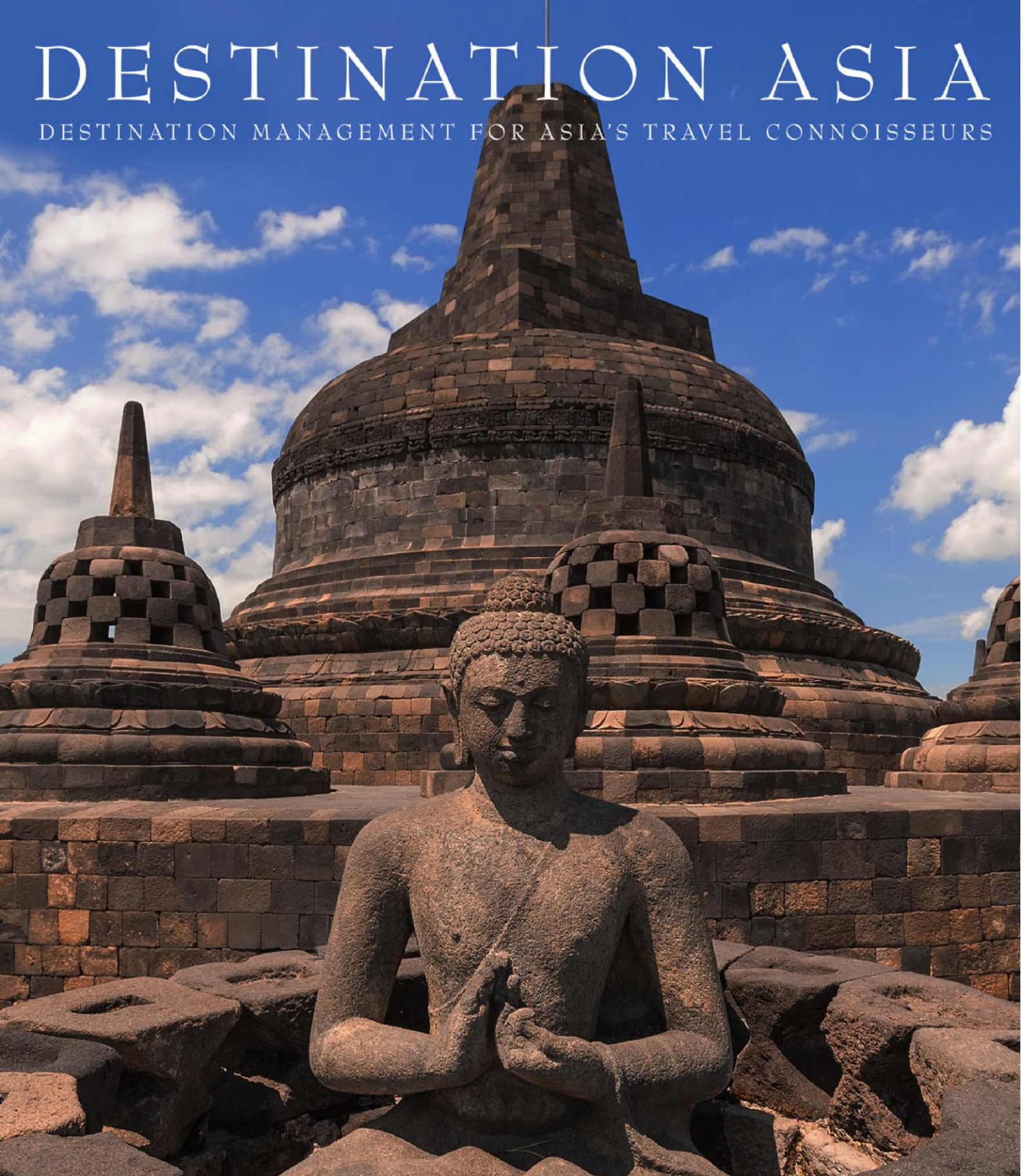


# DESTINATION ASIA

DESTINATION MANAGEMENT FOR ASIA'S TRAVEL CONNOISSEURS



## INDONESIA

COUNTRY FACT SHEET





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## ABOUT INDONESIA

Indonesia is the world's 4th most populated country with approximately 275 million people. This huge archipelago of over 17,000 islands runs along the equator for 5,000km, lying across a region of immense volcanic activity with about 400 volcanoes, and at least 70 that are still active.

The country shares land borders with Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam, East Timor and Papua New Guinea, and maritime borders with Singapore, the Philippines and Australia. It is a land of so many cultures, ethnic groups, customs, fauna and flora that it is like many separate countries united under one flag.

The main islands are Java, Sumatra, Bali, Lombok, Kalimantan (Borneo), Sulawesi (Celebes), Papua, Flores, Timor and Maluku. The capital city of Jakarta is located in Java, the most populated island in the archipelago, although it is in the process of relocating its capital to a newly planned city called Nusantara, on the island of Borneo, driven by several factors, including Jakarta's severe traffic congestion, overpopulation, and environmental challenges.

The tropical paradise of Bali is arguably the jewel in Indonesia's crown. This is home to the only large-scale Hindu society in Southeast Asia and the island has attracted tourists, artists, and adventurers for generations. The island of Lombok lies close by and its untouched charm often earns the description: "Like Bali 20 years ago". Other popular tourism destinations include the island of Komodo, famous for the Komodo dragon, the largest species of lizard on the planet, and Borobudur, the site of the world's largest Buddhist monument located on a remote hilltop in central Java. Adventure-seekers often head to Kalimantan's remote jungle interior to visit the world's foremost orang-utan research and conservation centers, or to Sumatra with its teeming wildlife and abundance of tribal groups.

Sumba Island is a rising destination known for its untouched beauty, tribal villages, ikat textiles, and traditional beliefs like *Marapu*, focused on ancestral worship and the reverence of nature and spiritual forces.

In conclusion, Indonesia is a vast and diverse nation that offers something for every traveler. Whether you're seeking adventure, relaxation, or a deeper connection with local cultures, Indonesia stands as an unforgettable destination that promises to captivate and inspire all who visit.

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## AIRPORTS

Indonesia is home to several major airports that serve as key gateways for travellers to the different islands.

- Ngurah Rai International Airport (DPS) – Bali
- Soekarno-Hatta International Airport (CGK) – Jakarta
- Yogyakarta International Airport (YIA) – Yogyakarta
- Juanda International Airport (SUB) – Surabaya
- Achmad Yani International Airport (SRG) – Semarang
- Komodo International Airport (LBJ) – Labuan Bajo
- Zainuddin Abdul Majid International Airport (LOP) – Lombok
- Bandar Udara Lede Kalumbang – Tambolaka (TMC) – Sumba
- Kualanamu International Airport (KNO) – Medan
- Hasanuddin International Airport (UPG) – Makassar
- Sam Ratulangi International Airport (MDC) – Manado
- Komodo Airport (LBJ) – Labuan Bajo

## ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE INFORMATION

Most visitors are required to have a visa to enter Indonesia, which can be arranged either online in advance ([e-VOA](#)) or upon arrival.

The **Visa-on-Arrival** is valid for 30 days and may be extended one time for another 30 days. Citizens from the following [countries](#) are eligible to obtain Visa on Arrival (VOA), while the following list of [countries may enjoy visa free entry](#).

The fees for Visa on Arrival are 500.000 IDR (US\$ 35 aprox depending on the current exchange rate), and the same price would apply for the extra 30-day extension. Once issued, the visa is valid to use within a period of 90 days.

### Documents needed for the e-VOA:

- Applicant's photo in a 4:6 ratio, with a minimum size of 400x600 pixels.
- A legal passport valid for at least six months from the date of entry and at least two empty pages.
- A scanned copy/photo of the passport biodata.
- Outbound ticket from Indonesia

The duration of stay for visa holders in Indonesia is calculated starting from the day of entry, which is considered day one (not day zero). For example, by 24:00 (midnight) on the day of arrival, a visitor will have already completed one day in Indonesia. If a visitor enters at 23:59 (11:59 PM), they will be counted as having been in the country for two days just two minutes later.

All the above information may change without prior notice. It remains the traveller's responsibility to check visa requirements before traveling.

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## BUSINESS HOURS

- Private **offices** are usually open from Monday to Friday, from 9am to 5pm, sometimes with a short lunch break between 12 and 2pm.
- Most **shops** open around 10am and close any time between 6 and 9pm.
- Most **restaurants** are open until 10pm.
- **Government office** hours are Monday to Friday between 8am and 4pm and Saturday from 8am to noon.

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## BANKS

**Banks** usually open from 8-am to 3-pm on weekdays. They are closed on Saturdays but exchange places are open longer, until the early evening.

While **electronic payments** (credit/debit cards, digital wallets) are becoming more popular, cash is still widely used for daily transactions, especially in more rural or less developed areas.

**ATMs** are widely available in cities and tourist areas, offering cash in IDR. Currency exchange services are common in airports, tourist hubs, and banks, but it's advisable to compare rates before exchanging large sums.

## CLOTHING

In Indonesia, as in other tropical countries, **lightweight cotton** clothing is the most comfortable choice due to the hot and humid climate. During the rainy season, carrying a lightweight **raincoat** is a practical option. In the evenings, it's advisable to cover your arms and legs to protect against mosquito bites. An umbrella is also recommended year-round, as it provides shade from the strong sun and protection during the frequent tropical downpours.

When visiting religious sites, it's important to avoid wearing shorts, short skirts, singlets, or similar revealing attire. Additionally, shoes should always be removed before entering religious buildings or private homes. Except when at the beach, it is best to dress modestly to show respect for Indonesia's conservative culture. Topless bathing is not acceptable in public settings.

## CURRENCY

The unit of **currency** in Indonesia is the rupiah (abbreviated to Rp or IDR). Indonesian Rupiah banknotes come in denominations of 1,000, 2,000, 5,000, 10,000, 20,000, 50,000, and 100,000 IDR. The design of these notes features prominent Indonesian historical figures, landmarks, and cultural elements. Coins are available in denominations of 100, 200, 500, and 1,000 IDR. However, smaller coins such as the 1, 5, and 10 IDR are rarely seen or used in practice.

## CUSTOM ALLOWANCES

The following goods may be imported into Indonesia without incurring a customs duty:

- **Alcohol:** Travelers are allowed to bring in 1 litre of alcoholic beverages
- **Tobacco:** Travelers can bring 200 cigarettes, or 25 cigars, or 100 grams of sliced tobacco duty-free.
- **Money** in excess of 100 million Rupiah (or in other currencies) must be declared upon arrival or departure.

We strongly advise to complete your [customs declaration online](#) available 3 days before your arrival in Indonesia. This process can save you up to one hour of waiting time upon arrival at the airport.

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## ETIQUETTE (DOS AND DON'TS)

### DOS AND DON'TS IN INDONESIA

- **Show respect to elders:** In Indonesian culture, elders are highly respected. It is respectful to bend slightly (not a complete bow) when greeting someone older, or someone in a position of authority.
- **Dress conservatively.** Try to avoid shorts, dresses, skirts, or tops with low-neck lines and bare shoulders in temples and mosques.
- **Use both hands when giving or receiving:** When giving gifts, money, or even a handshake, it's polite to use both hands, or at least the right hand, as the left hand is considered impolite for such exchanges.
- Don't be afraid to **bargain in markets:** In local markets, haggling over prices is a common practice. Be respectful and polite while negotiating, as this is part of the shopping culture.
- **Practice patience:** Indonesians are generally known for their relaxed, laid-back attitude. Don't expect everything to happen quickly, especially in busy areas or government offices.
- **Respect religious practices:** Indonesia is home to various religious groups, especially Islam, Hinduism, and Christianity. Respect for religious practices, ceremonies, and customs is essential.
- **Always remain polite.** In Indonesia, losing your temper is seen as a "loss of face," which can damage your reputation and relationships. Maintaining calm and courtesy is highly valued in all interactions.
- **Don't engage in any illegal activities:** Indonesia has strict laws regarding drugs and alcohol. Possession, trafficking, or consumption of illegal substances is punishable by severe penalties, including the death penalty.
- **Avoid public displays of affection (PDA).** Anything beyond holding hands may be frowned upon in a conservative society.
- **Common polite forms of addressing people are:**
  - *Bapak* (father) for men and *Ibu* (mother) for women.
  - You can also address people respectfully using *Pak* followed by their name (for men) or *Bu* followed by their name (for women). Example: Pak Dewa or Bu Putri.
  - The Javanese terms *mas* (older brother) and *mbak* (older sister) are also heard, but these are usually reserved for equals.
- **Take your shoes off** when entering homes and temples as a sign of respect.
- Make sure you take a **hotel business card** with you, as this will make your return in a taxi much easier.
- If you are invited to someone's home, it is customary to **bring a gift**. This is not opened until after the visitor has left.
- **Try local food:** Indonesian cuisine is diverse and flavorful. Don't miss the chance to try local dishes like nasi goreng (fried rice), satay (grilled skewers), and gado-gado (vegetable salad with peanut sauce).
- Do **carry a small amount of cash:** While digital payments are common in cities, some places, especially in rural areas, may only accept cash
- **Don't bring up controversial topics:** Avoid discussing sensitive topics such as politics, religion, or social issues unless you are certain it's appropriate and the other party is comfortable with the conversation.
- **Show interest in the local culture:** Indonesians appreciate when visitors take an interest in their culture, language, and traditions. Learning a few basic Indonesian phrases will be appreciated
  - When meeting people, a polite greeting such as "**Selamat Pagi**" (Good Morning) or "**Apa Kabar?**" (How are you?) is appreciated.
  - Using "**Tolong**" (please) and "**Terima kasih**" (thank you) in conversations will go a long way.

## ELECTRICITY

Indonesia uses two types of power plugs: type C and type F:

- **Type C:** A two-round-prong plug that's common in Asia and Europe. It's often used to charge laptops and phones.
- **Type F:** A two-round-prong plug with two earth clips on the side.

Indonesia's standard voltage is 230 volts at 50 hertz. If you're traveling to Indonesia from a country that uses a different type of plug, you will need an adapter. You can buy adapters at local minimarkets in Indonesia or online. If you're traveling to Bali, you might need an adapter if you're from Australia, the US, the UK, or Japan. However, other European and Asian travelers might not need one. A universal travel adapter is a good option if you're using multiple devices

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## ENTERTAINMENT AND NIGHTLIFE

Entertainment and nightlife in Indonesia vary widely depending on the region, offering everything from lively beach clubs to cultural performances and traditional art.

Each region has its own form of traditional dance and music, such as Gamelan (Javanese music), Kecak Dance in Bali, and Saman Dance from Aceh. These performances are often staged in temples or cultural venues. Many cities, especially Bali and Yogyakarta, host traditional theater performances. The Wayang Kulit shadow puppet show, the Ramayana Ballet in Prambanan, and Topeng (masked dance) performances are some examples.

Bali has long been a favorite destination for both party-goers and those looking for laid-back evening vibes. The island offers a variety of nightlife options for different tastes.

- **Beach Clubs:** As Bali's most famous beach destinations, Seminyak and Canggu boast popular beach clubs such as Potato Head Beach Club, Atlas, Finns Beach Club or Ku De Ta, which offer a relaxed yet vibrant atmosphere during the day and turn into lively party spots at night. These clubs often feature live DJs, stunning ocean views, and fancy cocktails.
- **Nightclubs:** For those looking to dance the night away, Desa Kitsune nightclub in Canggu or Klymax Discoteque in Seminyak are amongst the best choices.
- **Bars & Pubs:** Bali has many stylish cocktail bars like Segno (Canggu), Pinstripes (Ubud), The Shady Pig (Canggu) or Byrdhouse (Sanur) where you can enjoy quality drinks with friends.
- **Sunset Spots:** Bali is famous for its breathtaking sunsets. Sunset views can be enjoyed at places like Single Fin in Uluwatu or La Brisa in Canggu, where you can sip cocktails while watching the sun dip into the ocean.

## FOOD

**Indonesian cuisine** is diverse and rich in flavors, combining sweet, sour, salty, and spicy elements. Nasi Goreng, a fried rice dish served with egg and various proteins like chicken or shrimp, is a national favorite. Another iconic dish is Sate, skewered grilled meat served with peanut sauce. Bakso, meatball soup, and Martabak, a stuffed pancake, are popular street foods across the country. However, each region has its specialties: Rendang, a slow-cooked beef stew from West Sumatra, and Gudeg, a sweet jackfruit dish from Java, are just a few examples.

For those who cannot decide what to eat in a local restaurant, the standard meal is simply Nasi Campur, which is translated as "mixed rice". This dish comprises of a mound of rice with all sorts of delicious additions on the side which can range from corn fritters, vegetable salad, tofu, beef rendang, chicken curry and grilled sate. Sambal, a spicy chili paste, accompanies most meals, adding extra heat for those who enjoy spice. Indonesian food is a flavorful journey that highlights the country's rich cultural diversity.

As Indonesia is an archipelago, **fish and seafood** are one of the favorite food staples and various types of fish feature prominently in the diet. Beef and chicken are also easy to find, but pork is only found in Chinese, Western and Balinese restaurants. Coconut is also widely available and apart from being used as cooking oil, the nut's milk and pulp is used as an ingredient in many dishes.

Bali offers a wide range of **Western food options**, especially in popular tourist areas like Seminyak, Ubud, and Canggu. The island's diverse dining scene includes everything from casual cafes to upscale restaurants serving international cuisine. For breakfast or brunch, you'll find an abundance of cafes offering continental breakfast options, such as eggs Benedict, avocado toast, pancakes, and freshly baked pastries. In terms of fast food, international chains like McDonald's, KFC, or Burger King are available in major towns and shopping malls.



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## HEALTH

All international travellers entering Indonesia must complete the [SATUSEHAT Health Pass](#), an electronic self-declaration form, to track and manage the entry of travellers, particularly from Mpox-affected regions. Upon completing the form, passengers will receive a QR code, which must be presented at the port of arrival. However, airlines sometimes require travellers to complete this form before departing from their home countries.

Generally, no **vaccinations** are required except for yellow fever if traveling from an area where the disease is present. **Malaria and Dengue Fever** are still present, and it is advisable to take precautions especially if traveling off the established tourist trail. All travellers should take out comprehensive **travel insurance** prior to travel that will cover any overseas medical costs, including medical evacuation. If you require a particular medication, ensure that you take an adequate supply, as it may not be available locally.

While Indonesia offers unique **culinary experiences**, it also presents a certain risk of food and water contamination due to its warm tropical climate. To guarantee a safe and enjoyable trip in Indonesia, make sure to follow the below food safety guidelines:

- **Don't drink tap water:** Always opt for bottled or filtered water for drinking and cooking. It is also not recommended to brush your teeth with tap water in Indonesia, as the water may be contaminated with bacteria or other pathogens.
- **Be cautious with the Ice:** Not all ice cubes in Indonesia are made from filtered water, specially at local restaurants. To minimize risks, we recommend checking with the restaurant or vendor to ensure the ice is made from drinkable water.
- **Hand Hygiene:** Wash hands frequently, especially before and after eating. A good idea is to carry hand sanitizer with you that may become very useful when handwashing facilities are not available.
- Specific Food Safety Guidelines:
  - **Street Food:** While vibrant and delicious, street food frequently can carry a higher risk of contamination. If you want to try street food, choose vendors with a high turnover and freshly prepared food.
  - **Fruits:** Stick to fruits that can be peeled such as bananas, oranges or snake fruits and avoid pre-cut fruits and raw vegetables from unknown sources.
  - **Undercooked Foods:** Ensure meats, seafood, and eggs are fully cooked. This is especially important for items like shellfish, which are more prone to bacteria in warmer climates.
  - **Spicy Food:** can sometimes cause stomach problems, like indigestion, heartburn, or irritation, especially if you are not used to it.

Some of the above precautions are essential to avoid what's commonly called "**Bali Belly**," a term that travellers use to describe stomach issues caused by consuming contaminated food or water in Bali. Symptoms of food poisoning can vary from mild discomfort to severe digestive distress, potentially disrupting your travel plans and overall experience.

Food tours operated by Destination Asia Indonesia have been thoroughly checked for food hygiene and safety, ensuring a safe environment to enjoy local food.

## HOTEL INFORMATION

Bali is home to a **diverse range of hotels**, catering to all types of travelers, from luxury resorts and villas to boutique hotels, mid range hotels, wellness retreats, eco hotels, family friendly hotels or budget accommodation.

Hotel amenities typically include **pools, spas, restaurants, and Wi-Fi**, and most resorts are known for offering wellness services like massages and yoga. Most of the staff at key positions (front office, reception, restaurants etc.) speak excellent English but please be patient and show patience if you do not get what you want right away.

General **check-in** is from 2pm or 3pm and check out time is usually 12 noon. If you require a late check-out (extra costs may apply) make sure to check with reception beforehand.

The **high season** in Bali typically occurs during the dry season, and typically runs from July to September, depending on the hotel. This period coincides with the summer holidays in many countries, leading to an influx of international tourists.

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## INSURANCE

While **healthcare facilities** in major cities like Bali, Jakarta, and Yogyakarta are generally of good quality, medical services can be more limited in rural or remote areas. In the event of an accident, illness, or injury, having insurance can ensure that you receive prompt medical attention without bearing the full cost of treatment. Private hospitals, while offering higher standards of care, can be expensive, and medical expenses can quickly add up.

Additionally, medical insurance is crucial for **emergency evacuation**. In some cases, if you require specialized treatment or are in a location with limited medical resources, you may need to be evacuated to a larger hospital. Medical evacuation can be costly without insurance, and it's important to have coverage that includes these expenses.

Another benefit of having travel medical insurance is that it can cover the cost of **prescription medications** you might need to purchase during your trip, ensuring that your health needs are met throughout your stay.

When traveling to Indonesia, it's important to be cautious if you hire a car or motorbike. Always ensure that your rental is covered by the appropriate **motor insurance**, as road conditions can vary and accidents can happen. In addition to travel insurance, health insurance that includes emergency repatriation coverage is strongly advised.

## INTERNET

**Internet access** in Indonesia is generally reliable in major cities and tourist areas like Bali, Jakarta, and Yogyakarta. Many hotels, cafes, restaurants, and shopping malls offer free Wi-Fi, and you can easily access the internet for work or leisure. In urban centers and popular tourist spots, high-speed internet is available, though the connection quality can vary, especially in more rural or remote regions.

**Mobile internet** is widely used in Indonesia, with various providers such as Telkomsel, XL Axiata, and Indosat offering prepaid SIM cards with data packages. These cards can be easily purchased at airports, convenience stores, or mobile phone shops. Mobile data coverage is generally good in cities and along main tourist routes, but it may be weaker or unavailable in more isolated areas.

## LANGUAGE

The official language is **Bahasa Indonesia** (Indonesian), which is used in government, education, and media, and is spoken as a second language by most Indonesians. Bahasa Indonesia is based on Malay and is widely understood throughout the country, making it the common language for communication among people from different regions and ethnic groups.

In addition to Bahasa Indonesia, there are hundreds of **local languages** spoken by various ethnic groups across the country. Some of the major regional languages include Javanese, Sundanese, Balinese, Batak, and Minangkabau. These languages are particularly common in the areas where those ethnic groups reside, such as Java, Sumatra, and Bali.

While **English** is commonly spoken in major tourist areas like Bali, Jakarta, and Yogyakarta, especially in hotels, restaurants, and by younger generations, it is not as widely understood in rural areas. Therefore, knowing a few phrases in Bahasa Indonesia or using basic English can help bridge communication gaps.

## PEOPLE

Indonesia is the world's largest **Muslim-majority** country, with about **87%** of the population practicing Islam. The majority follow **Sunni Islam**, and mosques are common across the country. However, Indonesia is also religiously diverse, with **Christianity** (around **10%** and especially in regions like Papua and parts of Sumatra), **Hinduism** (particularly in Bali where around **80%** of the population practices Balinese Hinduism, a unique blend of Hindu traditions and local beliefs), and **Buddhism** practiced by smaller communities, mostly among the **Chinese** community.



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## PROTECTING CHILDREN

Destination Asia does not offer visits to orphanages and we advise travellers to not visit them if approached by children asking them to do so. Orphanage tourism is often conducted by unscrupulous business operators and does more harm rather than protecting children's rights and education standards. We believe the best way for tourists and travelers to support vulnerable children and their families is to support vocational training and community based initiatives, rather than visiting an orphanage directly. At the heart of our belief is prioritizing the protection of children and keeping families together.

Sexual exploitation of children is a devastating reality. If you see such a situation, don't put yourself at risk. Call a child protection hotline, contact a local organization or the police, so immediate action can be taken to protect the child and investigate the situation.

Indonesia: Call 129, (+62) 082366914444, (+62) 61 6637821 (Jakarta)  
For more information on how to protect children visit: <https://thinkchildsafe.org/>

## PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Indonesia has several national public holidays, many of which are based on religious and cultural events.

Key holidays include New Year's Day, Chinese New Year, Eid al-Fitr (marking the end of Ramadan), Independence Day on August 17, Christmas, and Good Friday.

Other significant holidays include Nyepi (Balinese Day of Silence), Eid al-Adha, and Waisak (Vesak), which commemorates important events in Buddhism.

Dates for holidays like Eid al-Fitr and Islamic New Year vary each year based on the lunar calendar. These holidays often result in business closures, and travel can be busier, especially during Eid and Nyepi. Additionally, some regions have local holidays based on specific cultural or religious observances.

## PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Destination Asia supplies modern **AC vehicles** with trained drivers to make travel across the archipelago seamless.

Hiring a bike, particularly a **motorbike** or **scooter**, is a popular and convenient mode of transport in Indonesia, especially in tourist areas like **Bali**. To hire a motorbike, you'll typically need to show a **valid international driver's license** with a motorcycle endorsement. Some rental shops may also require a **passport** or a **deposit**. It's essential to check the condition of the bike before renting it, ensuring it has no mechanical issues and that the tires, brakes, and lights are in good working order. Be sure to ask if **insurance** is included, as accidents can happen on busy roads or in unfamiliar areas. In addition, always wear a **helmet** (which is required by law in Indonesia) and drive carefully, especially in areas with heavy traffic.

**Ride-hailing services** such as **Gojek** and **Grab** are widely used for both motorbike and car rides by downloading their apps from the app stores.

For intercity travel, **trains** are a popular choice on Java, offering a comfortable and scenic way to travel between cities like **Jakarta**, **Yogyakarta**, and **Surabaya**.

## RELIGION

Indonesia officially recognizes **six religions**: Islam, Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, and traditional indigenous beliefs. The country promotes religious tolerance, but there are some regional differences in the level of religious observance and practices. While the major cities are generally more secular, smaller towns and rural areas often maintain stricter religious customs and traditions.

Overall, Indonesia is a country where **religion plays a central role** in both public and private life, yet it remains a place of religious harmony and multicultural coexistence.

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## SAFETY

Never Safety in Indonesia is generally good, especially in popular tourist destinations like Bali, Yogyakarta, and Jakarta. However, like any travel destination, it's important to stay alert and take precautions to ensure a safe experience.

**Petty crime**, such as pickpocketing and scams, can occur in crowded tourist areas, so it's important to be vigilant with your belongings. Street theft can also happen, particularly in busy markets or while walking in touristy spots. Keep your valuables secure and avoid displaying large amounts of cash or expensive items.

**Traffic safety** can be a concern, as road conditions vary widely across the country. Motorbike accidents are relatively common due to chaotic traffic, especially in busy cities or rural areas with winding roads

**Natural hazards**, such as earthquakes, volcano eruptions, and tsunamis, can also pose risks in certain areas of Indonesia. Many regions, especially in Java, Bali, and Sumatra, are near active volcanoes. It's important to stay informed about local safety updates and heed any advisories from authorities.

At some **tourist shops**, you may come across persistent souvenir sellers. A polite but firm "No, thank you" is often enough to discourage further attempts. When arriving at the airport, always opt for taxis from designated taxi queues or **official taxi** stands to ensure a safe and reliable ride. It's advisable to politely decline any offers of assistance from individuals who approach you unsolicited. This helps avoid potential scams and ensures a smoother experience during your travels.

Indonesia is a relatively safe destination with millions of tourists visiting each year. Taking basic safety measures and being mindful of local conditions will help ensure a smooth and enjoyable trip.

## SHOPPING

Indonesia is renowned for its rich handicrafts and local products. Some of the best items to buy include batik textiles, silverwork, woodcarvings, puppets, handmade kites, paintings, and ceramics. Bali offers the widest selection of handicrafts but larger cities like Jakarta also offer a broad range of handicrafts and antiques from across the archipelago at competitive prices.

In markets and smaller shops, bargaining is expected. It is a good idea to start by offering a lower price than the asking price and negotiate from there. To shop responsibly, avoid purchasing souvenirs made from endangered species or materials such as ivory, turtle shell, coral, or bone, as these are often sourced illegally.

## TIME ZONE

Indonesia is spread over three time zones:

- **Western Indonesia Standard Time**, which covers the islands of Sumatra, Java and Madura, West and Central Kalimantan is seven hours ahead of GMT;
- **Central Indonesia Standard Time** covers East and South Kalimantan, Sulawesi, Bali and Nusa Tenggara, and is eight hours ahead of GMT
- **Eastern Indonesia Standard Time**, which covers Maluku, and Irian Jaya, is nine hours ahead of GMT.

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## TIPPING

Tipping in Indonesia is generally not mandatory, but it is appreciated for good service, particularly in the tourism and hospitality sectors. In restaurants, a service charge of around **5-10%** is often included in the bill, especially in higher-end establishments. If a service charge is not included, it's customary to leave a **tip** of the total bill, or round up the amount for smaller bills. For more casual dining or street food, tipping is not expected, though it is still appreciated.

For **hotel staff**, it is polite to leave a tip for bellhops typically around **IDR 10,000 to 20,000** (about **USD 1-2**) per suitcase.

For **tour guides** and **drivers**, a tip for good service is typical, but again, this is not compulsory.

## WEATHER

Indonesia has a **tropical climate** with **two distinct seasons**: the **wet season** and the **dry season**. The weather can vary depending on the region and the time of year, but in general, Indonesia enjoys warm temperatures year-round.

The **dry season**, from **May to September**, is the most popular time for tourists as rainfall is minimal, and temperatures range from **25°C to 30°C (77°F to 86°F)**. During this time, the weather is sunny and humid, especially in areas like **Bali, Jakarta, and Java**.

The **wet season**, from **October to April**, brings heavier rains, particularly from **December to February**. Rain is typically short, intense, and localized, often in the form of **afternoon thunderstorms**. Average temperatures during this season are similarly warm, around **25°C to 30°C (77°F to 86°F)**.

Humidity is a constant factor throughout the year, typically ranging from **70% to 90%**, with the coastal regions and islands experiencing higher humidity levels. In some mountainous areas, such as **Bali's central highlands** or **Sumatra**, temperatures can be cooler, particularly in the evenings.



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## DESTINATION ASIA INDONESIA OFFICES:

### **Bali Office**

Jl. By Pass Ngurah Rai No. 360,  
Sanur, Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia

Tel: +62 361 283 898

Fax: +62 361 283 312

E-mail: [indonesia@destination-asia.com](mailto:indonesia@destination-asia.com)

### **Jakarta Office**

Gedung Gondangdia 25,  
Jl. RP Soeroso No. 25, Lt. 3, Menteng,  
Jakarta Pusat, Indonesia

Tel: +62 213 146 019

E-mail: [indonesia@destination-asia.com](mailto:indonesia@destination-asia.com)

## EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

Police dial 110; Emergency Medical Services dial 118; Fire service dial 113; Search and Rescue team 115.

## DISCLAIMER

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