

# Baubau, Southeast Sulawesi, Indonesia

Baubau guards the southern entrance to the Banda Sea with a Guinness-record fortress and a culture shaped by sultans, sea gypsies, and seafarers. Few cruise ports in Southeast Asia feel this genuinely off the beaten path.

Docked (Murhum Port) Typical call: 7-9 hrs Indonesian Rupiah (IDR) Indonesian / Butonese

## MY DAY IN PORT

|                  |               |                   |
|------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Ship/Date: _____ | Arrive: _____ | All aboard: _____ |
| Excursion: _____ | Notes: _____  |                   |

## GETTING ASHORE

**Docking:** Murhum Port, ~2 km from city center; walk or short taxi

**Don't Miss:** Benteng Keraton Buton — one of the world's largest fortresses

**Best For:** History, local culture, off-the-beaten-path Indonesia

**Currency:** Indonesian Rupiah; small USD/AUD acceptable at some stalls

Getting around: **Taxi** ~50,000 IDR (~\$3 USD) · **Rideshare** Grab, Maxim

## TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Benteng Keraton Buton Fortress** — This 16th-century limestone hilltop citadel — recognized by Guinness World Records in 2006 as the largest fortress in the world — stretches some 2.7...
- **Pasar Wameo Market & Ikat Weavers** — Baubau's traditional market near the waterfront buzzes with daily life.
- **Nirwana Beach** — About 9-10 km southwest of the city center (near Betoambari Airport), Nirwana Beach delivers clear water, white sand, and calm snorkeling reefs.
- **Bajo Sea-Gypsy Village** — The Bajo (Bajau) people have built their homes on stilts over the water for centuries.
- **Sampolawa River Boat Trip** — Head south for a boat journey up the Sampolawa River through lush mangrove and jungle scenery.

## BEST WALKS

- **Port to City Center & Market** 2 km | Easy | 25-30 min — A flat walk along the waterfront road from Murhum Port brings you to the city center and Pasar Wameo market.
- **Benteng Keraton Fortress Grounds** 1-2 km inside fortress | Moderate | 1-1.5 hrs — Once you've taxied up to the fortress, walk the perimeter walls and interior lanes past the Mesjid Keraton mosque, royal tombs, and hilltop viewpoints over the bay.

## WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

| CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS) |      |     |      | DAYLIGHT &  MONEY                                                                                 |  |
|-------------------------------|------|-----|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| Mon                           | High | Low | Rain | Apr 5:50AM–5:48PM · Jun 5:56AM–5:44PM · Aug 5:56AM–5:51PM · Sep 5:42AM–5:46PM · Oct 5:28AM–5:41PM |  |
| Apr                           | 85°  | 77° | 25d  |                                                                                                   |  |
| Jun                           | 84°  | 76° | 20d  |                                                                                                   |  |
| Aug                           | 85°  | 74° | 8d   |                                                                                                   |  |
| Sep                           | 87°  | 74° | 7d   |                                                                                                   |  |
| Oct                           | 89°  | 75° | 11d  |                                                                                                   |  |

## KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Dress modestly at the fortress. Cover knees and shoulders — it's an active cultural and religious site. Carry a light scarf or sarong.
- Carry small Rupiah notes. ATMs exist in the city center but are not guaranteed to work with foreign cards. Get cash before leaving the ship if possible.
- Negotiate taxi rates upfront. A half-day car hire covering fortress, market, and beach typically runs 300,000–450,000 IDR. Drivers who speak some English are worth seeking out at the port gate.
- Dry season is May–October. The wet season (Nov–Apr) brings heavy rain and can make the hilltop fortress paths slippery. Most cruise calls are in the dry season.
- Mobile data is spotty. Download offline maps for Baubau before arriving — Google Maps or Maps.me both have reasonable coverage of the island.
- Try kasuami and fresh seafood at the market or harbor stalls — cassava-based kasuami is a Butonese staple and a genuine local taste.

# Baubau, Southeast Sulawesi, Indonesia — Port Map

[cruiseports.org](https://cruiseports.org)

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



- |                             |                                                                    |                                                                 |                                                            |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1</b> Istana Malige      | Istana Malige is a traditional Butonese royal palace.              | <b>2</b> Drakenstandbeeld van het Boeton Islamitische Sultanaat | A dragon statue symbolizing the Buton Islamic Sultanate.   |
| <b>3</b> BATU POARO         | Batu Poaro is a scenic beach with unique rock formations.          | <b>4</b> Buton Sultanate Palace Fortress                        | Ancient fortress and former palace of the Buton Sultanate. |
| <b>5</b> lawana gundu-gundu | Lawana Gundu-Gundu is a natural cave with historical significance. | <b>P</b> Cruise port / terminal                                 |                                                            |