Tourism Information For North Sulawesi
To Our Visitors

Thanks for picking up our magazine. It always heartens us when we see the stock is being depleted quickly. For your information all back issues for the last nine years are available on line at http://www.manadosafaris.com/wh.php

Returning recently from a trade show in Singapore, I was particularly happy to see that the plane was almost full!! Being a travel agent this certainly makes me feel that someone is doing their job. Those somebodies are overseas travel agents, local resorts promoting overseas as well as the central, provincial and city governments. However, we do feel that in some respects the governments are not doing the job to their fullest extent, we know this and hence apologize for what you might view as TRASH. Humans tend to be their own worst enemy when it comes to the environment and North Sulawesi is no exception. We know there is a problem, the city of Manado took steps a few years ago to try and solve the trash problem in the streets, they did a fairly good job. But we (you and the local resorts, dive operators, travel agents) need to keep the pressure on!

SO HERE IS WHAT WE WOULD ASK YOU TO DO, IF YOU SEE UNACCEPTABLE LEVELS OF PLASTIC IN THE WATER, STREETS OR BEACHES, PLEASE SEND ME AN EMAIL TO JEREMY@MANADOSAFARIS.COM- WE WILL PASS ON YOUR COMMENTS TO GOVERNMENT.

We hope that you will let us know what you saw!!

Sampai Jumpa Lagi (see you again)

Best regards,
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Editor: What's Happening

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In Memorium
It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to Mama Roos the pioneer of Tangkoko Homestays. Born in 1951 as Roos Masung, she came to be known to many of us as Mama Roos. She passed away April 16 after a long illness. She is survived by her husband and three sons.

Cover Photo
Ugiek Giyarto
Institution: Macaca nigra Project (DPZ-IPB-UNSRAT)
Camera Details: Canon EOS 5D Mark I
Lenses: Canon USM II 1.8: 50 mm

Table: Garuda Indonesia Schedule

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Garuda Indonesia
Diving Sulawesi

Every diver has a different opinion on where “the best diving” is to be found but some names crop up with more regularity than others. “Muck diving in the Lembeh Straits” is generally near the top of any list and surprisingly not a lot more expensive than a Red Sea live aboard. I decided to take the plunge. I knew little about Lembeh except that it had some of the best Critter diving in the world. I started to research the internet in earnest and was surprised at the variety of diving in Sulawesi. On the one side of the island the fantastic “macro” critters promised by Lembeh are a must but now my appetite was wetted by the other side of the island: Bunaken National Marine Park. I hadn’t heard of Bunaken before but as I read about the spectacular corals and bio diversity I knew I had to go there too.

As an experienced dive traveller, I started to put my tour together using the Internet. I have long ceased to be a back packer and wanted to have the extra comforts middle age demands. I found the vast choice confusing and the photos and write ups made the back packer lodges look as inviting as the 5* hotels. Luckily I stumbled across Jeremy, an EX manager of some of the hotels who with his wife has set up Safari Tours. Their web site is an excellent resource showing the different dive sites and hotels available and their staff were extremely helpful, friendly and patient. My intentions to save money and book directly with the hotels were waived when I found Safari Tours price was the same. I would thoroughly recommend them to any confused traveller. My final, yet considerable remaining concerns, using a Bank transfer to pay, where laid to rest as all the hotels confirmed they knew and recommended Safari Tours & Travel. Each hotel also confirmed he had made provisional bookings with them for me and the vouchers for all aspects of the trip soon arrived.

A couple of months later, on a hot and sunny day in May, I arrived for my 4 days stay at Kima Bajo Resort and Spa. The resort was fantastic, nestled on the side of a hill overlooking Bunaken and shaded by a forest of coconut trees. My bungalow heaven with a large soft bed, crisp white linen turned down each night and a bathroom with a Balinese bath.
The menu choice at the hotel was small but freshly cooked and very tasty. The service was excellent. Kima Bajo provided more luxury than I expected and surprisingly didn't cost much more than the lesser quality resorts and considerably less than a live aboard. Kima Bajo offer excellent value diving packages, using Eco Divers, who are located in the hotel grounds.

The next days diving confirmed I had made the right choices. The distance of most hotels from Bunaken means diving from a large day boat, but Kima Bajo is so close that you return to the hotel for lunch. It also means you get the luxury of diving in smaller groups (4 guests to each guide). Eco Divers rustled me up an amazing variety of dives but drifting along the deep walls will be my abiding memory. I couldn't resist 5 dives a day, and the diversity of life and coral was staggering. Within no time I was ticking off Rhinopius scorpion fish and Mimic octopus but perhaps the most memorable was the Orangutan crab. The first one I saw sat there, like a comical small plastic toy. All too soon the days passed. My morning dives completed, I ate lunch and climbed into the Safari Tours mini-van for my transfer to Kungkungan Bay Resort (known affectionately to most as KBR Lembeh). Making the most of the transfer, Safari Tours, had arranged it to include a local tour. The wooden houses where OK and the market interesting (I could have done without seeing the BBQ'd dogs) but the Tangkoko Nature Reserve was worth every minute. Getting within a couple of feet of an eating Tarsier (the world's smallest primate) and watching them flick through the branches was awe inspiring. Well worth missing the afternoon dive for.

Arriving at KBR I was escorted to one of the huge beachfront traditional houses which was tastefully decorated, comfortable and situated steps from the black-sand beach, it offered beautiful views of the strait and the island of Lembeh. Kungkungan Bay also offers a beautiful restaurant, with the same view, that offers a huge choice of mouth watering food.
Like some of the hotels in North Sulawesi, KBR has its own “house reef”. I must say it is well protected and excellent. You can dive it any time but I found it great to return from a dive and de-gass at 5m finishing off my cylinder. I saw both a blue ringed and mimic octopus right there on the house reef.

Nothing I can say about the diving at Lembeh can describe the pure adrenalin of the dives. I rolled in for the first time and said to myself “OH GOD! This was a mistake” but then almost immediately I found out that I couldn’t have been more wrong. The visibility is poor for blue water (10 to 15 m). The bottom sand is a sludgy brown and there is a lot of rubbish littering the bottom. Don’t be surprised to see the odd bicycle. The critters must love it though because they are every where. Within a few minutes the dive guides (who must have eyes to rival an eagle) started to call us over. There was barely enough time to see it and take a photo before the dive guide found the next odd

continued to page 27...
Send in the Clowns

Everyone loves clownfish, or anemonefish, as they are more accurately known. Vibrantly colorful, living in the gently waving tentacles of various shapes and shades of anemones, they are as “cuddly” as a fish could possibly be. The rousing success of the film “Finding Nemo” attests to the popularity of this aquatic creature; the film promoted respect for our seas, but a sad side effect was that more people wanted their own “Nemo”, thus providing a large boost to the questionable aquarium trade worldwide. Certain species of anemonefish are matched with specific species of anemones. If the fish darts into the wrong species of anemone, it will fall prey and die as any other fish would. When young, the fish must build an immunity to the nematocysts (spring-loaded stinging cells) and toxins of their host anemone. It is not certain how this occurs, but one theory is that the mucous layer on the
fish protects it by being sugar-based rather than protein-based, so the anemone does not recognize it as prey and thus the stinging cells do not fire on contact. With this adaptation, the symbiotic relationship between the two creatures can flourish: the anemone providing protection and food for the fish and the fish keeping the anemone clean and free from possibly harmful invertebrates and dead tentacles as well as improving water circulation around the anemone from their active swimming.

Besides being attractive and photogenic, anemonefish have some very cool skills. All anemonefish are born male. In each anemone there exists a dominant mating pair and a number of smaller males who are not necessarily juveniles as the adult pair somehow hinder the growth of the others that live with them. If a dominant female disappears or dies, the dominant male will change sex and become female, while the next largest of the males will take over the lead male role.

In normal reef life, anemones exists amongst the coral, so besides having the stinging tentacles providing a safe haven from predation, alarmed anemonefish can retreat into a recess in the reef or within the arms of branching corals if in need of sanctuary. In Lembeh Strait, where divers...
spend much of their time away from the reef, encountering anemonefish out on open sand or rubble, our clown friends have developed a number of interesting adaptations to compensate for the lack of shelter.

I have read that at least one species of anemonefish in Lembeh, the spine-cheeked, has been recorded as the largest that exist. Size is a deterrent, but strength in numbers is even better and if you add heightened aggressive tendencies to the mix, these little cuties can actually be very formidable. Any diver in this area invariably comments on the “savage” anemonefish, though some species are more belligerent than others. The dominant pair race out to snap at any passing intruder, being diver or fish. They can be quite a pest, banging into a diver’s regulator or scalp, sometimes even catching skin and when that happens, they bite and shake as a dog would, causing a small, but ragged tear which often becomes infected, usually on a finger of a diver who decided to “play” with the ‘friendly’ fish. If this happens to a diver, they quickly learn to avoid these hostile species, or at least let somebody else approach an anemone first, as the leader is the one attacked; followers are seldom harassed.

Besides the predators that are obvious, many anemonefish fall prey to a parasitic isopod that latches on to their tongue and eventually grow large enough to choke the hapless host to death. If you look into the mouth of an anemonefish and see a small pair of black eyes looking out, possibly more, with a sort of happy face shape, then you are spotting this parasite. I have seen anywhere up to three isopods in the mouth of a single fish.

Another pest, at least in Lembeh Strait, is the beautiful banggai cardinalfish, which is in fact an introduced species in the area, either accidentally or on purpose from when Bitung was a relay point of fish captured in the Banggai Islands of Central Sulawesi and heading towards the pet stores of foreign lands. The trade died down when it was learned that the species breed easily in captivity, but the legacy of the supply line exists in Lembeh as these fish prefer to live around sea urchins and anemones for protection, and in the case of anemones, they often evict the original resident anemonefish when they move in. So there is much to appreciate in the anemonefish. Certainly more than meets the eye beyond the cartoon “Nemo” stereotype.

Contributed by:
Bruce Moore
www.blacksanddive.com
Grass roof initiative, yes it could also be said “grass roots” initiative, read on; North Sulawesi’s first and only grass roof home industry is one of the many projects of the Pulisan Village Development Fund. Here are some of the benefits of this newly developed home industry, it generates income in one of the poorer regions of the province, it helps to prevent annual fires and lastly it is a great natural roofing material previously undiscovered and underutilized, while lasting up to 15 years.

A background: vast stretches along the Minahasa northern shore and the offshore islands are covered by tertiary elephant grass (imperata cylindrica) vegetation which burns down annually during the dry season. It is either set alight on purpose by villagers (for farming) or accidentally caused by friction, carelessly dumped cigarette butts and gardening fires which got out of hand. The uncontrolled fires often harm fringe forest areas and its fauna. North Sulawesi, also known as the Wallacea fauna region, unlike Borneo, hosts a huge variety of small mammals like the black crested Sulawesi macaque and the tiny tarsier, reptiles and birds, as well as marsupials like the bear cuscus which cannot move fast enough to escape fires. The fires are also a contributory factor to haze and add negatively to global climate change.

Many farmers along the coast still use the archaic and damaging slash and burn technique (for farming) whereas poor soils and a long drought from June to November further limit farming possibilities. Fishing can be seasonal and uncertain. Additional job opportunities are scarce except for day labor in the building sector and jobs in the tourism industry.

Giving Something Back

As a courtesy we have re-run this story as the picture in the previous issue was incorrect.
As we had been operating the Pulisan Jungle Beach resort for more than a decade, we started thinking about ways to help the villagers get out of the circle limited choices of employment. We decided to try and establish a grass roof home industry in Pulisan Village. It began back in 2008 when trying to order a grass roof for our kindergarten, a part of the Pulisan Jungle Beach Resort Village Development Program. North Sulawesi is a bit different from Bali and Lombok which had long developed the art of grass roof architecture. This material was not used before in North Sulawesi.

It began when I tried to persuade the villagers to thatch the newly donated kindergarten building with grass elements, they were more than reluctant though and argued a grass roof would be primitive and prone to burn down during the long dry season. It took several tries and quite a bit of convincing before they finally agreed to take over the technique from a trainer, from Lombok. It was only after the first grass roof elements had been paid for, that public opinion changed and all of a sudden the whole village, old and young, men and women, participated eagerly cutting grass and bamboo, sorting, combing, and sewing. Hence a new “grass roots/roof” industry was born!!

By the end April 2008 our pilot project, the village kindergarten “Kasih Ibu” of Pulisan
sub-village Kinunang was thatched with more than 1000 grass elements. Further orders came from a private owner from Jakarta who built a pendopo at Long Beach. In September 2009 we had the Pulisan Jungle Beach Resort’s main building thatched with this new product. The learning process has been completed and the community hopes for orders from outside the village began.

The Pulisan Jungle Beach Development Project currently operates two kindergartens, two village health posts, finances a university program in child education for two kindergarten trainers, a university program in health for two nurses. Over the years the fund has provided scholarships for more than 65 village children. Currently, nine villagers attend university programs in Manado, Tondano and Tomohon. In 2008 the first girl (from our village) graduated from the Underwater Eco Tourism Program of the Polytechnical University in Manado.

Contributed by: Katrin Weise, Pulisan Jungle Beach Resort
info@pulisanresort-sulawesi.com
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Fine Diving in the Lembeh Strait

A resort with no climbing, from your room to the restaurant to the dive centre. The only climbing is into and out of the boats. A private jetty with camera rinse tanks and hot showers, camera charging room. An air conditioned bar, swimming pool with the Tepi Leuit spa for total relaxation. Internet access free to all our guests, we have WIFI hot spots available throughout the resort. Restaurant service is available 24-hours a day.

Come for an above comparison journey
Among the variety of biodiverse delights that one can discover in North Sulawesi, lives a primate that deserves recognition for its unique character and important status within the forests of this area. The Sulawesi black crested macaque - Macaca nigra, (or known locally as “Yaki”) is a black monkey, characterized by its prominent head crest and pink, heart shaped bottom. They live in hierarchical mixed-sex groups, supervised by one dominant and majestic alpha male. Possessing bundles of charisma, they are a pleasure to observe in their natural surroundings, whether foraging for food, grooming, playing, squabbling or just relaxing during an afternoon nap. Tangkoko Nature Reserve is the easiest and most accessible place to see these dynamic animals, with a couple of groups that are accustomed to the presence of researchers and visiting nature lovers. It may take some patience, perseverance and determination to find them, but it is well worth the effort, particularly considering they are currently under severe threat of extinction.

Selamatkan Yaki!

Save the Macaque!
The Yaki is one of 7 macaque species endemic to Sulawesi, each species inhabiting a distinct region across the island. All macaques are threatened by extinction due to rapid habitat degradation and deforestation. Unfortunately for the Yaki, it is also extensively hunted. Its geographical range lies within Sulawesi Utara province, a predominantly Christian area which is not constrained by religious prohibition of wildlife consumption. In fact, historically Yaki have been considered a delicacy and eaten during Christian festivals, like Christmas, but this might be changing.

The combined pressures of being hunted for food, poached for the pet trade and losing habitat through extensive logging, has caused a rapid decline in the Yaki population. Census data has shown that the population has declined by 85% in under 20 years; in 1980 there were 300 animals/km², but by 1998 this had dropped to 26 animals/km². Today it is thought that there are less than 3 animals/km², confined to pockets of remaining prime forest areas including Tangkoko Nature Reserve. In 2008 the conservation status of Yaki was ‘upgraded’ from ‘Endangered’ to ‘Critically Endangered’ (the last step before ‘Extinction’); according to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.
However, it’s not all doom and gloom! Selamatkan Yaki (‘Save the Macaque’) is an integrated conservation programme working with local and international stakeholders to try and alleviate the current threats to this species’ future survival. Through a combination of initiatives including education, local awareness raising, research, sustainable development and the development of ecotourism, it is hoped that Yaki can be protected for future generations and become recognised as a valuable and unique flagship, highlighting the wealth and diversity of the flora and fauna in North Sulawesi.

As a valued visitor to North Sulawesi, we ask you to give your support to the conservation of this area. Much of the wildlife in this region of Sulawesi Utara is endangered and despite it being illegal to hunt, you still might find a selection of exotic species for sale in the local markets, including the occasional macaque. We ask you NOT to
entertain local dealers or buy any animals dead or alive; unfortunately buying live animals, even with the intention of releasing them, encourages further hunting. Also, if you do want to see these wonderful animals in their natural surroundings at Tangkoko, please respect their vulnerability by keeping a good distance from the macaques and not feeding them (even if encouraged) and do not leave litter. This is for your safety as well as the animals. Enjoy the unique beauty of Sulawesi and help us to ensure that it continues to thrive. “Take nothing but photos, leave nothing but footprints, kill nothing but time...”

Contributed by: Helen Sampson
Email: helen.selamatkanyaki@gmail.com
Selamatkan Yaki Field Project Manager
Pacific Institute
Sulawesi, the largest island in the bio-geographical region of Wallacea, contains many endemic species, including 7 species of macaque (old world cheek-pouch monkeys) not found elsewhere. One of these, the North Sulawesi endemic "Sulawesi Black Crested Macaque" (Macaca nigra), locally referred to as "Yaki", was listed in 2010 as being critically endangered (meaning there is a 50% chance they will be extinct within 5 years) with currently only a few thousand individuals left here in the wild. Their forest habitats are fragmented into a number of small, genetically unsustainable populations, isolated by the development of roads, villages, plantations, factories and mining activities. Founded in 2001, by Linneke Syennie Watoelangkow and her husband Dr. Willie Smits, the Masarang Foundation has set out to restore the balance with nature in the Minahasan Highlands with a variety of approaches to nature conservation. Part of which is the restoration of forests. Here as one example, Gunung Masarang has been reforested, rich with food plants for wildlife such as the Yaki, and surrounded by a belt of sugar palms and other trees in silviculture (farming mixed in a natural forest) on the lower slopes that provides food and income for the local people as well as restoring watershed for the agriculture on the plains. The farmers get access to the land, organic farming methods and a factory to sell their sugar juice to (along with many other social benefits from the Masarang Foundation) in exchange for their commitment to protect the forests from logging and hunting. Tasikoki Wildlife Rescue Centre, a project of the Masarang Foundation, has been rehabilitating macaques confiscated from the illegal wildlife trade ready for release at this site. The recent group of Yaki were moved to Gunung Masarang on 17th January 2011, where they are now undergoing habituation to the forest, a process whereby they need to learn their new territory and the food sources available to them. This is important, to ensure that the macaques do not immediately disperse into human settlements. The
raptors were confiscated from traders and, following many years in captivity, underwent a long period of rehabilitation and training to catch their own prey at Tasikoki prior to qualifying for reintroduction to the wild. In all cases, much effort and resources are required to enable such releases and Tasikoki is still seeking sponsorship to achieve its aims.

Is the animal fit to go back to the wild? Does it carry the next group of macaques at Tasikoki is ready to follow as soon as the research camp is ready and further release sites are being investigated also. Suitable forests remaining for this species are few and far between, and a combination of forest restoration work and arrested development near key habitat areas will be required.

Also under rehabilitation at Tasikoki are a number of birds, including a pair of Brahminy kites (Haliastur indus), which were released at Tasikoki beach by the BKSDA (Balai Konservasi Sumber Daya Alam) chief together with the Governor of North Sulawesi and the Bupati of North Minahasa on 2nd February 2011. These continued to page 24 . . .
Reminiscence of an ELF

Many divers travel through the town of Gorontalo on their way to and from other places. Few stay longer than is necessary to catch the ferry to the Togean Islands or a ride to Manado. However, those who choose to linger in Gorontalo discover that this small town is full of charms – and the diving is phenomenal.

I arrived in Gorontalo last fall to teach English at Universitas Negeri Gorontalo as part of a U.S. government teaching program and my first few months here were not easy. Knowing only a few scant phrases of the Indonesian language, I struggled to navigate my way around town by bentor. I was oblivious to the magnificent scenery of mountains, palm trees and rice paddies as I tried to adjust to my new job and make my university sponsored house feel like home. In fact, I spent my first couple of months here wondering what exactly I had gotten myself into.

Slowly and almost imperceptibly though, Gorontalo cast its spell on me. Maybe it started with my first succulent bite of grilled fish with the fresh local salsa of tomatoes, onions, chili peppers and coconut oil known as dabu-dabu iris or my first spoonful of the delicious local corn chowder called milu siram. Or maybe it was during one magical evening when the entire town of Gorontalo was transformed into a sea of twinkling lights during a unique light festival known as Tumbilotohe that marks the end of Ramadan and the beginning of the Idul Fitri holidays. Small oil-filled bottles laid out in carefully designed geometric patterns illuminated the entrance of nearly every home, office and mosque in town and overflowed into the streets and vacant fields. Even the boats in the river were aglow with lanterns. The effect was breathtaking.

Lion Air has daily flights from Manado to Gorontalo, which can connect with international Silk Air flights. For on-line tickets, log on to: http://www2.lionair.co.id/

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Recommended Hotels:
- Quality Hotel & Gorontalo Oasis Hotel
Meeting Rantje Allen, a fellow American who runs Miguel's Diving in Gorontalo, took my appreciation of the town to a whole new level. Newly certified with only seven dives to my name when we first met, I figured diving would be a nice way to spend the occasional weekend while I was posted in town. Little did I realize then how much discovering diving in Gorontalo would influence the rest of my fellowship year. I lived for the weekends during dive season and also recruited fellow American divers posted in Limboto, Manado, and Makassar to join me. Our logs are now full of Gorontalo dives. So, what exactly makes diving here so special?

First of all, Miguel's Diving is a small operation — there's one dive boat, one divemaster and no waterfront resort — but Miguel's more than makes up for that by treating every diver as a special guest. Having dived these waters for more than ten years, Rantje is a treasure trove of information about everything from local fishing methods to the best time of the month to see whale sharks.

Meanwhile, his local dive guide, Yunis, is an expert at finding small critters and will take divers directly down to a specific sea fan to photograph Denise pygmy seahorses. Rantje is also the only divemaster I've encountered who dives with a writing slate and is quick to jot down not only the names of all sorts of curious creatures but also background information such as whether a fish is endemic to Tomini Bay.

Moreover, I really respect the fact that he is mindful of the marine environment and goes out of his way to remove discarded fishing lines and rice sacks that threaten the coral. Diving with Rantje is like diving with your own personal marine naturalist — and a funny one at that. He uses his writing slate for jokes almost as much as he does for fish identification.

Another thing I love about diving in Gorontalo is you never know what the day will bring — pygmy manta rays, black tip reef sharks, a family of bumphead parrotfish, a close encounter with a hawksbill turtle, a rare blue sea fan at 40 meters, a massive banded sea krait, boxer crabs or baby barracuda. It's all here. You can dive walls, pinnacles, wrecks, muck, and caverns. And the adventures don't just stop with the diving. The trips out to the dive sites and the surface intervals are equally rewarding. You might enjoy watching a pod of Risso's dolphins play around the boat during a surface interval. Or you might see a large water monitor lizard going for a swim when the boat is anchored at a cave. Or when you pull into the picturesque fishing village of Olele to eat your lunch of tuna and dabu-dabu, you just might see some local fishermen hauling in a 62-kilogram yellowfin tuna. And if you're very lucky, at the end of a long day of diving, you might even see a whale shark as the boat is heading back to the dock. Keep your fins and camera ready so you can jump right back in!

Contributed by Julianne Reynolds
English Language Fellow, Universitas Negeri Gorontalo (formerly) & Graduate School of University of Gadjah Mada, Jogjakarta (currently). For more of Julianne's adventures in Gorontalo and elsewhere, visit: http://julianne-in-indonesia.blogspot.com

Photo credit: Julianne admires a Salvador Dali sponge courtesy of Hendra Tan
www.gorontalotourism.info
YOUR DAILY LEISURE...

NOVOTEL MANADO GOLF RESORT & CONVENTION CENTER

It's sunset approaching while I lounge at poolside overlooking a lush green golf course with a back drop of Kiabat Mountain and swaying coconut trees.
It's the night before I head back home, and I am quietly reminiscing the past week. Diving in Bunaken, a marine park of unbelievable beauty, visiting hot springs in Tondano, visiting Tarsius at Tangkoko the smallest of all mammals.

Yes you’ve guessed it, I am in Manado, north Sulawesi staying at the newest hotel; Novotel Manado Golf Resort & Convention Center. Of course I also spoil myself while I was here with daily Spa treatments from InBalance Spa. Enjoyed poolside breakfast from Square, evening of Teppanyaki at Wasabi, follow by Jazz sounds in Lokon Wine and Cigar. A nightcap on the balcony before falling into a wonderful deep sleep.

Please keep my room for me next month, I will be back again for sure.

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Tangkoko Conservation Education Programme

“Learn from nature, act for nature!”

In the village of Batu Putih, a new exciting programme has been launched to raise the environmental awareness of the local youth, with one aim: protecting one of the jewels of North Sulawesi, the Tangkoko-Duasudara-Batuangus Nature Reserve.

The Tangkoko Nature Reserve is situated approximately 60 kilometres from Manado and is a unique area, home to many animal species. Apart from a number of interesting birds, you can see the crested macaque and the spectral tarsier, both primates that are only found in North Sulawesi. Several villages surround the reserve, such as Batu Putih which is the closest to the main entrance of the reserve and is frequently visited by tourists. Therefore, the reserve regularly witnesses close contact between the local population, tourists and wild animals. Consequently, despite the fact that it is a protected area, many threats endanger the animals, such as habitat destruction, illegal logging and hunting.

Increasing the awareness of both the local population and tourists is essential to protect the animals that live in Tangkoko, many of which...
are threatened by extinction. This aim requires long term vision. Who will take care of the reserve and its problems after us? The answer is the next generation: the children and youngsters.

This is why, since January 2011, an agreement has been made between the Macaca Nigra Project in Tangkoko (a research project studying the biology of the Celebes crested macaques, for further details see www.macaca-nigra.org), the Pacific Institute in Manado (which implements conservation education programs to save the native species of North Sulawesi and their natural habitats), and a French environmental education organisation to implement a project dedicated to conservation education around the reserves. This project is

eateries of the month

Manado can be an excellent place to sample the savory flavors of Asia. If you have the time, try following for an inexpensive sampling of truly Manadonese cooking.

Green Garden
Jl. Sam Ratulangi
Chinese, Indonesian *Babi Bakar (roasted pig)

McDonalds
MegaMas Beachfront
Near the Christmas Tree, ask anyone (24 hours and delivery). American fast-food, burgers, breakfast, french fries, Nestea, or soda’s – reasonable quick service

Pizza Hut
Mega Mall & Manado Town Square
Great pizza, delivery by phone

Black Canyon
Manado Town Square
Asian Fusion

Qua-li
Manado Town Square
Located on the ground floor of Manado Town Square - try the Black Hokkien Noodles a must if you like fresh seafood

Bambuden
Seafood Restaurant
Jl. Permuda 2, Sario (phone: 852459)
Good fresh seafood, been in business 20 + years, expect to wait 30 minutes, everything is cooked to order

Raja Sate
Located on the #39 Jl. Pierre Tendean (boulevard)
Great Sate (beef, chicken, goat, squid and more), vegetables are fresh, cold beer – fast service, better than average atmosphere- owner speaks English

Gardenia Country Inn
(Phone: 351282)
Located off the main road in Tomohon - outdoor setting, great for lunch, some of the best food in North Sulawesi, call first!
and personal. This all helps them to gain a better understanding of the threats the animals face. These trips, especially enjoyed by the pupils, are undertaken with support from BKSDA local rangers and eco-guides.

This programme will run in Batu Putih until June 2011. The next aim is to extend activities to the other villages surrounding the Tangkoko-Batuangus-Duasudara Reserves starting September 2011, as the wildlife faces even greater threats from illegal activities in these areas. On a long term basis, we hope to spread our programme to all of North Sulawesi.

Increasing the awareness of tourists is also important; it is highly appreciated in conservation since it brings income to the people, but benefits may not be outweighed by costs occurring from damage done to the environment that urgently needs protection. Tourists therefore need proper background information in order to enjoy nature and wildlife in a sustainable way. With the students from Batu Putih, we are currently preparing information panels about wildlife and appropriate behaviour in the forest that will soon be on display in and around the reserve areas visited by tourists.

If you wish to know more about our activities, you are welcome to visit the Kontak Tourist Information in Batu Putih where you can find us in the afternoon from Tuesdays to Saturdays. The centre is situated right at the village’s entrance after the Tarsius homestay.

You can contact us by email: tangkokoproject@gmail.com or by phone: +6282188492742. You can also join our Facebook page “Tangkoko Conservation Education”, which includes many pictures and the latest updates!

Contributed by: Mathilde Chanvin & Ito Wodi
Release Program  

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any diseases; is it in good healthy condition? Does it have the necessary survival skills to live in the wild? The costs of screening diseases, captive care throughout rehabilitation and observational monitoring all add up. Is there a release site in the natural range of the species suitable for reintroduction of wildlife? Is the site big enough and far enough away from people? Is the site rich enough in natural food sources? Is there a water source? Are there any other species, groups or individuals, which the released animals

Not Nearly Native

PRESS RELEASE

Mapia Resort announces seven newly renovated cottages and the inauguration of their new restaurant. (www.celebesdivers.com)
could interfere with or immediately come into conflict with? Is the local community in agreement with having the wildlife released at this site? Will they protect them or poach them? The costs and effort of surveying potential sites, sensitising local communities protecting and monitoring the wildlife after release all add up.

Tasikoki would like to thank Femke at the Jakarta Animal Aid Network for her valuable assistance throughout the rehabilitation process and for health-screening the birds—www.jakartaanimalaid.com

Also thanks to Vemy from UNSRAT for behavioural study of the macaque groups.

Contributed by: The Tasikoki Team - www.tasikoki.org
Eco Divers’ Lembeh Cottages Announce: Outdoor lounge, bar & dining area now open!

Proving a huge hit with guests at Eco Divers’ Lembeh Cottages, North Sulawesi, is the new outdoor lounge bar and dining area. Recently opened after extensive building work, the areas have been designed to be comfortable, welcoming and just that little bit different.

Soft lighting, cooling fans, easy sofas and a bar with TV screen makes this outdoor lounge and bar the place to be after a day’s diving. The TV screen can also be used for viewing photos and videos, as well as those ‘big’ sporting events! And if guests need to keep in touch with the rest of the world, free Wi-Fi is also available throughout the resort.

Breakfast is served in the outdoor dining area, which is also available for groups to enjoy diner and regular barbeques when the weather allows.

Quiet lounges with book libraries are now in the Cottages where guests can relax in air-conditioned comfort without being disturbed by TV or music. Each Cottage continues to offer private dining in air-conditioned rooms with the popular Personal Chef Service for each six guests.

Paul and Nikki Gillingham recently stayed at the Cottages and had to say, “Who would have thought six days muck diving wouldn’t be long enough! A great set up and we love the bar and chill out area. We’re already planning out next trip out to see you!”

www.eco-divers.com
Diving Sulawesi

looking creature. The weirdest critters, many are rare elsewhere, where ticked off the must see list. I saw wonderpus octopus, mimic octopus, Bobtail Squid, Pigmy cuttlefish, flamboyant cuttlefish, ghost pipefish, Mandarin Fish. The list is endless.

Four days later I was sad to leave but I had one last delight. As I was unable to dive for 24 hours before flying, Safari Tours had arranged a final tour. We headed into the beautiful and extremely relaxing Gardenia Country Inn in the highlands of North Sulawesi. The views are breathtaking and the food and service as good as the hotels. The resort is owned by a local doctor who must have an army of gardeners who have landscaped and manicured the gardens into a tropical paradise of flowers, herbs, spices, vegetables, fishponds and birds.

The roads were a little wild but the place was paradise and Freddy (the Safari Tours guide) was excellent. The diving in Bunaken was beautiful (long colourful drift dives on massive walls) but Lembeh was truly amazing. Every dive was full of the weird and wonderful.

Sulawesi is a fantastic place. My week there was some of the best diving of my life. My advice, pack your bags and head east. You wont regret it.

Contributed by:
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