully relaxing close. All of us hope that Ibu (Mrs.) Greety R Sumayku will continue to make these innovative and creative changes in tourism





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development for Manado City and North Sulawesi.

Ibu Greety graduated from the Sam Ratulangi University (UNSRAT) in Manado and ITB, Bandung, with a degree in Civil Engineering. She was recruited by the local city government in 1979 for the Department of

Public Works where she stayed for a period of 15 years. In 1994 she was appointed as head of Manado City Planning. On the 14th February 2001, the Manado City government appointed Ibu Greety as the head of the Manado City Tourism Department.

EATERIES OF THE MONTH

Manado can be an excellent place to sample the savory flavors of Asia. If you have the time, try the following for an inexpensive sampling of truly Manadonese cooking.

Dolphin Donats

Jl. Sam Ratulangi - Donuts, pastries *Steaks.

Green Garden

Jl. Sam Ratulangi - Chinese, Indonesian * Babi Bakar.

Pizza Ria Kafe

Great pizza, delivery phone.

Jysti Gallery Restaurant

JI. Achmad 17/#3– Indonesian nice atmosphere & paintings for sale.

Hooks

Jl. P. Tendean Blvd. – Indonesian, Eurpoean- *good band after dinner.

News Café

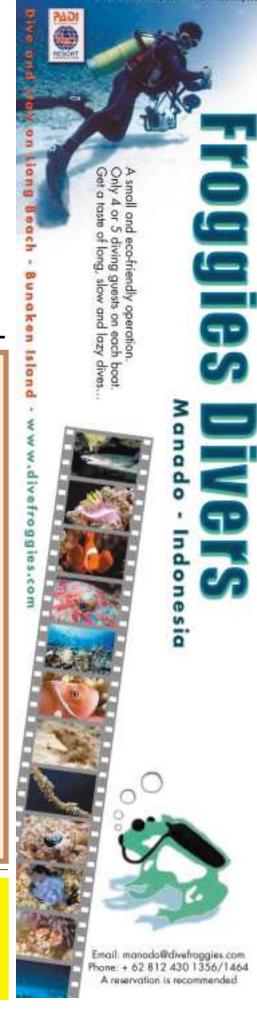
Jl. Sam Ratulangi - Burgers, European, Indo, *Desserts.

New Kartini

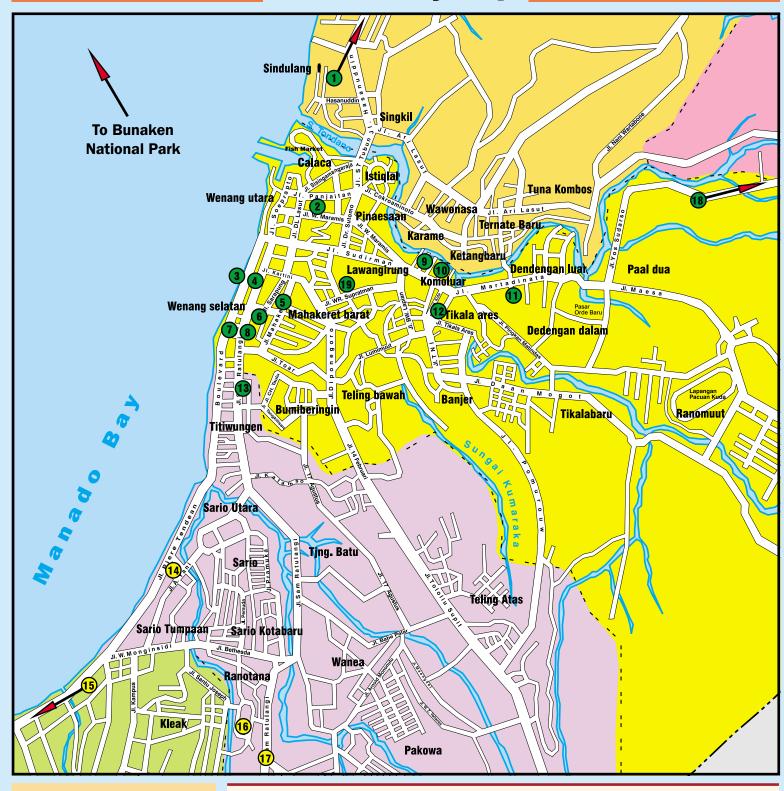
Jl. Sudirman 31 - Pastries, Fresh Bread & Indonesian Food.



Please visit the PATA Website www.noth-sulawesi.com for the most up to date information on North Sulawesi



Manado City Map



Note from the editor:

The contents of this publication were contributed by various persons, neither the individuals nor PT. Usaha Wisata Safaris may be held liable for any information contained herein.



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Green Garden Restaurant

- 8 Safari Tours & Travel Dolphin Donats
- Money Changer
- Metropole Tour & Travel
- 11 Star Express Tour & Travel
- 12 Steiner Salon
- Sonny's Gallery
- Jysti Restaurant Hooks
- **15** To Murex Resort & Live-Aboards

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