

Indonesia Travel Advisory

Prepared by: Indeed Travels

Overview

Indonesia is a stunning archipelago of over 17,000 islands, offering a diverse mix of cultures, natural wonders, and rich history. Famous for its tropical beaches, vibrant coral reefs, volcanic landscapes, and iconic cultural sites like Borobudur and Bali's temples, Indonesia is a popular destination for nature lovers, adventure seekers, and cultural enthusiasts. However, visitors should be mindful of the country's regional differences and prepare accordingly for a safe and enjoyable journey.

Entry Requirements

1. Visa and Passport

- **Visa-Free Entry:** Indonesia offers visa-free entry for short stays (up to 30 days) to citizens of 160+ countries for tourism purposes. Ensure your passport is valid for at least six months from your arrival date.
- **Visa on Arrival:** For stays longer than 30 days or business purposes, travelers can obtain a Visa on Arrival (VoA) at major entry points, allowing a stay of up to 60 days.
- **Visa Extensions:** You can extend your visa for an additional 30 days by applying at local immigration offices.

2. COVID-19 Restrictions

- Indonesia has relaxed most COVID-19 restrictions, but it is important to stay updated on any vaccination, testing, or quarantine requirements before departure. Health protocols, such as wearing masks in public spaces and temperature checks, may still apply at certain establishments.

3. Customs Regulations

- You are allowed to bring personal items duty-free, along with limited amounts of alcohol (1 liter) and cigarettes (200). It is prohibited to bring firearms, drugs, and pornography into Indonesia.
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Health and Safety

1. Healthcare in Indonesia

- Indonesia has adequate medical facilities in major cities like Jakarta and Bali, but healthcare services may be limited in remote areas. Medical evacuation insurance is recommended for those planning to visit rural or isolated locations.
- **Emergency Number:** Dial **112** for medical emergencies and police services.
- **Health Insurance:** Ensure you have travel insurance covering medical emergencies and evacuation, as healthcare costs for foreigners can be high.

2. Vaccinations and Health Precautions

- Recommended vaccinations for travelers include **Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, Typhoid, and Tetanus**. If you plan to visit rural areas, especially rainforests, consider a vaccination for **Japanese Encephalitis**.
- **Malaria:** Certain regions (e.g., Papua and Kalimantan) are malaria-prone, so travelers should take precautions such as using insect repellent and taking anti-malarial medication if necessary.
- **Dengue Fever:** Dengue is a risk in many areas, including urban centers. Avoid mosquito bites by wearing protective clothing and using repellent.

3. Safety Tips

- Petty crimes like pickpocketing and scams are common in busy tourist areas. Always secure your belongings and be cautious of your surroundings, particularly in crowded markets or public transport.
- When visiting active volcanoes or regions prone to natural disasters (earthquakes, tsunamis), monitor local alerts and follow government-issued evacuation instructions.
- Avoid illegal drugs; Indonesia has strict penalties for drug possession and trafficking, including the death penalty.

Local Laws and Etiquette

1. Cultural Sensitivity

- Indonesia is predominantly Muslim, and modest attire is appreciated, particularly outside tourist hotspots. In Bali, Hindu culture is dominant,

and wearing temple sashes and respectful clothing is required at religious sites.

- **Greetings:** A polite greeting is the norm. Use your right hand for handshakes, eating, and giving or receiving items, as the left hand is considered impolite.

2. Public Behavior

- Smoking is banned in many public places, including hotels, restaurants, and tourist sites. Always check for designated smoking areas.
- Public displays of affection, particularly in conservative areas, should be kept to a minimum.
- Littering and damaging the environment are strictly prohibited. Be mindful of keeping beaches and tourist spots clean.

3. Alcohol and Drugs

- Alcohol is available in tourist areas but is prohibited in some regions (e.g., Aceh province) due to strict Islamic law. Public intoxication is frowned upon, and drinking in public places should be avoided.
 - Drug offenses are severely punished, and travelers should avoid any involvement with illegal substances.
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Getting Around

1. Public Transportation

- **Taxis:** Blue Bird Taxis are considered safe and reliable. Always use metered taxis or rideshare apps (like Grab or Gojek) to avoid overcharging.
- **Buses:** Public buses are available in major cities, but they may be overcrowded. The TransJakarta bus system offers a more organized way of navigating Jakarta.
- **Trains:** The train system in Java is extensive and offers a comfortable way to travel between cities like Jakarta, Yogyakarta, and Surabaya. High-speed trains are under development in some regions.
- **Ferries:** For travel between islands, ferries are widely available but can be overcrowded during peak seasons.

2. Driving in Indonesia

- **International Driving Permit (IDP):** Foreign travelers planning to rent a car or motorbike must have an IDP.

- Traffic in Indonesia, especially in urban areas, can be chaotic, with motorbikes weaving between cars. Be cautious, and note that road conditions may vary widely, especially outside the main cities.
 - **Traffic Rules:** Indonesians drive on the left side of the road, and traffic can be dense. Be prepared for delays, particularly in Jakarta.
3. **Biking and Walking**
- Many cities, including Bali and Yogyakarta, are pedestrian-friendly, with bike rentals available. However, the traffic in cities like Jakarta may make walking or biking challenging.
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Regions to Explore

1. **Bali** – The Island of the Gods
Bali is Indonesia's most famous island destination, known for its stunning beaches, iconic temples like Uluwatu and Tanah Lot, and rich cultural heritage. The island offers a mix of luxury resorts, surf spots, yoga retreats, and vibrant nightlife in areas like Seminyak and Kuta.
2. **Jakarta** – The Bustling Capital
Jakarta is a bustling metropolis with a mix of modern skyscrapers, colonial-era landmarks, and diverse cultural experiences. Key sites include the National Monument (Monas), Istiqlal Mosque, and the vibrant markets in Glodok (Jakarta's Chinatown).
3. **Yogyakarta** – Cultural Hub
A must-visit for cultural and history lovers, Yogyakarta is the gateway to the famous Borobudur and Prambanan temples, two of Indonesia's most important cultural landmarks. The city is also known for its traditional batik workshops and royal palaces.
4. **Komodo National Park** – Home of the Dragons
Famous for the Komodo dragons, the world's largest lizards, Komodo National Park also offers excellent diving and snorkeling opportunities, pristine beaches, and dramatic landscapes. The park is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
5. **Sumatra** – Jungle Adventures
Sumatra is known for its rugged landscapes, including volcanoes, dense jungles, and wildlife like orangutans and elephants. The island is perfect for trekking and eco-tourism experiences, especially in Bukit Lawang and Lake Toba.

Money and Currency

1. Currency

- Indonesia's currency is the Indonesian Rupiah (IDR). ATMs are widely available in major cities and tourist areas. Always carry some cash for smaller establishments or rural areas where credit cards are not accepted.

2. Tipping

- Tipping is not expected but appreciated in Indonesia. It is customary to leave a small tip (5-10%) in restaurants or round up taxi fares.

3. Credit Cards and ATMs

- Credit cards are widely accepted in hotels, restaurants, and shopping centers in urban areas. However, smaller establishments, particularly in rural areas, may prefer cash payments.
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Emergency Contacts

- **Emergency Number: 112** (General Emergency, Medical, Police)
 - **Tourist Police (Bali):** +62 361 754 599
 - **Embassies:** Make sure to have contact details of your country's embassy in Indonesia for assistance.
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Weather and Best Time to Visit

1. Dry Season (May to October)

- The best time to visit Indonesia is during the dry season, which offers sunny days, lower humidity, and the ideal climate for beach and outdoor activities.

2. Wet Season (November to April)

- The wet season brings heavy rainfall, particularly in Sumatra, Java, and Bali. While travel is still possible, be prepared for sudden downpours and muddy conditions.

3. Climate

- Indonesia has a tropical climate, with consistently warm temperatures throughout the year (ranging from 25°C to 31°C). The mountainous regions are cooler, while the coastal areas are humid.
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Final Tips

- **Language:** The official language is **Bahasa Indonesia**, but English is widely spoken in tourist areas. Learning a few basic Indonesian phrases will be appreciated by locals.
- **Power Adapters:** Indonesia uses **Type C and F** plugs with 220V power. Bring a universal adapter for your electronics.
- **Safety:** Always travel with a copy of your passport and other important documents in case of loss or theft.

For more assistance or to plan your trip, contact Indeed Travels today!