Welcome to Jakarta

JAKARTA, capital of the Republic of Indonesia, is the seat of the National Government and Parliament as well as the seat of Jakarta’s Provincial Government. Jakarta is the heart of Finance and Trade, and the hub of Air and Telecommunications of Indonesia: this fascinating, culturally diverse nation of over 200 million people, living on more than 17,000 islands.

As such, Jakarta attracts millions of visitors yearly who come to the city not only for official meetings and business, but more and more tourists find a large variety of attractions in this sprawling metropolitan city that counts more than 9 million inhabitants. Jakarta has not only luxurious hotels, spacious conventions and exhibition facilities, but this city also has a wide range of shopping malls that offer top international brands to very attractive Midnight Sales presenting goods at wholesale prices. Smaller hotels and youth hostels are also available for budget travellers.

Spectacular events and concerts like the annual Java Jazz, participated by world music stars, or the Professional Golf Championships held here, unfailingly attract huge domestic and international crowds.

Jakarta also has ample recreation facilities for the entire family: from thrilling theme parks, a comprehensive Zoo, Heritage Sites, to diving and fishing opportunities in the open seas around the Thousand Islands, the choice is endless. And in the evenings, a variety of entertainment spots beckon visitors to unwind from a hectic but most successful day.

Welcome to Jakarta. Whether you are here for business or for pleasure, come and experience Indonesia’s legendary hospitality and be sure to Enjoy Jakarta.
Jakarta, capital of the Republic of Indonesia is a sprawling, busy metropolitan city that is the epitome of this archipelagic nation that is deeply rooted in multi-cultural traditions, today stretching out to be a globally recognized player in world politics and the economy in this 21st century.

For centuries since its establishment in 1527 when it was known as Sunda Kelapa, Jakarta has been a busy port where merchants from China, India, Arabia and later Portugal, Spain, England and Holland came to exchange silks, porcelain, and exotic goods for spices, tea, coffee, camphor, sandalwood, and other precious produce from all over the Indonesian islands.

Today, as the seat of Indonesia’s national government, the country’s financial, trading and business center and the heart of the country’s burgeoning young middle class, Jakarta attracts investors and business people from around the world to this expanding city. And so, next to Dutch heritage buildings found in Old Batavia, colonial mansions in Central Jakarta or cramped settlements around, Jakarta boasts modern high rise buildings, luxurious top of the line hotels, a plethora of modern air-conditioned malls housing the world’s top high class brands, wide toll roads and flyovers, as well as the bane of modern cities: traffic jams.

Jakarta is also the nation’s airline hub. International airlines make Jakarta one of their main airports to call, while the ultra-busy Soekarno-Hatta airport is also the hub for almost all domestic air carriers.

Jakarta, is where it all happens. During Dutch colonial days from the 17th century on, the city- then called Batavia – was for three hundred years the seat of hegemony of the Dutch Government over the then Netherlands East Indies. After World War II, it was also Jakarta where, on 17th August 1945 Indonesia proclaimed her hard-fought Independence from the yoke of colonialization. Towards the end of the 20th century, it was again Jakarta that saw the fight of the people for Reform and Democratization of the country’s institutions.
This harbour town was first known as Sunda Kelapa. But on 22 June 1527 Prince Fatahillah razed Sunda Kelapa and founded the town of Jayakarta on the same site. This is the date that Jakarta takes as the establishment of the city. Jayakarta was a thriving port where traders from China, India, Arabia and later the Europeans, as well as those from all over the archipelago exchanged their wares.

In 1619, the Dutch VOC under Jan Pieterszoon Coen destroyed Jayakarta and built a new town on the west bank of the Ciliwung river, which he named Batavia, after the Batavieren, the Dutch tribal ancestors. Batavia was planned similar to Dutch towns, in a series of blocks cut by canals and defended by a fortified wall and a moat. This part of Batavia was completed in 1650. Old Batavia was where the Europeans lived, while the Chinese, Javanese and other indigenous groups were relegated outside the city entrenchment.

In its heydays, Batavia became known as the Jewel of the East, the seat of the VOC and later it became the seat of the Dutch Government over the sprawling East Indies archipelago.

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Kota Tua: 
the Old Batavia

Center of Old Batavia was the Municipal Hall, known as Stadhuis, fronted by a large plaza, known as Stadhuisplein, that has a fountain in its center that supplied water to the surrounding buildings. Today the plaza is called the Fatahillah Square and the Stadhuis has become the Fatahillah Museum which houses the complete history of the growth of the city of Jakarta.

To the west you can find the Wayang Museum that was once owned by the large Dutch company Geo Wehry.

Nearby is the Kota Railway Station, also known as the Beos Station. This is an art deco building, which continues to be in use and still retains its original architecture. While to the north are a number of commercial buildings which now house the Museum Mandiri and the Bank Indonesia Museum.

The Jakarta History Museum
Also known as the Fatahillah Museum in the Old Batavia district, the Museum follows the history of Jakarta.

Originally built in 1707 as the Stadhuis, or the Municipal Hall of Batavia, the building now houses the history of the city of Jakarta from prehistoric times until today, in metals, textiles, stones, crystal, ceramics, paper and bone. Here is the “Jagur” cannon, believed to enhance fertility, the axe used for beheading of criminals, paintings of consecutive Dutch Governor Generals from 1602 – 1942.

Here are also original antique colonial furniture once used by the colonial powers. The Museum has a dark and scary dungeon that was once a prison, where at one time Indonesia’s National Hero, Diponegoro, was imprisoned and chained.

Jl. Taman Fatahillah 1
West Jakarta | T (62-21) 6929101

The Wayang Museum

The Wayang Museum is also located at the Fatahillah Square. “Wayang” are the typical stylized Indonesian puppets that draw their tales from the Hindu epic poems the Mahabharata and the Ramayana as well as relate the feats of ancient Javanese kings in destroying their opponents.

While “wayang” is a way of popular storytelling yet it is a sophisticated art form that conveys deep philosophical thoughts and learnings. For this reason Wayang has also been designated a UNESCO World Heritage.

Most well known are the finely crafted leather puppets that are used for shadow puppet performances, but in this Museum you will find all kinds of puppets from different parts of Java. There are the wayang golek puppets from West Java, These are wooden puppets played by the “dalang” or the story teller, who changes his voice and intonations following the character in action, whether male or female, king or commoner.

Wayang can also be performed by human actors, in which case it is called “Wayang Wong”. Here are also masks, wayang beber, Wayang Revolusi, Wayang Suket and more, totalling some 5,500 items.

The Museum also has a collection of puppets from different countries, from China, India, Thailand, Cambodia to France and Suriname. The oldest in the collection is the Wayang Kyai Intan created in 1870.

Jl. Pintu Besar Utara No. 27
West Jakarta | T (62-21) 6929560

Pos Indonesia

Lions and Snake, painting by Raden Saleh at the Museum of Fine Arts and Ceramics

Indonesia’s National Hero, Diponegoro, was imprisoned and chained.
Historic Jakarta

The Fine Arts and Ceramics Museum
Still at the Fatahillah Square is the Fine Arts and Ceramics Museum. Here are displayed a collection of rare paintings by Indonesia’s maestros like Raden Saleh, Affandi, Basoeki Abdullah, S. Sudjojono, to contemporary Dede Ero Supria and more. There is also a collection of ceramics and sculptures by G. Sidharta.

Jl. Pos Kota No. 2
West Jakarta
T (62-21) 6926090

Bank Indonesia Museum and Bank Mandiri Museum
If you are interested in Banking, then visit the Bank Indonesia Museum and the Bank Mandiri Museum also around the Square. In the Bank Indonesia Museum you can follow the history of the archipelago’s Banking system from Dutch colonial times to today.

While the Bank Mandiri Museum shows how a private bank was run in the old colonial days. A mural shows the four seasons in Europe and a Dutch Captain, named Cornelis Houtman. The building itself has still retained the aura of the good old days, where ceramic mosaic floors are still in place in the lobby, the meeting room and offices of the bank directors.

Bank Indonesia Museum
Jl. Pintu Besar Utara No. 3
West Jakarta
T (62-21) 2600158

Bank Mandiri Museum
Jl. Lapangan Stasiun 1
West Jakarta
T (62-21) 6902000

Kalibesar: the Large Canal

On the west and east banks of the Ciliwung was the commercial area known as Kalibesar, or in Dutch colonial days known as Grootegracht, or the Large Canal. Until today this is still a busy trading district, also known as Jakarta’s Chinatown.

The Red Shop or Toko Merah from the 18th century used to be the Standard Chartered Bank.

Close by stands a typical Dutch drawbridge, the only one left in Jakarta, that was once called the Engelse Brug or the English Bridge, connecting the Dutch fort with the British Fort.

Nearby is the Maritime Museum that was once large warehouses where lucrative spices were stored to be further shipped and sold in far away Europe.

In the neighbourhood is the Fish market, known as Pasar Ikan, and at the mouth of the Ciliwung river is the Sunda Kelapa Harbour, which until today still serves as Jakarta’s traditional inter-island shipping. The Sunda Kelapa harbour is a favourite haunt for tourists to take photographs of the many traditional phinisi schooners tied along the pier.
In the center of the Merdeka Square now stands the National Monument, an obelisk-shaped needle on a large platform, dedicated to the historic Struggle for Independence of the Indonesian people. Below is the museum of the History of Indonesia’s Independence.

With the growth of the city, the Dutch expanded Batavia further south to present-day Merdeka Square – then called Koningsplein around which today stand the Merdeka Palace, the Supreme Court of Justice, the National Museum and many important government offices including the office of the Governor of Jakarta as well as the American Embassy.

The actual site where the historic Proclamation of Independence took place on the 17th August 1945 is on Jalan Proklamasi in the Menteng area. Here stands a statue of the Declarators of Independence, Soekarno and Hatta. On this site once stood the residence of Soekarno, Indonesia’s first President, but which has been razed and now stands a five storeyed building once dedicated to the Grand Development Design of the Republic of Indonesia.
The National Monument

The National Monument stands proudly in the center of the 1 square kilometer Merdeka Square, symbolizing the hard-fought struggle of the Indonesian people to gain their Independence.

Obelisk-shaped and covered in white Italian marble with a golden fire on the top, the Monument is 132 meters tall and stands on a platform which houses a museum and diorama encapsulating the history of the Republic of Indonesia.

The golden flame is 14 meters high with a 6 meter diameter. Made of bronze weighing 14.5 tons, it is covered with 50 kg of pure gold leaf. Its base is a platform at a height of 115 meters, which can be reached by elevator and is a perfect look-out place to see the Jakarta skyline.

The Monument is surrounded by a green park where spotted deer can be seen grazing. There is also a musical fountain that plays each Sunday night.

On Sundays, the area becomes an open park where Jakarta’s inhabitants are free to bike, jog and play games.

The Monument is often used for Festivals including New Year’s Eve celebrations.

The National Monument was designed and built in 1961 by Indonesian architects and engineers Soedarsono, Silaban and Roosseno.

Jl. Medan Merdeka Utara
Central Jakarta

The Merdeka Palace

On the North side facing the Merdeka or Freedom Square stands the Merdeka Palace with adjoining Presidential Offices and State Secretariat buildings. Behind the Merdeka Palace but still within one complex is the Negara Palace (State Palace) which faces the other side towards the Ciliwung river along Jalan Juanda. In addition to a building for special guests, and a mosque the entire area forms the Merdeka Palace Complex.

Originally built in the 18th century, this neo-classic building with Doric columns was designed by Drossares. The Palace was the residence of the Dutch colonial governor generals. Since Indonesia’s Independence it became the official residence of the President of Indonesia.

Every Independence Day on 17th August, the official State Independence Day Ceremony takes place in front of the palace, officiated by the President and attended by the entire Cabinet and the Diplomatic Corps. With pomp and ceremony the national red-and-white flag is then raised and flown over the 17 meters high flagpole in front of the palace.

Official welcoming ceremonies for foreign heads of state as well as state banquets are also regularly held here in the Merdeka Palace.

Jl. Medan Merdeka Utara
Central Jakarta

The National Museum

Located on Jalan Merdeka Barat, the National Museum is the first and largest in South East Asia. The Museum houses a collection of over 140,000 items of artefacts, from prehistoric Indonesia through the large influential kingdoms of Crevijaya on Sumatra and Majapahit on Java, to the once powerful kingdoms in East Indonesia.

The Museum then traces the spread of Islam in the Archipelago and the arrival of the Europeans in search of the Spice Islands to the colonization of the Indonesian islands into the then Dutch East Indies.

Visitors are first welcomed by huge statues and stone inscriptions unearthed in the various archaeological sites.

Highlight of a visit to the Museum is the Gold and Jewelry room where are found precious crowns, ornaments, keris and jewelry once worn by royalty and the aristocracies around the archipelago. The National Museum has recently been expanded to make room for better displays.

Jl. Medan Merdeka Barat No.12, Gambir
Central Jakarta | T (62-21) 3868172

Jakarta Governor’s Office

The Office of the Governor of Jakarta is situated on the South side of the Merdeka Square, at Jalan Medan Merdeka Selatan No. 9, adjacent to the Office of the Vice-President and the American Embassy.

In 1905 the Batavia Municipal office was located in the Stadhuis, the present Jakarta Museum at the Fatahillah Square. However, in 1919 the office was moved to the building which has now become the office of the Governor of Jakarta. In 1982 a highrise building was constructed right behind the Governor’s office facing Jalan Kebon Sirih, which houses the Jakarta’s Provincial Parliament. The Jakarta Governor’s office and the Jakarta Provincial Parliament building are therefore adjoining.

Jl. Medan Merdeka Selatan No.8
Central Jakarta

City Hall
Lapangan Banteng

A little way down from the Merdeka Palace lies the Banteng Square, in front of which stands the Ministry of Finance, which was originally built as the Palace for Governor General Daendels. Around the square is the Catholic Church with the century old Sancta Ursula girls school attached. Opposite the Catholic Church is Jakarta’s iconic Istiqlal Mosque.

The Istiqlal Mosque

The grand Istiqlal Mosque of Jakarta, was inspired by Indonesia’s first President, Soekarno, but took 17 years in construction. Finally on 22 February 1978, Indonesia’s second President, Soeharto inaugurated it as the country’s national mosque. The Istiqlal mosque is the largest mosque in South East Asia both in structure and capacity, as it can accommodate congregations of up to 120,000 people.

The Catholic Cathedral and Sancta Ursula Girls School

Standing almost right across the old Catholic Cathedral at the corner of Jalan Lapangan Banteng, the Istiqlal mosque was designed in 1954 by Frederick Silaban, a Christian architect from North Sumatra.

The mosque has a large rectangular prayer hall with a 45 meter diameter dome supported by 12 round columns, and has 4 levels of balconies. Its interior is mostly simple.

In his brief 18 hours visit to Indonesia on 9th and 10th. November 2010, US President Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama made a special visit to the Istiqlal mosque.

Later President Obama praised the Istiqlal Mosque as a symbol of religious tolerance which characterizes Indonesia and Indonesians, inspiring the world.

Jl. Taman Wijaya Kusuma, Central Jakarta
Gedung Kesenian Jakarta was built in 1821 upon the site of a simple theatre that was constructed during the British interregnum under Governor General Sir Stamford Raffles. At first called the Schouwburg, its first performance was Shakespeare’s Othello.

In the following decades the building was used for different purposes. History notes that in 1926 the National Awakening Movement held their first Kongres Pemoeda, or Youth Congress in this building.

In 1987 it was restored and the building returned to its original purpose as a theatre for concerts and performances. It has a capacity for an audience of 475 persons, and a stage measuring 10.7x14x17 meters.

Opposite Gedung Kesenian is a shopping street known as Pasar Baru, that used to be most popular with the rich Dutch colonial elite. The street that has shops on both sides, is now only open for pedestrians. Most popular in Pasar Baru are the Indian Bombay textile shops, that have sold exclusive Indian textiles for decades.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Gedung Pancasila

Today known as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Jalan Pejambon, the building is also known as Gedung Pancasila. This is where on 1 June 1945, a month before Indonesia declared her Independence, Soekarno presented his speech entitled: The Birth of Pancasila.

Pancasila are the Five Pillars of State upon which the Indonesian Constitution rests. These are:

1. Belief in the One True God,
2. A Just and civilized humanity,
3. The unity of Indonesia,
4. Democracy guided by the inner wisdom in the unanimity arising out of deliberations amongst representatives, and
5. Social justice for all the people of Indonesia.

This building was constructed in the 1830’s in the classic empire-doric style. It housed the Volksraad or Raad van Indie, the peoples’ representative institution of the time. Between 1942-1945 it housed the Committee for the Preparation of the National Constitution.

On 18 August 1945, one day after Indonesia declared her Independence, the National Constitution was affirmed here, and Soekarno and Hatta, declarators of Independence, were installed as Indonesia’s first President and Vice President of the Republic.

The Protestant Immanuel Church

The Protestant Immanuel Church facing Jalan Merdeka Timur and Gambir train station, belongs to one of the oldest churches in Jakarta. Built in 1834, it was designed in neo-classical style during the reign of King Willem I of the House of Orange, and was therefore called the Willemskerk. The dome-shaped church contains an old Dutch organ made in 1843. The church is still in use until today.

Jl. Merdeka Timur No. 10
Central Jakarta
T (62-21) 3440747
The Construction of Modern Jakarta

Serious construction of Modern Jakarta was started by Indonesia’s first president, Soekarno, who built the wide avenue connecting the Merdeka Square with the then new residential town of Kebayoran.

This avenue was earmarked exclusively for highrise buildings. And so today, one sees only tall buildings on the Sudirman-Thamrin 6 lanes avenue. President Soekarno, who was a civil engineer by education, also built the National Monument and the Istiqlal Mosque. Indonesia’s first highrise hotel, the Hotel Indonesia – now Hotel Indonesia Kempinski - was also built then, as was the Wisma Nusantara across this iconic Hotel Indonesia round-about fountain, today popular sites for political demonstrations.

Soekarno also built the Bung Karno Sports Center at Senayan, where the entire complex was earlier designed as a huge Olympic-sized village. Today, though, the Senayan area also has five star hotels, the Jakarta Convention Center, shopping malls and Television stations. While the Sports Center is often used for super gigs where international celebrities perform for immense crowds.

Bundaran HI, the Hotel Indonesia Circle

The Hotel Indonesia Circle is today’s heart of the metropolitan city of Jakarta. Consisting of a refreshing fountain and the Welcome to Jakarta Statue, this roundabout connects the 19th century Menteng area with 21st. century Jakarta with its modern skyscrapers, toll roads and wide avenues along Jalan Thamrin-Sudirman.

Around the circle are large hotels, supermalls and banks welcoming visitors in grand style to Indonesia’s capital city.

The original Hotel Indonesia, from which this circle derives its name, has been revamped, extended and raised, and is now the Hotel Indonesia Kempinski with adjoining Grand Indonesia mall and the tall BCA Tower, now one of the tallest buildings in the city.

Opposite is the Grand Hyatt with the equally grand Plaza Indonesia, shopping center for the elite and international visitors. Behind these two buildings is the famous Tanah Abang Textile wholesale area, and the Thamrin City mall.

On the other side is the Wisma Nusantara building, Jakarta’s first highrise building built by the Japanese with war reparation.
Today, Bundaran HI is the center of the city. On Jakarta’s Car free days, the Circle is closed to all vehicles and becomes the favorite spot for community sports, cycling, jogging and family recreation. On Jakarta’s anniversary celebrations Bundaran HI with its Welcome Statue is filled with musical entertainment for all to enjoy.

Senayan and the Semanggi cloverleaf bridge

President Soekarno also built the Bung Karno Sports Center at Senayan, where the entire complex was earlier designed as a huge Olympic-sized village. The Senayan complex houses the large Gelora Bung Karno Stadium and many sports facilities for tennis, archery, golf, swimming and others.

Today, though, the Senayan area also contains the Jakarta Convention Center, five star hotels shopping malls and Television stations. While the Stadium and other Sports facilities are often used for super gigs where international celebrities perform for immense crowds.

The Senayan and the Semanggi Cloverleaf Bridge were built for the 4th Asian Games held in 1962.
GREATER JAKARTA & the Jabodetabek Region

As Jakarta’s population grew by leaps and bounds, new suburbs emerged, absorbing the one-time rural villages or kampungs. The metropolitan capital spread to all directions, first adding the Kebayoran area, then Pondok Indah, in the South, but now growing east, north, further south and west until today, Jakarta has become one almost seamlessly with the adjoining towns of Bogor, Depok, Tangerang, and Bekasi.

Fortunately, town planning has been such that each district is self contained where facilities like hospitals, schools, universities, shopping centers, religious buildings are all available within one neighbourhood.

Yet the main problem remains since the thousands of offices in high rise buildings are still centralized so that millions of commuters who travel at peak hours in the morning and in the evening cause daily traffic snarls that are almost impossible to overcome, even with the construction of wide toll roads, overhead roads and traffic tunnels.

GREATER JAKARTA & the Jabodetabek Region

Jakarta has a number of fine museums operated by the Government as well as privately owned.

The Textile Museum

The Textile Museum is definitely worth a visit. Located at Jalan Aipda K.S. Tubun in West Jakarta, the Museum is housed in an 19th century mansion originally owned by a Frenchman. In 1978 Indonesia’s then First Lady, Ibu Tien Soeharto, inaugurated it as the Textile Museum of Indonesia.

The Museum has a comprehensive and well displayed collection of textiles produced in Indonesia. There are antique and new beautiful Batik pieces from Java, Batak ulos, Minangkabau Songket, Balinese grinned, and other woven cloths from throughout the Indonesian Islands. Here are also displayed weaving instruments and equipment for the production of textiles. The Museum holds regular Batik classes. But, as like Museums in Indonesia, it is closed on Mondays.

Jl. K.S Tubun No.4, West Jakarta
T (62-21) 5606613

The 1928 Youth Pledge Museum

Among the many historic buildings in Jakarta, the unassuming 1928 Youth Pledge Museum at Jalan Keramat Raya records a most significant moment in Indonesia’s modern history for Independence.

In 1928, when the Indonesian islands were still a colony of the Netherlands, intellectual youths from many parts of Indonesia, with different cultural and religious backgrounds, convened the second Youth Congress in this building. On 28 October 1928, they unanimously pledged to create: “One Homeland, One Nation and One Language: Indonesia”. This Youth Pledge is recognized as the social contract upon which the Indonesian people declared their Independence on 17 August 1945, whereupon the Republic of Indonesia is founded.

Jl. Kramat Raya, No.106, Central Jakarta
T (62-21) 3154546 : ext. 11, 14, 15, 16
Beautiful Indonesia in Miniature Park

Taman Mini Indonesia Indah or Indonesia in Miniature Park, initiated by former First Lady Ibu Tien Soeharto, is a huge park which displays life-sized traditional houses from throughout all of Indonesia’s 33 provinces. Taman Mini aims to display and educate the coming generations about Indonesia’s large diversity in culture, religion and traditions, yet united in the one nation of the Republic of Indonesia. In Taman Mini one can admire the beautifully carved Minangkabau Rumah Gadang, the Toraja tongkonan to the Dayak longhouses from Kalimantan and the megalithic Nias house, and many more. Religious buildings of different faiths stand alongside one another to denote religious tolerance among the people.

Here are also a number of museums, among which the Museum that houses gifts received by former President Soeharto from world dignitaries, the Museum Indonesia, the Asmat Museum, and the Philately Museum. There is also the Fauna Museum in the shape of a large Komodo dragon, the Transportation museum, and a whole lot more, besides an Imax theatre and a Planetarium.

Regular cultural performances in traditional and contemporary style from around the Indonesian archipelago in drama, dance and music are held regularly in the two main theatres.

Taman Mini also has a large Orchid Garden, where one can find a large variety of orchid species to admire and to buy.

Jl. Pinang Ranti, East Jakarta
T (62-21) 29369593 / 8409270

Betawi Culture and Traditions

The indigenous people of Jakarta are the Betawi, a community of mixed descent, a mixture of different races and ethnic groups, who for generations have made Jakarta their home. Very outspoken and democratic, the Betawi have assimilated different cultures in their daily life, arts, music and traditions. Staunch Muslims, the Betawi blends the original Malay language with neighbouring Sundanese words, mixed with Javanese, Chinese, Indian, Arab and Dutch words. The wedding costume of the bride adopts the Chinese tradition of bright red embroidered top with a veil of golden tassels. Whereas the bridgroom wears very contrasting costume inspired by the Arab and Indian Dons.
The Betawi also absorb music from different races, including from the colonial Portuguese, Dutch, Arab and Indian traders, as also from neighbouring West and Central Java, making it all their very own.

For musical instruments they use the Sunda trumpet and drums, while from Europe they have adopted the trombone and guitar, as well as Chinese instruments. While inspired by Portuguese music this has resulted in the distinct Jakarta music genre popularly known as: Keroncong.

With time there developed the Tanjidor, which uses the trombone, piston tenor, clarinet. This latter genre is said to have originated from the European plantations, since their tunes have European sounding names, such as Bananas, Delsi, Batalion, Welnes, and so on. But now they have become more local-sounding with tunes like Jali-Jali, Surlang, and the popular dangdut music.

In dance, the Betawi Jaipong Dance fuses local choreography with distinct Chinese dance costumes inspired by the Beijing Opera.

Setu Babakan: Betawi Cultural Village

With the large influx of peoples from across Indonesia since Independence, the indigenous Betawi have retreated to outlying areas, mostly to West and South Jakarta.

A Special Betawi Cultural Village covering 289 hectares has been set aside at Setu Babakan, where visitors can see and stroll through the village that has retained its original Betawi architecture and layout. Regular cultural performances are shown every Sunday from 2 pm to 4 pm, or dance training sessions of Betawi dances that include Sirih Kuning, Lenggang Nyai and others held each Sunday, Friday and Wednesdays.

Every July a special Betawi Cultural Festival is held here that include wedding ceremonies, circumcision ceremonies, seven-months’ pregnancy rites, and more.

Visitors can also go fishing while enjoying the local cuisine and desserts at the various stalls and restaurants.
The Tanjidor

This typical Betawi music known as Tanjidor is said to have originated in the Dutch plantations located in the suburbs around Batavia, such as at Depok, Cibinong, Bogor, Bekasi and Tangerang, where local slaves used to play for their Dutch masters. When slavery was abolished in the 19th century, these bands went around busking to earn their living. This tradition of busking continues until today. The European influence is clearly visible from the musical instruments used that include a trumpet, bass, clarinet, cymbal and others. Nowadays, Tanjidor can be found fused with the Malay-origin Gambang Kromong music.

Ondel-Ondel

Ondel-ondel are the giant puppets that are inseparable from the Betawi culture and are now the icon of Jakarta. These are made on bamboo frames to allow persons to carry them around from the inside. Ondel-ondel usually come in pairs, the male wears a red mask carrying a gallant moustache and sideburns wearing dark colored clothes, while the female mask is white with red lipstick. She usually wears bright colours. Both wear the typical Malay spiked headdress, called kembang kelapa. These ondel-ondel puppets usually lead parades at weddings or circumcisions, followed by the bridal pair and families, or by the circumcised boy and relatives, strutting around the village, gaily accompanied by bands playing Tanjidor or Gambang Kromong music.

The Lenggang Nyai Dance

A contemporary creation, the Lenggang Nyai is performed by either 4 or 6 girls. Lenggang Nyai expresses both the gracefulness and vivaciousness of the Betawi woman.

Created by Wiwik Widiastuti in 1998, choreographer from Yogyakarta, the Lenggang Nyai has become a popular part of the Betawi dance repertoire and is often shown at art and tourism events overseas.

This dance has elements from the Cokek and the Mask dance and distinct Chinese influences. Wearing bright red or green dresses and Chinese headbands, the girls sway their body, hands, and feet with graceful and brisk movements.

Another version called the Tari Sembah Nyai, created by Dadi Djaja is danced to welcome guests, following Malay dance movements.

Chinese Heritage in Jakarta

Ever since the first century AD, China and the Indonesian islands already had close contact either between the Chinese emperor and the Indonesian kings as well in religion and trade contexts. Chinese princesses are known to have been given in marriage to a number of kings in Yogyakarta, Solo, Cirebon, Bangka and Belitung and in Western Borneo.

But the influx of Chinese to Indonesia seriously began in the 17th century when the Dutch East India Company, VOC, attracted Chinese mainlanders to immigrate to the Indonesian islands to work and trade.

In Batavia, capital of the VOC, although the Chinese were needed by the Dutch, yet the Chinese community together with the indigenous population were kept to settle outside the city walls and entrenchments.

Many therefore, settled and traded along the Pintu Besar area by the Ciliwung river, that is known as “Glodok” or Jakarta’s Chinatown. Glodok stretches from Pancoran all the way to Jalan Gunung Sahari. A number of Chinese also settled further west in today’s Tangerang, which is now in the neighboring Banten province. These original settlers in Tangerang are known as the Benteng Chinese.
As in the early centuries China prohibited women from emigrating, the immigrating men married local women, thus creating a fusion and acculturation between Chinese and local Malay, Javanese, and other indigenous traditions. This fusion is known as the Peranakan culture.

The Peranakan culture is most pronounced in their wedding ceremonies, music and dance and in particular in the fusion in food and cuisine, where the Chinese absorbed the local cultures, and vice versa, local communities absorbed Chinese cultural elements into their existence.

A number of well-preserved Chinese buildings that can still be admired today can be seen in Toko Merah, at Jalan Kali Besar. The Peranakan culture clearly shows Chinese influences. Another is the newly restored Candranaya building along Jalan Gajah Mada. Both Toko Merah and the Candranaya are now open for Seminars, weddings and other large gatherings.

Petak Sembilan is another neighbourhood that still exudes an aura of the original Chinese settlements. Here is the oldest Chinese temple in Jakarta, called the Dharma Bakti Temple, built in 1650.

Around Petak Sembilan you will find local Chinese stores selling typical Chinese sweets and other Chinese knick-knacks, drugstores selling Chinese medicines, and best of all local restaurants selling original Chinese food such as roast duck, fried dumplings, bakso meatballs. Here is also the typical Chinese coffee shop called “Kopi Tiam” and the Ice Café called “Tak Kie”, still selling all in the “old ways”.

This part of Jakarta’s Chinatown comes alive with lanterns and lion dances most especially during Chinese New Year Celebrations.

Toko Merah at Glodok

Located at Jalan Kali Besar Barat 17, along the once busy Ciliwung river, in the subdistrict of Roa Malaka, Toko Merah was originally the home of Willem Baron van Imhoff, who later became Governor General of the East India Company in 1743-1750.

In its long history, the building was converted into a maritime academy from 1743-1755, the first and most prestigious maritime academy in the Far East at the time, then it became a Guest House for high ranking officials (Heerenloegemen) from 1787 – 1808.

William Bligh, commander of the Bounty, whose deputy staged a mutiny on board ship on 28 April 1789 was once a guest here. This mutiny was made famous through the film Mutiny on the Bounty, starring Anthony Hopkins as Bligh and Mel Gibson as deputy commander Christian Fletcher.

In 1851 the building was bought by a Chinese trader who painted the brick walls completely red. Since then it became known as the Red Shop or Toko Merah. The red color dominates both its exterior as well as its interior.

During this period, the building became the center of slave trade in this Dutch colony. Traces from this period in history can be seen in the names of surrounding districts, such as Manggarai, for example, which was the village for slaves from Flores, Kampung Bali for those from Bali and Kampung Ambon from Ambon in the Moluccas, and others.

In the 18th century, ships could sail into the Ciliwung at Kali Besar (meaning the Large Canal), and dock right in front of the row of shops here, loading and unloading their precious ware. This area was then a “Central Business District” of the time, with busy traffic on land as well as on the river. Nowadays, though, with the silting of the river, no boats can enter the Kali Besar although on land traffic remains heavy.

Toko Merah is built in 18th century Baroque architecture. Its ornamentation is a mix of classic European and Chinese décor, where its Baroque staircase is most impressive.
The Candranaya Building

Although once an important stand-alone building, the Candranaya is today tucked away among highrise buildings in the Green Central City by Hotel Novotel at Jalan Gajah Mada 188. Built in the 18th century, this ancient Chinese building was owned by a rich Chinese merchant by the name of Khouw Tian Sek.

Candranaya has a distinctive Chinese architecture with spacious rooms, where the interior of the house is decorated with intricate ornaments while its roof top has a tou-kung crown which is also fully ornamented.

Estimated to have been originally built in the early 19th century, nonetheless, the exact date when it was actually constructed remains unclear.

At the end of World War II, the Sin Ming Hui social organization made the house its head office. The organization helped and gave information to the war-stricken Chinese community. Sin Ming Hui conducted many works for social purposes. They established health clinics, sports clubs as well as arranged educational activities and organized a club in photography.

In 1962 the Sin Ming Hui social organization changed its name to the Tjandra Naja and later to Candranaya.

Pecenongan

Although today one can find Chinese restaurants of all description around any corner of the city, yet for authentic Chinese food with that specific Chinatown ambience, a visit to the Pecenongan food street is a must.

Located between Jalan Juanda and Jalan Batu Tulis Raya, Pecenongan comes alive only in the evenings, when stalls selling a large variety of foods will satisfy your tastebuds.

Keroncong is the Indonesian musical fusion from the original Portuguese music known as “fado” introduced by sailors and slave trade ships in the 16th century. The music travelled from Goa in India to Malacca and finally to Tugu.

Keroncong accompanies the Moresco, a dance of Spanish influence that resembles the polka but danced at a slower pace. In the process of acculturation Kerongcong which was originally played on stringed instruments added the flute and gamelan instruments. In the 1960s Kerongcong was again popularized by Police General Hugeng, through his well known band The Hawaiian Seniors, which again added elements from the Moluccas and Hawaii.

The Portuguese were the first Europeans who set foot on Java in the 16th century in the search for the legendary Spice Islands. Although the Portuguese did not dominate on Java, yet their heritage from the short period here can still be seen in two Portuguese churches and in the still popular “keroncong” music.
The British, who reigned for a short period during the time of Governor General Sir Stamford Raffles, (1811-1815) also left behind the Anglican church which is still in use in the Menteng area.

The Anglican Church

Also known as All Saints Church in the Menteng area, built in the Tropical Gregorian Style, is the only Anglican Church in Jakarta. In its churchyard are buried soldiers who fell during World War I and the war against the Japanese in World War II.

Jl. Arif Rahman Hakim 5 Menteng, Central Jakarta

The Sion Church

This is the oldest church in Jakarta built in the 16th century. Formerly known as the Portuguese Church it is a solid structure and until today congregations still use the original pews and altar.

Jl. Pangeran Jayakarta No. 1 North Jakarta

The Portuguese Tugu Church

The Tugu Church was built in 1725 apparently for slaves working for the Portuguese community at the time. It is a simple church but its surrounding community still celebrates Christmas in a special way accompanied by kerongcong music and dances.

Jl. Raya Tugu No. 20, Kampung Tugu North Jakarta

There are two mosques in Old Batavia that were built in the 18th and 19th century. These are the An-Nawier mosque and the Masjid Langgar Tinggi at Pekojan, now more familiarly known as Kampung Arab or the Arab village, in West Jakarta.

Before the Arabs, the neighborhood was dominated by Muslim Indians from Bengal. The name Pekojan is said to derive from the word “Khoja” or “Kaja”, an area in India. On the other hand, the word “khoja” is also the name of the headdress worn by men from the neighbouring province of Banten. So Banten soldiers who fought with Prince Fatahillah, founder of Jakarta, could well have stayed in this area. And indeed, as Jakarta and later Batavia was a busy international trading port, the town was always full of traders from different ethnic groups who formed their own communities and settled together in villages called “kampungs”.

The An-Nawier mosque - also known as the Pekojan Mosque, in the Pekojan subdistrict, - was built in 1749 AD, (or 1180 H according to the Islamic calendar), by Syarifa Fatimah binti Husen Al Idrus. This is the largest and oldest mosque in Old Jakarta and has a number of unique elements. It has an L-shaped floorplan for congregational prayers with capacity for 2,000 persons. The roof is supported by 33 pillars, symbolizing the 33 holy verses that are to be cited after prayers. Outside the mosque stands a 17 meters minaret which closely resembles a light house.

According to stories related by the locals, in the past, whenever there were uprisings against colonial powers, Indonesian freedom fighters would find shelter in this narrow tower, safe from their pursuers.

Walking from this mosque to Masjid Langgar Tinggi, one passes a bridge called Jembatan Kambing – or the Goats’ Bridge over the Angke river. This bridge used to lead to the slaughterhouse for the poor goats. But the slaughterhouse is now no more, although many of those of Arab descent who still live here continue to raise...
An-Nawier Mosque

and trade in goats, as they have done for over 200 years.

Arriving at Masjid Langgar Tinggi, or the Tall Mosque, one understands instantly why this mosque is so called, since it consists of two storeys, something quite unusual in those early days.

Masjid Langgar Tinggi, which is located along the Angke river, is said to have been built in the year 1829 AD (or in 1249 H according to the Islamic calendar year). Its upper floor, where prayers are held, is made of wood, and is still original and remains in good condition until today. The ground floor houses the person guarding the mosque.

Its architecture is a fusion of Moorish and colonial with Chinese and Javanese elements. Its pillars are in classic European design, the supports of its pillars are Chinese, and their base is Javanese. Its pulpit comes from Palembang, South Sumatra.
## General Information

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## TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS / BUREAU

- **ASITA (Association of the Indonesia Tours & Travel Agencies) Jakarta Chapter**: 5700455
- **Indonesian Hotel and Restaurant Association, Jakarta Chapter**: 2555981
- **Jakarta International Hotels Association**: 081180616
- **Jakarta Convention & Exhibition Bureau**: 5223266
- **Indonesian Golf Course Owners Association**: 76586086
- **The Indonesian Marine Tourism Association**: 5707157

### EMBASSY

- **Argentina**: 2303061
- **Australia**: 2550555
- **Belgium**: 3162030
- **Brazil**: 5266565
- **Brunei Darussalam**: 31906080
- **Canada**: 25507800
- **Cambodia**: 78047278
- **Czech**: 3904870
- **China**: 5761139
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- **Colombia**: 5254446
- **Cuba**: 53040293
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- **Egypt**: 31433440
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- **Zimbabwe**: 523178

Please note: The document contains a map with various locations and connections, which is not transcribed in this text format. The map includes details such as roads, routes, and landmarks.
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