

Transulawesi



Days: 24

Price: 2350 EUR
International flight not included

Comfort: ★★★★★

Difficult: ★★★★★

🔦 Off the beaten track 🔦 Adventure
🔦 Trekking 🔦 Ethnic minority
🔦 Snorkeling

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

The **Bugis**: Indonesia's most famous and best sailors. More than 500 years ago, the Bajau, Bugi, Buton and Makassar peoples were already trading with the Australian Aborigines. Their ships, still built using traditional methods along the coast of Sulawesi, continue to criss-cross the Indonesian archipelago... from Kalimantan to Jakarta, from Makassar to the Moluccas...

The **Toraja**: "The Mountain People", it is the originality of their culture and their impressive funeral ceremonies that have made this people famous. Add to this the distinctive architecture of their boat-shaped houses and the fantastic rice paddy landscapes and you'll understand just how much the Toraja country is a land of encounters, sacred rites and beauty...

The **Minahasa**: "The land of smiling people" and volcanoes. Minahasa country is a veritable living laboratory for anyone interested in plate tectonics. Two island arcs collide, the Sangihe arc to the west and the Halmahera arc to the east, creating a unique double subduction zone.

The **volcanoes of Lokon and Mahawu** will be our favourite places of discovery... And let's not forget the Tangkoko wildlife reserve, home to a diverse and unique fauna including the smallest mammal on the planet, the Tarsius, and the Bunaken islands, with some of the richest seabed in Asia.

Bugi, Toraja and Minahasa will share with you the richness and diversity of their environment and above all, like a gift from heaven, their tremendous and radiant joy of living, loving, laughing and singing...

Day 1. Welcome to Celebes



Makassar airport 📍
🚗 - ⌚ 40m
Makassar 📍

- Your English-speaking guide meets you at Makassar airport and transfers you to your hotel. The rest of the day is free.

🍴 Dinner	Dalton Hotel or Harper Hotel
🏠 Accommodation	Dalton Hotel or Harper Hotel

Day 2. Shipyards



Makassar 📍

- Drive to Bira, on the western tip of the island. On the way, visit the shipbuilding yards (mainly in Tanaberu). Renowned for supplying the best wooden boats in Sulawesi and probably Indonesia, the carpenters still use ancestral techniques without any construction plans, relying solely on know-how passed down from father to son. The "pinisi" schooners (large cargo ships) can be over 30 metres long and weigh almost 200 tonnes. Afternoon relaxation by the sea, and a visit to traditional Bugi houses where ikat is woven.

☕ Breakfast	Dalton Hotel or Harper Hotel
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🚗 210km - ⌚ 5h
Bira 📍

🍴 Lunch

Included

🍷 Dinner

Included

🏠 Accommodation

Bara Beach Hotel or Same Resort

Day 3. To the Bugis country



Bira 📍
🚗 210km - ⌚ 5h
Sengkang 📍

- Free morning (possibility of snorkelling) before setting off again for Sengkang, situated on the shores of Lake Tempe, a paradise and refuge for hundreds of birds (350km² in area but barely 5 metres deep). En route, visit to rubber plantations.

☕ Breakfast

Bara Beach Hotel or Same Resort

🍴 Lunch

Included

🏠 Accommodation

BBC Hotel or Pondok Eka

Day 4. Tempe Lake



Sengkang 📍
🚗 210km - ⌚ 5h
Rantepao 📍

- At daybreak, set off in a long motorised pirogue to discover the riches of Lake Tempe and its birdlife: dozens of egrets, herons, etc. take to the skies as our boat makes its way through the astonishing vegetation that closes in behind you.
- Meet the fishermen who live permanently on the lake in floating bamboo houses (in August, you can attend the "Maccera Tappareng" festival to purify the waters of the lake).
- Back in Sengkang, visit the silk weaving workshops before taking the splendid mountain road to Rantepao, the capital of Toraja country.

☕ Breakfast

BBC Hotel or Pondok Eka

🍴 Lunch

Included

🍷 Dinner

Included

🏠 Accommodation

Toraja Misiliana Hotel

Day 5. Toraja country



Rantepao 📍

- A visit to the pig and buffalo market is your first introduction to the astonishing world of the Toraja people. Then on to the sites of Lemo, Suaya, Kete, Londa, Bri and Tampang Allo, for an in-depth look at the special relationship between the Toraja and death... Opportunity to attend an impressive funeral ceremony (very frequent).

☕ Breakfast

Toraja Misiliana Hotel

🍴 Lunch

Included

🍷 Dinner

Included

🏠 Accommodation

Toraja Misiliana Hotel

Day 6. Immersion



Rantepao
🚗 - ⌚ 30m
Batutumonga

- Morning transfer to the hilltop village of Batutumonga (1,300 m), which you reach after a superb walk through terraced rice fields. Many encounters with the local people. Overnight in a boat-shaped Toraja house.

☕ Breakfast	Toraja Misiliana Hotel
🍴 Lunch	Included
🍷 Dinner	Included
🏠 Accommodation	Homestay

Day 7. Immersion



Batutumonga
- ⌚ 7h
Karonanga

- A full day's trek through rice paddies and bamboo forests. Discover the surprising use of bamboo in typical Toraja cuisine. Visit a number of Toraja villages.

☕ Breakfast	Included
🍴 Lunch	Included
🍷 Dinner	Included
🏠 Accommodation	Homestay

Day 8. Back to Rantepao



Karonanga
- ⌚ 5h
Rantepao

- Another day of trekking before returning to Rantepao.

☕ Breakfast	Included
🍴 Lunch	Included
🍷 Dinner	Included
🏠 Accommodation	Toraja Misiliana Hotel

Day 9. Rafting



Rantepao

- The day is devoted to rafting along the beautiful Sa'dan river: another way to discover the riches of the Toraja.

☕ Breakfast	Toraja Misiliana Hotel
🍴 Lunch	Included
🍷 Dinner	Included
🏠 Accommodation	Toraja Misiliana Hotel

Day 10. To Central Sulawesi



Rantepao 📍
🚗 - ⌚ 9h
Tentena 📍

- Long drive towards central Sulawesi to Pendolo, situated south of Lake Poso. This immense lake, 323 km2 in area, is one of the deepest on the planet (450m) and its waters are considered to be among the purest in the world (their temperature is almost constant - around 26-30° whatever the depth).

☕ Breakfast	Toraja Misiliana Hotel
🍴 Lunch	Included
🍷 Dinner	Included
🏠 Accommodation	Siury Cottage

Day 11. Around Poso Lake



Tentena 📍
- ⌚ 2h
Lake Poso 📍
Tentena 📍

- The day is devoted to orchid hunting in the forests surrounding the lake and, with a little luck, you may catch a glimpse of two endemic and extremely rare animals: the Anoa (small forest deer) and the Babiroussa (deer pig).
- Back at the hotel, you can take a dip in the warm waters of the lake (but be warned: local legend has it that there is a Loch Ness-type monster in the lake...).

☕ Breakfast	Siury Cottage
🍴 Lunch	Included
🍷 Dinner	Included
🏠 Accommodation	Siury Cottage

Day 12. Lore Lindu National Park



Tentena 📍
- ⌚ 5h
Bada Valley 📍

- By 4x4, you will reach the Lore Lindu Park. This 2,290 km2 park has been classified as a biosphere reserve by the United Nations. Located between 200m and 2,620m above sea level, it is home to a particularly rich fauna. As well as 227 species of bird, including the Red Rhinoceros Hornbill (the largest on the planet), you can also meet the very discreet Anoa or the very rare Babiroussa, not forgetting the "cuscus" (opossum), the giant civet and 3 species of tarsiers (the smallest mammal on the planet...).

☕ Breakfast	Siury Cottage
🍴 Lunch	Included
🍷 Dinner	Included
🏠 Accommodation	Homestay

Day 13. Bada Valley



Bada Valley 📍

- A day full of discoveries: wildlife and the strange giant megaliths (4m high) of the Bada valley. Along the Laliang river, these marks of the past are still unexplained... These statues seem to watch over the surrounding villages and their inhabitants.

☕ Breakfast	Included
🍴 Lunch	Included
🍷 Dinner	Included
🏠 Accommodation	Homestay

Day 14. To Ampana



Bada Valley 📍
- ⌚ 5h
Tentena 📍
🚗 - ⌚ 4h
Ampana 📍

- Return by 4x4 to Tentana, then, after lunch on the shores of Lake Poso, transfer to Ampana. Overnight by the sea, facing the immense Gulf of Tomini and the Moluccan Sea.

☕ Breakfast	Included
🍴 Lunch	Included
🍷 Dinner	Included
🏠 Accommodation	Marina Cottage

Day 15. To paradise



Ampana 📍
- ⌚ 4h
Togian islands 📍

- In the early morning, board a speed ferry bound for the Togian Islands.

☕ Breakfast	Marina Cottage
🍴 Lunch	Included
🍷 Dinner	Included
🏠 Accommodation	Fadhila Cottages

Day 16-17. Togian islands



Togian islands 📍

- The Togian Islands are an archipelago of 56 islands and islets, 30 km south of Ecuador, in the Bay of Tomini. Emerging from volcanic activity, the islands are covered in tropical forest and bordered by coral reefs. The average water temperature is 31 °C and underwater visibility reaches 40 to 50 metres. The marine and terrestrial ecosystems have remained untouched and wild, which is extremely rare. The coasts and coral reefs form an excellent habitat for many wild animals specific to the Togians, such as turtles, dugongs, macaques, parrots and babirusa boars. At the heart of this paradise live 37 villages from different ethnic cultures, including the Bobongko, Togian, Saluan and Bajau, known as the sea nomads. These two days are devoted to exploring this little paradise: Unauna and its active volcano Colo, Malengue and its wildlife, the Bajau villages and, of course, the underwater world of great beauty.

☕ Breakfast	Fadhila Cottages
	Fadhila Cottages

🍴 Lunch	Included
🍷 Dinner	Included
🏠 Accommodation	Fadhila Cottages

Day 18. To Gorontalo



Togian islands 📍
- ⌚ 11h
Gorontalo 📍

- Departure by speed-ferry to Gorontalo. Transfer to hotel on arrival.

☕ Breakfast	Fadhila Cottages
🍴 Lunch	Included
🍷 Dinner	Included
🏠 Accommodation	Hotel

Day 19. To Manado



Gorontalo 📍
🚗 - ⌚ 9h
Manado 📍
🚗 - ⌚ 1h
Tomohon 📍

- Early morning departure for Manado, the capital of North Sulawesi.
- Continue on to Tomohon, a small mountain town in the heart of the subduction volcanoes of the Sangihe Arc. Settle into a magnificent lodge nestling in the middle of an extraordinary garden facing 3 active volcanoes: Soputan, Lokon and Mahawu.

☕ Breakfast	Hotel
🍴 Lunch	Included
🍷 Dinner	Included
🏠 Accommodation	Minahasa Highland Resort

Day 20. Volcanoes & lake



Tomohon 📍
- ⌚ 5h
Mahawu 📍
🚗 - ⌚ 1h
Tomohon 📍

- Easy ascent of the Mahawu volcano and discovery of its acid lake (superb view of the Lokon volcano, the Minahasa region and the tip of the island of Sulawesi). Descent and route to the Tandano caldera lake. Visit to an "ikan mas" fish farm and lunch in a traditional restaurant on the shores of the lake. Return to Tomohon and climb the active Lokon volcano (approx. 1h30). Depending on volcanic activity, it may be possible to descend to the bottom of the crater.

☕ Breakfast	Minahasa Highland Resort
🍴 Lunch	Included
🍷 Dinner	Included
🏠 Accommodation	Minahasa Highland Resort

Day 21. Minahasa Country & Tangkoko National Park



Tomohon
 - 2h 30m
Tangkoko

- Morning transfer to Tangkoko National Park. Stops en route to visit a Minahasa cottage construction site, then to discover the animist Waruga tombs.
- In the afternoon, trek through the national park to get close to the endemic fauna: black macaques, hornbills and the park's star attraction: the fragile Tarsius (the smallest mammal on the planet).

Breakfast	Minahasa Highland Resort
Lunch	Included
Dinner	Included
Accommodation	Tangkoko Hills Hotel

Day 22. Superb beaches at Pulisan

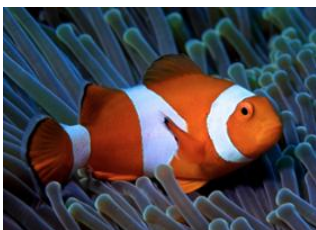


Tangkoko
 - 1h
Pulisan

- Morning transfer to the superb beaches of Pulisan (the most beautiful in North Sulawesi), and accommodation in a hotel whose owner has set up an original eco-tourism initiative with the local population.
- A day of snorkelling around the Bangga Islands.

Breakfast	Tangkoko Hills Hotel
Lunch	Included
Dinner	Included
Accommodation	Pulisan Beach Resort

Day 23. Rest



Pulisan

- Free day to enjoy the pleasures of the sea and the most beautiful white sand beach in North Sulawesi. Many other activities are also possible: walking, fishing, snorkelling, diving, etc.

Breakfast	Pulisan Beach Resort
Lunch	Included
Dinner	Included
Accommodation	Pulisan Beach Resort

Day 24. See you soon in Sulawesi



Pulisan
 - 2h
Manado

- Free time until transfer to the airport.

Breakfast	Pulisan Beach Resort
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Itinerary map



Individual price per person

2-2	3-3	4-5	6-7	8-10	SS
3295 EUR	2995 EUR	2650 EUR	2595 EUR	2350 EUR	650 EUR

Included

- English-speaking guide
- Ground transfers in private air-conditioned vehicle
- Sea transfers
- Rafting
- Full board accommodation
- Site entrance fees, trekking permits & donations
- Mineral water and energy supplements on walking days

Not included

- International & domestic air
- Insurance & assistance
- Visas & airport taxes
- Drinks, personal expenses & tips
- Anything not mentioned in "Inclusions".