GUIDE TO
THE MAGNIFICENT SIGHTS
AND ATTRACTIONS OF

TORAJA

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wonderful
indonesia

Discover the Sacred Highlands

Toraja
DISCOVER THE SACRED HIGHLANDS

After a wondrous journey that moves you through interchanging sights of stunning granite cliffs, lofty mountains, and vast sea, you will arrive in Toraja.

The Torajans are an indigenous Austronesian ethnic group located in a mountainous region of Sulawesi Selatan, Indonesia. Alongside their rich culture and traditions, Torajans also treasure abundant myths about the origin of its name. Learn the history of Toraja ethnic, where its people have been shaped by location and blessed with great longevity.

On this land, well-preserved ancestral traditions implemented within the peaceful communal society. A new idea like Christianity synchronizes harmoniously with local customs, making Toraja someplace special. Witness the dramatic ceremony, family bound, culinary and art of the only living megalithic culture on modern earth.

Enveloped by magnificent natural landscape, Toraja is a life-changing experience waiting to be explored. The nature of Toraja, once it casts its spells, anchors you in its net of bewilderment eternally. Let the land embrace you and allow the air to sing you a melody of serenity.

The belief that Torajans hold dear to their heart are reflected in every hand-crafted wonder conceived all by genuine intentions that these products will be beneficial to their community and the world around them. Coffee and handwoven fabrics are known to bear the signature taste and patterns Toraja are famed for.
Archipelago of amazement is definitely not an overstatement. Indonesia is the celestial haven for your mind to wonder and your soul to wander. An archipelago comprises of more than 17,000 islands, hundreds of ethnic groups speaking many different languages, and the home of thousands diverse attractions; each with its own unique values. Indonesia will most likely satisfy your inner desire for adventure, leisure or even spiritual experience. What you’ll see might be beyond your wildest dreams.

WHERE WE ARE

INDONESIA

Formerly known as Celebes, Sulawesi is an island part of Four Greater Sunda Islands, situated between Borneo and Maluku Islands. This enormous and charismatic island has so much to offer; meet the people from the highlands, Torajans who live with their cultures that have been independently evolve through the dramatic geography and topography, down to sea level of Wakatobi’s white and sandy beaches and Togian Islands which is occupied by fringe coral reefs and variety of fish; and the Bugis clan who are mainly inhabiting Sulawesi’s coastal regions and well known as Indonesia’s most famous seafarers. Further going down to the interior side; Sulawesi is shaded by impenetrable mountains and jungles that are quite filled with wildlife.
HIGHLANDS WISDOM

THE MOST EFFECTIVE ART OF SURVIVAL IS HARMONY

The arable land of Toraja is very limited due to its rocky terrain. It is isolated by nature, nourishing it only hard to trade with outsiders. On this condition, ancient people in Toraja must have relied on very limited resources they had.

This living condition turns Toraja into a self-sufficing ecosystem. And with limited options at hand, Toraja adopted the oldest and most compelling art of survival: harmony. Torajans believe there’s a tie (link) that attaches humans, animals and plants in one system. In order for human to survive, one must care for animals and plants. If one of the three is harmed, all of them will suffer the consequences. This philosophy is called Tallu Lolona.

Tallu Lolona is a teaching of Aluk Parengnge’, an elder of such a clan. As the teaching representing the ancestral spirits themselves, Tallu Lolona is the ultimate bond that binds all living entities in this mythical highland. It is the solemn sentiment that watches over in silence, existing through the veins of every breathing organism, spreading through the people themselves.

Tongkonan, the Celestial Microcosm

Torajans believe that a house is not just a home; it’s a small universe. Tongkonan, a wonder of architecture from the dawn of Toraja civilization, is far from a simple abode. The traditional house represents an intricate relation between generations. It serves a dutiful purpose to uphold peace and value in the society.

A Tongkonan belongs to To Parengnge’, a family clan related by blood. To Parengnge’, an elder of such a clan is responsible to teach the extended family within his Tongkonan about the ancestral ways of life. A Tongkonan has its own set of family law and values, executed through Tarum Pitu or seven ethnic justice systems. The lack of writing culture serves as the basis to pass on the teachings from generation to generation.

No matter how far a Torajan travels, his/her life will always circle back to the Tongkonan. The moment of birth, the bonding of love, and the final resting place is and always will be in a Tongkonan building, where every other family members will join in on the festivities. Extended family members will have to work side by side to share high expenses and complicated requirements of those paramount ceremonies.

When you venture around Toraja, you’ll notice that Tongkonan is always paired by rice storage called Alang Alang. Alang Alang symbolizes father that feeds his family, as opposed to Tongkonan maternal role as caregiver. A larger Tongkonan is also supported by the other elements such as watering hole, animal pen, family graves, and plantation which make the complex a small self-sufficient ecosystem.

To build a Tongkonan, a family branch must carry out five stages of an intricate ceremony. Extended family members will have to work side by side to share high expenses and share the Tongkonan of Tumakke’, an ancestral religion dating back to Torajan mythical past. This ancient faith teaches Torajans to respect their parents, elders, ancestors, and the balance of life in general.

This philosophy lives on, even when modernization makes Toraja no longer dependent on harmony to survive. Toraja is still and will strive for the balance between human, animals and plants. The prized water buffalo, for example, is often massaged, hand-fed, bathed and let loose in the field to relax. The people are very gentle in nature, not only towards the animals, but to each human being venturing into their land. Pillar or theft is uncommon, even for foreigners visiting. The plants are traditional not only by viable sources of nutrients, but with heart as well as part of the circle of life that adjoins the land.

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To build a Tongkonan, a family branch must carry out five stages of an intricate ceremony. Extended family members will have to work side by side to share high expenses and complicated requirements of those paramount ceremonies. After approved by a traditional council, the new glorious creation will then have its significant role among Torajan family trees.

CIRCLING BACK TO THE BEGINNING No matter how far a Torajan travels, his/her life will always circle back to the Tongkonan. The moment of birth, the bonding of love, and the final resting place is and always will be in a Tongkonan building, where every other family member will join in on the festivities. Extended family members will have to work side by side to share high expenses and complicated requirements of those paramount ceremonies. After approved by a traditional council, the new glorious creation will then have its significant role among Torajan family trees.

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EMERGING AFFINITY Tongkonan yields more than just shelter. As a very significant point in Toraja community, it grows into reference points which determine human relations. To express their relations with others, Torajans say that ‘their houses are united’ or that they are ‘brothers and sisters’ in a certain house, granting themselves a profound sense of belonging and redefining their clan system. The bond that links Toraja family is not merely one of blood, but of respect and affection in each other’s life. Lively atmosphere can be genuinely encountered in a Tongkonan. Members of a clan sometimes gather to discuss important affairs like marriages, heritages, or social conflicts, enabling themselves to resolve problems through intimate and amiable way.

PALAWA Adorned with ornaments of sun circles and rooster carvings, Palawa Tongkonan complex is a breathtaking sight to see. Fix your eyes on historical remnants of the ancestral war of the 11th century, with all the majestic buffalo horns proclaiming regality in every inch.

TUMAKKE’ Tumakke’ is the home of the extraordinary Tongkonan, whose roof is exclusively made from acacia bark and soil mixture, giving it a solid sense of security found nowhere else. Sun, buffalo horns, plaiting, and geometrical patterns are artistically engraved to the Tongkonan of Tumakke’.

RECOMMENDED PLACES TO DISCOVER THE SACRED HIGHLANDS

KETE KESU From the sheer size of the village, the ancient Tongkonan buildings seem to boom over as symbols of the Torajan lore itself. Even the stone stair appears to be woven for giants to step upon. Kete Kesu is one of the most pristine and traditional Tongkonan complexes throughout all Toraja, and it will serve as your attention with each glance.

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GRANDIOSE PARTING, CEREMONY OF DEATH

There is nowhere else on earth where the words death and lavish can be poignantly combined into a sentence as in Toraja. In this eternally charming land, death has never borne sadness. On the contrary, it is the ultimate goal of life, longing to be celebrated by both the departed and the family members left behind. Cheers that echo through hilltops, a big feast for all guests, and traditional dances redolent with human experience to transform into something beautiful. The death ceremonies of Toraja, named Rambu Solo, is the apotheosis of Torajan festival because of the sheer magnitude and cultural significance that follow.

TRANSCENDENT SACRIFICE

Rambu Solo is a ceremony of the departed, where buffaloes are highly revered as a sacrificial entity playing an irreplaceable role in Torajan traditions. The more a Torajan culture is respected, the more buffaloes it would take to sacrifice when they depart. Some even bear staggering numbers of hundreds, with a belief that with each buffaloes sacrificed, the departed will enter the afterlife (Puya) more easily. The most of the sacrificed buffaloes are then shared with the guests attending as part of the revelry. It is a very extravagant and permanent celebration dating back to ancestral times, where buffaloes carefully and lovingly cared for their meat back to the community that cherished them.

These ceremonies are events highly anticipated by locals and travelers alike, as they show the true hues of Torajan culture in its essence. Grand is not even a word fitting enough to describe the excitement and festivities going on as the Torajans always celebrate the parting in an extravagant feat.

Then comes the burial. Contrary to traditional norms, here, burial should not be hidden from the public eyes. Tombs are laid down through a specific construct: the higher the location, the more it is for family members. In each ceremony, children and descendants pay respect to their elderly departed.

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LO‘KO’ MATA

Some burials are splendid in Toraja, but Lokomata is the epitome of it all, as it is one hundred times bigger. This sheer size, coinciding with the colourful motives of the doors of the departed that filled every corner, also brought about the utmost amazement to everyone beholding its beauty.

KAMBIRA

Toraja people believe that babies died before they grew any teeth are pure and without sin, therefore they need to be returned to the cradles of Mother Nature. A Toraja tree is chosen for its white sap resembling mother’s milk, became a rampart as the baby is laid there without any covers. Over time, the baby will merge with the tree as one entity of the cosmos.

TAMPANG ALLO

Inside this magnificent cave of wonder, bones and skulls of departed commoners are neatly arranged, all displaying an architectural feat that is wondrous to behold. The remains of the noblemen, however, are placed inside coffins adorned with various carvings that depicted the progression of Toraja’s use of tools — remnants of second generation Torajan that are highly revered.

LONDA

Be an archeological explorer for a day as you make your way through the dark tunnels and small cracks to see a burial site unlike any other, where redwoods and stalactites forecast the existence of your souls. As challenging as it is, Londa care is a jaw-dropping feat that is astonishingly attractive.

BORI

Big stone monuments erected since the megalithic era, or the menhirs, are still raised in Toraja as a part of the traditional practices embalming the land in its entirety. Bori, a village with the largest meander field, will surely let you taste the air of the legendary saga flowing freely in the area.

LEMO

As one of the oldest burial cliffs in Toraja, each inch of Lemoh radiates a sense of stillness that is indescribable by mere words. The remains of the deceased are laid here inside giant boulders with crevices, well preserved by the spirits of the land, keeping them intact and undamaged by Father Time.

THE HISTORY OF THE WAY OF LIFE

Alongside their rich culture and traditions, Toraja also treasures abundant myths about the origin of its name. Buginese called the sacred highlands ‘To Raija’ or a place where northern people lived (‘To’ means its name. Buginese called the sacred land ‘Raija’ or a place where northern people lived, while ‘Rai’ or the man from the east. Thus, the place was also known as ‘Tana Rai’ or ‘Rai-ya’ (Tana means land, Tau means man, and Raiya means east). Coming from different origins, the legends presumably lead to the name ‘Toraja’ as we know now.

Northern Torajans believe that their ancestors sailed from the north, almost certainly from China. Northerners believe in the existence of afterlife (Puya). One of the theologians that preaches about the afterlife is called Lakipada, on the other hand, is a theologian that preaches about the existence of afterlife (Puya). Lakipada’s teachings continue to be practiced among Torajans until present day. We can see the influences of his teaching in Rambu Solo (burial) ceremony. Motifs (changing clothes of the deceased) and ceremony, and the famed cliff or cave cemetery.

In the past, Toraja is a land of traditions, which the development of its civilization and halted their communication and formation. Lakipada grew at a slower rate compared to the people of Bugis or Makassar living in the island. Even though all lands on their territory are used as rice fields, the productions are barely enough to feed everyone, making the Torajans live in a small and concentrated community with high self-sufficiency.

SEIREN KINSHIP

In present day, Toraja people maintain their peaceful communal life. They have casts defining the social standards through their ancestral heraldry. When problems arise, they huddle up together and find the solution as an extensive family. Torajans love having guests, including tourists, probably because in the past guests are rare and visitors must have endured a tiring journey to reach the village. The common greeting when one walk past another man’s house or visiting is “Bamasan’gale” roughly translated as “how are you today?” implying that there are no boundaries to be of concern between guests and the host. Simply stated, Torajans are friendly, humble, and welcoming to everyone.

In contrast with northerners’ myths of an irreplaceable role in Torajan social standards through their castes defining the life. They have castes defining the social standards through their ancestral heraldry. When problems arise, they huddle up together and find the solution as an extensive family. Torajans love having guests, including tourists, probably because in the past guests are rare and visitors must have endured a tiring journey to reach the village. The common greeting when one walk past another man’s house or visiting is “Bamasan’gale” roughly translated as “how are you today?” implying that there are no boundaries to be of concern between guests and the host. Simply stated, Torajans are friendly, humble, and welcoming to everyone.

The southerner’s myth tells about Tamboro Langi and Lakipada who descended from the sky with stairs. Tamboro Langi’s established Sangalla Kingdom and initiated contact with other kingdoms in South Sulawesi. Lakipada, on the other hand, is a theologian that preaches about the existence of afterlife (Puya). Lakipada’s teachings continue to be practiced among Torajans until present day. We can see the influences of his teaching in Rambu Solo (burial) ceremony. Motifs (changing clothes of the deceased) and ceremony, and the famed cliff or cave cemetery.

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The southerners’ myths revolve around life and fertility. Torajans southern myth centre around war (Rari), characterized by staggering numbers of hundreds, with a belief that with each buffaloes sacrificed, the departed will enter the afterlife (Puya) more easily. The most of the sacrificed buffaloes are then shared with the guests attending as part of the revelry. It is a very extravagant and permanent celebration dating back to ancestral times, where buffaloes carefully and lovingly cared for their meat back to the community that cherished them.

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STAY AT TORAJA MISILIANA HOTEL FOR A SINGLE AS LOW AS Rp. 550,000++
On earth there is no heaven, but there are pieces of it. The nature of Toraja, once it aspires its spell, anchors you in its net of bewilderment eternally, bestowing a reminiscence of titillation and a glimpse of astonishment. Let the land embrace you while the water beats upon your heart with remedying liquid drops, and allow the air to sing you a melody of serenity.

To reach one of this prominent tourist destination in Indonesia, it would take you up to 10 hours’ drive from South Sulawesi’s capital city of Makassar. Do not take a chance to close your eyes and fall asleep as the journey to Toraja offers a scenery that you might regret to miss. From the lofty mountains of Karts in Maros; claimed as the 2nd largest in the world after China; then off to the city of Pare – pare; a small harbor town who endure their developments as the next big city; then a rest stop enroute to Toraja in Enrekang; an exotic magnificent view of Gunung Nona; where some of the mythical arrival of Torajan ancestral also derive from this place. Lies in the mountainous area with a height of 300 up to 2880 meters above sea level; Toraja has a humid tropical climate which offers a constant temperature ranging from 16 to 28 degrees Celsius the all year; and two distinct seasons which is differentiated by the amount of rain. Providing a combination of freshness & cool climate; Toraja is a perfect place to take time-off & return to health. Best time to visit is from March to October, with less of rain occur the all of the area.

Enter the heart of serene villages and see what makes the life of a Torajan so simple, and yet, so laidback in its essence. Stop by the rice fields and touch the soil where the heart of Torajan lies, and traverse into the misty forests of the rising dawn. The alluring beauty of the landscape will stupefy your soul.

PARADISE REDEFINED
Explore the wonders of the hilltops of Toraja as you travel along the ridges of Makale and Rantepao. Bring your rain gear and flashlight for an adventurous journey through the different hues of Torajan colors, starting from a string of calm villages to wander upon, continuing to the cliffs and hillside terraces that is sure to keep you on the edge of your adrenaline rush.

Begin either from Makale or Rantepao. Prepare yourself for a cultural walk 784 meters above sea level with stunning sceneries. See the different cultural wonders in the traditional buildings, rocky terrains, and the natural wildlife spread before you. Cocoa trees bathing in sunrays, lush coffee plantations, ferns, and Miana trees are abundant throughout the trek. With a guide, you will always be on the right track towards the unreal bewilderment of your liking.

TREKKING
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If Mai’ting is not enough to spark your inner wild soul, scooch over to Sa’dan river, where the waterfalls constantly concoct the watery mist as a challenge for anyone daring to venture in.

View from Tinambayo, Batutumonga

View from Mentirotiku, Batutumonga

MAITING AND SA’DAN WHITE WATER RAPIDS
Bathe in the rays of the tropical sun while the rush of the rapids below keeps you refreshed. The roaring waterfalls in various magnitudes will fulfill the inhibitions of thrill seekers and adventurers alike. Set your sights to see the steep canyons and valleys embodying the kaleidoscope of the land itself, accompanied by natural wildlife displaying the eternal wonders embedded within.
With more than 20 years in the travel industry, we are very aware that even after a careful planning many things can still go wrong, when travelling especially to a new destination.

At Mega Permai our team are available 24 hours everyday to assist you with inquiries and issues. Our personalize approach to handle every single guest has proven to be the most effective method to answer question, solve problem and provide peace of mind.

Therefore with our dedication to always uphold high quality service to all guests we are confident that we can be your travel partner across mega destinations simply name it and we will arrange it!
Like any other valuable treasures, Toraja coffee sparked up feuds between noblemen in the past. “Coffee war” was an epic battle started when the Buginese tried to conquer Toraja in the 1890s, solely triggered by the highly valued coffee trade.

A taste that visited the hearts of ancestors will definitely flare inspiration in everyone else with every sip. Indulge yourself in the quint essential of Toraja Arabica coffee. Sip it while fixing your sights on the breathtaking views as the heights of Toraja seemed to stand proud in perfect composition with its surroundings. With all its astounding qualities, no wonder Toraja coffee has the “Black Gold” stamped on its back.

The exceptional taste of Toraja coffee has been exalted by the Dutch noblemen and coffee enthusiasts. What makes the taste so invigorating is the complex algorithms embedded within the atmosphere of Toraja as a geographical standpoint, creating an environment that produces the perfect Arabica coffee.

The fact has landed Toraja coffee under the Geographical Indication Protection (GI) for its flavors so distinct that equals it to none in the world.

**TORAJA HANDWOVEN**

Every weave and profound stitching can be felt by everyone touching the handmade marvels of Torajan fabric. Displayed proudly in amalgamation with beautiful rice fields surrounding the premise, the clothes are essentially the pieces of souls of the ancestral spirits that still exist until today.

**ARTISTRY**

The artistic side of Toraja never ceased to exist. The magnificent carving shall leave you fascinated, as the beauty and the philosophy aesthetically collaborate, forming a sublime unity imprinted to their valuable Tongkonan. The base pattern of Toraja called Garoentu Passuau diverges into four patterns. The sun or Pa’ Barre Allo symbolizes that life is a bestowment from the divine. The rooster, or Pa’ Manuk Londong, emphasizes the Torajan’s norm, law, and leadership concept. The dragonfly motif or Pa’tedong characterizes prosperity in life, while the Pa’ Sussu pattern portrays democracy and wisdom as the foundations of society. Together they structure an exalted conception of Torajan ideal life.
Pasar Bolu (Bolu Market) is where most money in Toraja rotates. Once every six days, small herders brought in with their trucks buffaloes, ranging from ordinary ones to the exquisite Tedong Bongas - or albino buffaloes - worth billions of Rupiah. Buyers wandering around in their sarongs, bringing huge chunks of cash in their hands since banks aren’t very popular in Toraja. Sometimes the two interact, inspecting prospective buffaloes in details since a slight defect on its eyes, jaws or body can reduce the price significantly.

On the contrary, a desired trait like a spot of white in the right place or the shape of the horn will boost the price notably. Experience immersion with the traditions dating back to the birth of Torajan culture by visiting these unique venues.

Torajan Markets

In the mythical legends surrounding Toraja, buffaloes play an important role that is irreplaceable with those of other animals on the land. When loved ones departed into the afterlife, buffaloes are sacrificed in abundant numbers - from five to hundreds - and their horns adorn the Tongkonan building where family members are laid down for their final tribute.

“Tedong Saloko or Tedong Bonga” - or albino buffaloes are the coup de grace when it comes to sacred offerings. These white-speckled buffaloes are the prized livestock for the Torajans. Bundled at hundreds of millions of Rupiah, these creatures are worth checking out.
Row of karts, Buntu Lobo’
Pa’piong is one of the highlights of Torajan cuisine, from the process of cooking the traditional dish of meat (pork = babi, chicken = manuk, fish = ikan mas or buffalo = kerbau) grilled inside a bamboo. The meat is cooked with a mixture of spices such as grated coconut, scallions, lemon grass, purrty garlic, and leaves of Miana. All the ingredients are mixed and wrapped into leaves of Miana, put into a bamboo tube and cooked barbeque style on an open fire for an hour and a half, until the surface of the bamboo blackens or charred. A bamboo ranging to 10cm in length is enough for 8 - 10 packs of Pa’piong.
Ballo’ is a local beverage in the form of palm wine usually served in a bamboo tube. It is a home-made produce containing small amount of alcohol and made up from freshly tapped palm tree (Nira for local language). The sap is extracted and collected from the cut flower of the palm tree where a container is fastened to the flower stump. The white liquid that initially collects tends to be very sweet and non-alcoholic before it is fermented. There are two taste of these drinks; sweet and sour. It depends on how the fermentation process and the quality of the Nira tree itself.

This traditional drink is usually served in a ceremonial event (Rambu Tuka’ & Rambu Solo’) where all the family members are gathered. It is believed this typical drink will keep the heat of the body, adding the energy and prolong the life.

Although this traditional drink is natural and contains small amount of alcohol, the strength can differ from one to the other, it is advisable to take the right amount and not to over consume.

Pa’Gellu is a traditional dance of Toraja symbolizes the welcoming ceremony of the patriots or heroes who returned from the war with victory. This dance is usually performed by the teenage girls who follow the rhythm of the drum beat played by four teenage boys. The dancers (Meloding in local language) wears traditional clothes in variety of colors and accessories made of gold and silver. They move their arms as if a bird flapping in the air with their legs imitating and describing the trip over and down the valley and hills, which visualize the natural state of Toraja.

Nowadays, this dance has often performed at the ceremonies such as weddings, thanksgiving, harvest festival or welcoming the guest of honor to show excitement and express joy.
Tau Tau

The word Tau tau means “like a person”. It is used to honor the soul of the departed, but rather portrays the soul of the departed which will continue its journey to its next life cycle. The effigy could reach up to 1.5m tall, it is usually well-dressed in traditional clothing, complete with accessories and a headdress. A specialist (Pande Tau tau) manufacture the effigy based on the social status of the departed. There are 3 types of woods for the base: bamboo planks for the lowest social status, wood of Randu (Kapuk for local language) for the middle status, and wood of jackfruit (Nangka for local language) for the highest status. Back to old times, Pande Tau tau usually stays near the house of the departed, while practicing some offerings during the manufacturing of the effigy.

After the funeral ceremony, which also serves to consecrate the Tau tau, it will be placed close to the grave, keeping the memory of the “Old” alive.
The peak of Sesean is located in Desa (village of) Sesean, Kecamatan (sub-district of) Sesean Suloara, Toraja Utara, about an hour drive from Rantepao upwards of Batutumonga. With its mountain tip at 2,100 meters above sea level, it is the highest point of the highlands, where visitors usually hike up to reach the peak. Hiking treks are available taking time to about 4 – 5 hours to reach the top with the view of the whole Toraja as your reward.

Sesean Suloara has plenty of natural and cultural attractions. Currently development of CBT (Community Based Tourism) is undergoing in this area, which will emphasize the potentials of tourist attractions, activities and way of life. In the future, the contribution of CBT will results the return of local economic development, while preserving the ancient cultures, local wisdom and natural heritage.
GET READY FOR SPICE
Indonesians love adding spice to their food. The word "Pedas" (spice) must be one of the first things you learn to say in Indonesian as part of your culinary adventure. Depending on the region you are in, the spice might already be added to the food and in places like Sulawesi it is placed onto the side of the plate. If you can’t handle spice make sure to learn to say “Tulak pedas” before ordering your food.

WEATHER CONDITION
Toraja is in the UTC+8 time zone. The driest months are March through May. The rainy season is from September to December. There are no extreme weather events.

VISA REQUIREMENT
The visa requirement depends on the length of your stay and on your home country’s regulations. Indonesian visa provision is prone to change. Before starting your journey, it is important to check the respective embassy or consulate office in your home country.

MEANS OF TRADE
In Toraja, only Indonesian Rupiah (IDR) is accepted for cash payments. In general, transactions in Toraja are cash-based. Credit cards are not commonly used for payment, unless if you see Master or Visa logo on the cashier of hotels or restaurants. There are banks and ATMs in Makale and Rantepao where you can change your foreign currency into Rupiah or get your cash.

PACK LIGHT
Bring wash-and-wear light cotton clothes, a light rain jacket with a hood, and a good sweater. Tennis shoes are fine for basic footwear, but if you plan to do outdoor activities (trekking or hiking) you will need sturdy shoes or boots. Bring one of your favorite hats to keep the sun off your face. Depending on the region you are in, it is recommended to bring a light rain jacket with a hood.

FRIENDLY LOCALS
Once you stay outside of the big cities in Indonesia, many locals may have never seen a foreigner before, so get ready for the stars. This is rarely intended in a malicious way, but rather an indication that you are a rare jewel. Once you make eye contact with an Indonesian and smile they will often return the grin. Calls of “Hello sir or miss” are normal and many people are just trying to practice their English with you. Indonesians love adding spice to their food. The word “Pedas” (spice) must be one of the first things you learn to say in Indonesian as part of your culinary adventure. Depending on the region you are in, the spice might already be added to the food and in places like Sulawesi it is placed onto the side of the plate. If you can’t handle spice make sure to learn to say “Tulak pedas” before ordering your food.

THE PERFECT TIMING
The peak of the tourist season in Toraja is late in August. Prepare your reservations well in advance if you plan to visit during this time. To avoid the crowd, visiting off season is always an option worth considering. The best time in terms of tourist traffic and weather happens between April – June and September – October.

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HOW TO GET THERE?

Makassar is the nearest international hub to Toraja. With international standard airport, Sultan Hasanuddin International Airport, Makassar serves major domestic and international airlines from main cities in Indonesia and South East Asia.

It takes 7-8 hour drive to reach Toraja from Makassar, but it won’t be a problem since convenient buses are available to take you there. Take the journey to the magnificent highlands in the morning or night.

After arrival at Sultan Hasanuddin International Airport, take a taxi to bus representative offices located nearby. The morning bus leaves daily from Makassar / Toraja at 08.30 AM and arrives at Toraja / Makassar in the afternoon. For adventurers preferring to travel underneath the pale moonlight of the tropics, you can take the daily evening bus departing to Makasar / Toraja at 21.00 PSI, arriving at Toraja/Makasar the next morning at 05.30 AM.

Makale is the entrance to Toraja. You can get off the bus either in Makale or Rantepao. It usually depends on which area of hotel / accommodation you’ll be staying. The capital tourism city for Toraja is Rantepao that provides visitors with choices of hotels, restaurants and shops.

To travel faster, there are flights especially tailored for those with finite staying time. Serving only several days in a week, the airplane leaves at 07.00 AM from Sultan Hasanuddin International Airport. Within an hour you will arrive directly in Pongtiku Airport, a small airport in Toraja, and within same day, the airplane will fly back to Makasar.

MEANS OF TRAVERSE

If you want to wander anyway, there are several options to take since the public transportation only runs on certain route of town.

To travel faster, there are flights especially tailored for those with finite staying time. Serving only several days in a week, the airplane leaves at 07.00 AM from Sultan Hasanuddin International Airport. Within an hour you will arrive directly in Pongtiku Airport, a small airport in Toraja, and within same day, the airplane will fly back to Makasar.

Chartered vehicles such as minivan (called Kijang or Avanza) can be booked at hotels or from car rental services available in Makale and Rantepao.

Toraja’s remoteness and beauties are usually hard to reach as the access can have narrow and extremely bumpy roads. Those craving for more adventure could rent a motorbike to explore the remote areas and villages of the highlands. Tourist offices, and some hotels usually serve rental motorbikes Rp 70,000 per day.
TOURISM BUSINESS LISTING

TOUR OPERATOR

PT. WISATA TORAJA SEJAHTERA
Contact person: Maria Roswati (Ms)
Address: Jalan Achna Haji, Pondok Aeri 2 Blok EL 5 Sulaiman, Makassar & Jalan Nusantara No. 153 Makale, Tana Toraja, Sulawesi Selatan, Indonesia
Phone: +62 0852 9840 1595
Email: tourtora@gmail.com
Website: www.tourtora.com

SAGO TOURS (PT ALUX WISATA)
Contact person: Matius Tiofa Sartika (Mr)
Address: Jl. Perintis Kemerdekaan No. 20, Makassar 90245, Sulawesi Selatan, Indonesia
Phone: +62 411 477 2810
Mobile: +62 813 422 312 13
Email: tiotia@gmail.com
Website: www.sagotours.co.id

CENDANA TOUR (PT CENDANA INDAH PERMAI TOURS & TRAVEL)
Contact person: Jurgen Bida (Mr)
Address: Griya Alam Permai Blok A No. 10, Makassar, Sulawesi Selatan, Indonesia
Phone: +62 411 590331
Mobile: +62 821 3811 1567
Email: info@cendanatour.com
Website: www.cendanatour.com

ACCOMMODATION

HOTEL SAHID TORAJA
Contact person: Rocky Oping (Mr)
Address: Jl. Barya Gegetong 1, Mengkendek, Makale 91811, Tana Toraja, Sulawesi Selatan, Indonesia
Mobile: +62 0812 4460 555
Email: salihdtoraja@yahoo.co.id

HOTEL PURI ARTHA
Contact person: Emy Rensiana (Mrs)
Address: Jl. Pongtiku No. 114, Makale 91811, Tana Toraja, Sulawesi Selatan, Indonesia
Phone: +62 0423 22470
Mobile: +62 0812 4295 222

PANORAMA RESTAURANT
Contact person: Mule Sombolayuk (Mr)
Address: Jl. Poros Sangalla, Tana Toraja, Sulawesi Selatan, Indonesia
Phone: +62 0423 24542
Mobile: +62 813 4251 0343

LOCAL SPECIALTIES

KOPI KAA
Contact person: Souelian Miting (Mr)
Address: Jl. Pongtiku (samping Misiliana Hotel), Rantepao, Toraja Utara, Sulawesi Selatan, Indonesia
Phone: +62 0423 24542
Mobile: +62 0813 4251 0343

KOPI KAA
Contact person: Suleman Mitting (Mr)
Address: Jl Pongtiku (samping Misiliana Hotel), Rantepao, Toraja Utara, Sulawesi Selatan, Indonesia
Phone: +62 0812 4104 8303

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Jl. Pongtiku No. 5C, Toraja Utara, Sulsel, Indonesia
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+62 81280016886
THE HOUSE TORAJA

34 | Guide to the Magnificent Sights and Attractions of TORAJA

35 | Guide to the Magnificent Sights and Attractions of TORAJA
rpah adat of the Torajan people), (the traditional ancestral house, or to Londa to see ancient tombs in graveyard of Kings of Sangalla lies Kambira. Onwards to Suaya to the hanging graves. Then continue to see rows of Tau Tau statues and the Toraja. First visit will be Lemo to After breakfast, a full day exploring Lakawan to enjoy the spectacular seafood restaurant in Pare-Pare. In the afternoon stop on the picturesque Lekawan which is known as Erotic centre. Then, continue driving to the traditional weaving center of Rantepao before heading back to the hotel for dinner and stay overnight. After lunch, free program. Breakfast at hotel, afterwards free program on your own. You could do water activities such as banana boat, snorkelling, or rent a boat to visit Liukang Island. It is also known as the oldest harbour in Indonesia. Lunch will be served in a local restaurant. After lunch, continue driving to Toraja. Along the way you will be able to enjoy spectacular views of the hills, and then proceed to Londa to see ancient tombs in which the deceased was not burned, but placed among the rocks. At Kete Kesu one of the oldest villages you can see Tongkonan (the traditional ancestral house, or rumah adat) and also the old traditional rice barns with colorful woodcarving. Lunch in Rantepao, dinner at local restaurant and overnight at Hotel.

**DAY 03**
**TARAJA: KAMBIRA – TARAJA**
After breakfast, a full day exploring Toraja. First visit will be Lemo to see rows of Tau Tau statues and the hanging graves. Then continue to discover the secrets of baby trees in the countryside of Toraja. Onwards to Suaya to see daily life of Torajan people. Lunch will be served at the local restaurant. In the afternoon, visiting Pallawa, Sa’ dan, Pallawa, and traditional weaving center of Rantepao before heading back to the hotel for dinner and stay overnight. After lunch, free program.

**DAY 04**
**TARAJA: LEMO, KAMBIRA, SUAYA, LONDA AND KETE KESU**
After breakfast, full day exploring Toraja. We will drive you to Batutumonga which is best known for its spectacular view of rice terraces. If possible you can walk along the countryside to see the daily life of Torajan people. Lunch will be served at the local restaurant. In the afternoon, visiting Pallawa, Sa’dan, Pallawa, and traditional weaving center of Rantepao before heading back to the hotel for dinner and stay overnight.

**DAY 05**
**TARAJA:**
After breakfast, drive back to Makasar. Lunch will be served at a local restaurant in Pare-Pare then drive directly to Hasanuddin International Airport Makasar to catch flight for your next destination.

**DAY 06**
**TARAJA – MAKASSAR**
After breakfast, drive back to Makasar. Lunch will be served at a local restaurant in Pare-Pare then drive directly to Hasanuddin International Airport Makasar to catch flight for your next destination.

**DAY 07**
**TARAJA – MAKASSAR**
After breakfast, drive back to Makasar. We will stop at Puncak Lakeawan which is known as Erotic Mountain. Lunch will be served in a local restaurant in Pare-Pare. Arrival in the afternoon at Makasar. Dinner and overnight at local restaurant. Overnight at hotel.

**DAY 09**
**MAKASSAR AIRPORT**
After breakfast, if time allows, we will take you for a short city tour to Fort Rotterdam, the Old Dutch Fortress located in front of Losari Beach. Then transfer directly to Hasanuddin International Airport to catch your flight to the next destination.

**DAY 10**
**LOSARI BEACH**
After breakfast, we will take you on a trip to Watampone, the oldest harbour in Indonesia. Lunch will be served in a local restaurant. In the afternoon you can walk along the coastline to see the daily life of Torajan people. Lunch will be served at the local restaurant. In the afternoon, visiting Pallawa, Sa’dan, Pallawa, and traditional weaving center of Rantepao before heading back to the hotel for dinner and stay overnight. After lunch, we will take you on a trip to Batutumonga to see the cultural site of Bugis Makasar Phinisi Boat Builders. In the afternoon arrive at Bira, the beautiful white sandy beach, free program until dinner time. Dinner and overnight at Hotel.

**DAY 11**
**BIRA – FREE PROGRAM**
Breakfast at hotel, afterwards free program on your own. You could do water activities such as banana boat, snorkelling, or rent a boat to visit Liukang Island located at the opposite side of the main island. Lunch will be served at a local restaurant. After lunch, lunch continue driving to Toraja. Along the way you will be able to enjoy spectacular views of the traditional colorful woodcarving. Lunch and overnight at Hotel.

**DAY 13**
**TARAJA: LEKO – SUAYA – LONDA – KE’TE KESU**
After breakfast, drive back to Toraja. First visit will be Lemo to see rows of Tau Tau statues and the hanging graves. Then continue to see rows of Tau Tau statues and the hanging graves. Then continue to discover the secrets of baby trees in the countryside of Toraja. Onwards to Suaya to see daily life of Torajan people. Lunch will be served at the local restaurant. In the afternoon, visiting Pallawa, Sa’dan, Pallawa, and traditional weaving center of Rantepao before heading back to the hotel for dinner and stay overnight.

**DAY 14**
**TARAJA: LEMO – SUAYA – LONDA – KE’TE KESU**
After breakfast, drive back to Toraja. First visit will be Lemo to see rows of Tau Tau statues and the hanging graves. Then continue to see rows of Tau Tau statues and the hanging graves. Then continue to discover the secrets of baby trees in the countryside of Toraja. Onwards to Suaya to see daily life of Torajan people. Lunch will be served at the local restaurant. In the afternoon, visiting Pallawa, Sa’dan, Pallawa, and traditional weaving center of Rantepao before heading back to the hotel for dinner and stay overnight.
Desa (Village of) Sillanan

Desa (village of) Sillanan is located in Gandang Batu, Sillanan Sub-district, Tana Toraja, Toraja, the eastern valley. It is surrounded by rocky hills and high cliffs. The village has 2 historic Tongkonans: Tongkonan Karua (8 Tongkonans) and Tongkonan A'pa (4 Tongkonans) which were built 200 years ago. Each Tongkonan plays a significant role and describes its derivatives within society of Desa Sillanan.

There are so many amazing places to visit in Indonesia, do not limit yourself from experiencing it. People in Indonesia, especially those who work in travel & tourism industry do speak English. Try to learn some local (Indonesian) language that would allow you to understand and appreciate cultural references and nuances. In the end; you will cross the boundaries of communication between the local people and you will go deeper within their culture.

English

Good morning
Good night
How are you?
Thank you
Yes
No
How much?
Expensive
Inexpensive / Cheap
Chili
Food (Nouns), Meals (Nouns), Eat (Verbs)
Where are you from?
Where are you going to?
Can you?
Is there? Do you have?

Indonesian Language

Selamat pagi …
Selamat malam …
Apa kabar?
Terima kasih
Ya
Tidak
Berapa
Mahal
Tidak mahal / Murah
Sambal
Makan
Anda dari mana?
Anda mau pergi kemana?
Bisakah anda?
Apakah ada?

Toraja Language

Selama’ melambah
Hormi moko
Apa Kereba
Kurrre sumangga
Iyo
Taek
Pira
Manulë
Marawa
Sambala
Kande (Nouns), Kande (Nouns), Kumande (Verbs)
Umbe munsali
Umbe lamsula
Bisa raka?
Den raka
Through comprehensive and in-depth research, the logogram was comprised. Inspired by the Atap Bamu and Alang, the logogram is a personification of Torajan’s identity and personality all in one.

The soaring ‘T’ exemplifies the connection of Torajans to their ancestors and the heavens. Pa’ulu Karua, the engraving inlaid in the letters, illustrates the eight ancestors of the Torajans who have bestowed knowledge about life and the coexisting world around it. This symbol is the essence of Torajan life, which still embodies the ancestral teachings within.

The plain letter ‘O’ without any carvings represents the life cycle of a Torajan individual, where birth, growing up, and death all circling back to the Tongkonan. This emphasizes the sanctity of Torajan way of life and an embodiment of hope.

The tagline ‘Discover The Sacred Highlands’ also has a message behind it. The word ‘Discover’ is an active invitation to travelers and explorers to experience the spectrum of cultural wonders of Toraja, and as a proposition of co-creation between travelers and the Torajan to procreate an experience like no other. The word ‘Sacred’ is used to accentuate the fact that Toraja is a divine land chalk-full of ancestral heraldry waiting to be explored, and how it is pristine and untouched by the world around it. The word ‘Highlands’ highlights the topography of Toraja in its entirety.

The color black always dominates Torajan carvings, as it is the base before adding any other colors, and at the same time symbolizing death as the end of life before returning to the heavens. On the other hand, the red represents the blood in which human life depends on. In synergy, these colors became the fundamental connection between life and death which is highly revered in Torajan culture.

Toraja DMO (Destination Management Organization), is part of the program initiated by Republic of Indonesia Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy in 2010. As a tourism organization, Toraja DMO were established in 3rd May 2012, with main focuses to actively promote & market the destination, to increase and further enhance capacity building of its tourism industry & local people; and to organize and further enhance its tourist attraction, facilities and accessibility. Toraja DMO would bear its duty as a source of information about Toraja as a destination.