



What's Happening

Free!

Summer 2007 | *Volume 13, Issue 1*

Tourism Information For North Sulawesi

To Our Visitors

We welcome you to our Province and thank you for choosing to visit North Sulawesi as your preferred destination for diving or just plain relaxing.

In the coming years you will see growth both in terms of infrastructure as well as general destination development & maturity. In this vain we ask that you help us to grow in a sustainable fashion. There are many ways that you can do this: in terms of protecting the reef, you can help by paying your Bunaken National Park entrance fee of Rp. 150,000 for foreigners, adhering to suggested policies of the NSWA (www.divenorthsulawesi.com) no gloves, maintaining your buoyancy, etc.

Secondly, look around at the restaurants and supermarkets where you would like to spend money, do they exhibit sustainable practices- HYPERMART for example recently had a particular ocean product which is not sustainable, when approached by members of the tourism community, they removed that product and agreed not to sell it again. Hats off to HYPERMART!!

So have fun enjoy the reefs, restaurants and most of all the smiling people of North Sulawesi.

Sampai Jumpa Lagi (see you again)

Best regards,

Jeremy H Barnes

Editor: What's Happening

Safari Tours
& TRAVEL

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Cover Photo

Cover shot was taken on Celah Celah dive site with a Nikon D2X, 20MM at a depth of 20 M by Cary Yanny (Eco Divers)
www.eco-divers.com

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North Sulawesi Tourism Information
What's Happening

Animal Planet - in Lembeh Strait or ...

This summer saw the arrival of a film crew in North Sulawesi to do an underwater shoot for Nick Baker's *Weird Creatures*. This TV series is aired on the UK's Channel 5 and Animal Planet (Asian) channel. The film crew, who are from Scubazoo in Malaysia and ICON in the UK, were also accompanied by the show's presenter Nick Baker.



Their mission was to film the mimic octopus and other weird underwater creatures. The whole program was to be filmed on large and cumbersome high definition cameras. The program is filmed differently from a lot of



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other underwater programs in that the presenter is a lot more hands on commentating live on what is been seen by the viewer. As you can see in the pictures, Nick Baker was equipped with a special underwater microphone fitted into his full face mask.

As Lembeh Strait is now internationally

recognized as the number one dive area in the world in terms of concentration and diversity of weird underwater creatures, it was an obvious choice for the shoot. The film crew stayed at Kungkungan Bay Resort. This was the first resort to truly appreciate what a magical place this narrow body of water called the

Lembah Strait was, opening its doors for the first time in 1994.

The shoot was scheduled to last for seven days so there was a bit of nervousness amongst the film crew as to whether or not they would be able to find this elusive octopus. The first dive saw several frogfish and



a flamboyant cuttlefish but no octopus. The second dive was much of the same with the added bonus of a veined octopus. Whilst several holes in the sand indicated that there might be mimic octopus there, nothing was coming out for the cameras.

For the afternoon dive a decision was made to change to one of the "newer" dive sites in Lembeh Strait called Tandarusa. Within five minutes of the dive a Mimic Octopus was discovered out of its hiding hole, hunting for food. It seemed happy to be filmed as it went about its business and paid no attention to the excited cameramen filming its every move. Within a couple of minutes of finding the first one, a second mimic octopus appeared followed later on the dive by its cousin the Wonderpus.

That's the beauty of Lembeh Strait. There are always weird "critters" to be found on the dive sites and very often it will throw something extra special your way. Credit needs to be given to the dive guides who work in the Lembeh Strait. Navigation is difficult on the sites and the critters are difficult to spot. The Lembeh Strait dive guides are some of the best spotters in the business and know the area like the back of their hands.

Three days into the shoot, Nick and his team had plenty of footage of the Mimic Octopus so they turned their attentions to some of the other weird inhabitants of the area. Hairly Frogfish, Paddle Flap Rhinopus, Blue Ring Octopus, Pegasus Sea Moth, Pygmy Seahorses and Ornate Ghost Pipefish were just a few of other critters that were filmed. At the end of the week it was agreed by all that this was their easiest ever underwater shoot and the Lembeh Strait was one of the most amazing dive areas they have ever encountered.

Text by: Steve Coverdale- Dive Center Manager , Eco Divers at Kungkungan Bay Resort - steve.coverdale@eco-divers.com
Photos by: Scubazoo (www.scubazoo.com)

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Sea Turtles have been on our planet as long as 110 millions of years. In the past 50 years the number of sea turtles has dramatically decreased because of human disturbances. It has brought them to the brink of extinction.

For this reason, North Sulawesi Water Association (NSWA) decided in late 2006 to establish the first turtle hatchery program on the island of Siladen in the Bunaken Marine Park. The island of Siladen was chosen because of its long sandy beaches where sea turtles come naturally to lay their eggs, by advice of experts from WWF.

In order to interfere as little as possible with the natural process within the premises of the hatchery and only in the case a nest would be in a critical position, NSWA decided to relocate eggs if the position of the nest is too close to the sea when waves or high tide submerges the eggs. This would result in the death of the embryo inside the egg. In this case, relocating the nest to safer location will increase the chances of survival of each "little baby" turtle.

The hatchery was built under direct supervision of Maggie Muurmans, an expert from WWF based in Bali and involved in several turtle conservation related programs in Indonesia. Following the guidelines of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), this conservation program was made in order to re-establish the population of turtles in Indonesia. This marine reptile in the



NSWA Sea Turtles Conservation Program

known to be traveling across the Pacific Ocean from the west coast of North America to the east coast of Japan to lay their eggs.

Educational part of the program

During relocation of a nest, many villagers and children from the island of Siladen are involved in the process, assisting and learning about sea turtle life, cycles and its importance to the balance of all marine life and their response has been very positive.

Recent event

Early this year the first turtle came to lay her eggs on the east Beach of Siladen Island. The specie of turtle was Olive Ridley (*Lepidochelys Olivacea*) and laid 120 eggs.

Submitted by: Luca Vaime,
Dive Manager --Siladen Island Resort
& Spa -info@siladen.com

last 50 years has diminished in numbers to the brink of extinction mostly from human disturbance.

Sea Turtle Cycle

Depending on the species, this marine reptile have an incubation period of approximately 45 to 60 days. At the end of this period it will break the

egg, surface from the sand and move to the sea. Once in the in the sea, the baby turtle must take its chances drifting hundreds of kilometers trying to avoid predators. The sea turtle will become sexually mature after 35 years, and when fertilized, the turtle will travel back to the location of hatching to lay her eggs. Leatherback turtle are



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tarsier

Can tarsiers to **save** Sulawesi?

When you visit Tangkoko to see tarsiers, you might actually be helping to conserve Sulawesi's biodiversity for another generation.

Tarsiers are small nocturnal primates. A fully-grown adult weighs only about as much as a stick of butter. But in spite of their small size, these animals are designed with extraordinary leaping power and can easily jump 3 meters from a standstill. They eat a diet exclusively of live-caught animal prey, mostly insects, which are always consumed head first. In appearance, tarsiers bear a strong resemblance to Yoda, from the Star Wars movies, and may have been the inspiration for that character.

Geologists have discovered that Sulawesi, the 11th largest island on Earth, was once an archipelago, which has been pushed together over the last 20 million years by tectonic forces. It follows that the region is like a much larger version of the Galapagos Islands, with enormous amounts of island-specific biodiversity, except that the original islands and their biodiversity are hidden to the casual observer. Conservation biologists are racing to discover, describe, and conserve Sulawesi's biodiversity, but it is a race against time. The latest evidence suggests that 17 or more species of tarsiers might exist on Sulawesi, but habitat destruction to meet the needs of a burgeoning and impoverished human population is threatening to drive some of these species to extinction before they have even been identified and named. Just last year, scientists published findings in the prestigious journal, *Nature*, that Sulawesi may well be the highest conservation priority on Earth.

Adding the latest findings from tarsiers, there is little question that a conservation crisis is underway on Sulawesi, where ongoing human-mitigated extinctions are almost a certainty. Eco-tourists who visit Tangkoko by the thousands each year help to provide an economic alternative for villagers near the nature reserve. Just as importantly, they offer tangible proof that the world outside values nature for nature's sake.



help

New species are threatened with extinction before they are even named. One of these new species was discovered less than two years ago on the tiny island of Siau, an island that is less than one-tenth as large as the city of Los Angeles (or about twice the size of Hollywood). This remote island, a 7-hour boat ride to the nearest city, is surrounded by very deep ocean. It is also the home of one of the most active volcanoes in the region known as the "Ring of Fire", Mt. Karengetang, which dominates the northern half of the island and is currently spewing lava and ash. Sharing this



island with the tarsier are nearly 40,000 human inhabitants, who ritually hunt tarsiers, sometimes eating as many as 5 to 10 animals at a sitting. Scientists have listed this animal as critically endangered, and selected it to the list of Top 25 Most Endangered Primates.

Tarsiers as flagship species—

But tarsiers may hold the key to their own survival, as well as the rest of the biodiversity of Sulawesi. Charismatic animals, like pandas, chimpanzees, and koala bears, are often enlisted as flagship species, which galvanize attention and support for the most important conservation issues. If a character like Yoda can help propel the success of the most profitable franchise in moviemaking history, isn't it just possible that tarsiers, Yoda's doppelganger on Earth, could propel a successful conservation story? This may be the best chance that conservation biologists have to protect tarsiers and all of their forest friends in Sulawesi for another generation, while we find alternative livelihoods for the diverse peoples whose current economy is destroying the few remaining wild areas in the region. The unique and enigmatic tarsier has spent more than 55 million years on this Earth, but conservation biologists are now concerned that their future may be in doubt due to the rapid loss of their habitat on the densely populated islands of Southeast Asia.

BY MYRON SHEKELLE - DBSSM@NUS.EDU.SG (MYRON CURRENTLY TEACHES IN SINGAPORE AT NUS)

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World Ocean Conference

May, 11 – 15, 2009

Many of you will be hearing more and more about WOC (World Ocean Conference). WOC will be a high level conference hosted here in Manado and attended by heads of the state that have coastal and marine territories, scientists, NGO's, journalists, and stakeholders alike will be here to discuss global ocean issues.

The question has been asked, why have a World Ocean Conference, answer- "to discuss global ocean issues such as degradation of marine resources, global climate changes, serious ocean disasters, ocean pollution & the prosperity (or lack thereof) of coastal and marine communities."

International agreements and conventions to address these problems have been reached. However, there is a lack of political willingness to drive forward and further implement such agreements.

WOC '09 will provide a platform where world leaders and decision makers will come together to make commitments for sustainable development of marine resources.

Given the fact that Indonesia is the largest archipelagic country and possesses the highest marine biodiversity in the world, the conference will strengthen Indone-

sia's participation in the regional and international forum.

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT

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WHAT SHOULD WE EXPECT FROM WOC?

- International commitments to sustainably manage the ocean for the benefits of humankind, as manifested in the "Manado Ocean Declaration"



- Establishment of a center of international marine research and development in Indonesia

Portions of this article were reprinted from documents distributed by the WOC secretariat www.woc2009.org



Food new choices all the time!!

Saturday afternoon found me wandering around the new shopping center, Boulevard Mall (in front of Quality Hotel). As I walked in with my 12 year-old son, we spied a new restaurant called the Red Bean, we looked at each other and simultaneously said, "let's try it". Walking in we were pleasantly greeted by classical music, seven waitresses, a bit of over-kill even for their



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- 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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capacity of 80 persons (I counted the seats). Variety influenced our decision on choosing the meals with Malcolm ordering the fried frogs legs with rice while I opted for stir fried eel! Overall the food was quite tasty with speedy delivery; the only complaint would be that the meals came out separately about 3 minutes apart. The Red Bean needs a few more months as well as a few more guests to help it succeed, and we hope it does since their food is quite good-

Here is a sampling:

Frog:

Kodok Goreng Mentega Rp. 26,900

Tofu:

Sapo Tahu Seafood Rp. 27,900

Eel:

Lidung Cah Fumak Rp. 25,900

Prawns:

Goreng Cabe Garam Rp. 29,900

Remember: all is ala carte- so add Rp. 3,900 for rice (nasi putih)

.....

The Noodle Cafe- located in the Manado Town Square (Hypermart), this new eastern fast food choice is quite good, at least from a foreigners point of view – pleasant atmosphere, no smoking in the inside portion close to the kitchen, quick delivery of food, cold beer and friendly smiling staff willing to help.

Here is a sampling:

for Rp. 16,500 (at press time)

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Submitted by: JHB





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About a year ago I noticed a building with quite a different character compared to most commercial buildings in Manado with the sign "Eastern Garden Martha Tilaar Spa" on Jl. Sam Ratulangi No.85. Martha Tilaar is very well known as a natural herb medicine (jamu) and cosmetics producer.

Her company started to produce the popular Indonesian natural "Sari Ayu" cosmetic brand in 1977 and she kept expanding into other businesses related to natural herb remedies since that time. I saw signs of Martha Tilaar Spa in Jakarta and Bali, two major cities in



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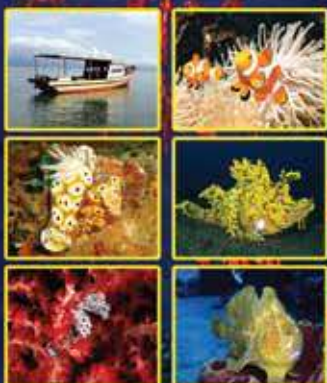
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Indonesia but never had a chance to try it out. To see that sign in Manado, I was wondering whether Manado is now one of the major cities in Indonesia. Must be it!! Otherwise Ibu Martha and her spa wouldn't be here!!

One cloudy afternoon in August, my husband & I decided to try a new experience by visiting Eastern Garden. We were welcomed by a charming young lady, Ms. Gueen Carundeng, the supervisor and a glass of refreshing chilled lemon grass tea. My husband couldn't get enough with just one glass of the tea so he accepted a second offering. This drink, together with the smell of fresh sweet orange mixed with other spices and the background sound of the fountain mixed with traditional Indonesian music that flowed through the reception room, I already felt relaxed & comfortable.

Since it was our first visit, Ms. Carundeng took her time to introduce us to all facilities. First thing, I wanted to carefully pay attention to toilet and bath. For me, those are my starting points to decide whether I would like to continue my journey. Happy with the starting points, we continued the tour. Eastern Garden Spa has nine well kept and designed rooms consisting of one room for Indian massage and eight rooms, including one room for a couple, for Indonesian and Chinese massage, two steam baths, Jacuzzi and 6 well trained lady therapists. Quite satisfied with what we saw & felt, the two of us were ready for the newest spa experience in Manado.

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and Indian ways of natural healing. After all the explanations and discussions, I decided to have Indonesian massage for relaxing and relieving muscular tension combined with avocado and milk bath, nutritious for my dry skin. My husband wanted to try Chinese 'Tui Na' massage to experience the no-needle acupuncture effects. The traditional yet luxurious ritual of massage, body mask, steam bath and milk avocado bath for me and body scrubbing for my husband lasted for almost 2 hours.



After a cup of warm fresh ginger tea we left with "see you again". It was really 2 hours of pampering and energizing my body and mind. As a person who believes in massage and traditional natural remedies and as a Manadonese, I thank you Martha Tilaar for adding a new spice to the life of North Sulawesi, especially Manado City.

Submitted by:
Vanda Rorimpandey Loijens

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A Fo Educa

“ I guess I have been an educator my whole life, a teacher at my core. I believe in education. I believe it is the key to a life that you choose and not necessarily one that your are destined to. ”

So, when I moved to Indonesia in November 1996 and found the level of education in the village as poor as they are, it stuck. A few years later, when I learned the language, the way of working with the government and local people, I started to become more interested in finding ways to improve the facilities of the elementary schools in my close surroundings.

A shortage of furniture in two schools, a new roof in another, not enough books, pens and paper. Things easy enough to get organized, but what about the kids that I see hanging around on the street?

I decided to find a way to help. I started by paying some of the school fees from my own pocket, but soon that became too much. Being the general manager from Thalassa Dive Center, Manado I speak with many of our guests and a lot of them liked to help and this is how our scholarship program started.

Up to last year 2006, we had 48 children in the project, paid for by almost the same number of sponsor parents. The transportation to school, the books, in some cases school bags and shoes were paid for from the money donated by

ool for ation



guests, friends and family. But it was not enough, the expenses for transportation got higher every month, school fees went up and more and more children "dropped out of school". More rigorous actions were needed.

In April 2006, after having finished building an elementary school in the



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nearby village Bahowo, I decided to build a high school, to be used only for children from the villages, with a quality as high as we could get it and for as little money as we could ask. The location to be, was an old church, already destined to be torn down as soon as the congregation could move to the new church. I started to talk..and talk...and talk to guests and friends. Soon the money started to come in slowly, but steadily. It was supposed to be a big school, so we needed a lot and at one point, a guest of Seaside



Resort Santika promised not only to donate some money, but also to help getting the project "adopted" by some Dutch organizations. "Wilde Ganzen" and NCDO accepted the project and raised our collected donations with 170%; Things were happening.

On November 1, 2006 the actual building of the school started and the final

goal was to have it finished on July 1 2007, just before the new school year. In December I received a request from the school commission from the old elementary school for help. A tree had fallen on the roof and now it leaked. We found that repairing such an old building would be a waste of money and decided to make an extra level on the building that was to be realized.

On the July 3rd 2007, the official inauguration of the school took place. The once empty building was filled with parents, children and officials while the vicar of the village asked for blessings for the school. Although the furniture, donated by companies and schools from Holland, was still on the way by ship, the children started school on the 16th of July. Sitting on plastic chairs and the old benches and tables of the former elementary school, they already felt the new "wave" of education. A team of young teachers, teaching them English, Japanese, reading and writing amongst other things caused a new enthusiasm in children and parents.

The new school has 14 classrooms, which at this moment are equipped with nice tables and chairs, white boards and bookcases. A separate room holds 22 computers and a library. On the same grounds there is a badminton court, a basketball/ volleyball field, a cantine, housing facilities for teachers and a classroom & playground for the kindergarten.

(A Fool... to pg. 22)

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Gorontalo's Festival of

Lights



Rice paddy by day, fantastic three-dimensional structure of light by night. A ship of lights seems to float on a rice field, its reflection dancing on the water's surface like a flickering pointillist painting. This is just one glimpse of Gorontalo's unique festival of lights. Its name in the local language, "Tumbilotohe," means "the hanging of lights," an apt description since lights must not only be lit but also arranged.



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Tumbilotohe marks the end of the fasting month on the three successive nights prior to Idhul Fitri, the most important holiday in the Muslim calendar. Since this religious calendar is based on the moon, the timing of its holidays advances about ten days each year. Indonesia also has two very different methods of calculating this calendar. The traditional method is based on the actual sighting of the first sliver of the new moon by certain Muslim scholars on the island of Java. The modern method follows a scientific calculation of when each new moon would occur. The nation waits in suspense each year to find out if the group of scholars have seen the moon and announced the day for Idhul Fitri celebrations – or not. If the night skies are cloudy or if there is rain, the moon cannot be seen and the celebrations cannot begin. In this case, modernists and traditionalists celebrate the holidays on different days. If all goes well, Idhul Fitri should be October 13, 2007 with Gorontalo's festival of lights beginning October 10.

Although celebrated for generations, Tumbilotohe took on new energy in 1991 when the local government added the element of competition. Now neighborhoods compete for prestige and prizes, which are awarded according to participation, theme and design. In the days prior to the festival, Gorontalo people are busy building bamboo structures in front of their homes from which lights will be hung. Lights are also hung from temporary bamboo fences and from elaborate gateways whose pillars are banana trunks. Lights are also placed inside standing torches whose tops are wrapped in red or yellow tissue paper for extra color. Unimpressive by day, at night the designs come alive with light.

The individual lights are commonly 5-centimeter tall energy drink bottles into which kerosene and a wick are added. A generation ago this was not so. Back then, the lamps of Tumbilotohe were young papaya fruits, split in half and hollowed out a bit. Into the cavity was poured fresh and traditionally processed coconut oil, which provides smokeless fuel when the wick is lit. In some far villages, clamshells are still used for the lamps. Also, there could be lamps inside the house using clear drinking glasses filled with colored water into which some coconut oil was added. The lighter fuel would rise above the water. With a burning wick added, the effect was quite enchanting. Alternatively, dammar resin could be used as fuel. Both traditional fuels are no longer used for Tumbilotohe since they are time consuming to make. Kerosene is the easy, albeit smoky, fuel of choice now.

In the days before the competitions, the typical limit was one lamp per member of a household. This perhaps reflects the old belief that the lamps were calling angels to descend and evaluate the life of each person during the final days of the religious fast. In the old days each village would also have a cart decorated with lamps



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Photos: Anthony Hansen,
Massimo Boyer, Paola Bearzi

that made the rounds from house to house collecting a contribution of rice for poor families, which was also distributed in the same way.

Nowadays the number of lamps is limited only by fuel supply, creativity and sometimes corporate sponsorship. On October 20, 2006 Gorontalo made its way into the Indonesian Record Museum (MURI) with an official total of 6,892,000 lamps across the province lit simultaneously. The goal had been five million. That year the festival also featured a three-meter tall lamp whose base was five meters in diameter. Dr Muchlis from the Ministry of Tourism said, "Tumbilotohe is not merely a lighting of lamps, but those that are lit are expected to highlight the progress made here."

By Yansen Allen



Gorontalo Quick Facts

Population: \pm 900,000 (2003)

Size: 12,215,045 km²

Became a province:
Feb. 16, 2001

Distance by road:
 \pm 400 km, 9 hours

Distance by air: \pm one hours

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We, guests, friends, family, colleagues, Wilde Ganzen and NCDO have achieved something extraordinary. This has become a model for other schools in North Sulawesi. At this moment, 294 children go to school in Tongkeina, to Komplek Persekolahan "Kehidupan Anda" (which means "Your Life") and that is what we all have been working for; THEIR LIFE!

Contributed by: Simone Gerritsen,
General Manager -Thalassa Dive Center
(info@thalassa.net)

(A Fool... from pg. 18)

The building accommodates the elementary school, the Junior High school and a Senior High school, with 2 specialized "packages"; "Hotel Tourism" and "Dive Tourism".

This last school will prepare children from the villages for a job in the tourism sectors in North Sulawesi. They will not only receive theoretical knowledge, but will also get "hands-on" experience during their 3 year study program.

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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, curley 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- kwetiaw, udon, bihun- you got them all!

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

MONEY CHANGING INFORMATION

Downtown Manado has many banking institutions. 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.

ABN AMRO Bank 855777

BII Bank 860543

Money Changer 867722

www.north-sulawesi.com

for more information about North Sulawesi

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Manado City Map



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- ① To Hotel Santika & Thalassa Dive Center
To Kima Bajo
 - ② Logam Jaya Gift Shop
 - ③ D'Terrace Restaurant
 - ④ Mega Mall
Excelso, Pizza Hut
 - ⑤ Ritzy Hotel
Matahari Dept. Store
Post Office, Internet & ATM's
 - ⑥ Hotel New Queen
 - ⑦ Green Garden Restaurant
 - ⑧ Money Changer
 - ⑨ Bahu Mall
 - ⑩ Star Express Tour & Travel
 - ⑪ Eastern Garden
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To Lembeh Resort
 - ⑲ Museum
 - ⑳ SilkAir
 - ㉑ Manado Town Square
Hypermart, Noodle Cafe
 - ㉒ Boulevard Mall
Red Bean
 - ㉓ Quality Hotel Manado