

Welcome to

# INDONESIA

THE MOST VARIED DESTINATION ANYWHERE



447  
Direktorat  
budayaan  
28  
L

**INDONESIA**  
Ultimate in Diversity

# Contents

## Pages

• Contents	1
• Message by the Minister for Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Indonesia	3
• The Indonesian Archipelago (map)	4
• Introduction	7
• Jakarta, Heart of the Archipelago	8
• Lush and Lovely Sumatera	12
• Spiritual and Magical Java	15
• Bali, the Mystical Island of Paradise	20
• Kalimantan, Land of the Dayaks	24
• Surprising Sulawesi	27
• The Natural Wonders of Nusa Tenggara	30
• Maluku, the Fabled Spice Islands	34
• Wild and Wonderful Papua	36
• Gem of Equator	38

Front cover :  
"Dancing for the gods in  
the sacred Balinese Legong dance"





Message by  
the Minister for Culture and Tourism  
of the Republic of Indonesia

As globalization touches all aspects of our lives, advanced technology and widespread information flows smoothly removing all boundaries. Consequently, the so called borderless world has enabled countries to learn of values and experiences of other cultures. In the face of adversities that have recently threatened world peace, nations unite in the name of togetherness, friendship and universal harmony.

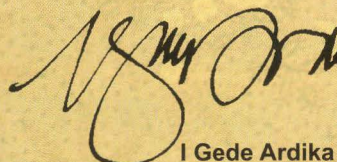
The 15th annual World Tourism Organization General Meeting declared 2004 as Year of Sport and Tourism, Two Living Forces For Mutual Understanding, Cultures and the development of Societies. Indonesia is one of the few countries that is more eager to campaign for this noble theme. With over 17,000 islands and around 300 ethnic groups, Indonesia is definitely an inexhaustible storehouse of historical marvels and natural resources. The single most extraordinary collection of peoples, places, sights, sounds and natural wonders in the world. The most mesmerizing and captivating and biggest island group of the globe. All these labels have been beautifully wrapped in a synergic manner in our new branding : INDONESIA "ULTIMATE IN DIVERSITY".

There is no gain saying the fact that Indonesia remains very much like a paradise on earth when it comes to its tourist attractions and destinations. The Indonesian people are as friendly and as hospitable as ever to visitors, especially tourists, investors and traders. And the Government of Indonesia has taken vigorous and effective peace and order as well as security measures to ensure, as far as humanly possible, the personal safety and conveniences of everyone in the country, Indonesian citizens and foreign visitors alike.

I do hope that the publication of this booklet will put across the message to international audiences that when they visit Indonesia, they will not only enjoy unique and memorable experiences, but they will also be as safe as on any other place on earth today.

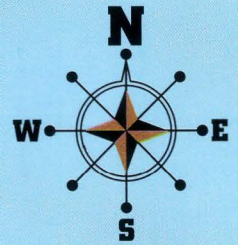


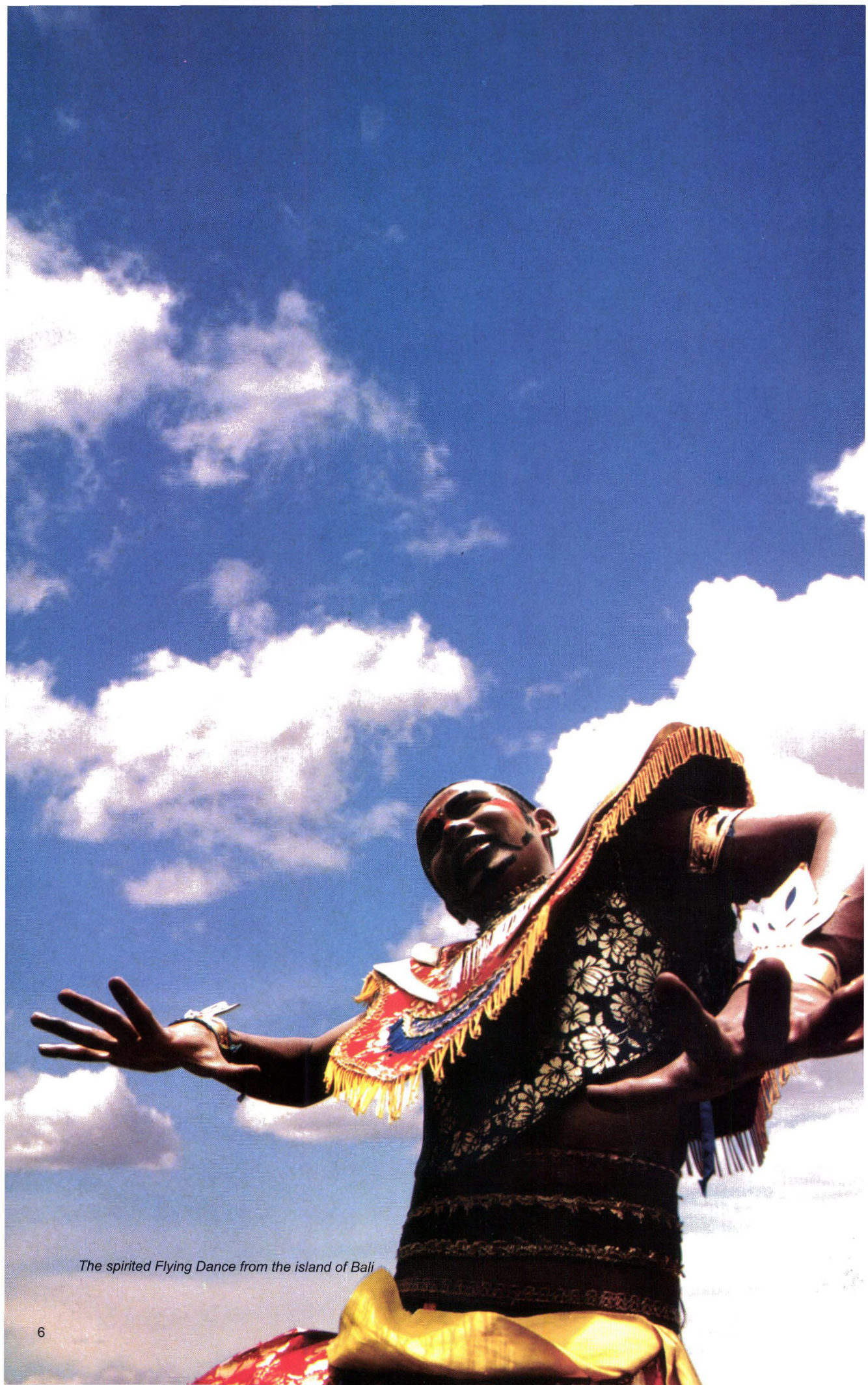
Selamat datang di Indonesia or  
Welcome to Indonesia

  
I Gede Ardika

# The Indonesian Archipelago







*The spirited Flying Dance from the island of Bali*



# Beautiful and Exciting **INDONESIA**

## *Introduction*

Consisting of more than 17,000 islands, the vast Indonesian archipelago spans 5,120 km across the equator, positioned between the Asian and Australian continents. Four-fifths of the area is sea with the major islands of Sumatera, Java, Kalimantan, Sulawesi and Papua. The 300 ethnic groups that exist harmoniously give birth to a pot-pourri of cultures and fascinating people. The major ethnic groups are : Minangkabaunese, Malay, Javanese, Sundanese, Maduranese, Balinese, Bugis, Makassarese, Minahasanese and Ambonnesese. Arab, Chinese and Indian immigrants have also settled in regions throughout the country, particularly in the coastal cities.

Geographically, Indonesia's landscape is greatly varied. Java and Bali have the most fertile islands and rice fields are concentrated in these two regions, whereas Sumatera, Kalimantan, Sulawesi, Maluku and Papua are still largely covered with tropical rainforest. Open savannah and grassland characterize Nusa Tenggara.

The lowland that comprise most of Indonesia has a characteristically tropical climate with abundant rainfall, high temperatures and humidity. Rainy

Indonesia's tropical climate and unique geographical character provide shelter for flora and fauna that are as diversely rich as its land and people. The plant and animals in Indonesia's western region represent that of mainland Asia while those in the eastern region are typical of Australia. Endemic species which are the pride of Indonesia exist in the central region, such as orangutans, tigers, one-horned rhinos, elephants, dugongs, anoas and komodo dragons. The warm tropical waters of the archipelago nurture a rich marine environment that holds a myriad of fish, coral species and marine mammals.

A cultural heritage passed on through generations offers a wealth of traditional arts and crafts. Batik, wooden carvings, weavings, silverworks and many other traditional skills produce exquisitely beautiful items. Indonesia's multi-racial and multi-religious culture mean festivals steeped in traditions are celebrated throughout the year. Frequently featured in these events are dances, *wayang* theaters and other performing arts.



# Jakarta, Heart of the Archipelago



Because of its strategic location on the shores of the Java Sea, for centuries Jakarta has been a meeting point for the different races, cultures and traditions of hundreds of ethnic groups that compose Indonesia and of the foreign travelers and traders that visit the archipelago.

A bustling metropolis that never stops growing, Jakarta is home to over 12 million people. As the country's capital, Jakarta's attractions are a blend of all that is modern with the traditional and of the different ethnic influences that converge. Today, Jakarta has all kinds of attractions to offer, ranging from museums, art and antique markets, first-class shopping and accommodations to food and a wide variety of cultural activities.

## Attractions

Indonesia's most famous landmark, the National Monument or Monas is a 137m obelisk topped with a flame sculpture coated with 35 kg of gold. Climbing to the top of the monument will provide the viewers with a panorama of the city.

For a brief glimpse into Indonesia's rich past, the National Museum holds an extensive collection of historical, pre-historic, archeological and ethno-

graphic artifacts and relics that provide an introduction to the life of the various ethnic groups which populate Indonesia. It houses one of the most complete collections of bronzes and ceramics dating back to the Han, Tang, Ming Dynasties, and statuary and sculpture which display Indonesia's Hindu, Buddhist and Islamic influences. Cloth and money, traditional musical instruments, arts and crafts provide an introduction to the life of the various ethnic groups which populate Indonesia.

A visit to the old town area and Chinatown in North Jakarta is like stepping back in time to the days of the Dutch colonial rule. Old warehouses of the Dutch East Indies Company and period buildings now house a variety of museums. The Maritime Museum in the Sunda Kelapa Harbor area with its landmark old harbor-master's tower exhibits Indonesia's seafaring tradition. Models of sea going vessels from all parts of the archipelago are displayed. The Jakarta Historical Museum was once the Dutch East Indies Company's Town Hall in 17th and 18th century. Old maps and antiquities used by the Dutch colonist in the 18th century are put on display. Across the Fine Art and Ceramic Museum, the Wayang Museum holds a collection of *wayang* puppets from parts of Indonesia and Southeast Asia. Shortened performances of the *wayang kulit* (leather puppets) are given every Sunday morning.

"Dynamic Jakarta skyline by night"





"Gedung Kesenian Jakarta"



A collection of over 327 kinds of textiles from all over the country; handwoven cotton, silk and batik cloths, both of the ancient and contemporary productions are put in display in an authentic Betawi house which is the Textile Museum. A small workshop shows the process of *batik* making.

In the early 16th century, Sunda Kelapa was an important trading port for the Portuguese and the Hindu Kingdom of Pajajaran. Even today, one is still able to witness remnants of its past glory in the ruins of an Old Batavia's Kasteel (castle), warehouses and relics from the days of the spice trade. Still functioning as a fishermen's wharf and an inter island port, Sunda Kelapa provides a safe harbor for tall-masted Bugis schooners carrying merchandise as they have been doing for centuries.

Around the archipelago in one day! The Indonesia Miniature Park or Taman Mini is an extensive park which presents the diversity of Indonesia, its people and culture. Visit the orchid garden, bird park, the Keong Mas Imax Theatre and the Museum Indonesia.

As centers of Jakarta's cultural activities, Gedung Kesenian Jakarta and Taman Ismail Marzuki offer monthly programs which may include exhibitions, plays, musical and poetry recitals, folk art, dance performances and drama from local artists and visiting performers.

As a cosmopolitan city, Jakarta's indigenous habitants, the Betawi people, fiercely preserve their culture and traditions. In the city's several Betawi cultural reserves, such as Situ Babakan and Condet in South Jakarta, the Betawi live in traditional designed houses, speak in the distinct Betawi dialect and keep alive traditional Betawi arts and culture. The *tanjidor* orchestra, the Topeng Blantek

dance and Betawi *wayang* performances, to name a few are some of the traditional performances that are presented during important ceremonies.

### Cuisine

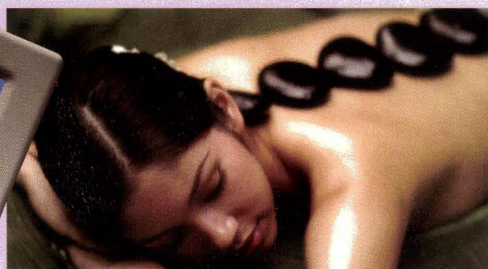
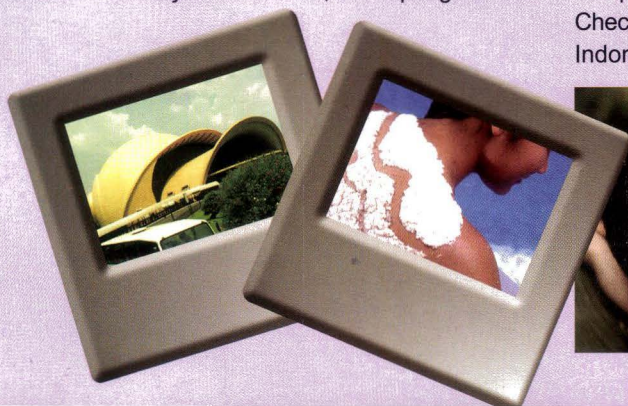
Jakarta has a distinctly cosmopolitan flavor. Tantalize your tastebuds with a gastronomic spree around the city's many eateries. Fine French gourmet dining, exotic Asian cuisine, American fast food in stylish cafes, restaurants or interesting hawkers' stalls, all compete to find a way into your heart through your stomach.

The tastes of Indonesia's many cultures can be found in almost any corner of the city. The hot and spicy food from West Sumatra, the sweet and pungent tastes of Central Java or the tangy fish dishes of North Sulawesi served in an elaborate *rijstaffel* (rice served with an assortment of meat, fish or vegetable side dishes) are bound to meet favorably with the most discerning palate. An astounding array of sweet beverages and desserts feature crushed, shaved or cubed ice to compliment the hot and humid climate, although some are served warm to promote greater physical well-being.

### Leisure Activities

#### Shopping

Whether you're a serious spender or half-hearted shopper, there's sure to be something for everybody in Jakarta, the country's shopping capital. Catering to diverse tastes and pockets, the wide variety of things that you can buy in Jakarta is mind boggling from the best of local handicrafts to haute couture labels. Modern super/hyper markets, multi-level shopping centers, retail and specialty shops all compete to sell quality goods at a competitive price. Check out the city's modern shopping havens, Plaza Indonesia, Plaza Senayan, Pondok Indah Mall,



"The luxury of spas"



"Jakarta's hot night spots"

Pasaraya and Mall Taman Anggrek, said to be the biggest mall in Southeast Asia.

Most traditional open-air markets are one-stop shopping affairs where haggling is the name of the game. Activities start as early as two in the morning when vendors begin preparing fresh vegetables, luscious tropical fruits, meat, fish and even household goods, clothing and stationery for the day's sale.

Sidewalk bargains range from tropical blooms of vivid colors and scents arranged in attractive bouquets to luscious fruits of the season. Strolling down a busy street in the Barito area may even lead you to an improptu pet market selling furry animals, pretty parakeets, cuckatoos and even fresh and salt water fish of bright, iridescent colors. At the Pramuka bird market visitors are greeted with a cacophony of singing birds, talking birds and pretty decorative birds. It's worth visiting the Jatinegara gemstone market if you're into precious and semi precious stones.

Brought in and auctioned at dawn, fish and other bounties of the sea are absolutely fresh at the Muara Angke fish market. In the evening, the air is filled with the mouthwatering aroma of grilled seafood that comes from food stalls that are always packed with hungry crowds.

If hunting for repro and antique furnitures at Ciputat or browsing through an array of brassware, ornate lamps, old china, and faux antiques on Jalan Surabaya is not how you want to spend your money, Jakarta's glittering malls and department stores are guaranteed to tempt you with the latest items. From audio-visual and electronic equipment and accessories, home appliances, interior decoration, textile and fabrics to sports goods, designer clothes

and footwear, watches, jewelery, cosmetics, handcrafts and toys, the list of things you can buy is endless. At Mangga Dua, textile, garments, electronics and computers are sold at wholesale prices and cheaper with large quantity buys.

Pasaraya Grande and Sarinah are the best places to find handicrafts and ethnic treasures from regions all over the country. Of superior workmanship, *batiks*, *ikats*, gems, brass & exquisite silverware and wooden carvings are put on display in a distinctively Indonesian setting and ambience.

**Spa**

Jakarta's fast pace belies a turn towards tranquility and relaxation, physical and spiritual harmony. Various establishments offer professional pampering service with floral baths, body scrubs, aromatic oils, massages and meditations; rituals and treatments that use spices and aromatic herbs to promote physical and mental wellness. Discover both your inner and outer beauty at Martha Tilaar, with treatments such as bio energy massage, *jamu* (traditional herbal drinks and foods), meditation and traditional beauty therapies. Private suites with everything you need to relax can be found at The Spa, Dharmawangsa Hotel. At *Jamu*, all spa products are prepared from vegetables, flowers and herbs each morning. For an intoxicating experience of spices, flowers and essential oils, visit Mandara Spa. Or try ten different kinds of massages that are Gaya Spa's speciality.

"Sunda Kelapa Harbor"



Kelor Island



*"An island resort"*

### **Golf**

The spectacular tropical settings and challenging greens of Jakarta's amazing courses give a whole new meaning to the sport of golf. Klub Golf Senayan in the heart of the city is renowned for its traditional tree-lined fairways. Long, rolling fairways and greens characterize Cengkareng Soewarna in the vicinity of Jakarta's international airport. Just an hour away, Gunung Geulis Country Club has two 18-hole championship-standard courses while the Imperial Klub Golf off the Jakarta - Merak toll road boasts a stimulating variety of golf holes.

### *Recreation*

A wonderful place for children and grown ups, Jaya Ancol Dreamland on the north coast of Jakarta is a popular recreation venue complete with a fantasy theme park, Sea World, swimming pools, an artificial lagoon for fishing and boating, a bowling alley, nightclubs, restaurants and first-class hotels.

Lying just off the Bay of Jakarta, over 130 islands, coral islets and sand bars form the Thousand Islands or Pulau Seribu. This cluster of islands offer an array of activities, from lazing on golden beaches, camping at ruins of an old Dutch fort or enjoying first-class accommodations to joining in vigorous water sports. There are also diving sites that take only about two hours to reach from the Ancol Marina with clear waters and pretty coral reefs. International-standard accommodations that cater to divers are available on the islands of Putri, Pelangi, Sepa, Kotok, Pantura and Matahari. Other islands such as Kelor, Onrust have ruins from the Dutch colonial period.

### **Festivals & Events**

Amidst the capital's modern living, centuries-old practices can still be witnessed during symbolic

ceremonies celebrated by the different ethnic groups that form Jakarta's population.

Weeks before the 17th of August, the red and white of the Indonesian flag becomes the favorite color and decoration for Indonesians. Sport competitions, games and contests are held everywhere in the spirit of friendship and sportivity to celebrate the Republic's Independence Day.

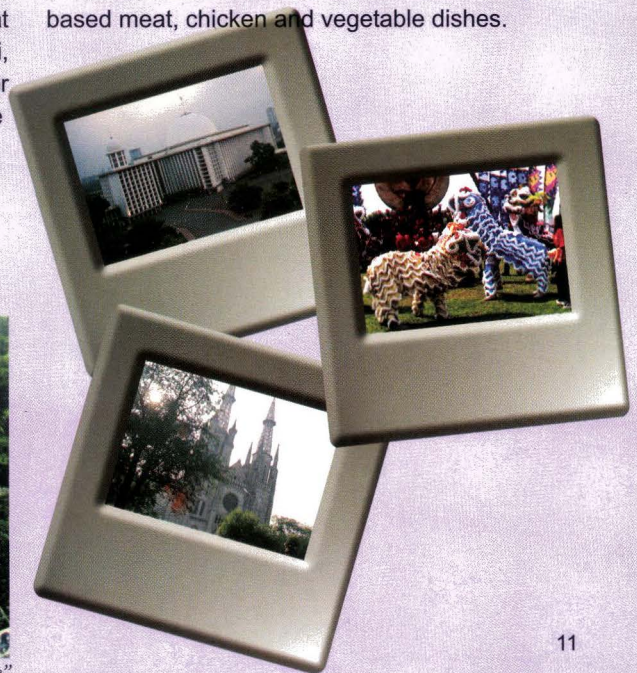
Commemorating Jakarta's anniversary on June 22, every year the city holds a month-long fair, the Jakarta Fair at the Jakarta Fairground Kemayoran. A wide range of products is exhibited and sold to visitors at a relatively lower price. Items ranging from cars, electronics to basic necessities, such as food and clothing.

Sometime between January and February, the Chinese celebrate the Lunar New Year. The area around Kota or Chinatown which has the largest concentration of Chinese descendants has a decidedly festive atmosphere with lanterns, orange trees and barongs decorating shops and houses.

After a month of fasting to atone for their sins, Hari Raya led Fitr is a joyful time for muslims to ask forgiveness among friends and family with cleansed spirits. On this day, people dress in their best, visit friends and relatives and enjoy specialities such as *ketupat*, rice cakes wrapped in woven coconut fronds and served with an assortment of curry-based meat, chicken and vegetable dishes.

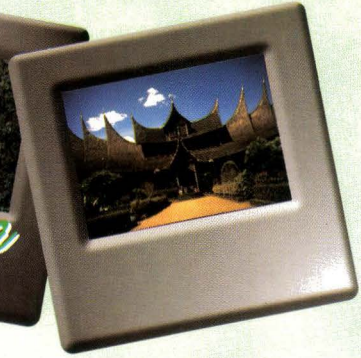
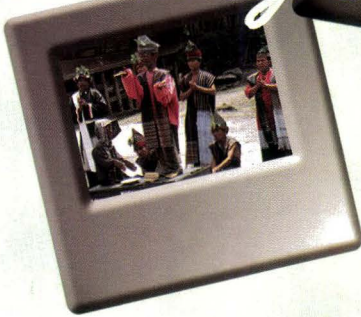


*"Jakarta's lush golf course"*





## Lush and Lovely Sumatera



The third biggest island in the archipelago and the fifth in the world, Sumatera is divided into nine provinces: Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam, North Sumatera, West Sumatera, Riau, Jambi, Bengkulu, Bangka-Belitung, Lampung and South Sumatera. Interestingly enough, these divisions not only represent distinct ethnic groups and cultures, but geographically speaking each province also displays singular physical features. The massive Bukit Barisan mountain range which runs almost the entire length of the island makes up Sumatera's diverse landscape of dense tropical forests which cover almost four-fifths of the island, rugged coastlines, expansive beaches, deep gorges and steamy swamps.

### Attractions

Rivers that crisscross the island are fed by numerous lakes, the most famous is Lake Toba situated at 906 m above sea level. Covering a surface area of 1.700km<sup>2</sup> it is the largest in Southeast Asia and the deepest in the world (450 m). The lake touches the shores of sandy pine-sheltered beaches and is encircled by mountainous slopes and steep cliffs. Located in the middle of the lake is Samosir Island, the heartland of the Toba Batak people and accessible by regular ferry trips. Strongly patrilineal, the Bataks were formerly animists. Ancient Batak stone burial urns, carved sarcophagi and traditional

houses can still be found on Samosir. Inhabited by 10 or more families, the Batak longhouses are built on massive timber piles and have steep saddle-backed, palm-thatched roofs. The structure is held by rope and wooden pegs, without nails yet can last for nearly a century. Famed for their musical abilities, the Batak are fiercely proud of their *ulos*, a cloth with significant traditional value and used during all rites of passage. Some of the area's interesting sights are the Medan Botanical Garden, Sipisopiso Waterfall, the market town of Haranggoi and the Batak Palace in the fortified village of Pematang Purba. The cool town of Prapat on the shores of Lake Toba has a Batak Cultural Center. Tobacco, rubber and palm oil plantations are also found in the area.

Situated in the Karo highlands is the pretty hill town of Berastagi, home to the Karo Batak people. The town is dominated by two volcanoes, Mount Sinabung and Mount Sibayak. The remote villages of Kampung Peceren, Lingga, Cingkes and Barusjahe have two dozens of traditional houses still used and in good condition. Medan, the capital of North Sumatera, is not short of interesting sights to visit. The Maimoon Palace and the black-domed Mesjid Raya (Grand Mosque) are landmarks for the area.

Apart from its ruggedly beautiful and diverse landscape, the many ethnic groups that inhabit the island are undoubtedly an attraction in itself with their own culture represented in dances, customs and the architecture of traditional buildings. On the island of Nias, a Neolithic society still keeps alive a megalithic tradition which displays carved stone memorials and menhirs, war dances and ritual



"Toba Lake and Samosir Island"



"A Nias traditional dance"



combats called *Tulotolo* and *Fahombe*, a stone jumping ritual in which tribesmen jump over 2.5 m of stone wall with a sword in hand. Most of the traditional villages are in the south of the island.

The Mentawai people live in comparative isolation on an island of the same name and still retain their centuries old ways influenced by animistic beliefs. On the island of Siberut, the Sakhai has also retained their Neolithic hunter-gatherer culture. Their belief that all elements in nature possess a soul has made them naturalists with a deep respect for the environment.

One of the most picturesque regions is the cool highlands of West Sumatera and the spectacular view of the Anai Valley. It is the home of the Minangkabau people. A striking feature of the region is the design of traditional Rumah Gadang with their horned roofs. A pretty town, Bukittinggi lies 100 km north of the provincial capital, Padang. It has sensational views of fertile valleys and the volcanoes, Mount Merapi and Mount Singgalang. Like most ethnic groups in Indonesia who have an ancient cloth tradition, the Minangkabau of West Sumatera are guardians of the hand-woven *songket* which are rich in design and interwoven with gold threads.

The journey to the lowlands of South Sumatera takes you to Lampung and the famed Taman Nasional Way Kambas, an elephant sanctuary that trains elephants to play soccer as tourist attraction.

## Cuisine

The food from Sumatera is generally very rich, spicy

and hot as it uses a liberal amount of almost all exotic spices and thick coconut milk, creating curry-based dishes. Beef and almost all other inner and outer parts of a cattle is used as the main ingredient.

## Leisure Activities

### Shopping

Sumatera's diverse ethnic groups make shopping in the region an exciting experience. The best bargains would be the variety of hand-woven cloths from different regions; the Batak *ulos* cloth from Medan and its surroundings, the colorful, gold threaded *songket* from West Sumatera. Statues, carvings are also good buys.

### Festivals & Events

Being a predominantly Moslem region, most important events are religious in nature. But local weddings are always a grand occasion where dances and costumes are a feast for the eyes.

### Adventure

Sumatera is a paradise for nature lovers. National parks cover regions from the northern until the southern tip of the island. Taman Nasional Gunung Leuser in Aceh, is one of the largest national parks in the world and home to a variety of primates, such as gibbons and orangutans, the Sumateran rhinoceros, tigers and elephants. In North Sumatera, the Great Bukit Barisan Forest Reserve is a must for naturalists. The Bahorok Orangutan Rehabilitation Center at Bukit Lawang near Medan is also worth a visit. One of the most exciting river



"The Bukit Barisan Mountain Range"



"A secluded beach in West Sumatera"



*"The Kerinci-Seblat National Park"*

adventures can be found in this region. About 10 hours' drive from Padang, the Kerinci Seblat National Park covers the area around the active volcano, Mount Kerinci (3805 m). The largest park in Sumatera, Kerinci-Seblat contains areas of lowland rainforest home to rhinoceros, tigers, clouded leopards, elephants and a wide variety of bird species. To the east of the mountain is a botanists' haven, a high-altitude freshwater marsh known as Lake Bentu. White water rafting down the rapids and bends of Krueng Tripa and the River Alas is an experience that will make you soaking wet and breathless.

Sumatera has the distinction of being the only part of Indonesia that faces onto the Indian Ocean. Along its extensive coastline, the island offers some of the best marine activities in the country.

Accessible from Banda Aceh, Weh Island at the northernmost tip boasts a rich marine life. The Rubiah Sea Garden is a protected environment that is a paradise for snorkelling and scuba diving (with 25 m visibility). Coral viewing from glass-bottomed boats are also available. Explore the shallow waters between the Sibolga & Banyak Islands where coral reefs line the seabed. Ecologists' haven are the islands of Tuangku and Bangkaru where a lowland tropical rainforest, a mangrove forest and fresh water swamp forest remain undisturbed.

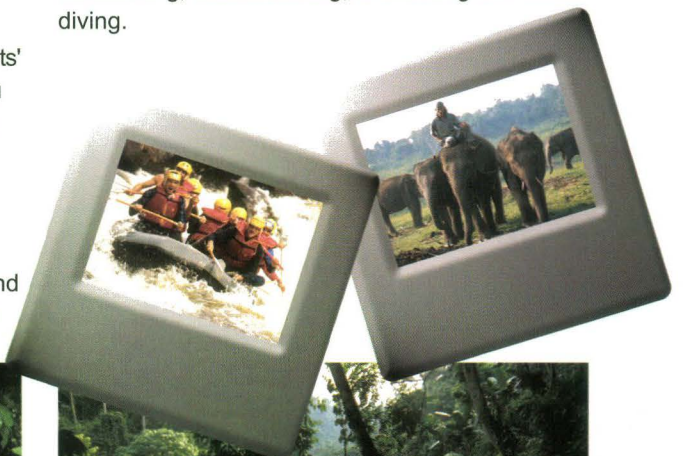
Facing the open sea, the western coastline of Sumatera and the waters surrounding Nias Island have big waves that make them one of the best



*"A medicine doctor on Siberut of the Mentawai Islands"*



surfers' beaches in Indonesia. The Mentawai Islands off the coast of West Sumatera is surrounded by beautiful coral reefs that are ideal for diving. Yet, the region's best diving site is probably around Pieh Island. A vertical all rising from a sandy slope at 40 m is frequented by a rich variety of fish and other marine animals and both soft and hard corals grow in abundance. For those who prefer night dives, the waters of the Riau Archipelago offer a rewarding experience with crustaceans and other marine scavengers of the dark waters. The Island of Bintan is part of the Riau Archipelago, only 45 km from the southeastern part of Singapore. A beautiful tropical setting is the perfect backdrop for the range of leisure and vigorous activities offered to visitors, from spas to pamper body and soul, to windsurfing, wakeboarding, snorkelling and scuba diving.



*"The Baborok Orangutan Rehabilitation Center"*



## Spiritual and Magical Java

Java is divided into five provinces : West Java, Central Java, Yogyakarta, East Java and most recently, Banten since 2001. In the southern part of Central Java, Yogyakarta bears the status of special (administrative) region.

The most populous island in Indonesia, Java's enormous diversity ranges from the beauty of its natural resources and a rich cultural heritage. The land's physical features promise a wealth of options for the outdoor person, from the dense tropical jungles of Ujung Kulon and the cool tea plantations of Puncak, to the black sandy shores of Parangtritis and sea of sand of Bromo.

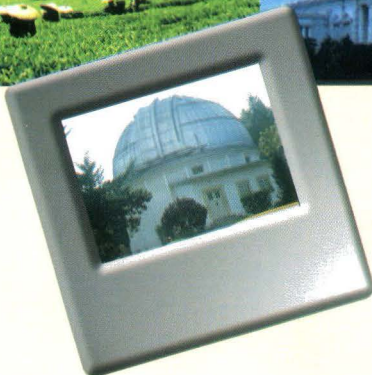
### Attractions

Surrounding Jakarta on three sides, West Java is characterized by lush landscape and unspoiled beaches and the carefree Sundanese people. Around 70 km from Jakarta, Bogor is a pleasant and cool town famous for its Agricultural Institute and a Botanical Garden built in 1817. The Bogor Botanical Garden covers an area of 87 hectares and shelters 15.000 species of rare trees and plants from all over the world, such as the world's largest

flower, the Rafflesia, a foul smelling plant that measures up to 1 meter in diameter, and an extraordinary collection of 5000 orchids in its orchid gardens. The Garden borders the Presidential Palace, home of the Dutch Governor General during the colonial period.

Journeying towards the east, Pelabuhan Ratu and Parangtritis are both located on the southern coastline, facing the Indian Ocean. Both sites are lovely holiday resorts with stretches of wide sandy beaches. Legend has it, the rough sea along this particular shoreline, what locals refer to as the South Seas, is under the rule of Nyai Roro Kidul, a princess of long ago who drowned herself to break an evil spell and became a deity. Even today, inhabitants along the southern coast of Java regularly make offerings to her.

Among the many ethnic groups that constitute Indonesia's population, some still live in comparative isolation far removed from the effects of modernization. The Baduy in Banten live in the Kendeng highlands and still retain the traditions of the ancient Sundanese, closely guarding ancient customs and the way of life of their forefathers. Nestled in the beautiful highlands of Salawu in the Tasikmalaya region, the people of Kampung Naga



is a closed community and in spite of its proximity to modern society, Kampung Naga has retained its traditional customs. They still prefer to live and work in their homeland and refuse interracial marriage with people outside their village.

Mang Udjo's Angklung Workshop in the cool village of Padasuka, Bandung will soothe you with the harmonious melody of a bamboo orchestra,





*"A breathtaking sunrise over the sea of sand at Mount Bromo"*

performed regularly with the mountains as the natural background. Bamboo handicrafts and musical instruments of fine workmanship and exact tuning are made and sold here. From Tasikmalaya, plaited mats, hand-painted umbrellas and batiks of a particular design and color make fabulous souvenirs, while the comical characters of the Wayang Golek, a three dimensional puppet used in the traditional theater, remind you of the gay spirit and the easy-going reputation of the Sundanese.

Much of the land's landmarks bear the influence of Hindu, Buddhism, Islam and Christianity. Stark Shivaite temples, the oldest Hindu temples in Java can be found in Dieng Plateau in the highlands of Wonosobo about 2.093 m above sea level. Visiting Java wouldn't be complete without being awed by the majestic Buddhist 'monastery on the hill' Borobudur, the largest Buddhist monument in the world. The two-level pyramid symbolizes the ten stages of the Mahayana Buddhist cosmic system. The walls of the Borobudur are sculptured in bas-reliefs extending over a total of 6 km. Situated 17 km from Yogyakarta, the Prambanan complex consists of three courtyards and temples that surround three main shrines dedicated to the Hindu trinity: Ciwa, Vishnu and Brahma. Built in the 9th

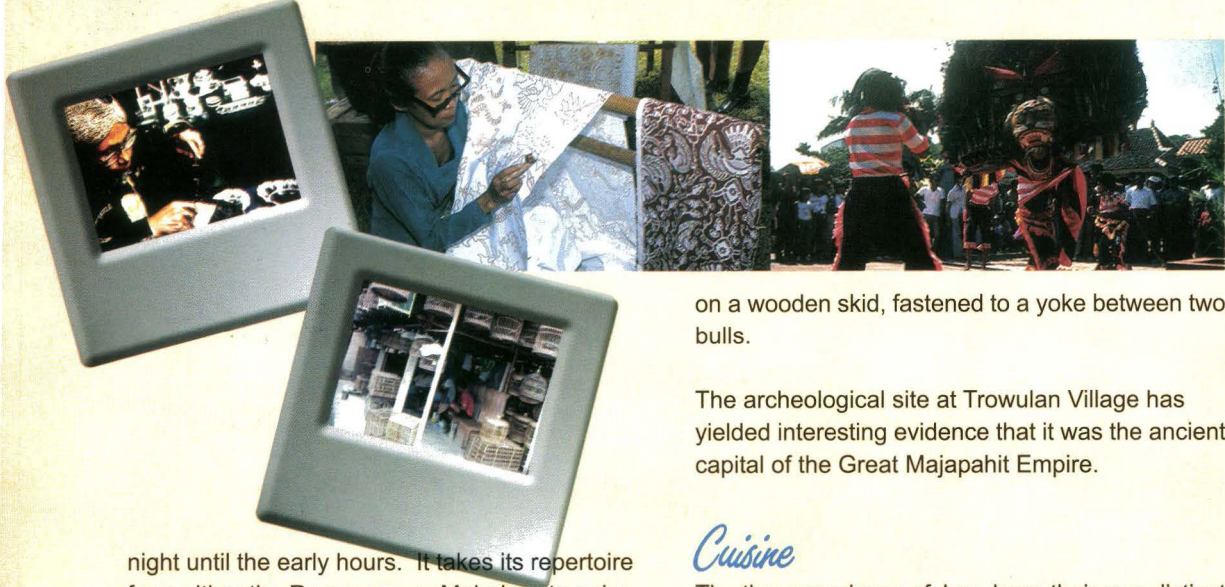
century by the Sanjaya dynasty, the temples' relief are beautifully carved and depict the Hindu cosmic system and stories from the Ramayana. Traditional Javanese ballets are performed on open air stages during full moon evenings.

The spread of Islam in Java can be witnessed through several interesting structures, such as the Minaret Mosque in Kudus built in the 15th century, and the oldest mosque in Central Java built by Sultan Agung, one of Java's greatest rulers.

Since the eighteenth century until present, the courts of *Ngayogyakarta Hadiningrat Palace* in Yogyakarta, the *Kraton of Pakualaman* and the *Pura Mangkunegaran* in Central Java have been patrons of Javanese culture, tradition and values which the Javanese have treasured for so many generations. The grand and elegant Javanese architecture guards priceless royal heirlooms and precious antiques. The walled-in kraton compound is a city within a city. It is home to 25,000 people and includes the Sultan's huge palace, the Taman Sari water castle, a bird market and several craft industries. Delicate and intricately-made silverworks are produced in Kota Gede. Several workshops are open to give the public a first-hand experience on how silver is transformed into lovely works of art.

The Wayang Kulit or classic leather puppet theater performance usually takes place all through the





night until the early hours. It takes its repertoire from either the Ramayana or Mahabarata epics. The court dances of Yogyakarta are among the most refined and sublime of Javanese dances, such as the *Bedoyo*, performed by nine female dancers, and the *Golek*. Traditional performing arts and gamelan performances can be seen at the Yogyakarta Craft Center and the Agastya Art Institute. It is also a major craft center, especially for batik. The *Reog* trance dance of Ponorogo, East Java is performed by more than 15 dancers with the main performer dances in trance wearing a tiger mask and a huge headdress made of peacock feather together with others in demon costumes. At the Candra Wilwatika open-air theater in Pandaan, south of Surabaya, classical East Javanese ballets are performed each full moon night from June to November. The stories are based either on the Ramayana epics or local legends and folklores.

For the Javanese, beautiful hand-painted *batiks* are not merely pieces of cloth but carry much more significance that symbolizes life itself. Different regions have their own unique style; Pekalongan with its Chinese influence design and pastel color. Batiks made in Solo and Yogya are traditionally colored blue, symbolizing earth, brown, symbolizing fire and white symbolizing water and air.

Surabaya, the provincial capital of East Java also has a variety of attractions. Kalimas is an old traditional harbor for phinisis or Bugis schooners. Across the Madura Strait lies the island of Madura, famous for its daring bull races called *karapan sapi*. Regularly held at the Pamekasan Stadium, Madura, bull-race across the grass, with the jockeys standing

on a wooden skid, fastened to a yoke between two bulls.

The archeological site at Trowulan Village has yielded interesting evidence that it was the ancient capital of the Great Majapahit Empire.

### Cuisine

The three provinces of Java have their own distinct cuisine. The Sundanese of West Java consumes lots of raw vegetables eaten with prawn and chilli paste (*sambal*). Deep-fried freshwater fish, salted fish or steamed fish wrapped in banana leaves (*pepes*) and a sweet and sour vegetable soup (*sayur asam*) is a favorite meal. Central Java cuisine tends to be rather sweet and spicy while an East Javanese delicacy is dark shrimp paste (*petis*) eaten with fried tofu or as dressing to a salad of boiled vegetables.

### Leisure Activities

#### Shopping

Various handicrafts are found throughout Java. West Java is a paradise for those who like authentic items, such as hand-carved wooden statues and screens, silverwork, hand-woven and painted cottons and silks, embroidery, shell-ornaments, basketry, sandstone statues and bamboo furniture.

In Central Java, Jepara is famous for its teak carvings; stone sculptures from Muntilan; brass, copper and silver from Juwana (Pati), Boyolali, Temanggung, Rembang, Sukoharjo where craftsmen produce lamp stands, vases, mini gongs, reliefs, etc.; bamboo paintings, rattan furniture, leather goods and masks from Yogya and Surakarta; ceramic pottery from Banjarnegara where glazed and decorated earthenware are produced. Apart from *batik*, *lurik* is a woven textile that is made into sarongs, bed covers, upholstery and garments.

#### Spa

For centuries, the rich bounties of the land have

"Borobudur, the largest Buddhist monument in the world"



"A 'wayang kulit' theater performance"





"Ciater Hot Springs"



"A traditional ceremony in Yogyakarta"

been put into good use for various healing and meditative treatments. Set in breathtaking locations, spas, ecotourism and agrotourism destinations offer total relaxation and rejuvenation.

Javana Spa is situated on the slopes of Mount Salak, West Java, with the rainforest, natural springs and cascading waterfalls providing the perfect spot for cleansing both body and mind. Treatments include Indonesian traditional and aromatic massages, volcanic mud body masque, facial aromatherapy and hydrotherapy. At Sari Ater on the slopes of the Tangkuban Perahu volcano, mineral and sulphure springs help you to unwind and heal most skin problems. For the treatment of mild complaints and sometimes quite serious ailments, most Javanese and Madurese will swear on the virtues of *jamu*, or traditional herbal concoctions. Hundreds of different *jamu* remedies have nearly the solution to all kinds of illnesses. One of the most renowned *jamu* producer is Mustika Ratu and the Taman Sari Royal Heritage Spa in Yogya offers the luxury of traditional health and body treatments that were formerly the privilege of the Javanese court.

**Golf**

West Java's lush setting offers golfers a wealth of choices. Natural slopes on the courses belong to Bogor Raya, Emerald, Riverside, Rancamaya, and Lido Lakes courses. Golfers touring East Java will not want to miss doing a round at the Finna and Taman Dayu courses in Surabaya, Indonesia's best hillside courses. Both offer challenging but beautiful fairways with manicured greens. In Yogya, the active volcano, Mount Merapi, is a silent spectator of golfers in action at the Merapi Golf Course.

**Festivals & Events**

Be sure to check out for cultural events, ceremonies and festivities that crowd the local calendar. On the first day of *Suro*, the Javanese New Year, royal heirlooms of the Sultan and the Mangkunegaran principality in Solo are brought in procession around the two palace grounds. In Yogya, the court of the Sultan also holds important royal events. During the *Grebeg Maulud* to commemorate the birth of the Prophet Muhammed, huge mounds of rice, decorated with colored eggs, vegetables are carried in procession from the palace to the mosque. People are allowed to scramble and get a piece of the mounds, which they believe will bring them good luck in the coming year. On the fifth day of the third month of the Javanese lunar calendar, the *Sekaten* festivities begin with a procession starting in the middle of the night, carrying two identical and very ancient sets of *gamelan* from the kraton to the Grand Mosque. With a tradition that is greatly imbued with elements of myths and legends, the *Labuhan* ceremony is held on the 26th day of the fourth month of the Javanese lunar calendar, called *Bakdomulud* to solemnize the birthday of the Sultan. Delicacies, a set of clothing, nail and hair clippings of the sultan are taken to the south coast, where they are put on a raft and pushed out to the sea as a gift to Nyi Roro Kidul, the goddess of the South Sea. Similar rituals are performed at the crests of the Mounts Merapi and Lawu.

In East Java, once a year, the Tengger people of the mountain pay homage to the gods who dwell on Mount Bromo during the *Kesada* ceremony by throwing sacrificial offerings into the crater. An exhilarating show to watch, *Karapan Sapi* is a hair-raising bull race. The Maduranese not only show a great deal of excitement out of watching this race, they take their local sport very seriously. Jockeys and bull owners are held in great esteem by the community.



"Karapan sapi" or Madurese bull race





*"Sukamade Beach, where giant sea turtles come to lay their eggs"*

### **Adventure**

In the cool highlands of Parahyangan, the Land of the Sundanese, tea, coffee and cocoa plantations deck the lush hills. Hiking on the mountains Gede - Pangrango from Puncak takes less than 10 hours. The valleys Suryakencana on Gede and Mandalawangi on Pangrango are wonderful rest points before reaching the summits which are large volcanic craters. Rock climbing at Citatah, braving the rapids down Citarik River or a subterranean adventure in the caves of Leuwiliang, the region isn't short of adrenaline pumping activities. Trekkers exploring the tropical rainforests of Ujung Kulon at the southwestern tip of West Java may be lucky enough to meet the reserve's most famous inhabitants, the endangered one-horned rhinoceros, panthers and crocodiles.

Although marine underwater attractions are limited in Java, the few that exist will not leave you disappointed as they are set amidst an unparalleled natural setting that is teeming with a rich variety of flora and fauna.

In the surrounding seas the marine life is a kaleidoscope of colors. Beautiful sea gardens are found off the nearby Peucang and Panaitan islands. Rising from the Sunda Strait, the volcano Anak Krakatoa reminds all of the devastating eruptions of August 1883 that disrupted the world climate. The seascape of cracked volcanic rock around Krakatau and the caves and tunnels around Ujung Kulon provide an interesting underwater experience.

Off the coast of Pandeglang, Banten, the sheltered bay of Legon Dadap, on the north side of the Tanjung Lesung Peninsula, white sandy beaches and clear waters, are ideal for boating and swimming.

The fringing and submerged reefs of the Karimunjawa islands in Central Java, harbors over 35 types of hard corals, sponges, gorgonian, soft and red corals and shipwrecks, creating 12 spectacular diving sites. There are also wrecks to explore at the islands of Batu Kunci, Karang Kapal, Karang Ketel and Batulawang.

One of the best surfing spots in the world is also located in the region; Banyuwangi and Plengkung Bay in the easternmost tip of Java.

Going up the ancient caldera of Mount Bromo in East Java on horseback at the break of dawn to watch the sun rise over a sea of sand is an experience you'll never forget. In the ancient caldera, two volcanoes are visible, the perfect coned and extinct Batok and Bromo, still releasing volcanic sulphur fumes and smoke. Another famous crater is the not so accessible Mount Ijen crater which has a diameter of 1 km, a depth of 175 meters, and a turquoise lake in its center.

At the easternmost point of Java, Meru Betiri National Park beckons the more adventurous to explore the habitat of the Javanese tigers, panther and giant green turtles who come to lay hundreds of eggs on Sukamade Beach.

*"Prambanan, a cluster of ancient Hindu temples"*





As a world renowned tourist destination, Bali's attractions, apart from its wonderful beaches and spectacular surf waves, reflect the pervading influence of the Hindu Bali religion in the lives of the Balinese.

### Attractions

Bali's distinct skyline is its temples. Every community has at least a temple or *pura*. Some of these religious structures are famous tourist sights due to their history, architectural beauty or scenic location.

The largest and holiest temple in Bali is the sanctuary of Besakih on the slopes of Mt. Agung, well over a thousand years old. Steps ascend through split gates to the main courtyard where the Trinity shrines are wrapped in cloth and decorated with flower offerings. Around the three main temples dedicated to Shiva, Brahma and Vishnu, are 18 separate sanctuaries belonging to different regencies and caste groups. To the Balinese, a visit to the temple sanctuaries is a special pilgrimage. Another ancient temple is Tirta Empul, built around the



sacred spring of Tampaksiring which are believed to have healing powers and brings good health and prosperity. One of Bali's most important sea temples, Tanah Lot is built perched on a rock off the coast and is inaccessible at tide times. Rituals that take place are an act of homage to the guardian spirits of the sea. Poisonous sea snakes found at the base of the rocky island are believed to guard the temple from evil spirits and intruders. The best time to see Tanah Lot is in the late afternoon when the temple creates a haunting silhouette against the setting sun. Another remarkable place for

spectacular sunsets is in Uluwatu with its temple perched on the cliff of Bukit Peninsula. The beautiful sight of Ulun Danu Temple shrouded in mist on the shores of the beautiful Lake Beratan is also unforgettable.

The Balinese believe that spirits dwell in every element of nature and many places are considered sacred. Said to have been found by a sage nine centuries ago, the roof of Goa Lawah cave is covered with thousands of bats and its entrance is guarded by a temple. Ten hectares of nutmeg trees in the Sangeh forest abound with monkeys. Considered to be sacred, so no wood is allowed to be chopped in the forest.

At the seat of Bali's the oldest kingdom on the island, Klungkung, the Kerta Gosa or Royal Court of Justice, built in the 18th century, is famous for its ceiling murals painted in the traditional wayang style, portraying punishment in hell and the rewards in heaven. The floating pavilion, garden and lotus ponds in this walled-in complex are reminders of the former glory of this kingdom.



In the face of constant exposure to modernization and foreign influences, the Balinese still faithfully cling to their culture and traditions, some more so. The pre-Hindu Bali Aga tribe still maintain their ancient pre-Hindu customs. In East Bali, the village of Tenganan has retained its own traditions of architecture, kinship, government, religion, dance and music, such as the unique rituals of dances and gladiator-like battles between youths. Tenganan is famous for its double *ikat* woven material called *gringseng*, which is supposed to have magic powers and protect its wearers.



Towered by the majestic and still active Mount Batur, the ancient village of Trunyan is home to the Bali Aga' or original Balinese. Living on an island on Lake Batur, the Trunyan still maintain many of their old ways, such as laying the bodies of the dead on the ground surface instead of underground. Unpleasant odors of the decomposing bodies are amazingly non existent, due to the specific odours emitted from the many Banyan trees growing in the village.

Many visitors come to the island for its sunbathing beaches. In Singaraja, only a few meters from the splash of the surf, the cool freshwater spring of Air Sanih is ideal for bathers and picnickers. Kuta's and Legian's white sandy beaches are witness to beautiful sunsets, making it a thriving tourist resort popular mainly among the young. While Sanur on the eastern coast of the island is frequented by early risers eager for a glimpse of a Balinese sunrise before the arrival of sun worshippers. Shops and hawkers that sell about everything, a huge choice of places to eat and a lively nightlife are also the areas' magnets.

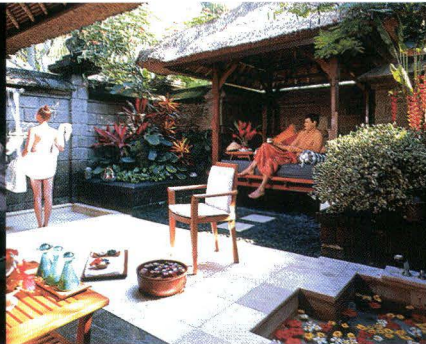
Art for the Balinese is a form of worship, thus most Balinese are skilled craftsmen or performers. The

music of the Balinese *gamelan* orchestra can be heard anywhere and any time as children learn dances or dances are performed for tourists or at ceremonies.

The performing arts of Bali is always sacred in feeling and at once graceful and dynamic to look at. The *Kecak* dance is a mass dance performed by about 150 people. This dance illustrates an episode of the Ramayana epic in which a group of monkeys, led by Hanoman, try to rescue kidnapped Dewi Shinta from the clutches of the giant Rahwana. More like a drama than dance, the *Barong-Kris* dance presents the barong (a mythical animal resembling a lion) fighting the evil witch Rangda. Sometimes the dance presents the character Dewi Sri, the goddess of rice. Generally, the show is closed with a kris dance, in which young men get into a trance, stabbing themselves with krisses, yet remain unharmed. Other trance dances that must be seen to be believed are *Sanghyang Dedari*, performed by two girls in trance yet moving in perfect unison to the background of male *kecak* choir. In *Sanghyang Jaran*, a boy dances through and over a bed of flaming coals riding a hobby-horse made out of coconut palm. *Barong* dance performances are staged nightly at Batubulan.

*"Besakih, the mother of all temples"*





## Leisure Activities

### Shopping

Shopping in Bali can offer excellent bargains. Shops that cater mostly to tourists sell modern artwork, leather goods, casual summer clothing and of course beach wear, shoes, CDs, T-shirts, furniture as well as knock-knacks. Browsing at the Sukawati Art Market will Galeria Nusa Dua offers a tempting range of Balinese goods in one place.

The center of Balinese painting, Ubud is popular as an artists village. Ubud's Puri Lukisan Museum has a permanent collection of modern works of Balinese art dating from the turn of the century. Despite the influences and western techniques brought in by foreign painters, traditional Balinese paintings are still made and sold. A wide collection of paintings both by Indonesian as well as foreign artists who used to live in Bali can be seen at the Neka Museum.

Located between Ubud and Mas, Peliatan is known as the center of traditional music and dances. The fine art of local woodcarvers started a new style of wood carving producing fruits, flowers and trees resembling their real shapes and colorings. Mas is the village of wood-carvers, where many of Bali's old masters still live. Art galleries exhibit some of their best works. Visitors can wander through the Balinese style houses to view the carved wooden pillars and the artists at work. Batuan is known for its dancing, wood panel carvings and paintings. Northeast from Denpasar, stone figures on the roadside mark the village of Batubulan, famous for its stone carvings and antiques. Workshops can be visited to watch artists at work. Northeast of Denpasar, the village of Celuk is noted for its gold and silverworks of jewelry made using age-old techniques. Those in search of batik, clothing or material should not miss Gianyar which has at least 40 textile factories.

Other villages worth visiting for unique buys are : bamboo crafts from Bona; ceramics from Campuhan,

Kapal and Tabanan; masks from Singapadu, puppets from Klungkung, Sukawati, Gianyar; textiles from Sidemen, Kampunggelgel and the Klungkung Market, Negara, Singaraja, Tampaksiring and Peliatan.

### Spa

Spas around Bali let you connect with nature and discover inner peace through the holistic approach, using natural herbs and health and beauty treatments that pamper both body and mind. The best spas can be found at most five-star hotels. The Chedi in Gianyar, the Four Seasons Resort in Jimbaran Bay and the Ritz Carlton in Legian offer rejuvenating spa treatments in utmost luxury. Discover the Bali spa experience at the Sanjiwani Spa of the Waka di Abian in Ubud, Mandara Spa, Jari Menari, Bagus Jati and Thirta Bali Spa.

### Golf

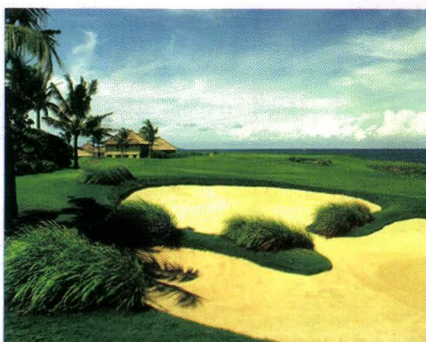
Bali has numerous world class golf courses. Located

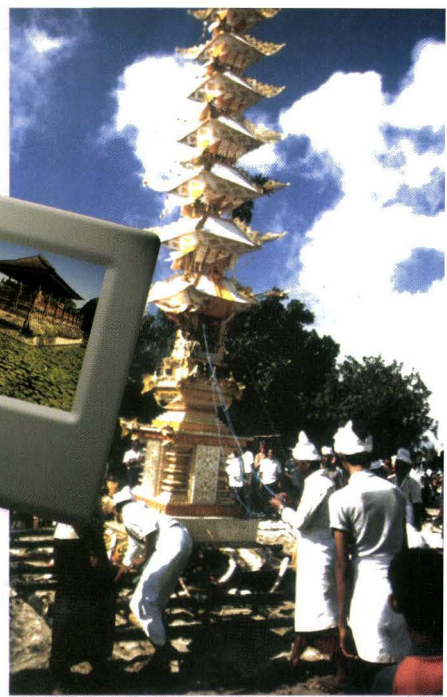
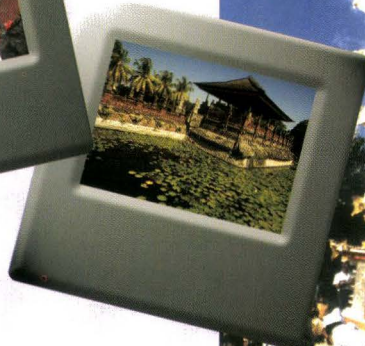
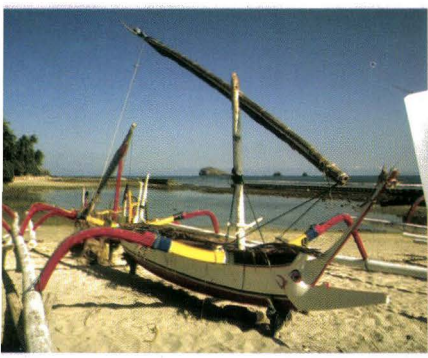


in the luxury resort of Nusa Dua, Bali Golf & Country Club has imaginative tropical course designs. The Nirwana Golf & Country Club faces the Indian Ocean and is complete with fabulous freeways and inspiring green positions. For an unforgettable golfing experience, try the Bali Handara Kosaido which is situated 1,200 m above sea-level in a volcanic crater.

### Festivals and Events

The Werdi Budaya annual festival held in Denpasar between the months of June and July, is packed with cultural performances, exhibitions, art contests





"Ngaben" or Balinese cremation ceremony"

and many more. Werdhi Budaya is also a showcase for Balinese temple and palace architecture at its most opulent.

For the Balinese, temples and religious activities are inexorably tied to their daily lives. Temple festivals and rites of passage are held in reference to the Balinese calendar and are often specific to one village. Lines of women richly dressed and carrying colorful beautifully decorated temple offerings are a common sight. Some important celebrations observed by all Balinese are *Galungan*. Celebrated with rituals and festivities, it is the time to rejoice in the triumph of virtue (*dharma*) over evil (*adharma*). On this day the entire island is brightened with decorated bamboo poles and offerings which adorn temples and family compounds. *Kuningan* is the last celebration of Galungan when special rituals are held for ancestral spirits. During *Nyepi* or Seclusion day to celebrate the Balinese 1 Caka New Year, no activity may be

skiing, para gliding and surfing are done in almost all parts of the island.

Bali's marine attractions are difficult to compare, whether its diving on steel shipwrecks, off vertical drop-offs, over sandslopes, or seagrass beds, off black volcanic outcrops, or limestone shores, in roaming currents or in calm bays. Menjangan Island in the far northwestern tip of Bali is within the protected Bali Barat National Park area. Corals



done, no fire may be lit and no amusement held throughout the day. It's the day of absolute silence throughout the island.

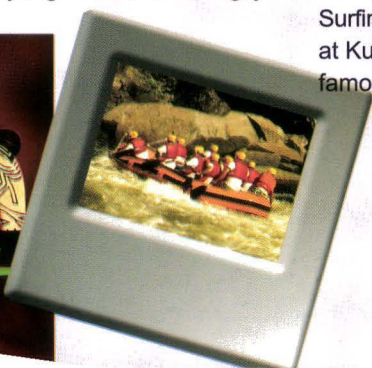
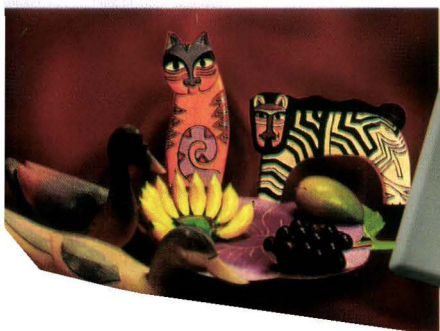
Another important ceremony in the Balinese society is the *ngaben* or cremation. The ceremony may involve thousands of people, elaborate funeral pyres, dancing and feasting.

### Adventure

Given Bali's climate and geography, water sports are the most popular activity here. There's white water rafting down the Ayung River and sailing, jet

are vertical down to 60-80 creating memorable dives. In Tulamben, the USS Liberty wreck 30 m off the shoreline coupled with black sand bottom and wonderfully rich marine life has attracted divers worldwide. Nusa Lembongan in the southeast of Bali boasts a beautiful fringing reef, rich marine life and great surf breaks. Not only that, the island's idyllic location offers fabulous fishing, mangrove exploring, discovering underground caves and fresh water springs.

Other fabulous diving sites include Nusa Penida, Padang Bai, Cemeluk, Pemuteran, Candi Dasa. Surfing fanatics should not miss a ride on the waves at Kuta, Canggu, Pererenan, Nusa Dua and the famous surf proving ground, Ulu Watu.







Kalimantan occupies two-thirds of the land of Borneo, the world's third largest island, sharing its boundaries with the Sultanate of Brunei Darussalam and the Malaysian states of Sarawak and Sabah.

It is the land of the Dayak people who long ago were famed as fearless warriors who practised headhunting and followed animistic beliefs. Over 200 tribes inhabit the island, but the most wellknown groups are the Kenyah and Kayan in the east, the Ngaju in the central region, and the Iban in the west.

### Attractions

Travel down the Mahakam and Kahayan River into the Dayak country. Having strong communal ties, Dayak families live in great longhouses. The art of the Dayak produces superb decorative and religious designs that are painted or carved on longhouses, masks and religious structures. Apart from their weaving and basketwork, the Dayak's beadwork is wellknown for its color and intricacy. In some tribes, the women, especially of the older generation, still wear heavy earrings to extend their earlobes and their hands and feet are covered in elaborate tattooing.

In the largely Chinese populated of West Kalimantan many Chinese temples are found especially in the Singkawang area. Pontianak, the provincial capital is right on the equator and has a monument to show it. Javanese and Sulawesi schooners are moored at the Phinisi Harbor. At Saham village, 158 km from the city, a *betang* or longhouse measuring 186 m long, 6 m wide is home to 269 people. For beach lovers, there are Pasir Panjang's white beaches. Sunsets on the Kapuas River are also a sight you won't quickly forget.

On the southeast coast of Kalimantan, Banjarmasin is a bustling trading city crisscrossed with many waterways fed by the Barito River. A common sight is wooden houses constructed on poles and connected to each other by wooden walkways. Downstream on the Barito, you'll reach Kaget and Kembang Islands, home of Kalimantan's unusual primate, the proboscis monkey and a variety of birds. Dawn and dusk are the only times you may get a chance to see them. Diamonds are also one of the region's richest resources and are mined extensively in Cempaka and Martapura. Diggings use both simple, traditional tools and modern equipment.

A prosperous region, East Kalimantan derives its riches from oil-producing Balikpapan and from the valuable timbers in Samarinda. Going on a



"A megalithic monument in the land of the Dayak"

"Dayak women collecting herbs"



"Dayak elders during a ritual ceremony"



"Dayak men collecting rattan"

Mahakam trip will show you the region's highlights; authentic longhouses in Barong Tongkok, or a glimpse into the days of the Kutai Kingdom, the oldest kingdom in Indonesia, in Tenggarong. En route, fresh water dolphins may just decide to keep you company as you venture upstream deeper into the Dayak country. At Tanjung Isuy, a Dayak settlement around Lake Jempang, welcome rituals and dances are often put on for visitors. At the end of the rainy season, see the black orchid in bloom at the Kersik Luway reserve.

## Cuisine

Fish, whether saltwater or freshwater, figure prominently in Kalimantan cuisine and are served grilled with an assortment of condiments or smothered in green chilis.

## Leisure Activities

### Shopping

Most traditional markets carry Dayak handicrafts which are cheaper than at art shops. But traveling to different regions will be rewarded with the original thing.

In Sambas to the north, locals still produce fine weavings of the gold and silver-threaded *Kain Sambas*. Often called the island of a thousand rivers, many towns have floating markets that offer an interesting insight into the lives of the locals selling fruits, vegetables and traditional snacks and beverages. Banjarmasin and Martapura are good places to buy diamonds, precious and semi precious stones, such as sapphires, emeralds and amethysts. Rattan and bamboo weaving are from the Tapin district while handicrafts made of gold, silver, brass and iron are from the Hulu Sungai Selatan region. A specific textile from South Kalimantan is the Sasirangan, a cloth made through a certain dyeing process quite different from those of other parts of Indonesia.

### Festivals & Events

Like other ethnic groups in Indonesia, the Dayaks have traditions, such as *Manjat Tana*, a ceremony

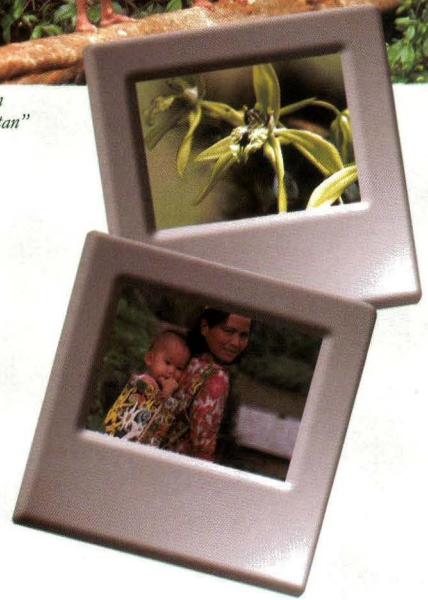
requesting land fertility before opening a new agriculture area; *Pandau*, for blessings from the Gods; *Bungan Malau Panyelong*, *Bunut* and the *Hudog* Dances which are performed to ask for rain and/or thank the Gods after a good harvest.

In South Central Kalimantan, the Kaharingan religion of several of the more traditional (and isolated) Dayaks is still practiced. The *tiwah* or funerary ritual is a spectacular series of rites that involve cleaning the bones of the deceased for their smooth journey to paradise, and animal sacrifices that ensure prosperity and good health for the living.

### Adventure

Mighty rivers that flow down from the highlands create rapids then meander through vast untracked jungle. The lack of roads makes these rivers important medias of communications between the coast and the island's interior. The dense, tropical lowland rainforests of Kalimantan hold a diverse variety of exotic flora and fauna; 600 species of birds (including the hornbills that are sacred to the Dayaks), orangutans, proboscis monkey, clouded leopard, leaf monkeys, crab eating macaques and ant-eating pangolins. In West Kalimantan the Raya Pasi mountain is the place to see the world's largest flower, the *Rafflesia*.

River rafting on traditional bamboo rafts or rubber boats is available on the Amandit River where grades rank from one to stronger than three. Riverboats, motor longboats and long arduous treks





*"Traditional weavers produce colorful cloths"*



are required to go into the inland virgin forest and reach the remote Dayak country of the Apo Kayan which extends to the mountains bordering Sarawak. Samarinda in East Kalimantan is the best starting point for longboat trips to Dayak villages such as Tanjung Isuy, Muara Muntai, Melak and Long Iram.

soft corals, manta rays and turtles. The area is also the site of bountiful pearl divers. Kijing and Temajoh Island in West Kalimantan are also ideal for diving, fishing and sailing.

Travel down the Sekonyer River in a klotok or motorised canoe to the Tanjung Puting National Park and its three camps, Tanjung Harapan, Pondok Tanggul and Camp Leakey where tamed orangutans are rehabilitated and taught to readapt to their natural environment.



In the Makassar Strait between Borneo and Sulawesi, the tiny archipelago of Derawan, Sangalaki and Maratua shelters a diverse ecosystem that creates a paradise for divers. In Derawan, sea turtles (green, hawksbill, scarlet and star fruit turtles) come on shore at night to lay their eggs. Surrounded by a shallow lagoon and the reefs, Maratua and Sangalaki present over 500 species of hard and



*"The colorful floating market in Banjarmasin"*



Sulawesi's ties to the sea are strong and deep. Its maritime past has produced formidable shipbuilders and seamen that have reached North Australia and Madagascar on their trading trips. The Bugis of South Sulawesi have even ventured as far away as Cape Town, South Africa in traditional schooners called 'phinisi'. The island is divided into 5 provinces: South Sulawesi, Central Sulawesi, Southeast Sulawesi, North Sulawesi and Gorontalo.

Rugged mountains, virgin rainforests, lush paddy fields, highland lakes and pristine beaches, the island's dramatic geographical feature is home to a rich cultural tradition, while an amazing variety of flora and fauna shares a fabulous tropical setting. Unspoilt reserves provide a protected habitat for the indigenous species of Sulawesi, such as the anoa, dwarf buffalo and *babi rusa* or pig deer.

## Attractions

The north, with Manado as the provincial capital, is a land of white sandy beaches, mountains and volcanoes. In the city, the Ban Hin Kiong temple is the oldest Chinese temple in eastern Indonesia. If golf is more your game, enjoy a round at the Wenang Golf Course. Around 36 km southwest of Manado, passing through picturesque villages and clove plantations, is Lake Tondano, 600 m above sea level. The lake is an ideal place for water skiing, fishing and boating.

Off the mainland, the Sangir-Talaud islands connect Sulawesi to the Philippines. Largely agricultural, the region is covered by coconut, copra and nutmeg plantations. Not far from Manado, Minahasa boasts of cool air, highland lakes and Mount Klabat. Watu Pinabetengan and Waruga are interesting archeological sites that have mysterious carvings and 144 sarcofagi that bear carved motifs of humans, plants and animals. Neighboring Gorontalo is famous for its rattan furniture, graceful traditional dances and beautiful *Krawang* embroidery. Yet the

north's main attraction is undoubtedly the world famous Bunaken Sea Garden.

Moving towards the center of the island, the Napa and Besoa Valleys in Lore Lindu near Palu, Central Sulawesi, contain megalithic sites that date as far back as thousands of years ago. Although of unknown origin, the stone carvings are presumably related to ancestor worship. As a reminder of Sulawesi's role as an important trading post in the days of the spice trade, Donggala's seaport and the Museum Negeri are always a worthwhile visit.

Its long trading history with foreign traders has yielded colorful, Indian-inspired handwoven silks and traditional *ikat* cloths are specialties of the Kaili region.

Bustling Makassar (formerly Ujung Pandang) is the most important city in South Sulawesi. As displayed in their traditional costumes, Makassar is famous for their silk *sarongs*, silver filigree and goldworks. The 16th century Dutch stronghold, the Fort Rotterdam, is now a museum exhibiting various antiques, ceramics, old coins, manuscripts, musical instruments, costumes and ornaments. At Bulukumba, watch locals build traditional ships the way they have been doing for hundred of years. A popular weekend destination, Bantimurung has a 15 m waterfall and butterfly colonies. Don't pass on the delicious seafood-based cuisine sold at hawkers stalls or in restaurants specializing in local



"A Phinisi in full sail"



"A phinisi dockyard"

cuisine. The freshest of fish, squid, prawns and lobsters are cooked on the grill or fried and finished off with spicy, pungent dressings.

Amidst the rugged mountains and fertile plateaus of Tana Toraja (Torajaland) in South-Central Sulawesi, the Toraja people thrive and still retain their ancestor worship and animistic beliefs. The village of Kete'Kesu is a living museum of the Torajan way of life and their unique architecture. Extended families live in a series of houses called 'tongkonan' which are arranged in a circular row around a banyan tree or sacred stone used for ritual offerings. The roofs of 'tongkonan' rise at both ends like the bow and stern of a ship. According to ritual chants, these shapes are symbols of the vessel that brought their ancestors to the area. The Torajan rituals for the dead are just as interesting as their way of life, as seen from their fascinating funeral ceremonies and rituals for their ancestors.

North of Kendari, the capital of Southeast Sulawesi, is the curious Batu Gong Beach where the sound of waves crashing against huge rocks produces a sound like a gong. Surrounded by a lush, tropical forest, the Moramo Waterfall lies to the east of Kendari. The seven-tiered waterfall has seven main terraces, each with its own bathing pool. Bird-lovers

## Leisure Activities

### Shopping

North Sulawesi's treasures include wood works, whether ornaments of intricate carved wood or the valuable ebony from Sangir. Beautiful *Krawang* embroidery is a speciality of the Gorontalo region. The many plantations that produce spices have created a unique souvenir item from the region such as cloves, cinnamon, vanilla and nutmeg sold in packages and figurines made out of cloves. To the south of Sulawesi, filigree silverware and ornaments, hand-woven silks and cottons, hand-carved wooden panels and pictures, bamboo household ornaments and brassware are in abundance.

### Festivals & Events

Toraja's Feasts for the Dead are elaborate, colorful festivals to pave the way for the dead so that they may enter the afterworld and bestow blessings on the living. Instead of enterrment, the dead are laid to rest in cliff-side stone crypts and are guarded by wooden effigies or *tau-tau*. Funerals may last



will want to visit Kompa Cape on Wowonii Island and Sopomda Island. Both are bird sanctuaries and can be reached by motorboat from Kendari. Thousand of birds also nest on Kawikawia Island where a large number of turtles are found along its coast. On Muna Island, Napabale Lake offers an unusual experience. Situated at the foot of a hill, the lake is directly connected to the sea via a natural tunnel. At low tide, swimmers may swim along the tunnel. But high tides should be avoided as water level almost reaches the roof of the tunnel.

for several days and involve hundreds of guests and the sacrifice of many buffaloes, pigs and chickens. In addition to solemn processions, singing and feasting, dancing and singing, even cock-fighting, *sisemba* (kick boxing) and buffalo fights take place throughout the event.

Around mid February, the people on Muna Island hold a *Katombu* ceremony to thank God for a successful corn harvest. At this time, all sorts of corn dishes are served during the feasts. The name



"A solemn procession through lush Toraja land"

*Katombu* is taken from the traditional Muna meal of scraped corn wrapped in corn leaf. Young single people use this opportunity to find a partner. Marriage ceremonies on the island are also unique events. Two days prior to the set date, the bride is locked in her room and is expected to cry. On her wedding day the bride is supposed to show a sad and forlorn face.

In Katobo, Lawa and Kabawo on Muna Island, horse fighting is a popular attraction among the locals. The game was first introduced among the gentries of Southeast Sulawesi. Hunting for deer and buffaloes are also a favorite pastime.

### **Adventure**

Snorkelling or scuba diving in Sulawesi is the best possible marine adventure. The mind-boggling array of coral formations and a multitude of marine life truly make the region one of the world's most beautiful marine environments.

White sandy beaches, a dense population of fish and coral and deep underwater gullies and valleys of Bunaken promise a breathtaking experience. The reserve features a dozen or so dive sites, mostly concentrated off the south and west coasts of Bunaken. A low crescent-shaped coral island ringed by a steep fringing reef, Bunaken and its surroundings can be reached by motorboats or in dugout canoes. In the Lembeh Straits, WW I shipwrecks and unusual black sand bottoms make exciting dives. The Togean Islands host not only diverse marine species but are also home to the rare species of *babi rusa*, the dugong and the hawksbill sea turtle. These islands are located in the Tomini Bay, reputedly the calmest bay in the world with no rough seas year round and spectacular visibility. All major reef formations are found here (fringing, barrier, patch and atoll).

In Southeast Sulawesi, Wakatobi in the Tukang Besi Archipelago is inhabited by the Butonese and by



Bajo sea gypsies along the coast. Fascinating fossil reef formations and a myriad of marine species, such as sperm and pilot whales, spinner and bottlenose dolphins, dugongs are the real draw to the area. Rising deep out of the Banda Sea, these islands boast all three of the major coral reef formation atolls, fringing reefs and a single barrier reef off the island of Wangi.

Large reefs around the Banggai Archipelago support a tremendous variety of marine life and create superb diving and snorkeling opportunities. A vertical drop off is covered with hard and soft coral where reef sharks and turtles, schools of jackfish, tunas and other species are a common sight. It is also the habitat of the endemic ornamental fish called the 'Banggai Cardinal Fish'. A cruise takes you to a trip among to the Salue Islands and to the best reefs for diving.

In the Makassar Straits, Kapoposang Island offers outstanding deep wall diving as well as drift diving. Lush palm growth and pristine waters make this an island paradise. Snorkellers can easily reach the beautiful sloped reef close to the shore where they remain untouched and are full of brilliantly colored fish and corals. Night dives are no less exciting with the appearance of Cardinal fish feeding on night planktons.

Outstanding diving is found at the sheer walls of Kambing Island, a stark slab of rock rising out of the ocean between Bira and Selayar Islands. Rising 4000 m from the bottom of the Banda Sea, Selayar has stunning beaches and incredible dives. Dolphins, whales and dugongs have also been spotted in the area.



## *The Natural Wonders of Nusa Tenggara*

Around 35 km east of Bali, the five hundred and fifty something islands that make up the Nusa Tenggara or Lesser Sunda chain of islands stretch from Lombok to Timor. Nusa Tenggara's two provinces, West Nusa Tenggara consists of Lombok & Sumbawa, while East Nusa Tenggara is made up of Sumba, Flores and West Timor. Located on the other side of the Wallace line, the invisible division that marks the contrasting Asian and Australian flora, fauna, climate and topography of the regions to the west of Bali and to the east of Lombok, Nusa Tenggara's terrain is mostly dry, scrub grassland.

### *Attractions*

Lombok is an island of contrast in terms of its landscape and culture. Dry grasslands are interspersed with green, terraced paddy fields; rainforests create a backdrop for arid plains; and Hindu rituals live in harmony with Muslim ceremonies. Although Lombok's history and culture are intertwined with that of Bali, in most ways Lombok has its own distinct charm. The island has even gained a reputation for beautiful, isolated white beaches that surpass Bali's. Still relatively unknown to the rest of the world, the island's population is half of Bali's, made up of Sasak, Balinese, Arab, Chinese, Buginese and Javanese.

Lombok's sights and activities are mostly concentrated in West Lombok. The island's three major towns are Ampanan, Cakranegara and Mataram. Once the capital, Cakranegara is still a center of bustling activity. Visit Pura Meru, the central temple for Lombok's Hindus, built in 1720 to unite the various existing factions. Adjacent to the temple, the Puri Mayura Royal Garden once served as a court of justice and meeting hall for local nobles. Built on rocky outcrops, the temple on Mount Pengsong is guarded by a tribe of monkeys, while high on a cliff, Pura Batu Bolong is the place to watch the sun setting across the Lombok Strait. South of Cakranegara, Sukarare is a village of weavers producing *songket* cloths from handlooms using skills that have been passed down for many generations. Traditional Sasak villages dot the southern part of Lombok. Set in an arid savannah-like landscape, the villages of Sengkol, Pujut and Rambitan take us back to centuries gone by. 11 kilometers east of Mataram, Taman Narmada has a large pool which represents Mount Rinjani's crater lake, the Segara Anakan. Built in the 18th century by a Balinese King, the pool's waters are



*"A Sasak village"*

*"The Segara Anakan Crater Lake of Mount Rinjani"*



*"A reminder of Hindu influence Ramada Temple in East Nusa Tenggara"*

said to endow pilgrims with eternal youth. Lombok's Kuta Beach is one of the island's virgin beaches. For 5 km along the Indian Ocean, an unbroken stretch of clean white sand and sparkling water are perfect for bathing and swimming. To the west are surfers and windsurfers beaches. Kuta Beach is also the location for the annual *Nyale Ceremony* of the local Sasak people.

Sumbawa Island is divided into three administrative districts that correspond to the island's former sultanates : Sumbawa Besar, Dompu and Bima. Bima is said to have been the seat of the ancient Bima Kingdom. In Sumbawa Besar, the Sultan's former residence is made entirely of wood and raised on stilts, and worth a visit. Out of town, at Batu Tering, late neolithic culture which once thrived here has left massive raised sarcophagi that are believed to be royal tombs aged about 2000 years.

Already in contact with the world in the days of the spice trade, Flores of today is a melange of various outside influences, particularly by the Portuguese. In Labuhanbajo, beautiful harbors are filled with native catamarans. Religious rituals are still carried out in the highland area of Ruteng. Considered to be the island's main attraction is the multicolored volcanic lakes of Mount Kelimutu. At 1.640 meters the lakes' colors are constantly changing, from blue, turquoise, green, burgundy to black. Fishing is still

a way of life in Halmahera on Lembata Island. Using traditional tools, such as small rowboats and hand-thrown harpoons, fishermen sail out to hunt these huge marine mammals.

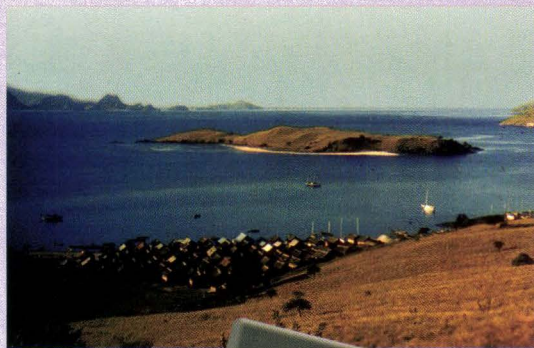
In the past, Sumba is wellknown as an important source of sandalwood, slaves and horses, and skilled horsemen. Today, apart from megalithic tombs in Waikabubak, tribal war-games and the beautiful hand-woven *ikat* cloth, the region's unique rituals are the main pull.

A region rich in culture, beautiful scenery and amazing wildlife, Timor is the province's main island as its capital, Kupang is located here. The only sandalwood oil factory is located in this town. 45 km from Kupang in the town of Camplong, a thousand year old custom still lives on as people gather together during market days, bathing, doing laundry and socializing in a natural pool.





"The Komodo giant lizard"



"A view off Komodo Island"

## Leisure Activities

### Shopping

The West and East Nusa Tenggara regions are famed for exquisite hand-woven cloths. Lombok's *songket* is brightly patterned and a visit to Flores won't be complete without taking home exquisite yellow on black embroidered *sarungs*. Eastern Sumbawa is famous for its weaving of fine *ikat* cloth and striped and checked *sarungs*. In Dompu district get rich brocades made with glittering silver threads running through the fabric.

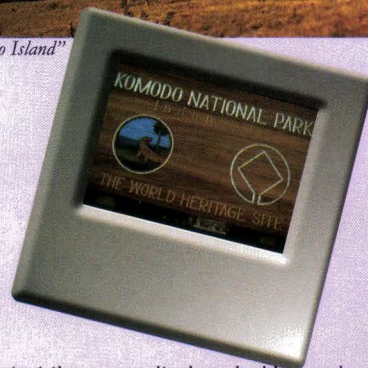
### Festivals & Events

Each year on the 19th day of the tenth month of the Sasak lunar calendar, the Nyale fish come to the sea's surface and Lombok's Kuta Beach becomes the site of great festivities of the *Nyale Ceremony*. In Larantuka, Flores, its predominantly Catholic population holds an Easter Procession, a tradition that is heavily influenced by the Europeans who once occupied the region during the days of Spice Trade. At Anakalang, an important mass marriage the *Purtung Takadonga Ratu* is held every two years on a date determined by the lunar cycle.

From July till October many traditional ceremonies are held by the people of Sumba, all paying homage to the spirits, including the building of traditional '*adat*' houses and burial ceremonies. The latter is a major celebration requiring the sacrifice of hundreds of pigs, water buffaloes, horses and dogs. Other ceremonies are the *Pajura* or traditional boxing, festivals for the Lunar New Year in October and November, ritual dances and horse races. The annual *Pasola* event is an awesome occasion where hundred of horsemen do a mock battle using blunt spears. The main activities start several days after the full moon and coincide with the yearly appearance of strange multi-hued seaworms on the shores.

### Adventure

Nusa Tenggara's unspoilt beauty is still found in most of the islands, whether on land or under the sea. For the more adventurous, climbing Mount Rinjani (3.800 m) is the ultimate Lombok experience, especially after spending some time soaking in the tranquility of the Segaranakan crater lake and valley



situated almost at the summit. Lombok's marine attraction is undoubtedly the three offshore island of Gili Meno, Gili Trawangan and Gili Air. Palm-fringed, white sandy beaches spread towards crystal clean waters that teem with tropical reef fishes, turtles and even sharks. Senggigi Beach is one of the most scenic with coral gardens growing just offshore. Good accommodations are available.

In Sape, Sumbawa, step back in time in the secluded palm-fringed, white beaches and pristine waters. While in Moyo Island, skin-diving and game hunting (permit required) are the main attractions. Wild oxen, deer, wild boars and a wide variety of bird species are found on the island's reserve. Sape is a convenient point of departure for trips to the Komodo Island. If vigorous activity is what you have in mind, hike to the crater of Mount Tambora, site of the great volcanic explosion of 1815 that had affected world climate. 12,000 people perished from falling debris, hot gases and lava streams while 44,000 more died of hunger in the aftermath of the explosion. At 2.830 m, the caldera provides a stunning view of the island, the sea and Lombok in the distance. Beautiful white beaches are found at Talolai and Hangawera, north of Bima, and Lunyuk on the south coast of Sumbawa. Hu'u and Wane Beach have big, long waves perfect for surfing. Lovely scenery of white sand, mountains and forests is an added bonus. Semau Island in Timor offers exceptional snorkelling in crystal-clear waters and spectacular sunsets.

With an average 200 ft and an outstanding display of marine habitat, Flores is a haven for divers, snorkelers, photographers and marine biologists. With up to 40 m visibility, the coral reefs of Flores Sea are among the best in the world and beautifully preserved.

The Komodo Marine National Park in West Flores is still an untouched natural wonder. Although the island has been set aside from human habitation, the only inhabitants can be found living in small villages along the shores. Yet, its most famous inhabitant are the Komodo dragons (*varanus komodensis*), giant lizards that are preserved in the Komodo National Park. Reaching up to 3 meters in length and weighing 150 kg, these descendents of dinosaurs lay up to 30 eggs at a time. In the island's surrounding waters, beautifully intact reefs are abundant with coral and fish species, turtles and marine mammals. Generally calm, the seas may have the occasional strong up and down drifts due to a complex currents pattern. Given its location, the waters surrounding Komodo Island range from the warm Pacific Ocean in the north to the cooler, invertebrate-rich waters of the Indian Ocean in the south, creating an ideal environment for a rich

marine life. In addition to remarkable beaches, the Alor Archipelago's main attraction lies in Selat Pantar, a strait which has 24 good spots for diving. The Alor Sea Park is even considered one of the top five in the world.

The place for game fishing, Sumba's most popular catch is billfish and September is the month to go and catch them.

*"The arid landscape and crystal-clear waters of Komodo Island"*





## Maluku, The Fabbed Spice Islands

For centuries, the legendary isles of spices of Ambon and its surrounding islands were the world's only sources of nutmeg, mace and cloves. The region was constantly fought over by the Spanish, Dutch and Portuguese. Today, forts scattered around the islands stand as reminders of the nations' rivalry over the islands' control.

### Attractions

In provincial capital of Ambon, a visit to the Siwalima Museum provides an insight to Maluku's history and culture, and ethnographic treasures are displayed at Karang Panjang. In the outskirts of the city, ancient megaliths are found at Soya Atas. At Waai, 31 km northeast of Ambon, huge eels and carp inhabit a sacred pool of crystal clear waters and can be summoned by the shrine priest. Meet the Naulu people with their familiar red headbands who live in the Central Maluku district and are still faithful to ancient traditions. Initiation rituals and the *Cakalele* War Dance are some of the unique rituals still observed.

For the Ambonese, Seram, the largest and least known island is where mystics and magic still thrive. Tales of men who can fly, change shape and kill from a distance are still heard.

Ruins of forts from the time of the spice trade dot the many islands of Maluku, from tiny Ternate and Tidore in the north to the Banda mini-archipelago, such as Fort Duurstede on Saparua, Fort Belgica and Fort Nassau in Banda Neira, Concordia and Hollandia on Lontar Island and Fort Revingil on Ai Island. The Rumah Budaya Museum in Banda Neira holds many historical artefacts and a church has stone-slab graves inscribed with names of Dutch colonialists. In the village of Sanglia Dol, a wide megalithic stairway leads to a ceremonial ground where a huge stone boat with a carved prow is located. The boat is believed to be the sacred vessel in which the ancestors reached the islands.

On Halmahera Island, Danau Laguna is home to the sacred crocodiles. Seeing one leads to a lifetime of luck. In the north, the island of Morotai was the



*"Seram Island, an undisturbed paradise of virgin forests and pristine beaches"*



*"Brilliant tropical fish and amazing coral formations"*

site of a major battle between the allied forces and the Japanese during WWI. About 5 kilometers out of town is the 1,715 m volcano and a giant clove tree said to be more than 350 years old. Just offshore, sunk Japanese WWI ships protrude above the water surface.

Morotai Island is the site of WW II battles. It served as an airbase for the Allies then for the Japanese. Wrecks of aircrafts and rusting guns still litter the island.

## *Leisure Activities*

### **Shopping**

Along Jalan Patty near Ambon's Gotong Royong Market, look for framed montages of mother-of-pearls, *ikat* cloth from Taimbar and miniature ships made out of wire and cloves.

### **Festivals & Events**

August is the time to catch the last part of the Darwin - Ambon yacht race.

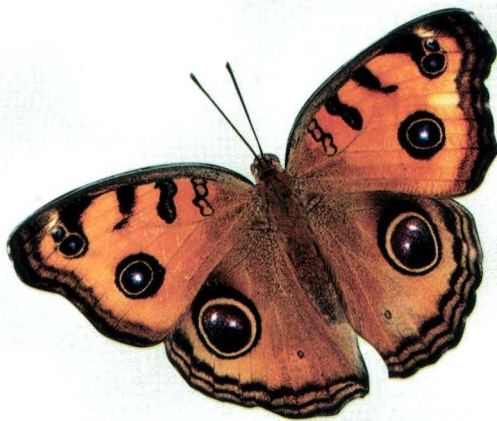
### **Adventure**

The flora and fauna of Maluku are of the Asian and Australian species as the region is situated on the Wallace transition zone. Indigenous marsupials include squirrel-like flying opossum, furry cuscus and the wallaby. A haven for ornithologists, Maluku has over 300 species of bird life, including 40 different kinds of Birds of Paradise, dozens of parrot species, and crimson lorries.

The Aru Archipelago which consists of some 25 islands, mangrove swamp and low-lying palm forests are the home of unusual butterflies and flocks of

birds of paradise. On one of Banda's many islands, rare species of beautiful tropical orchids are found and preserved. Across Banda Neira, the island's capital, is the volcanic Gunung Api. A hike to the summit is rewarded with a spectacular view of the surrounding deep blue seas. A frozen lava stream from the volcano's last eruption in the 1980 can still be seen flowing towards the sea. Guides and an early start is recommended.

Warm water, good visibility and strong currents that create exciting drift dives beckon diving freaks to discover an untouched world under the sea. In the small archipelago in the Banda Sea, the deep seas teem with coral and marine life and idyllic surroundings are also perfect for water sports such as seasonal fishing and windsurfing. Around Ambon alone 780 species of fish has been identified. For the best diving and snorkelling sites explore Pombo Island which is accessible by boat from Tulehu or Honimua and the waters around Nusa Laut and Saparua. Tobelo in Halmahera is a perfect spot for snorkeling and picnics while Bobale Island's waters may yield the occasional mother-of-pearls to determined scuba divers. It also has a well-kept Japanese bunker.





## *Wild and Wonderful Papua*

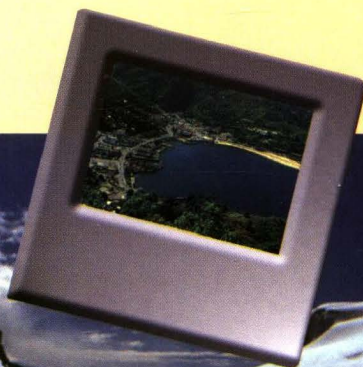
West Papua or formerly Irian Jaya is the western half of the island of New Guinea, the second largest island in the world. Mountain ranges that crisscross the island create a rugged landscape of deep valleys and snow covered peaks, isolating numerous tribes from process of outside influences.

### *Attractions*

Jayapura, the capital's province has many interesting places to see. In Engros Village in Yotefa Bay, see houses built on stilts. The Museum Loka Budaya at the Cendrawasih University is worth a visit for its collection of artifacts from around Irian Jaya and crocodile farms. A boat trip on Lake Sentani includes a must see on Apayo Island where local craftsmen produce bark cloth paintings and carvings in the traditional Sentani style characterized by stylized geckos and snakes painted in natural colored pigments. East of Sentani, in the village of Waena, the Museum Negeri displays Asmat *bisj* poles and decorated skulls, fine Baliem axe heads and interesting items such as mammoth sharks' teeth.

The wildly mysterious Baliem Grand Valley is the home of the Dani, Lani and Yali tribes. In Wamena, the only urban center in the area, the daily market which begins at dawn offers an array of interesting produce and handicrafts, such as bows and arrows, penis sheaths (still worn by the tribes), stone axes and cowrie shells. In a Dani Village nearest to Wamena, one can see the mummy of Akima, the smoke dried remains of a powerful war chief. To the south of Wamena is the land of the Lani and Yali who have only been exposed to the outside world just a generation ago. The swampy, south coast is the Asmat region, with the town of Agats as the center. Skilled fishermen and carvers, the Asmat wood carvings are sought after collectors' items. The *Sago Grub Feast* is an annual event that is open to visitors. But one of the still least known tribes is the Korowai of the jungle. Building their houses high on trees has earned them the name 'tree people'.

*"Jayawijaya, the only snow-capped peak on the Equator"*





*"A silhouette of tribesmen in a warboat set against the setting sun"*

## *Leisure Activities*

### **Shopping**

For woodcarvings and rock paintings, stop by at the Doyo Lama Village. The Sentani area is famous for bark canvas painting and sculpture.

### **Festivals & Events**

In the lowland region, the *Sago Grub Feast* is an important and impressive event which brings together different clans. After months of preparations, hundreds of sago grubs are harvested and clans attend dances and feasts that last through the night.

### **Adventure**

The mist shrouded valleys and mountains of West Papua are trekkers' paradise but most are still largely unexplored. Traversing dense tropical forests and keeping to steep mountain trails, meet the indigenous people of Papua in villages that few have ever been. The highest peak of Jayawijaya mountain range is 5500 meters high. It is a favorite among local and foreign mountaineers as the reward

is setting foot on the one and only snow-capped peak on the equator.

Irian diving is an exotic experience that offers a rich variety of dives, a multitude of fish and marine species and amazing scenery both above and under water. Get up close to WWI fighter ships and planes in their watery graves in the shallow waters of Cendrawasih Bay and in the islands off New Guinea's western tip. In Sorong, the Wai Island Base Camp is a breathtaking tropical paradise with lush green trees lining the finest white sand and a crystal clear turquoise lagoon. Surrounding the island are reefs that hold a myriad of colorful marine life, big and small, from sharks, rays, whales, dolphins, turtles and giant clams to schools of snapper, parrot fish, surgeon fish, the list goes on. But the jewel of Irian diving has got to be the Raja Ampat Diving Sites. Take your pick of a variety of diving sites; shallow bays, lagoon channels bordered by rainforest, rock islands and offshore reefs that contain the richest species of marine animals and corals in the world.



*"Dani tribesmen in the Baliem Valley"*



## *The Gem of the Equator*

Indonesia is the world's largest archipelago, consisting of more than 17,000 islands. Spread across 5,120 km of ocean and positioned between Asia and Australia, this country is as wide as the European continent. Four-fifths of the area is sea, with the major islands of Sumatra, Java, Kalimantan, Sulawesi and Papua.

### *Unity in Diversity*

As the world's 14th largest nation, Indonesia's population totals over 200 million, comprising 250-300 ethnic groups that have their own language and dialects but are united with Bahasa Indonesia the national language spoken throughout the archipelago.

The majority of Indonesians are Islam, with Christians, Catholics, Hindus, Buddhists and followers of Confucianism making up the rest. Since 2001 the Chinese culture has experienced a welcomed revival that served to enrich the country's cultural diversity.

### *The Nature*

Indonesia's flora and fauna is diversely rich as its land and people. Asian mammals in the west, Australian marsupial species and birds in the east and the endemic species are in the middle of archipelago. Orangutans, tigers, one-horned rhinos, elephants, dugongs, anoas, komodo dragons are the pride of Indonesia. The seas around the archipelago also hold the country's treasures, a rich

marine environment that holds a myriad of species, from fish, corals and marine mammals. National parks around the archipelago serve to preserve this rich natural heritage.

### *Rules and Regulations*

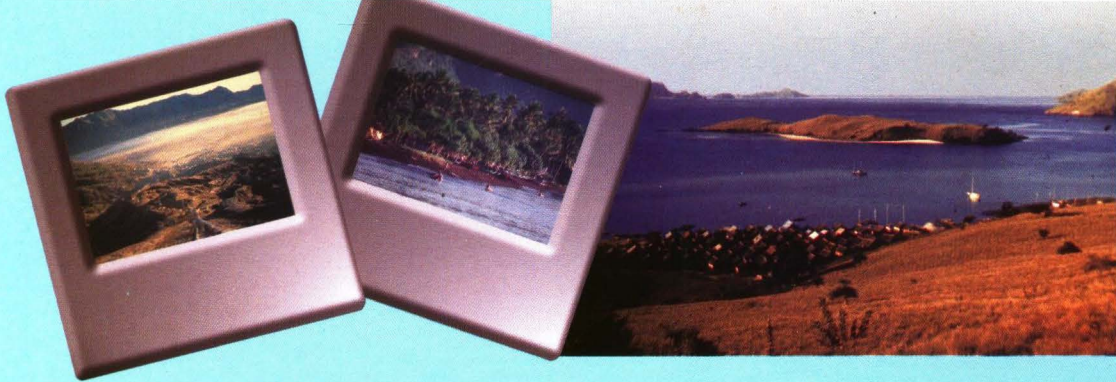
#### **Immigration**

All travelers to Indonesia must be in possession of passport valid for at least six months from date of arrival and have proof (tickets) of onward or return passage.

The Government of Indonesia has issued a new regulation concerning the application of visas for foreign nationals to enter Indonesia. Starting from 1 December 2003, by Presidential Decree No. 18 of 2003, Immigration authorities provide free tourist visas for a period of 30 days to nationals of 11 countries only on the basis of reciprocity. These are Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei Darussalam, the Philippines, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR), Macao SAR, Chili, Morocco, Peru and Vietnam.

For nationals from countries that have until now been provided with visa-free facility, as a result of the unstable world conditions, the Indonesian government has been forced to review its policies on tourist visas. Through Presidential Decision No. 18 of 2003, the granting of Free Tourist Visas for 2 months in Indonesia to 48 nationals, that was formerly issued per Presidential Decision No. 16 of 1983, has been revoked.





In its place, Visa-on-arrival may be extended to nationals from 21 countries and one territory. These are Australia, Argentina, Brazil, Denmark, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Norway, Poland, South Africa, South Korea, Switzerland, New Zealand and Taiwan, the United Arab Emirates and the United States.

Entry ports where visa-on arrival may be issued are the Soekarno-Hatta Airport in Jakarta, Ngurah Rai Airport in Bali, Polonia Airport in Medan, Sultan Syarif Kasim Airport in Pekanbaru, Tabin Airport in Padang, Juanda Airport in Surabaya and the Sam Ratulangi Airport in Manado. While authorized seaports are at Batam, the Sekupang, Batuampar, Nongsa and Marina; Teluk Senimba, Bandar Bintan, Telani Lagoi and Bandar Sri Udana Loban in the Riau Islands, Belawan Port and Sibolga in North Sumatra, Yos Sudarso of Surabaya, Teluk Bayur of Padang, Tanjung Priok in Jakarta, Padang Bai in Bali and the port of Jayapura.

Visas are valid for 30 days and may be extended for another 15 days. Other nationals who wish to visit Indonesia must apply for a visa at Indonesian Embassies or Consulates in their home country.

### **Climate**

Climate-wise, Indonesia is distinctly tropical. The east monsoon from June to September brings dry weather while the west monsoon from December to March is moisture-laden bringing rain. Temperatures range from 21°C (70°F) to 33°C (90°F), except at higher altitudes which are much cooler.

### **Health**

Valid international certificates of small-pox, cholera and yellow vaccinations are required only from travellers coming from infected areas.

### **Customs**

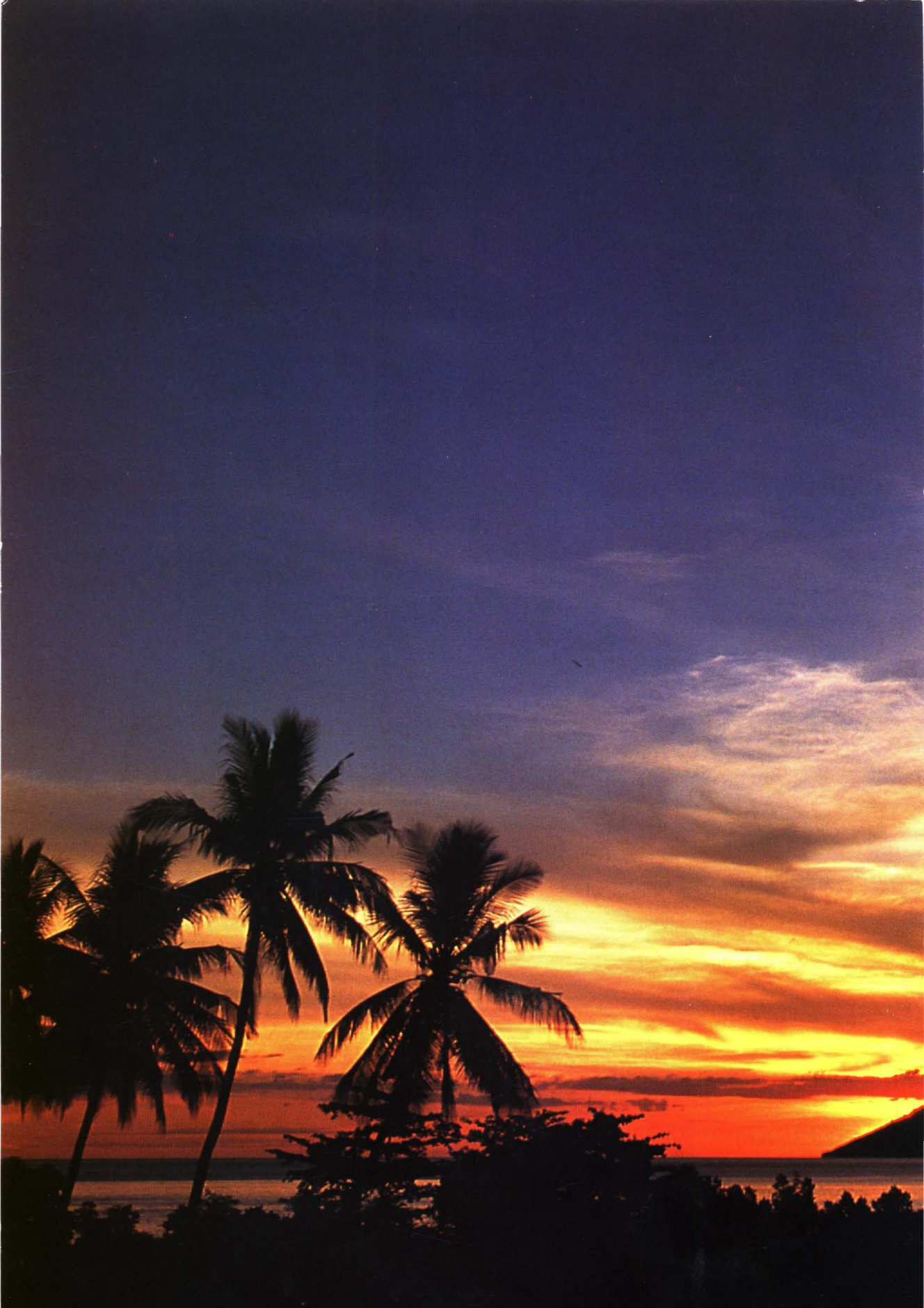
Customs allow on entry a maximum of one litre of alcoholic beverages, 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars or 100 grams of tobacco and a reasonable amount of perfume per adult. Cameras, video cameras, portable radios, cassette recorders, binoculars and sport equipment are admitted provided they are taken out on departure. They must be declared to Customs. Prohibited are firearms, narcotics drugs, pornography, tranceivers and cordless telephones. For the Chinese traditional medicines must be registered by Depkes RI, Films, pre-recorded video tapes and laser disks must be screened by the Censor Board. There is no restriction on import or export of foreign currencies and travellers cheques. However, the import and export of Indonesian currency exceeding Rp. 5 million is prohibited.

### **Airport Tax**

An airport tax of Rp. 100.000,- is levied by the airport authority for travelers on international routes and Rp. 20.000,- for those on domestic routes.







*North Sulawesi's Manado Tua Island (part of the Bunaken Marine National Park)  
seen against a multi-hued sunset sky*



**THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND TOURISM**

Jl. Medan Merdeka Barat No. 17, Jakarta 10110

Phone (62-21) 3838436, 3838352

Fax. (62-21) 3854558, 3867589

Website : [www.indonesiatourism.go.id](http://www.indonesiatourism.go.id),

[www.budpar.go.id](http://www.budpar.go.id)



ASEAN

ASIA'S PERFECT 10 PARADISE

2004

