

Tana Toraja: discovery of a thousand-year-old animist culture!



Days:	10
Price:	850 EUR International flight not included
Comfort:	★★★★☆
Difficult:	★★☆☆☆
📍 Ethnic minority 📍 Culture	
📍 Fauna & Flora 📍 📍 Travel with children	

Sulawesi, also known as the Celebes Islands, is a true mosaic of peoples. Its position in the heart of the Indonesian archipelago and its strategic role in the international spice trade have made this island a crossroads of populations.

This tour allows you to discover all the cultural riches of the Toraja people, nicknamed ***"The People of the Mountains"***. It is the originality of their culture and their impressive funeral ceremonies that have made this ethnic group very famous. Add to this the very particular architecture of their boat-shaped house and the fantastic landscapes of rice fields and you will understand to what extent the Toraja country is a land of encounters, sacred rites and beauty...

In the extreme southeast of the South Sulawesi peninsula, the Bira region offers white sand beaches with turquoise and crystal clear waters which conceal colorful seabeds.

This stay offers a varied range of activities: intimate hikes, authentic encounters, original rafting adventures, cultural visits, relaxation, snorkeling... Between sea and mountains, you will discover the fascinating world of the Toraja Country.

Day 1. Arrival in Makassar and city tour



Makassar airport 📍
🚗 20km - ⌚ 40m
Makassar 📍

- Reception at Makassar airport and transfer to the hotel. Makassar is the capital of the province of South Sulawesi located on the edge of the Makassar Strait. Rest of the day free.
- At the beginning of the afternoon, visit the fish market, an essential place of life and meetings, because fish represents an important food in the culinary culture of Indonesians.

Then transfer to the port of Paotere, to admire magnificent schooners built in wood.
- You end with a visit to Fort Rotterdam, built in 1545 by Raja Tunipalangga: it was originally just an earthen rampart called "makassar". It was only in 1634 that these were reinforced with stone walls, at the request of Sultan Alaudin. The fort was later (in 1667) conquered by the Dutch and renamed "Rotterdam" (the birthplace of Speelman). Today, the fort is completely restored and even houses a small museum which traces its history.

🏠 Accommodation

Hotel

Day 2. On the way to the capital of the country Toraja



- Morning transfer to the Maros region (once discovered by Alfred Wallace), famous for its rice fields and karst peaks. Short stroll in the surrounding area and exploration of a cave almost 39,000 years old, which is full of numerous rock paintings.

Your guide also offers you a canoe ride on a river near which many species of birds live. Meetings with the local population who live in houses on stilts.

Makassar 📍
🚗 320km - ⌚ 8h
Rantepao 📍

At the end of the morning, transfer to the maritime city of Pare Pare, then you go up the Sa'Dan river, towards the mountains, through magnificent landscapes. The plain landscapes are therefore quickly replaced by thick coconut forest.

Stop en route at Bambapuang, from where you will have a view of a so-called "erotic" mountain. Arrival at Rantepao (the capital of Country Toraja) in the early evening. Installation at the hotel.

☕ Breakfast	Hotel
🏠 Accommodation	Hotel

Day 3. Funerary art



Rantepao 📍
🚗 - ⌚ 40m
Lemo 📍
🚗 - ⌚ 40m
Kete Kesu 📍
Rantepao 📍

- Today, you start with a visit to the funeral site of Lem. It is a rock wall in which balconies have been dug which house numerous figurines, called Tau Tau.
- Transfer, then, to the royal tombs of Suaya and continuation on foot to another interesting site: Tampangg'alo. In the afternoon, visit the Londa caves, at the foot of a large cliff, which shelter coffins and scattered bones.
- Easy hike to the village Kete Kusu (known for its wood carvings and rice granaries), through rice fields, villages & bamboo forest. Also discovered troglodyte tombs, and other, older, suspended ones.
- Preamble: the course of the program for the three days of exploration of the Toraja country may be adapted if a funeral celebration takes place in the region at this time. Your guide will take you to attend this ceremony and introduce you to the family of the deceased. For your information, no ritual in Toraja Country is organized for tourists: everything is absolutely authentic.

☕ Breakfast	Hotel
🏠 Accommodation	Hotel

Day 4. Excursion to the surrounding villages



Rantepao 📍

- In the morning, visit the village of **Bori**, famous for its megaliths carved into the shape of tombs, then that of **Palawa** (the largest in the region), and finally that of **Sa'dan**, renowned for its traditional textiles.
- Transfer to the wild north of the Toraja region, which offers magnificent panoramas at an altitude of 1,400 m. Easy walk around **Batutumonga** through rice fields, traditional villages and bamboo forest.
- Later, hike from Lokomata (where the tombs are carved into a giant rock) towards Mariri, during which you will have the opportunity to meet children returning from school and stop in a few knife making workshops.

Return to the hotel at the end of the afternoon.

☕ Breakfast	Hotel
🏠 Accommodation	Hotel

Day 5. Rantepao and its curiosities





Rantepao 📍

- Visit the colorful Rantepao market, where many buffaloes & pigs are offered for sale.

It is then time to attend the funeral ceremony (see Preamble).

In the afternoon, transfer to Pemancar, where you begin a lovely walk towards Salu, through rice fields and plantations (mainly coffee & cocoa).

Walking time: approximately 4 hours

 Breakfast	Hotel
 Accommodation	Hotel



Day 6. Road to Sengkang



Rantepao 
 210km - ⌚ 5h
 Sengkang 

- In the morning, we reach the charming little town of Sengkang which stretches on the banks of the Walanae River.

In the afternoon, visit traditional silk weaving workshops.

 Breakfast	Hotel
 Accommodation	Hotel



Day 7. On the waters of Lake Tempe



Sengkang 




- Early in the morning, transfer to the shores of Tempe Lake and board motorized canoes for an extraordinary discovery of this marshy lake which is home to many species of birds and where there is an astonishing lakeside village. This is the opportunity to immerse yourself in the habits and customs of the villagers, for whom time seems to have no influence.

Night in the same hotel.

 Breakfast	Hotel
 Accommodation	Hotel



Day 8. Visit to shipyards



Sengkang 
 210km - ⌚ 5h
 Bira 

- En route, visit some shipbuilding yards (in Tanaberu), renowned as the best in Indonesia. These wooden boats are assembled by carpenters who still use ancestral techniques, without a construction plan, and based solely on know-how that has been passed down from father to son for generations. These schooners, locally called Pinisi, can reach up to 30 m in length and weigh more than 200 tonnes.

Check-in at the hotel in the afternoon, by the sea.

 Breakfast	Hotel
 Accommodation	Hotel

Day 9. Relaxing day in Bira



- Free day of rest. Possibility of discovering the neighboring islands by traditional boat: emerald blue sea, white sand, snorkeling, barbecue... paradise on Earth!

Return to the hotel in the afternoon.

 Breakfast	Hotel
---	-------

Day 10. Have a good flight and see you soon!



- Free morning until transfer to the airport, via the villages of Bulukumba, Jenepono & Takalar, where you will visit salt factories.

🍽️ Breakfast

Hotel

Bira📍

🚗 - ⌚ 5h

Makassar airport📍

Departure📍

Itinerary map



Individual price per person

2-2	3-3	4-5	6-8
1150 EUR	1050 EUR	890 EUR	850 EUR

Included

- The services of a local French-speaking guide
- Land transfers (by private, air-conditioned vehicle) necessary for the smooth running of the tour
- Activities
- Accommodations in BB
- Meals as indicated in the description day by day
- Site entrances
- Mineral water and energy supplement (fruit, biscuits, etc.) during walking days

Not included

- International air travel
- Airport taxes & visas
- Drinks, personal expenses & tips
- Travel insurance & assistance
- Anything not listed in "included"