



Jakarta: VOC Warehouses (17th Century)



Bandung: Park Insulinde (1930s)



Surabaya: Office Governor East Java (1929-1931)



Semarang: Pasar Djohar (1933-1936)

JAVA HERITAGE TOUR

Practical Information

Two Motto's

1. Respect Indonesian custom and culture, and adjust.
2. Go with the flow'.

Culture

- An important characteristic of Indonesian culture is flexibility.
- Consequently changes may occur at the last minute, and starting and arriving late are not uncommon.
- To avoid frustration it helps to be mentally prepared that things may not always go as scheduled but usually work out fine.
- In general it helps to be patient, courteous and cooperative rather than irritable, annoyed and angry if you want to achieve something and things don't go as expected.

Passport

- Make sure that your passport is valid for at least 6 months after arrival in Indonesia.
- For safety reasons, do not carry your passport with you. In most cases, a photocopy of your passport suffices.

Visa (for Dutch Citizens)

- To visit Indonesia, you need a visa.
- As long as you enter Indonesia via an international airport, you receive a visa on arrival.

- This visa allows you to stay in Indonesia for 30 consecutive days.

- It is not possible to extend this visa.

- If you enter Indonesia other than via an international airport or if you want to stay in Indonesia more than 30 days, you need to apply for a visa at the Indonesian embassy in The Hague prior to arrival in Indonesia.

- Allow 3 work days for the handling of your visa application at the Indonesian embassy in The Hague.

- For full details regarding visa (including non-Dutch citizens), check: <http://visa4indonesia.nl>.

Entry & Departure

- Before landing in Indonesia you will be handed an Immigration Form.

- Under 'Purpose of your visit', you can fill out 'Holiday'.

- Under 'Accommodation' you can fill out the address of the hotel in Jakarta: Ibis Tamarin, Jl. K.H. Wahid Hasyim 77, Jakarta 10340, t: +62(0)21-3912323.

- Please note that on flights to Indonesia the regulations for hand-luggage are the same as in the EU.

Health

- Vaccination and medication for travelers to Indonesia is necessary but varies depending on your destination.

- Please check with your GP or local health authorities for health advice/vaccinations for Java and, if this applies, for other parts of Indonesia

Finances

- The Indonesian currency is the Indonesian Rupiah.

- Indonesia is dotted with ATMs that accept international bank and credit cards.

- All mayor international credit cards are widely accepted.

- It is convenient to withdraw cash from an ATM at the airport when you arrive in Indonesia.

- Although it is fairly easy to get cash in Indonesia, it is good to bring some cash (Euros, American Dollars) in case you lose your bank or credit card, or your bank card fails.

- Traveller's cheques are accepted though sometimes with reluctance, for example when signatures do not bear enough resemblance to one another.

Electricity

- Voltage in Indonesia is 220.

- Electricity plugs and sockets are generally similar to Dutch plugs and sockets.

- Most hotels provide universal sockets.

Drugs

- Indonesia employs a strict policy on drugs usage and trafficking.

- To avoid problems, please do not enter Indonesia carrying any kind of drugs, either on your person or in your luggage.

Mobile Phone

- Indonesia's country code is +62.
- Included in the price of the tour are an Indonesian SIM-card and a limited amount of credit.
- Extra credit can be bought and installed at small foot stalls on the side of the street and in most super markets and shopping malls.
- To use the Indonesian SIM-card, make sure your cell phone is SIM-lock free.

Internet

Most hotels, restaurants, and public spaces provide wireless internet access for those bringing in laptops with internet facilities.

Time Difference

- Indonesia covers three time zones:
 - 1) Sumatra, Java, West & Central Kalimantan, 2) Bali, Nusa Tenggara, South & East Kalimantan, Sulawesi, 3) Irian Jaya, Maluku.
- Indonesia is 5 hours ahead of Central European Time during European summer time and 6 hours during European winter time.

Food & Drink

- Although Indonesians eat rice three times a day, most hotels also serve bread for breakfast.
- Most restaurants do not serve alcohol.
- If alcohol is being served, it is generally beer or spirits; wine is an exception.
- Many international hotels do serve alcohol.
- You are generally advised not to eat food prepared and sold by the side of the road.
- If you decide to try 'road food', check before you decide to sit down whether the food stall is busy (a good sign) and the food is well cooked. If not, walk on to the next one.
- A good alternative to food on the street are food courts which are usually located in the basement or on the top floor of shopping malls.
- Please inform the organisation if you have any special requests regarding food (vegetarian, allergies, etc.)

Water

- Don't drink tap water unless it has been boiled.
- Water straight from the tap can be used to brush your teeth.
- Drinking water is usually provided by the hotel.
- Bottled drinking water is widely available.

Tipping

- It is customary but not compulsory to leave tips for services rendered (porter, waiter, driver, hairdresser, masseur, etc.).
- Handing a tip is done very discreetly.

Local Transport

- Although public transport is abundant, the (seeming) lack of designated routes does not necessarily make it easy to come to grips with.
- Private transport is equally abundant: taxi's, mopeds (*ojek*), motorised three-wheelers with a cover (*bajaj*), bicycle taxi's (*becak*, not in Jakarta).
- Except for express busses, transport stops at a wave of a hand.
- Express busses (Jakarta, Semarang, Yogyakarta) stop at indicated bus stops only.
- There are no subways or trams.
- Prices of public transport and taxis are fixed.
- Prices of private transport depend on distance and sometimes have to be negotiated prior to departure.

Climate

- Java's dry season normally starts in April and ends in October.
- Dry season means little rain and dry.
- Wet season is the reverse: plenty of rains and high humidity.
- Although the average temperature during the day is 30° Celsius, it can be relatively cold in the mornings and evenings, particularly in hilly and mountainous areas.
- To regulate temperatures air-conditioning (AC) is often considered indispensable.
- As many facilities (bus, train, car, hotel, restaurant) tend to overdo their AC, it is good advice to bring something warm (sweater, jacket, shawl, socks) to avoid sore throats, headaches or worse.

Clothing

- Indonesians dress (quite) formal.
- As the majority of the population in Indonesia is Muslim it is highly recommended to avoid clothes that reveal too much of your arms, legs or torso: shirts, dresses or pants that reveal belly buttons, show more than ¾ of legs or arms, or accentuate cleavage.
- You are strongly advised not to wear shirts without sleeves, see-through tops, shorts or old t-shirts.

- A coat is less necessary than an umbrella and – for the hilly areas and the sometimes fierce AC – something warm.
- Natural fabrics are more comfortable to wear than non-natural fabrics, or even silk.
- Although hotels in general have laundry services (return the same day) it is not possible to hand in clothes daily due to the programme.
- Please note that if there is a problem with the laundry, delays in laundry delivery may occur.

Travel Guides

- A wide variety of travel guides on Indonesia is available to all kinds of travellers, from budget to high end travellers.
- It is highly recommended to purchase good city maps prior to your departure to Indonesia. Periplus offers a wide range of city and regional maps on Indonesia.

Etiquette

- For non-Indonesians, Indonesian etiquette is sometimes complicated. As mistakes are easily made, there are a few basic rules of conduct you should respect:
- Take off your shoes when required: often when entering private or sacred premises.
 - Indonesians shake hands in a very gentle way: avoid firm handshakes.
 - Kissing as a way of greeting is only done between good friends and family.
 - Use your right hand when pointing to something or receiving or offering something (money, for example): the left hand is considered unclean.
 - Indonesians dislike being patted on the shoulder or head.
 - A loud voice is considered rude: try to keep your voice down when you speak.
 - Avoid embarrassing situations for the other person or yourself: don't yell, don't be (too) critical and avoid an upfront 'no'. 'Maybe' or 'not yet' are good alternatives.

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