



Living in Indonesia

Indonesia is a country in Southeast Asia comprising of 17,508 islands. With a population of around 230 million people, it is the world's fourth most populous country, and has the world's largest population of Moslem. The nation's capital city is Jakarta. The country shares land borders with Papua New Guinea, East Timor, and Malaysia. Other neighboring countries include Singapore, Philippines, Australia, and the Indian territory of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

An exciting experience is waiting across a tropical island chain that stretches from east to west. Indonesia is home to an array of diverse cultures, endless beaches, tantalizing cuisines, warmest amity and scenic panorama that will surely captivate your mind and soul.



A. The Climate

Indonesia has two seasons along the year—the dry season takes May to September and the rainy season takes October to April. The average daily temperature range is between 24°C to 30°C (78°F to 90°F) while the humidity is from 65% to 85%. Generally, there is no rain falls from May to August and the weather is a little bit hot and humid on the day and cool in the night and early morning.

B. Art and Culture

Across its many islands, Indonesia has around 300 ethnic groups, each with cultural identities developed over centuries, and influenced by Indian, Arabic, Chinese, Malay and European sources. Traditional Javanese and Balinese dances, for example, contain aspects of Hindu culture and mythology, as do wayangkulit (shadow puppet) performances. Textiles such as batik, ikat and



Shadow Puppet



songket are created across Indonesia in styles that vary by region. The most dominant influences on Indonesian architecture have traditionally been Indian; however, Chinese, Arab, and European architectural influences have been significant.



Indonesia has developed a shared identity defined by a national language, ethnic diversity, religious pluralism within a majority Muslim population, and a history of colonialism including rebellion against it. Indonesia's national motto, "Bhinneka Tunggal Ika" ("Unity in Diversity" literally, "many, yet one"), articulates the diversity that shapes the country.

Indonesian traditional music includes gamelan and keroncong. Dangdut is a popular contemporary genre of pop music that draws influence from Arabic, Indian, and Malay folk music.

C. Money Matters

The currency is Rupiah which is mostly used in daily transaction. Most daily dealings are in cash. Personal checks are almost unheard and credit card fraud is still on from time to time. If you want to change US dollars to Rupiah for transactions or want to have some on hand for emergencies, be sure that you have **mint-condition bills**, meaning that **US dollars are easily exchanged ONLY IF they are without any mark, fold or imperfection of any kind**. You'll be hard pressed to be able to use the non-mint-condition bills you bring to Indonesia.

D. Accommodation

1. Some Universities provide dormitory/residential accommodation for foreign students. The rates will vary depending on the University's policy.
2. Boarding houses are also available near the University campus. The University will assist the foreign students to find suitable ones. The cost will be ranging between US\$ 40 – US\$ 110/month.

E. Communication Matters

Recent years have shown enormous development in the infrastructure and usage of cellular telephones (cell phones/mobile phones) in Indonesia, known in Indonesia as hand phones. A wide variety of hand phones and the latest models with all the new features are available for purchase in Indonesia. Internationally known brands predominate the market with shares for those Chinese brands. The hand phones can be easily found in kiosks or shops in the major malls or sell their wares through counters in electronics goods stores. Prices range from US\$35 to US\$599.



Some hand phones purchased abroad will work in Indonesia, as long as you subscribe to the operator that utilizes that phone system in Indonesia. For example, if you own a GSM phone, you can subscribe to Telkomsel (Simpati, Kartu As, karto Halo), Excelcomindo(XL), Three, Axis or Indosat (Mentari, IM3). For CDMA phones, subscribe to Smart Telecom (Smart), Telkom Flexi, StarOne, **Fren**, or Bakrie Telecom (Esia). Purchasing a phone number is as simple as buying a new “kartutelepon” or sim card at phone booth/kiosks. The products vary regarding costs of domestic and international calls and SMS, as well as costs for minimum “top up” and international roaming.

F. Public Transportation

The public transportation in Indonesia comprises of bus, taxi, train, airways, waterways, and so on. The public transportation (Angkot) in Indonesia is easily available. Train is one of the popular transportation between big cities in Indonesia. Beside the train, the transportation between cities in Indonesia is bus.

1. Airways



Connecting major cities in Indonesia, such as Jakarta, Bandung, Yogyakarta, Medan, Padang, Surabaya, Denpasar and others, 5 airlines are ready to serve you. Most airlines have already operated the on line reservation services with the credit card payment.

2. Taxi

Taxis are common in the big cities like Jakarta, Surabaya, Bandung and Yogyakarta. Most of the Taxi uses taxi meter to set the charge. There are several reputable taxi companies, ones you can be sure, offer good service and safer drivers. These include Blue Bird, Express, Gamy, Vetri, Centris, Citra, Putra and others.



3. Angkot



Angkot are minivans car type operated as public transportation connecting various areas within the cities that are commonly used in Indonesia. Each route usually marked by the different colors fleet or through route

of the



number. Angkot's fares are usually determined through the government regulation, but it became common that the short distance traveller or student usually pay below the fares.

4. Becak

Cycle rickshaws in Indonesia are called becak. Not like in Jakarta, becak existed in most cities all over Indonesia, such as: Bogor, Bandung, Yogyakarta, Surakarta, Surabaya, Malang, etc. The models of becak are different in each city. Please be advised that you should bargain before getting in.



5. Bis (bus)



Buses are the most common mass transportation. All buses have set routes (both inner city or to other cities) and set fares, but not necessarily set the schedules. The beginning and end points of each bus route are found on the front and back of each bus, along with a route number.

6. Rail Transport (Train)

Most rail transport in Indonesia is located on the island of Java, which has two major rail lines that run the length of the island, as well as several connecting lines. In Java, most trains connect Jakarta and the hinterland. Passenger trains run during daytime and evenings. As the distances are not too great, there are no sleeping cabins provided.





G. Indonesian Cuisine

Indonesian cuisine varies by region and is based on Chinese, European, Middle Eastern, and Indian precedents. Rice is the main staple food and is served with side dishes of meat and vegetables. Spices (notably chili), coconut milk, fish and chicken are fundamental ingredients. Everything is coming in a reasonable price, between US\$1 to US\$5.

1. NasiGudeg

A plate of warm rice served with a variety of dishes including chicken, boiled egg, tofu and tempe cooked in thick coconut sauce, very sweet and slightly spicy. For the additional flavor, gudeg is served with SambelGorengKrecek which is very spicy and hot.



2. Rendang



Rendang is considered to be the most popular Indonesian cuisine that commonly made of stewed beef ground meat. In 2011, Rendang received an award as the most scrumptious delicacy in the world referring to the 2011 CNN polling of the World's 50 Most Delicious Foods. Originally from Western Sumatera, the distinct spicy flavor of Rendang comes from the perfect mixture of coconut milk and special seasonings such as: chili, garlic, onion, ginger, lemon

grass, galingale, turmeric and other secret spices.

3. WedangRonde

Often served at night this warm ginger flavored drink is mixed with peanuts, tapioca cake, and kolang-kaling. This hot beverage is great for extra warmth at night. Also try: Bandrek or Bajigur and WedangJahe,





4. NasiTimbel (Timbel Steam Rice)



Nasitimbel consists of timbel steam rice, lalapan, sambaldadak, a piece of chicken (fried or roasted Sundanese style), fried bean curd, fried tempe, and slice of jambal (salted fish). If you want to, you can add gepuk (slices of beef, mixed in traditional herbs, then fried), pepes (main ingredients such as fish, chicken, mushroom, etc. mixed with crushed and blended herbs, folded into a banana leaf, then steamed until they are ready to eat), sauteed greens, and others.

5. Pecel

Pecel is a typical Indonesian Salad made of boiled spinach, bean sprouts, long beans, basil leaves and other vegetables producing a lip smacking flavor that comes from genuine peanut sauce.



6. Gado-gado



Gado-gado is part of a wide range of Indonesian dressing & salad combinations, along with *lotek*, *pecel* and *karedok*. In many places, to retain authenticity in both the production and flavor, the peanut sauce is made in individual batches, in front of the customers. Compared to Western and Indonesian salads, Gado-gado has much more sauce in it. Instead of being used as a light dressing, the vegetables should be well coated in the sauce.

7. Sate (satay)

Satay or sate is a dish of marinated, skewered and grilled chicken, goat, mutton, beef or other meats, served with a specific sauce made of peanut, brown sugar, soya ketchup and other genuine Indonesian spices. The more authentic assortment uses skewers from the midrib of the coconut leaf, although bamboo skewers are often used.





H. Place of Interest

These are amongst the popular spots in Indonesia worth visit:

1. Dago Street Bandung



If you want to feel as if you were in the cities of Europe, just come and enjoy this atmosphere in Dago Street, Bandung. The nuance of Dago Street offers much coolness and beautiful scenery which has millions of enchantments and puts in order, so that make the street more beautiful. Walking along the street, you will find

a lot of big trees which has function as the shelter especially in the day lights. The street is also completed with sidewalk for pedestrians to walk along in shady and pleasure. Nowadays Dago has become a business center and place for teenagers to hang out. There are many shopping facilities and hotels in this street, such as Dago Plaza, Cafe, Book Store, numbers of FO, Dago Tea House Culture Park, various hotels, etc.

2. Borobudur Temple

Borobudur Temple is a thousand years old Buddhist sanctuary recognized as one of the greatest Buddhist work of art in the world and a World's wonder of its kind in the world. Borobudur's architects and sculptors designed it to serve the purpose of veneration, worship and meditation, though Borobudur is not a temple as such. To date, it is the center of tourist attraction in Central Java. The name *Borobudur* is believed to have been derived from the Sanskrit words, *Vihara Buddha Ulu*, meaning the Buddhist Monastery on the hill. Borobudur temple is located in Muntilan, a District 42 kilometers north side of Yogyakarta city.





3. Malioboro Street



Located in the heart of Yogyakarta City, Malioboro street is a busy meeting place for students, tourists and street dealers. Exploring the nearly 1.200 meters walking alley surrounded by hundreds of genuine Javanese vista we will be enjoying the sightseeing, shopping or having a meal in a warung (Javanese for a food

stall). In the evening, another kind of food stalls called lesehan invades Jalan Malioboro offering delightful authentic cuisines with a friendly and familiar ambience. Less obvious to the tourist, but more for the local population, side streets, lanes and structures that lead on to Malioboro are as important as the street itself.

4. Tawangmangu

Tawangmangu is a mountainous tourist attraction at the slopes of Lawu Mountain that makes it cool and often foggy. It is located approximately 50 kilometers to the east of Solo, through a series of beautiful natural scenery of green paddy field and the shady trees. This beautiful getaway spot is marked with the number of lodging such as a villa or guesthouse, as well as restaurants (with Satay as the special menu) or street traders. Tawangmangu is surrounded by two dazzling tourist sites: Grojogan Sewu which is a waterfall with a height of about 100 meters and the lake Sarangan.



5. Taman Impian Jaya Ancol

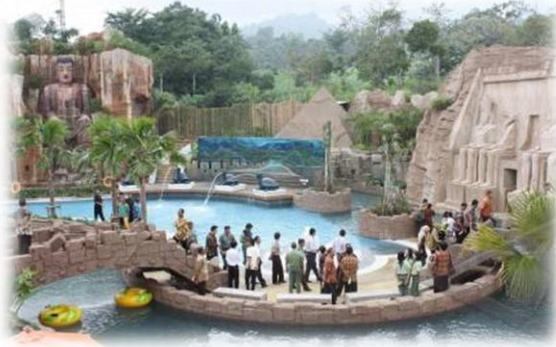


Taman Impian Jaya Ancol is a tourism site in North Jakarta. Established in 1985, Taman Impian Jaya Ancol changed its name to Ancol Jakarta Bay City in 2006. Operating in an area of 552 hectares, Ancol Jakarta Bay City has become the largest recreational site with various attractions in Indonesia. In Ancol Jakarta Bay City you can find: Dunia Fantasy (the biggest amusement park in Indonesia),

Gelanggang Samudera, Beach Carnival, Art Market, Gondola, SeaWorld, Ice World, and the Atlantis Water Adventure.



6. Taman Safari Prigen, Surabaya



Taman Safari Prigen is a national tourism and wildlife conservation site which spans over 400 acres at the foothill of mount Arjuna. It blessed with a tropical mountain view and the amazing collection of thousands wildlife from 150 world races and endangered species such as Komodo dragon, European Bison, Himalaya Black Bear and White Tiger etc. Taman Safari is located at Jatiarjo village Prigendistrict.

It's about 50 km drive from Juanda International Airport Surabaya - Gempol Highway. And it only takes 60 minutes and just 45 km drive from Malang Town.