

Tourism Information For North Sulawesi

To our guests,

Well here we are in peak season and we hope that you are having a great time in North Sulawesi. Whether you are diving or snorkeling in Bunaken National Park, Lembeh Strait or around the Bangka area we hope that you're diving and or snorkeling has been a worthwhile experience. In this regard we ask that if you see or experience things regarding the environment specifically within the National Park, that you drop us an email so that we can pass this information on to the North Sulawesi Watersports Association. In the continuing effort to make your contribution (entrance fee tag) more productive your input helps. So don't be shy, drop us a line.

Other things to do, there are several new gentle adventure activities that are now becoming more popular, try a hike up Manado Tua, go caving in Minahasa where you can view stalactites and stalagmites, horseback riding in Tomohon as well as agro-handicraft tours out to Likupang. Any of these activities can be arranged through your resort or dive operator- take the time, get out to the countryside and visit the people of North Sulawesi.

Again, thanks for taking the time to read this and we hope that you will let people back home know- North Sulawesi's Smiling People are waiting to greet them on their next vacation to North Sulawesi.

Best regards,

Jeremy H. Barnes Editor: What's Happening

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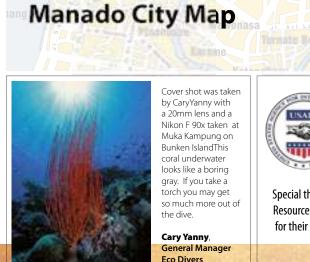
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Special thanks to USAID's Coastal Resources Management Projects for their support of this tourism publication.

ASTONISHING BUNAKEN Conservation works

Whenever I think I am going to have a relaxed uneventful dive, the Sulawesi Sea always manages to prove me wrong.

I had chosen a quiet site, little current, just enough to help the novice divers along that were doing a Scuba Review with me. My briefing about what we expected to see, was short, plenty of schools of fuseliers, maybe a small blacktip shark, many butterfly fishes, nudibranches and lots of colorful corals.

We went down and first surprise, no current whatsoever and my first reaction was, well we'll concentrate on the corals, the nudibranches and the other small stuff, not likely anything big will be out. We started looking at the usual small gobies and shrimps that live in the sand, and a small goldspecs jawfish looked curiously at the giant bubble blowers that were suddenly filling his horizon, I guess he knows by now that we are totally harmless! We sank a bit lower to 12m, and suddenly under our feet there were six pretty big Dogtooth Tuna cruising at reasonable speed, probably late for a Tuna conference about Marine Conservation. They never noticed us excited pointing and gesticulating divers.

We had just got back our breath and buoyancy, when my divemaster started dancing a frenetic twist, which astonished me, he's normally very streamlined, and as I came closer I saw what had caused his strange behavior, 3 elegant juvenile Bowmouth Guitarfishes moving along a lot more relaxed than we were. First time in my life that I see them outside of an Aquarium, and I am afraid I was not acting very instructor-like, trying to convey my delight to my students.

One of them who had had a bit a problem controlling his breathing, suddenly stopped breathing altogether and just by miracle his regulator managed to remain in his mouth. I do not know if it was the sight of the Guitar fishes or that of an instructor and a divemaster gone crazy, but suddenly his breathing got a lot more relaxed.

The rest of the dive was just as uneventful, two big whitetip sharks that checked us out, a couple of big turtles that got out of the way of us clumsy divers, and an Eagle Ray that did a slow waltz before disappearing in the deep. In





between we actually managed to see a few nudibranches and even notice that there were a lot of Fuseliers and Butterfly Fishes.

I have been diving here for many many years, and every day and every dive still brings surprises. They say that when people grow older, which I am, normally they complain that everything was better when they were younger; maybe it's me having delusions, but I don't think so, a few more of the oldies who have been

diving this Park for many years, say that the diversity and the amount of fish is increasingly growing, definitely more then there used to be.

The Park is now divided in different Zones, there are the ones where traditional fishing is allowed, the zones for tourism activities and a few core zones where no activities at all are allowed, so that coral and fishes can recuperate. The local Patrols with the help of the representatives of the 31 villages in the Park have managed to convince

Photo by: Dr. Mark Erdmann

most villagers to respect the zonation rules, and it looks like the big pelagics have understood-it's a lot safer to be near the reefs than out in the open where net-fishing is allowed.

So be prepared, next time when you are expecting to have just an average dive, it might be that Bunaken's National Marine Park is presenting you with an astonishing & spectacular dive dive.

Christiane Muller – Froggies Dive Center

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MORE THAN GENTLE ADVENTURE

We set out at about 6:30 am Saturday morning, first stop, the university in Tondano where we picked up three young men from the "Nature Lovers Club" who would be our guides to the Moreah Caves.

A bit of background, 5 years ago I received a phone call from a guy named Steven, at that time he touted a place, far up in Minahasa, where one could go and actually view stalactites and stalagmites. At that time we tried to find our way there with my wife and two kids, we failed dramatically- reason, we never found the village, which is the jumping off place for the caves.

I began this trip a bit differently, we decided that local knowledge was a must and that we would require and accept all the help that we could get. As my wife is currently going to the University of xxxxx in Tondano it was easy to recruit the help of some of the university students. This was done in a flash simply by *continued to page 16*





Welcome to Manado's newly opened luxury resort, *Kima Bajo Resort & Spa* located on Wori Bay., which is a mere 20 minute drive from Sam Ratulangi International Airport. The resort provides a broad range of relaxing accommodation, designed and lovingly constructed from the finest wood, stone and other natural materials available locally, to create a style that is contemporary and yet very much in keeping with the North Sulawesi image.

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RESORT

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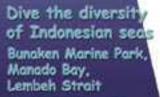
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Marine biology lab





〈ブナケン島便り~第2弾~ ゲストとダイビング中にイルカの群れに遭遇!!>



皆様お久しぶりです。ブナケン島は、本島側のメナドより一足先に?乾季が安定してきているようで、 透明度もかなり上がり、凪の日が続いております。そうなるとよく見られるのはブナケン島の東側に頻繁に 現れるドルフィンの群れたち。

ダイビングボートには結構遊びに来て、素晴らしいジャンプを見せてくれる彼ら。でもリーフにいる スノーケラーとも大接近しているように見えるのに、音は聞こえてもまだちょっと距離があって、水中では なかなか彼らを実際に見ることができずじまい。

ところがついにある日の午後3時、島の東側にあるチャチャポイントやや左手をダイビング中、水中で いきなり遭遇しちゃいました!しかも20頭くらいの群れです。ウォールからは多少距離があったのですが、 水深15メートルほどの中層をモンテハゲ島方向に向かって直進していました。

今思えば、姿を現す前から、宇宙からの交信のような彼らの楽しげな会話音が聞こえてはいたのですが、 なにぶん私にとっても初めての体験。「無意識のうちに歯ぎしりするほど、最近そんなにストレス溜まって いたかなあ…?それともひょうきんなうちのダイブガイドが水中でふざけて変な音を出しているのかなあ …?」程度にしか思っていなかったのです。

その音は一般的に言われている"クリック音"とは明らかに異なり、「ねえ、ねえ、今日どこ行く?」 「あそこにアイスクリームでも食べに行かない?」といった感じの学校帰りの子供たちのような "会話音"だったのです。

それまでも結構イソマグロなどが出まくりだったので、私はウォールから一番離れた、皆よりも多少 深場(といっても水深15メートル)にいたんですが、まだそれとは気づかずに、うちのダイブガイドが 必死になって指差す、私の前方にじィーッと目をこらしていると、なんとブルーから現れたのは、深い グレー色のドルフィンだったのです。しかも、次から次へとドンドンやってくるゥ~ッ!(笑)

皆さんかなりお急ぎの様子でしたが、群れからある2頭が2回も列を飛び出し、群れに一番近い私に 向かってやってきて、興味深そうにしげしげとこちらを眺めるのです。天国にいるような一瞬…。 それでもついつい我にかえり、慌ててシャッターは切ったものの、フラッシュで驚かせてしまった事を とても申し訳なく思いました。次回また遭遇するチャンスがあるのなら、カメラのことはすっかり忘れて、 一緒に泳いでみたいものです。

遭うたびに、私たちをなぜかとてもハッピーな気分にさせてくれるドルフィンたち。 水中で楽しげな会話が 聞こえたら、ぜひウォールやカメラからは目を離して、どこまでも続くグランブルーの中に目をこらして 見てください。もしかすると皆さんも今シーズン、"天国の一瞬"を味わえるチャンスに遭遇しちゃうかも?!

第3弾に続く…。 ブナケン・チャチャ・ダイブロッジ/えだまめ通信エンタープライズ 玲子・ダウニー

Getting on the Net

There was a time when people wrote postcards to friends and family when they visited exotic far flung destinations around the world. Sadly those days are over. What everyone wants today is Internet access, cut and paste and mass email out with a duplicate message to everyone listed in our address book. I have to admit; I'm the same myself.

So, where does one go to get on the Net in Manado? There are a few handy locations in the center of town where you can visit and tap out a few words to send to the folks back home. A word of caution though, broadband is still an unknown word in Manado and super speed connection is not what you can expect. You should however, be able to connect to Hotmail, Yahoo, Google or any of the major email providers or search engines.

Conveniently located on the 4th floor of the new Mega Mall, on the Boulevard, is the Informatics Computer Training School that has Internet access. There is a minimum charge





of Rp. 5,000 for the first thirty minutes that you will need to pay regardless of how long you stay connected. After that, it is Rp 2,000 for every 15 minutes. The venue is new, clean, pleasantly air-conditioned and offers you a degree of privacy while you're typing or reading messages. There is also a printer available if you wish to have something printed out.

At the opposite end of the Boulevard, in the Bahu Shopping street, is Fresh Mart. On the 3rd floor there are 4 computers available for Internet use. You will need to enquire with staff at the cashier on how to get connected. The base charge is Rp 5,000 for one hour. It is fairly public though, so if you don't mind countless people peering over your shoulder while you're typing, then it could be a more convenient location if you are staying at any of the resorts at the southern end of Manado. There is no printer available. continued to page 13



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Gorontalo: Our next door neighbor

Pirates, Princesses, and

Gorontalo Quick Facts Population: + 900,000 (2003) Size: 12,215,045 KM2 Became a Province: Feb. 16, 2005 Distance by Road: + 400 KM, 7 hours Distance by Air: 45 minutes (daily flights)

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Depending on who's counting, there are 351 steps up the hill to Fort Otanaha Historical Site. Located on the western outskirts of Gorontalo City, the cluster of three small forts give strategic views of Lake Limboto and the entire valley. For the aerobically challenged, your driver can take you up the paved road behind the hill to the parking area located between two of the forts, called Otanaha and Otahiya. A separate path to a neighboring hilltop reaches the third fort, named Ulupahu. You will need to count the steps to this one yourself.

According to local elders, the original forts were built from rocks, sand, and lime and adhered together with the whites of Maleo eggs, an endemic bird of Sulawesi. Several widely varying stories about the origin of the forts are available in official publications. All agree that the forts were built around 1525 and that the Portuguese were somehow involved.

The first version of the story begins during the reign of King Ilato (1505 – 1585). This king had two fine daughters and one son, Naha. When Naha came of age, he began roaming neighboring kingdoms while his older sisters remained at home. One day a Portuguese sailing ship entered





the harbor. It had run out of food, run into bad weather, and was running from pirates. The ship's captain met the king and the two parties made a mutual defense pact. As a result, three forts were built on the hillside.

Now it so happened that the two daughters were women warriors of some note. Skirmishes with a neighboring kingdom brought the possibility of war. Their troops were strengthened by the presence of four ships. Into the mix came new Portuguese weaponry, which was given to the kingdom to chase away the pirates who often bothered local fishermen. Instead, the Portuguese were forced to leave Gorontalo when the local populace arose against them led by those lovely daughters.

In 1585 the younger brother Naha returned, married a local beauty, and soon had two sons. At that time the kingdom was knee deep in war with settlers from outside the region. Ambushed from the north, the then King Naha fell in battle, as did his oldest son Paha. The remaining prince demanded revenge and used the three forts built with Portuguese help as a power base during the conflict.

The three forts (or "ota" in the local language) each have names. Otanaha means "the fort discovered by Naha." Otahiya is named after Naha's wife. Finally, Ulupahu is said to mean "belonging to the child from Paha," who was Naha's oldest son.

From the murky depths of Gorontalo's protracted civil war comes a second version of the

Too Many Steps to Count



tale with the women warriors intact but minus the pirates. This version is set during the war against the Portuguese in the Maluku Spice Islands. During this war, two warrior princesses fought bravely. These ladies were born of a woman from the Malukus and a magical prince from Gorontalo named llato ("Lightning"). The Portuguese eventually captured the pair and exiled them to the Gowa kingdom at Makassar in 1523. After hearing their story, the king of Gowa decided to help them return home and sent four of his navy vessels to escort them. They landed at the harbor in Gorontalo the following year. Although happy to be back home, desire for vengeance smoldered in their hearts. Fanning the flames of panic that a Portuguese attack was imminent, the populace built three defensive forts with the help of the four naval captains from Gowa.

Another official history of the forts' origins deletes both pirates and princesses but adds

the Spanish. Its setting is the struggle between the Spanish and the Portuguese for mastery of the lucrative spice trade, which dominated the economy of eastern Indonesia during the 15th to 17th centuries. The Portuguese struck an exclusive deal for the cloves of Ternate Island, building Fort Santo Paulo there in 1521. About the same time, Magellan arrived in the Philippines representing Spanish interests. He struck a rival deal with a neighboring island, resulting in protracted conflict with the Portuguese.

Fishermen from Gorontalo learned about the conflict while at traditional meeting spots along the seashore. They warned their king of these international threats. This news struck fear into the heart of Gorontalo's king, who was in the middle of his own war with the neighboring Limboto kingdom. As a result, he built two forts in 1525. In response, the king of Limboto built the third fort, which seems rather unlikely given their close proximity.

This proximity is good for modern day visitors, Portuguese or not, who can easily see all three forts and view beautiful Lake Limboto. There is actually a fourth story recounting the forts' origins, set in the late 17th century and featuring magic, treachery, and the throwing of a pair of gold rings into the lake. After walking down those 351 stairs, you are welcome to cross the road, wade into the lake, and search for those rings yourself.

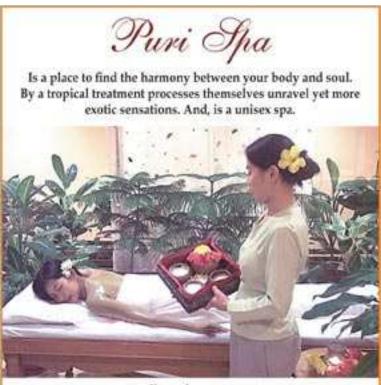
By: Yansen Allen



Tourism Information for North Sulawesi

Pottering Around Pulutan

The village of Pulutan can easily be incorporated into a day trip touring the Minahasa Highlands. It is reached on a circuitous route begin-



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ning in Tomohon to Tondano via Kawangkoan taking in the villages of Kinali, Tampusu, Pulutan and thence Parepei, Remboken and finally ending

> at Lake Tondano. Lush ferns border the road as you wind your way down towards rice paddies that border the road leading to the Pulutan village gates.

It seems just about the entire village has a pottery set up in front of their dwelling. The clay is readily available, quite often it is just a case of taking a spade to the plot 'out the back'. Wander around and watch the potters displaying their skills on the kick wheels and view the pots in various stages of production. There are stockpiles of pots in many colors and styles, some of which would be ideal for a retro 70's décor theme. Others in natural earthy tones would be more at home in a quiet, reflective corner of the garden.

The pots are functional with many destined for seating arrangements in homes throughout the Minahasa Regency. For a few thousand Rupiah you can acquire a set of pottery stools, select a pot for a palm, choose lamps to enhance a garden setting or perhaps find the perfect center-



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ROUND PULUTAN





piece for a water feature yet to be designed. You can even arrange for your purchases to be delivered to Manado.

Try to schedule your visit to this quaint village on a weekday in order to watch the talented craftsmen at work and admire their creative skills. Even if you are unable to cram a pottery souvenir into your luggage you are sure to find this trip an enjoyable outing.

By Fajar



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www.ganggaisland.com

Tourism Information for North Sulawesi

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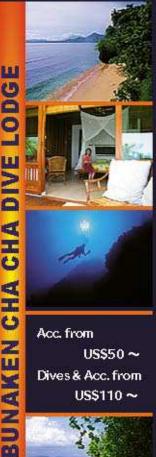
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A Touch Of Japan

Residents of Manado have a long tradition of enjoying massages for relaxation and health purposes, so it comes as little surprise that the Japanese treatment of Shiatsu is a new form of massage being embraced.

Tikala Shiatsu is featuring Shiatsu as the main treatment on offer at their venue in

Tikala, close to the Mayor's office. It is a muscle stretching, intense body work over which will leave no muscle unattended to.

The venue itself is modern, clean and welcoming. Aside from Shiatsu, other popular treatments include Thai, Traditional, Aromatherapy and Lulur Massages. Not to mention the local favourites, Cream Bath and Facials. Manicures and Pedicures are also well frequented.

I chose the one hour Reflexsi to try and was ushered into an area with a set of armchairs facing a large TV. After a soaking in warm water, I was treated to a complete



foot workout with particular attention paid to pressure points. It felt divine.

Tikala Shiatsu is popular with both male and female clients and appeared busy even in the middle of the day. A word of caution for those visiting from overseas, Indonesians prefer their massages strong so if you're new to the country, you may wish to request a lighter massage or it may be tougher than you expected.

Tikala Shiatsu Jalan B.W. Lapian 6, No. 8, Komplexs Lapangan, Tikala Tel: 855 913

By: Lois Lane







Getting on

continued from page 7

In the center of Manado is the Warung Telkom, located inside the Post Office building on Jalan Sam Ratulangi. The connection fee there is Rp 6,000 per hour and again, there is no printer available. Sadly, the staff seemed less than friendly and helpful and the ancient air-conditioner was barely able to keep it mildly cool inside the room. It is also busy and the computers are not at all private so again you would have to be mindful of what you were typing and who could be reading it.

The slow connection in Manado is a drawback, but for checking your inbox and firing off a reply, then any of the locations listed above would be more than adequate. I would recommend waiting till you get home before you start downloading your digital photos, otherwise you could be sitting there for hours!

Informatics Computer Training School - 4th Floor, Mega Mall, The Boulevard. Fresh Mart - Bahu Mall, The Boulevard. Warung Telkom - Kantor Pos, Jalan Sam Ratulangi





for the most up to date infor-mation on North Sulawesi





By Lois Lane

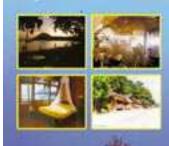
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Establishing a World Heritage

We all know that Bunaken National Marine Park, Lembeh Strait, Tangkoko Nature Reserve and the coastal area and islands of the Likupang district are beautiful and possess great biodiversity - meaning they are rich in both the number and the types of unusual terrestrial and marine life. But did you know that North Sulawesi's natural beauty may also be of global importance and of outstanding value? Indonesia now holds within her marine boundaries the "bulls-eye" or highest level of marine biodiversity in the world, located in our northern and eastern waters.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) implements the World Heritage Program that seeks to identify, protect and preserve natural and cultural resources of outstanding universal value to humanity. Its Marine program works toward the goal to establish a network of marine protected areas across the globe by 2012, including establishing pilot serial sites in important marine areas. North Sulawesi is being nominated to become part of that World Heritage network of marine protected areas in Indonesia and the world.

The Ministry of Forestry, the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries and the Ministry of Environment are working together with the Governments of North Sulawesi and with other stakeholders to prepare the nomination of North Sulawesi/Bunaken. An Ad Hoc Marine World Heritage Working Group under the Ministry of Environment and the National Marine Conservation Committee's Marine Protected Area working group. are working together to prepare the nomination for Indonesia

Indonesia's Mari



CAPTION 1:

Present and Proposed World Heritage Sites in Indonesia: 2005. The three darker green circles that are grouped together represent 3 National Parks in Sumatra that are a forestry cluster site to protect the Sumatran Tiger. The green striped circle represents a proposed crossboundary World Heritage site to be shared / co-managed with Malaysia. The three blue circles are terrestrial or mixed land/sea existing World Heritage Sites in Indonesia.

The big red circles show the 6 proposed Marine Mega-Diversity World Heritage Serial Sites of (clockwise from top right): Derawan Islands, East Kalimantan; Bunaken, North Sulawesi; Raja Ampat, Papua; Wakatobi, South East Sulawesi; Taka Bonerate, South Sulawesi.

in Dec 2005. Five other sites in Indonesia are also working to join North Sulawesi as part of the **Marine Mega-Diversity Heritage of Indonesia Serial Site**.

(See Map 1: Indonesia's World Heritage Sites.). The sites are not competitors, but "team mates" in helping to get the nomination for Indonesia since each site is great in its own way, but as a team, they exceed every other marine biodiversity site in the world. North Sulawesi is special because the full diversity of the region

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Marine Site in North Sulawesi

ne Mega-Density



also includes the mangrove-rich areas of Likupang District, the strange but world famous pygmy seahorses and other creatures of Lembeh Straits. the extensive corals and fish north of Bunaken off of Talise and Gangaa Islands, the Sperm Whales and other endangered charismatic species (turtles, dolphins, manta rays, whales) that wander in the marine corridors and coastal areas, and other various habitats that each hold the potential and documentation of unique and additional species of flora and fauna. Each of the other sites has its specialty too.

What is a World Heritage Site?

World Heritage Sites are either natural or cultural sites that have been determined by the UN World Heritage Committee to have "outstanding universal value to mankind." The World Heritage Program encourages each World Heritage site to focus on interpretative (educational) programs at the site, and a large participation of the community and users in both the planning, the benefits of the program. Being a World Heritage Site does not take away any of the local or national jurisdictions or any personal rights of the people who live in the area. A site is nominated by the country to become a World Heritage Site, and after 18-months or more for evaluation, if approved, the site name will be added to the list of World Heritage Sites and comes under the protection of the UN Treaty that encourages everyone to respect and protect the site. Each World Heritage site has a manager who is responsible for the integrity of the World Heritage site and its iterpretation.

Being a World Heritage Site allows you to become one of a few "best" and special places in the world that can help sustain quality tourism and conservation in good times and in bad. There are 754 World Heritage Sites in the World, most of which are cultural sites located in Europe. Only nine sites are listed as pure marine sites and until now, none of them are in Indonesia.

What about North Sulawesi's Proposed World Heritage Site?

The boundary of a World Heritage Site usually follows park boundaries, although this is not mandatory. In the case of North Sulawesi, the first draft concept is to nominate BNP and over time, expand it to include Lembeh Strait, Tangkoko Reserve and the coasts and islands of Likupang. (See Map 2: N. Sulawesi Proposed World Heritage Site). The continued to page 18 Resort Located at the edge of a thick jungle forest, between two

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MORE THAN

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putting out the word that there was a small group of foreigners interested in seeing the caves, located out towards Ratatotok, amazingly enough, the same individual, Steven popped up and was willing to assist.

Our two vehicles one Daihatsu 4 x 4 and one not (this was our Feroza Safari Jeep) headed out towards Ratatotok, a 3+ hour drive. Before we hit the road we stopped in a hardware store to buy some Karbit. Interestingly enough, this Karbit when mixed with water gives off a gas which can be ignited after being funneled through a small hose which is attached to a helmet where a pilot light is lit. This gives off a brightish yellow light quite sufficient to see, while in the cave. This was definitely a homemade miners light.

Arriving in the village after what I consider a harrowing bumpy backbreaking road, we came into the village of Moreah. Our vehicles were immediately surrounded by local kids and the Lurah's (head of the village) wife came out to meet and greet us. She helped quite a bit and had soon organized two guides to take us on our trek to the caves, about 30-40 minutes into the forest.

As we approached a very steep embankment, we were told that this was the place where we would need to descend down into the opening to the first cave. I looked apprehensively over the side to a steep, heavilv wooded area where the bottom was obscured by surrounding overgrowth. The guides tied off a thick Dacron rope to a tree which would have held an elephant if re-



quired, but it merely had to hold 100 kgs at any given point. We took our time, and I did not go first! My wife scrambled down the embankment without the aid of a line, so judging that if she could do it without a line, I certainly could do it with a line, I was right, I made it to the mouth of the cave 15 meters below the starting decent point. I then turned around and watched our 8-year-old girl and 10-year-old boy make their way down the same line with the assistance of our trained guides.



What I saw before me was an opening that beckoned, we went in to a huge cave that was at least 10-15 meters high in places and with several different tunnels heading off in different directions, all were dead ends. The cave had different levels as well as a good collection of the Stalactites & Stalagmites, also there was a big pillar where over thousands of years they had joined leaving a huge pillar near the opening of the cave. From this point at the base of the pillar we tied off the line again and descended into another cave offering the same geological formations that we saw in the first cave.

What I won't tell you, is how many times we stopped and looked around in awe, or was it to rest, not really quite sure any more. It was then that our guides told us that there was one more cave to enter; as we stood on the edge of a stream we looked at the opening and wondered whether we should proceedif the kids could I would- and off we went into waste deep water which dropped to shin level after 10 meters of penetration. The tunnels were not as spectacular as the first two caves, but still worth doing – it should be noted that this water will drop to ankle depth between June & November.

All in all this was a great adventure, not for the weak or soft adventure type as the climbs are strenuous at some points and there is some risk when entering the mouth of the cave.

By: Jeremy H Barnes- Safari Tours & Travel

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MER ONE

Establishing...

continued to page 15

expanded area might have the district marine boundaries as the WHS boundary (4 nautical miles from the coast) and might have the provincial marine boundary serve as the "buffer zone" where protection is still important but restrictions might be fewer. These decisions have not been made yet, but will likely include a broad participatory process. The designation of a World Heritage Site has many benefits to tourists, local communities, local businesses in North Sulawesi and the country. These include:

- The UNESCO treaty emphasizes the use of the area for research, for community benefit, and for educational and interpretive programs for visitors; i.e. community-based activities are encouraged over mass tourism
- Sites should be managed to avoid any negative impact on the site's integrity; this could help sustain the benefits from the site
- Benefits from having a World Heritage Site should be shared equitably with the community
- Tourism operators can use the World Heritage name to capture high quality visitors, even when tourism is not strong
- Site managers can apply to the World Heritage fund for small grants or help such as technical assistance in preparing nominations, inventorying the site, training, or in case of an emergency that might threaten the site
- North Sulawesi will join a "family" of marine sites in Indonesia and the world with which it can share, learn and teach best practices of WHS management
- North Sulawesi's sustainable



tourism strategy can plan for a specific goal and types of Indonesian and international tourists

 Indonesia can be proud of protecting one of the world's great places

There is lots of work and challenges ahead. These include:

- Revising and re-submitting the N. Sulawesi nomination within the next few months for review and evaluation
- Building awareness and knowledge about the World Heritage Program among the shop keepers, the communities, the decision-makers, the tourism industry so that they can use the best practices for this type of tourism and the community is totally in sup-

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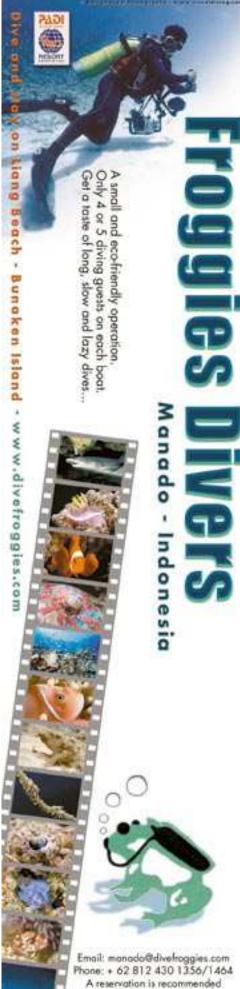
port of the program;

- Developing a coordinated management structure in North Sulawesi for sites within different jurisdictions including a holistic fee structure, monitoring, etc. to preserve the sites and their economic conservation value for North Sulawesi and the world;
- Developing skills in ecotourism and environmentally friendly tourism that can keep the benefits to North Sulawesi by getting fewer, better guests and not relying on mass tourism;
- Improving the infrastructure for environmentally conscious visitors and to preserve the sites.

The important message at this stage is that everyone in North Sulawesi should try to learn how the World Heritage Program can help them financially and in maintaining their quality of life with by living within this incredible natural wonder. It is a tool, not a salvation. North Sulawesi is special. Let's keep it that way!

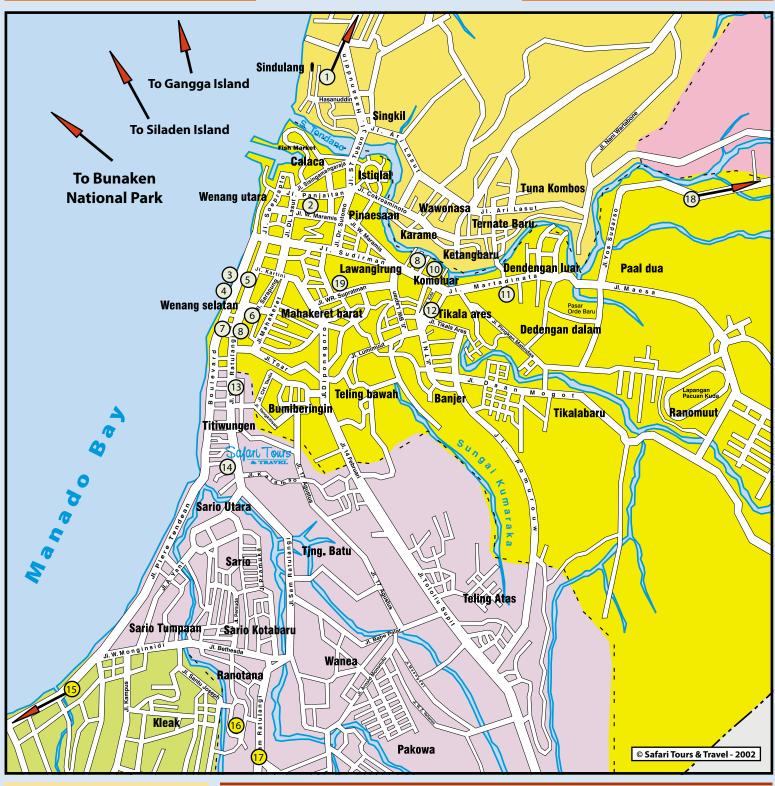
By: Stacey A. Tighe, Ph.D.

Dr. Tighe is a marine scientist and presently serves as the Senior Technical Advisor for the USAID-sponsored Coastal Resources Management Project II.



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Manado City Map



Note from the editor:

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