

What's Happening

Free!

Spring 2007 | Volume 12, Issue 1



Tourism Information For North Sulawesi

to our guests, Contents

Welcome to North Sulawesi,

Beyond the beaches and our underwater landscape, the reef, North Sulawesi has much much more to offer, our cover this month is a testament to one of the other activities that are available here in North Sulawesi.

Like all destinations, the first time that you visit you generally only scratch the surface of what's available but on your subsequent trips the destination begins to unfold and reveal its many well kept secrets.

To give you just a sprinkling of the other attractions which are available we suggest that you visit www.north-sulawesi.com the website of the North Sulawesi Tourism Organization to glean more information on the whitewater rafting, excursions visiting local markets, Japanese Caves, traditional knock-down Minahasa cottages, trekking to MT Mahawu or MT Lokon, Tangkoko Nature Reserve (home to the world's smallest primate, Tarsier Spectrum), 9 hold golf course, birding in Tangkoko or Bogani Nani Wartabone and much much more.

So if you happened to pick up this magazine in the airport on arrival or in your hotel room and haven't decided what other activities you could do after your snorkeling or diving, ask someone in your resort or hotel and I am sure they can assist. If you don't have time this trip, plan for it next time. Don't pass up the opportunity to experience all that we have, remember North Sulawesi is Adventures Beyond Dreams

Best regards,

Jeremy H Barnes

Editor: What's Happening

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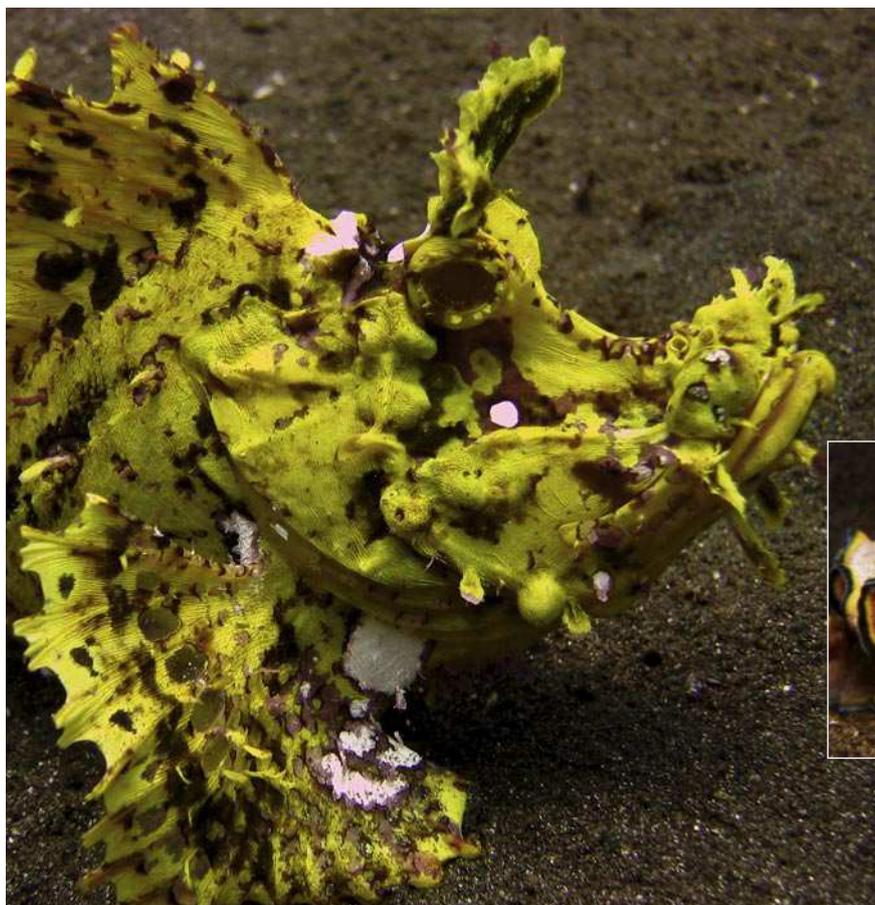


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Cover shot
was taken
in Tangkoko
Nature
Reserve
with a Nikon
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f4 lens by
Paul Noakes.

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Special thanks to
**YAYASAN
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for their support this
tourism publication

All Things *Weird and Wonderful*



In late December 2006, Paul & I left the rich and beautiful walls of Bunaken to spend ten days at a new resort in Lembah Straits.

We were to change environments from pristine coral, diverse reef life and blue waters to muck diving, and all the weird and wonderful critters that Lembah is growing increasingly popular for wowing divers with.



The black volcanic sandy slopes of Lembah are home to an enormous variety of marine life, however, nothing was quite the

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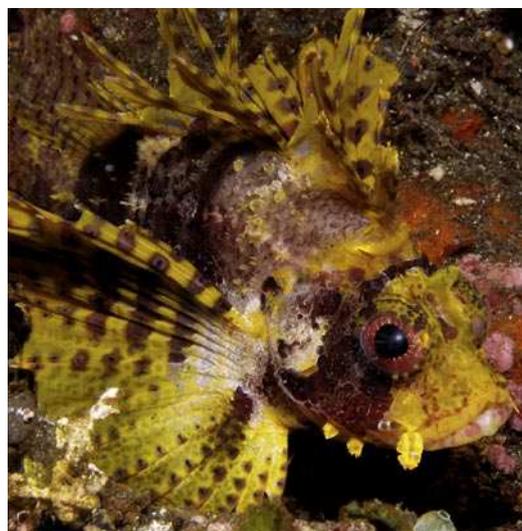
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same as anything we'd encountered before. It was really exciting. Both if us have dived in numerous locations around the world, and seen many things on a divers wish list, so it was exhilarating to discover a different and more unusual environment.

Giant frogfish and baby frogfish were all really cool to see – but hey, this was Lembeh – and we also saw the more unusual hairy frogfish.

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photos by Peter Lange www.fotofish.net



Scorpion fish were around in all kinds of shapes, colours and sizes, and in true Lembeh style we were also privileged to see the rarer Lacy Scorpion Fish, Weedy Scorpion Fish and Ambon Scorpion Fish – another three steps beyond the norm ...

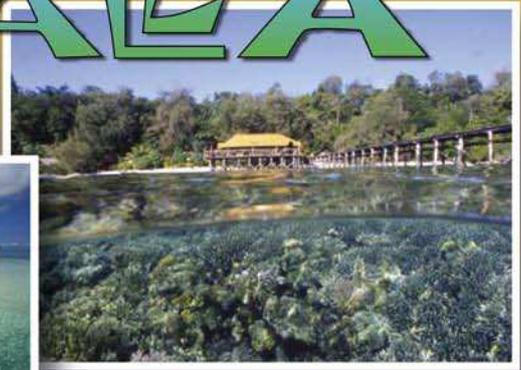
There were also sea horses (both pygmy and common), a wide variety of nudibranchs, mantis shrimps galore, drangonettes, flying gurnards, flamboyant cuttlefish and mimic octopus – just some of the weird and wonderful things we discovered.

Most of our dives were 75 minutes long, but passed in a flash, and every single dive introduced us to something we'd never seen before thanks to the sharp eye's of our knowledgeable dive guide, Opo.

We highly recommend it to anyone, and will definitely be aiming to return. We're sure there must still be more, just waiting to be discovered, and we're positive the diversity and uniqueness will be hard to match.

By: Ms Tina Gibbons, UK. stayed with Two Fish Divers Bunaken Island & Lembeh Strait
 --26/12/06

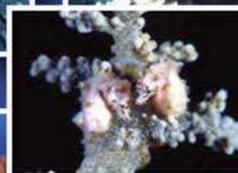
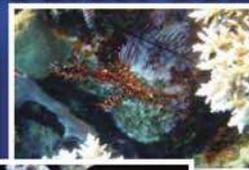
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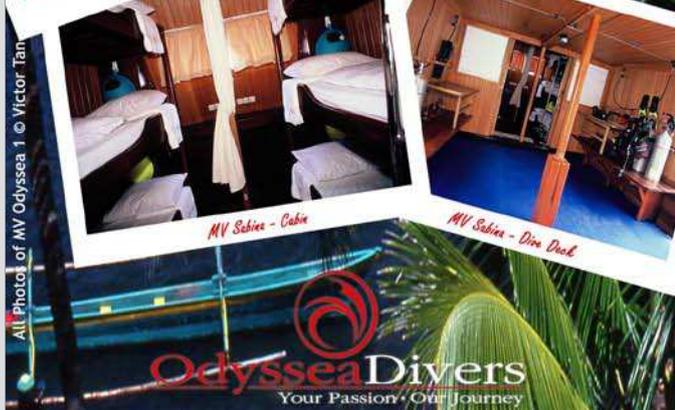
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Sangihe Talaud



MV Odyssea 1 DATE: _____ LOCATION: <i>Bunaken, Bangku & Lembeh Straits, Halmahera, Raja Ampat</i> DEPTH: _____ REMARKS/OBSERVATIONS: _____ Maximum 16 Divers 8 En-Suite air-conditioned Cabins International & Local Cuisine English, Spanish, Japanese, Chinese, Indonesian & German Speaking Crew Digital Studio for Photographers Nitrox Available www.odysseadivers.com		MV SABINA DATE: _____ LOCATION: <i>Bunaken, Bangku & Lembeh Straits</i> DEPTH: _____ REMARKS/OBSERVATIONS: _____ Maximum 6 Divers Air-conditioned Cabin Up to 4 guided Dives per Day All Meals Short or long itineraries Spend more time diving Great for Families info.desk@odysseadivers.com	
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Saturday the 17th of February, I received a call from the city tourism department, the voice on the other end said "you have to meet me at 3 PM in front of the Mayor's office!!" Ok, I said, why – the person said cultural dances, ceremonial presentations and FOOD! As I rounded the corner, I was greeted by colorful ceremonial dress for men and women alike. As I gazed across the parade ground in front of the Mayor's office the sounds of bamboo music (instruments) pierced the afternoon's still air, microphones blasted, and food vendors hawked their wares. I walked out and began to snap pictures, what a shame I said to my friend (from the tourism office) there are only a few "bule" (foreigners) here to experience this cultural afternoon. On stage the people began to assemble and take their seats, the mayor and his wife (the chairperson of the committee that made this celebration come to life) sat



down and a few minutes later the governor arrived. He was escorted to the stage, and after shaking hands with 7-10 persons was seated. It was all about to begin.

As you are surely aware all ceremonies have a story, all traditions are based on some type of village experience that dates back centuries or more. In

this case like many of the traditions there are strong religious overtones as well as ceremonies that enhance the solidarity and build strong bonds among men. "The TAMO cake which is made from glutinous rice and decorated with various agricultural products symbolizes the willingness of an entire community to obey the chosen leaders." there is talk of "a special tree that is cut down at a certain time (maybe a different tree every year not sure) and this tree must lay flat and not into the mountain slope when cut, the tree is directed towards the sunrise as a symbol of a sustainable life". "Then let us gather together and eat the TAMO as a sign of fraternity and togetherness and integrity in peace and prosperity"

These words were spoken and it was time to go, I ate and disappeared into the crowd- waiting for the next news of another great traditional cultural show!!

By BHJ



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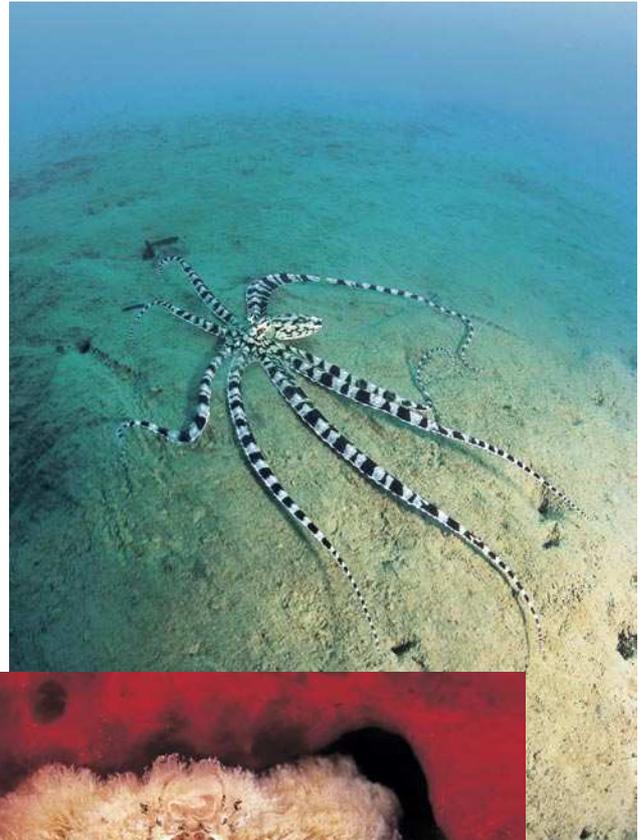
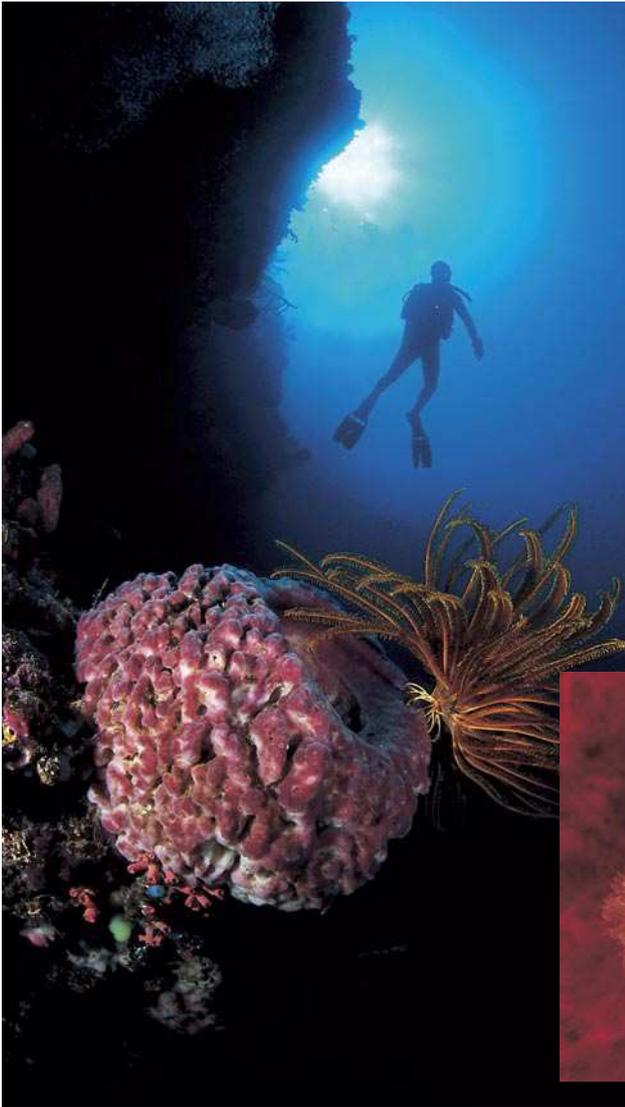


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Challenges in *Gorontalo*



My first introduction to Gorontalo was in 2003 when writing an article for a magazine. Little did I expect that more than a year later, Governor Fadel Muhammad of Gorontalo would make me the offer of producing a coffee table book to showcase the unique local underwater creatures. The entire project, sponsored by the Gorontalo Provincial Government, was given only a year for completion.

As a working violinist with the Singapore Symphony Orchestra, I can't devote the required time onsite shooting enough good images to fill the pages.

Desperate, I approached Stephen Wong and Takako Uno, two of Asia's foremost marine photojournalists and also my mentors within the field, for help. The manager of the sole dive operation in Gorontalo, Rantje Allen, also agreed to provide the text based on his expertise and knowledge of the local reefs. I couldn't have hoped for a better team.

Stephen and Takako arrived Gorontalo at the beginning of the dive season. Within minutes into their very first dive, Stephen's camera was already trained on a Denise pygmy seahorse. Days later, news



Takako actually told Rantje to take me to the beautiful locations they have found, so that I will be able to shoot the images they lost, thus, earning my utmost respect!

Rantje's insightful text helped in making sense of our resulting images, and I must admit my admiration in Ben Ho, our publisher from Snow Design in Singapore, for his artistic display of our images and still able to meet the production deadline in a record short time of only six months.

Cameras do not capture the best experience of our Gorontalo visits, the warm friendship of the local people, from street hawkers to government officials, which were felt and appreciated by all three photographers.

of encounters with a marlin and Takako's discovery of several unique critters, including a rare tiny pipefish made me turned green with envy. To maximize our chances of diversified underwater encounters, I arrived onsite only after Stephen and Takako had left. Rantje and his local dive guides did not disappoint me. Rare creatures such as the Teddy Bear Crab and several species unknown to science were found for me to photograph.

Due to some faulty camera equipment, more than 40% of Stephen and Takako's works were lost. Nevertheless, what was left of their resulting collection of images was still stunning. As the images were sent to Rantje via the Internet on a daily basis, they remained both a pleasure and pressure for me to watch over breakfast just before my dives each day.

Contrary to previous collaborating experiences with photographers on other projects, selfless Stephen and

Story by William Tan

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Burning Issue- Sampah

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marijo buang sampah
pa depe tampa...



Lestari (a creative media machine) & the North Sulawesi Tourism Organization (NSTO), Hotel Gran Puri and Coco Supermarkets joined together recently in a public service announcement campaign (PSA) to distribute bumper stickers with the message "don't throw garbage (on the ground) unless there is a garbage can" – 3000 stickers were distributed to microlets (public blue busses) in the market area- this was the first step to the 1 month long (Lestari) campaign to raise public awareness regarding this problem.

The city is doing its part as well, with the 2nd of two recently purchased incinerators going on line just last month.

The incinerator shown (photo) can process 2 cubic meters per hours of organic waste that



is reduced to an ash fertilizer and then can be sold or given away.

Lastly, just before we went to press on Friday, February 23 Lestari installed its' five billboards with a similar type of PSA- "the ocean is not a garbage can", attended and supported by the city government.

We truly do PRAISE the local city government in their efforts to solve the garbage problem. We hope that as months go by that there will be the continued political will to make Manado one of the cleanest cities in Indonesia.



A hidden paradise of romance, mystique and excitement

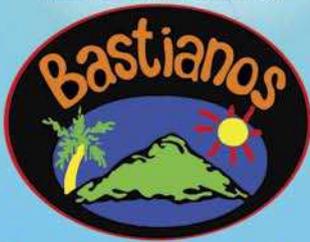
- that's what one finds pervading throughout KIMA BAJO Resort & Spa, a small luxurious boutique resort located in Manado, North Sulawesi, Indonesia, a destination renowned for world-class diving and snorkeling.



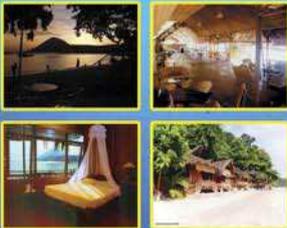
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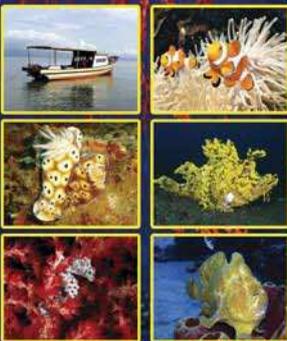
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Tangkoko

Kingfisher Paradise



Tangkoko National Reserve at the north east of Sulawesi, just 40 km from Manado, has possibly more species of Kingfisher than any other site of equivalent size on earth. Nine species are regularly recorded there but more importantly for any visiting birder, five of them are unique to Sulawesi. As part of a longer trip to Sulawesi in September 2006, Chris McGuigan and I arrived in Manado eager to find these special five birds. We were met at the airport by Ninny Barnes, with whom I had corresponded for several months in order to set up the logistics for this and our more complex trip across to Halmahera immediately after. The road trip to Tangkoko took over two hours as the roads are very slow. We arrived at 4 pm to be met by Markus, Henrik and Lori who had got in slightly earlier. They had already arranged for us to go out on a small boat to the local mangroves to look for one of the specialties, Black-billed Kingfisher, and were in a rush to get going. So we bade our farewells to Ninny, having sorted out a time to be collected three



days later, and set off before it got dark. Soon we were paddling up a narrow creek and had seen both Mangrove and River [Common] Kingfisher when a large bird came streaking over the water towards us. It was a Ruddy Kingfisher living up to its name apart from its sky blue rump. It came within a few feet of us before zapping off into the mangroves. The light was beginning to fade fast but finally we spotted our target, a huge pale cream Kingfisher sat on a branch over the water. Its all black bill was enormous, no doubt in order to cope with the crabs which are amongst its staple prey items. With much relief we admired this bird before heading back to our accommodation at Mama Roos's.

The next morning saw us walking into the dry forest of the reserve. We were seeing lots of new birds but it was the forest kingfishers that were the real target. I scanned through the forest with my binoculars and was amazed to pick out a male Green-backed Kingfisher. A few minutes later we found a female and were able to watch it from all angles. It was a big bird with a long tail for a kingfisher and gave great views. A few minutes later Untu our guide pointed out an absolutely stunning Lilac Kingfisher (cover shot). The amazing red bill and pink eye made the bird look almost plastic. This stunning bird let us admire it as long as we liked. Just a few minutes later we found the last of the lowland forest species in the form of a pair of diminutive Sulawesi Dwarf Kingfishers. They are tiny birds, with bright iridescent orange and blue plumage, that hunt in the low levels of the forest. None of these Kingfishers eat fish but all feed on arthropods and small vertebrates.

After such an incredibly successful few hours birding we took a break to plan our strategy. Was it worth making an effort to try and see the most difficult of the group,



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Scaly Kingfisher? This only occurs high up on the local mountainside. To give ourselves any chance, would involve a long hike up the mountain and camping overnight to try to see the bird at dawn. Very few visiting birders are ever successful and Untu, an expert, said he only saw it on every fourth or fifth attempt. He had not seen it on the last four occasions but we decided our luck was going to be in. So we hiked up the five km with our gear and camped out in the open overnight. This was actually very pleasant as it was beautifully cool in comparison with the heat and humidity down below. A close Spectral Tarsier, one of the

world's smallest primates with huge "ET" eyes kept us entertained that night.

The following morning we started the search on the narrow, steep trails. After a couple of hours with no sign we were beginning to despair when there one was, perched directly in front of us. Another stunning bird clearly related to the Green-backed Kingfisher but with a yellow bill, conspicuous barring above and scaling below. Brilliant! After a couple of minutes the bird, a male, slipped away and we celebrated our success.

In less than 48 hrs on Sulawesi we had seen all of the special five. On top of that, we had seen some other really great birds in the forest, as well as animals. No doubt we were enormously helped by Untu's expert guiding and our thanks go to him. We would also like to thank Ninny for organising our swift transfer to Tangkoko as well as the rest of the logistics for our trip.

Story by Paul Noakes--all photos are copyright Paul Noakes except Scaly Kingfisher copyright Markus Lagerqvist.



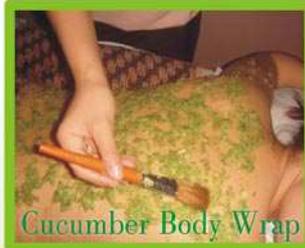
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Around Indonesia

Exciting, exhilarating and worth the trip!! It was the last day of 2006 and we were in Bali, it was drizzly, overcast without much hope of anything to do, especially if you have the "KIDS" with you.

While eating breakfast three days before, I had read something in the local newspaper about a treetop walk – what was this and could it keep me, the pessimist entertained as well as the "FAMILY"

We called the Bali Tree Top Park (on the 30th) and they were able to arrange a car for us (cost extra \$35 USD) that picked us up in Kuta, waited all day and then returned us to Kuta with stops along the way.

Arriving early, kind of, we drove into the botanical garden where the Tree Top Park was actually located and found a place to park. What we did not realize in our planning was that it was a Sunday and we would become the local attraction as well.

After a brief look around and a glance at the sky, we decided to pay our \$ 50 (2 adults & 2 kids under 14) and go for it.

Paying the entrance fee got us the works – a harness, with carabineer and all the mechanisms for the flying fox part of the

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experience as well as guide who gave us a great introduction, brief test (which I even passed) and stayed with us until he saw we were comfortable. By the way, when we seemed to need him, he miraculously appeared without calling and was there to give assistance or counseling. Malcolm (12 years old) & I stood back and watched as Nadya (9 years old) & Ninny took off on the first course, yellow. After they had begun to master the climbing and clipping, balancing and swinging, Malcolm and I started the same course, trying desperately to catch up. We never did and in fact we punked out, the old guy and the kid afraid of heights.

We did take the next 90 minutes watching and cheering them on- Nadya, gleefully completed four of the six courses, my wife all six courses- hats off to them and shame on me and Malcolm, all in all the day was great, we never imagined how much fun this was until we actually did it. We liked it enough that we recommended it to our friends from Eco Divers/Tasik Ria , they to were a mixed group of all ages – they raved about it and thanked us!! If you have time and you are in Bali and cannot figure out what you want to do – head for the trees- go for it- you will enjoy.

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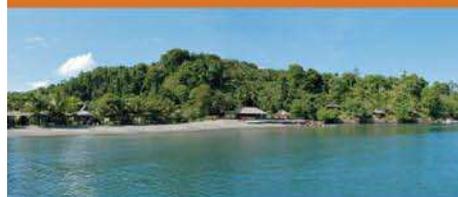
see you at the races



It was Saturday afternoon and I usually don't take off from the office on Saturdays because it can tend to be a bit busy, but what the heck you don't get invitations for the 2007 Mayor's Cup Race very often!! As we drove up through the lush green hills of Minahasa the weather continued to get more and more dismal, the normal blue skies were painted different shades of gray. The shades varied from dark charcoal to an array of blue slate often crisscrossed by even grayer clouds. After our 1.5 hour drive twisting through the narrow roads of Tomohon and the even smaller roads of Tompasso, we came to the racetrack.



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Dive & Snorkel Club



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www.minahasalagoon.com

The invitation was for 12:30 and we arrived at 2:30 PM just in time to hear the 4th race start. The racetrack is country style not developed like you would find in larger cities of Indonesia and a far cry from the Yonkers Race Track of my boyhood memories. The general admission area was packed as the entrance is free or just a couple of thousand

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*Cottages and
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*Amazing reefs
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Rupiah. Then there is the box or invitation area, this is where the Mayor & Bupati (like the mayor of an unincorporated township) sit elbow to elbow with their friends and colleagues.

We were lucky as there was still room in that area, so my wife, kids and a friend from the tourism office were able to get pretty good seats for the next two hours. From our vantage point we could see the last stretch of the 1850 meter track and hence the finish line.

I wandered about even though the weather was inhibiting, and decided that the races were a definite must if you wanted to get a look see at another side of the culture, that not many people get to see while visiting. If this kind of activity is of interest to you, ask your resort or hotel reception desk and I am sure they can assist--- see you at the races-- BHJ

hotel reservation

highland tours

white water rafting

volcano trekking

Tangkoko nature reserve

**Safari Tours
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178 Jl. Sam Ratulangi - Manado
www.manadosafaris.com

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Davao



We have new flights to & from Davao- the schedule is quite a bit better with the new and certainly more professional airline Sriwijaya Air. There are currently two flights a week, Mondays & Fridays. Departure time from Manado is 8:55 and the short 1 hour and 5 minute flight is comfortable when seated on this 737 Boeing. The return flight departs from Davao 10:45 and arrives back in Manado at 11:50. Quick and easy, and most of all comfortable and affordable.

By: BHJ

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

Oh La La Café

Mega Mall ground floor & Manado Town Square – croquette madame, soups and cold beer- inside or outside

Qua-li Manado Town Square

Located on the ground floor of Manado Town Square- try the Black Hokkien Noodles a must if you like fresh seafood

Excelso Café

Mega Mall 2nd floor – as you can imagine good coffee, especially the Irish Coffee

Raja Sate

Located on the #39 Jl. Pierre Tendean (boulevard)-- Great Sate (beef, chicken, goat, squid and more), vegetables are fresh, cold beer – fast service, better than average atmosphere- owner speaks English

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Manado - Indonesia

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Phone: + 62 812 430 1356/1464
A reservation is recommended

Manado City Map



Note from the editor:

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LEGEND

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|--|--|---|
| ① To Hotel Santika & Thalassa Dive Center
To Kima Bajo | ⑧ Dolphin Donats | ⑰ Gran Puri Hotel & GPS
Coco Supermaket
ATM's |
| ② Logam Jaya Gift Shop | ⑨ Money Changer | ⑱ To Gardenia Highland Resort
To Kali Waterfall
To Highland Resort
To Onong Palace |
| ③ Blue Banter
Sunset Cafe | ⑩ Metropole Tour & Travel | ⑲ To Kungkungan Bay Resort
To Airport Sam Ratulangi
To Lembeh Resort |
| ④ Mega Mall
Oh La La Cafe, Pizza Hut | ⑪ Star Express Tour & Travel | ⑳ Museum |
| ⑤ Ritzy Hotel
Matahari Dept. Store
Post Office, Internet & ATM's | ⑫ Steiner Salon | ㉑ Manado Town Square |
| ⑥ Hotel New Queen | ⑬ Sonny's Gallery | ㉒ SilkAir |
| ⑦ Green Garden Restaurant | ⑭ Safari Tours & TRAVEL | |
| | ⑮ 
Garuda Indonesia | |
| | ⑯ To Murex Resort & Live-Aboards
To Celebes Diving & Mapia Resort
To Lumbalumba Diving | |