

## SULAWESI

**An island of curious customs and exotic wildlife**



**With arms stretching out across the sea, SULAWESI is as fantastic as it seems on the map. Our days will be spent in the interior combining curious cultural customs with exotic wildlife. Here, mountains are impenetrable, wildlife is rare and flamboyant, and the cultural practices extraordinary.**

**To take advantage of the curiosities of this huge and disparate island, our itinerary will be active: we will not linger on beaches but walk and explore, visiting both the north and south of the island.**

### **Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021: MAKASSAR**

Necessary as our base, **MAKASSAR**, this bustling modern town, was once a trading port and gateway for the Dutch. We have a city tour, see the colonial buildings and visit **Fort Rotterdam**, originally Goanese, the fort dates from 1545 and guards the harbour: a small museum includes collections of ethnic costumes, musical instruments and Tana Toraja artefacts to introduce us to Sulawesi history.







**Fri. 29<sup>th</sup> Jan: Berua Village, the Puteh River & Pettkare Caves**

Leaving the city after breakfast, we transfer to **Ramang-ramang village** (1hr) before walking (45mins) through the paddy fields to **Berua village** where we take coffee with the locals before embarking in our tradition canoe to paddle the **Puteh River** as we weave through the surrounding karst scenery. In **Leang-leang** we visit **Pettakare cave** where Palaeolithic hand prints were discovered in 1973.



**Sat. 30<sup>st</sup> Jan: Makassar – Torjan Area (Palopo)**

A short flight (50 mins) takes us to **Palopo** where we drive (3 hrs) to the visually stunning area of **TORAJA**, where the skyline is punctuated by lines of **Tongkonans**, wooden houses with oversized roofs that look like giant saddles. En route we stop at **Lemo** to see the rows of statues. Villages consist of the traditional **Toraja** homes and intricately carved rice barns on stilts perching over green paddies and chicken runs. Cliff and cave cemeteries are scattered through the region where the entombed are watched over by **tau taus** (life-sized wooden effigies of the dead). Our hotel here is architecturally striking - the **Toraja Heritage Hotel**: consisting of traditional Torajan houses with massive roofs like a ship's prow.



**Sun. 31<sup>st</sup> Jan: Kandora & Village Walks**

From the foot of Mount Kandora today we walk (3hrs) meandering through the traditional villages amongst rice paddies, stands of bamboo and coconut palms. We have a picnic lunch, visit the natural burial cave of **Tampangallo** and in the afternoon the children of **Buntu Lobo** entertain us with their musical skills.





**Mon 1<sup>st</sup> Feb: Highlands of Batutumonga.**

Today we visit the highlands to walk (2 hrs) the slopes of **Mount Sesean** amongst stunning scenery and the **Toraja villages** of **Bori** and **Tikala** where ancient ancestral stone circles represent important deceased elders and noblemen. We see the village culture where ladies create beautiful Ikat. Later return to our hotel: dinner in a local restaurant.

**Tues 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb: Transfer to North Sulawesi**

A day whilst we transfer to the north, using the only sensible method of two short flights we thus avoid long, arduous drives, to arrive into **Manado** and continue to the **Tangkoko Lodge**, a very simple little lodge immediately by the entrance to the **Tangkoko Batuangas Dua Saudara Nature Reserve**.

**Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb: Tangkoko National Park:**

This is a reserve of coastal mangroves, deciduous forests and high, mountainside scrubland for us to explore. We expect to see the endemic red-knobbed hornbill, the pit digging maleo bird and the rare Celebes crested macaque: but the real draw of the park is the chance to see the doe-eyed tarsier, unique to this part of the world and the only carnivorous primate, preying on insects, lizards and snakes. We will have guided morning and evening walks to spot this tiny nocturnal primate as well as bats and, if we're extremely lucky, the rare endemic Sulawesi Bear Cuscus, with its long limbs and yellow rimmed-eyes.

**Thurs 4<sup>th</sup> : Flights to TERNATE**

A dawn walk in the Reserve precedes breakfast at the Lodge and the drive (2 hrs) to the airport for the flight to TERNATE. On arrival we meet the crew of our ketch and board **OMBAK PUTIH**

**COSTS: £1,215 pp, based on 2 sharing, a group of 16 & joining the Ombak Putih special charter voyage departing on 5<sup>th</sup> Feb. Single supplement £260.**

**Cost Includes:**



- All meals with water
- All sightseeing/excursions with local guides
- Accommodation & transfers as described
- Sulawesi flights as mentioned (4<sup>th</sup> flight cost to Ternate from Manado or Jakarta included in Ompak Putih voyage cost)
- Services of your Tour Leader

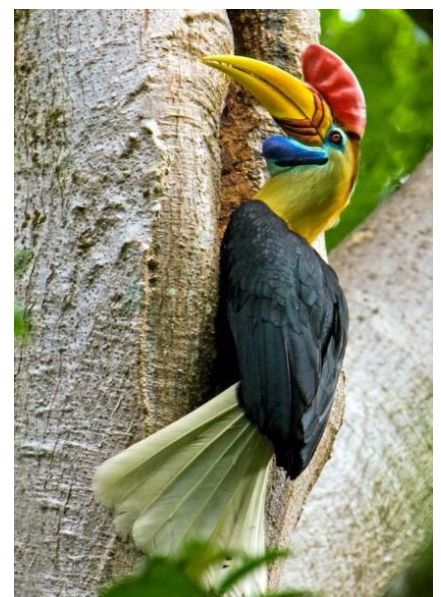
**Cost does NOT include:**

- Alcohol
- Arrival into Makassar & departure from Ternate
- Travel insurance
- Tips
- Visa (if required)

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**SteppesTravel**

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