

The Bonerate of Indonesia



The Bonerate live on the islands of Bonerate, Madu, Lalaotoa, Karompa, and Selayar in South Sulawesi Province. These islands are part of the districts of Bonerate, Passimasungu (North Bonerate) and Passimarane, in Selayar Regency.

Bonerate Island is in a very remote location. To reach Bonerate from the South Sulawesi capital of Makassar would take 2-3 days. The primary language that these people use is the Bonerate language, which is made up of two dialects, the Bonerate and Karompa.

The primary ways Bonerate people make a living is through fishing and farming. The land's primary produce is cassava, sweet potatoes, cloves, and sago palm, which grow naturally, without fertilizer. They cannot grow other vegetables because the land is too dry. To fulfill their needs, vegetables are brought in from other islands. They also eat marine food such as seaweed, teripang, lola, and bole-bole. The main foods of the Bonerate are cassava, sago, and sweet potatoes.

The majority of Bonerate people are Muslims but are also influenced by strong animistic beliefs. Primarily, they believe that a powerful spirit inhabits the sea. Therefore, when heavy winds and high waves occur, the people often believe that this ruler of the sea is angry. Various ceremonies and rituals are used to pacify the sea spirit.

The educational level of the Bonerate community is generally still very low. More than half of the people have never attended school or did not finish elementary school. The unemployment level is also very high, and the income level is low. Medical facilities are deficient; in fact there are only two government-run floating medical clinics, whose availability depends upon the weather. Amenities that would attract tourism, such as a pier, hotels, availability of electricity, clean water, and telecommunications do not yet exist on Bonerate. used by permission © 2001 PJRN Indonesia

Primary Religion:

Islam

Disciples (Matt 28.19):

0%

Churches:

0

Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):

Population (date):



BONERATE



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Item Name

Item Note

Have They Heard The Gospel?

Believe In Jesus As God & Only Savior (%)	0%
Number Of Churches	0

Profile Summary

Countries Where People Group Lives

Country Name	Indonesia
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Group Description

Geography & Environment

Location	To reach Bonerate from the South Sulawesi capital of Makassar would take 2-3 days. The first part of the trip would be a ferry ride to Benteng on Selayar Island, and the second part would involve renting a fishing boat since there is no public transportation to Bonerate.
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Group Description

Economics

Comment (Economy)	There has been a steady population drain from Bonerate due to people moving to other parts of Sulawesi, such as Makassar, Kendari, and Toli-Toli. The Bonerate typically move to Makassar to seek a better education and employment. Quite a few Bonerate have become cloth and bread sellers in urban markets. Many have migrated to Toli-Toli and Kendari with the hope of receiving broader, more fertile farmland for a cheaper price.
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Group Description

Community Development

Shelter Description	Houses are built on raised platforms with the vacant space underneath used for storage. Houses are neatly arranged in rows, with two rows of houses as long as the island. One row of houses is nicer than the houses in the second row, which is explained by the owners' differing levels of income. Bathing and bathroom needs are carried out on the shoreline.
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Group Description