



SULAWESI

THE HIDDEN GEM OF INDONESIA

4-17 NOVEMBER 2024

Ignacio Palacios

SULAWESI

Sulawesi is a photographer's dream come true, offering a diverse range of subjects, from charismatic primates to vibrant birdlife, stunning landscapes, and a rich tapestry of culture. Exploring Sulawesi through your camera lens will not only result in remarkable images but also leave you with a deep appreciation for the beauty and diversity of this enchanting island.



SULAWESI

Sulawesi, the hidden gem of Indonesia, is a photographer's paradise that beckons with its remarkable diversity of subjects and landscapes. Nestled in the heart of the Coral Triangle, this island is a treasure trove of unique photographic opportunities, making it an irresistible destination for any shutterbug.

One of Sulawesi's most iconic creatures is the tarsier, a tiny, wide-eyed primate that's a marvel to photograph. These elusive creatures with their expressive faces and incredible agility make for enchanting wildlife photography subjects. Capturing their intricate expressions and quirky behaviors is an endeavor worth pursuing.

Venturing into the lush rainforests of Sulawesi, you'll also have the chance to encounter the striking black crested macaques. These charismatic monkeys, with their distinctive tufted hairdos, offer fantastic opportunities for wildlife and portrait photography. Witnessing their social interactions and capturing their antics through your lens will be a truly memorable experience.

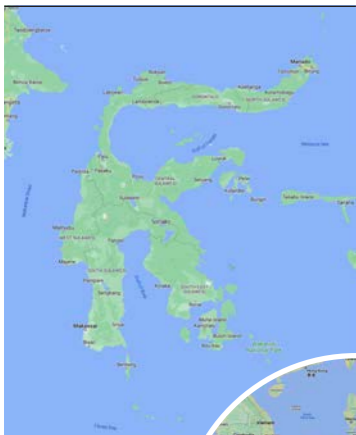
But Sulawesi isn't just about wildlife; it's also a land of fascinating culture. The Toraja villages are a living testament to the island's rich heritage. These traditional villages, nestled amidst dramatic landscapes, provide a captivating backdrop for documentary and portrait photography. The intricate rituals, unique architecture, and the warmth of Toraja people make for compelling storytelling through your camera.

And let's not forget the avian wonders of Sulawesi. The island boasts a stunning array of bird species, many of which are endemic. From the vibrant colors of kingfishers to the majestic hornbills, birdwatchers and photographers alike will find themselves in paradise. The lush jungles and remote habitats of Sulawesi provide the perfect setting for capturing these winged beauties in their natural habitat.

Sulawesi's people are as captivating as its wildlife and landscapes. Engaging with the local communities, learning about their traditions, and photographing their daily lives offers a unique insight into the island's cultural tapestry. The warm smiles of Sulawesi's residents will undoubtedly add depth and humanity to your photographic storytelling.

In summary, Sulawesi is a photographer's dream come true, offering a diverse range of subjects, from charismatic primates to vibrant birdlife, stunning landscapes, and a rich tapestry of culture. Exploring Sulawesi through your camera lens will not only result in remarkable images but also leave you with a deep appreciation for the beauty and diversity of this enchanting island.

"Sulawesi truly is a photographer's dream come true, offering a diverse range of subjects, from charismatic primates to vibrant birdlife,"



Black crested macaque

ITINERARY

DAY 1 | 4 November: Welcome to Makassar

Your local guide will meet us upon your arrival at Makassar Airport. You'll be transferred by private car to the hotel. After checking in to your hotel, the rest of your day will be free to spend at your leisure. The group will meet before dinner for introductions/presentations.

Overnight in Makassar.

DAY 2 | 5 November: Makassar-Ramang Ramang – Makassar

After breakfast we will visit Ramang Ramang, 2nd largest karst in the world and a UNESCO world heritage site. Located in Maros (1.5 hours). Boat ride along the Pute River using local wooden boats photographing the limestone landscapes. Walk for about 45 minutes to see the caves decorated with stalactites, stalagmites, and some pre-historic paintings. Back to the pier and transfer to Tana Toraja. During this trip, we will enjoy the astonishing tropical landscape.

DAY 3 | 6 November: Makassar – Sengkang (5 hours)

After breakfast, we will head east, departing to the village of Sengkang, in Bugis' territory. After lunch, we will visit to the Tempe Lake by canoe, where the Bugis fishing community live. They have floating houses in the centre of the Lake and only leave their houses to trade. We will visit their floating houses and will enjoy their hospitality having a tea with them.

Accommodation in Sengkang.

DAY 4 | 7 November: Sengkang – Tana Toraja (5 hours)

Today we will drive to Tana Toraja (~ 5 hours) and in the afternoon you will have the chance to discover and photograph the first traditional villages.

DAY 5-6 | 8-9 November: Meet the Toraja

During these days we will visit the region of Tana Toraja and its traditional villages, with their houses shaped like hulled boats – Kete y Palawa – the ancient graves on the stone of Lemo, Londa or Kambira. We will also visit and photograph around the colourful markets and if a traditional ritual is held, we will assist. We can also visit the mountain area of Batutumonga and around the settlements where we can see how the Toraja lived in the mountains whilst enjoying the incredible natural beauty of this region.

DAY 7 | 10 November: Toraja – Makassar-Manado

After breakfast, we will depart to Toraja or Palopo Airport (2 hours) to take the flight to Manado via Makassar.

Overnight in Manado.

“Engaging with the local communities, learning about their traditions, and photographing their daily lives offers a unique insight into the island’s cultural tapestry.”



Friendly local kids



DAY 8 | 11 November: Manado – Tangkoko

After breakfast we will depart to Tangkoko Nature Reserve. The 2 hours trip to this 9,000 hectare nature reserve is quite scenic as we pass on small villages. Lunch is served in a local restaurant en route. At the Nature Reserve, you will be guided by a forest ranger and Safari staff in search of the Macaca Nigra (black crested macaques indigenous to North Sulawesi), hornbills, coucous, Tarsier tarsier (one of the world's smallest primates), as well as other fauna specific to the reserve.

Overnight in Tangkoko.

DAY 9 | 12 November: Tangkoko & Minahasa

Early in the morning we will hike again into the forest in the search of more birds and the Macaca Nigra as these monkeys are early-risers and are searching for food along the coastline of Tangkoko. After several hours photographing, we will head back to the homestay for breakfast and prepare to go to Minahasa Highlands.

We will visit Pagoda Ekayana in the village of Kakaskasen. This is a place of worship for Buddhists, the pagoda also welcomes visitors to admire an architecture that blends well with nature. Afterwards, we will proceed to photograph and experience the traditional food & flower market in Tomohon and the small village of Woloan to photograph the Minahasan traditional-style houses being built. We will have lunch at Tondano Lake while enjoying the serenity of the lake and its surrounding hills. After lunch, we drive to Pulutan Village, an industrial village for pottery-making. As we start heading back to our resort, we will visit the Bentenan weaving workshop, a must visit to see the local weaving traditions being practiced.

Dinner and overnight at the resort.

DAY 10 | 13 November: Mahawu Volcano Tour

After breakfast we will leave the resort and we will head towards Mount Mahawu. We will begin the 30-minute climb up the stairs to the crater edge. From the observation point at the top, we can see Bunaken & Manado Tua Islands as well as the bay of Manado. The walk around the crater rim will take us 45-60 minutes, and we can also observe a steaming lake and experience the smell of sulphur from the pools. After the hike we will drive to Lake Linow, a sulfuric lake to have lunch. Then, we drive back to the resort.

Dinner and overnight at the resort.

**DAY 11 | 14 November: Minahasa – Manado – Bastianos
Bunaken Resort**

Transfer to the port to take the boat to Bastianos Bunaken where you can spend a few days relaxing, snorkelling and there will be some post processing sessions.

DAY 12-13 | 15-16 November: Bastianos Bunaken Resort

Free days to relax, snorkel, edit your images (with Ignacio's advice and guidance), presentations, and critique sessions.

DAY 14 | 17 November: Bastianos Bunaken – Manado

Breakfast at the resort. Transfer to the airport to take the flight out.

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PHOTOGRAPHY EXPERIENCE

Central to this unforgettable tour is YOU. Through Ignacio's guidance, you'll not only learn the secrets of the masters, but you'll take your photography skills to the next level and leave your Indonesian adventure with a collection of powerful, moving photographs that you'll share with pride.

Some of the photography skills you'll learn throughout the tour include:

- The art of composition
- Post-processing techniques tips and tricks
- How to work with light
- Optimising your equipment and filters
- Pre-visualisation and the creative process
- The unique techniques of landscape photography, wildlife photography, portrait photography, while also touching on aerial (drone), black and white
- Ignacio will also be there to offer one-on-one guidance on other specific skills you'd personally like to master.

Camera skills

The best way to learn the art of photography is by taking photos. So Ignacio will be by your side in the field sharing insight and guidance as you shoot. Helping you create great photos as you shoot. No matter your skill level or equipment, you'll learn the craft with an award-winning master.

The creative process

Throughout the tour, you'll also have the opportunity to process and enhance your images using Lightroom, Photoshop, Capture One and other editing software. Learning first-hand how to create photographs that tell a story, evoke emotion and ultimately help you find your unique style and personality as an artist.

Critique session

Should you dream of entering competitions, or simply wish to push yourself as a photographer, critique sessions are an invaluable part of the learning process. Ignacio will offer one-on-one critique sessions during the tour. Providing constructive evaluation and feedback supported by recommendations and tips through the eyes of a professional. While having your work critiqued can feel overwhelming at first, this is one of the most powerful ways to improve your skills as a photographer.

Level of photography

All skills levels are welcome. Whether you're a beginner or expert, the tour is designed to cover all aspects of image capture and post processing as it applies to where you are on your photography journey. As for equipment, we can help you optimise the equipment you chose to use from mobile phone to tablets, compact camera to digital SLR cameras.

Physical considerations

Our guides will take us to a range of different locations most of which involve some short walks. Sometimes, we may take longer walks, but all excursions are optional and if you are tired, you can always sleep in and relax in the homestays/hotels. This expedition does not require high altitude travel but participants should be in good general health, however, there is not much strenuous walking/trekking involved. Temperatures can range drastically in the mountains from day to night. Packing layers is essential.

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Portrait of an elder man



IGNACIO PALACIOS

When it comes to photography and travel, few can rival Ignacio Palacios' experience, skill, and passion. A third-generation photographer, Ignacio has been honoured with over

100 prestigious photography prizes and awards from around the world and has travelled to over 90 countries in his 20 years career. It's little wonder he's developed a reputation as a leading photographer in the fields of travel, landscape, and nature photography.

Born in Spain, Ignacio now calls Sydney, Australia home – though his unmistakable Spanish spirit continues to influence his work and define his signature style.

Combining his love of travel and photography has proved a powerful combination, and today Ignacio leads some of the world's best photography tours to incredible destinations around the world. As an AIPP double Master of Photography, Ignacio shares his insight, experience, and technique with his clients to help them find their own success and joy on their photographic journey.

"I hope that through my images and my tours, I can open people's eyes to the incredible world we live in. I want to give my guests both travel and photographic experience. We are privileged to have such a beautiful planet and it's our responsibility to respect, cherish and protect it."

Ignacio's distinct, award-winning style can be defined by his mastery of composition, colour, and light. With his minimalistic style and unique ability to connect with his audience through storytelling through his images, Ignacio invites his audience to experience the subject not as how he captured it, but how he experienced it, evoking an emotional connection between the viewer, subject and artist.

Photography and travel will always be Ignacio's passion, and he is dedicated to helping others ignite their passion too.

www.iptravelphotography.com.au



"I believe that photography can be way of change and I feel an obligation and responsibility to share what I have captured and created with my camera in the hope that I can not only inspire people to take better images but to care for the environment."

Ignacio Palacios

CHECKLIST

“My strongest motivation is to create. I want to create beautiful images of natural subjects that can inspire others and the joy comes from sharing those incredible moments.”

Ignacio Palacios



Camera equipment

- DSLR. To bring a couple of bodies is always recommended (check your baggage allowance with your airline/travel agent)
- Tripod with quick release plate
- Standard zoom, wide angle and telephoto lens
- Plenty of batteries and a couple of chargers
- Shutter cable release
- Polarising filter and ND filters
- Laptop computer with Photoshop and Lightroom and/or Capture One. Please make sure that these programs are working properly on your laptop before you arrive.
- External backup drives (SSD recommended) and memory cards for storage
- Lenses that cover the range of 24mm to 400mm plus, perhaps, a x1.4 teleconverter. I am planning to bring the following lenses: 24-70mm f2.8, 70-200mm f2.8 and possibly a 180-400 f4 or a 400mm f2.8 prime.

What to bring, clothing and other

- Water bottle (1lt) to avoid the use of plastic bottles for mineral water. Our guide will make sure to refill your bottle whenever necessary.
- Sun block and sun glasses (protection against UV)
- Hat
- We recommend comfortable clothing made of fabric that breaths (such as cotton) and pack a combination of short sleeve and long sleeve top and pant options
- Comfortable hiking boots.
- Travel and medical insurance, passport, visa, medication that might include malaria pills

Luggage preparations

- Additional luggage allowances have been arranged across all of your internal flights for your convenience
- We recommend you shrinkwrap your baggage at your departure airport
- Ensure your telephoto lenses are packed in protective casings designed for this specific lens
- We also suggest you carry your camera equipment as carry-on luggage where possible. In the event your luggage is delayed or lost, you can still shoot the moment you arrive.

IP Travel Photography reserves the right to cancel this workshop. In the event of this happening, all payments received will be refunded but participants shall have no further claim against IP Travel Photography arising from such cancellation. Any such refund will not include payments for any bookings for other services made in addition to the itinerary outlined above. The responsibility for such bookings lies with the participant. As such, IP Travel Photography recommends participants to purchase a travel protection and cancellation insurance prior to paying the first deposit. It is recommended that the cancellation insurance covers for the whole cost of the trip.

To reserve your place for 2024 or to make an enquiry, please email ignacio@iptravelphotography.com.au



Long tailed macaque and baby

TERMS AND CONDITIONS



WORKSHOP DATES AND PRICES

Tour dates: **4–17 November 2024**

The tour commences in **Makassar** and ends in **Manado**

Standard cost: **USD\$9,990** per person;
Optional single supplement: **USD\$1,190**

Maximum **8** participants

A deposit of **USD\$2,000** is required when you book the workshop

Terms of payment

- A deposit of US\$2,000 must be paid to secure your place. The deposit is non-refundable unless you can sell your place to someone else
- Note: the workshop is quoted in USD\$. To calculate the rate in AUD\$, the currency exchange rate will be obtained from the Westpac website at the time of transferring the deposit and balance.
- The online Registration Form must be filled in and signed by each participant at the time of paying the first deposit. Participation will be declined otherwise
- The remaining balance must be paid on or before **1 April 2024**
- Bookings will be accepted strictly in the order they are received
- Important: the workshop requires a minimum of 4 participants to run so please don't book your flights until the trip has been confirmed.

What's included

- Full 14-day and 13-night tour, instruction by Ignacio Palacios
- All accommodation and main meals (B, L, D)
- All transportation and entrance fees to all sites, museums, and national parks
- Domestic flight Palopo/Toraja to Manado
- Complimentary one bottle of drinking water per full day tour
- Local taxes.

What's not included

- International Flights
- Accommodation and meals prior to or following the trip
- Personal expenditure such as all drinks (including at meals) laundry service and souvenirs
- Camera and Video entry charges at Monuments/Forts etc
- Arrival/departure transfers if not travelling together with the group.
- Early/late check in/out not guaranteed, if requested it might be an additional cost
- COVID Related expenses due to testing
- Travel, cancellation, and equipment insurances
- Medical insurance
- Indonesian Visa
- Drinks and Alcohol consumption
- Tips and gratuities for guides and drivers

Note on tips: gratuities are not included in the tour price. We emphasize that such tips should be at your own discretion and based solely on the level of your service satisfaction.

Cancellation Policy

- A written notice of any cancellation must be received by you at which time the following cancellation fees will apply:
- If cancelled before 31 March 2024, 60% of the workshop cost will be payable
 - If cancelled after 1 April 2024, a fee equal to 100% of the workshop cost will be payable

- Failure to pay by the due dates will be considered a cancellation of the booking and fees paid will be non-refundable
- Bookings made after 1 April 2024 must be paid in full
- No refunds will be made for unused portions of the workshop. The photography workshop is sold as a land package (no international airfares included)
- Cancellation fees are not transferable.

Camera gear

There is really no limit to what camera gear you take. Check with your airline about weight restrictions. Whatever level of camera equipment you have, we will help to ensure you get the most out of it. Check the camera equipment checklist at the end of the brochure but if you want to discuss specific equipment for this trip, contact me.

Fitness and health considerations

Sometimes participants will be required to walk on uneven terrain or tracks and hiking. A basic level of walking fitness will help, but this tour is not a hiking tour or a trekking tour so nothing extreme will be required. All walks/hikes are optional, and we will always provide information the day before about what to expect so you can decide whether you want to join or not. If you have concerns about your own capabilities or health, please check with your doctor before booking a place.

By signing the Registration Form, you guarantee that to the best of your knowledge, you do not have any physical or other disability that could create a risk for you or other tour participants. Once a booking has been accepted by IP Travel Photography, medical circumstances will not be accepted as an exemption to the Cancellation Policy above.

Within the Registration Form, please indicate any health issues, allergies or dietary requirements. IP Travel Photography does not assume any responsibility or liability for medical care or special dietary requirements. If a participant becomes ill during the workshop, IP Travel Photography reserves the right to continue the tour for the benefit of the rest of the participants. IP Travel Photography will make every effort to assist you whilst trying to minimize disruption of the workshop for other participants.

Visas/Covid-19

I will provide guidance on this to obtain your visas (if required) and we will update you before the trip with regards to covid tests (if required) prior departure.

Rights

IP Travel Photography reserves the right to:

- Substitute hotels/accommodation
- Make changes in the itinerary or transport if required due to changes in airline schedules, or when necessary. We may be forced to change or alter the itinerary due to unforeseen

circumstances; please be aware, however, that we will attempt to stick as close to the original program as possible

- Cancel the workshop prior to departure, in which case a full refund of all payments received will be given. If such an event occurred, IP Travel Photography will not be responsible for any other expenses such as non-refundable air fares, visa fees and other related expenses. The responsibility for such bookings lies with the participant. As such, IP Travel Photography recommends participants to purchase a travel protection and cancellation insurance prior to paying the first deposit
- Substitute the tour leader and guest photographer as originally specified, in which case this substitution will not entitle the participant to a refund
- Run the photography workshop without the guest photographer if the group size is less than 6 participants. This will not entitle the participant to a refund
- Accept or refuse any person as a participant in the workshop
- Change the price of the workshop at any time due to adverse currency exchange fluctuations, airline schedule changes, fuel and tax price charges
- Change the price of the workshop at any time due to major unforeseen increases in expedition related costs and may have to be adjusted as a result.

Liability

The operation of the workshop is at the sole discretion of Ignacio Palacios (IP Travel Photography Pty Ltd), having in mind the wellbeing and interests of all participants and the safe and sensible operation of the program as specified within this itinerary IP Travel Photography does not accept any liability for the acts, omissions or default, whether negligent or otherwise of third party providers IP Travel Photography disclaims liability for any injury, damage, loss, delay, additional expense or trouble caused by force majeure or any other event which is not preventable by reasonable diligence on IP Travel Photography's part.

IP Travel Photography

IP Travel Photography is an ASIC business name with Australian Business Number 16578586693 and registered in Australia under the Business Names Registration Act 2011. IP Travel Photography Pty Ltd (Ignacio Palacios) will guide and provide photography tuition to all participants during the tour. IP Travel Photography is not a travel agent or travel service provider.



**TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE FOR 2024
OR TO MAKE AN ENQUIRY, PLEASE EMAIL
IGNACIO@IPTRAVELPHOTOGRAPHY.COM.AU**



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TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHY

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