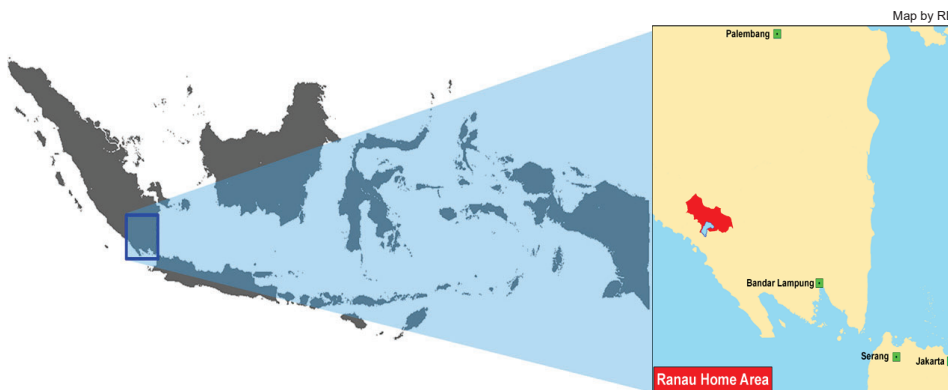


RANAU



Photo by RD



Map by RD

Demography	Ranau Language	Status
Location: South Sumatra	Bible: No	Believers: 0
Population: 66.000	Jesus Film: No	Engaged: Yes
Major Religion: Islam	Online Media: No	Indigenous Church: 0

Identity and Location

The Ranau are a group who live near Lake Ranau in South Sumatra. The Ranau live in a few villages in South Ogan Komering Ulu reGENCY, in Banding Agung District. In their area, the Ranau live near Jawa, Daya, Komering and a few Chinese people who have lived in the area for several generations and mixed with the rest of the population.

Society and Culture

The Ranau people live in a beautiful mountain area made even more beautiful by their large lake. The name Ranau comes from the local word for “lake,” which then became the name for the people living around the lake. The lake is the center of the area. About once every year liquid sulfur comes out of the center of the lake bottom, causing many of the fish to become sick or die. There is also a hot spring on one of the shores of the lake. The lake has been made into a tourist destination by the government. There is an unmaintained airfield nearby. There are also several motels in the area. The Ranau area is very fertile, and the large tracts of forest help the area maintain a natural feeling.

The Ranau often carry a keris (small knife), reflected by the proverb “your weapon is your clothing”. Keris is also called “dengasanak” which means older brother who protects. In a Ranau wedding, a keris is placed on a tray and is given by the groom to the bride, as a sign of his oath to protect her with all his strength.

The Ranau have three kinds of traditional houses. Rumah limas is a house for nobility. Rumah ulu is a house for normal members of the community. Rumah rakit is a house built on a raft, made of bamboo.

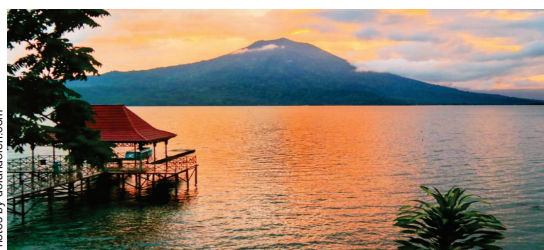
These houses are generally decorated with motifs of plants, as a symbol of life. For example, the melati flower is a symbol of good manner and the rose is to ward off natural disasters. All this is meant to make an impression on children when they become adults. According to Ranau beliefs, the number of steps leading into a house must be odd, to bring blessing to the inhabitants of the house.

Beliefs

Due to the influence of other people groups in South Sumatra, most of the Ranau are Muslim. However their form of Islam is more a tradition passed down through the family rather than based on personal belief. As a result, it’s not strange to find many people who believe in superstitions and sacred objects and places, or who still practice magic arts. They believe in holding on to their religion – not for the sake of religious obedience, but to maintain what was held by their ancestors.

Needs

In the villages, most families experience cases of infant and child mortality, even up to 50% off the children in some families. Better healthcare is a major need in the area.



Photos by dolandolen.com

The Beauty of Ranau Lake

