A GUIDE TO
THE MAGNIFICENT SIGHTS
AND ATTRACTIONS OF

TORAJA

wonderful indonesia

Toraja | 2017
DISCOVER THE SACRED HIGHLANDS

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WELCOME TO TORAJA

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, Torajan also treasures 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 are implemented within the peaceful communal society. A new idea are 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.

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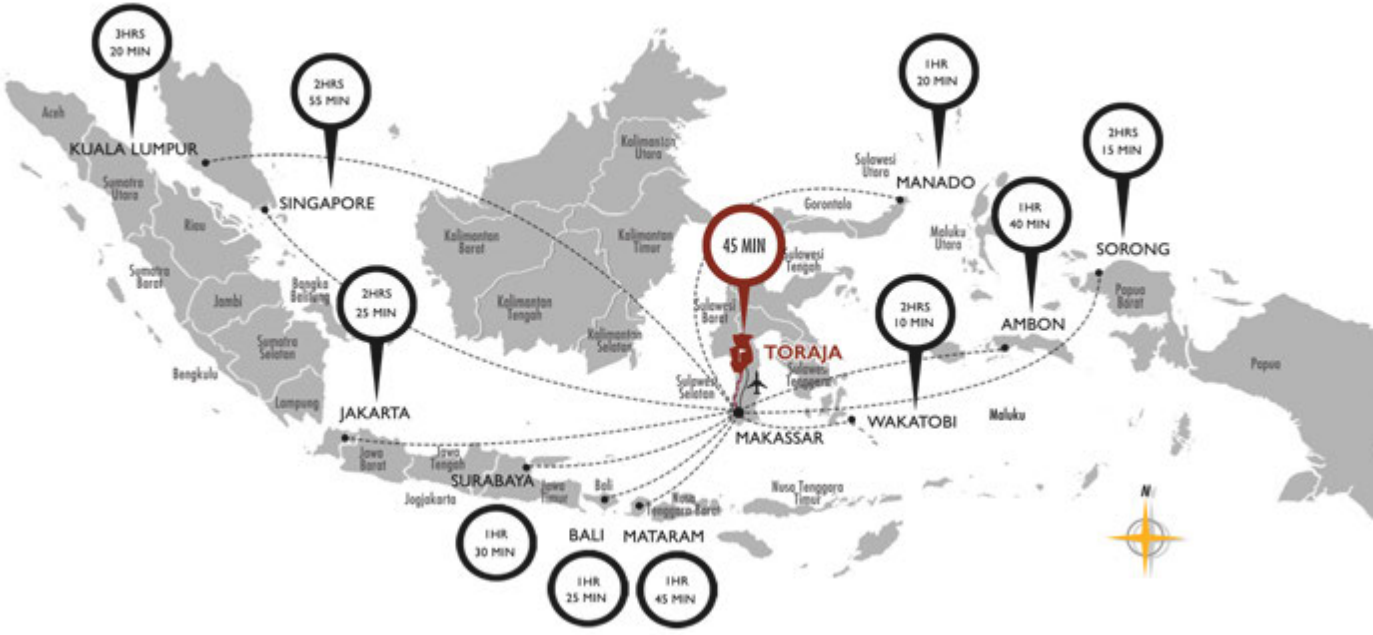
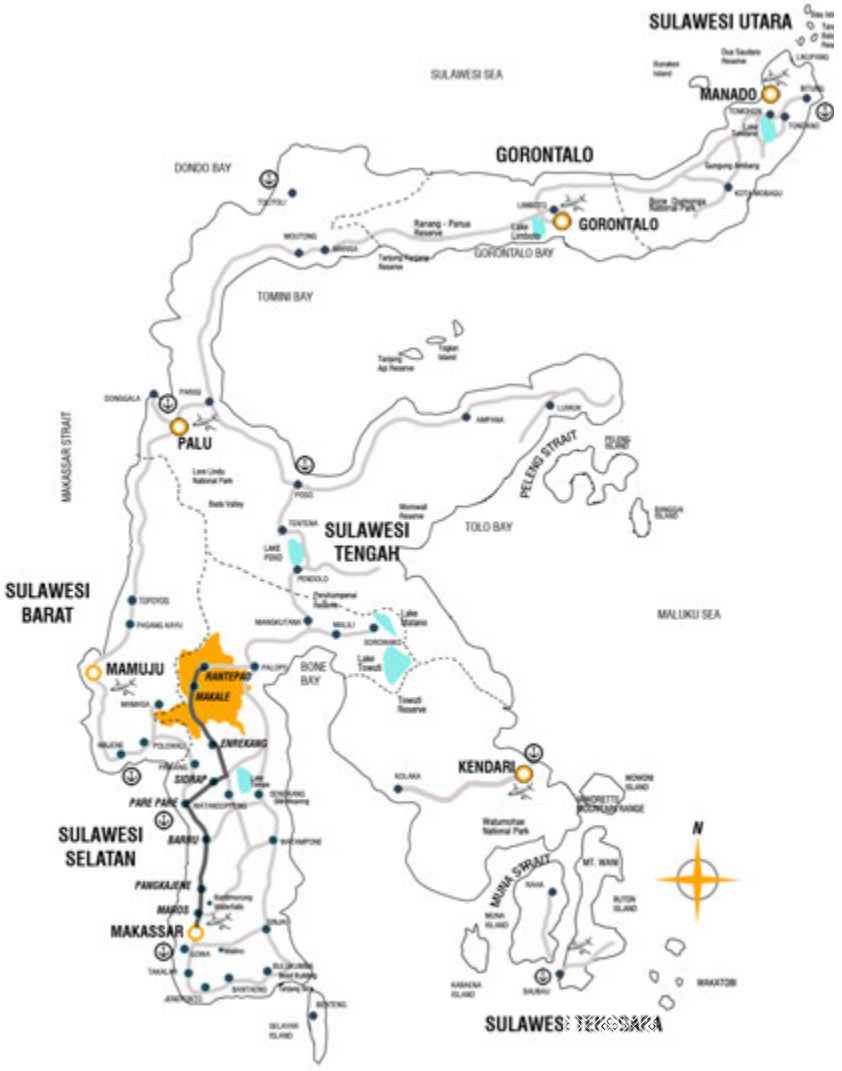
WHERE WE ARE

INDONESIA

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're about to see might be beyond your wildest dreams.





SULAWESI

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 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 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 natural barrier, making it hard to trade with outsiders. On this condition, ancient people in Toraja must have relied on very limited resources they had.

Traditional House at Palawa

This living condition turns Toraja into a self-fulfilling ecosystem. And with limited options at hand, Toraja ancestors chose the oldest and most compelling art of survival: harmony.

Torajans believe there's a tie (lolo) that attaches human, animals and plants in one system. To survive, human 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 Todolo, 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. Pilfer or theft is uncommon, even for foreigners visiting. The plants are nourished not only by viable sources of nutrients, but with heart as well as part of the circle of life that adjoins the land. 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 sentinel 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 Ma'rapu, a family clan related by blood. 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 value, executed through Tarian Pitu or seven ethnic justice systems. The lack of writing culture doesn't

seem to leave the legacy untold, since they are ingrained and passed through practice.

When you venture around Toraja, you'll notice that Tongkonan is always paired by rice storage called Alang. Alang symbolizes father that feeds his family, as opposed to Tongkonan's maternal role as caregiver. A larger Tongkonan is also supported by 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 complicated requirements of those paramount ceremonies. After approved by a traditional council, the new glorious creation will then have its significant role amongst Torajan family tree.

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 members will join in on the festivities.

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 reinforcing their clan system. The bond that links Torajan 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 oftentimes gather to discuss important affairs like marriages, heritages, or social conflicts, enabling themselves to resolve problems through intimate and amiable way.

War hat in Ke'te Ke'su Museum

RECOMMENDED PLACES TO DISCOVER THE SACRED HIGHLANDS

KE'TE KE'SU

From the sheer size of the village, the ancient Tongkonan buildings seem to loom over as sentinels of the Torajan lore itself. Even the stone stairs appear to be woven for giants to step upon. Ke'te Ke'su is one of the most pristine and traditional Tongkonan complexes throughout all Toraja, and it will capture your attention with each glance.

PALAWA'

Adorned with ornaments of sun circles and rooster carvings, Palawa' Tongkonan complex is a breathtaking sight. 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' PAPA BATU

Tumakke' is home of the extraordinary Tongkonan, whose roof is exclusively made from andesite rock 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'.

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TORAJA
ETHNIC

THE HISTORICAL 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 Riaja' or a place where northern people lived.

Girls in traditional Toraja clothes

People of Luwu Kingdom had their own way of naming, referring it to 'To Rajang' or a place where the southerners lived. On the edge of the southern peninsula, people heard stories about a royal descendant known as Puang Lakipadada who came to Gowa Kingdom in 13th century to find eternal life. Gowanese called him 'Tau Raya' or the man from the east, thus the place was also known as 'Tana Tau Raya' (Tana means land, Tau means man, and Raya means east). Coming from various 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. The Northerners beliefs also mentioned the importance of women in Torajan culture. A long haired beautiful woman named Landorundun is told to be the personification of wealth and a daughter of Sa'dan noble is believed to be married with The Creator (Puang Matua) himself, allowing more procreation on earth. In contrast with northerners' myths revolved around life and fertility, Toraja southerners' myths center around war (Rari), characterized by sacrifice and death.

The southerner's myth tells about Tamboro Langi' and Lakipada who descended from the sky with stairs. Tamboro Langi' 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 teaching continues to be the center of Toraja culture until present day. We can see the influences of his teaching in Rambu' Solo (burial) ceremony, Ma'nene (changing clothes of the deceased) ceremony, and the famed cliff or cave cemetery.

SERENE KINSHIP

In present day, Toraja people maintain their peaceful communal 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 "Manasumoraka" roughly translated as "have you cooked?" implying that there are no boundaries to be of concern between guests and the host. Simply stated, Torajans are friendly, humble, and welcoming to adventurers and explorers alike. So don't be afraid to greet them in your journey!

GRANDIOSE PARTING, CEREMONY OF DEATH

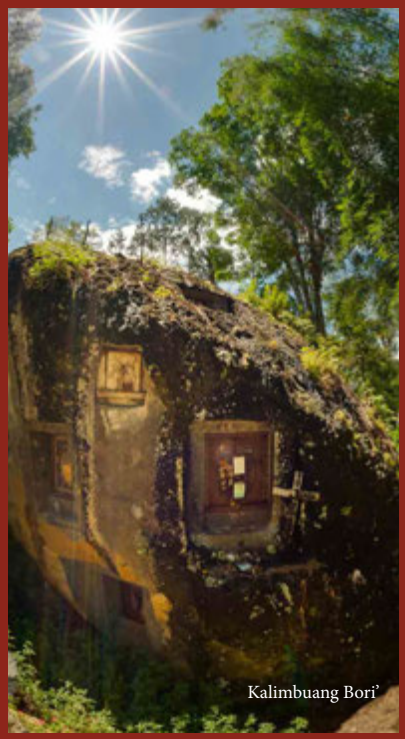
There is nowhere else on earth where the words death and lavish can be paired in a sentence as in Toraja. In this ethereally charming land, death has never borne sadness. On the contrary, it is the ultimate goal of life, longing to be celebrated by both the departed and the family members left behind. Cheers that echo through hilltops, a big feast for all guests, and traditional dances redefine what human perceive as morbid 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 follows.

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 individual is respected, the more buffaloes to sacrifice. 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 meat of the sacrificed buffaloes are then shared with the guests attending as part of the revelry. It is a very extravagant and paramount celebration dating back to ancestral times, where buffaloes carefully and lovingly cared for give 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 feast.

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 nobler it is for family members. In each ceremony, children and descendants pay respect to their elderly departed.



Kalimbuang Bori'

RECOMMENDED PLACES TO DISCOVER THE SACRED HIGHLANDS

LO'KO' MATA

Stone burials are aplenty 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 crevices creates a sense of 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 Tarra 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 display an architectural feat like nowhere else in the world. 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 dark tunnels and small cracks to see a burial site unlike any other, guaranteed to satisfy the curiosity of your souls. As challenging as it is, Londa cave 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 embodying the land in its entirety. Bori', a village with the largest menhir 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, every inch of Lemo 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 of Time.

TORAJA
NATURE

Rice paddies in Batutumonga

PARADISE REDEFINED

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'll take you up to 10-hour 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 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 and return to health. Best time to visit is from March to October.

Enter the heart of serene villages and see what makes the life of a Torajan simple yet so laidback in its essence. 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.

TREKKING

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 hillsides with terrains 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.

MAI'TING 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 on the steep canyons and valleys embodying the kaleidoscope of the land itself, accompanied by natural wildlife displaying the eternal wonders embedded within.

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.

LAND ABOVE THE CLOUDS

Not only known for the culture and traditions of the death, Toraja also has a stunning natural charm. From the wonderful waterfalls, magnificent hills and its savanna, also the rice field that will be feast for the eyes. One of the most favorite new destinations in Toraja, namely Kampung Lolai, the Land above the Clouds. With the expanse of clouds like white cottons, will give you a sensation of being above the clouds. You can taste the pleasure of Toraja coffee at an altitude of 1,400 above sea level while enjoying the panoramic view of the sunrise. Staying at Tongkonan Lempe, will give you an unforgettable experience. The ride along the rough rocky road by motor cycles or small car for less than an hour will be paid with the charming beauty of Kampung Lolai. While waiting for the sun rise with white clouds so close to our feet will be an experience irreplaceable elsewhere. Rise early in the morning and come from Rantepao around 4:00AM. You can stay at Tongkonan Lempe Lolai with the tent or in Tongkonan to enjoy the morning mist at Lolai.

There are many places to visit while in Kampung Lolai besides Tongkonan Lempe. If you climb up a bit, you can enjoy the pleasure of a cup of warm Toraja coffee at a warung on top of Lolai. Tie your shoes and hike along the road that will lead you to an old fort called Tirotiku. The trail will take you exploring the natural beauty of Toraja through the pine forest. Feel the morning breeze while portraying the warmth of the culture of Land above the Clouds. The 15-minute walk on the mild ground with the fragrance of pinecone pervaded the air would give you a stupendous feeling found nowhere else. For adventure junkie, an escapade to To'tombi will be a wish come true. Try paragliding and enjoy the bird's eye view of the city from the top, rice paddy fields and gorgeous Tongkonan stretch out below.

Hunting sunrise at Tongkonan Lempe, Lolai

The pine forest in Tirotiku, Lolai

LOCAL MARVELS

TORAJA COFFEE

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 rioted 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 Garonto' Passura' 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.

ART OF THE TRADE

Handmade Toraja beads

TORAJA MARKETS

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.

BUFFALOES

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 Saleko 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 million Rupiah, these creatures are worth checking out.

b. Miniature of Tongkonan

c. Bolu Buffalo Market

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Mini Tau Tau

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Intricate pattern of Toraja hand-woven Ikat

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CULINARY
HERITAGE

PA'PIONG

Pa'piong as the highlight of Torajan cuisine, not only eaten daily, but also used in many ceremonies as gift. This traditional dish usually use pork, chicken, fish, or buffalo meat grilled inside a bamboo. The meat is cooked with a mixture of spices such as grated coconut, scallions, lemon grass, pepper, garlic, and leaves of Miana. All the ingredients are mixed and wrapped into leaves of Miana, put into bamboo rod 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.

Chicken Pa'piong

Man with Ballo'

BALLO'

A glass of Ballo' can warm you up. Ballo' is a local beverage in a form of palm wine usually served in a bamboo tube. This home-made beverage contains a small amount of alcohol and is made from freshly tapped palm tree. Usually served in ceremonial event where all the family members are gathering. You can order Ballo' in local restaurant or try to find the Ballo' seller at the corner of Lapangan Bhakti at Rantepao.

Although this traditional drink is natural with small amount of alcohol, the strength may differ from one to another. It is thus advisable to take the right amount and not to over consume.

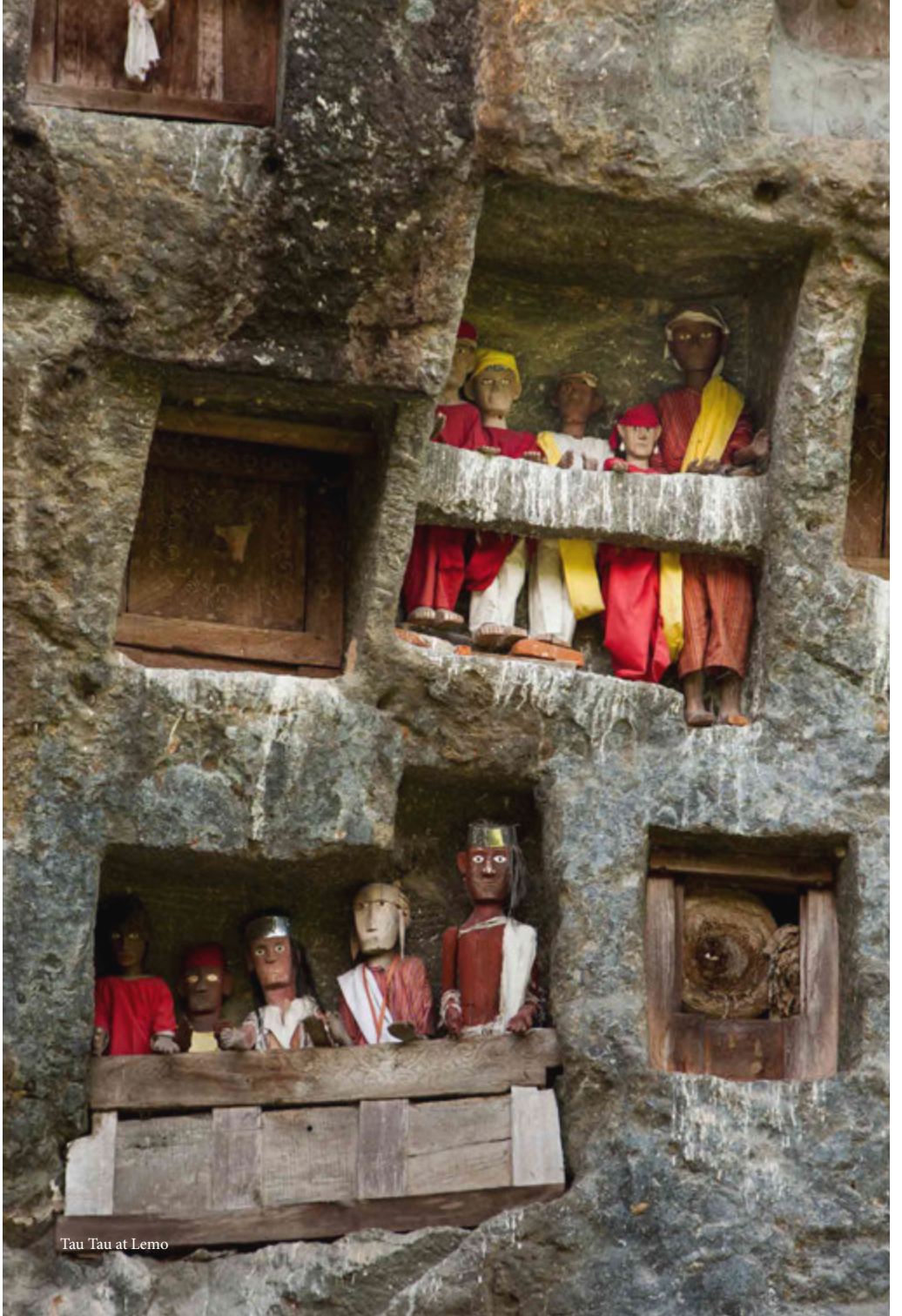
A tourist walking around Toraja market

TAU TAU

The word Tau Tau means "like a person." A Tau Tau is not the image of the departed, but rather portraying the departed's soul who will continue its journey to the next life cycle. The effigy can reach up to 1.5m tall. It is usually well-dressed in traditional clothing completed with accessories and jewelry.

A specialist (Pande) Tau Tau manufactures the effigy based on the social status of the departed. There are 3 types of woods as a base, bamboo planks for the lowest social, the wood of Randu (Kapuk for local language) for the middle, and the wood of jackfruit (Nangka for local language) for the highest social status. Back in the old times, Pande Tau Tau usually stays near the house of the departed, while practicing some offerings during the manufacturing the effigy.

After the funeral ceremony which takes days to complete, the Tau Tau will be placed close to the grave, keeping the memory of the "Old" to live on.



Tau Tau at Lemo

Pa'gellu dancer

PA'GELLU

Pa'Gellu is a traditional dance that is performed to welcome the patriots or heroes who returned victoriously from the war. This dance is usually performed by teenage girls who follow the rhythmic beats of the drum played by four teenage boys. The dancers (Ma'toding in local language) wear traditional clothes in variety of colors and accessories made of gold and silver. They move their arms like a bird flapping in the air with their legs imitating and describing the flight over and down the valleys 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.

ETHEREAL **JOURNEY**

THINGS TO KNOW **BEFORE YOU GO**

Row of Tau Tau at Londa

THE PERFECT TIMING

The peak of the tourist season in Toraja is June to 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.

WEATHER CONDITION

Since Toraja is located in high ground, pleasant climate envelops it all-year around. Daily temperature varies from around 16°C in the evening and early morning to around 28°C during the day. This climate allows most hotels in Toraja to thrive without the use of air conditioners. As the other areas in Indonesia, Toraja too has only two seasons: wet and dry, with June to August as the driest months. The highest rainfall normally happens from September to March.

TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE

Toraja is in the UTC+8 time zone (known in Indonesia as WITA or Waktu Indonesia Tengah), the same as Western Australia, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, Hong Kong, Bali and one hour ahead of Jakarta.

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 requirements at the Indonesian 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 during long walks. Bring along some pre-packaged towelettes. These are handy for disinfecting your hands before eating or after a trip to the kamar kecil (lavatory).

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 adventures. 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 " Tidak pedas "before ordering your food.

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 stares. This is rarely intended in a malicious way, 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 are so friendly and welcoming, if a little shy to start with, but if you need help with anything on your travels there will always be a crowd of people offering to help. Make sure you always use your right hand when greeting people, paying and eating.

DON'T WASTE YOUR VISIT, MAKE SURE YOU'RE
LOST IN THE **RIGHT PLACES**

HIGHLAND COMPASS
In Toraja, you can always tell where north is by looking at the roof of Tongkonan. More visitors prefer to travel on foot and it is really recommended. This way, you'll get much more insights about life in Toraja that seem to elude the eyes of those on wheels. Don't hesitate to ask any locals about the direction to a site or location of ceremonies. Most of them are able to speak basic English and they're more than willing to help you.

STAYING WITH LOCALS IN VILLAGE
Keep in mind that people in many parts of Toraja may have limited experience with foreigners and are still learning how to share their homes with you. They do not routinely maintain guest rooms. Things like soft beds, cold drink and electricity are luxury items to some. You may even encounter with someone who barely speaks anything other than Bahasa Indonesia or the local language. They will offer you the best they have nonetheless, and you are expected to graciously return that with respectful treatment.

TOURIST INFORMATION SERVICE
The government Tourist Information Office is at Jl. A. Yani, Rantepao, open from 07.00AM – 01.00PM from Monday to Saturday. There are some private tourist information offices in Rantepao as well. Most can assist you to organize tours, car / motor bike rent and provide information.

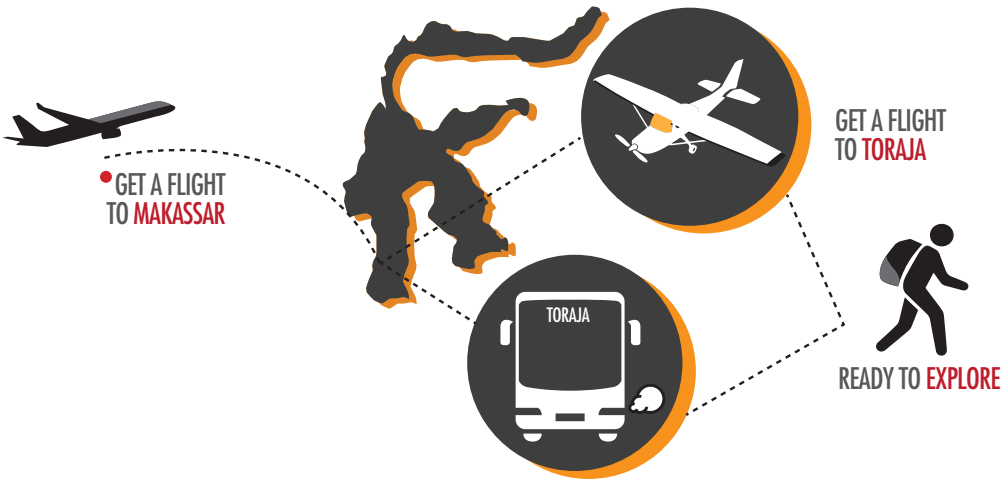
TOUR GUIDES
Official licensed guides and freelance guides are available. Other than those provided by an agency, guide rates are usually negotiable. Be clear beforehand about who covers the guide's personal expenses and the cost of his return to home base. In most areas, tourist information services, hotels or accommodation staffs can recommend a guide for you.

SHOPPING
Toraja offers many beautiful things for you to bring home: wooden sculptures called tau-tau, handwoven clothes, wooden carving picturing wonderful Torajan symbols, coffee and many more. Be extremely cautious however, when buying antiques or work of arts on display especially in tourist areas. Most are reproductions though they may look incredibly similar. Price in Toraja is a flexible thing. Bargaining is advised.

AT THE FUNERAL CEREMONY
Visiting Toraja won't be complete if you haven't attended and observed their unique funeral ceremony. Wearing black clothes is advisable when attending the ceremony, a shirt covering the shoulders, and a lower body garment covering until the knees. A man could put up a sarong and a woman could put up stole or shawl. Ask a permission before taking a photograph or video.

Rice Barn of Tongkonan at Palawa'

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 who prefer to travel underneath the pale moonlight of the tropics, you can take the daily evening bus departing to Makassar / Toraja at 21.00 PM, arriving at Toraja/ Makassar 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 serving 6 days a week, Mondays to Saturdays (off on Sundays), especially tailored for those with finite staying time. The airplane leaves at 09.30 AM from Sultan Hasanuddin International Airport. Within 45 minutes you will arrive directly in Toraja in Pongtiku Airport, about 15-min drive to Makale and 45-min drive to Rantepao. The airplane will fly back within same day to Makassar at 11.00 AM.

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.

Pete – pete / Bemo / Angkot is the inner city transportation and travel (intercity transportation between Makale and Rantepao vv.) are the easiest modes of public transportation. Operating from 06.30am till 18.00pm daily, sometimes stopping earlier and running less frequently in remoter area. There are 2 main bus terminal in Toraja, Makale for Tana Toraja and Pasar Bolu for Toraja Utara. The rate starts from US$ 1.00 per way per person.

Chartered vehicles such as minivan (called Kijang or Avanza) can be booked at hotels or from car rent 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 can rent a motorbike to explore the remote areas and villages of the highlands. Tourist offices, and some hotels usually serves motorbike rent at Rp 70,000 per day.

TOURISM
MAP

- **KABUPATEN (REGENCY OF) TANA TORAJA**

  AREA

  2,054.30 Km2

  CAPITAL CITY

  Makale

  Tourist Information Center Tana Toraja:
  Address: Pongtiku Road no. 35, Makale – Tana Toraja
  Phone: +62 423 24804

- **KABUPATEN (REGENCY OF) TORAJA UTARA**

  AREA

  1,151.47 Km2

  CAPITAL CITY

  Rantepao

  Tourist Information Center Toraja Utara:
  Address: Ahmad Yani Road no. 62, Rantepao – Toraja Utara
  Phone: +62 423 25455

BUSINESS LISTING

TOUR OPERATOR

Mega Permai Tour & Travel
Contact: Mr. Anis
Phone: +62 423 2810728
+62 852 5510 1101
Email: info@megapermai.com
Website: www.megapermai.com

Toraja One Stop Adventure (TOSA)
Contact: Ms. Aurora
Phone: +62 812 2128 0714
Email: aurora@torajaonestopadventure.com
Website: www.torajaonestopadventure.com

Caraka Travelindo
Contact: Mr. Siggi Neuhaus
Phone: +62 411 3618877
Email: info@carakatravelindo.com
Website: www.carakatravelindo.com

Tour Toraja
Contact: Mrs. Maria Roswati
Phone: +62 852 9840 1595
Email: tourtoraja@gmail.com
Website: www.tourtoraja.com

Sulawesi Adventure
Contact: Mr. Joseph
Phone: +62 812 4144 4925
Email: info@sulawesiadventures.com
Website: www.sulawesiadventures.com

Toranggo Buya
Contact: Ms. Linda
Phone: +62 813 4210 2690
Email: raftingsulawesi@yahoo.co.id
Website: -

Indo Sella
Contact: Mr. Agustinus Lamba
Phone: +62 813 4250 5301
Email: admin@sellatours.com
Website: www.sellatours.com

COFFEE SHOP & RESTAURANT

Warung Kopi Toraja / KAA Coffee
Contact: Mr. Suleman
Address: Pongtiku Road (next to Misiliana Hotel), Rantepao – Toraja Utara
Phone: +62 812 4104 8303
Email: warungkopitoraja@yahoo.co.id
Website: www.facebook.com/warung.kopitoraja

Kaana Toraya Coffee
Contact: Mr. Eli
Address: Pongtiku Road no.8, Rantepao – Toraja Utara
Phone: +62 813 5534 0175
Email: kaanatoraya@gmail.com
Website: www.facebook.com/torajamountaincoffee

Mambo Restaurant
Contact: Mr. Andi
Address: Dr. Ratulangi Road no. 34, Rantepao – Toraja Utara
Phone: +62 423 21134
+62 821 4005 1080
Email: andicandra@gmail.com
Website: -

Panorama Restaurant
Contact: Mr Mule
Address: Jurusan Sangalla Road, Makale – Tana Toraja
Phone: +62 423 24642
Email: -
Website: -

Café Aras
Contact: Mr. Aras Parura
Address: A. Mappanyuki Road no. 49, Rantepao - Toraja Utara
Phone: +62 823 2159 9498
Email: araspura@yahoo.com
Website: -

ACCOMMODATION

Toraja Misiliana Hotel
Address: Pongtiku Road no, 27, Rantepao - Toraja Utara
Phone: +62 423 21212
Email: info@torajamisiliana.com
Website: www.torajamisiliana.com

Sahid Toraja Hotel
Address: Getengan Road no. 1, Mengkendek - Tana Toraja
Phone: +62 423 22516
Email: sahidtoraja@yahoo.co.id
Website: -

Batupapan Hotel
Address: Pongtiku Road no. 130, Makale - Tana Toraja
Phone: +62 423 22259
Email: hotelbatupapan@gmail.com
Website: -

Pantan Toraja Hotel
Address: Pongtiku Road no. 116-118, Makale - Tana Toraja
Phone: +62 423 22221
+62 423 22227
Email: pantantoraja@yahoo.com
Website: -

Puri Artha Hotel
Address: Pongtiku Road no. 114
Phone: +62 423 22470
Email: -
Website: -

Buntu Pantan Home Stay
Address: Buntu Pantan Road no. 52, Makale - Tana Toraja
Phone: +62 821 8742 2633
+62 852 5581 9292
Email: buntupantan.toraja@gmail.com
Website: -

Toraja Heritage Hotel
Address: Ke'te Kesu Road no. 80, Rantepao - Toraja Utara
Phone: +62 423 21192
Email: sales_marketing@toraja-heritage.com
Website: www.toraja-heritage.com

Indra Toraja Hotel
Address: Landorundun Road no. 63, Rantepao - Toraja Utara
Phone: +62 423 21163
Email: indrahotel63@yahoo.com
Website: -

Luta Resort Toraja
Address: Dr. Ratulangi Road no. 26, Rantepao - Toraja Utara
Phone: +62 423 21060
Email: info@torajalutaresort.com
Website: www.torajalutaresort.com

Pison Hotel
Address: Pongtiku II Road no. 8, Rantepao - Toraja Utara
Phone: +62 423 21344
Email: -
Website: -

Pia's Poppies
Address: Pongtiku Road, Merpati Alley, no. 4, Rantepao - Toraja Utara
Phone: +62 423 21121
Email: poppiestoraja@yahoo.co.id
Website: -

SPA

Denis Spa
Address: Mangadil Road no. 6, Rantepao - Toraja Utara
Phone: +62 852 9918 9932
Email: bestor.mamma@yahoo.co.id
Website: -

SAMPLE OF ITINERARY

4 days 3 nights Classical Toraja

DAY 01

Makassar – Toraja

Arrived at Sultan Hasanuddin International Airport Makassar and then take journey on the picturesque drive to Toraja with approx. 8 hour drive along the Buginese villages with their typical houses. Some stops will be done for photo taking during the trip. Lunch will be served in a seafood restaurant in ParePare. In the afternoon stop on the Bambapuang to enjoy spectacular view. Arrive in Makale or Rantepao in late afternoon. Dinner and overnight at hotel.

DAY 02

Toraja: Lemo - Kambira - Suaya - Londa - Ke'te Ke'su

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 Kambira. Onwards to Suaya to the graveyard of Kings of Sangalla lies on the hillsides, and then proceed to Londa to see ancient tombs in which the deceased was not buried, but placed among rocks. Next, visit Ke'te Ke'su, one of the oldest Torajan villages. You can see Tongkonan, and also the old traditional rice barns with colorful woodcarving.

DAY 03

Toraja: Land Above The Clouds - Rembon-Burake

Wake up early to catch the sunrise with beautiful white clouds in Lolai. Capture the moment in Tongkonan Lempe and have breakfast in Lolai. Don't forget to walk through the pine forest of Tirotiku and stop by at To'tombi to enjoy the bird's view of the city. After lunch at Rantepao, continue to Rembon where you can find Tumakke,' the oldest traditional house with stone roof. Proceed to Batu Sura, you can see the unique Simbuang (megalith stone) carved to look like human. On your way back to the city, stop by at Buntu Burake where you can find the tallest Christ statue in the world. Dinner and overnight at hotel.

DAY 04

Toraja – Makassar

After breakfast, drive back to Makassar. Lunch will be served at a local restaurant in Pare-Pare then transfer directly to Sultan Hasanuddin International Airport Makassar to catch flight for your next destination.

5 days 4 nights Toraja Adventure

DAY 01

Makassar – Toraja

Arrived at Sultan Hasanuddin International Airport Makassar and then take journey on the picturesque drive to Toraja with approx. 8 hour drive along the Buginese villages with their typical houses. Some stops will be done for photo taking during the trip. Lunch will be served in a seafood restaurant in ParePare. In the afternoon stop on the Bambapuang to enjoy spectacular view. Arrive in Makale or Rantepao in late afternoon. Dinner and overnight at hotel.

DAY 02

Toraja: Cycling Tour to Ke'te Ke'su - Londa - Lemo - Kambira

After breakfast, prepare yourself and paddle your bike to Ke'te Ke'su, one of the oldest Torajan villages. You can see Tongkonan and old rice barn with colorful hand carving. Continue to Londa to see ancient tombs in which the deceased is not buried, but placed among rocks. Then proceed to Lemo to see rows of Tau Tau statues. Lunch at local restaurant, and continue to discover the secrets of baby trees in Kambira. Back to the city through road along the rice paddies and big karst. Dinner and overnight at hotel.

DAY 03

Toraja: White Water Rafting

After breakfast, car will pick you up at the hotel and transfer you to starting point. Then start to walk through breathtaking scenery of Dende village for 30 minutes (you can add 15 minutes more to take selfies). The boat ready at the river welcoming you. Enjoy the rafting for around 3 hours and have lunch at the side of the river with beautiful waterfall in front of you. Back to the city in late afternoon, dinner and overnight at hotel.

DAY 04

Toraja: Land Above The Clouds (Trekking & Paragliding) - Rantepao

Wake up early to catch the sunrise with beautiful white clouds in Lolai. Capture the moment in Tongkonan Lempe and have a breakfast in Lolai. Don't forget to walk through the pine forest of Tirotiku and stop by at To'tombi to try paragliding and enjoy the bird's view of the city. After lunch at Rantepao, you can enjoy the traditional spa/massage and hang out at the local coffee shop to taste the real Toraja coffee at its best. Dinner and overnight at hotel.

DAY 05

Toraja - Makassar

After breakfast, drive back to Makassar. Lunch will be served at a local restaurant in Pare-Pare then transfer directly to Sultan Hasanuddin International Airport Makassar.

SAMPLE OF ITINERARY

8 days 7 nights Toraja & Beyond

DAY 01

Toraja & Beyond: Makassar - Maros - ParePare

Arrived at Sultan Hasanuddin International Airport. Afterwards, drive to Ramang-Ramang in Maros Regency for approximately 30 minutes. Take a boat and explore the magnificent view of traditional village in this 3rd biggest cluster karst in the world. Continue trip to the north, and lunch will be served in Pare Pare. Get your coffee break at Bambapuang to see the erotic mountain. In the late afternoon arrive at Toraja. Dinner and overnight at hotel.

DAY 02

Toraja: Lemo-Suaya - Londa-Ke'te Ke'su

After breakfast, a full day tour exploring Toraja. First we will visit Lemo to see rows of TauTau Statues and The Hanging Graves. Onwards to Suaya to discover the secret of the Baby Tree. Lunch will be served at local restaurant. After lunch, visiting Londa, to see an Ancient Grave where the deceased are entombed. At Kete Kesu one of the oldest Torajan villages, we can see Tongkonan and Old Rice Barns, also famous for its traditional colorful woodcarving. Dinner and overnight at Hotel.

DAY 03

Toraja: Bori' - Sa'dan - Batutumonga

After breakfast, we set out on a trip to Kalimbuang Bori' the Megalith area which symbolizes the great funeral ceremonies held in the past. Then continue to Sa'dan To Barana to visit the weaving village. Here you can watch the old lady weaving local traditional textile and buy some, while having lunch at the same place with beautiful scenery. Then we'll go to Batutumonga, enjoying superb views over Rantepao and surrounding valleys from the top of Toraja. Do a short walking for approximately 2 hours passing thru the rice field, local village where you can also see the daily life of the people in Toraja. Dinner and overnight at hotel.

DAY 04

Toraja: Land Above The Clouds - Rembon - Burake

Wake up early to catch the sunrise with beautiful white clouds in Lolai. Capture the moment in Tongkonan Lempe and have a breakfast in Lolai. Don't forget to walk through the pine forest of Tirotiku and stop by at To'tombi to enjoy the bird's view of the city. After lunch at Rantepao, continue to Rembon, where you can find Tumakke,' the oldest traditional house with stone roof. Proceed to Batu Sura, you can see the unique Simbuang (megalith stone) carved to look like human. On your way back to the city, stop by Buntu Burake, where you can find the tallest Christ statue. Dinner and overnight at hotel.

DAY 05

Toraja & Beyond: Toraja - Sengkang

After breakfast, drive to Sengkang located in the center of Bugis Kingdom. We will cross Tempe Lake to visit the floating village (note: Tempe Lake might be shallow in dry season due to lack of rainfall. If the lake is too shallow, we will not cross the lake). Lunch will be served at a local restaurant. Continue to Bugis Silk Weaving Center to see the making of famous traditional Bugis silk. Dinner and overnight at hotel.

DAY 06

Toraja Beyond: Sengkang – Watampone – Bira

After breakfast, drive to Bira through Watampone to visit the Museum of Andi Mappasisi to see collections of the former Bugis Royalties, with one of their famous kings, Arung Pallakka. Lunch will be served at a local restaurant. Stop by at Kajang District to see the culture of Kajang tribe. Arrive in the afternoon at Bira. Dinner and overnight at hotel.

DAY 07

Toraja & Beyond: Bira

Breakfast at hotel, afterwards free program on your own. You can do water activities such as banana boat, snorkeling or rent a boat to visit Liukang Island located opposite the main island. Liukang Island is known as the breeding place for the green turtle and you can even have a swim together with the turtles. Dinner and overnight at hotel. Note: Lunch is not included.

DAY 08

Toraja & Beyond: Bira – Makassar

After breakfast, drive to Makassar for approximately 6 hours. Stop at Tana Beru to see the famous Bugis-Makassar Phinisi boat builders. Lunch will be served at a seafood restaurant with beautiful view to the sea. Continue to Makassar, and while passing Jeneponto Regency, you will see the salt farm along the way. Entering Makassar and then transfer directly to Sultan Hasanuddin International Airport.

PLASTIC REDUCTION INITIATIVE

This initiative aims to encourage operators in the tourism industry, local residents and tourists to participate in reducing the amount of plastic waste produced in Toraja. One way we will do this is by promoting the use of refillable water bottles and reusable shopping bags.

WHY PLASTIC

Tourism in Toraja is rapidly growing and with it is increasing the amount of plastic waste. It is estimated that every year tourists use more than 2.500.000 plastic water bottles during their stay. As a tourist you can help reduce this plastic waste and protect the beauty of Toraja.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

- Use Refillable Bottles
  Look for businesses marked with this sticker
  They have water refill stations
- Use Reusable Shopping Bags

HOW THIS HELPS

- Reduces the amount of plastic waste
- Creates demand for alternatives to plastic

SMALL CHANGES MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE!

COMMUNITY BASED TOURISM (CBT)

Sesean Suloara is located in Toraja Utara about an hour drive from Rantepao upwards of Batutumonga. It is a CBT village where you can enjoy while visiting Toraja. The Manganda dancer dressing up in classical Toraja costume will welcome you in enchanting moves. Watch also the other traditional art performances in Sanggar Tari Suloara while you're there. Walking to Pana' and Lo'ko Mata, you'll find the oldest gravesite in Toraja Utara with many large rocks and picturesque rice terraces. Take your time to learn more about the culture of Torajan you can experience in this CBT.

Enjoy Toraja by standing at its highest peak in Mount Sesean. Visitors can hike up to reach the top at about 2,100 meters above sea level. Trek with a local guide or by yourself. Hiking treks are available and take about 4-5 hours to reach the stunning view of the Toraja waiting to reward you. The local community members of Sesean Suloara are now introducing the initiative of Bring Back Your Waste as a way to keep the environment clean. At the gate, you will need to pay entrance fee to Sesean Peak in return of a recycle bag for you to bring your waste back to the entrance gate. A small action to support a sustainable tourism.

The majestic view of Kandora Hill

TORAJA DMO

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.

Megalith at Batu Sura Rembon

Christ Statue at Burake

Trekking before rafting at Maiting River

WORDS THAT GET YOU (ALMOST) ANYWHERE IN TORAJA OR INDONESIA

There are so many amazing places to visit in Indonesia, so 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	INDONESIAN LANGUAGE	TORAJA LANGUAGE
Good morning	Selamat pagi ….	Salama' melambi'
Good night	Selamat malam …..	Bongi melo
How are you?	Apa kabar?	Apa Kareba
Thank you	Terima kasih	Kurre sumanga'
Yes	Ya	Iyo
No	Tidak	Taek
How much?	Berapa	Pira
Expensive	Mahal	Masuli'
Inexpensive / Cheap	Tidak mahal / Murah	Marawa
Chili	Sambal	Sambala
Food (Nouns), Meals (Nouns), Eat (Verbs)	Makan	Kande (Nouns), Kande (Nouns), Kumande (Verbs)
Where are you from?	Anda dari mana?	Umba musulei
Where are you going to?	Anda mau pergi kemana?	Umba lamuola
Can you?	Bisakah anda?	Bisa raka?
Is there? Do you have?	Apakah ada?	Den raka

www.visittoraja.com

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Toraja

DISCOVER THE SACRED HIGHLANDS

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

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Federal Departement of Economic Affairs,
Education and Research EAER
State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO

Ministry of Tourism
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