



Trekking the Planet

Discovering the Cultural and Natural Significance of the World



Where are we now?

- Darren and Sandy are at sea, off the coast of Indonesia, located at 8° S and 115° E.
- We have traveled approximately 16,791 miles (27,022 kilometers) from our starting point in California.



People and Culture

- In 1292, Marco Polo was one of the first Europeans to visit the islands now known as Indonesia.
- Other explorers came in search of spices, such as nutmeg and ginger, and the islands came under the control of the Dutch in the late 18th century. They were known as the Dutch East Indies.
- During World War II, Japan occupied the islands from 1942 to 1945. Independence from the Netherlands was declared at the end of the war and gained in 1949.
- Today Indonesia has a population of about 238 million, and it is the fourth highest populated country in the world. It is the largest Muslim country in the world, with 205 million people (86% of Indonesia's population).
- More than half the population lives on the island of Java. It is the world's most densely populated island.
- Indonesia has the largest economy in Southeast Asia. However, approximately half of the country's total population lives on less than \$2 a day.
- In most of the country, rice is frequently served at meals. Rice dishes include *ketupat* (steamed in woven coconut leaves) and *nasi goreng* (fried rice). *Sambal* is a common spicy side dish made of chilies, garlic, shallots and shrimp paste.



The capital of Jakarta is the world's tenth largest city with a population of over nine million. Tuk-tuks are one way to get around the city.

(sources: TNTMagazine.com, Wikipedia.org)

Did you know?

Indonesia is comprised of over 17,000 islands. Only about one-third of these islands are inhabited. Three of the 10 largest islands in the world are found in Indonesia. The major islands are Borneo (shared with Malaysia and Brunei), Java, Bali, Sumatra, Sulawesi, and New Guinea (shared with Papua New Guinea).

source: Strange-Facts.info, Telegraph.co.uk



Ketupat (source: RiceWisdom.org)

The Explosion Heard 3,000 Miles Away

In 1883 a volcanic eruption on the island of Krakatoa generated an explosion heard nearly 3,000 miles (4,828 kilometers) away. Ash was thrown 50 miles (80 kilometers) into the air and it took five years for weather patterns in the area to return to normal.

source: Wikipedia.org

Mount Merapi erupting in 2011 on the island of Java (source: Newsresource.com)



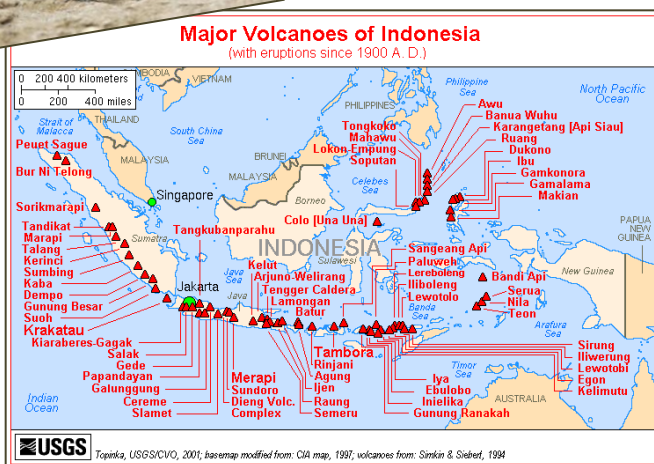
Komodo dragon (source: CBC.ca)

Nature and Environment

- Indonesia stretches 3,200 miles (5,150 kilometers) east to west, making it the 16th largest country in the world. Its highest mountain, located on the island of New Guinea, is known as Puncak Jaya or Carstensz Pyramid and is 16,503 feet (5,030 meters) tall.
- Indonesia is the world's largest archipelago, which is a group or chain of islands.
- Found in Indonesia, the komodo dragon is the heaviest lizard in the world. They grow as long as 10 feet (three meters) and weigh about 200 pounds (91 kilograms).
- Komodo dragons can smell prey up to five miles (eight and one half kilometers) away and kill small pigs and deer. An endangered species, only 3,000 to 5,000 are left in the wild.
- Located on the "Ring of Fire" (see the Pacific Ocean Module), Indonesia has the largest number of active volcanoes in the world, totaling about 130 (see map on left). Indonesia also has the highest number of volcanic eruptions causing death and damage to land.

source: USGS.gov

Major Volcanoes of Indonesia (with eruptions since 1900 A. D.)



Our Plans

- We will start our continent of Asia journey with a visit to the island of Bali for the day. After three more days at sea, we will make stops in Vietnam and Thailand before arriving in Singapore.
- Once in Singapore, we will continue by land, through Malaysia and Thailand, to Laos. Our first Asian trek will take place there.
- As we visit these countries in Southeast Asia be sure and send us your questions and comments so that we can feature them in future emails.

Indonesian Diversity

Throughout Indonesia there are over 300 ethnic groups and approximately 600 languages spoken. The national language is Bahasa Indonesia, which is related to Malay (the language of neighboring Malaysia). Dutch is also spoken in large cities.



(sources: Baliedutours.com ,
Indonesiatravel.org.uk)

More Information

- <http://worldinfozone.com/facts.php?country=Indonesia>
- <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/id.html>
- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indonesia>
- http://www.honolulu zoo.org/komodo_dragon.htm
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Volcanism_of_Indonesia

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