

BADJAO-SEA PEOPLE



Badjao - Sea People

<https://www.bing.com/images/search?q=badjao+sea+people&FORM=HDRSC2>

Badjao, known also as "Sea Gypsies" is a tribal group that lives in Borneo. Their lifestyle is much different from ours. Sea nomads live in small thatch-roofed houses on bamboo stilts on a small strip of land that nobody else wanted. They spend most of their time on boats or diving in the water and fishing. They can stay under the surface of the water for a very long time and their children first learn how to swim, then how to walk. It is said that when they come out of the water, they suffer from the landsickness.

There is a legend about Badjao. It says that their ancestors had gills instead of lungs. It would not be hard to believe in

that story. They often have to grapple with headaches and muscle cramps but beneath the water they feel like fish. They are able to see everything very well under the surface. Eye accommodation is even proper there. Sea nomads can also walk on the seabed looking for seafood.

Nobody knows how many sea people live on our planet. They do not exist for the government. That is the reason why their children are not allowed to attend school. Sea Gypsies can not write, read or count. Badjao parents do not even know how many years their children have. They can not go

to the doctor either. Only because sea nomads are not registered in any hospitals. They are not registered anywhere. The law is cruel to them. Badjao can only rely on their primitive healing skills.

Sea people struggle also with a huge environment pollution. Tourists are keen on their beautiful beaches. They come there eagerly to snorkel, swim or just to enjoy exotic landscapes. Unfortunately, the most of them leave a lot of trash. Badjao also pollute their territory. The reason is lack of knowledge. They noticed too late that rubbish did not disappear, because some of them did not decomposit.

The sad fact is that the government want to get rid of sea nomads instead of educating them.

Sea Gypsies travel with the wind by houseboats called vintas from one island to the other in search of fishing harvest. This pagan tribe have sailed the seas for more than a thousand years, but because of overfishing by normal people with their professional, high-tech equipment, Badjao's life on the open waters is fading out. As a result, more and more sea people are forced to resettle. They move to land, settle in surrounding slums and let their diving skills disappear.

The lifestyle of sea people is amazing.

Full of beauty and completely different from everyday life of ordinary people. It would be sad if the world would let Badjao disappear forever. Even if it happens, unusual skills of Sea Gypsies should never be forgotten.

THE MENNONITES



The Mennonites

<https://www.bing.com/images/search?q=the+mennonites&FORM=HDRSC2>

The Mennonites are a group of Orthodox Protestants that lives in Bolivian Santa Rita. The Mennonites, is a community that separated from the State Church in 16th century on the territory of Prussia. They eventually settled in Bolivia, because the Bolivian government there did not order the young men to join the army. There probably exists 1,5 million of Mennonites scattered all over the world. It is said that they can be found even in 82 countries. They communicate

with one another using an old German language.

The current lifestyle of the representatives of this group looks almost the same as it was 5 centuries ago. There is no electricity or internet and all kinds of fun, cultural events or sports are forbidden. People cannot sing, dance or even listen to music. They are allowed to meet with friends in the village but they are totally forbidden to make parties. Mennonites are moving only by cartloads and horses. Sometimes

they can use a car, but without owning it. A person who breaks any rules is punished by exclusion from the community. Women do not use any cosmetics and nobody ever heard anything about make-up. There are also dress rules for Mennonites. Of course bright colours and jewellery are not considered appropriate. A dark dress and a hat is the best outfit for a woman, and navy dungarees and a shirt are mainly worn by men. Even children dress up like their parents. At the wedding the young

couple should wear black clothes.

If it comes to everyday duties everyone has their own things to do. Men should work in the field while women have to do household chores, raise children and sew clothes. Good wife must be kind, modest and listen to her husband. A partition is also apparent in church, where women and men sits on opposite sides and have separate exits. Also girls in the school cannot sit near the boys.

The authorities of the Mennonites

have rejected the traditional educational system. Students go to school between the ages 5 and 13. They are only taught how to write, read and the basics of mathematics. The most important lessons in school are about the Bible. Geography, History and other subjects are forbidden. Teachers use corporal punishments in schools, so children are really focused on their lectures. It is worth mentioning that children attend school only few months a year

when they do not have to work in field.

Mennonites' life is not easy and they also know that. Most of them disagree with some of community rules, but still want to stay in the group. However youth increasingly go away from the traditions of their ancestors. No one knows how long Mennonites will exist in the world.



There are plenty of people with white hair as if they were angels. Their eyes are adapted to dark places and they can hardly see during the day. Sunlight blinds them. Their skin is as pale as snow. They cannot stay outside without protection. They need to prevent their skin from sunburns. These people are albinos. They suffer from albinism, i.e. inherited condition that manifests the complete absence of pigment in the skin, hair and eyes. Their life has not been easy...

In the past shamans told people that charms made of albinos' body parts could transmit magic powers. Therefore, people hunted and killed for many years. Unluckily, there are still some places on the Earth where albino people are persecuted. Albinos are still an object of violence and ridicule in some countries in Africa nowadays.

In Tanzania, they are told to be ghosts. Tanzanian people mock at albinos and underestimate their talents or abilities. As one of them, Josephat said: "People say that when I die, I'll disappear. They think my body and skin can make someone rich. We are bullied. We are killed. But I'm not scared to speak."

Albinos are captured and killed as in many regions of Africa. People do it for money. A body of albino costs around 75000\$. For such an amount of money Tanzanian people would have worked for at least 150 years. In 2007 number of victims increased. Only in 2008 the European Union Parliament took a stand to protect albinos from any act of violence and first sentence in Tanzania for killing albino was received in 2009.



albino in africa

blackhistoryinthebible.com



albino twins

ego-alterego.com

The media usually report bad things across Pakistan. What a pity! There is definitely much more to say about this country. For example, indigenous people who live in the Chitral District that is a province of Pakistan. I mean the tribe of Kalashes.



The tribe of Kalashes

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This tribe is much older than the Pakistan itself! The history of Kalashes dates back to the ancient times and these people are said to be decedants of people who were ruled by Alexander the Great.

Many people say that Kalash women are the happiest and the most liberated in the whole world.

They dominate over men in every aspect of life.

From little girls to elderly women, they are dressed in long balck tunics richly decorated with colourful designs, mainly flowers.

Compearing to men who are dressed in beige, neuter complet, women brings up more attention.

People in this tribe are free and do not subject under the Pakistan law. They have very strict rules of cleanliness and impurity. For example when a woman is about to give a birth or she is on her period, she must move to the "red house" for that time. She is not allowed to cook or spend her time in society because she is "impure". Men must not even touch the walls around the "red house" let alone enter

This is the most severe rule of this tribe. Suprisingly, a woman can choose her husband and even change him aftersome time! She can easily divorce and get married again.The only consequence will be paying back two times more than she had received from the family of her ex-husband. They believe that the woman deserves to be happy and if love makes her happy no one can stand on her way.



our peers

Maja Rachwał



elder

Maja Rachwał