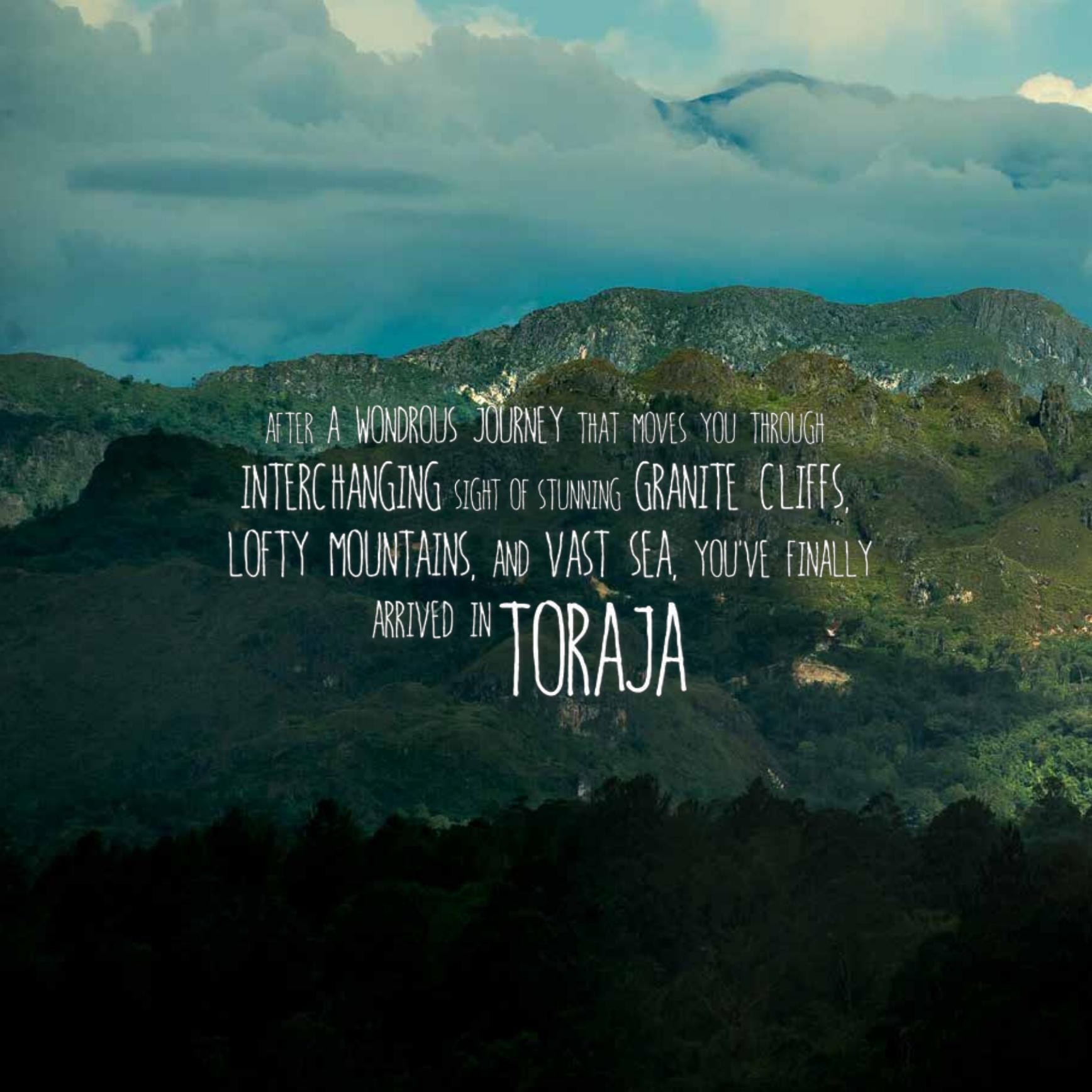


FIND WHAT LIES BEYOND THE HILLS OF

TORAJA

GUIDE TO THE MAGNIFICENT SIGHTS
AND ATTRACTIONS OF **TORAJA**

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A scenic view of a mountain range with green vegetation and a cloudy sky. The mountains are covered in dense green foliage, and the sky is filled with soft, white clouds. The overall atmosphere is serene and majestic.

AFTER A WONDROUS JOURNEY THAT MOVES YOU THROUGH
INTERCHANGING SIGHT OF STUNNING GRANITE CLIFFS,
LOFTY MOUNTAINS, AND VAST SEA, YOU'VE FINALLY
ARRIVED IN TORAJA

CONTENTS

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 2. Map | 20. Celestial Microcosm | 35. How to get there? |
| 4. The Principle of Tallu Lolona | 24. Grandiose Parting | 36. Ethereal Journey |
| 8. Tongkonan | 28. Art of the Trade | 37. Tourism Map |
| 12. The People | 32. Local Marvels | 38. About the Logo |
| 16. Paradise Redefined | 34. Things to know before you go | |

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INDONESIA

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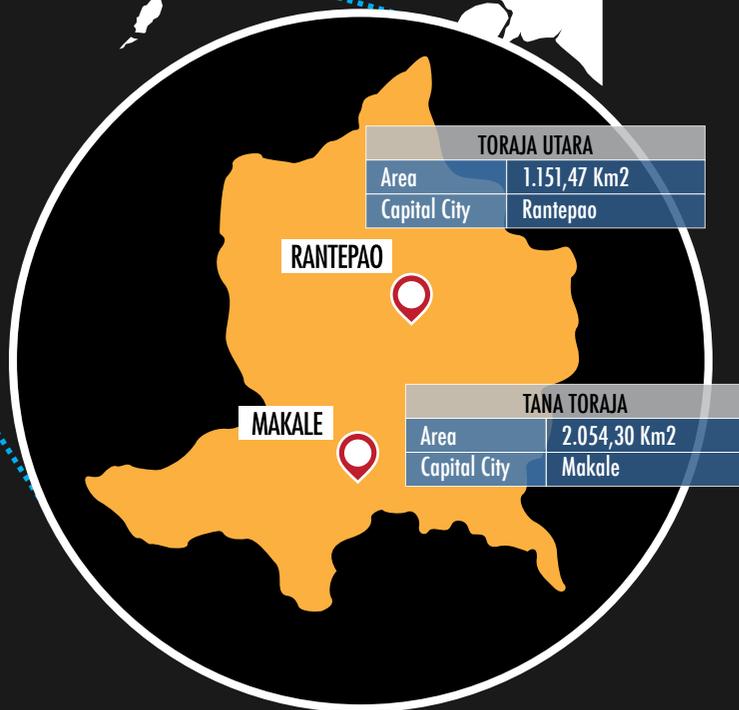
each with its own unique values, Indonesia will most likely satisfy your inner desire for adventure, leisure or even spiritual experience. What you'll see might be beyond your wildest dreams.



WELCOME TO TORAJA

After a wondrous journey that moves you through interchanging sights of stunning granite cliffs, lofty mountains, and vast sea, you'll arrive in Toraja. On this land, old ways live on. The inevitable stream of modernization and globalization does not diminish traditional values. Instead, new ideas like Christianity synchronizes harmoniously with local customs, making Toraja someplace special. It is also probably why Toraja is the only place on modern earth with living megalithic culture.

Enveloped by magnificent natural landscape, Toraja is a life-changing experience waiting to be explored. Split into two regions—Tana Toraja and Toraja Utara—32 cultural villages stand in unison. 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 ('To' means people, while 'Riaja' means north). 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.



FOR THE TORAJANS, THE MOST EFFECTIVE ART OF SURVIVAL IS HARMONY

A String That Bonds All

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. To survive as a society, they can't afford to be greedy or selfish.

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. In order for human to survive, one 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.

Immune to the Ravages of Time

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.



TALLU LOLONA





Toraja Heritage Hotel

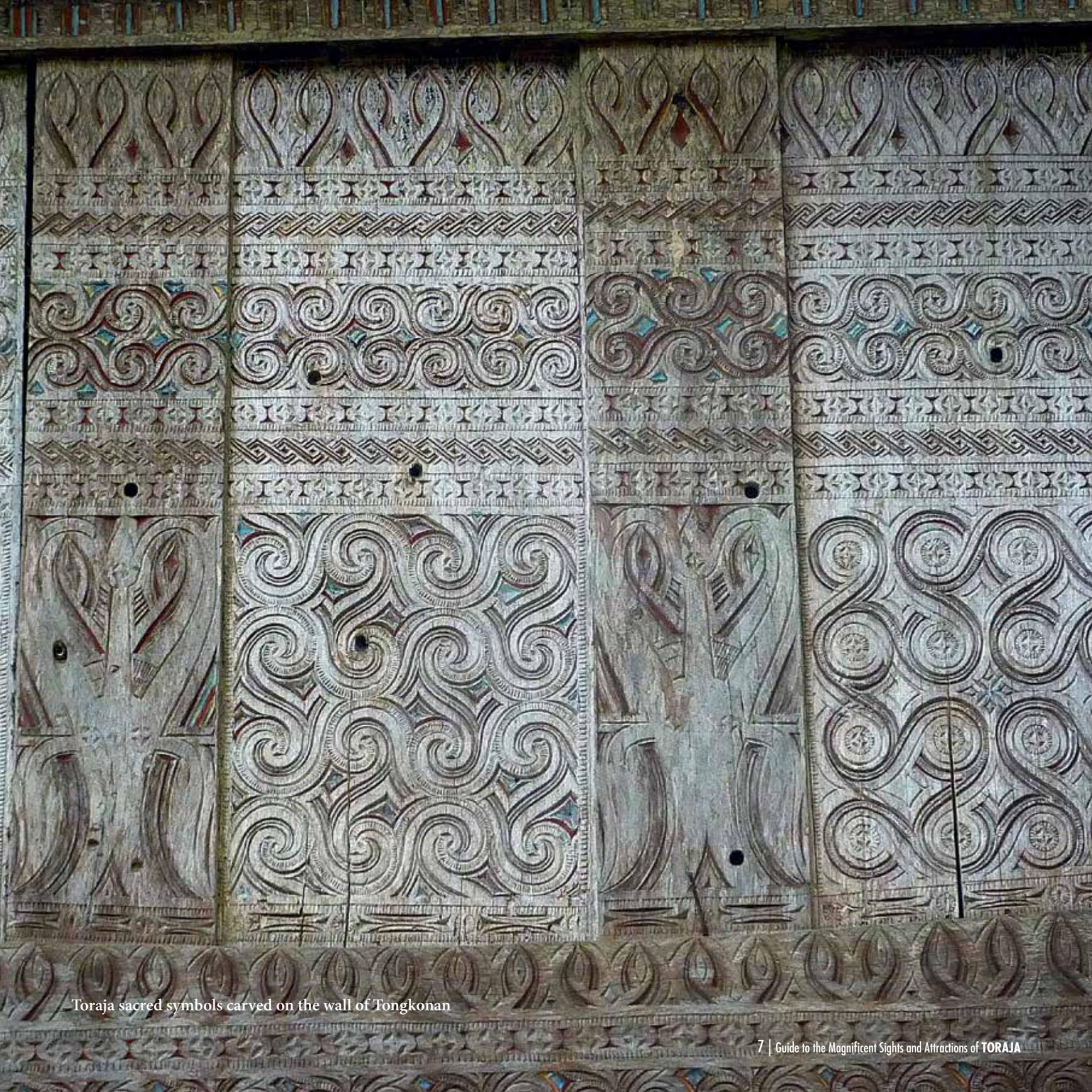


The TORAJA HERITAGE HOTEL is the first four stars International hotel in Toraja. Set high in the mountains amid rice fields and rolling hills, TORAJA HERITAGE HOTEL offers a heaven of retreat from city life - a perfect blend of tradition and comfort.



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Toraja sacred symbols carved on the wall of Tongkonan

TORAJANS BELIEVE THAT A HOUSE IS NOT JUST A HOME, IT'S A SMALL UNIVERSE

The Core of Life

Tongkonan is not just a home. It's a small universe for every Torajan. 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. To Parengge', 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 maternal role as caregiver. A larger Tongkonan is also supported by the 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.



TONGKONAN



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Panoramic view of Batutumonga, Toraja Utara

ANCESTRAL TRADITIONS ARE WELL PRESERVED AND IMPLEMENTED WITHIN THE PEACEFUL COMMUNAL SOCIETY

Historical Way of Life

The life and origins of Toraja people are shrouded in myths. Northern Torajans believe that their ancestors sailed from the north, almost certainly from China. 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 southerners 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.

In the past, Toraja isolation restrained the development of

its civilization and halted their communication and transportation attempts. It grew at a slower rate compared to the people of Bugis or Makassar living in the lowland. Even though all flat lands on their territory are used as rice fields, the productions are barely enough to feed everyone, making the Torajans live in a small and concentrated community with high self-sufficiency.

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!



THE PEOPLE





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The procession of Ma Palao, in Rambu Solo' ceremony



Batutumonga, Toraja Utara

Paradise Redefined

Torajan Nature

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.



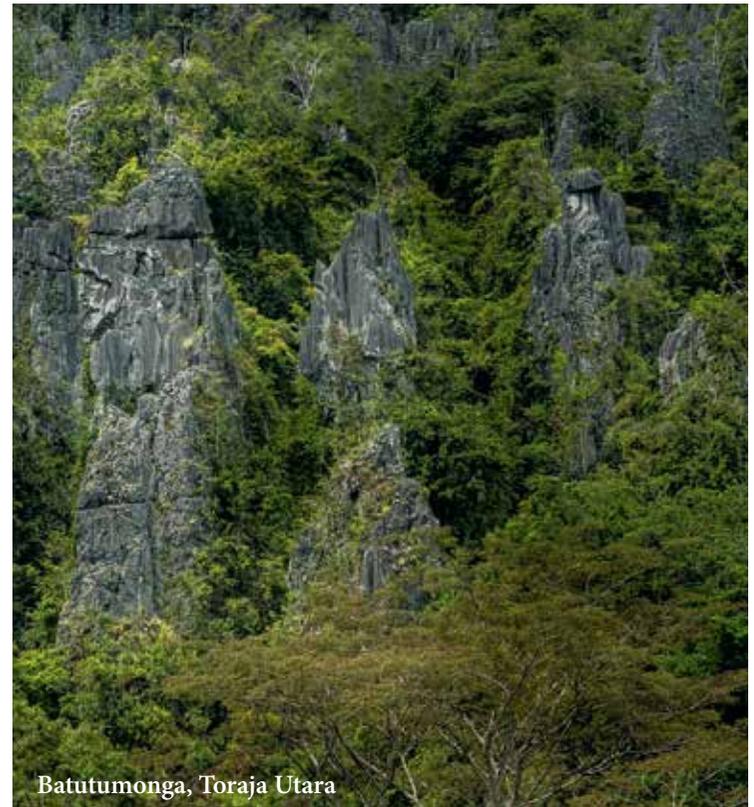
Tinambayo, Toraja Utara

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 to see 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.



Batutumonga, Toraja Utara

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 colours, 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.

Batutumonga

Enter the heart of serene villages and see what makes the life of a Torajan so simple, and yet, so laid-back 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.



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Hotel Indra Toraja is not just a hotel, it is an oasis in the center of Rantepao, where guests could easily have an easy access to DISCOVER THE SACRED HIGHLANDS of Toraja

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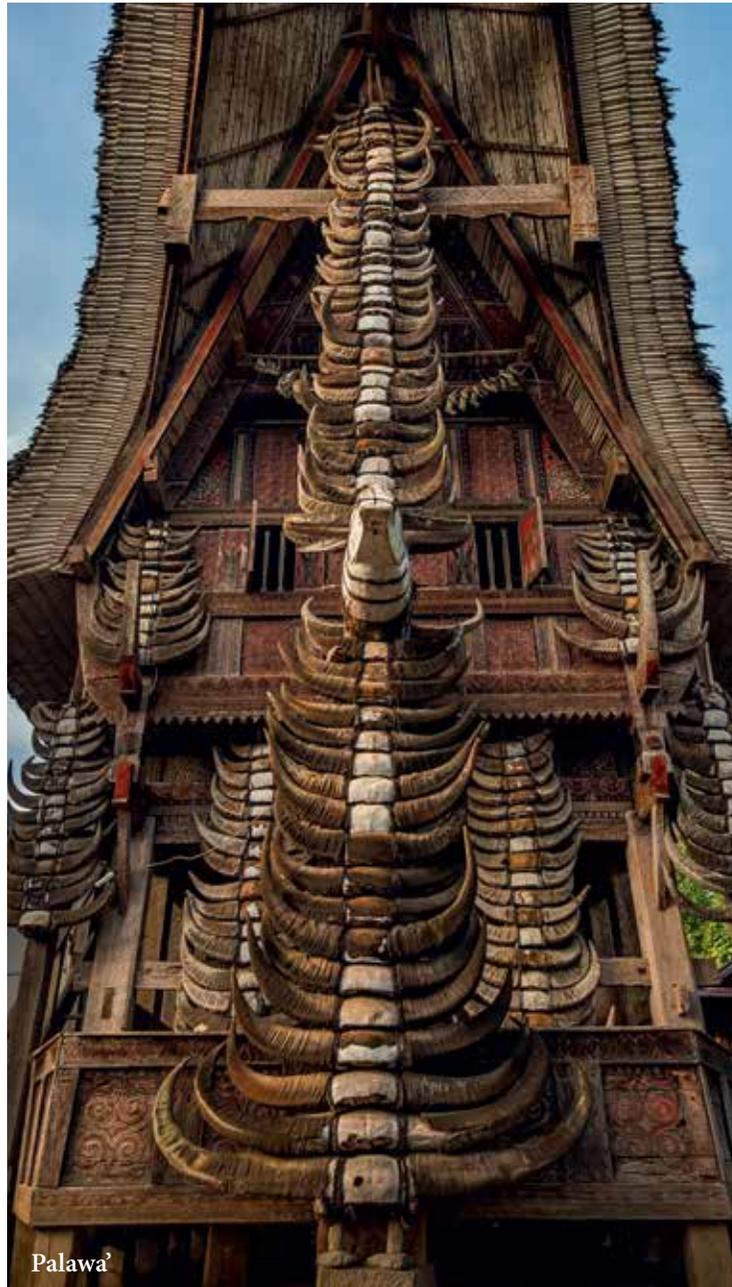




Panoramic view of Bongakardeng, Tana Toraja

Celestial Microcosm

Tongkonan



Palawa'



Palawa'

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 to see. 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'

Tumakke' is the 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'.



Pa'ulu Karua Engraving



Ke'te Ke'su

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'dedong 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.



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A rows of Tongkonan in Batutumonga, Toraja Utara

Grandiose Parting

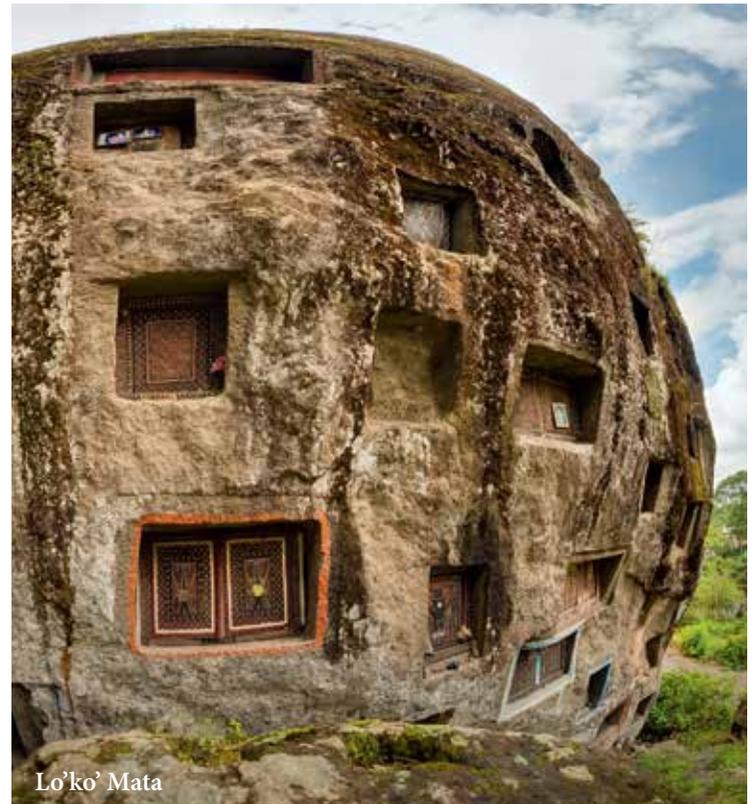
Ceremony of Death

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'**, 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.



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—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

Tampang Allo

Inside this magnificent cave of wonder, bones and skulls of departed commoners are neatly arranged, all displaying 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'

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 Time.



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Tongkonan Buntu Pune, Toraja Utara

Art of The Trade

Torajan Markets

Bolu Market

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 Saleko or Tedong Bonga - 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.



Bolu Market

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.



Transcendent Sacrifice

Rambu Solo' ceremony is the apotheosis of Torajan festival because of the sheer magnitude and cultural significance that follows. It 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 it would take to sacrifice when they depart. 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 gives their meat back to the community that cherished them.

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Mini Tau tau, one of the local souvenirs of Toraja



Traditional dress of Toraja



Traditional hand weaving



The intricate patterns of Toraja Hand-woven cloth

Local Marvels Commodities

The belief that Torajans hold dear to their heart are reflected in every handcrafted wonder conceived all by genuine intentions that they 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.

Sa'dan To'barana'

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.

Sa'dan To'barana' are the weaving villages harboring it all. Some even said the villages are the epicenter of Torajan culture itself.



The Black Gold Toraja Arabica coffee

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.

THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO



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.

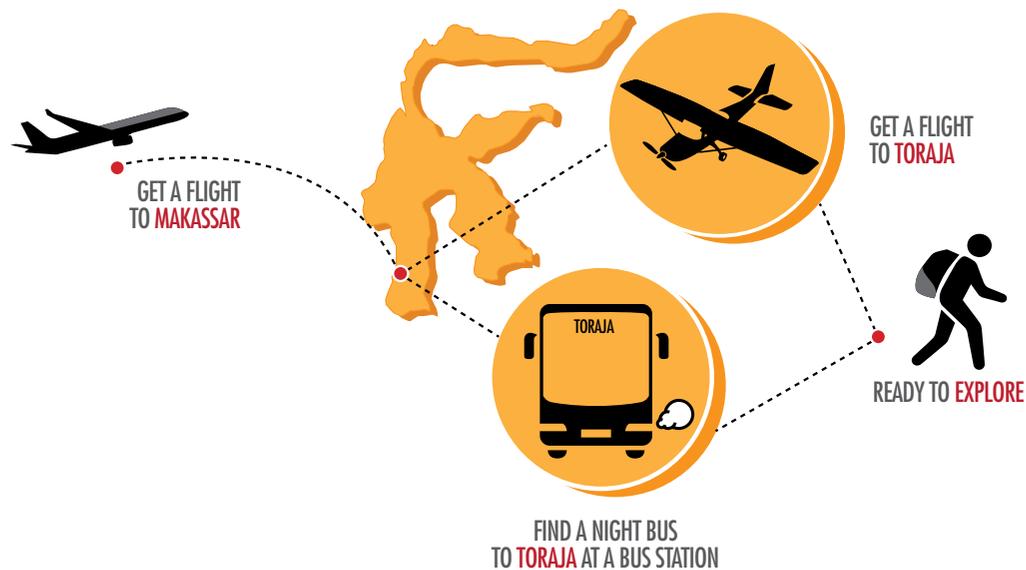
Visa Requirement

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.

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 preferring 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 especially tailored for those with finite staying time. Serving only several days in a week, the airplane leaves at 07.00 AM from Sultan Hasanuddin International Airport. Within an hour you will arrive directly in Pongtiku Airport, a small airport in Toraja, and within same day, the airplane will fly back to Makassar.

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 – the inner city transportation and travel (intercity transportation

between Makale – Rantepao vv.) are the easiest modes of public transportation. Operating from 06.30AM till 19.00PM, the rate starts from US\$ 1.00 per person.

- Chartered vehicles such as minivan (called Kijang or Avanza) can be booked at hotels or from car rental services available in Makale & Rantepao.
- Those craving for more adventure could rent a motor bike to explore the most remote villages of Toraja.

ETHEREAL JOURNEY

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

Other Things to Note

1. 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. And bring one of your favorite hats to keep the sun off during long walks. If you plan to attend ceremonies (funeral rites), it is advisable to wear black, a shirt covering the shoulders, and a lower body garment covering until the knees. Bring along some pre-packaged towelettes. These are handy for disinfecting your hands before eating or after a trip to the kamar kecil (lavatory).

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. Shopping

Toraja offers many beautiful things for you to bring home: wooden sculptures called tau-tau, hand-woven 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.



About the Logo

Through comprehensive and in-depth research, the logogram was comprised. Inspired by the Atap Banua and Alang, the logogram is a personification of Toraja's identity and personality all in all.

The soaring "T" exemplifies the connection of Torajans to their ancestors and the heavens. Pa'ulu Karua, the engraving inlaid in the letters, illustrates the eight ancestors of the Torajans who have bestowed knowledge about life and the coexisting world around it. This symbol is the essence of Torajan life which still embodies the ancestral teachings within.

The plain letter 'O' without any carvings represents the life cycle

of a Torajan individual, where birth, growing up, and death all circling back to the Tongkonan. This emphasizes the sanctity of Torajan way of life and an embodiment of hope.

The tagline 'Discover The Sacred Highlands' also has a message behind it. The word 'Discover' is an active invitation to travelers and explorers to experience the spectrum of cultural wonders of Toraja, and as a proposition of co-creation between travelers and the Torajan to procreate an experience like no other. The word 'Sacred' is used to accentuate the fact that Toraja is a divine land chuck-full of ancestral heraldry waiting to be explored, and how it is pristine and

untouched by the world around it. While the word 'Highlands' highlights the topography of Toraja in its entirety.

The color black always dominates Torajan carvings, as it is the base before adding any other colors, and at the same time symbolizing death as the end of life before returning to the heavens. On the other hand, the red represents the blood in which human life depends on. In synergy, these colors became the fundamental connection between life and death highly revered in Torajan culture.

Sample of Itinerary

4 Days 3 Nights Toraja Package

Day 1

Early check-in at the Hotel. Start your days with a various breakfast served at the Hotel. Start your visit to explore Toraja area by visiting Londa (Natural burial site). Then proceed to city area of Makale to explore the city's life and having your lunch. After lunch, proceed to Sangalla' area to visit Kambira (Baby graves on the living tree) and Tampang Allo' (Natural Cave Graves). Take the road passing by the inner side of Sangalla' which is linked to the nearest village before Ke'te Ke'su (A presentation traditional village). In the afternoon; try the local taste of Toraja Coffee or shops at local souvenirs store. Stay overnight at the Hotel

Day 2

Early breakfast at the hotel. A full-day exploration in the area of Batutumonga (Dramatic landscape and panorama view of Rantepao). Choose the trekking routes available from moderate to the toughest one; exploring the wonders of Hilltops of Sesean. Enjoy the local wisdom by staying at Guest Houses managed by villagers; providing you with the Torajan hospitality.

Day 3

Enjoy the local breakfast served at Tongkonan. Still plenty of time to explore the hillside of Sesean by passing by coffee plantation managed by the villagers; Lo'Ko' Mata (burial chambers cut out of one giant rock) and en-route down to hill back to city visiting Bori' (A megalithic complex). Stay overnight at the hotel.

Day 4

Breakfast at the hotel. Take a half-day activities explore the sound of nature or culture of Toraja; some recommended outdoor activities are: Rafting at Mai'ting River; Hiking from the starting point of Ma'dong; Cycling around Ke'su area; Learning the tradition of life of Torajan in Buntu Pune; and Pasar Bolu (the largest animal stock market in Toraja, happens every six days). Free time until departure by evening bus, out of Toraja (to Makassar). End of tour.

3 Days 2 Nights Toraja Package

Day 1

Early check-in at the Hotel. Start your days with a various breakfast served at the Hotel. Start your visit to explore Toraja area by visiting Londa (Natural burial site). Then proceed to city area of Makale to explore the city's life and having your lunch. After lunch, proceed to Sangalla' area to visit Kambira (Baby graves on the living tree) and Tampang Allo' (Natural Cave Graves). Take the road passing by the inner side of Sangalla' which is linked to the nearest village before Ke'te Ke'su (A presentation traditional village). In the afternoon; try the local taste of Toraja Coffee or shops at local souvenirs store. Stay overnight at the Hotel

Day 2

Early breakfast at the hotel. A full-day exploration in the area of Batutumonga (Dramatic landscape and panorama view of Rantepao). Take the moderate routes; exploring the wonders of Hilltops of Sesean. Enjoy lunch at Mentirotik restaurant. A worth to visit is the place called Lo'Ko' Mata (burial chambers cut out of one giant rock). En-route down to hill back to city we suggest you to visit Bori' (A megalithic complex). Stay overnight at the hotel.

Day 3

Breakfast at the hotel. Take a half-day activities explore the sound of nature or culture of Toraja; some recommended outdoor activities are: Rafting at Mai'ting River; Hiking from the starting point of Ma'dong; Cycling around Ke'su area; Learning the tradition of life of Torajan in Buntu Pune; and Pasar Bolu (the largest animal stock market in Toraja, happens every six days). Free time until departure by evening bus, out of Toraja (to Makassar). End of tour.







Toraja

DISCOVER THE SACRED HIGHLANDS



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Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Economic Affairs,
Education and Research EAER
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