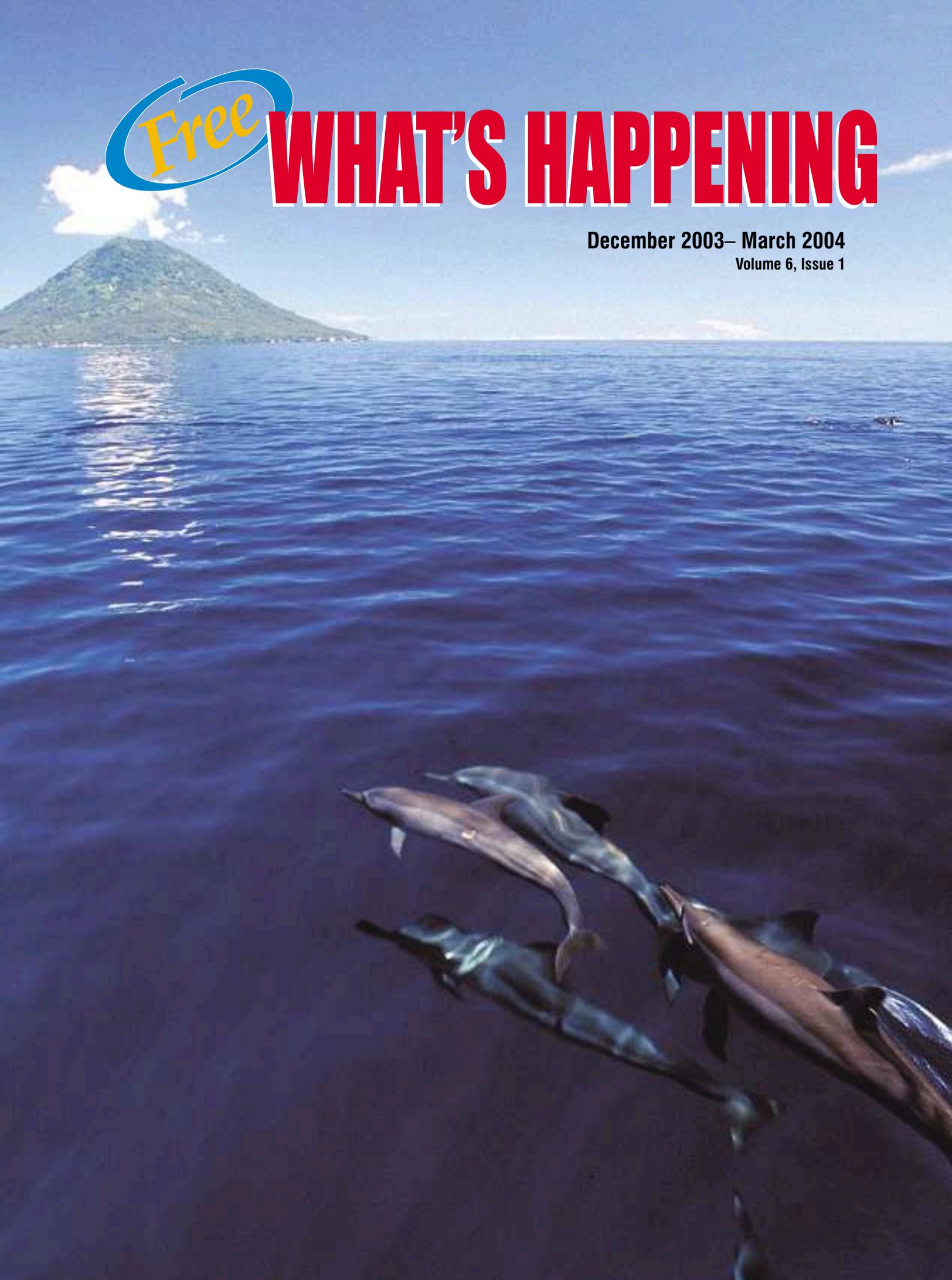


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WHAT'S HAPPENING

December 2003– March 2004

Volume 6, Issue 1



TOURISM INFORMATION FOR NORTH SULAWESI

Welcome to North Sulawesi,

As this publication is an effort to highlight our diversity and offer you our guests, an opportunity to experience this diversity, we urge you to take advantage of some of the various other activities that await you, outside your resort. Although you probably came here to dive and dive and dive again, you may not be aware that North Sulawesi has some outstanding gentle adventure experiences. Within a 1 ½ hour radius from the center of Manado you can trek to the top of Mt Mahawu (1311 meters) with its bubbling ponds inside the crater, horse-back ride in the cool hills of Tomohon, test your rafting skill on the rapids of the Nimanga River and search out the Tarsier Spectrum in the Tangkoko Nature Reserve. Check with your resort or dive operator on how to arrange these trips.

Last of all, please remember that it is the smiling faces of your hosts, the Indonesian people who make North Sulawesi an unforgettable experience and wish you Sampai jumpa lagi, (hope to see you again soon)

Warm regards,

NINNY RUATA BARNES

Editor: **What's Happening**

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Cover Photo:

Photograph
donated by:

William Tan



Special thanks to USAID's
Natural Resources
Management Project for their
continued support for this
tourism publication

What's Happening.... around Bunaken.

As 2003 wraps up, there are a number of exciting happenings to report around Bunaken National Park. We are very proud to announce that Bunaken has been selected from amongst 70 projects from 37 countries as the **global winner of this year's British Airways Tourism for Tomorrow Awards**. Bunaken National Marine Park in North Sulawesi, Indonesia, was chosen among more than 70 other entrants in the worldwide competition, which raises awareness of the world's leading role models for responsible tourism.. The Tourism for Tomorrow Awards began in 1989 and has been run by British Airways since 1992; the global program recognizes organizations in the tourism industry which have made a positive contribution



towards their local natural and cultural environment. In Bunaken's case, the award honors the efforts of the Bunaken Management Board and the North Sulawesi Watersports Association

to eliminate destructive fishing practices such as dynamite and cyanide fishing while simultaneously improving the livelihoods of the 30,000 villagers living within the park. These

Help protect the reefs of Bunaken Marine Park!
Dive with the NSWA

The Eco-worried dive operators of Manado & Bunaken have joined together to make sure that you can come here and dive again, and again, and again

<p>Imposed a ban on anchoring by all members</p> <p>Initiated the entrance fee system to provide conservation funds</p> <p>Sponsored a village handicrafts program</p> <p>Initiated patrols to stop dynamite fishing</p>	<p>North Sulawesi</p>  <p>Watersports Association</p>	<p>Organised rubbish management projects</p> <p>Designed & constructed mooring bouys on some dive sites</p> <p>Set up and run a scholarship program for local villagers</p> <p>Produced reef-education booklets for children</p>
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advances have been made largely thanks to the revenues generated by the Bunaken entrance fee system, which both funds a 24-hour joint villager/ranger/police patrol system and allocates approximately 30% of revenues towards village-level conservation and development projects. Examples of past projects funded by the entrance fee include construction of public wells and toilet facilities, mangrove replanting, and school renovations.

In anticipation of the increased popularity of Bunaken and North Sulawesi as a marine tourism destination, USAID's Natural Resources Management Project has just completed a comprehensive marine tourism carrying capacity study for the reefs of North Sulawesi. The study's final report, expected in January, will highlight a number of concrete policy recommendations to ensure that the expanding diving industry in the province is kept at a sustainable level. One key focus of the recommendations will be a new licensing system to ensure that both dive operators and dive guides have the proper knowledge and training to minimize their own and guests' impact on North Sulawesi's stunning reefs.

Additional funding from USAID should hopefully result in significant improvements to Bunaken's environment as well; a 6-month project designed to help Manado city tackle its serious solid waste disposal problems should decrease the amount of plastic trash flowing into Manado Bay and Bunaken National Park. Other infrastructure developments funded by USAID's NRM III project include the recent renovation of the landing dock and entrance fee gate at Liang Beach on Bunaken Island and a

planned state-of-the-art visitor's center for Bunaken Island (targeted for completion in mid-2004). Bunaken village is also nearing completion of a long-awaited community landing dock that has been funded by the Seacology Foundation in return for the villagers' commitment to a multiple-use zonation system that includes significant no-fishing zones.

There is plenty of interesting underwater news from Bunaken as well. Recently, noted coral reef scientists Dr. Emre Turak and Dr. Lyndon DeVantier completed a rapid survey of the biodiversity and status of Bunaken's reef corals as part of a study for the International Ocean Institute's Regional Centre for Australia and the Western Pacific (additional funding provided by the TOTAL Foundation of France and the Marine Conservation Action Fund of Boston). The scientists documented 390 species of hard coral representing 63 genera and 15 families from within Bunaken National Park, an extremely high number for such a small area. Moreover, they showed that Bunaken has the highest known within-location coral diversity they've ever recorded, with an average of 155 species recorded per site. On one site on Mantehage Island, the team recorded a world record 221 species in a single dive. Just as impressively, the overall coral condition of Bunaken's reefs was the highest average of all the sites the team had previously surveyed (including the Northern Great Barrier Reef) - with an average of 42% live coral cover and a strong overall positive ratio of live:dead coral cover of 10:1. The scientists attribute this coral condition in large part to the improvements in Bunaken's management system over the past 4 years.

Continued on page 15



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

Dancing With The Dolphins

I have been to Manado many times, but never had any success in approaching dolphins underwater although they are a common sight around the Bunaken group of islands.

The countless times I have attempted to photograph them, they would either be found swimming in the midst of monstrous feeding tunas with fleets of local fishing boats above - both determined to run me over should I be stupid enough to enter the water; or when I am "lucky" enough to find them without the fishing boats and tunas, they would always dive down into the abyss just when I am able to make out their shapes at the far edge of visibility in the water.

This October, when I returned to Manado with 4 musician colleagues from the Singapore Symphony Orchestra, we encountered a pod of dolphins behind Siladen. As usual, we enjoyed having them coming over to bow-ride in front of the boat. It was interesting how these smiling cetaceans are able to turn 5 musicians (me included), who are trained professionally to control emotions on concert stage, to go totally berserk. Shouting and screaming in joy like 5 little kids, we reached for our land cameras and videos and shot till all available films and video footages were exhausted.

Guo Hao, a new diver and a 1st time visitor to Manado, apparently refused to understand that it is impossible to get into the water with the dolphins. Upon his stubborn insistence, we stopped the boat and put him in the water, hoping he will be convinced to give up his

wishful thinking of swimming with the dolphins.

Adjusting his mask and snorkel holding onto the ladder by the boat, Guo Hao shouted he was able to see the dolphins in the water. Seconds later, when he claimed he was touched by one dolphin that swam by, there was a big commotion on the boat. Except for the boatman, the boat was suddenly deserted!

There must be close to a hundred dolphins around, but because we had entered the water in such haste and kicked up lots of splash in our excitement, the dolphins became more wary, keeping a distance of at least 15 feet away from us.

I counted 17 that were closest to me. When some of these turned their heads simultaneously to look at me, it was as if time had come to a stand still. It wasn't until they

turned and swam in the other direction that I realized that my lungs were

screaming for me to rush back to the surface to breathe!

We stayed with this pod of dolphins for almost an hour. Right before they left us, one of them broke away from the pod and circled around us several times as if to bid us farewell.

Story by: William Tan
(www.silent-symphony.com)

On October 30th 2003, 5 musicians came to Manado and had a chance of their lifetime dancing with the dolphins!

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of Manado for three strait days with cultural dances, dinners and as usual many speeches. However, I must say that speeches were kept short and the travel agents and press all walked away with good impressions of our growing destination.

Malaysia Airlines operates twice weekly flights on Thursdays and Sundays between Kuala Lumpur and Manado, departing Kuala Lumpur at 0845 hours to reach Manado at 1425 hours, with a 55-minute stopover in Kota Kinabalu. The return flight departs Manado at 1515 hours local time to arrive Kuala Lumpur at 2040 hours after a stopover in Kota Kinabalu on the same day. The two class-configured Boeing 737-400 aircraft with 16 Business and 128 Economy Class seats will be used for this new service operated on a code-

August 14th was an exciting day in Manado, when the first Malaysia Airlines flight taxied down the runway pulling up to the jetway at Sam Ratulangi International Airport. Festivities rocked the little town

share with Garuda Indonesia.

The tourism community is hopeful that this additional air service will be just another step in the successful and sustainable growth of North Sulawesi!!

What's Happening

HOTEL "NEW QUEEN"
 Manado North Sulawesi - Indonesia

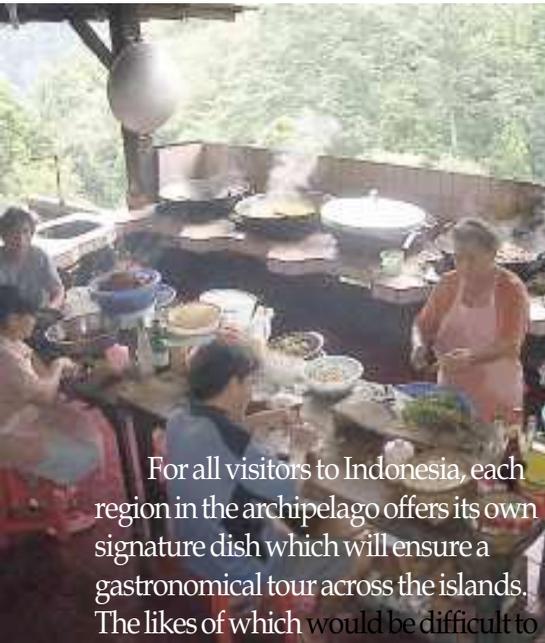
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For all visitors to Indonesia, each region in the archipelago offers its own signature dish which will ensure a gastronomical tour across the islands. The likes of which would be difficult to match in many other countries around the world.

For our corner of Indonesia, certainly the fiery *Minahasan* cuisine will be one of the most striking memories you will take away with you. "Exotic" is certainly the key word to keep in mind here.

Unencumbered by many religious constraints, the predominately Christian population of *Minahasa* view most living creatures as fair game for the dinner table. Top of the list for the regional delicacy would be what is euphemistically referred to as *RW*. You and I would probably be better off not knowing that this does in fact stand for: dog.

Preparation is the key here, *Minahasan* cuisine is famously HOT, HOT, HOT. Extra chilli certainly dulls any taste that any one particular meat may have. A typical *Minahasan* buffet will possibly include dog but the untrained observer may just assume the dish is beef. It always pays to



SOME LIKE IT HOT...!!

By: Lois Lane

check with your host or hostess what exactly each dish contains. Don't be surprised if jungle rat or bat are also included on the menu.

Minahasans also love pork and a whole BBQ'd pig is often served at banquets. Again, if you have any dietary constraints then you are advised to check first before diving into that plate of *Minahasan* delicacies. Vegetarians may go very hungry at traditional banquets as dishes containing large amounts of meat are a display of wealth.

For the adventurous amongst you, try a sampling of these regional dishes at any number of restaurants on the road winding up from Manado towards Tomohon. Heng Mien is always busy so take a leaf out of the locals book and order your mini banquet there.

Down on the waterfront, Anugerah, close to Mokupa (before Tasik Ria) also offers a generous sampling of *Minahasan* dishes. The fantastic sea view is an additional bonus.

Closer in town, there are food stalls offering regional dishes at both the Mega Mas Mall and the Bay Street Cafe strip.

Be brave and keep your bottle of water at hand. Who knows, you may just come to love the *Minahasan* style of food..extra chillies please!

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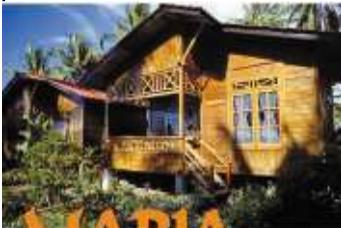
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Airline Offices

Who, What And Where

Over the last year or so there have been a few movements in the local offices of the airlines servicing Manado. This may mean that the addresses listed in some of the popular guide books may be out of date.

Manado has also welcomed some new airlines, so to make sure you have the current address for the airline you are seeking, we've listed the airline locations below.

At the southern end of the Boulevard, in the Bahu Mall complex you can find the new office of Malaysian airlines just down from Mandala. At the opposite end of the Boulevard, in the Mega Mas Mall, are Lion Air, Batavia Air and the brand new Garuda Indonesia office. Both Silk Air and Bouraq Airlines remain in their offices a few streets back on Jalan Sarapung.

Batavia Air	Jl. Piere Tendean Komplek Mega Mas	855878
Bouraq Airlines	Jl Sarapung No. 5	814471
Garuda Airlines	Jl. Piere Tendean Komplek Mega Mas	870097
Lion Air	Jl. Piere Tendean Komplek Mega Mas	847000
Malaysian Airlines	Komplek Bahu Mall S-18 Jl Walter Monginsidi	852666
Mandala Airlines	Komplek Bahu Mall Jl. Walter Monginsidi	850555
Merpati Airlines	Jl. Sudirman 44	842000
Silk Air	Jl. Sarapung No. 27 B	863744



and the remote group of coral atolls far to the North East, the Nanusa group.

The three large islands are largely devoted to plantation crops. The streets of the two main ports of Beo and Lirung are largely allocated to drying shiny nutmeg and brilliant mace on Hessian sacks. Cavernous warehouses are interspersed with hardware, and household goods shops and mini-markets that provide for all the local needs every day from Monday to Saturday. These islands still close on Sundays and everyone heads off to Church in their Sunday best and in the afternoon it is still important to visit friends and relax.

Beaches To Die For Corals To Cry For

A trip to Talaud, in the North Eastern District of North Sulawesi has many claims to fame, some old some new. Fabled by the Portuguese as "Porodisa" the green islands, white sands, deep harbors and unbelievably lively blue sea island chain formed the Westernmost spice island, met by lucky intrepid sailors at the end of a desperate two year sail from through desperate privations.

Talaud consists of three main islands; the long North-South island of Karakelang, a South Island of Salebabu and South Eastern Merongue

We have been coming to Talaud for over a year now and are getting to know the relaxed pace of life and the people who can help us get things done. Local Government staff are very friendly and helpful, the *Bupati, Sekda*, and the head of Welfare and Development and of the Church all have helped us find our way around. On a day to day basis, Edi - who is the harbor master at Lirung used to work at a diving Canter in Manado and is very helpful. There are perfectly adequate air-conditioned home-stays and hotels in Beo, Melonguane and Lirung. If you need a reliable boat to explore the islands or go fishing contact Anton in Melonguane, he will rent his 17 m wooden boat for Rp

Continued on page 13



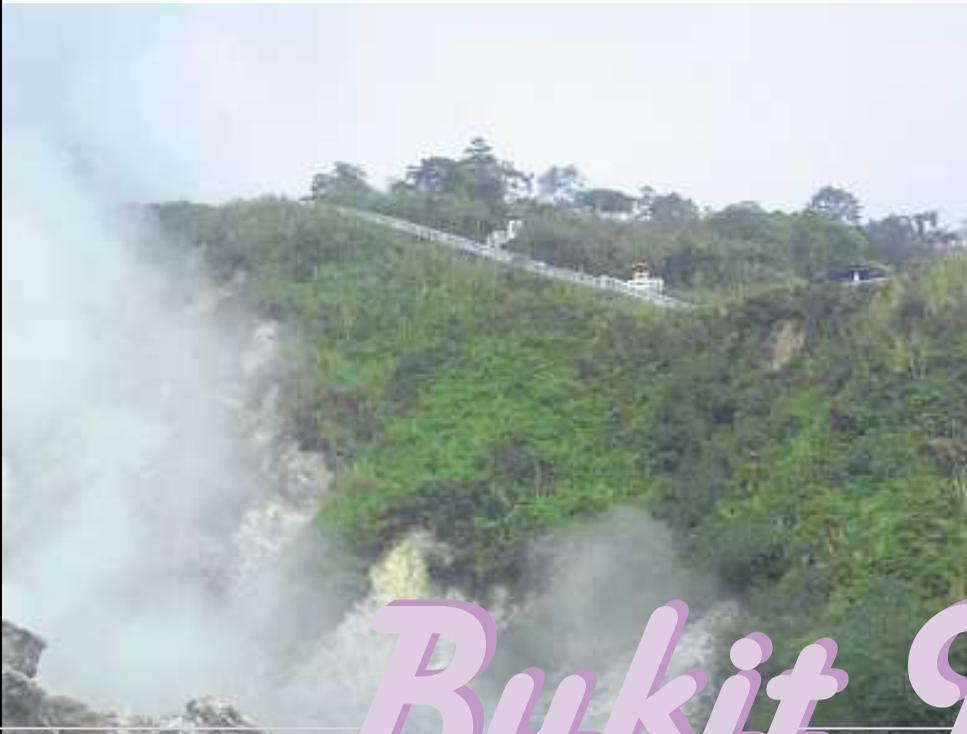
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Bukit Kasih

Having come all this way to North Sulawesi and having enjoyed the great diving spots you might be wondering what else this wonderful part of the world has to offer. A day trip into the Minahasa visiting some of the towns and villages culminating in a visit to Bukit Kasih could be just what you are looking for.

On the drive from Manado to Tomohon take the time to check out some of the interesting roadside stalls

selling locally grown tropical fruits and vegetables, flower stalls, cane baskets and souvenirs.

Continue through Tomohon into the open countryside keeping an eye out for the Japanese Caves, natural hot springs, terraced rice paddies, peanut plantations and fields of corn. You will shortly arrive in the village of Kawangkoan renowned for its peanuts and also a great place to sample traditional coffee. For an authentic coffee experience try

Rumah Kopi Toronata. Ask for freshly baked warm bread served with a sprinkling of palm sugar to accompany your coffee and relax in the simple surroundings.

Leave the main road and make a right turn onto the road to Kanonang Dua. Look for a small sign three kilometers out of Kawangkoan directing you to Bukit Kasih which is a further six kilometers along a narrow rural road.

Bukit Kasih or Mountain of Love is quite a place. You could be forgiven for thinking you had stumbled onto a miniature version of The Great Wall of China. To get the full picture expect to do some climbing but any moderately fit person would have little difficulty. If you forgot to bring a hat or are looking for a souvenir the hat vendors will deck you out from their wide selection of banyak topi (many hats).



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The complex is built around a moonscape mass of rock, oozing steam and boiling water accompanied by a strong sulfuric odor. Local people can be seen cooking corn in bags suspended into the steaming, bubbling pools. The freshly cooked corn can be bought at stalls along the way.

Larger than life figures, both male and female wearing traditional attire from a bygone era are positioned at points along the way. As you continue to climb you will pass the various Stations of the Cross. At the very top there is a Catholic Church, a Protestant

Church, a Mosque, a Hindu Temple and a Buddhist Temple. All places of worship representing the main religions practiced in North Sulawesi. Linger awhile to ponder your surroundings and to take in the wonderful view over the villages and towns of Tompasso, Sonder, Tondano, Langowan and Kawangkoan with Lake Tondano away in the distance. The friendly Minahasans will be keen to talk to you and pose for photos leaving you with a lasting impression of your visit



to their homeland.

The journey back to Manado can be made by returning to Kawangkoan and retracing your steps via Tomohon or alternatively via Remboken, Tondano and Airmadidi.

By Fajar

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Don't Smell It, Just Eat It

It's Durian season ! How do I know this ? I can smell it. This South East Asian delicacy is a fruit which frankly, takes a little getting used to.

First there's the "aroma", the pungent smell wafting off the spiky fruit indicates it's ripe to eat, but can be off-putting for the uninitiated. If you can get beyond the smell, the creamy flesh surrounding the pips is a taste sensation.

Some durians have slightly firmer flesh and others are just plain mushy. The taste itself is sweet and heavily "fruity" and well, just plain difficult to describe.

At the height of the season, vendors carefully pile the spiky melon-sized fruit into pyramids and display them along the



thoroughfares of Manado. The sellers will gladly cut them open for you (not such an easy task given the dangerous spikes on the outside). We suggest you eat your durian there on the spot, as it is forbidden to take the fruit into hotels. One very ripe fruit will smell out a room for days. It's definitely better to sample it outdoors.

A wise local told me that you have to try durian five times before you get totally hooked on it. I've tried it three times so far, and while I have to admit the taste is curious, it's not quite a total love affair yet. I guess I'll reserve judgment over my next two attempts.

Durian is hideously expensive if purchased outside of Asia so if curiosity gets the better of you, then wander down the Boulevard in the early evening and select the first little spiky monster that catches your eye. As they say; nothing ventured, nothing gained.

Story: Lois Lane

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Beaches To Die For..

Continued from page 9

450,000 a day plus fuel, and can take you all round in rough and ready comfort and has passable English.

The best weather for sea adventures is between April and July, when the sea is calm. Between November and December the winds are from the west, piling huge seas onto the rocky west coastline. From January to March the wind can swing from the north, sending long swells down both coasts of Karakelang. The Nanusa Archipelago and Napo Balu, are an uncharted treasure trove for surfers, professional ones ideally, as the waves are astronomical in size and generally roll onto shallow reefs and the nearest comprehensive medical facilities are a long boat ride and flight back to Manado. Even sitting in the air-conditioned comfort of the Mutiara Hotel in Lirung the surf can be heard crashing onto the beach below.

In addition to enjoying the relaxed agricultural lifestyle, please contact Birdlife International to search for any of the four endemic birds of Talaud, including the stunning Red Sam-piri Parot which are all under threat of extinction. It is easy to play Robinson Crusoe on the dazzling sands of Big and Little Sara islands- get dropped off with a lot of water and lunch in the morning from either Lirung or Melonguane and ask to be collected for the sundown cruise back again. But be a little careful with the currents round the island they take no prisoners! For *culture vultures* there are several ancient animist burial grounds with lines of skulls and bones Totom Batu perched on a cliff near Tarohan Village or in the bigger cave north of Beo.

However, our mission was simple, to find some diving away from everyone else! It must have been absolutely stunning in the days of the Portuguese spice traders, unfortunately the 1998 El Nino event has killed

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Kungkungan Bay Resort
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off nearly 100% of the corals of Nanusa and the east coasts of Karakelang, Salebabu, and the bay between. The gray remnants are shattered and strangely ghostly, devoid of even the normal small fish. Trying to cheer us up it seemed, each day the dolphins came to play near our bow, staying for up to half an hour. Occasional spurts in the distance could have been whales, sailfish or tuna, the pelagic fish are still here. On the west coast, the coral re-growth has started, with brave coral colonies slowly re-coloring the gray seascape and the small beautiful fish are beginning to come back. If Talaud could make a serious commitment to manage these reefs, they may one day return to the former glory and be a natural wonder of the world.

It could have been a depressing trip, but between the dolphins and Elton we can only say it was wonderful. Elton shared with us two different locations both rocky pinnacles climbing out of the deep cold blue waters, tiny fragments of what it must have been in former days. Sharks, Jacks, Snapper and Grouper, hard and soft corals were in glorious abundance. Tiny fragments that we will return to over and over again. Next April we shall explore the south west coast of Salebabu and the western area of Marongue, let's hope we find some more fragments! Did we mention the Big Mama grouper on the 100 m long wreck? – well we shouldn't because it may not always be there.

Next year, we will be bringing our small boat to Talaud to continue our work next summer, but that is only one option.

Year round Talaud can be reached by air, Merpati flies to and from Melonguane (via Naha, Sangihe) two times a week, Monday and Thursday, or by one of the impressive fast 50 long ferry's Ave Maria or Valentine that motor out of Manado harbour on Monday, Tuesday Thursday and Friday afternoons (and arrive in Lirung, then Melonguane early the next day). The ferries return to Manado on Tuesday, Wednesday, Fridays and Saturdays.

Yayasan Laut Lestari Indonesia (The Indonesian Perpetual Ocean Foundation) is working with other partners to implement the *Inisiatif Keberlanjutan Alam Nelayan Nusantara* / Fisher-folk of Indonesia Self-Help Program (IKAN Nusantara or FISH). Committed to measurably increasing the welfare of the small island communities of Sangihe and Talaud.

For more information please visit our website www.ikann.or.id or contact Elshinta Marsden, Executive Director fish@ikann.or.id

Puri Spa

Is a place to find the harmony between your body and soul.
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What's Happening....

Continued from page 4

Finally, for those of you lucky enough to be diving in Bunaken during the middle of December, consider volunteering to help the dive operators of the North Sulawesi Watersports Association (NSWA) install a large-scale "EcoReefs" reef rehabilitation project for the citizens of the picturesque volcanic island of Manado Tua. Also funded by the Seacology Foundation from Berkeley, California, this EcoReefs project is designed to help restore the fisheries function of a stretch of once-beautiful reef that was reduced to rubble by dynamite

fishing over 15 years ago. Unfortunately, reefs bombed into rubble can take many decades to recover; this project will aim to speed that up by installing over 600 star-shaped ceramic EcoReef modules designed to mimic natural branching coral thickets and provide immediate shelter for fish and a suitable base for new corals to grow upon. The project will rely upon volunteer divers from the NSWA to do the underwater installation; interested guests should talk to their NSWA operator to volunteer. Happy Diving!

Mark Erdmann
 Marine Protected Areas Advisor
 USAID's Natural Resources
 Management Project

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

Jl. Achmad 17/#3- Indonesian nice atmosphere & paintings for sale.

Hooks

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

New Kartini

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

Froggies Divers
 Manado - Indonesia

Dive and stay on Hlong Beach - Bunaken Island - www.divefroggies.com

A small and eco-friendly operation. Only 4 or 5 diving guests on each boat. Get a taste of long, slow and lazy dives...

Email: manado@divefroggies.com
 Phone: + 62 812 430 1356/1464
 A reservation is recommended

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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& TRAVEL

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LEGEND

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| ① To Hotel Santika & Thalassa Dive Center
To Nusantara Dive Center | ⑧ Money Changer | ⑯ To Murex Resort & Live-Aboards
To Celebes Diving & Mapia Resort
To Lumbalumba Diving
To Tasik Ria Resort & Eco Divers |
| ② Logam Jaya Gift Shop | ⑨ Metropole Tour & Travel | ⑰ Gran Puri Hotel & GPS
Coco Supermaket
ATM's |
| ③ Blue Banter
Sunset Cafe | ⑩ Star Express Tour & Travel | ⑱ To Gardenia Highland Resort
To Kali Waterfall
To Highland Resort |
| ④ Pola Pelita Tour & Travel
Ritz Hotel
Matahari Dept. Store
Post Office, Internet & ATM's | ⑪ Steiner Salon | ⑲ To Kungklungan Bay Resort
To Airport Sam Ratulangi
To Lembeh Resort |
| ⑤ Hotel New Queen | ⑫ Sonny's Gallery | ⑳ Museum |
| ⑥ Green Garden Restaurant | ⑬ Safari Tours & TRAVEL
Hotel Minahasa | |
| ⑦ Dolphin Donats | ⑭ Jysti Restaurant
Hooks | |
| | ⑮ Malaysia Airlines | |