

David Lacina

Mentawai Indigenous People

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Oslo Microbryggeri, Bogstadveien 6, Oslo

Mentawai Indigenous People In Few Words

The Mentawai people live on the remote island of Siberut (Sumatra, Indonesia). Their



INDONESIA

culture is one of the most fascinating and best preserved in the world, yet also one of the least documented.

Style of life

They live in *umas*, wooden houses on supports some 1m above soil. An entire family usually lives together in one house. During the wet season, they gather *durian fruits* while during the dry season the Mentawai man goes *hunting* (monkeys, wild pigs, snakes). Women and young girls, on the other hand, use small nets to catch *fish, freshwater shrimps or*

frogs which are part of their year round diet. The main dish is bread made from *Sago palm* (tasteless white gummy sticks which are full of protein). On special occasions, like a housewarming or the birth of a new baby, pigs are killed and eaten together with sago, coconuts, ants, white fat worms and other delicious dishes.

Religion

The Mentawai are *animists* – they believe that every simple thing has a soul and their own life should be lived in harmony with these souls around. There are several *taboos*



(*makeikei*), which should not be broken; rivers should not be polluted and children should not be screamed at or beaten. If someone fails to go along with these taboos, the Mentawai believe their soul will not be happy and will try to escape from their body. This causes illness and possibly even death. In these cases a *sikerei* – Mentawai shaman – has to hold a special healing ceremony to try to find out what *makeikei* was broken and how to call the soul back.

Yellow beads and *tattoos* are used to make their souls feel happy and not give them any reason to leave their bodies. *Red beads* have a special purpose also – they protect the person from bad ghosts.

My visit to the Mentawai tribe was one of the best experiences ever; friendly people, an



incredible cultural heritage and a lot to learn even if their way of life is reminiscent of the Stone Age. If you would like more information about the Mentawai tribe, Siberut island or ‘off-the beaten track’ travel in general, you can visit my homepage: <http://lacina.net> where all travelogues and photos are published, or you can contact me phone +47 908 582 01.

Photos on exhibit

Here you can find all pictures exhibited, including information about their name, what place and country they were taken and what size you can find them at the exhibition. *If you interested to get a print (in any size), feel free to contact me on phone: +47 908 582 01.*



Name: Mentawai Warrior
Place: Siberut
Country: Indonesia
Size: 30x40cm



Name: Mentawai Sikerei
Place: Siberut
Country: Indonesia
Size: 40x50cm



Name: Happy Soul
Place: Siberut
Country: Indonesia
Size: 30x40cm



Name: Preparing Poisonous Arrows
Place: Siberut
Country: Indonesia
Size: 30x40cm



Name: Colorful Life
Place: Siberut
Country: Indonesia
Size: 40x50cm



Name: Evening Meditation
Place: Siberut
Country: Indonesia
Size: 30x40cm



Name: Watching Last Sunrays
Place: Siberut
Country: Indonesia
Size: 30x40cm



Name: Shaman In Trans
Place: Siberut
Country: Indonesia
Size: 30x40cm



Name: Playing With Bow
Place: Siberut
Country: Indonesia
Size: 30x40cm



Name: Luat & Tuda – Shaman's Tools
Place: Siberut
Country: Indonesia
Size: 30x40cm



Name: Sago Bread Production
Place: Siberut
Country: Indonesia
Size: 30x40cm

Pricing

All photos are available as custom-made professional photographic prints for your home, office etc.

Paper

Prints are on Epson professional photo paper, one of the highest-quality fine-art photographic papers available. Together with Epson inks it displays a superior sharpness and colour, and is expected to last over 75 years on display before noticeable fading occurs. This means you can buy them as gifts for your future grandkids even if you are still in your twenties :-)

Each image is released in a limited edition

A limited edition is a series of numbered prints. Limited editions can vary from just a few prints to several thousand prints. My limited editions consist of 150 prints maximum. All photos are released in limited editions and the low number of prints makes each print a collectible work of art, meaning that your investment is highly collectible and will go up in price significantly within a few years. Each limited edition print is both hand-signed and hand-numbered. The numbering I use is 1/150, 2/150, 3/150,... until I reach 150 prints. When the complete edition has been issued, the original image is retired and will never again be reproduced as a photographic print for sale.

Prices

Photos are available in this sizes and prices:

<i>Framed size</i>	<i>Price (NOK)</i>
28x35cm	595, -
30x40cm	775, -
40x50cm	885, -

All prices include passé partout and frame.

Information about the author

David Lacina, *1977

Travel photographer and documentary journalist of indigenous cultures of the world.



Born on 4th of September 1977 in Czech Republic, absolvent of Mendel University in Brno (master degree in Computer Science and Economics).

During past years, he's visited several exotic countries including Morocco, Malaysia and Langkawi Islands, Sumatra and Siberut Islands of Indonesia, Ghana and Caribbean island Curacao. Instead of visiting well-known places, David spends weeks of-the-beaten-track, living with local people far away from any civilization, learning about their culture and their preserved customs.

Several traveling magazines published his articles - including National Geographic and Czech biggest newspapers iDNES.

Contact information:

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