



## Mangrove-based culinary in mentawir tourism village, east-kalimantan

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### ABSTRACT

Mentawir Regency is a place with a lot of tourism potential. Regency, like other districts in East Kalimantan, offers various tourist spots with the potential to attract tourists. Mentawir Tourism Village is one of the most popular tourist destinations in Balik-Papan, Kalimantan Timur. Data collection methods include interviews, observations, literature studies, and documentation studies. This study included the following participants, in addition to in-depth interviews: The Pokdarwis of the Mentawir Tourism Village, the Mentawir Village, and Pokdarwis members. The data analysis methodologies employed in this study were qualitative. The single point and chaining loop travel patterns are well implemented in Mentawir Tourism Village because, in the single point pattern, the readiness is in the form of access roads with only one lane, so that the withdrawal route and the exit route will follow the same path. When going to tourist attractions on different routes, the route passed back is not the same, so it does not go through the same route, so the travel pattern is in the shape of a chaining loop.

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

The country of Indonesia has the natural beauty of dense forests. We have many types of forests, and one of the most famous is the mangrove forest in East Kalimantan. The use of mangrove fruit has a very strategic role in preserving mangrove forests compared to the use of wood. This research discusses mangroves and culinary dishes (Ahmad & Suratman, 2021; Rout, 2022; Sandilyan & Kathiresan, 2012) Mangroves are a vital ecosystem that delivers substantial social, economic, and environmental benefits. Indonesia has prioritized mangroves as a national priority in an important attempt to manage this ecosystem sustainably and meet national climate obligations (Arifanti et al., 2022; Basyuni et al., 2022; Gerona-Daga & Salmo, 2022). The way to disseminate knowledge and understanding of mangrove fruit is by collaborating with the Mangrove Forest Processing Center (BPHM) Regions I and II by releasing mangrove non-timber forest products (HHBKM).

The HHBKM in question are food ingredients, drinks, coloring ingredients, and cosmetics. BPHM Region I has also actively conducted training in various provinces in its working area (19 provinces in Indonesia outside the islands of Kalimantan and Sumatra) on the benefits of non-timber mangrove forest products such as food, drinks, soap, cold powder, and Lindur. Several types of mangrove fruit can be used in this release (Syafei et al., 2023). The types of mangrove trees and their uses are as follows: a). Food substitute for rice and cake flour from Lindur fruit (*Bruguiera gymnorrhiza*). b) Ingredients for syrup drinks, dodol, other than pudding from Pedada fruit (*Sonneratia caseolaris*). c) Ingredients for making soap from Pedada fruit (*Sonneratia caseolaris*). d) Cake flour ingredients from Api-api fruit (*Avicennia* sp). e) Cosmetic ingredient (cold scrub) from Nyirih fruit (*Xylocarpus granatum*). f) Raw materials for alcohol, vinegar, and brown sugar from Nipah fruit (*Nypa fruticans*). g) Clothing dyes from mangrove bark (*Rhizophora mucronata*), Lindur (*Bruguiera gymnorrhiza*) and Mentigi (*Ceriops tagal*). h) Raw materials for Tanjang and Brayu cakes.

Mentawir tourism village is located in the Sepaku sub-district, North Panajam Paser Regency, East Kalimantan, with a distance of 2-3 hours by land and 1-1 1/2 hours by waterway from the city of Balikpapan. The natural tourist attraction is the main mangrove in the bay tourism village: mangrove forests, Mentawir river rapids, bamboo forests, and tropical forest landscapes. The culture of the Paser tribe, with its ronggeng dance and the presence of demang, and the story of the origins of the Mentawir city are also cultural attractions there. Apart from that, seafood dishes are very diverse and have many types. Coffee and tea products are processed from mangrove plants such as Mangrove syrup and cold powder all processed from mangrove tree plants. There are also handicrafts made from bamboo, which are processed to become an attraction for foreign and local tourists who can be brought home as souvenirs or souvenirs. East Kalimantan is famous for the beauty of its exotic natural attractions. Various natural attractions exist in this area, ranging from beaches, rivers, lakes, and caves to exotic islands. One of the most popular destinations in this area is the Mahakam River. This is the largest and longest river in East Kalimantan. Currently, tourists can cruise the Mahakam River using tourist boats provided by the East Kalimantan government. Hutan Mangrove ini sangat apik dan tersedia gazebo yang dapat menampung lebih dari 10 orang, wisatawan dapat beristirahat sembari menikmati hutan mangrove dan perairan teluk, bahkan bisa sambil minum kopi, teh yang diolah dari hasil mangrove tersebut. Menariknya terdapat pula fasilitas photobooth yang dapat dipergunakan untuk berfoto bersama. Selain menyusuri hutan mangrove di atas jembatan wisatawan juga dapat menyusuri perairan di kawasan hutan menggunakan perahu bermotor. Hutan mangrove berfungsi sebagai pencegah abrasi atau pengikisan daratan oleh air laut (Nainggolan, 2018). "President Joko Widodo asked that regional tourist areas be developed and promoted well. This is important to attract people's interest in traveling (February 24, 2023, Balikpapan Satu Data). Encouraging MSMEs to sell at tourist attractions so that people shop as much as possible," said the President. Also present were Minister of Investment/Head of BPKM Bahliil Lahadalia, Minister of BUMN Erick Thohir, Minister of PURR Basuki Hadimuljono, and Minister of ATR/Head of BPN Hadi Tjahjanto. (diskominfo/cha/mgm)

One place that has great potential for culinary tourism is Mentawir Village. Just like other areas in East Kalimantan Province, Mentawir village, Sepaku District, North Panajam Paser Regency has many tourist destinations that have the potential to be big enough to attract tourists. In his press statement after the review, the President reiterated that the government is committed to starting the Archipelago Capital City (IKN) development by rehabilitating existing forests. The development of several existing tourist destinations can make them a leading destination that can boost the economic growth of the Mentawir people.

The Mentawir nursery, in the next 6-7 months, will be able to produce 15-20 million tree seedlings, which include nyatoh, meranti, lime, gaharu, and guava wood. By planting

these trees, it is hoped that it will attract animals and birds to enter their habitat in the IKN. On this occasion, the Minister of Environment and Forestry Siti Nurbaya explained that the Ministry of Environment and Forestry is currently building a 120-hectare Mentawir nursery near the IKN core area, and only about 30 hectares are used for nurseries. Meanwhile, the rest are being built as reservoirs, which are the responsibility of the Ministry of Public Works and Housing, with a current water content of approximately seven hectares. In her explanation, Siti conveyed to the government that the Mentawir nursery is a large-scale nursery category (Thursday 02/2023, National/Environmental JPNN)

Mangroves do not only have ecological functions as they are known so far, but they also have economic and maritime functions. Some parts of mangroves, such as fruit, leaves, and stems, can be processed into goods with economic value. As quoted from the chairman of the Mentawir POKDARWIS, Mr. Lamale, various non-timber processed products from mangroves can be made, such as; 1) Syrup; Sonneratia or Pedada/Bogem mangroves can also be processed into syrup. The aroma of this pedada is usually fragrant and has a fresh sour taste. Usually, those who like to process pedada into syrup are in the Rungkut area, Surabaya, and Tanjung Rejo, Deli Serdang. 2) Coffee; Indonesia is indeed one of the largest coffee-producing countries, but the coffee product here that is famous and even exported to foreign countries is Segara Mangrove Coffee. Zuraida said that coffee is not a leading sector in East Kalimantan. The coffee trend, which is now worldwide, has sustainable market potential. So that it can strengthen the regional economy and society. The early history of East Kalimantan coffee, Syadan, coffee has been known in East Kalimantan since the Majapahit era. At that time, Maharaja Sultan visited Majapahit. The two brothers from the Kingdom of Kutai Kertanegara wanted to learn about governance and palace customs in Java, Historia, East Kalimantan. There are three types of coffee in East Kalimantan, namely robusta, Liberika, and Arabica. Robusta and Liberika are in the lowlands, while Arabica is in the highlands of more than 400 meters. He continued planting coffee is the same as other plantation crops such as cocoa plants and is almost the same where the per hectare is 1,600, and the planting population is 2.5 x 2.5 meters. Moreover, when asked about obstacles to coffee development, Zuraida said this was due to capital problems. The price of the seeds alone is IDR 9,000, and the price per hectare is around IDR. 15 Million to clear the land. 3). Tea; Tea can also be made from mangrove-based ingredients, and in terms of taste and appearance, it is equal to other types of tea in general, such as sariwangi, green tea, and others. Lamale (Pokdarwis chairman) said that premium tahongai tea made in East Kalimantan could only be packaged into tea bags or powder. Hery sells this tea in two types through Abjira Herba Center. Tahongai (*Kleihovia hospita* L) is widely known.

Culinary tourism is a trip planned to find food and drink and get a memorable gastronomic experience (Daries et al., 2018; Di-clemente et al., 2019; Di-Clemente et al., 2020; Johari & Anuar, 2020; Kokkranikal & Carabelli, 2021; Lee, 2015; Minihan, 2014; Movahed et al., 2020; Rachão et al., 2019; Rathee & Rajain, 2022; M. Stone, 2018; M. J. Stone et al., 2018; Sucita Yanthy, 2018)(Guzel & Apaydin, 2017; Pramezwarly, Amelda , Lemy, Diena M. Juliana, Sitorus, Nova Bernedeta Masatip, Anwari , Dalimunthe, Femmy Indriany , Liyushiana, Yanti, 2022). Someone who has the main goal of looking for new experiences and has a strong interest in food and drink is called a Foodie. A Foodie appreciates culinary experiences by enjoying the taste and aroma of specially made food. Several terms used in culinary tourism are Food Tourism, Culinary Tourism, and Gastronomy Tourism (Ab Karim & Chi, 2010; Guzel & Apaydin, 2017; Omar et al., 2011; Wijayanti et al., 2020) Looking for culinary experiences is one of the motivations for traveling (Sharples, 2003)

## 2. RESEARCH METHOD

Several data collection techniques are used to obtain data, including interviews, observation, literature study, and documentation study. As well as carrying out in-depth interviews, this research took the following participants: Chairman of the Mentawir Tourism Village Pokdarwis and Mentawir Tourism Village Pokdarwis members. An interview guide is defined by Ibrahim (2015) as a complete piece of research prepared as a guide or reference for conducting interviews. The data collection procedure used in this research is primary data obtained through data sources from the Mentawir Regency Tourism and Culture Office and parties related to the management of the Mentawir tourist village through interviews, documentation, and observation. The data analysis technique in this research uses qualitative data analysis techniques, according to Huberman in Ibrahim (2015), namely data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion. In testing the validity of the data, researchers used source triangulation techniques to carry out checks and compare data obtained from many sources.

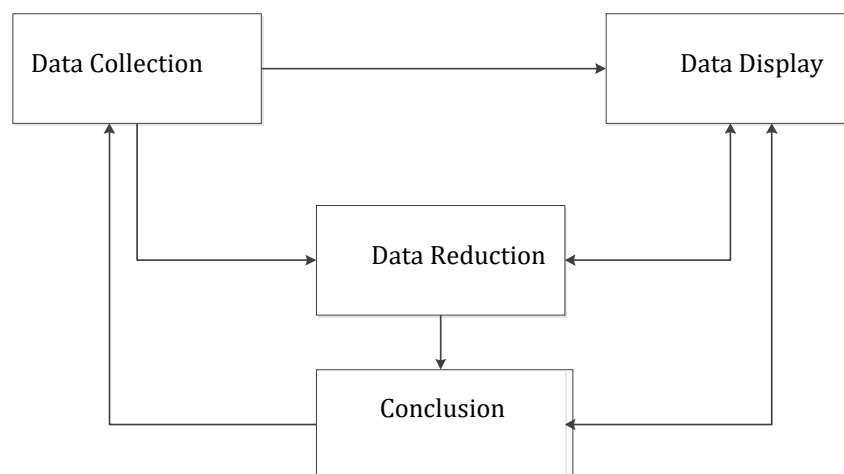


Figure 4. Qualitative Analysis

Source: Miles dan Huberman (Miles & Huberman, 1994)

## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Based on the results of research that includes observation, interviews, documentation, and literature studies related to tourist destinations in Mentawir tourism village, it can be stated that this village has significant potential as an attractive tourist destination. A comprehensive analysis of the data collected reveals the natural and cultural wealth that is the main attraction of this village. Its unspoiled natural beauty, such as rivers, and tropical forests, create an ideal backdrop for various nature tourism activities, such as the mesmerizing natural panorama of Mangroves. In addition, the local wisdom and cultural traditions preserved by the local community add value to the experience of tourists visiting the village, which can be described as follows:

### Natural Tourism

The natural beauty of Mentawir Village is not only limited to its well-preserved mangrove forests, but is also realized through the unique experiences offered to visitors. For example, visitors can walk along a wooden path that cuts through the middle of

Mentawir Village's mangrove forest for 900 meters. When stepping on the wooden path, the cool air immediately envelops the skin of the body, providing an unforgettable refreshing sensation. The lush green mangrove branches not only create a cool and cozy atmosphere, but also add a charming natural beauty. The melodious sound of birds chirping, as if a chorus of nature's music, adds a magical and alluring impression to a visit to Mentawir mangrove village. Thus, the experience of walking through the mangrove forest of Mentawir Village is not only a feast for the eyes, but also stimulates the senses of hearing and touches the soul, making it one of the main attractions that distinguish this village as a special tourist destination.



Figure 5. Mangrove Trees  
Source: Personal Documentation (2023)

Mentawir villagers have managed to harmonize natural life with settlement in a balanced way, affirming their commitment to maintaining the balance of the ecosystem. Mangroves in Mentawir Village are not only seen as part of the environment, but also as a bastion of life that must be carefully guarded. Residents not only respect mangroves, but also make them the center of their lives, not destroying them, encroaching on them, let alone turning them into residential areas. In fact, in this area, residents can share a harmonious life with proboscis monkeys, which are an important part of the ecosystem.

The role of Mr. Lamale, as the head of the Mentawir Village Pokdarwis, is very important in preserving this area. Mentawir Village has been selected as the implementation site for the Climate Village Program, affirming its strategic role in environmental conservation and climate change mitigation. In addition, the support from the Ministry of Tourism of the Republic of Indonesia as a tourist village in East Kalimantan recognizes the uniqueness and tourism potential of Mentawir Village.

Visitors who come will be spoiled with the beauty of mangrove forests that are still green and beautiful. They also have the opportunity to see a variety of Bornean animals that sometimes appear in the mangroves, such as dolphins and porpoises. With a mangrove forest area of 7,000 hectares, local community groups manage it well, not only for tourism purposes, but also as a source of livelihood that can improve the economy of the people around Mentawir. This shows that Mentawir Village is not only an attractive tourist destination, but also a real example of efforts to conserve nature and empower local communities to achieve sustainable development.



Figure 6. Bridge in Mentawir  
Source: personal documentation (2023)

### Crops

The charm of mangrove forests and biodiversity in the Mentawir village area can be used as the only tourist destination in East Kalimantan in the North Penajam Paser district. These plants have various types, and all of them can be used as various kinds of food and can improve the local community's economy. Village development activities Tourism in the Mentawir Region, supported by the Ministry of Tourism through a mentoring program by facilitating training for village communities and the Mentawir regional tourism office, will help promote Mentawir and tourism activities so the wider community can know them. Mentawai Islands Regency has ten sub-districts and 43 villages. The area reaches 6,011.35 km<sup>2</sup>, and the population is 83,517 people with a 14 people/km<sup>2</sup> distribution. President Joko Widodo said that the Mentawir Nursery was built by the government to support the reforestation of the Archipelago Capital (IKN) area and Kalimantan Island. The Mentawir nursery is also a manifestation of the start of the Indonesian government's commitment to the environment. (detik.com 2023). According to the President, the nursery, prepared since 2021, will produce approximately 20 million plant seeds annually. The seeds planted will also focus on plants endemic to Kalimantan and several trees that are becoming rare in Kalimantan

### Accessibility for tourists who want to visit the Mentawir tourist village

Access to the Mentawir tourist village is from Balikpapan and is relatively easy due to public transportation. Access by private vehicle is easy to pass and is achieved with the help of direction signs. The highway is in good condition. Generally, it has been coated with asphalt or concrete. The condition could be better on some roads only. Sepinggan Airport is an airport that serves flights to the city of Balikpapan, East Kalimantan, and is projected to be one of the three air gateways to the new capital city. PT operates this airport. Angkasa Pura opened on August 6, 1997; the airport has an area of 300 hectares.

### Mentawir Tourism Village facilities and infrastructure

Tourists who visit the Mentawir tourist village, besides enjoying the natural and cultural beauty, can stay in homestays that are available and built by the local government and managed by Pokdarwis. Apart from that, there are also homestays serving as residents' homes, so tourists who want to experience living together with the community can choose a homestay in a resident's home. Apart from the homestays or accommodation available, there are also communication and information facilities aimed at helping accelerate the information needed by the community. Communication and information facilities in the

Mentawir tourist village are relatively good, and WIFI networks are available at the homestay and village office.

The tourism industry in Indonesia has stopped since the Covid-19 pandemic hit this country in March 2020. However, the Head of the East Kalimantan Tourism Service (KALTIM), Sri Wahyuni, revealed that his party has not stopped developing the East Kalimantan (KALTIM) tourism industry until now. Tourism development does not stop despite the pandemic. When we discuss developing tourist destinations, we help tourist villages facilitate facilities and infrastructure with productive value, such as providing tourist boats, floating areas for meetings and culinary delights, gazebos, and culinary tents for bazaars. Not only that, based on the government's explanation from the local tourism department, it is also developing new tourist attractions, which include nature tourism and special interest tourism. For natural tourism, three new lakes are being developed, while special interest tourism consists of cave tourism and wildlife and bird-watching tourism.

#### Facilities for improving tourism human resources

Facilities to improve tourism human resources are an important component in efforts to improve the quality of the workforce in the tourism industry. Alongside initiatives to improve physical infrastructure and facilities in tourist villages, collaboration between the local government and Bank Indonesia underscores a comprehensive approach to improving the capabilities of human resources (HR) in East Kalimantan's tourism sector. This collaborative effort includes the establishment of training centers, workshops, and skills development programs tailored to the specific needs of individuals working in different aspects of the tourism industry. By providing access to training, and professional development opportunities, these facilities play an important role in equipping local residents with the knowledge, skills, and competencies necessary to thrive in tourism-related jobs. Ultimately, investment in facilities to enhance tourism human resources reflects a strategic commitment to fostering a skilled and empowered workforce capable of driving sustainable growth and competitiveness in East Kalimantan's tourism sector.

#### Duration of Tourist Visit

The duration of tourist visits to attractions in the Mentawir tourist village depends on the activities carried out by tourists at each attraction and the time the tourists want. If you have lots of activities by visiting tourist attractions in a relaxed manner, you can spend around 3 - 4 hours at each tourist attraction. However, if you only visit to take pictures, it only takes 30 minutes – 1 hour. Usually, tourists only spend one day visiting or two days and one night by staying in a homestay and crossing to Samarinda. The activities carried out by tourists are usually more agricultural educational tours, walking around or visiting tourist areas which will become the capital of Indonesia, namely IKN, saw such beautiful views from the panorama of protected forests and beautiful views of nursery construction, just like in other areas such as Mandalika, Labuan Bajo and Likupang and will follow in South Kalimantan.

#### Distance and Travel Time

Based on the results obtained from the checklist regarding distance, data on the relative distance from the starting point to several attractions in Mentawir Tourism Village were obtained. The analysis shows that the distance between destinations is quite close, with travel time ranging from 10 to 25 minutes from one attraction to another. This condition affects the length of stay of tourists visiting Mentawir Tourism Village. If tourists only visit a few objects, the time needed is only half a day. However, if they want to visit all objects including IKN which is located at the ZERO POINT of East Kalimantan, then the time required is at least one day and one night.

In this case, time is the length of time a tourist visits a tourist destination or can be called the length of stay. According to (Camilleri, 2017; Cohen et al., 2014; Karl et al.,

2020; E.-J. Kim et al., 2021; Lai & Li, 2015; Li et al., 2022; Shin et al., 2022; Smallman & Moore, 2010) time is one of the factors determining tourist decisions, which is very necessary when traveling. Thus, the length of stay of tourists determines the needs of tourists during a tourist trip. So, the time a tourist visits is important in preparing travel patterns. According to (Gomezelj Omerzel, 2006; Ritchie & Crouch, 2000) stated that to prove the importance of tourists' length of stay in a tourist destination area, a tourism product needs to adapt to the time tourists have in a destination. A short stay time will result in high administrative costs for some companies. Promotional times must be conditioned on tourists' decisions regarding the time spent at a destination.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

Based on the discussion of the research results obtained, the following are the conclusions of this research: the travel patterns recommended in making a tour package, namely travel patterns with a single point pattern and a chaining loop pattern. Based on the inventory points, the use of single-point and chaining loop travel patterns is a good travel scheme to be implemented in Tourism Villages because in the single-point travel pattern, the availability of road access is only one lane, and tourists who enjoy marine tourism are pampered with the beauty of mangroves and porpoises. And dolphins. Moreover, it is mandatory to buy souvenirs for the family at home which are made from pidada fruit (rhizophora in Latin) such as syrup, dodol pidada, and also cold pupur, said Mr. Lemale (chairman of Pokdarwis) Mentawir. They also sell as far as Samarinda by producing 200-300 bottles of pidada syrup for IDR 20,000 per bottle, tea powder, and cold powder. Even though he is still producing at home, Mr. Lemale said that he is still studying and will take care of the Home Industry Product Pricing (P-IRT) to sell his products outside the region. After this research, we suggest for further research is how the community is able to compete with developed countries and of course the role of the government.

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