

The South Tukang Besi of Indonesia



The Tukangbesi Selatan (South Tukangbesi) people speak the Tukangbesi language, which is closely related to Cia-Cia. Available information shows that their culture is virtually the same as the Tukangbesi Utara, but they claim a separate identity for reasons not yet clear to researchers.

Education is emphasized for boys and girls alike. They have a tradition of literary skill, and this is displayed in culturally important books and long poems.

The Tukangbesi Selatan base much of their livelihood on agriculture, because the soil of the islands is very fertile. The main crops grown are corn, dry rice, and cassava. Many Tukangbesi Selatan are also fishermen or boat-builders. However, since economic opportunities are lacking, many sail to other locations. Some of these never return, and people of Tukangbesi origin live throughout much of eastern Indonesia.

Tukangbesi Selatan houses are raised above ground and built of sturdy planks. The roofs are made of small planks, palm leaves, or iron, and the houses have only a few small windows. Most villages have markets where woven silk, cotton, and other fabrics are traded.

Although parents are involved in the arrangement of marriages, young people are free to choose their partners. After marriage, the couple lives with the bride's family until the husband can build his own house. Both spouses are actively involved in caring for their children.

Most Tukangbesi Selatan people are Muslims, but they still believe in various kinds of supernatural forces. Ancestral spirits are considered to help in some instances and bring bad luck such as illness in other instances, depending upon the behavior of the descendant. The people also have a high regard for nature, because it is God's creation. Sufi Islamic mysticism abounds with its focus on knowing God. Many of the Tukangbesi Selatan people also believe in reincarnation because of Hindu influences.

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Primary Religion:

Islam

Disciples (Matt 28.19):

0%

Churches:

0

Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):

Population (date):



TUKANGBESI SELATAN



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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	can be found in the southernmost two islands of the four Tukangbesi islands in Southeast Sulawesi Province.
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Group Description

Language & Linguistics

Comments (Dialect)	The Tukangbesi language is most commonly spoken in the Binongko and Tomea dialects.
Comments (Neighbor Languages)	They are neighbors with the Wolio (Buton) and Muna people.

Group Description

Economics

Occupation	Seafaring is considered men's work, along with ironworking, boat building, brass and silver manufacturing, and most work in the fields. Pottery, weaving, preparing meals, cleaning, and managing the family's money are the women's primary jobs.
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Group Description

Society & Culture

History Of People Group	At the beginning of the 15th century, migrants from Johor, in what is now Malaysia, established the kingdom of Buton. This kingdom included the Tukangbesi Islands and was ruled by a raja (king). In 1540, the sixth raja converted to Islam, making him the first sultan. His sultanate lasted until the death of the last sultan in 1960 lead to integration with the nation of Indonesia.
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Group Description

Religion & Response

Current Needs	The Tukangbesi Selatan people need assistance in improving their physical infrastructure, in areas such as electricity and clean water supplies. They also need training in appropriate technology and better formal education. They also need more medical clinics and medical personnel.
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Status of Christianity