

# BONERATE



| Demography  | Bonerate Language                                  | Status   |
|---|--|--|
| Location: South Sulawesi<br>Population: 14.500<br>Major religion: Islam | Bible: Parts<br>Jesus Film: No<br>Online Media: No | Believers: 0<br>Engaged: Yes<br>Indigenous church: 0 |

## Identity and Location

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 the Selayar Regency. Bonerate Island is in a very remote location.

Their primary language is Bonerate, which consists of two dialects, Bonerate and Karompa. The Bonerate language is part of a larger linguistic grouping called the Muna-Buton which also includes the Kumbewaha, Lasalimu, Cia-Cia, Kaimbulawa, Busoa, Wakatobi.

## Society and Culture

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. Some 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.

The Bonerate people make a living primarily through fishing and farming. The primary crops are organically grown cassava, sweet potatoes, cloves and sago palm.

Bonerate farmers struggle to grow other types of vegetables because the land is too dry. Vegetables are brought in from other islands. They also eat marine food such as seaweed, sea cucumber and other sea plants. The main foods of the Bonerate

are cassava, sago and sweet potatoes.

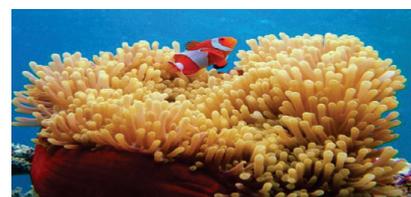
Bonerate houses are built on raised platforms with a vacant space underneath used for storage. Houses are neatly arranged in rows, with two rows of houses as long as the island. The first row of houses is nicer due to higher income of the owners. Bathing and bathroom needs are carried out along the seashore.

## Beliefs

The majority of Bonerate people have Muslim identity cards but they also practice animism. They believe that powerful spirits live in the seas. When high winds or large waves strike, they believe the spirits in the sea are angry. Various rituals and ceremonies are performed to appease the sea spirit.

## Needs

A well-known asset of the Bonerate is the National Takabonerate Park. This park spreads over 220,000 hectares, which includes 21 small islands near the Flores Sea. The Atol Takabonerate is the third largest atoll (circular coral reef) in the world after Kwajalein Atol in the Marshall Islands and the Suvadiva Atol in the Maldives. Unfortunately, sea transportation is inadequate to reach this atoll that offers a million dazzling enchantments. A large port is needed that could accommodate large ships and smaller boats which could make the trip into these islands. The presence of a port would facilitate the sea crossing between Selayar and Kupang in East Nusa Tenggara. If this could be made available, it would help mobility and spur economic growth in this area.<sup>(E-RD)</sup>



Google images - the beauty of Takabonerate