

SMART TRAVELLER

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SNAPSHOT

Aroni, Kabalutan, Indonesia

The village of Kabalutan, on the island of Sulawesi, is home to the Bajau people. For centuries, the Bajau have free-dived in the waters around them, catching and selling fish. While spending time there, I met Aroni, the only villager who crafts swimming goggles. He makes them from mangrove wood and recycled glass – it takes him two days to complete a pair. Meeting and chatting with Aroni was a highlight of my trip, and he showed me the age-old techniques he uses to work with just a handful of materials. His goggles don't let water in and are as good as any mass-produced ones.

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