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Manado Things to Do by Lek Boonlert

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In the Minhasa Highlands alone the list of things to do outdoors seems endless. Visitors can make a pleasant trek through the jungle to Kali Waterfall. A challenging hike to Mt. Lokon, an active volcanic, provides magnificent views of the highlands. The gentler slopes of Mt. Lokonâ€™s smaller sister, Mt. Mahawu, offer a less strenuous hike but no less beautiful view of the surrounding area. Inside the crater is a steaming, emerald-green lake ringed with yellow sulphur deposits. There are also tours available to Linow Lake, a highly sulphurous body of water whose colours constantly change depending upon the light and viewing perspective. The lake is home to various species of small and large birds. A grassy area to one side makes a pleasant spot for a picnic lunch, but watch out for bubbling mud holes at the lakeâ€™s edge to avoid serious burns.

Although most visitors come to Manado for diving and snorkelling, hotels in Manado offer a variety of other water sports. For example, in addition to diving at its fully equipped dive centre, the Hotel Santika Manado offers guests a swimming pool and the option of renting water skis, sail boats, kayaks, and glass-bottom boats. A jogging track, shopping arcade, and free shuttle to town also are available.

Hotels in Manado serve as a comfortable home base for visits to other area highlights, such as scuba diving and snorkelling in Bunaken National Park, which includes the island of Bunaken.

No trip to Manado is complete without a visit to the Ban Hin Kiong Temple, alleged to be the oldest Chinese temple in eastern Indonesia. The temple is a much-frequented tourist spot, especially during the Chinese New Year celebration.

In Citraland, a wealthy Manado suburb, visitors can view Asiaâ€™s second tallest, and the worldâ€™s fou tallest, statue of Christ.

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