



MARCH FOR MALEO - KIRAB MALEO

NOVEMBER 15TH - 22ND, 2026

Sponsored by the **Alliance for Tompotika Conservation (ALTo)** www.tompotika.org

Travel with a Purpose: Join Indonesian villager partners and people from around the world on a six-day, 73-km march to protect tropical forests, the local people who depend on them, and the wild creatures who cannot live without them.

Why a "March for Maleo"?

The **Critically Endangered Maleo** bird, ranked as the world's 7th highest priority bird for conservation*, is the mascot of Sulawesi, Indonesia, and beloved of its people. Maleos do not incubate their eggs, but lay them in communal nesting grounds where they are incubated by the warmth of the sun. When not at the nesting ground, Maleos live in the tropical rainforests so essential for planetary health.



Our Beginnings

Twenty years ago, villagers in the Tompotika region sought help from the international community to prevent the local extinction of their Maleos. Together, these allies formed a partnership, the non-profit **Alliance for Tompotika Conservation (ALTo)**, which has dramatically restored Maleo numbers at three Tompotika sites, turning this region into the world's healthiest stronghold for the iconic and Critically Endangered Maleo.

New Challenge: Nickel Mining

But now, the Maleo and countless other human and non-human Tompotika residents face a new peril. Demand by the Global Consumer Class for rechargeable batteries threatens to destroy the Heart of Tompotika Forest through dirty nickel mining. Nearby, such mountain-scraping mining has destroyed entire ecosystems and human communities: razing forests, causing flooding and landslides, poisoning air and water, and killing offshore reefs.

The March: "Yes" to Permanent Protection

Through ALTo's March for Maleo / *Kirab Maleo*, Tompotika villagers are inviting international partners to join in declaring, with our feet, a big "yes!" to permanent protection of the Heart of Tompotika Forest, and "no!" to its demolition. This eye-opening and life-affirming event is part of a larger strategy to prevent mining's worst destruction, and will be closely watched by government leaders and decision-makers.



The Celebration

In villages along the way, together with Tompotika citizens of all ages, we'll celebrate the Maleo with music, games, art, and drama, raising awareness of what's at stake, and having fun while we're at it. We'll end our walk on official World Maleo Day, November 21, with fanfare and media attention.



Our first March in 2007

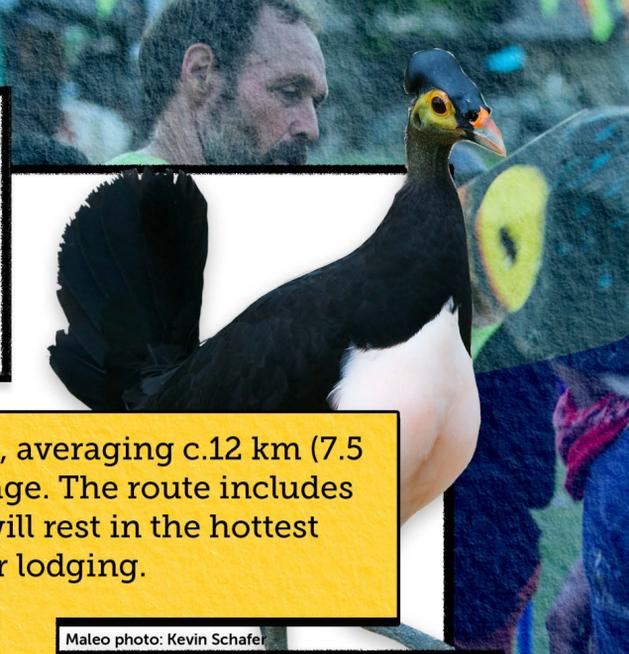


Stilt walkers in our student outreach program

IN SOLIDARITY WITH MALEOS

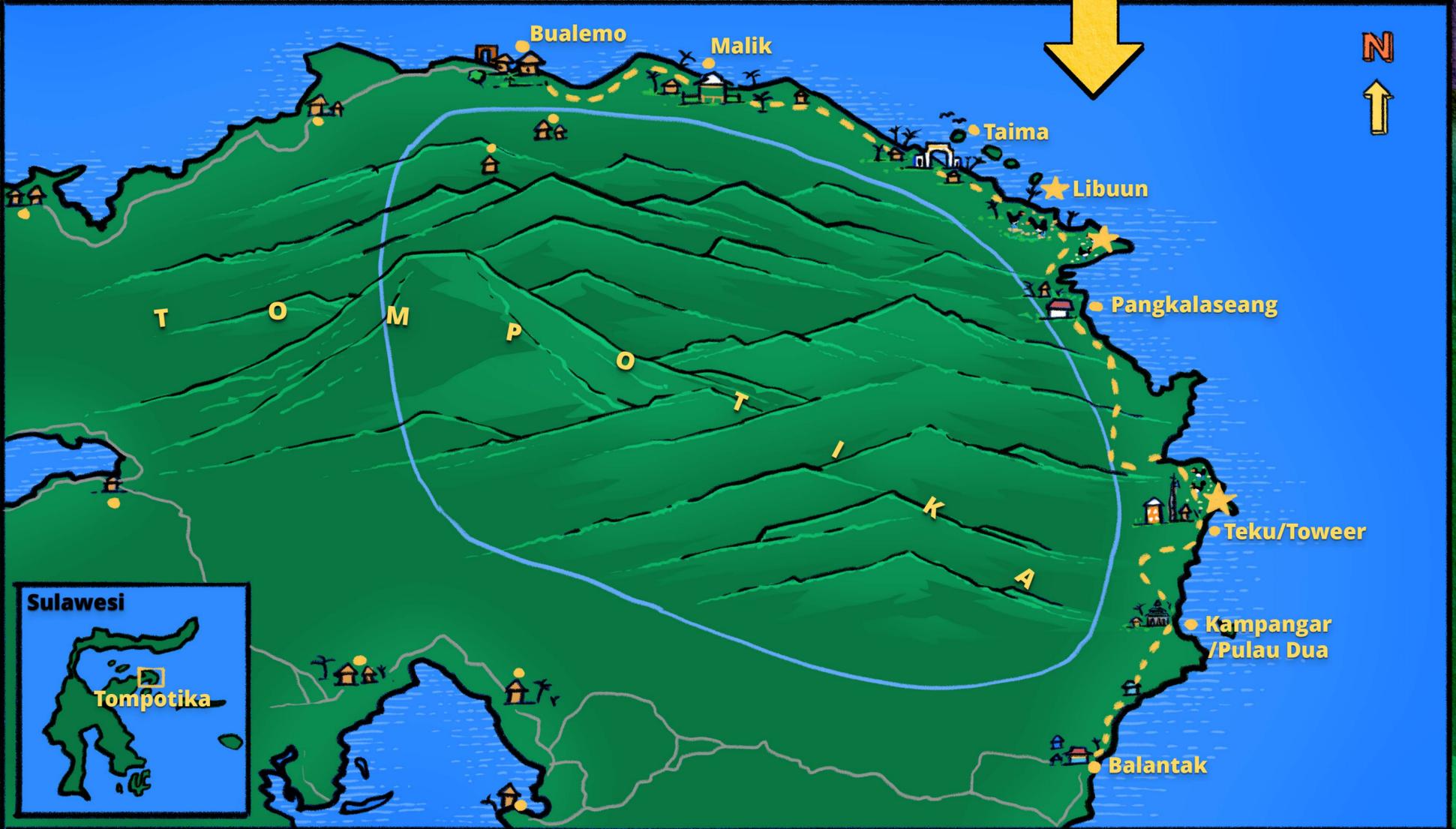
In our 73 km (45 mi) march, we'll trace the edge of the same irreplaceable rainforest habitat that Maleos walk every time they travel from their home in the Heart of Tompotika Forest to lay an egg at their protected nesting grounds.

Maleos make this walk to ensure their future. Let's join them to ensure everyone's.



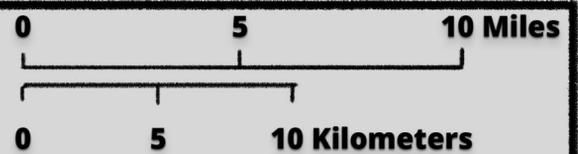
Maleo photo: Kevin Schafer

Our Journey: We'll walk on Tompotika's main ring road, from Balantak to Bualemo, averaging c.12 km (7.5 mi) each day for 6 days. The walk will be challenging. You need not carry any baggage. The route includes some steep hills, and the roads are paved but uneven. The weather will be hot; we will rest in the hottest part of the day. On any marching day you may opt for a rest day and remain in your lodging.



- Heart of Tompotika Forest
- March for Maleo route
- Roads

- Maleo nesting grounds
- March for Maleo villages



Accommodation: Comfortable tourist-grade accommodation is available for limited numbers.

The Details

Space is limited. Non-refundable deposit of **USD \$500** required.
Dates: **Nov 15-22, 2026** (8 days total, 6 days marching)
Book your flights to and from: **Luwuk**, Central Sulawesi, Indonesia
Cost: **USD \$1850** per person, based on double occupancy. Includes all meals, accommodation, local transportation, and March activities. Does not include airfare. Discounts available for families, or for those choosing more modest accommodation.



Painting: Cheryl Winda Limarjo

For more information, or to reserve your spot, contact Ezra Parker at ezra@tompotika.org

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Photo Keith Brofsky