

Bajau Tribe

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Bajau Tribe Latest News

Research has revealed that the Bajau's spleens are, on an average, 50% larger than those of the general population, a natural adaptation that allows them to live longer and deep diver.

About Bajau Tribe

- The Bajau, also called the **Sea Gypsies or Sea Nomads**, come from the **Sulu Islands** region in the **Southern Philippines**.
- And because of their nomadic sea life, this tribe **eventually spread into** the waters of **Malaysia, Brunei, and Indonesia**.
- The Bajau are renowned for their **extraordinary free-diving abilities**.
 - **Without using modern diving gear**, they can **dive to depths of 20-30 metres** and **hold their breath for five to 13 minutes**.
 - Bajau have **spleens** that are, on average, **50% larger** than those of ordinary people, a natural adaptation that **enables them to dive deeper and longer**.

- Scientists have traced this adaptation to a **variation in the PDE10A gene**.
- People of the Bajau Tribe **live in wooden pole houses and houseboats called Lepa-Lepa**. Their activities are mostly carried out on the boat.
- Following seasonal changes, they **move between islands, entirely dependent on the sea** for food, income, and daily needs.
- **Fishing remains central to their lifestyle** and is a strong reflection of their cultural heritage. Communal fishing activities help preserve traditional practices and strengthen social bonds.
- They **occasionally go ashore only to sell their catch to buy secondary needs** that they cannot make themselves.

Source: TOI

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/bajau-tribe/>

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