

INDONESIA

Location

South-East Asia.

Area

1,922,570 million sq km (742,308 sq miles).

Population

237 million (2008).

Population Density

123 per sq km.

Capital

Jakarta (Java).

Population: 13.2 million.

Government

Republic. Declared independence from The Netherlands in 1945.

Language

Bahasa Indonesia is the official national language. Altogether, there are an estimated 583 languages and dialects spoken in the archipelago. The older generation still speaks Dutch as a second language and English is widely spoken in tourist areas.

Religion

There is a Muslim majority of approximately 90%, with Christian, Hindu (mainly in Bali) and Buddhist minorities.

Time

GMT + 7 (West) in Sumatra, Java and Western Borneo; GMT + 8 (Central) in Sulawesi, Lesser Sunda Islands, Bali and Eastern Borneo; GMT + 9 (East) in Papua and Maluku.

Electricity

220/250 volts AC, 50Hz but 110 volts is still used in some areas. Plugs used are European-style with two circular metal pins.

Head of State

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, since 2004.

Telephone

Country code: 62 (followed by 22 for Bandung, 361 for Bali, 21 for Jakarta, 61 for Medan and 31 for Surabaya). Many hotel lobbies have public phones which take credit cards and phone cards. State-operated phone booths or offices (*Telkom*) and privately-owned companies (*wartel*, *warpostel* or *warpapostel*), which work on a pay-as-you-leave basis, can be found in towns and cities throughout the country.

Mobile Telephone

Roaming agreements exist with most international mobile phone companies. Coverage may be limited to main towns and cities.

Internet

There are Internet cafes in all major cities and tourist destinations.

Media

Media freedom increased considerably after the end of President Suharto's rule in 1998, during which the now-defunct Ministry of Information monitored and controlled domestic media and restricted foreign media.

Post

Airmail to western Europe, the USA and Australia takes about 10 days. An express service is available.

Post office hours: Mon-Fri 0800-1600, Sat 0800-1300 (hours may be longer in city centers).

Press

- *Kompas* and *Pos Kota* are mass-circulation dailies.
- English-language newspapers include *The Jakarta Post* and the weekly *Tempo* magazine.

Radio

• *Radio Republik Indonesia (RRI)* is a public broadcaster that operates six national networks, regional and local stations, and the external service, *Voice of Indonesia*.

Note

(a) Muslim festivals are timed according to local sightings of various phases of the moon and so if dates are given above, they are approximations. During the lunar month of Ramadan that precedes Eid al-Fitr, Muslims fast during the day and feast at night and normal business patterns may be interrupted. Many restaurants are closed during the day and there may be restrictions on smoking and drinking. Some disruption may continue into Eid al-Fitr itself. Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha may last anything from two to 10 days, depending on the region. (b) Buddhist festivals are also timed according to phases of the moon and variations may occur.

Below are listed Public Holidays for the January 2011-December 2011 period.

1 Jan *New Year's Day.*

3 Feb *Chinese New Year.*

15 Mar *Mouloud (Birth of the Prophet).*

4 Apr *Nyepi (Hindu New Year).*

22 Apr *Good Friday.*

9 May *Waisak Day (Buddha's Birthday).*

2 Jun *Ascension.*

17 Aug *Indonesian Independence Day.*

28 Jun *Lailat al Miraj (Ascension of the Prophet).*

31 Aug *Eid al-Fitr (End of Ramadan).*

7 Nov *Eid al-Adha (Feast of the Sacrifice).*

26 Nov *Islamic New Year.*

25 Dec

26 Dec *Christmas Day/Boxing Day.*