



INDONESIA



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1 CONTACT ADDRESSES

Location: South-East Asia.

Directorate-General of Tourism

Street address: 16/19 Jalan Medan Merdeka Barat, Jakarta 10110, Indonesia

Postal address: PO Box 1409, Jalan Medan Merdeka Barat, Jakarta 10110, Indonesia

Tel: (21) 383 823 or 383 8221 or 383 8234. Fax: (21) 386 7589 or 386 0828. Web site:

<http://www.tourismindonesia.com>

Indonesia Tourism Promotion Board (ITPB)

Wisma Nugra Santana Building, 9th Floor, Jalan Jend Sudirman Kav 7-8, Jakarta 10220, Indonesia

Tel: (21) 570 4879. Fax: (21) 570 4855. E-mail: itpb@cbn.net.id

Web site: <http://www.goindo.com>

Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia and Indonesia Tourist Promotion Office (ITPO)

38 Grosvenor Square, London W1X 9AD

Consular section: 38A Adam's Row, London W1X 9AD

All post should be addressed to 38 Grosvenor Square.

Tel: (020) 7499 7661 or (0891) 171 2100 (recorded visa information; calls cost 60p per minute)

or (0891) 600 180 (brochure request and tourist information line; calls cost 60p per minute). Fax:

(020) 7491 4993. E-mail: kbri@indolondon.freemove.co.uk

Opening hours: 0900-1700 (general and tourist enquiries); 1000-1300 (visa applications) and 1430-1600 (visa collections) Monday to Friday.

Commercial Attaché's Office

61 Welbeck Street, London W1M 7HB

Tel: (020) 7935 1616. Fax: (020) 7935 0034.

British Embassy

Jalan M H Thamrin 75, Jakarta 10310, Indonesia

Tel: (21) 315 6264 or 315 6272 (commercial section). Fax: (21) 315 4061 (commercial section)

or 392 6263. Web site: <http://www.britain-in-indonesia.or.id/>

British Consulate

2 GENERAL

Deutsche Bank Building, 19th Floor, Jalan Iman Bonjol 80, Jakarta 10310, Indonesia

Tel: (21) 390 7484-7. Fax: (21) 316 0858.

Web site: <http://www.britain-in-indonesia.or.id/>

Honorary Consulates in: Medan and Surabaya.

Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia

2020 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 200036

Tel: (202) 775 5200. Fax: (202) 775 5365. E-mail: indonesia@dgs.dgsys.com (information section).

Web site: <http://www.kbri.org>

Consulate General of Indonesia

5 East 68th Street, New York, NY 10021

Tel: (212) 879 0600. **Fax:** (212) 570 6206 (visas and tourist information).
Consulates General in: Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Embassy of the United States of America
Jalan Merdeka Selatan 4-5, Jakarta 10110, Indonesia
Tel: (21) 344 2211. **Fax:** (21) 386 2259.
Web site: <http://www.usembassyjakarta.org/>
Consulate General in: Surabaya. Consular Agency in: Bali.

Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia
55 Parkdale Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario K1Y 1E5
Tel: (613) 724 1100. **Fax:** (613) 724 1105 or 724 4959.
E-mail: kbri@indonesia-ottawa.org
Web site: <http://www.indonesia-ottawa.org>
Consulates General in: Toronto and Vancouver.

Canadian Embassy
Street address: 5th Floor, Wisma Metropolitan I, Jalan Jendral Sudirman Kav. 29, Jakarta 12920, Indonesia
Postal address: PO Box 8324/JKS.MP, Jakarta 12084, Indonesia
Tel: (21) 525 0709. **Fax:** (21) 571 2251. **E-mail:** canadianembassy.jkrta@dfait-maeci.gc.ca
Web site: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/jakarta>
Honorary Consulate in: Surabaya.

Country dialling code: 62.

General

Area: 1,919,317 sq km (741,053 sq miles).

Population: 198,342,900 (1996).

Population Density: 103.3 per sq km.

Capital: Jakarta (Java). Population: 9,341,400 (1996).

Geography: Indonesia lies between the mainland of South-East Asia and Australia in the Indian and Pacific Oceans. It is the world's largest archipelago state. Indonesia is made up of six main islands - Sumatra, Java, Sulawesi, Bali, Kalimantan (part of the island of Borneo) and Irian Jaya (the western half of New Guinea) - and 30 smaller archipelagos. In total, the Indonesian archipelago consists of more than 17,000 islands. 6000 of these are inhabited and stretch over 4828km (3000 miles), most lying in a volcanic belt with more than 300 volcanoes, the great majority of which are extinct. The landscape varies from island to island, ranging from high mountains and plateaux to coastal lowlands and alluvial belts.

Government: Republic. Gained independence from the Netherlands in 1949. Head of State and Government: President Abdurrahman Wahid since 1999.

Language: Bahasa Indonesian is the official national language. It is similar to Malay and written in the Roman alphabet. In addition, there are over 250 recognised languages spoken by as many distinct ethnic groups. Many local languages are further divided by special forms of address depending on social status, and all languages are spoken in a variety of local dialects. English is the most widely used foreign language for business and tourism, and many people in the more

remote areas have a basic command of English. The older generation still speak Dutch as a second language.

Religion: There is a Muslim majority of approximately 88%, with Christian (10%), Hindu (mainly in Bali) and Buddhist minorities. Animist beliefs are held in remote areas.

Time: Indonesia spans three time zones:

Bangka, Billiton, Java, West and Central Kalimantan, Madura and Sumatra: GMT + 7 (West), GMT + 8 (Central), GMT + 9 (East).

Bali, Flores, South and East Kalimantan, Lombok, Sulawesi, Sumba, Sumbawa and Timor: GMT + 8.

Aru, Irian Jaya, Kai, Moluccas and Tanimbar: GMT + 9.

Electricity: Generally 220 volts AC, 50Hz, but 110 volts AC, 50Hz, in some rural areas.

Communications:

Telephone: IDD is available to main cities. Country code: 62 (followed by 22 for Bandung, 21 for Jakarta, 61 for Medan and 31 for Surabaya). Outgoing international code: 00. Many hotel lobbies have public phones which take credit cards and phone cards. State-operated phone booths (WARTEL), which work on a pay-as-you-leave basis, can be found throughout the country. For emergencies, dial 110 (police) or 118 (ambulance for traffic accidents) or 119 (ambulance for general health) or 113 (fire department).

Mobile telephone: GSM 900 and 1800 networks. Roaming agreements exist. Coverage may be limited to main towns and cities.

Internet/E-mail: ISPs include Indosat (web site: <http://www.indosat.net.id>) and Indobiz (web site: <http://www.indobiz.com>). There are several cybercafés.

Telegram: These can be sent from any telegraphic office; in Jakarta facilities are available 24 hours a day, but services outside Jakarta are less efficient.

Post: Airmail to Western Europe takes up to ten days. Internal mail is fast and generally reliable by the express service (Pos KILAT), but mail to the outer islands can be subject to considerable delays.

Press: There are several English-language newspapers in Jakarta and on the other islands, notably The Indonesia Times, Indonesian Observer, Bali Post and Jakarta Post.

BBC World Service and Voice of America frequencies: From time to time these change.

BBC:

MHz15.287.1606.1953.195

Voice of America:

MHz15.1611.729.7706.160

3 PASSPORT

	<i>Passport Required?</i>	<i>Visa Required?</i>	<i>Return Ticket Required?</i>
British	Yes	1/2	Yes
Australian	Yes	1/2	Yes
Canadian	Yes	1/2	Yes
USA	Yes	1/2	Yes
OtherEU	Yes	1/2	Yes
Japanese	Yes	1/2	Yes

Note: East Timor is no longer a part of Indonesia. Those wishing to travel to this area should contact the nearest United Nations office in the country where they live. The United Nations is currently acting as the administrative authority in East Timor.

Restricted entry: (a) Nationals of Israel will be refused entry unless they have applied to the Immigration Office in Indonesia, prior to travelling, to obtain approval/special permit. (b) Nationals of Portugal are allowed to enter Indonesia but need a tourist visa and need approval from Immigration authorities in Indonesia for business and social visits. (c) Nationals of China (PR) and CIS travelling to Indonesia as tourists, or for business or social purposes, need approval from the Immigration Office in Indonesia before travelling. Nationals of China (PR) should also have sponsorship in Indonesia and must travel in a group of at least 5 people. (d) All applications for business, tourist and social visits from nationals of Afghanistan, Algeria, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Congo (Rep. of), Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Iraq, Iran, Nigeria, Pakistan, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Uganda and Yemen need special approval from the Immigration Department in Indonesia.

PASSPORTS: Passport valid for at least 6 months from date of entry required by all.

VISAS: Required by all except the following for tourist visits only of up to 60 days (non extendable):

- (a) 1. nationals of countries referred to in the chart above, with the exception of Portugal (see Restricted entry above);
- (b) nationals of Argentina, Brazil, Brunei, Chile, Egypt, Hungary, Iceland, Korea (Rep. of), Kuwait, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela and Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro);
- (c) nationals of Taiwan with passports endorsed with code MFA or M. If passport is endorsed with code OM or X, a visa is required and entry and exit is only permitted via Denpasar Bali (Ngurah Rai), Jakarta (Soekarno-Hatta) or Medan (Polonia) airports;
- (d) transit passengers continuing their journey within a maximum of 8 hours, provided holding valid onward or return documentation and not leaving the airport.

Note: (a) 2. All journalists and business travellers regardless of nationality require visas and special permission. (b) All children travelling with parents who require visas must also have visas, even if travelling on their parents' passports. (c) All visitors require US\$2000 in cash and/or travellers cheques. Credit cards can no longer be accepted as proof of a traveller's financial status when applying for a visa or travelling to Indonesia, due to the fact that there has been regular misuse of credit cards and credit limits. Travellers must be in possession of a current credit statement with a minimum credit limit of US\$1000 from their banks or credit cards issuance

authority, and be able to present it on demand when applying for a visa and also to the Immigration/Customs Officers upon arrival in Indonesia should they wish to use their credit cards as a means of payment while in Indonesia.

Warning: Severe fines and, in some cases, prison sentences will be given to visitors who exceed their visa-free stay.

Types of visa and cost: Tourist: £10. Business/Social: £15 (for up to 4 weeks); £30 (for up to 5 weeks). Multiple-entry*: £45 (for 6 months); £90 (for 1 year). Transit: £10. Fees are non-refundable.

Note: *: Multiple-entry visas are issued for business trips only and need approval from the Immigration Office in Indonesia.

Validity: Tourist visas are valid for 3 months from date of issue for a maximum stay of 4 weeks. Single-entry Business/Social visas are valid for 3 months from date of issue for a maximum stay of 60 days. Multiple-entry visas are valid for a maximum of 1 year, with the length of each stay lasting no longer than 60 days. Transit visas are valid for 90 days after the date of issue for a period of up to 14 days.

Application to: Visa section at Embassy; see address section. All visitors are advised to process their visas at the visa section at the Embassy before entry to Indonesia.

Application requirements: Tourist visas: (a) Passport valid for at least 6 months as from date of entry. (b) 1 application form (the original not a photocopy, signed by the applicant). (c) 1 passport-size photo. (d) Sufficient funds to cover duration of stay (see 2. above). (e) Onward or return tickets, which may be purchased at point of entry. (f) Fee (payable in cash or by postal order only; cheques and credit cards are not accepted). (g) A pre-paid registered mail envelope for postal applications. (h) Travel itinerary. (i) An international certificate of Yellow Fever vaccination for travellers coming from or stopping over in an infected area, to be presented at the point of entry.

Business visas: (a)-(g) and: (h) 2 supporting letters from the applicant's company in home country and the sponsor/counterpart in Indonesia stating the reason and duration of the visit and accommodation details.

Social Visit visas: (a)-(f) and: (g) a letter of invitation from the applicant's family, friends or relatives in Indonesia stating the reason and duration of the visit and details of accommodation.

Multiple-entry Business visas: (b)-(g) and: (h) a passport valid for a minimum of 18 months from the date of entry into Indonesia and written approval from the Indonesian Immigration Department.

Temporary residence: People wishing to stay and work in Indonesia must apply directly to the Immigration Office in Indonesia for a Temporary Stay Visa. The Embassy in London cannot issue the visa unless and until special authorisation is given by the Immigration Office in Indonesia. The visa is valid for a period of 12 months and can be extended. The cost for 12 months is £50. It is advisable to have your Indonesian sponsor submit the application directly to the Directorate General of Immigration in Jakarta. For further information on temporary residence, contact the visa section at the Embassy.

Working days required: 1 working day (personal applications); 1 week (postal applications). However applications that need referral to the authorities in Indonesia may take 2 months or more.

Note: People wishing to travel to Aceh and Irian Jaya must obtain a special permit from the Indonesian Immigration Office and the State Police Headquarters in Jakarta. Upon arrival in Aceh and Irian Jaya, visitors must report to the local police office. Permits are issued at the discretion of the immigration authorities on presentation of a valid passport, a return ticket and several passport photographs.

Gateways: Entry and exits must be made from one of the authorised 16 airports, 10 seaports or the authorised overland entry point*:

Air: Ambon (Pattimura), Balikpapan (Sepinggan), Bandung (Sastranegara), Batam (Hang Nadim), Biak (Frans Kaisiapo), Denpasar Bali (Ngurah Rai), Jakarta (Soekarno-Hatta), Manado (Samratulangi), Mataram (Selaparang), Medan (Polonia), Padang (Tabing), Pekan-baru (Simpang Tiga), Pontianak (Soepadio), and Surabaya (Juanda), Ujung Pandang (Hassanadim).

Sea: Ambon (Ambon), Batu Ampar (Batam), Belawan (Medan), Benoa (Bali), Bitung (Bitung), Padang Bai (Bali), Tanjung Mas (Semarang), Tanjung Perak (Surabaya), Tanjung Pinang (Riau), Tanjung Periok (Jakarta).

Overland: Etikong (West Kalimantan)

Note: Nationals of China (PR) may enter and exit from the following airports or seaports only:

Air: Denpasar Bali (Ngurah Rai), Jakarta (Halim/Soekarno-Hatta) and Medan (Polonia).

Sea: Belawan (Medan), Tanjung Perak (Surabaya) and Tanjung Periok (Jakarta).

4 MONEY

Currency: Rupiah (Rp) = 100 sen. Notes are in denominations of Rp50,000, 20,000, 10,000, 5000, 1000, 500 and 100. Coins are in denominations of Rp1000, 500, 100, 50 and 25.

Currency exchange: Although there should be no difficulty exchanging major currencies in the main tourist centres, problems may occur elsewhere. The easiest currency to exchange is the US Dollar.

Credit cards: MasterCard, American Express and Visa are widely accepted in Jakarta and the main tourist areas. In more remote areas it is best to carry cash in small denominations. Check with your credit card company for details of merchant acceptability and other services which may be available.

Travellers cheques: Limited merchant acceptance but can be easily exchanged at banks and larger hotels. To avoid additional exchange rate charges, travellers are advised to take travellers cheques in US Dollars or Pounds Sterling.

Exchange rate indicators

The following figures are included as a guide to the movements of the Rupiah against Sterling and the US Dollar:

Date May '00 Aug '00 Nov '00 Feb

'01 £1.00 = 12409.5913405.6313267.7214022.54 \$1.00 = 8360.008935.009165.00960.50

Currency restrictions: There are no restrictions on the import or export of foreign currency. The import and export of local currency is limited to Rp5,000,000 which must be declared; failure to declare amounts in excess of the maximum allowance may result in fines of up to Rp10,000,000. Local currency may be exchanged on departure.

Banking hours: 0800-1500 Monday to Friday.

5 DUTY FREE

The following goods may be imported into Indonesia by travellers over 18 years of age without incurring customs duty:

200 cigarettes or 50 cigars or 100g of tobacco; 1 litre of alcohol (opened); a reasonable quantity of perfume; gifts up to a value of US\$250.

Note: Cameras must be declared on arrival. Video cameras, radio cassette recorders, binoculars and sport equipment may be imported provided exported on departure. Motion-picture film, video tapes, video laser discs, records and computer software must be screened by the censor board.

Prohibited items: Weapons, ammunition, non-prescribed drugs, television sets and other electronic equipment, fresh fruit, Chinese publications and medicines, and pornography.

6 PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Jan 1 2001 New Year's Day. Jan 24 Chinese New Year. Mar 5 Eid al-Adha (Feast of the Sacrifice). Mar 26 Muharram (Islamic New Year). Apr 13 Good Friday. Apr 16 Easter Monday. May 24 Ascension Day. May 7 Waisak Day (Buddha's Birthday). Jun 4 Mouloud (Birth of the Prophet). Aug 17 Indonesian Independence Day. Oct 15 Ascension of the Prophet. Dec 16-17 Eid al-Fitr (End of Ramadan). Dec 25 Christmas Day. Jan 1 2002 New Year's Day. Feb 12 Chinese New Year. Feb 25 Eid al-Adha (Feast of the Sacrifice). Mar 8 Muharram (Islamic New Year). Mar 29 Good Friday. Apr 1 Easter Monday. May 9 Ascension Day. May 26 Waisak Day (Buddha's Birthday). May 27 Mouloud (Birth of the Prophet). Aug 17 Indonesian Independence Day. Oct 16 Ascension of the Prophet. Dec 10-11 Eid al-Fitr (End of Ramadan). Dec 25 Christmas Day.

Note: (a) Muslim festivals are timed according to local sightings of various phases of the Moon and the dates given above are approximations. During the lunar month of Ramadan that precedes Eid al-Fitr, Muslims fast during the day and feast at night and normal business patterns may be interrupted. Many restaurants are closed during the day and there may be restrictions on smoking and drinking. Some disruption may continue into Eid al-Fitr itself. Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha may last anything from two to ten days, depending on the region. For more information see the World of Islam appendix. (b) Buddhist festivals are also timed according to phases of the moon and variations may occur.

7 HEALTH

	<i>Special Precautions</i>	<i>Certificate Required</i>
Yellow Fever	No	1
Cholera	Yes	2
Typhoid and Polio	Yes	-
Malaria	3	-
Food and Drink	4	-

1: A yellow fever vaccination certificate is required from travellers coming from infected areas. The countries and areas included in the yellow fever endemic zones are considered by Indonesia as infected areas. For a map of yellow fever endemic zones, see the Health appendix.

2: Following WHO guidelines issued in 1973, a cholera vaccination certificate is no longer a condition of entry to Indonesia. However, cholera is a serious risk in this country and precautions are essential. Up-to-date advice should be sought before deciding whether these precautions should include vaccination as medical opinion is divided over its effectiveness. See the Health appendix.

3: Malaria risk exists throughout the year everywhere except in the main tourist resorts of Java and Bali, Jakarta municipality and other big cities where risk is only slight. The malignant form falciparum is reported to be highly resistant to chloroquine and resistant to sulfadoxine/pyrimethane. The benign form vivax is reported to be resistant to chloroquine in Irian Jaya, where mefloquine is recommended.

4: All water should be regarded as a potential health risk. Water used for drinking, brushing teeth or making ice should have first been boiled or otherwise sterilised. Milk is unpasteurised and should be boiled. Powdered or tinned milk is available and is advised, but make sure that it is reconstituted with pure water. Avoid dairy products that are likely to have been made from unboiled milk. Only eat well-cooked meat and fish, preferably served hot. Salad and mayonnaise may carry increased risk. Vegetables should be cooked and fruit peeled.

Rabies is present. For those at high risk, vaccination before arrival should be considered. If you are bitten, seek medical advice without delay. For more information, consult the Health appendix.

Bilharzia (schistosomiasis) is present in central Sulawesi. Avoid swimming and paddling in fresh water. Swimming pools which are well-chlorinated and maintained are safe.

Amoebic and bacillary dysenteries occur. Hepatitis A and E occur and hepatitis B is highly endemic. Japanese encephalitis and dengue fever can occur.

Health care: Health insurance, to include emergency repatriation cover, is strongly advised. Adequate routine medical care is available in all major cities, but emergency services are generally inadequate outside major cities. Fees must be paid before leaving the hospital.

Travel - International

Note: For a list of the air and sea ports which may be used to enter and exit Indonesia, see the end of the Passport/Visa section.

AIR: Indonesia's national airlines are Garuda Indonesia (GA) and Merpati Nusantara Airlines (MZ).

APPROXIMATE FLIGHT TIMES: From London to Jakarta is 20 hours 20 minutes and to Bali is 22 hours 15 minutes (with a good connection in Jakarta). From Los Angeles to Jakarta is 24 hours 20 minutes. From New York to Jakarta is 30 hours via Europe or 31 hours via Los Angeles. From Singapore to Jakarta is 1 hour 35 minutes. From Sydney to Jakarta is 7 hours 55 minutes.

INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS: Jakarta (CGK) (Soekarno-Hatta) is 20km (12 miles) northwest of the city (travel time - 45 minutes). Airport facilities include banks/bureaux de change, a post office (open 0800-1400 in public area of zone B; 0800-1900 in zone D), duty-free shops, gift shops, restaurants (open 1 hour before and after flights), snack bars (available until 2100), car rental and 24-hour medical/vaccination facilities. A bus goes to the city every 30 minutes. Buses leave Jakarta from Gambir railway station and from Rawamangun and Blok M bus stations. Taxis are also available to the city centre at a cost of approximately Rp1500 plus Rp550 per km. A

regular bus shuttle goes to Jakarta's second airport, Halim Perdana Kusuma (HLP), 13km (8 miles) southeast of the city (travel time - 45 minutes). Denpasar (DPS) (Ngurah Rai), 13km (8 miles) south of the city, is the main airport on Bali (travel time - 30 minutes). There are duty-free facilities at the airport. A bus goes to the city centre. Taxis are available to the city and to Kuta, Logian, Sanur and Nusadua.

DEPARTURE TAX: Rp50,000 (infants under the age of 2 are exempt) if departing from Jakarta or Denpasar airports. Rp20,000 from other airports.

SEA: International ports are listed at the end of the Passport/Visa section. High-speed ferries run between Sumatra and Malaysia. There are also services between Manado (Sulawesi) and the Philippines.

CRUISE LINES: Clipper Cruise Line, Cunard, Norwegian American, Orient Lines, Peter Deilmann, P&O, Radisson Seven Seas, Royal Viking and Windjammer Cruises.

RAIL: There is a daily sea and rail service between Belawan and Penang (West Malaysia) operated by National Railroad of Indonesia.

ROAD: Indonesia's international land borders are between Kalimantan and the Malaysian states of Sarawak and Sabah on the island of Borneo, and Irian Jaya and Papua New Guinea. There are no road links with Sabah and the few (poorly maintained) roads to Sarawak are not recognised as gateways to Indonesia.

Travel - Internal

AIR: Indonesia has a good internal air system linking most of the larger towns to Jakarta. Domestic flights from Jakarta depart from Terminal 1 at Soekarno Hatta International Airport (except Garuda Airlines flights, which leave from Terminal 2). Domestic operators include: Bouraq Indonesia Airlines (BO), Garuda Indonesia (GA), Merpati Nusantara Airlines (MZ) and Sempati Air (SG).

CHEAP FARES: The Asean Air Pass offers special fares on domestic flights and gives access to varying numbers of cities depending on the ticket bought. Passes must be bought at Garuda Indonesia offices in Europe, USA, Australia and Japan (not available inside Indonesia). For prices and further information contact Garuda Indonesia on (tel: (020) 7486 3011; fax: (020) 224 3971).

DEPARTURE TAX: Rp11,000 (infants under the age of 2 are exempt).

SEA: PELINI, the state-owned shipping company, has six modern ferries serving all the main ports across the archipelago. Foreign cruise liners also operate on an irregular basis. Luxury cruise ships offer trips to various destinations, including the eastern islands (leaving from Bali). For further details, contact the Indonesia Tourism Promotion Office (see address section).

RAIL: Children under three travel free. Children aged three to seven pay half fare. There are nearly 7000km (4350 miles) of track on Sumatra, Madura and Java. In Sumatra trains connect Belawan, Medan and Tanjong Balai/Rantu Prapet (two or three trains daily) in the north, and Palembang and Panjang (three trains daily) in the south. An extensive rail network runs throughout Java. The Bima Express, which has sleeping and restaurant cars, links Jakarta and Surabaya; there are also other express services. There are three classes of travel, but first-class exists only on principal expresses. There is some air-conditioned accommodation.

ROAD: Traffic drives on the left. There are over 378,000km (234,360 miles) of roads in the country, of which about 28,500km (17,670 miles) are main or national roads and 200km (125 miles) are motorway. Nearly half of the network is paved. There are good road communications within Java and to a lesser extent on Bali and Sumatra. The other islands have poor road systems, although conditions are improving with tourism becoming more important. Road tolls are in operation on some major city roads and need to be paid for by visitors if using a taxi. Chauffeur-driven cars are widely available, with rates varying according to the type of destination. Bus: There are regular services between most towns. Bus trips can be made from Jakarta to Bali (two days). Indonesia is the land of jam karet (literally 'rubber time') and complicated journeys involving more than a single change should not be attempted in a day. Bus fares are about the same as third-class rail. Vehicles can be extremely crowded, although many of them are air-conditioned. The crew includes three conductors who also act as touts. There are 'Bis Malam' night-buses on a number of routes, running in competition with the railways. Pre-booking is essential. Special 'travel minibuses' offering a door-to-door service are also available in cities and major tourist areas. Visitors should note that Indonesian bus drivers are notorious for reckless driving. Taxi: Widely available in most large cities and some smaller towns. Metered taxis are usually only found in the main cities and major tourist areas. Taxi drivers do not always know how to get to the desired destination and passengers may have to tell them. Like all public transport vehicles, taxis have yellow number plates (for private and rented vehicles, the number plates are black, while government vehicles have red plates). Car hire: Car rental is available from a number of companies and from taxi firms, some of which also provide a limousine service. Documentation: An International Driving Permit is required.

Alternative Transport: There are two forms of tricycle rickshaws available in Indonesia: the motorised version is called bajaj (pronounced 'baj-eye'), which is a bright orange colour and seats two passengers, with the driver in front; and the becak (pronounced 'be-chak') is pedal-powered by a rider sitting behind a maximum of 2 passengers. Fares should be negotiated in advance. Rickshaws are an extremely popular and cheap form of transport and can be hired almost everywhere (though becaks have now been banned from the Jakarta city centre). Motorcycles and bicycles can be rented on a daily or weekly basis; for motorcycles, an international driving licence is recommended and a helmet should be worn. Bemos and Colts are small buses, seating up to 10 people, and can be chartered on a daily or weekly basis for travel away from the city centres; fares should be negotiated in advance. Horse carts may still be hired in rural areas (though they are no longer available in Jakarta).

URBAN: Jakarta is the only city with an established conventional bus service of any size. Double-deckers are operated.

8 ACCOMMODATION

International hotels are found only in major towns and tourist areas. Several of these have business centres with a variety of services. High hotel taxes are charged (10% service, plus 11% government tax). Resort hotels on Bali vary from international class, luxury hotels to beach cottages along the shore. Most hotels have pools and can supply most leisure equipment.

Grading: All hotels are graded according to facilities. For more information contact the Indonesian Hotel and Restaurant Association, Wisma Nugra Santana, 4th Floor, Jendral Sudirman Kav. 8, Jakarta 10220 (tel: (21) 570 6909; fax: (21) 570 6888).

9 RESORTS & EXCURSIONS

For the purposes of this section the country has been divided into the main tourist areas: Java, Sulawesi, Sumatra, Eastern Indonesia, Bali and Lombok.

Java

The capital city of Jakarta retains much from the colonial Dutch and British periods, with many fine colonial-style buildings and the recently restored 'old quarter'. The National Monument towers 140m (450ft) above the Merdeka Square and is crowned with a 'flame' plated in pure gold. The Central Museum has a fine ethnological collection including statues dating from the pre-Hindu era. Worth visiting is the Portuguese Church, completed by the Dutch in 1695, which houses a magnificent and immense Dutch pump organ. The modern Istiqlal Mosque in the city centre is one of the largest in the world. There is an antiques market on Jalan Surabaya and batik factories in the Karet. Throughout the island, puppet shows are staged in which traditional wayang golek and wayang kulit marionettes act out stories based on well-known legends; performances can sometimes last all night.

13km (8 miles) from Yogyakarta is the Prambana temple complex, built in honour of the Hindu gods Shiva, Brahma and Vishnu, which includes the 10th-century Temple of Loro Jonggrang and said to be the most perfectly proportioned Hindu temple in Indonesia. At the temple there are also open-air performances of Ramayana ballet which involve hundreds of dancers, singers and gamelan musicians. Perched on a hill to the west of Yogyakarta is Borobudur, probably the largest Buddhist sanctuary in the world, which contains more than 5km (3 miles) of relief carvings. The Royal Mangkunegaran Palace in Surakarta is now used as a museum and has displays of dance ornaments, jewellery and 19th-century carriages used for royal occasions. Mount Bromo in the east of Java is still very active, and horseback treks to the crater's edge can be made from nearby Surabaya. During August and September Madura is a venue for a series of bullock races which culminate in a 48-hour non-stop carnival celebration in the town of Pamekasan.

Sulawesi

Unofficially known as 'Orchid Island', Sulawesi is a land of high mountains, misty valleys and lakes. In the south is Bantimurung Nature Reserve which has thousands of exotic butterflies. The island has geysers and hot springs, the most celebrated of which are at Makule, Karumengan, Lahendong, Kinilow and Leilem. Torajaland is known as the 'Land of the Heavenly Kings' and its people are noted for their richly-ornamented houses and custom of burying the dead in vertical cliffside tombs. Ujung Pandang, formerly Makassar, is celebrated for the Pina Harbour where wooden schooners of the famous Buganese seafarers are moored. Fort Rotterdam, built by Sultan Ala in 1660 to protect the town from pirates, is now being restored. Racing is a popular island activity; there is horse-racing and bullock-racing and at Ranomuut there are races with traditional horse-drawn carts (bendi).

Sumatra

Sumatra is the second-largest island in Indonesia, straddling the Equator, with a volcanic mountain range, hot springs, unexplored jungle and vast plantations. There are many reserves established to protect the indigenous wildlife from extinction. Mount Loeser Reserve, Bengkulu and Gedung Wani organise supervised safaris enabling visitors to see tigers, elephants, tapirs and rhinos at close hand. Lake Toba, once a volcanic crater, is 900m (3000ft) above sea level and has an inhabited island in the middle. Lingga village near Medan is a traditional Karonese settlement with stilted wooden houses which have changed little through the centuries. At Bukittinggi is the

old fortress of Fort de Kock and nearby a zoo, market, a renovated rice barn and the Bundo Kandung Museum. The best beaches are on the east coast.

Eastern Indonesia

The wildest and least visited of Indonesia's 17,000 islands are in the east, gathered in two great archipelagos north and south of the treacherous Banda Sea.

MOLUCCAN ARCHIPELAGO: MOLUCCAN ARCHIPELAGO: Also known as the Maluku Archipelago, it is made up of 1000 islands, many uninhabited and the rest so isolated from each other and (since the decline of the spice trade) from the outside world that each has its own culture and very often its own language.

Halmahera: Halmahera is the largest island in the Moluccan group and one of the most diverse. On the coast are relic populations of all the great powers who competed for domination of the Spice Trade - Arabs, Gujuratis, Malays, Portuguese and Dutch - whilst inland the people speak a unique language that has little or nothing in common even with other unique, but related, languages on the more remote islands. Morotai, to the north, was the site of a Japanese air base during World War II, but is now engaged in the production of copra and cocoa products. Ternate and Tidore, tiny volcanic islands off the west coast of Halmahera, were once the world's most important source of cloves and consequently amassed far more wealth and power than their size would seem to merit. The Sultanate of Ternate was an independent military power of considerable muscle before the arrival of the Portuguese, exerting influence over much of South-East Asia. Both islands are littered with the remains of this and the equally strident colonial era and draw more tourists than their larger neighbour. Further south, Ambon was another important centre of the clove trade and has over 40 old Dutch fortresses dating from the early 17th century. Banda, in the middle of the Banda Sea, is often referred to as the original 'Spice Island' and is famous as a nutmeg-growing centre.

NUSA TENGARRA ARCHIPELAGO: Nusa Penida: NUSA TENGARRA ARCHIPELAGO: Nusa Penida was at one time a penal colony but now attracts visitors to its dramatic seascapes and beaches. Komodo is home of the world's largest and rarest species of monitor lizard, while Sumba is noted for its beautiful Ikat cloth. Mount Keli Mutu is one of Indonesia's most spectacular natural sights, famous for its three crater lakes, whose striking colours change with the light of the day. The islands north of Timor - including Solor, Lembata, Adonara, Alor, Wetar and Pantar - are rarely visited by tourists; there are many old fortresses on the islands and from here seafarers used to set sail on whale hunts. Timor itself is out of bounds to tourists because of the bloody and protracted war with freedom fighters in the east of the island. The cultures on Roti, Ndao and Sawu have apparently changed little since the Bronze Age, yet the islands' inhabitants are renowned as musicians and palm weavers. The Terawangan Islands are a small group with beautiful beaches and coral gardens. Lucipara has excellent waters for snorkelling. Kangean, Tenggaya, Bone Rate and Tukang Besi are a group of isolated atolls in the Flores and Banda seas epitomising a tropical paradise.

IRIAN JAYA: IRIAN JAYA: The western part of the island of New Guinea, this is one of the last great unexplored areas of the world. Even today, visiting ships are often greeted by flotillas of warriors in war canoes. All those intending to visit Irian Jaya must obtain special permits from State Police Headquarters in Jakarta. Travellers are advised to avoid this area at present.

Bali

The landscape of Bali, 'Island of the Gods', is made up of volcanic mountains, lakes and rivers, terraced ricefields, giant banyans and palm groves and, on the coast, bays ringed with white

sandy beaches. The island lies a short distance from the eastern coast of Java, across the Strait of Bali. Although its total area is only 2095 sq km (1309 sq miles) the island supports a population of approximately 2.5 million. Unlike the rest of Indonesia, the predominant religious faith is Hinduism, though in a special form known as 'Agama-Hindu'. Stretching east to west across the island is a volcanic chain of mountains, dominated by the mighty Gunung Agung (Holy Mountain) whose conical peak soars more than 3170m (10,400ft) into the sky. North of the mountains, where the fertility of the terrain permits, is an area devoted to the production of vegetables and copra. The fertile rice-growing region lies on the central plains. The tourist areas are in the south, around Sanur Beach and at Kuta, which lies on the other side of a narrow isthmus. Nearby Nusa Dusa is also a popular tourist area and has a number of reasonably priced resorts and hotels.

The island has thousands of temples - the exact number has never been counted - ranging from the great 'Holy Temple' at Besakih to small village places of worship. Of the many festivals, most are held twice a year and involve splendid processions, dances and daily offerings of food and flowers made to the gods. Cremations are also held in great style, though their cost is often almost prohibitive for the average Balinese family.

Denpasar: Denpasar is the island's capital. Sights include the Museum, a new art centre and the internationally recognised Konservatori Kerawitan, one of the major centres of Balinese dancing. The Sea Temple of Tanah Lot on the west coast (a short drive from Kediri) is one of the most breathtaking sights of Bali. Goa Gajah (Elephant Cave) near Bedulu is a huge cavern with an entrance carved in a fantastic design of demonical shapes, animals and plants, crowned by a monstrous gargoyle-like head. The Holy Springs of Tampaksiring are believed to possess curative properties and attract thousands of visitors each year.

Serangan Island: Serangan Island is also known as Turtle Island because of the turtles kept there in special pens. The island lies south of Sanur and can be reached by sail boat or, at low tide, on foot. Every six months the island becomes the scene of a great thanksgiving ceremony in which tens of thousands take part.

The sacred monkey forest at Sangeh is a forest reserve which, as well as being the home of a variety of exotic apes, also has a temple. Penelokan is a splendid vantage point for views of the black lava streams from Mount Batur. It is also possible to sail across the nearby Lake Batur to Trunyan for a closer look at the crater. North of Kintamani, at an altitude of 1745m (5725ft), lies the highest temple on the island, Penulisan. Pura Besakih, a temple which dates back originally to the 10th century, stands high on the volcanic slopes of Gunung Agung. Nowadays, it is a massive complex of more than 30 temples, and the setting for great ceremonial splendour on festival days. Padangbai is a beautiful tropical coastal village, where lush vegetation backs a curving stretch of white, sandy beach. It is also the island's port of call for giant cruise liners. Goa Lawah lives up to its name ('bat cave' in the local tongue), a safe and holy haven for thousands of bats which line every inch of space on its walls and roof. Non bat-lovers should avoid moonlight strolls in the area, as the animals leave for food sorties at night. Kusambe is a fishing village with a black sand beach. Lake Bratan is reached via a winding road from Budugul. The shimmering cool beauty of the lake and its pine-forested hillsides is an unusual sight in a tropical landscape.

Lombok

Only a 15-minute flight (or a ferry trip) away is Lombok, an unspoilt island whose name means 'chilli pepper'. Its area is 1285 sq km (803 sq miles). The island possesses one of the highest volcanic mountains in the Indonesian archipelago, Mount Rindjani, whose cloud-piercing peak soars to 3745m (12,290ft). The population of about 750,000 is a mixture of Islamic Sasaks, Hindu Balinese and others of Malay origin. The two main towns are Mataram, the capital, and the busy port of Ampenan; both are interesting to explore. The south coast is rocky. The west, with shimmering rice terraces, banana and coconut groves and fertile plains, looks like an extension of

Bali. The east is dry, barren and desert-like in appearance. The north, the region dominated by Mount Rindjani, offers thick forests and dramatic vistas. There are also some glorious beaches, some of white sand, others, such as those near Ampenan, of black sand.

At Narmada, reached by an excellent east-west highway, is a huge complex of palace dwellings, complete with a well containing 'rejuvenating waters', built for a former Balinese king. At Pamenang visitors can hire a boat and go skindiving, entering a clear-water world of brilliantly coloured coral and inquisitive tropical fish.

Indonesian Culture

Dancing is considered an art, encouraged and practised from very early childhood. The extensive repertoire is based on ancient legends and stories from religious epics. Performances are given in village halls and squares, and also in many of the leading hotels by professional touring groups. The dances vary enormously, both in style and number of performers. Some of the more notable are the Legong, a slow, graceful dance of divine nymphs; the Baris, a fast moving, noisy demonstration of male, warlike behaviour; and the Jauk, a riveting solo offering by a masked and richly costumed demon. Many consider the most dramatic of all to be the famous Cecak (Monkey Dance) which calls for 100 or more very agile participants.

Art centres: Art centres: The village of Ubud is the centre of Bali's considerable art colony and contains the galleries of the most successful painters, including those of artists of foreign extraction who have settled on the island. Set in a hilltop garden is the Museum Puri Lukistan (Palace of Fine Arts) with its fine display of sculpture and paintings in both old and contemporary styles. Kamasan, near Klungkung, is another centre, but the painting style of the artists is predominantly wayang (highly stylised). Other artistic centres include Celuk (gold and silver working), Denpasar (woodworking and painting) and Batubulan (stone carving).

10 SPORT & ACTIVITIES

Surfing: Surfing: The Indonesian archipelago is one of the world's top surfing destinations. The best time to surf is from April to September with the best waves generally found on islands facing south and southwest, including Sumatra, Java, Bali, Lombok, Sumbawa, Flores and Sumba. Some well known surfing beaches, such as Ulu Watu on Bali, tend to get overcrowded, but organised trips to isolated areas are widely available. Surf camps such as those at Lagundri Bay (Nias) or Cempi Bay (Sumbawa) offer basic accommodation and simple food. Windsurfing is particularly popular on Bintan Island and Sanur and Nusa Dua beaches on Bali.

Diving: Diving: There are approximately 80,000km (50,000 miles) of coastline, reputed to contain 15% of the world's coral reefs. In spite of the obvious opportunities, Indonesia's diving industry is still relatively young, though the number of companies offering courses and excursions is rising rapidly.

On Java island, the best diving is on the west coast, where three volcanic islands mark the remains of the Krakatau volcano (which last erupted in 1883). Bali's tourist stronghold in the Kuta, Nusa Dua and Suar triangle offers easy and moderate diving, with easily accessible reefs. Tours to more remote (and less busy) areas are available. On the northern tip of Sulawesi island, the Taman Nasional Laut Bunaken Manado Tua is a national marine reserve with particularly steep coral walls; international air connections to the island facilitate access. Further north, the lesser-known Sangihe-Talud and Togian islands are reached by live-aboard dive boats. In the south, Take Bone Rate is the world's third largest atoll while the Tukang Besi islands have featured extensively in the films by the French underwater explorer Jacques Cousteau. Nusa Tenggara's most popular sites are the three Gili islands near Lombok, whose calm shallow waters

are ideal for beginners. Maluku consists of approximately 1000 islands and has only recently been discovered as a top diving destination. Southeast of Ambon, the Bandana islands are accessible by air and offer a number of sites suitable for beginners and experienced divers. The major resort in the Sumatra and Riau islands is Bintan, easily accessible from Singapore. The clearest and most colourful dive sites are in Pulau Sikuai off the Padang coast (western Sumatra) and Pulau Weh off Banda Aceh (northern Sumatra). Irian Jaya also offers good diving around the famous Mapia Atoll (where dolphins and killer whales can sometimes be spotted) and the waters of Cenderawasih Bay off the western end of Bird's Head peninsula.

Climbing: Climbing: The island of Sumatra is perhaps the best location. Gunung Padang, near the island's capital, Padang, is a small black basalt cliff reached via a river paddling trip followed by a trek through rainforest. Further inland, Bukittinggi offers challenging cliffs overlooking rice paddies. The dramatic canyon rocks in nearby Harau National Park are still largely unexplored and should only be attempted by experienced climbers.

Caving: Caving: Indonesia's most accessible caves are on the island of Java and include Luweng Jaran, stretching over 20km (125 miles) beneath the Gunung Seuw mountain range; Gua Barat, which has the longest underground river system in the southern hemisphere; and Gombong, whose stone towers rise spectacularly to some 40m (132ft) above sea level. On Kalimantan island, Mangkalihat offers a rarely visited underground world of giant limestone corridors. Even less explored are the isolated caves near Wamena on the remote Bird's Head peninsula in Irian Jaya.

Boating: Boating: The majority of companies offering whitewater rafting are located in Bali, where several rivers - including the Ayung, Unda, Ubaya, Balian and Telega - are commercially rafted. Spectacular rapids can also be found on the Citartik River (western Java), the Sadan River (Sulawesi) and the Alas River (Sumatra). Rapids are generally at their strongest between November and March. River tours up the great Mahakam River on the island of Kalimantan, which is dissected by a network of rivers running from the mountainous interior to the coasts, are billed as a trip into the 'heart of darkness'. Starting from the port city Samarinda, such tours last for several days (with on-board accommodation available) and continue deep into the upper jungle reaches, where tribal communities have largely preserved their traditions.

Trekking: Trekking: Indonesia has some 120 active volcanoes and numerous volcano treks are possible: on Java island, popular volcanic destinations include Krakatoa (reached by a 5-hour boat trip followed by a 30-minute climb), Mount Bromo (the most visited of Indonesia's volcanoes) and Kawah Ijen (whose crater is filled by a turquoise-blue lake). Those preferring dormant volcanoes may head to Gunung Agung in Bali (known as the 'Navel of the World'), Gunung Rinjani on Lombok island (which has hot springs at the top and is revered for its mystical qualities) and Keli Mutu on Nusa Tenggara Barat (whose crater contains three spectacular mineral lakes). For jungle trekking through the Indonesian rainforest, the islands of Kalimantan, Sumatra and Irian Jaya offer the most remote and untouched terrain. The best trails include trips to Bukit Barisan National Park, a remote and beautiful peninsula in Sumatra (with routes leading through tropical rainforest onto a beach inhabited by turtles); the Muller Mountain on Kalimantan (with a trail following the traditional jungle route used by the native Iban people); and Lake Habbema on Irian Jaya (a week-long trek to remote villages and mountains).

Ecotourism: Ecotourism: Having been criticised, in the past, for the destruction of large areas of its rainforest through forest exploitation, the Indonesian Government is now keen to encourage an environmentally friendly tourism policy. The growing trend for back-to-nature holidays means that numerous types of eco-tours are available. In the Tukangbeshi archipelago near Sulawesi, tourists have the opportunity to participate in coral reef preservation projects by helping to collect scientific data.

11 SOCIAL PROFILE

Food & Drink: The staple diet for most Indonesians is rice (nasi), which is replaced on some islands with corn, sago, cassava and sweet potatoes. Rice dishes include nais campur, nasi uduk and rasirames. Indonesia's spices make its local cuisine unique. Specialities include: rijstafel (a Dutch concoction consisting of a variety of meats, fish, vegetables and curries), sate (chunks of beef, fish, pork, chicken or lamb cooked on hot coals and dipped in peanut sauce). Almost every type of international cuisine is available in Jakarta, the most popular being Chinese, French, Italian, Japanese and Korean sate ayam (broiled, skewered marinated chicken), ayam unkap (Central Java; deep-fried, marinated chicken), sate lileh (Bali; broiled, skewered fish sticks), ikan acar kuning (Jakarta; lightly marinated fried fish served in a sauce of pickled spices and palm sugar), soto (a soup dish with dumpling, chicken and vegetables), gado-gado (Java; a salad of raw and cooked vegetables with peanut and coconut milk sauce), babi guling (Bali; roast suckling pig) and opor ayam (boiled chicken in coconut milk and light spices). Indonesians like their food highly spiced and the visitor should always bear this in mind. In particular look out for the tiny, fiery hot, red and green peppers often included in salads and vegetable dishes. Seafood is excellent and features highly on menus everywhere (with salt and fresh water fish, lobsters, oysters, prawns, shrimp, squid, shark and crab all available). Coconuts, which are found everywhere, are often used for cooking. Vegetables and fresh fruit, such as bananas, papaya, pineapple and oranges, are available throughout the year; some tropical fruit such as mango, watermelon and papaya is seasonal. A feature of Jakarta are the many warungs (street stalls). Each specialises in its own dish or drink, but travellers are probably best advised not to try them without the advice of an Indonesian resident. Almost every type of international cuisine is available in Jakarta, the most popular being Chinese, French, Italian, Japanese and Korean. There are restaurants in the hotels which, along with many others, serve European, Chinese and Indian food. Drink: Indonesia is a major producer and exporter of coffee and tea, which is available on almost every street corner. Bali produces a delicious rice wine called brem while in Tana Toraja (southern Sulawesi), visitors may wish to sample a Tuak, a famously potent local brew. Local pilsner beer is also available.

Nightlife: Jakarta nightclubs feature international singers and bands and are open until 0400 during weekends. Jakarta has over 40 cinemas and some English-language and subtitled films are shown. There are also casinos, and theatres providing cultural performances. Many of the larger hotels, particularly in Bali, put on dance shows accompanied by the uniquely Indonesian Gamelan Orchestras. Throughout the year many local moonlight festivals occur; tourists should check locally. Indonesian puppets are world famous and shows for visitors are staged in various locations. See also the Indonesian Culture section.

Shopping: Favourite buys are batik cloth, woodcarvings and sculpture, silverwork, woven baskets and hats, bamboo articles, krises (small daggers), paintings and woven cloth. At small shops bartering might be necessary. Shopping hours: 1000-2200 Monday to Sunday. Most local markets open either very early in the morning or at dusk.

Special Events: There are a number of festivals which take place during the year, the dates of which often vary according to the Hindu or Buddhist calendars. Bali stages some magnificent festivals all year round. Festival calendars can be obtained on arrival. The Sultan's birthday in mid-December is celebrated by a fair and festival in Yogyakarta, Java. Some of the more important events throughout the year are listed below. For a full list of festivals and special events, contact the Indonesia Tourism Promotion Board or a representative ITPO office (see address section).

Feb-Mar Pasola Jousting Tournament, Sumba Island; Nyale Festival, Lombok. Mar-Apr Maleman Sriwedari, a month-long traditional night fair, Central Java. Apr Mappanre Tasi Ceremony, South Kalimantan. May-Jun Jakarta Festival. Jun Paper Kite Festival, Pangandaran Beach, West Java; Tabuik, West Sumatra. Jun-Jul Bali Arts Festival, Denpasar; Lake Toba Festival, North Sumatra. Jul Art Festival, South Sulawesi; Bunaken Festival, North Sulawesi; Cultural Festival, Banda Aceh; Tabot, Bengkulu. Jul-Aug Darwin, Australia to Ambon Yacht Competition, Ambon. Aug Pacu Jalur, Riau; Lake Poso Festival, Central Sulawesi. Sep Erau Festival, East Kalimantan. Nov Kesodo Ritual Ceremony, East Java.

Social Conventions: Indonesia encompasses at least 583 separate languages and dialects, many of them as different from each other as Welsh is from English. Since independence many people have developed a strong sense of national pride, and maintain traditions of dance, painting, woodcarving and stonecarving. Social courtesies are often fairly formal. In particular, when drink or food is served, it should not be touched until the host invites the guest to do so. Never pass or accept anything with the left hand. Public displays of affection between men and women is frowned upon and kissing in public will attract a great deal of unwanted attention. Touching a stranger of the same sex while in conversation is very common. Pointing is considered impolite and patting children on the head should be avoided. Indonesians are polite and will extend endless courtesies to visitors whom they trust and like. Smiling is a cultural tradition and Indonesians smile frequently, even in an uncomfortable or difficult situation. Visitors should avoid the temptation of losing their temper. When invited home, a gift is appreciated (as long as it is given with the right hand). Informality is normal, but a few smart establishments encourage guests to dress for dinner. Safari suits are acceptable on formal occasions and for business wear. Muslim customs, especially those concerning female clothes, should be observed. Tipping: Tipping is normal and 10% is customary, except where a service charge is included in the bill. Taxi fees should be rounded up to the nearest number. Small change is rarely given and visitors should carry a supply of their own.

12 BUSINESS PROFILE

Economy: 'The most dramatic economic collapse anywhere in the past five decades' is how one World Bank official has described the calamitous disintegration of the Indonesian economy between the autumn of 1997 and the summer of 1998. In the first six months of 1998, economic output in Indonesia declined by over 12%. Over the same period, the Rupiah, lost almost 80% of its value. The crash occurred after years of uninterrupted growth, most spectacularly from the mid-1980s until 1997, when GDP increased at between 8% and 10% annually. During late 1999 and early 2000, the Rupiah's slide continued, losing a further 30% of its value in the year up to October 2000. On the plus side, output rose by 4% in the same period with an especially strong recovery by the manufacturing industry. One of the most pressing tasks for the new Government has been tackling the legacy of 'crony capitalism', in order to restore confidence in the country's economic viability. Under the Suharto regime, important parts of the economy were controlled by his family and close associates (see History and Government). A particular problem was the lack of supervision of the financial sector and when it was deregulated in 1988, there followed an explosion of unsustainable borrowing and extension of credit, especially to construction companies. When the currency crisis began in the autumn of 1997, Indonesia was therefore in a very vulnerable position. After the collapse of the Rupiah, the IMF arranged its largest-ever financial rescue package totalling \$43 billion in January 1998. Thirty years earlier, as Indonesia's economic expansion began in earnest after the upheavals of the mid-60s, the country was far less developed than many of its neighbours. However, it was able to exploit its considerable mineral resources as a foundation on which to build an industrial economy. Oil and natural gas are the most important raw materials produced by Indonesia: it is still one of the largest

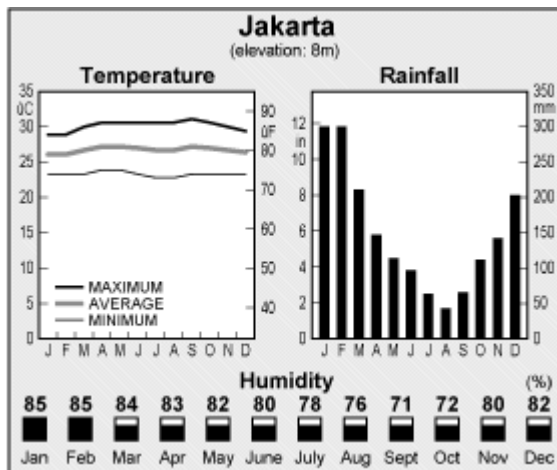
exporters of liquefied natural gas. The country is also the second largest producer of tin and extracts substantial quantities of other metals and metal ores (bauxite, copper, silver gold and nickel) as well as coal and rubber. Much of the processing of these products is now done within the country. The agricultural sector (including fishing and forestry) remains important but more as a source of employment - it accounts for half the work force - than for its contribution to the economy which is around 15% of GDP. The service sector grew rapidly from the beginning of the 1980s onwards. Tourism has become a major industry and a vital source of foreign exchange: 1996 revenue was estimated at over \$6 billion. Transport and communications, financial services and international freight traffic also made important contributions. However, it was the manufacturing industry, which developed from virtual non-existence in 1965 to its mid-90s position of providing one-quarter of economic output, which received most attention from the Government (as well as outsiders) and announced Indonesia's arrival as a fully-fledged 'Asian Tiger' economy. Despite the high profile of the vehicle, aerospace and electronics industries, Indonesia's manufacturing success was rooted in less glamorous areas such as textiles, food-processing, tobacco and timber products. The bulk of Indonesia's trade is conducted within the region, especially with Japan (which accounts for approximately one-quarter of total trade), Singapore, Korea, Australia and China (including Hong Kong). Outside the region, the USA and Germany are its major trading partners.

Business: Business dealings should be conducted through an agent and tend to be slow. Visiting cards are widely used. Literature should be in English, but prices should be quoted in US Dollars as well as Pounds Sterling. Private office hours: 0900-1700 Monday to Friday. Government office hours: 0800-1430 Monday to Thursday and 0800-1200 Friday.

Commercial Information: The following organisation can offer advice: Kamar Dagang dan Industri Indonesia (KADIN) (Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry), 3rd-5th Floors, Chandra Building, Jalan M H Thamrin 20, Jakarta 10350 (tel: (21) 324 000; fax: (21) 315 0241).

Conferences/Conventions: For information or assistance in organising a conference or convention in Indonesia, contact the Directorate-General of Tourism or the Indonesia Tourism Promotion Board or a representative IPTO office (see address section).

13 CLIMATE



Tropical climate varying from area to area. The eastern monsoon brings the driest weather (June to September), while the western monsoon brings the main rains (December to March). Rainstorms occur all year. Higher regions are cooler.

Required clothing: Lightweights with rainwear. Warmer clothes are needed for cool evenings and upland areas.

14 HISTORY AND GOVERNMENT

History: For almost a thousand years, Indonesia has been involved in maritime trade, resulting in a wide range of religious, cultural and ethnic influences. The Chinese were among the first to trade with the islands, followed in the 8th century AD by Hindu and Buddhist merchants from India who built up two empires, known as Srivijaya and Majapahit. These were supplanted in the 13th century by Islamic influences brought by Arab and Malay seafarers. The English and Portuguese were the first Europeans to arrive in the area in the 16th century but in 1595 the Dutch East India Company took control of trade in the area. From 1814 until the Japanese invasion during World War II, Indonesia's people and resources were subjected to the autocratic Dutch rule. When finally Indonesia proclaimed its independence in 1945, the country had literally been stripped of many of its natural riches and little had been built by the colonial powers in return. In addition to the massive task of developing this incipient nation, Indonesia had to overcome suspicious minorities and rivalries among their dozens of tribes and ethnic groups. The leaders chose as their national motto the phrase *Bhineka Tunggal-ika*, meaning 'unity in diversity'. The country's first President, Dr Sukarno, had been a prominent figure in the independence movement since the 1920s. The central in its efforts to hold the country together and hold on to power, the regime became increasingly repressive and corrupt. Economic difficulties further fuelled the growth of the opposition, in particular the powerful Indonesian Communist Party (PKI). In September 1965, a coup was launched by sections of the army with full PKI support. The immediate political struggle, which the Government eventually won, was one of the closest in recent history. The army chief of staff, General Suharto, backed Sukarno, and saved the regime. Between 400,000 and 1 million died in the aftermath of the coup. In March 1967, Suharto took over the Presidency, which he subsequently held until his (forced) resignation in May 1998. Under the Suharto government, the army always held ultimate political power while a technocrat class was left to run the country day-to-day. The regime brought Indonesia comparative peace, stability and steady economic growth. Manifestations of Muslim fundamentalism - Indonesia is the world's largest Muslim country - were rigorously controlled by the Government: both Sukarno and Suharto adhered to a policy of allowing religious diversity as a guarantor of social stability, although attempts to formally enshrine this in an official doctrine of Pancasila were dropped and the Government introduced various stop-gap pro-Islamic policies. Although Indonesia is a long-standing member of the Non-Aligned Movement, Suharto steadily tilted his country towards the West and joined the pro-Western ASEAN bloc (Association of South East Asian Nations). Relations between Indonesia and China (with whom Sukarno was previously friendly) and with the then Soviet Union improved greatly from the mid-1980s onwards. National Assembly elections in June 1992 saw the government-backed Golkar party (Partai Golongan Karya) returned once again with 67% of the vote, and it looked as if Suharto might reign for the foreseeable future. But events were to prove otherwise. The unforeseen crash of the Indonesian economy in late 1997 led to months of violent rioting and protest. Crucially, in May 1998 this dissension spread through the previously implacable military, and once the influential Muslim leader Amien Rais and various military figures had lent their voices to the clamour already demanding Suharto's departure, the President was left with little choice but to resign. (Years of bottled-up resentment at the extended Suharto clan's general freeloading and corruption also played its part in this scenario.) Suharto's deputy, Jusuf Habibie, took over until presidential

elections were held under new rules in November 1999. At the national assembly poll which preceded it in June 1999, the most serious threat to Golkar was presented by the Partai Demokrasi Indonesia Perjuangan (PDIP, the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle) headed by the daughter of former President Sukarno, Megawati Sukarnoputri. At the poll in the first week of June, the PDIP performance exceeded expectations in taking 37% of the vote against 21% for Golkar. Third and fourth places, with 28% of the vote between them, were taken by the Partai Kebangkitan Bangsa (PKB, National Awakening Party) and the Partai Persatuan Pembangunan (PPP, United Development Party). Although Golkar performed relatively poorly, the party will remain an important force in Indonesian politics by virtue of its influence in regional government and the military. Sukarnoputri was expected to win the November presidential poll but, suffering from a lack of crucial support in key parts of the new electoral college which elects the president, lost out to the PKB candidate, the veteran cleric Abdurrahman Wahid. The incumbent President Habibie was massively defeated as expected. His brief tenure as president was notable for a single initiative regarding one of Indonesia's longest running problems. The Indonesian archipelago covers numerous territories whose inhabitants are seeking independence and Jakarta has had to face a number of rebellions. The most prominent of these was East Timor. Vacated suddenly in 1975 by the Portuguese, whose colony it had been, East Timor enjoyed just a few days of independence before Indonesian troops invaded and claimed the territory as Indonesia's 27th province. In the counter-insurgency campaign which followed, the Indonesian army has killed over one hundred thousand East Timor inhabitants during their pursuit of the pro-independence guerrillas of Frente Revolucionario de Este Timor Independente (FRETILIN). The campaign brought much international opprobrium upon the Indonesian government, but it showed little sign of changing policy until, in January 1999, President Habibie suddenly announced that a referendum would be held in the territory offering either full independence or autonomy within Indonesia. The referendum went ahead in August 1999, and 80% of the Timorese population voted for independence. The Indonesian army and local militias, whom they armed and supported, reacted with an orgy of violence, looting and killing. This displaced hundreds of thousands of people and destroyed the already fragile economic base. Although East Timor is now well set on the path to independence, with a United Nations Transitional Administration now in charge, much has to be done to fix the immense damage inflicted on the territory. Elsewhere, Aceh in northern Sumatra and the Melanesians of Irian Jaya (who seek union with Papua New Guinea) both rebelled in the 1990s in opposition to the Government's economic development and population policies. The Aceh rebels, who are staunchly Muslim, have also come to the negotiating table recently, and may accept limited autonomy. The main obstacle to settlements has been the army, which fears the break-up of the national territory if excessive concessions were made to secessionist movement.

Government: Executive power is in the hands of the President, who is chosen by an electoral college, composed of the two houses of the Indonesian parliament, and serves a five-year term. The upper house has 200 members: 135 are appointees of the provincial parliaments; the other 65 members are selected by the Electoral Commission to represent trades and professions. The lower house, the Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat (People's Representative Assembly), has 462 members directly elected by proportional representation while the other 38 are appointed as representatives of the army; members of the assembly serve a five-year term.

15 OVERVIEW

Country Overview: Indonesia lies between the mainland of South-East Asia and Australia and is made up of six main islands which include Sumatra, Java, Sulawesi and Bali, and 30 smaller archipelagos, most lying in a volcanic belt with more than 300, largely extinct, volcanoes. The

landscape varies from island to island, ranging from high mountains and plateaux to coastal lowlands and alluvial belts.

The capital city Jakarta, on Java, retains much from the Dutch and British periods, with many fine colonial-style buildings.

Sulawesi is a land of mountains, misty valleys and lakes while Sumatra, the second-largest island, straddles the Equator, with a volcanic mountain range, hot springs and unexplored jungle. The landscape of Bali is made up of lakes, rivers, ricefields, giant banyans and palm groves.

Local dishes include rijstafel (a variety of meats, fish, vegetables and curries) and sate (chunks of beef, fish, pork, chicken or lamb cooked and dipped in peanut sauce).

Throughout the year many local moonlight festivals occur. Indonesian puppets are world famous and shows are staged in various locations.

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