

# *What's Happening*

Free!

Spring 2008 | Volume 14, Issue 1



**Tourism Information For North Sulawesi**

## To Our Visitors

Every couple of months I have to struggle with writing this small column, and a few other things inside and struggle through it, I do. After celebrating six years of publishing, sorry let me call it printing, a small contribution to North Sulawesi, I would like to thank all of you our visitors who have chosen to come to North Sulawesi. Secondly, I would like to thank my colleagues & friends (resort owners, diver operators and restaurant owners as well as a few supporters in North Sulawesi government, BIMP-EAGA, and the Province of Gorontalo without whose support this magazine would have failed. All of that being said and done, I would all of you who choose to come to North Sulawesi to consider two thing whiles you are here:

1. Think about dropping an email to [info@north-sulawesi.com](mailto:info@north-sulawesi.com) after visiting the North Sulawesi Tourism Organization

[www.north-sulawesi.com](http://www.north-sulawesi.com) website- we want & need your comments on your experiences in North Sulawesi, good or bad we need input, enough said

2. Take the time to go to away from the sea shore – visit Tangkoko Nature Reserve, go horseback riding, white water rafting , or volcano trekking.

If you cannot do it this time, plan for it on your next visit, see the other wonders of North Sulawesi, you will not be disappointed

Sampai Jumpa Lagi (see you again)

Best regards,

**Jeremy H Barnes**  
Editor: What's Happening

**Safari Tours**  
& TRAVEL

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North Sulawesi Tourism Information  
**What's Happening**

**manado**

### real DONUTS

December brought Santa Claus and real donuts to Manado. The term "makan dulu" means eat first, is an often used term here in North Sulawesi.

I suppose I could get into exploring the significance of that phrase but I am not sure that I would gain anything at all except a nice look from the person that I am poking fun at, allow me rather to hope to record a little and write a spoof. In early December my family and I were walking through Manado Town Square and we looked behind the construction curtain and saw that there were parties together in a new restaurant... yes, a donut shop, I COI appreciate the initial and then COI and put it all together and that it about a week later we walked by again, and looked and both my son and daughter (13 & 10 years old) and I agreed that it would open after the New Year so we went back a day to the person inside and they said "check that" this means tomorrow... but were we wrong. I couldn't imagine how, but guess what, I came back the next day at 10 AM when the mall opened and they told me 2 PM. Oh, so what's a few hours late -- I had waited 10 years, so what to make more honest? I was there at 2 PM, I turned the line, sat down got a few donuts (with my coffee) and grabbed another donut to take home. WOW! Great donuts and cheap something -- something to grow! -- my only comment -- WHERE ARE THE BULLY DONUTS? Donuts don't have a quality? Go by and buy a donut -- my office is at 17B J. Sam Ratulangi only 10 minutes away -- Mall opens at 10 AM. 8/6

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**critters**

### We Love Slugs

As divers learn to notice and appreciate the smaller marine inhabitants, the sea slugs known as nudibrachs have become one of the most popular "critters" encountered underwater. Known as the butterflies of the sea, these graceful creatures exhibit great diversification in their shape, coloration and ornamentation.



**page 4**

**diving**

### New Diving Operation with Old Friends

One of my favorite upscale resorts in Manado will be offering diving & snorkeling with Eco Divers beginning May 2008. The daily diving program will include a two-tank morning trip and a one-tank afternoon trip.



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**siladen**

### Biologia a Siladen



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**octopus**

### Hairy Octopus, for real!!

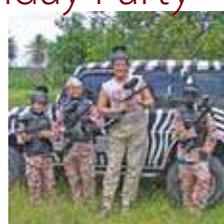


**page 15**

**game**

### unusual Birthday Party

Manado came alive for me when a friend from Eco Divers called me and said there was a new game in town. It was kind of like the time when the new mall opened so I could by cream cheese and sour cream under one roof. It was a little bit like watching people stand in line for service at Oh La La in the mall, Pamball came to Manado.



**page 17**

**gorontalo**

### Rare Finds

Separating Central Sulawesi from North Sulawesi lies one of Indonesia's newest provinces, Gorontalo, still a rare stop on all but the most curious traveler's itinerary. Since 1999, American Range Allen has been surveying its coastal waters for diving tourism, while staying dedicated to



**page 19**

**dapur**

### Unwind and Awaken Your Senses

**page 21**



**Cover Photo**  
NIKON D2X  
F18, 160th of second,  
15 Meters, Jahir 2,  
Lembah Strait by Cary  
Yanny (Eco Divers)  
[www.eco-divers.com](http://www.eco-divers.com)

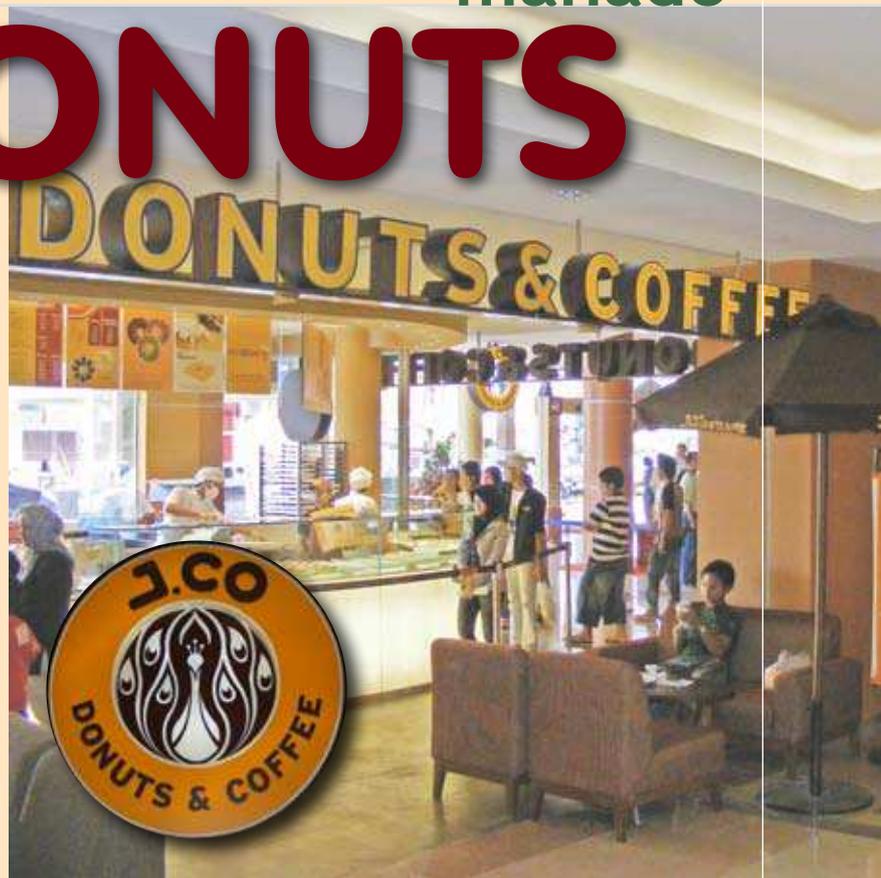
Special thanks to  
**Sekretariat WOC & BIMP-EAGA**  
for their support of this tourism publication.



# real DONUTS

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Visit our brand new website

[www.DiveNorthSulawesi.com](http://www.DiveNorthSulawesi.com)

Can you imagine diving all year round in more than 150 dive sites with 1000 reef fish species? In North Sulawesi You can.

critters

# We Love Slugs

As divers learn to notice and appreciate the smaller marine inhabitants, the sea slugs known as nudibranchs have become one of the most popular "critters" encountered underwater. Known as the butterflies of the sea, these graceful creatures exhibit great diversification in their shape, coloration and ornamentation.



## Lembeh Resort



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- \* Professional & knowledgeable dive staff with over 20 years' experience in Lembeh Strait

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Some advertise their distastefulness with wild colors while others blend in discreetly with their surroundings – usually their food source - and one can have a difficult task trying to figure out which end one is looking at. Since they lack the protection of shells as used by some of their relatives, nudibranchs have developed a variety of effective defense mechanisms. Some secrete unpleasant acids or even powerful toxins to deter predators while some “borrow” stinging cells from the hydroids which they eat and pass them to the brightly-colored tips of their cerata (fleshy projections that resemble spines or fingers) which is the most likely part of their body to be noticed and attacked. The



predator, on receiving a mouthful of stinging cells, will quickly learn that this creature is to be avoided. In the arena of procreation, nudibranchs have evolved an

... continued on page 9

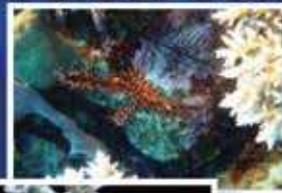
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diving

# New Diving Operation with Old Friends

One of my favorite upscale resorts in Manado will be offering diving & snorkeling with Eco Divers beginning May 2008. The daily diving program will include a two-tank morning trip and a one-tank afternoon trip. Between the trips lunch will be taken at the resort.



DIVERS

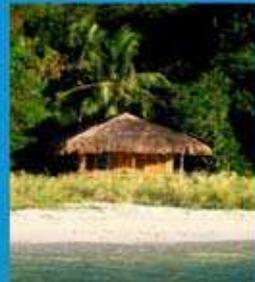


a resort where diving is passion ...

Alor archipelago is one of Indonesian last frontiers. Alor and Pantar are the main islands and the strait between the two is a world class dive attraction. Alor Divers is situated on Pantar Island in north part of Pantar strait. The dive sites are within 5 to 30 min speed boat from the resort. Underwater richness offers to admire a pallet of virgin coral slopes, walls, scenic rock formations and pinnacles. The house reef is extending several hundred meters and is a drop off altering between steep slope and vertical wall, with generous growth and excellent fish life.

Our intimate resort is situated on a 400 m long white sandy beach. In a stretched layout, all of the bungalows as well as restaurant are seafront. The thatched roofed bungalows are built in the traditional architectural style. Interior equipment and décor are designed with simplicity to enhance the pristine spirit of the place.

[www.alor-divers.com](http://www.alor-divers.com)



Eco Divers will offer a very high service standard to its dive and snorkeling guests, using 2 brand new, purpose-built boats. Each will accommodate a maximum of just 8 dive guests (with a few extra spaces for snorkelers and non-divers); underwater the guest-to-guide ratio will be kept to a very relaxing 4 to 1, ensuring loads of comfort, personal attention and safety. The spacious 14m vessels are built on traditional lines but with contemporary interior facilities such as sundecks, rinse tanks, WC, shaded salon and powerful, energy-efficient double outboard engines, so guests travel in speed and comfort.

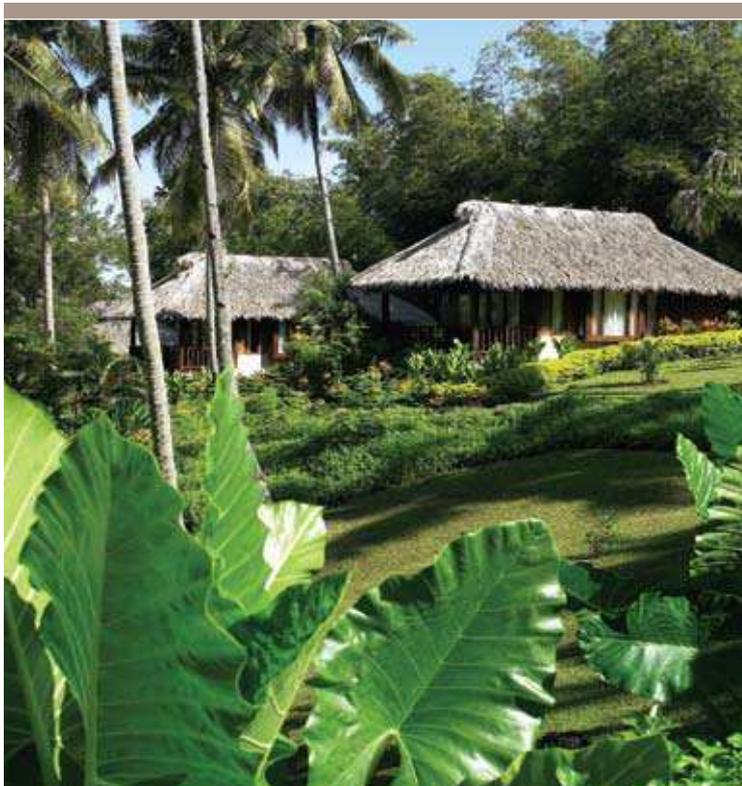
Kima Bajo is the ideal place for divers and non-divers alike with its bar, restaurant, Mayana Spa and excursions to nearby places of interest. With its own private beach, this phenomenal, unspoilt location is idyllic for diving and relaxation, located just a short boat ride away from world-renowned dive sites of the Bunaken National Park. The resort boasts 32 rooms, 19 luxurious Bunga Villas with a sunken outdoor bathtub and shower, 12 spacious longhouse suites and 1 exclusive two-villa suite with its own private swimming pool. The resort is constructed from the finest natural materials available locally, to create a style that is contemporary and yet very much in keeping with the North Sulawesi image.

Kima Bajo and Eco Divers will be offering highly



*A hidden paradise of romance and excitement*

- that's what one finds pervading throughout KIMA BAJO Resort & Spa, a small luxurious boutique resort located in Manado, North Sulawesi, Indonesia, a destination renowned for world-class diving and snorkeling.



Sulawesi Discovery  
International Sales and Marketing Representative

Desa Kima Bajo Dusun1, Kecamatan Wori, Kab Minahasa Utara, Sulawesi Utara INDONESIA. PO Box 8787, Manado 95000  
Tel: (62) 431-860999 Fax: (62) 431-861333 Email: info@kimabajo.com Website: www.kimabajo.com

152 Beach Road, Level 28 Gateway East, Singapore 189721  
Tel: (65) 6 827 5648 Fax: (65) 6 392 0612 Email: sale@sulawesidiscovery.com



competitive new dive package prices, with the 4-night Dive Package specially priced, including accommodation in a Longhouse Suites, three days diving, meals, tax & service. The outcome of this expansion is that Eco Divers offers combo packages at Tasik Ria Resort or Kungkungan Bay Resort in combination with Kima Bajo. The best of both worlds, Lembeh and Bunaken.

Jim Yanny, owner of Eco Divers, says of his new Kima Bajo dive center "we are delighted to be working with this attractive boutique resort. Our experience of Kungkungan Bay and Tasik Ria over the past seven years stands us in good stead. Their team is looking forward to welcoming its first guests to Kima Bajo Resort in May". For further contact Eco Divers at [info@eco-divers.com](mailto:info@eco-divers.com) - by: BHJ

*Dive the variety of marine life*  
*Enjoy the beauty of Sahaung*  
*Smile like the locals do...*

**Blue Bay Divers**

 [www.bluebaydivers.de](http://www.bluebaydivers.de) - [info@bluebaydivers.de](mailto:info@bluebaydivers.de)  
 Manado, North Sulawesi, Indonesia

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*Manado, the gateway to Bunaken National Park...*

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# we love slugs

... continued from page 5

interesting adaptation to maximize their chances of species survival. Being hermaphroditic, every nudibranch possesses both male and female sex organs and is thus able to mate with any other member of their own species (and may even try with other species) as well as lay eggs. The eggs are usually laid in a ribbon on or near their preferred food source and for some species the egg mass will even be the same color as the food in order to better blend in. They are so well-adapted that species which feed on slow-growing food such as sponges, sea pens and sea fans live for around a year while species that feed on briefly-blooming species such as hydroids and bryozoans have short life cycles as well, living for up to only six weeks.

Nudibranchs feed on a wide variety of creatures, but many species are picky eaters, preferring a single species of sponge, ascidian (sea squirt) or whatever, which makes finding them less difficult if you first search for the food source in your hunt for a particular nudi. But even without refined "critter eyes" nudibranchs are often so colorful that if a diver stops and inspects any particular patch of reef, in most cases one will be found. In sand habitats, where inhabitants must better protect themselves as



they are more exposed than on a reef, nudibranchs often have hitchhikers – imperial shrimp. The shrimp not only has the luxury of protection, living on a non-edible host, but it can pick up tasty morsels disturbed from the sand as the nudibranch travels on its own search for sustenance. One variety of imperial shrimp has even altered its pattern to better blend in with the Spanish dancer nudibranch which is its host.

Much is still to be learned about nudibranchs, with new species and variations discovered with regularity. North Sulawesi, especially Lembeh Strait, is one of the very best destinations on the planet to see a wide variety of these attractive and fascinating creatures, so on your next



dive, keep a sharp eye out for a flash of intense color in a small package and you will have probably found one of the hundreds of nudibranch species that make our underwater world a far more interesting place. Bruce Moore---Black Sand Dive Retreat---[www.blacksanddive.com](http://www.blacksanddive.com)

hotel reservation

highland tours

white water rafting

volcano trekking

Tangkoko nature reserve

Safari Tours  
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[www.manadosafaris.com](http://www.manadosafaris.com)

Phone: 857637



# Celebes Divers

- Mapia Resort in Kalasey
- Onong resort in Siladen
- Relaxed dives to see and learn more in Bunaken, Manado, Lembeh.
- PADI courses.



**Info about diving and resorts:**  
[www.kudalaut.com](http://www.kudalaut.com)  
**info about the biology:**  
[www.edge-of-reef.com](http://www.edge-of-reef.com)

**e-mail us:**  
[celebes@kudalaut.com](mailto:celebes@kudalaut.com)  
**tel. +62 431 826582**  
**HP +62 811 435411**  
**HP +62 812 4300911**

siladen

# Biologia a Sila



Per la quarta volta negli ultimi anni anche nel 2008 si svolge a Siladen, la più piccola isola del parco marino di Bunaken, un corso postuniversitario (Master) di "Biodiversità marina tropicale e molecole bioattive".

Questa interessante iniziativa, che al termine di cinque anni avrà diplomato nel complesso 34 studenti indonesiani e 17 italiani, si deve agli sforzi organizzativi del Professor Bavestrello dell'Università Politecnica delle Marche che, in collaborazione con l'ateneo di Genova e la facoltà di biologia marina dell'università Sam Ratulangi di Manado ha reso possibile lo svolgimento dei corsi Master.

Il Parco Marino di Bunaken è situato esattamente al centro del cosiddetto triangolo dei coralli, l'area comprendente le Filippine, la Nuova Guinea e l'Arcipelago Indonesiano considerata il centro della biodiversità marina mondiale. Purtroppo a livello globale esiste una disgiunzione spaziale tra gli esperti di biodiversità, che operano principalmente nelle università europee e americane, e le aree geografiche nelle quali la biodiversità è elevata. Scopo principale del corso è quello di far fronte a questo problema educando un gruppo di specialisti indonesiani nella tassonomia dei principali gruppi di organismi



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A truly international 'boutique' style hotel with 152 guest rooms and suites. It spans across 11 floor with many enjoyable views over the sea, bunaken island, klabat mountain and the Manado city scenery which is dominated by houses on stilts and church spires.

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e-mail: [hotel@granpuri.com](mailto:hotel@granpuri.com), website: <http://www.granpuri.com>

# den



componenti le scogliere coralline. D'altra parte lo studio della biodiversità non è solamente un problema accademico ma anche una possibile sorgente di sviluppo per le popolazioni locali sia in termini di turismo subacqueo che di attività innovative come quelle legate all'acquariologia e alla ricerca di composti naturali ad attività farmacologia. In questo senso durante il master gli studenti non sono solo istruiti sul

riconoscimento delle specie marine ma anche si esercitano in tecniche di allevamento non distruttive di invertebrati di interesse acquariologico come i coralli molli e nell'estrazione e nella prova di prodotti naturali ad azione antitumorale presso i laboratori della Pharmamar di Madrid. La sessione indonesiana del Master 2008 si tiene dal 15 gennaio a 15 marzo ed è frequentato da 4 studenti italiani e 7 indonesiani.

**★ Cocotinos, A Small Beach Resort... ★**

In picturesque Wori Bay, North Sulawesi, in the heart of Kima Bajo, a fishing village, overlooking Bunaken National Marine Park, a new resort will be welcoming guests from October 2007.

Enjoy world class diving at our doorsteps

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- ★ Digital friendly & Wireless Internet

Visit our website for more information & opening dive and non dive packages



Gli indonesiani sono ammessi a titolo gratuito, supportati da un finanziamento congiunto dell'Università Politecnica di Ancona, dell'Università di Genova e del Ministero Italiano dell'Università e della Ricerca Scientifica. Gli studenti vengono brevettati sub PADI da Celebes Divers per poter seguire le esercitazioni nell'ambiente marino e dopo lo stage di Siladen sono invitati in Italia per le ulteriori sessioni di studio.

Alcuni di loro proseguiranno l'esperienza presso Pharmamar, industria farmaceutica di Madrid, azienda che collabora con il Dipartimento di Scienze del Mare dell'Università Politecnica delle Marche.

Ben 18 docenti di varie facoltà italiane si alternano durante le otto settimane di corso e tengono lezioni che vengono completate da uscite in mare e sessioni pratiche nell'annesso laboratorio di biologia.

I corsi sono tenuti presso l'Onong resort di Siladen, con la collaborazione logistica di Celebes Divers. Il laboratorio, che si trova all'interno del resort, è stato finanziato dall'Università Politecnica delle Marche ed è a disposizione di tutti gli studiosi che vogliano usufruire della struttura. Questa iniziativa rappresenta un bell'esempio di collaborazione internazionale e supporta in modo fattivo la formazione di personale altamente qualificato in una zona dell'Indonesia dove la corretta gestione del fantastico ambiente marino è una assoluta priorità.

# Deliciously Manado

## Raja Sate

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- \* Subject to availability & Condition apply

#### Benefits :

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 Email: [reservation@newqueenhotelmanado.com](mailto:reservation@newqueenhotelmanado.com)  
 Website : [www.newqueenhotelmanado.com](http://www.newqueenhotelmanado.com)





**BIMP-EAGA**

# Community-Based Ecotourism Conference

**Manado, North Sulawesi, Indonesia  
October 30<sup>th</sup> – November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008**

The BIMP-EAGA community based eco-tourism conference in Manado, North Sulawesi will raise awareness and understanding of the potential and opportunities of land and marine-based eco-tourism development in region. The conference will explore the benefits of community based eco-tourism by presenting experiences/ lessons learnt as well as developing win-win partnerships in eco-tourism between local communities, the private sector and public sector. Issues and trends in community based eco-tourism development, operation, marketing, and regulations will also be discussed at the various forums.

An added feature of this conference will be the preparation of a road map for marketing the BIMP-EAGA as a Single Community Based Eco-Tourism Destination. The initiatives and outcomes of the meetings will be conveyed and proposed at the upcoming BIMP-EAGA SOMM/Leaders forum.

An eco-tourism showcase/exhibition will also be held simultaneous with the conference and will feature eco-tourism destinations in BIMP-EAGA, products of eco-tourism related technology, and eco-certification organization and initiatives.

BIMP-EAGA stands for Brunei Indonesia Malaysia and the Philippines — East ASEAN Growth Area. It is a sub regional cooperation that includes the country of Brunei Darussalam, the island of Kalimantan, Sulawesi, Papua, and the Moluccas in Eastern Indonesia, the island of Labuan, the States of Sarawak and Sabah in Borneo Malaysia, as well as the island of Mindanao and Palawan in Southern Philippines.



The sub region is rich in natural heritage. It has two of the richest tropical rain forest (Borneo and Papua) as well as the most diverse marine eco-system (Sulu-Sulawesi Sea) anywhere in the world coupled with tribal cultures as varied as its flora and fauna. The conservation and protection of its environment is of paramount importance to the world.

*“Driving growth and Poverty Alleviation through Community Based Eco-tourism in the BIMP-EAGA”*

Supported by:



## About BIMP-EAGA

The BIMP-EAGA (or simply EAGA) stands for the Brunei Darussalam Indonesia Malaysia the Philippines - East ASEAN Growth Area. It is Asia's largest regional grouping, spanning territories of four ASEAN countries. Some point out that it may also be the fastest growing, in light of its achievements in only four years.

EAGA comprises the entire sultanate of Brunei Darussalam; 14 provinces in the Indonesian islands of Kalimantan, Sulawesi, Maluku, and Papua; Sabah, Sarawak, and Labuan in Malaysia; and Mindanao and Palawan in the Philippines. Its land area of roughly 1.54 million square kilometers is home to about 45.6 million people (1996).

Manado is proud to be the host for the upcoming seminar later this year, should you require additional information please contact, shelleysondakh@yahoo.com

More information at:

**BIMP-EAGA Secretariat - North Sulawesi**  
BAPPEDA Building, 2nd floor  
Jl. 17 Agustus No. 73, Manado 95119  
Ph. +62 431 847212, Fax. +62 431 847213  
C/p: Shelley (e-mail: shelleysondakh@yahoo.com)  
Wiska (email: wiska\_rotinsulu@yahoo.com)



City of Manado  
Manado Office  
Tel: +62-431-332979, +62811435178  
E-mail: info@bastianos.com

### Bastianos at Bunaken Isl



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### Bastianos at Lembah Isl



Diving in small group  
PADI Courses  
Run by European PADI Instructor  
Local Dive Masters

# 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.

## Green Garden

**Jl. Sam Ratulangi** – Chinese, Indonesian \*Babi Bakar (roasted pig)

## A & W Rootbeer

**Manado Town Square**  
American fast-food, burgers, chicken nuggets, curly fries, iced tea or rootbeer – reasonable quick service

## Pizza Hut – Mega Mall

Great pizza, delivery by phone

## Sky Dine & Lounge

**Jl Achmad Yani Sario**  
AC, good frothy yogurt drinks with nice atmosphere, food is ok – recently expanded their seating space- they actually have a NON-SMOKING AREA

## Save The City

**Kompleks Mega Mas** – try the mie seafood and pastry

## Noodle Cafe

**Manado Town Square** – Located on the ground floor - great selection of noodles- kwetiau, udon, bihun- you got them all!

## Qua-li Manado Town Square

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# Hairy Octopus, for real!!



My camera was trained on an interesting pipefish that makes its home within the Xenia Coral at Black Rock. From the corner of my eye, I cannot help but noticed a movement on a piece of rock beside me. Nevertheless, every time I turned my head to take a proper look, the moving object mysteriously disappeared.



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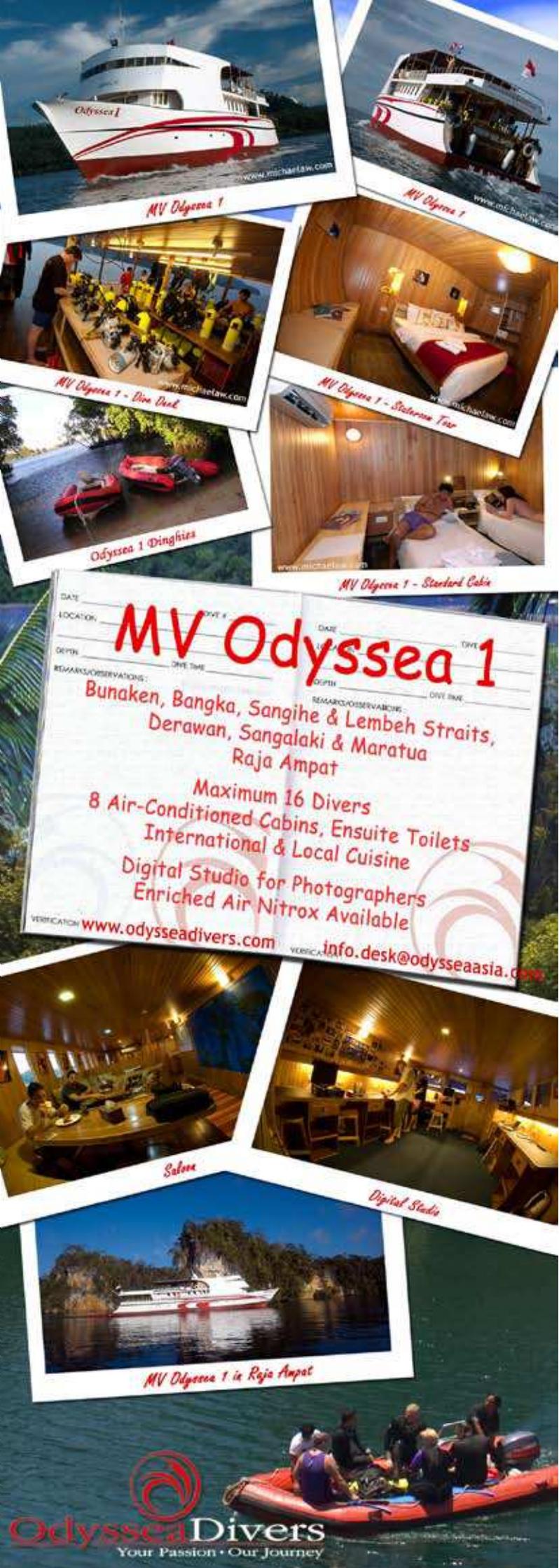
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Curiosity aroused, I abandoned my prized pipefish and moved towards the piece of rock where the disappearing act had taken place. Staring at it for several minutes, I saw a small tuft of brownish red filamentous algae lifted off the bottom, took shape and jetted off. A hairy octopus!

I first heard of the existence of such an octopus many years ago from the divemasters of Kungkungan Bay Resort. The largest specimen they had seen from Lembah Straits was a "massive" 15cm. Because this elusive octopus is very rarely observed, it remained scientifically undescribed. Absolutely nothing is known of their living habits and life cycle.

Our individual, when stretched to the fullest, was at most 2cm long. Although clearly upset by the fact that its disguise had been exposed, its retreat was not hasty. In full confidence, it stopped now and then, stretching out its tentacles in search for potential morsels along the way as it moved away from me. It was amusing to watch tiny crabs and shrimps scramble desperately out of its way. Each time it passed by growths of filamentous algae, it would curl up and darken its body to a blackish brown and disappear into its surroundings. It wasn't only when the camera lens got too close for comfort, did it decide to reveal itself once more and swam away.

From the magnification of the camera lens, I was able to observe that the so-called hair to be actually branching skin filaments, becoming long and dense when the octopus was at rest, but smoothing out in a split second when it decided to swim, probably to reduce water resistance. We also noticed its body pigments sometimes adopted a reddish brown banded pattern in its tentacles to break up the shape. There were also white spots that resemble grains of sand on its body to further aid in its camouflaging act.

We followed our little friend the entire dive until we lost him on another piece of rock, where he disappeared into a tiny hole about 3mm in diameter.

I know now, I will be looking at every tuft of algae carefully from now on.

Submitted by William Tan , violinist, photographer, author and dear friend.

# unusual Birthday Party

Manado came alive for me when a friend from Eco Divers called me and said there was a new game in town. It was kind of like the time when the new mall opened so I could buy cream cheese and sour cream under one roof. It was a little bit like watching people stand in line for service at Oh La La in the mall, Paintball came to Manado.



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**Superior Room image**



As the company that I work for is relatively small it didn't seem that this was really a thing that fit for Team Building- they might just continue to shoot the consultant , he he. But it would work as a super outing for my 11 year old daughter's birthday party. She enjoyed simply because it something that she and her friends could do, playing outside having fun together!! Certainly a lot better than going to those horrible game rooms with all the loud animated electronic over-grown play station style rot the brain GAMES. The set up: there is an area about 100 meters by 75 meters, with tall grass, up righted tires, gullies and banana trees (for hiding) - there is a safe zone for reloading bullets and being cleaned up after you are

shot. There is full protective gear, including head gear with built in face mask, camouflage coveralls and gloves.

Then it is off to play capture the flag – referees are part of the deal – Rp. 70,000 gets you 50 shots of orange paint balls, all the equipment and about an hours worth of fun and excitement. If interested please call Ibu Margaret 081317652910 for additional information.

By: BHJ

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gorontalo

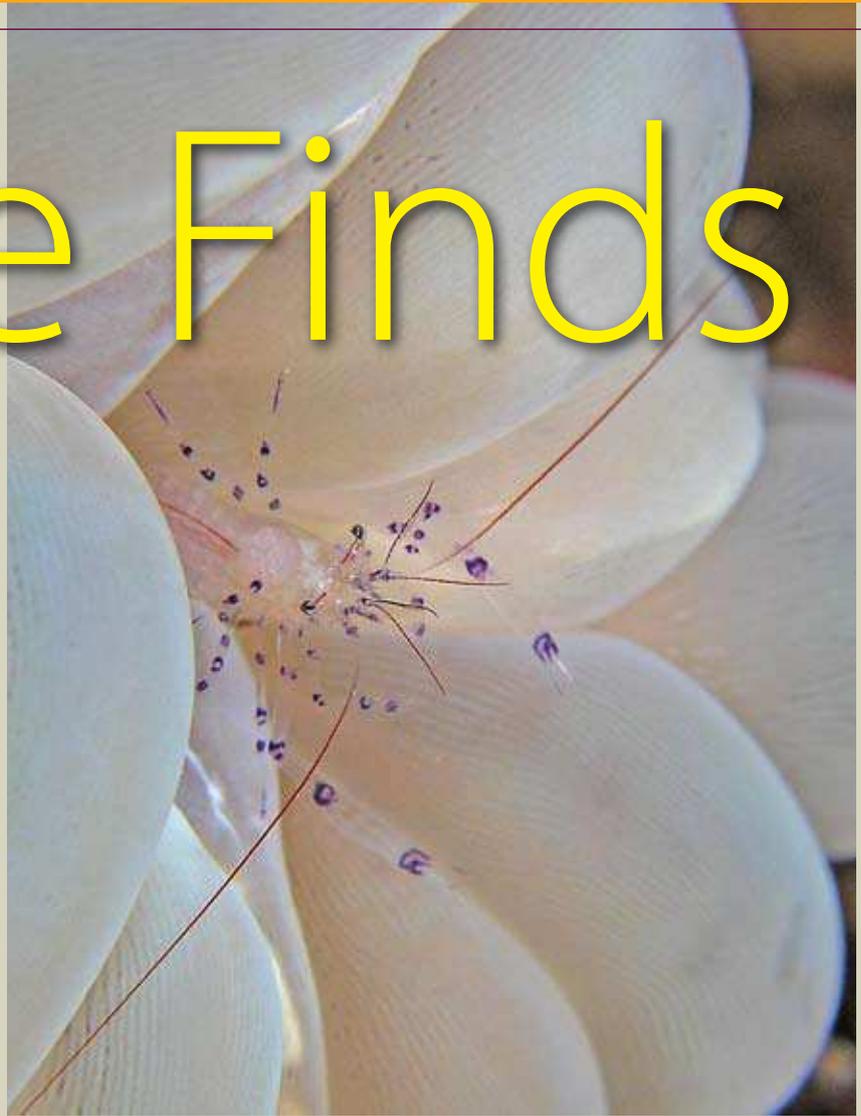
# Rare Finds

Separating Central Sulawesi from North Sulawesi lies one of Indonesia's newest provinces, Gorontalo, still a rare stop on all but the most curious traveler's itinerary. Since 1999, American Rantje Allen has been surveying its coastal waters for diving tourism, while staying dedicated to keeping the marine environment intact.

Spearheading the area's sole dive operation, Miguel's Diving, Allen has documented all the dive sites he has pioneered and preserved all the treasure they hold in the

photographs in his recent book, *Gorontalo: Hidden Paradise*. Apart from the myriad of pinnacles, reefs, caverns and walls concealing holes, crevasses and caves, there are also two wrecks to explore: an overturned barge with numerous oil drums tied around its circumference

from a failed recovery attempt, and a World War II Japanese cargo ship that sank after a fire panicked its crew and they drove the boat into a coral wall instead of the beach. Gorontalo has had relatively few divers take the plunge off its coastline, which conveniently drops



## Equatorial Diving in Gorontalo

- Dense coral growth
- Diverse marine life
- New & endemic species
- Muck, pinnacles, walls & wrecks
- Waters crowded only by fish



Photos: Anthony Hansen,  
Massimo Boyer, Paola Bearzi

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Seasonal diving November to April  
Gorontalo is an hour's flight from Manado

off into depths of hundreds of meters close to shore, making it unnecessary for locals to dynamite fish. These factors allow for a huge number of species, both known and unknown, to flourish beneath the surface. Several new and endemic species have been listed since Allen began keeping track, and rarities abound at every turn.

**Blue Sea Fans:** Featured in a recent issue of Asian Diver magazine, the rare blue sea fan lies at approximately 35 meters depth, two at Swirling Steps, one at Honeycomb and the last at Silvertip Grounds dive sites. There may be others elsewhere in the world, but two dive companions journeyed all the way from the U.S. just to see them after spotting these blue beauties in the magazine.

**Coleman Coral Shrimp:** With a translucent body and purple joints, this recently discovered species of shrimp enjoys the prestige of being found in only two places: Papua, where it was first discovered, and Gorontalo.

**Cigar Sponges:** Gorontalo's underwater conditions are highly



conducive for sponges, and giant specimens dot its seascape, including Cigar sponges, which scientists recognized as a new species in 2001. Growing to a meter or more in length, there are reportedly hundreds in the reefs around the dive site called Swirling Steps.

**Salvador Dali Sponge:** As the name implies, this sponge looks like something the surrealist Spanish artist would have dreamed up, with the outrageous abstract designs carved into its hard surface. Allen, who gave this peculiar sponge the painter's name, said these sponges are hard to miss on any deep dive and can only be seen in Gorontalo.

**Foxtail Colonial Tunicates:** Going also by the name of sea squirts, many species of tunicates make their home in Tomini Bay, including an unknown species that is clear white and measures only about 2 cm in length. They gather by the hundreds in long glorious plume formations. One we spotted dangling off an overhand on the sunken cargo barge's hull looked

more like the freshly-flung boa of an undressing Hollywood starlet than a collection of small sea creatures.

**The Orangeback Wrasse:** Another of Gorontalo's endemic species and several were spotted on our second dive at Mirabella dive site.

**Sea Hares:** Lying on the sandy bottom of the Sandcastle dive site, just meters away from the tiny village of Olele and its beach, was a swarm of about 150 squirming sea hares, which are members of the sea slug family, or to be exact "the *Stylocheilus longicauda* or Fine-lined sea hare, which are a type of opisthobranch," Allen said.

**Murex shell:** So rare was the sighting of a live murex shell crawling along the sandy bottom of the Sandcastle dive site that following our elation at spotting it, we realized sadly that we would most likely never see one again.

**Gold-spec jawfish:** Peering up with glowing eyes like the re-hot embers of a dying fire from deep with their safe hiding spots dug into the sand at the Mirabella and Sunken Island dive sites are one of Gorontalo's species of jawfish, which are so named for their practice of keeping their eggs safe in their mouth until they hatch.

by Maria Kegel

Jakarta-based Canadian Maria Kegel, a qualified dive master and former copy-editor for the Jakarta Post writes about special marine life she found on her first dive trip to Gorontalo during off-season in October 2007. Her article "Rare Finds" first appeared in The Jakarta Post WEEKENDER MAGAZINE, March 2008 and an abridged version is reprinted here with permission. Maria was so enthralled that she returned to Gorontalo for more diving over the New Year's break.

Photos courtesy of Daniel Connley

## Gorontalo Quick Facts

Population: ± 900,000 (2003)

Size: 12,215,045 km<sup>2</sup>

Became a province:  
Feb. 16, 2001

Distance by road:  
± 400 km, 9 hours

Distance by air: ± one hours

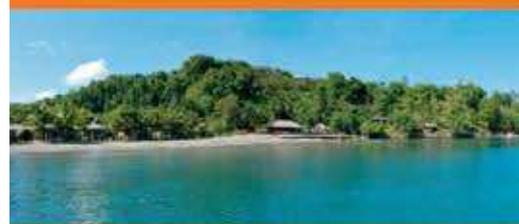
dapur

# Unwind and Awaken Your Senses

Being a chef in Indonesia is a joyful discovery. I have worked in many corners of the world; big cities and isolated islands with equal fascination and respect for the local traditions.



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"i begin with an idea, and then it becomes something else" pablo picasso, 1881-1973

It comes with no surprise that I instantly felt connected with the many rich and dominating spices available on Sulawesi. The regions are prosperous with clove trees (cengkeh), a healthy variety of chillies, gingers and herbs, flavorful salad greens and sturdy roots. To top this vast spice-variety used in local cuisine there is the vanilla bean; called "vanilli" amongst the locals.

This pod is collected from the orchids growing wildly in the mountainous regions and during the harvest season in June- August many a tourist inhale this sensational transit of dried pungent ginger, sweet clove and soothing vanilla while passing through a village en route to visit a volcano. Indeed, the origin of the clay soil on the many islands that make Indonesia so famous, lies within the geysers enriching the clay earth. I quickly discover that local Basil is twice as potent and fresh tomatoes (tomate apel) with the same pale, half-green appearance that causes my home-super-market to reduce their price are surprisingly flavorful and sweet.

But to fully enjoy the local markets it is essential that a traveler arrives here without having to "adjust" to their jet-legs and "holiday-flu", the very symptoms we all experience when our bodies finally find a break to shut down.

A simple brew of fresh

young ginger, lemongrass and vanilla sweetened with local wild honey will bring ease. Ginger contains Gingerol and Shogaol which prevent motion sickness and activate blood circulation. Lemongrass is high on beta carotene and citrine to aid digestion, relieve stress and it even lowers cholesterol and keeps mosquitoes from finding you appetizing. Honey is disinfecting, moistens the lung and regulates digestion. Finally the vanilla keeps your mind sharp and it has cooling properties. What a perfect combo.

Chef Alfred here at Minahasa Lagoon serves this healthy tea to anyone with a slight sign of discomfort. I recommend you drink this brew before your body craves for it; it is easier to prevent than having to cure. This tea tastes best when served cold – but, not before you go to bed; you might discover it is an "upper"...

Selamat Datang di Indonesia: enjoy your stay, Chef Raphael is the Resident Manager at Minahasa Lagoon.....  
Chef Raphael - [www.privatechef.com](http://www.privatechef.com)

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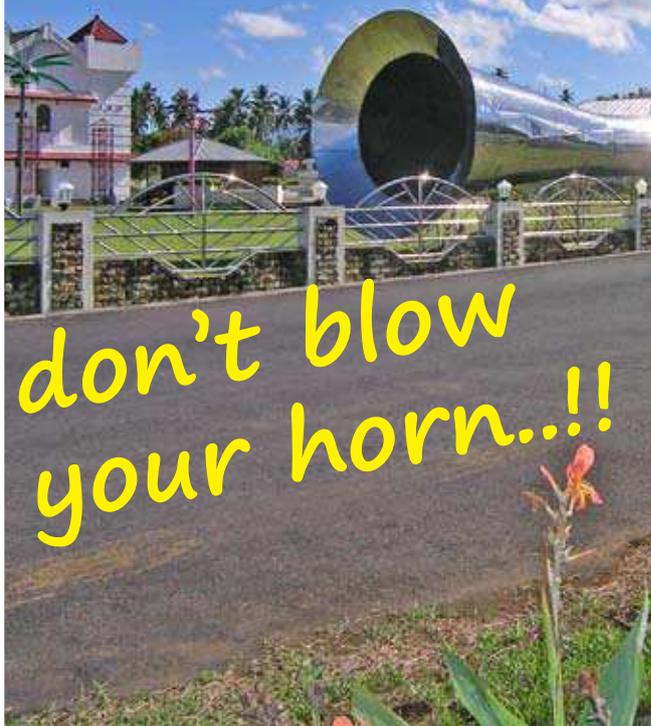


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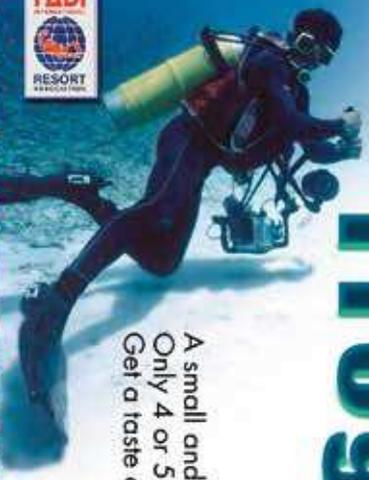
Many here over the counter rates for cash transactions as well as ATM's. Available also, are money changers several different places as rates may fluctuate depending on whether the bills are clean (no marks, folded, with creases or denomination (20's, 50's, or 100's). For your convenience we have listed a few places that generally understand travelers needs.

<b>ABN AMRO Bank</b>	<b>855777</b>
<b>BII Bank</b>	<b>860543</b>
<b>Money Changer</b>	<b>867722</b>

Volume 14, Issue 1  
Spring 2007

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# Manado City Map



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