



SEE ASIA DIFFERENTLY
CAMBODIA LAOS VIETNAM THAILAND BURMA INDONESIA



INDONESIA
HOLIDAY INFORMATION PACK

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Thank you for choosing to travel with See Asia Differently. We hope that you have a fabulous holiday and return home with some wonderful memories of this incredible region and we look forward to hearing all about it!

This Holiday Information pack has been designed to help you get even more out of your Cambodian holiday with us. We are here every step of the way to assist you; so, if you have any further questions that are not answered in this pack then please get in touch with your Sales or Customer Services representative.

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About Indonesia

The Indonesian archipelago is the largest in the world, comprising of about 13,466 large and small tropical islands most fringed with white sandy beaches and many still uninhabited. Straddling the equator is situated between the continents of Asia and Australia and in between the Pacific and the Indian Oceans, it is as wide as London and Moscow or San Francisco to New York and with a population of more than 215 million people and over 200 different ethnic groups.

Due to the country's location and geography, Indonesia has the most diverse landscape, from fertile lowlands & highlands on Java and Bali and the amazing rainforests of Sumatra, Kalimantan and Sulawesi, to the savannah grasslands of the Nusatenggara Islands and the snow-capped peaks of West Papua.

Among the most well-known Indonesian Islands are: Sumatra, Java, Bali & Lombok, Kalimantan (Borneo), Sulawesi (formerly Celebes), the Maluku Islands (or The Moluccas, Spice Islands) and Irian Jaya (West Papua). They are all different with their enchanting culture, beaches, architecture and nature. Most of all there are still many unexplored areas and islands with sharp mountain and active volcanoes and rainforests to climb or trek through, good waves to surf and pristine reefs and lagoons to swim, snorkel and dive.

Most people that come to Indonesia for their first time usually visit Bali, Lombok and Java, which are good places to start in this extraordinary country. But there are of incredible secrets here and wonderful experiences will always await you further afield.

A Brief History

It is estimated that the first people arrived in Indonesia about 40,000 years ago when sea levels were lower and joined to Asia by a land bridge. By the end of the ice age (10,000 BC) a new wave of arrivals hunted animals, collected shellfish, and gathered plants for food. Later, by 2,500 BC agriculture was established, together with tools made out of stone and pottery. Towards the end of Iron Age, wet cultivation of rice was introduced as the first kingdoms emerged. Shortly after, trading routes were opened with neighbouring countries while new links with China & India introduced Hinduism and Buddhism.

The 8th century AD finds Indonesian civilization at its peak controlled by a great Buddhist kingdom in Sumatra and a Hindu one in central Java. By the 15th century most kingdoms started to break up to separate states and meanwhile Islam arrived from India at Aceh in north Sumatra. From the 17th until the middle of the 20th century Indonesia changed many hands. First were the Portuguese, then the Dutch, later the British and then the Dutch again. At the end of WW2 and after the Japanese invasion the Dutch once more re-immersed but, finally in November 1949 they recognized Indonesia as independent.

This was not the end of Indonesia's turmoil as the short-lived democracy turned to a military dictatorship until 1999. The 21st century looks more promising for this unusual country since due to oil reserves and other natural resources the economy started to recover and by 2007 it was growing by as much as 6% a year.

Weather

Just under the equator, the islands of Indonesia stretch horizontally for about 5400km. Here you will find all variations of tropical weather with the climate being characterised as hot and humid. Generally, the country sees two main seasons, dry and wet.

In Java, Bali, Lombok, West Tenggara and in Kalimantan & Sulawesi the dry season usually occurs from April to October while for the remaining months there will be daily short but heavy tropical storms. In eastern Tenggara after Flores the wet season is reversed; tropical downpours occur between the end of April to September while the remaining months are extremely dry. This weather system does not seem to have an effect in Sumatra, here rain is a daily occurrence all year round and Sumatra has some of the wettest weather found anywhere in the world.

Overall the best time to visit Indonesia is between mid-March to the end of October. Temperature wise, most of the islands only differ slightly between the winter and summer, with temperatures averaging between 25C and 30C all year round.

Main Festivals

- 28th March - **Hari Raya Nyepi**
- 14th Apr – **Good Friday**
- 01st May – **Labour Day**
- 11th May – **Waisak Day**
- 17th August - **Independence Day**

*Please note that dates of some festivals can change slightly from year to year.

Before You Leave

Emergency Contact

See Asia Differently contact

- Cambodian Office Number – +855 (0)63 966 355
- International Number – +44 (0)208 150 5150
- Cambodian Mobile Number – +855 (0)16 565 496

British Embassy (Jakarta)

Jl. Patra Kuningan Raya Blok L5-6, Setiabudi, RT.6/RW.4, Kuningan Tim., Kota Jakarta Selatan, Daerah Khusus Ibukota Jakarta 12950, Indonesia

Contact Number - +60 01 23565200

Office Hours: Monday to Friday (07:30-16:00)

*Other embassy details can be supplied if needed.

Visas and Taxes

Do I need a Visa to enter Indonesia?

Yes: Indonesia has now scrapped visas for 169 nationalities including citizens of the UK, all EU countries, New Zealand, Australia, the United States, and Canada. However, this is only if you enter the country into any of the countries international airports or 80 sea ports.

How to get an Indonesia Visa?

There are two ways:

- 1) On Arrival** - You can get a visa on arrival at both International airports and most sea ports. A tourist visa costs \$35 and is valid for a period of 30 days.
- 2) In Advance (Embassy)** - You can obtain your visa for Indonesia in advance by visiting your nearest embassy. The visa will cost you the same amount as getting it on arrival which is \$35.

Additional Information:

- Please make sure that your passport does not expire within 6 months of your holiday. And that your passport has at least one full clean page for the visa and another page for additional stamps.
- If applying for a visa on arrival please make sure that you have 2 passport photographs with you.
- For every day, you are in the country without a valid visa you will have to pay a fine per day.
- Please note that you are no longer need to pay an airport departure tax as this is included in your airline ticket.

Insurance

Travel Insurance is compulsory for anyone travelling on a 'See Asia Differently' holiday and you will be asked to supply us with your insurance details before travelling. Travel insurance can be acquired from a multitude of companies but it is vital that your insurance is comprehensive and covers you for all aspects of the trip you are taking.

Health (Vaccinations)

We recommend that you see your doctor or a travel clinic at least 6 weeks before your departure for general advice on travel risks, malaria and vaccinations.

Rather than giving out the wrong advice we have found that www.masta.org offers excellent medical advice about recommended vaccinations and malaria advice. With them you can buy a number of useful products including mosquito repellent, malaria tablets and many other forms of travel related products. An alternative you might like to try the Travelpharm.

If you are currently taking medicine or drugs, whether prescription or not, please make sure that you take a sufficient supply to last through your trip. Also ensure that you have insurance for accident and sickness. If you need a doctor while in Indonesia, you must be prepared to pay for these services and claim it back on your insurance on your return to your home country. Ensure you keep all receipts and it is recommended that you take a copy of your prescription with you.

Money, Expenses & Credit Cards

The Indonesian currency unit is the Indonesian Rupiah (Rp).

Coin denominations of 25, 50, 100 and 500 rupiah are in circulation in both the old silver-coloured coins and the newer bronze-coloured coins. A 1000Rp coin is also available but rarely seen while the 25Rp coin has almost vanished.

Notes denominations come in 500, 1000, 5000, 10,000, 20,000, 50,000 and 100,000 rupiah. The exchange rate for Indonesia Rupiah to US dollar is around 12,685Rp = \$1 or 19,320Rp = £1.

Most major credit cards are accepted in Indonesia. Banks charge transaction fees for the use of credit cards overseas, often much higher than the 1% commission charged on traveller's cheques; check this with your bank. US Dollar and Euro, are the most widely accepted currencies in Indonesia. The British Pound however is exchangeable in most tourist areas of Bali and Java. When heading for really remote places, carry stacks of rupiah, as foreign exchange may be limited or not available. Have a mix of notes – breaking even a 20,000Rp note can be a major hassle out of major tourist areas. There are many options for exchanging money in Indonesia, and it's wise to carry some plastic, traveller's cheques, and/or some cash.

Costs in Indonesia vary depending on where you go, though generally Indonesia remains one of the cheapest travel destinations in Southeast Asia. Hotels, food, and transport are all inexpensive in western terms. Accommodation is usually the greatest expense when travelling to Indonesia. In regards to food; warungs (food stalls) meals can cost you as little as US\$2 per meal (about 10,000Rp) and if you dine in more upmarket local restaurants, you still won't be spending much more than US\$10 per day (around 30,000Rp per meal).

What to Pack

Wear light and airy clothing to protect yourself from the sun during the day and mosquitoes at night. The sun can be quite intense at times so bring a hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen. Carry a lightweight rain coat during the green season in case of an afternoon shower and a warmer but light jacket for the nights in rural and mountainous regions.

Wear practical shoes when visiting temples and monuments, you may climb narrow steps and walk on uneven surfaces. As in all travel in warm climates you pack light and sensibly.

Our list of essentials:

- Passport (with photocopies)
- Travel insurance (with photocopies)
- Airline tickets (with photocopies)
- 2 Passport photographs for visa on entry (bring 4 to 6 as backup)
- USD cash and travellers checks
- Credit or debit card
- Flashlight
- Sun hat, sun block, sunglasses and after sun (just in case)
- Walking shoes/sport sandals
- Waterproof jacket (just in case)
- Camera, additional memory cards and camera charger
- Travel power adapters
- Insect repellent
- First-aid kit (should contain lip salve, aspirin, band aids, anti-histamine, Imodium, or similar tablets for mild cases of diarrhoea, re-hydration powder, extra prescription drugs)

Recommended Reading & Films

We are aware that you may want to do some background reading into Indonesia before coming on your trip, there are a many books available but here are the top 3 that we have read:

Crazy Little Heaven

Written by Mark Heyward in 2014, Crazy Little Heaven recounts the author's 1990's trip across Kalimantan. This is a very personal experience which provides great insight on the Indonesian Culture and religion.

In the Time of Madness

A fascinating and often scary look at Indonesia in the 1990's during the fall of the long-time dictator Suharto. The events of the book are the personal accounts of author 'Richard Lloyd Parry' which has spent a lot of time in the late 90's reporting on the horrific events that took place in the archipelago.

Indonesia Etc.

The books follow the travel of author Elizabeth Pisani who sets out on a year-long trip across Indonesia's least touristic areas. The book is a great introduction to modern Indonesia, and we highly recommend it for anyone wanting to understand this fascinating and improbable country.

During your Travel

Responsible Travel

Indonesia is a safe country in which to travel and it is most unlikely that you will find yourself with any problems during your holiday. Just be as careful as you would be in your home country and use your common sense. For example: Don't make it easy for thieves by putting your passport or cash in your back pocket and don't take expensive jewellery with you.

You will be seen as a role model here and you're also an ambassador for yourself and your home country. Set a good example at all times in the way your dress, your behaviour, and your time keeping. Be aware that whilst the vast majority of people and organisations are genuine, there are some known instances where this is not the case. Be aware of mothers asking you to buy them milk powder for their babies. The babies are not receiving the milk and are being exploited so the older children and adults can make money by returning the milk powder to the shop after the donor has left.

Avoid paying for simple acts of kindness with cash, a thank you is sufficient. Giving money to adults and children promotes a culture of begging, which is not sustainable. In particular, don't give money or food to children; if you must do something then a payment for goods or services (postcards or shoeshine) is better, though even better is only transacting with adults.

Dental care is limited in parts of Asia, so it's best not to give sweets or chocolate. If you want to help then supporting local NGOs and hiring local guides and drivers, going to local restaurants, and buying locally are your best contribution.

Do's and Don'ts

- **Don't** take every yes as a yes.
- **Don't** shout – don't talk loudly or shout, whether in anger or in joy.
- **Do** be punctual – it's good to be on time.
- **Do** watch your dinner cues – it's rude to talk while eating.
- **Don't** touch souls or bare soles – should never touch someone else's head.
- **Don't** be lefty – use your right hand, when shake hands offering a gift or eating.

Language

Here are a few words that we have spelt out phonetically to help you on your way:

Thank you - Terima Kasih

How are you? - Apa Kaba

Sorry - Maaf

Yes - Iya nih

No - Tidak

No Thank you - Tidak Terima Kasih

Goodbye - Selamat Tinggal

Numbers:

1 – satu	6 - enam
2 – dua	7 - tujuh
3 – tiga	8 - delapan
4 – empat	9 - sembilan
5 – lima	10 – sepuluh

Food and Drink

The staple diet for most Indonesians is *nasi* (rice), but this is swapped on some islands with other starchy foods such as noodles, corn, sago, cassava, and sweet potatoes. Coconut milk is used extensively in sauces and soups.

Indonesians like their food highly spiced, with an emphasis on ingredients such as lime leaves, lemongrass, tamarind, cloves, cinnamon and chilli. Be wary of the tiny and fiery hot red and green peppers included in salads and vegetable dishes. Seafood is a regular feature on menus and many dishes are flavoured with shrimp paste, known as *terasi* or *belacan*.

Tipping, Bartering & Tuk Tuk's

Unlike in Europe and America, Indonesia doesn't have a specific rule on tipping. It is up to you how much you tip, generally tip is not expected. Tip if you feel that your experience has been enhanced but don't leave too much as sometimes can be seen slightly insulting. Saying this some there are few exceptions, tourist guides and porters traditionally rely on tips to build up their wages.

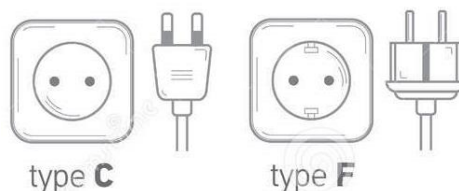
Prices of goods in supermarkets, pharmacies, restaurants, hotels, official transport, basic commodity shops and so on, are usually fixed. When in local markets don't be afraid to barter most of the shop owners will at least double their price. Keeping your sense of humour is most important and remember that no shop owner will sell you something at a loss. Always think of your ideal value before you start to barter. For Rickshaws, Tuk Tuk's, Moto's and all Taxi's in Asia, always bargain first and make sure that you agree on the price before you start the service.

Electricity

Indonesia uses European-style two-pin round plugs ('C'-type is the most common variant found): Voltage is at 220 V 50 Hz (as opposed to 110 V 60 Hz in US).

In Indonesia, you can expect the 2-pin socket and plug as used in larger parts of Europe. Whether you are staying in a hotel or in a private villa you should be able to get an adapter if you ask for one. The pins are round, not flat, or rectangular

Power Sockets in Indonesia:



Communications

Phone code in Indonesia is +62.

The Indonesian mobile phone market is heavily competed and prices are low: you can pick up a prepaid SIM card for less than Rp 20,000 and calls may cost as little as Rp 1,000 a minute (subject to the usual host of restrictions). Indonesia is also the world's largest market for used phones and basic models start from Rp 250,000. The largest operators are Telkomsel (brand simPATI), Indosat (brands Matrix, Mentari, IM3) and Excelcomindo (brands Jempol, Bebas).

The easiest solution is for you to create a Skype or WhatsApp account before you leave home, however the internet is not great in many parts of the countries outside the cities. The best solution however is to leave all your worries and technology at home and completely switch off.

Our Recommendations

We believe that in parts of your holiday you should follow your instinct as to where to eat, drink and what to do in your spare time as people's tastes vary dramatically.

The following blog has a great culinary section that we suggest you read as it will give you a glimpse of what you can expect to eat in Indonesia.

<http://www.justgoindonesia.com/>