

Who are the Madura?

The Madura are the third largest people group in Indonesia, making up 7% of Indonesia's population. Approximately 4 million Madura live on Madura Island. Another 9 million can be found in East Java. There are also pockets of Madura on the Indonesian islands of Kalimantan and Sulawesi.

Languages

Bahasa Madura, the Madura language, belongs to the Austronesian language family and is closely related to Javanese. There are a number of distinct dialects. Most Madura people also speak *Bahasa Indonesia*, the Indonesian national language.

Livelihood

The Madura are a hard-working people. Yet as Madura Island has low rainfall and poor soil, rice can only be cultivated once a year. This has caused many Madura to migrate to other islands. The Madura who remain on Madura Island emphasize livestock production. They raise sheep, goats and cattle, some of the latter for export to Java. Madura in East Java often work as merchants, selling cows, goats and other items at East Java's traditional markets. Others produce handicrafts. Some are also fishermen, using outrigger canoes and large nets. Women often work as merchants or as laborers for wealthy farmers.

Culture

The Madura are known for anger and violence. They may seek blood revenge when offences are committed against them, especially when adultery, cattle theft or public loss of face are involved. Blood revenge is exacted through the practice of *carok* with a sickle-shaped knife. A *carok* attack is usually fatal.



At *kerapan sapi*, Madura bull races, contestants use sorcery and magic to gain

advantage over their rivals. A bull's worth increases greatly if it wins races and owning a champion bull can be very lucrative.

The Madura conscientiously maintain their traditional roots and are suspicious of modernization, fearing that western influence will draw them into immorality and away from God.

Beliefs

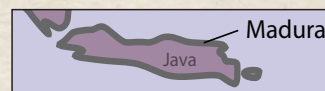
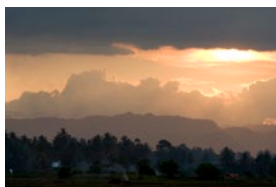
The Madura practice Sunni Islam. Particularly devoted Madura who observe the Five Pillars and go on the Hajj (the pilgrimage to Mecca), receive special honor in the eyes of their community. Despite the Madura commitment to Islam, however, many Madura use magic spells in an attempt to control the spirit world.

God has been working among the Madura in the last 10 years. In East Java, several groups of Madura now follow *Isa al Masih* (Jesus Christ). Many others are curious and want to hear the Good News. However, Madura followers of Jesus face many challenges.

About 500 Madura are now known to follow Jesus.

Bull Racing Photo credit:
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/wbur/4098300147>

For more information about the Madura, visit:
www.apeopleloved.com/madura



Population: 13.5 million
Location: Madura Island and East Java, Indonesia
Languages: Madurese, Bahasa Indonesia

Prayer Points

Indonesians are often prejudiced against the Madura, saying that they are violent and uneducated. Madura in cities are relegated to menial jobs and physical labor. **Pray** that the Madura would come to know a God who values them and a Savior who gives them hope.

The Madura have a reputation for anger and violence. **Pray** that Indonesian followers of Jesus will overcome their fear and boldly share the Good News.

The primary goal of many Madura people is "to be a good Muslim." **Pray** that their religious commitment would lead them to life in Christ.

Pray that Madura followers of Jesus would worship God and share the Good News despite the opposition they may face. **Pray** that God would build communities of faith among the Madura.

Pray that God himself would shepherd and teach Madura followers of Jesus, many of whom have no contact with followers of Jesus from other ethnic groups.

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