

AlTo Update, January 2010: This is For You

Dear Friend of AlTo,

As an AlTo supporter, there are a few things we're pretty sure are true about you.

You are a global thinker. You care not only about your own backyard, but about all the natural treasures that our beautiful planet harbors, and the people who live near them. ***You understand that we are all connected***—not just because of our concern for one another, but also very directly and tangibly, in our use and sharing of the planet's resources. And you understand that issues like the preservation of biodiversity, conservation of resources, sustainable livelihoods, and international friendship and understanding are also all linked together in the enterprise that is humans, in all their array, trying to learn to live gracefully on the Earth.

Maybe you like to travel, having experienced the wonder of exotic places, or the magic that happens when people from very different places and walks actually meet each other, and talk and share.

And, we'll wager that ***you like to make a positive difference in the places you go and the people you touch.***

Finally, if you're in the Northern Hemisphere, it's winter, and we're offering the Tropics (just take a moment to imagine the warmth and brightness).



View over sea turtle nesting beach, Tompotika. Photo: Robin Moore

So, this is for you! As you know, AlTo is all about people-to-people conservation, and ***we are now assembling the small group of travelers who will be AlTo's ambassadors for conservation in next summer's eco-service tour.*** Please see the attached for details about the trip and a registration form.

This year, we're going to be tackling the global problem of litter, improper waste management, and marine plastic debris, as manifested in Tompotika. Heard about the great garbage raft in the North Pacific Gyre? Seen the degradation of natural and built areas when folks throw garbage willy-nilly? Well, here's your chance to do something about it. ***This summer, we'll be joining in teams with local villagers to pick up trash and kick off new methods for trash management in Tompotika. In addition, we'll be taking time to observe the elaborate nesting rituals of endangered maleo birds, explore the abundant life of pristine rainforests, snorkel the world's richest coral reefs, and more.***

Come join the fun (yes, really—this picking up trash is going to be fun!) this summer. See attached and contact us for more details.

What: AlTo's Tompotika Eco-tour and Trash Jamboree

Where: Sulawesi, Indonesia

When: July 25-Aug 8, 2010

Who: Max of 10 intrepid travelers

How much: \$3000 for the 15-day trip, not including international airfare. ***Note: Only \$2900 if you register prior to March 1!***

See you in Tompotika!