

May 2012 Update: Have Fun and Leave a Lasting Legacy

Have you thought about visiting Tompotika? Seeing for yourself those strikingly beautiful **pink-breasted endangered maleo birds** that are now, thanks to AITo's partnership with local villagers, recovering in numbers? Or the sea turtle adults and babies that cross Tompotika beaches in the process of beginning or continuing the **ancient rituals of their lives**, no longer cut short by poachers? Maybe you've imagined hiking to the **deafening cicada symphony of the Tompotika jungles**, or **snorkeling with parrotfish** among the richest coral reefs in the world.

If you've considered travel to Tompotika, this coming November, 2012, will be a great time to do it. For **this November**, you'll have a chance not only to see and experience Tompotika's natural wonders, but also to join together with local people to **leave a lasting legacy to help celebrate and protect them**.



Tompotika beach. Photo: Kevin Schafer

This November, a small team of AITo travelers will be working with local village children to **create the region's first mural paintings** -- two large wildlife-themed murals--complete with maleos, sea turtles, flying foxes, crocodiles, tarsiers, anoas, and myriad other Tompotika

creatures -- that will help celebrate and promote the conservation efforts that our partner villages have worked so hard to implement.

You'll be awed by directly observing some of the rarest and most unique wildlife in the world. You'll **discover an easy, delightful time laughing, playing, and painting with local kids** -- even though you speak different languages. And at the end of the two-week experience, the impact of your presence won't just disappear –



Mural painting in Hawaii

you'll leave a lasting legacy of goodwill and love of nature in the form of two beautiful mural paintings.

Studies have shown that mural paintings do help support and promote conservation attitudes and activities over time. And creating them, especially together with local kids, is **just plain fun!** Please see the attached for more information about AlTo's upcoming trip. You **don't need any special artistic skills -- just a love of people and nature, and a spirit of adventure.** And, if you act fast, there is still time to take advantage of a **\$100 discount for those registered by June 1.** Contact AlTo atinfo@tompotika.org for additional information.

See you in Tompotika!

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Tompotika kids and AlTo travelers frolic in the surf.

Photo: Trish Mac e