



Attractive INDONESIA



Indonesia is the fabulous country. The name *Indonesia* derives from the Latin and Greek *Indus*, and the Greek *nèsos*, means "island". Indonesia is an archipelago comprising approximately 17,508 islands. It has 34 provinces with over 238 million people, and is the world's fourth most populous country. The capital city is Jakarta. Do you want to spend your vacation in Indonesia? Let's read the following sections:

A Why Travel and Spend Vacation to Indonesia

Indonesia is an attractive country, so there are some reasons to visit Indonesia. Indonesia has many tourist places. They are so unique and awesome. Indonesia is the best choice to spend your vacation. Bali is one of tourist places in Indonesia. I am so pity when some of you say Bali is not located in Indonesia. May Bali is more famous than Indonesia, it makes some of you didn't know the location of Bali. Absolutely, Bali is the most attractive tourist place, but there are others tourist places in Indonesia as the alternative. There are some fabulous city, that is, Lombok, Yogyakarta, Sumatra, Sulawesi, and so on.

Moreover, Indonesians are friendly person. I ever met American, his name Jack. He said the friendliest person is Indonesian. Indonesian tries to be nice person. Indonesian is also kind person. I am so proud to be Indonesian.

Further, Indonesia is a maritime country. It means Indonesia has a lot of sea. You can enjoy beautiful scenery in the beach; you can snorkel, diving and so on. You can also sunbathing in the beach. I think it is so interesting for you.

B Attractive Tourism Places in Indonesia

B.1 Bali

B.1.1 Ground Zero



Ground Zero Monument is located on Legian street, was established and inaugurated on October 12, 2004 exactly two years memorial to commemorate the victims of Bali bomb tragedy first happened October 12, 2002. The explosion occurred at two sites, the Sari Club and Paddy's Cafe itself is estimated to cost the lives of 202 people. It is easy to reach Ground Zero memorial, because the monument is located on Legian street to the beach of Kuta . In terms of its architecture, monuments Ground Zero has a unique form of Balinese carvings called "Kayonan", shaped like a large white-painted leaves which symbolizes the universe and below we can see a list of names of victims from different countries, including the victims came from our own country, Indonesia.

B.1.2 Kuta Beach



Kuta Beach is the most famous beach in Bali and the first seen by most people. In addition sunset Kuta became the number one place in Bali, with a spectacular view of the sun setting every day. Kuta is the most popular beach in Bali and the island with the number one party place.

B.1.3 Garuda Wisnu Kencana (GWK)



GWK - stands of Garuda Wisnu Kencana, symbolized by a statue of the god Vishnu, who stands erect on the hill Unggasan. Statue of the god Vishnu has a height of 20 meters. In this GWK tourist attractions, visitors can enjoy the view of sunrise and sunset. Statue of the god Vishnu, was built and carved by renowned sculptor named Nyoman Nuarta. Not only the beautiful scenery that you can see it in the GWK tourist area, this resort also offers a wide range of traditional entertainment such as Kecak Dance and Barong Dance from morning until night.

B.1.4 Tanah Lot



Tanah Lot Temple is located in coastal side of Beraban countryside, Kediri sub district and Tabanan Regency. It is situated in 30 Km in west side of Denpasar town and about 11 Km in south side of Tabanan town.

As a favorite tourist attractions in Bali, Tanah Lot owns a magnificent view in particular at the sunset time where the sun slows down to the earth stomach. Every visitor who is paying a visit to this place will be amazed to see the beauty panorama of Tanah Lot. Beside of this temple, there are other temples which can be seen on your visit to Tanah Lot like Batu Bolong Temple, Batumejan Temple and Enjung Galuh Temple.

B.1.5 Nusa Dua Bali



dissociated with the white sand.

Nusa Dua is an elite resort area with international five star hotels and resorts existing on the coastal side in south part of Bali. It is located in Badung Regency and about 25 minutes drive from Bali's International airport. Nusa Dua with 350 ha size is the sample luxury resort area and one of best tourist attractions in the world. In fact, the name of Nusa Dua is coming from two small islands located in the south part of Bali Island (Nusa mean the island and Dua mean two) that is

B.2 Kalimantan, Indonesia

Formerly known as Borneo, Kalimantan is the world's second largest island. There are some tourism places in Kalimantan.

B.2.1 Derawan Island



It is a favourite place for marine tourism. There are many rare animals such as the green turtle, the scarlet turtle, star fruit turtle and sea cow. The place is also home to many rare species of marine plants and coral reef. It is also a good place for scuba diving, pearl diving, fishing, swimming and other water sports.

B.2.2 Bontang

Located in the regency of Kutai with 200.000 ha, Bontang has rare flora and fauna. The Kutai National Park near Bontang is worth visiting to see sceneries, especially those at Bears Bash.



B.2.3 Pontianak

It is the capital of West Kalimantan. Some of the favourite tourist spots include Equator Monument, Caldaria palace in Kampong Dalai, the State Museum, the Kapoks and the Landau Bridges and floating market.

B.2.4 Gunning Palung National Park and Nature Reserve

The Gunung [Mount) Palung national park located in the Ketapang regency is home to rare flora and fauna. The Raya Pasi mountain located in the Singkawang regency is also interesting to visit to see the Rafflesia or the Giant Flower. Singkawang is also a nature reserve. The forest of Sanggau is worth a visit where hot springs, lakes and caves can be found.

B.2.5 Palangkaraya

Palangkaraya is the provincial capital of Central Kalimantan and situated in the upstream region of the Kahayan river. Nowadays, the town has become the center of government, trade and education of the province. The Regional Museum of Palangkaraya contains a collection of historical and cultural interest from all over Central Kalimantan. The Nature Reserve of Tangkiling lies 34 km north of Palangkaraya.

B.3 Lombok

Lombok has wonderful beaches, volcano and varied landscape. It is an ideal place for those looking for a private holiday. Let's read the following sections.

B.3.1 Gili Islands

These small coral-fringed islands are famous for their white sandy beaches and are an ideal place for those interested in sun and sand. The place also offers wonderful opportunities for snorkelling. The absence of automobiles and hawkers add to the pleasure.



B.3.2 Kuta

Kuta is an upcoming beach resort of Lombok. The place offers quiet and laidback atmosphere to the tourists.

B.3.3 Museum Negeri Nusa Tenggara Barat

This modern museum has exhibits on the geology, history and culture of Lombok and Sumbawa, and is worth visiting. If you intend to buy any antiques or handicrafts, have a look at the daggers, silver or gold-threaded cloth, basket ware and masks.

B.3.4 Pura Lingsar

Located 6 km east of Mataram-the capital of Lombok-this large temple complex, built in 1714, is the holiest place on Lombok. The temple combines the Balinese Hindu and Wektu Telu religions in one complex. The Hindu temple in the northern section is higher than the Wektu Telu temple in the southern section. It's an especially fascinating place for those interested in Wektu Telu, Lombok's indigenous religion.



B.3.5 Taman Narmada

Laid out as a miniature replica of the summit of Gunung Rinjani and its crater lake, Taman Narmada derives its name from the sacred Indian river, Narmada. Its temple, Pura Kalasa, is still used and the Balinese Pujawali celebration is held here annually.



B.3.6 Rinjani

Rinjani, the highest mountain in Lombok at 3,726m, is an active volcano. The volcano is a popular destination for hikers and treks to the caldera are common. The hot springs located on the northeastern side of the caldera are thought to have amazing healing powers.

B.3.7 Senggigi

Senggigi is the most developed tourist spot on Lombok. It has beautiful beaches and good snorkelling facilities.

B.4 Sulawesi Island

Sulawesi is shaped like a tropical orchid. It is Indonesia's third-largest island with an area of 172,000 square km.

B.4.1 Manado

It is the capital of North Sulawesi. Manado offers a variety of terrain with hills, volcanic mountains and scenic plateaus.

B.4.2 Bunaken Sea Garden

The world famous Bunaken Marine National Park, with area 75.26 hectares, is located very close to Manado and comprises of 5 islands: Bunaken, Manado Tua, Siladen, Mantehage and Nain. The superb diving and snorkelling sites put the Marine Park.



B.4.3 Manado Tua Island

This Island is the main island of the group. There is a hiking path to the top which takes several hours to climb, and offers a spectacular view of all the islands of Manado Bay. The place offers excellent opportunities for diving and snorkelling.



B.4.4 Kendari

Capital of Southeast Sulawesi. It is the seat of government and tourist center of the province. It lies along the sloping hill and seaside of Kendari Bay.

B.4.5 Moramo Waterfall



The fall is unique in itself. It traverses a 2 km plateau, with 127 separate terraced plumes, with the top of the waterfall some 100 meters above its basin pool. The falls have seven main terraces, each with its own natural bathing pool.

B.4.6 Moramo Bay

This clean, pollution-free bay is only one and one half hours by car or speedboat from Kendari. The white sand beaches of Moramo Bay are host to all sorts of water activities and sports

B.5 Sumatra

Sumatra is a complete tourist destination-sunny beaches, rich flora and fauna, large rivers and great history. Sumatra has the richest wildlife in Indonesia and hence it is known as "Africa of Asia".

B.5.1 Medan

Medan is the capital of Sumatra and an ideal gateway for those wanting to explore this island. The architecture of the city shows strong Dutch influence. Some of the better-known attractions in the city are Istana Maimoon, Masjid Raya, building of Bank Indonesia, and High Court, Bukit Barisan Military Museum, and the Museum of North Sumatra.

B.5.1.1 Berastagi

The beautiful town of Berastagi is located in karo highlands about 70km from Medan. The town is dominated by two volcanoes-Gunung Sinabung and Gunung Sibayak. There are plenty of trekking and wildlife options in Berastagi. The town is famous for its fruits, vegetables and flowers.

B.5.1.2 Lake Toba

Situated at a height of around 1000 metres above the sea level, this picturesque lake is located at a distance of 175 km from Medan. The lake surrounds the densely populated island of Samosir and its cool upside countryside is covered with tobacco, rubber, and palm oil plantations.



B.5.1.3 Danau Ranau

The beautiful mountain lake of Danau Ranau is in the Bukit Barisan Mountains of southern Sumatra. It is one of the least spoiled of Sumatra's mountain lakes, and offers cool and quiet atmosphere.

B.5.2 Aceh

Aceh is located in north Sumatra. It is strikingly beautiful but not very popular among visitors as it is infested with insurgency. Islam is the predominant religion in the country and people represent different ethnicity like Chinese, Indonesian, Tamil, and Arab. Some of the popular destinations here include extension of Gunung Leuser National Park, beaches, Orang-utan rehabilitation centre (one of the largest wildlife rehabilitation centres in the world).

B.5.3 Yogyakarta

Yogyakarta is known as Jogja Never Ending Asia or student city. It is also very rich with historical sites and places thick with culture.

B.5.3.1 Kraton Yogyakarta

Hadiningrat Ngayogyakarta Keraton or Kraton Yogyakarta is known in general by society as one of the royal palace buildings archipelago. Sultan Palace is the official palace of Yogyakarta Sultanate until 1950 when the State government of the Republic of Indonesia made the Sultanate of Yogyakarta (together Pakualaman) as a special autonomous region under the name of the provincial level in Yogyakarta Special Region.

B.5.3.2 Fortress Vredeburg (Benteng Vredeburg)

Vredeburg predictably stood closely linked birth Sultanate of Yogyakarta. Giyanti Agreement February 13, 1755 which successfully completed the feud between susuhunan Pakubuwono III to Prince Mangkubumi (Sri Sultan Hamengkubuwono I) was a Dutch political outcome that always wants to interfere in domestic affairs of Javanese kings at that time.



B.5.3.3 Monumen Serangan Umum 1 Maret

This monument is a fortress complex with Vredeburg. This monument was built to commemorate the Indonesian military attacks against the Netherlands, on March 1, 1949. The attack was carried out to prove to the world that Indonesia still has the strength to fight the Dutch. When it attacks the Indonesian National Army (TNI) was led by Lieutenant Colonel Suharto, commander of Brigade 10 Wehrkreise region III, which of course after obtaining approval from Sri Sultan Hamengkubuwono IX as Head of the Special Region of Yogyakarta.



B.5.3.4 Tugu Yogyakarta

Tugu Yogyakarta is an obelisk or tower, which is often used as a symbol of the city of Yogyakarta. This monument was built by Hamengkubuwono I, founder of the Yogyakarta palace. The monument is located at the intersection of Jl Jenderal Sudirman and Jl. This Mangkubumi Prince, has a symbolic value and is a magical line that connects the southern ocean, and Mount Merapi Yogyakarta palace. At the time of meditation, it is said the Sultan of Yogyakarta at the time to use this monument as a benchmark the direction facing the top of Mount Merapi.



B.5.3.5 Taman Budaya (Cultural Park)



Taman Budaya Yogyakarta, originally built in the area Bulaksumur on March 11, 1977 as a Cultural Development Center complex in Yogyakarta Special Region. Inauguration of the development of cultural arts complex was conducted by Sri Sultan Hamengku Buwana IX as a Vice President at that time. Taman Budaya Yogyakarta originally referred to as Full Cultural created as facilities and infrastructure to foster, nurture, and develop the culture, especially in Yogyakarta Special Region. Full Cultural buildings constructed

with two concepts, namely Purse Wurya and Langembara. Purse Wurya arts center with a variety of facilities such as a stage art, dance studio, library, discussion rooms, and administration.

B.5.3.6 Borobudur Temple



It is located 40 km (25 miles) of Yogyakarta. Borobudur is the one of the most Buddhist temple in the world. Borobudur is one of 7 wonders in the world. Today, it is the most famous tourist attractions in Indonesia.

C Best Surfing Spots in Indonesia

Do you like surfing? Don't worry there are some best surfing spots in Indonesia. It is so amazing place.

C.1 Plengkung beach, Banyuwangi



This beach is located in Banyuwangi, East java. It is the best surfing spot in Indonesia. Its wave is in the second rank in the world and the first rank is Hawaii. In this beach ever held international surfing competition.

C.2 Nias Island, North Sumatra

This island has fantastic wave. Waves rolled up to 2 – 15ft. The most famous surfing spots in this island are Sorake beach and Lagundri

C.3 Nusa Penida & Nusa Lembongan, Bali

This place is located in Bali. Nusa Penida and NusaLembongan is the third rank of best surfing spots in Indonesia

C.4 Mentawai beach, West Sumatra

Mentawai is known as the best surfing spots in Sumatra. Huge wave can be found in this place. The most favorite spot is Siberut Island. You can reach this place by land transportation and air transportation.

C.5 Grajangan beach, Banyuwangi

This beach is the origin of G-land, the name of Grajangan. Grajangan is located 52km south of Banyuwangi. This beach has black sand and fabulous cave and hill. This place is famous since 1970.

D Favorite Spots for Mountain Climbers in Indonesia

Indonesia has some mountains. One of them is the favorite spots for mountain climbers. Do you like climbing mountain? This is some choices for you.

D.1 Rinjani Mountain, Nusa Tenggara Barat

This mountain has the most beautiful panorama. On June up to August many domestic or international tourists visit this place. The temperature is about 12°C - 20°C. Windy happens on August. You can climb this mountain on July because it is sunny.



D.2 Kawah Ijen, East Java



Kawah Ijen is one of attractive volcanoes in Indonesia. It is known as the beautiful scenery.

D.3 Gunung Anak Krakatau, West Java

Krakatau is an active volcano. It is located in Sunda Straits located between Java Island and Sumatra Island. In 1883, this eruption defeats 36.000 people die.



D.4 Bromo Mountain, East Java

This mountain is located in East Java. It is one of active volcanoes in Indonesia. It is the most famous mountain in East Java. It is so attractive because in this volcano consists crater in the crater.



D.5 Kelimutu Mountain, Nusa Tenggara Timur



Kelimutu volcano is located in Flores Island, Nusa Tenggara Timur. We can find this mountain in Pemo village. This mountain has three crater's lake. This lake is known as **Danau Tiga Warna**. It is so attractive because the lake has various colors, that is, red, blue and white. The color can change periodically.

D.6 Puncak Jayawijaya dan Carstenz



This Summit is one of Continental Seven Summits. It is located in Taman Nasional Laurentz, Papua. Further, Carstenz Pyramid (4884 mdpl) is the highest summits in South East Asia and Pacific. It is located in series Sudirman Mountain. It is known as not only the height, but also it is covered by snow.

E Unique Tourism or Cultural Spots in Indonesia

Indonesia has unique tourism. It is different with other countries. The unique tourism of Indonesia can be seen below:

E.1 Reog Ponorogo



Reog is a traditional dance that becomes the main identity for Ponorogo Regency. Reog National Festival is held every years along the anniversary of Ponorogo regency and Grebeg Suro celebration. Reog dance is also staged full moon nightly in paseban, Ponorogo town square. Reog told about the struggle for a prince who will propose to a beautiful princess. Reog Ponorogo tells the story of a mythical battle between the King of Ponorogo and the magical

lion-like creature called *Singa Barong*. Singa Barong is a large mask usually made of tiger's or leopard's head skin, upon the mask attached a large fan adorned with peafowl feathers. The Singa Barong mask was notoriously heavy, the dancer of Singo Barong bear the mask about 30 - 40 kg weight and supported by the strength of their teeth.

E.2 Wayang Kulit



The “Wayang kulit” (leather puppets) of Java is performed with leather puppets held by the puppeteer, who narates the story of one of the famous episodes of the Hindu epics, the Mahabharata or the Ramayana. It is performed against a white screen while a lantern in the background casts the shadows of the characters on the screen, visible from the other side where the spectators are seated.

E.3 Wayang Golek

The “Wayang Golek” (wooden puppets) of West Java is based on the same concept. The crafts of Indonesia vary in both medium and art form. As a whole the people are artistic by nature and express themselves on canvas, wood, metals, clay and stone.



F Variety Culinary in Indonesia

Indonesia is known as spices. So, you can find various cuisines in Indonesia. Some of them I got reference from CNNGo and the others I got it when I have vacation in other cities.

F.1 Sambal



The chili-based sauce known as sambal is a staple at all Indonesian tables. Dishes are not complete unless they have a hearty dollop of the stuff, a combination of chilies, sharp fermented shrimp paste, tangy lime juice, sugar and salt all pounded up with mortar and pestle. Some restaurants have made it their main attraction, with options that include young mango, mushroom and durian. You can find any kinds of

Sambal in every city in Indonesia.

F.2 Satay



These tasty meat skewers cook up over coals so hot they need fans to waft the smoke away. Whether it's chicken, goat, mutton or rabbit, the scrappy morsels get marinated in turmeric, barbecued and then bathed in a hearty dose of peanut sauce. Other nations now lay claim to sate, but Indonesians consider it a national dish conceived by street vendors and popularized by Arab traders. Each vendor seeks

distinction, but "sate madura" -- served with rice cakes (ketupat) and diced cucumber and onion - is distinguished by its boat-shaped street carts.

For legendary satay that dates to the 1950s, try Sate Ragusa (Jl. Veteran 1 No. 10) and cleanse the palate after with Ragusa's signature spaghetti ice cream.

F.3 Bakso



A favorite among students, this savory meatball noodle soup gained international fame when U.S. President Barack Obama remembered it as one of his favorites during a visit to Jakarta last November. It takes on many forms; meatballs -- springy or rubbery, the size of golf balls or bigger -- are made from chicken, beef, pork or some amorphous combination of them all. Sold mostly from pushcarts called kaki lima, bakso comes garnished with fried shallots, boiled egg and wontons. Bakso can be found in every city of Indonesia.

F.4 Soto



For stylish street food in air-conditioned bliss hit up Kafe Betawi (Jl. MH. Thamrin No. 1, Grand Indonesia; +62 (0)21 2358 0501). Or for an East Javanese version, try Soto Madura (Jl. Juanda No.16).

This traditional meat soup comprises a broth and ingredients that vary across the archipelago. Common street versions are made of a simple, clear soup flavored with chicken, goat or beef. In Jakarta, home of the indigenous Betawi, soto Betawi garners fame with its sweet, creamy, coconut-milk base. Top it with crispy shallots and fried garlic, and as much or little sambal as your taste buds can take. *For stylish street food in air-conditioned bliss hit up Kafe Betawi (Jl. MH. Thamrin No. 1, Grand Indonesia; +62 (0)21 2358 0501). Or for an East Javanese version, try Soto Madura (Jl. Juanda No.16).*

F.5 Nasi goreng



Considered Indonesia's national dish, this take on Asian fried rice is often made with sweet, thick soy sauce called kecap (pronounced ketchup) and garnished with acar, pickled cucumber and carrots. To add an element of fun to your dining experience, try nasi gila (literally "crazy rice") and see how many different kinds of meat you can find buried among the grains. Nasi Goreng can be found in every city of Indonesia. It has different taste of each.

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F.6 Gado-gado

Literally "mix-mix," the term gado-gado is often used to describe situations that are all mixed up -- Jakarta, for instance, is a gado-gado city. As a food, however, it is one of Indonesia's best-known dishes, essentially a vegetable salad



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bathed in the country's classic peanut sauce. At its base are boiled long beans, spinach, potato, corn, egg and bean sprouts coupled with cucumber, tofu and tempe. *Gado-gado gets sweeter as you travel eastward through Indonesia -- but Jakartans swear by the cashew sauce at Gado-Gado Boplo (Jalan Panglima Polim 4; +62 (0)21 724 8334).*

F.7 Nasi uduk



A perennial favorite among native Betawi, the meal revolves around rice cooked in coconut milk and includes a pinwheel of various meat and vegetable accoutrements. It almost always includes fried chicken, boiled eggs and tempe (soybean cake) with anchovies and is topped with emping (melinjo nut crackers). It's cheap, fast and popular among lunchtime crowds. *Nearly four decades old and still going strong Nasi Uduk Babe Saman (Kebon Kacang 9; +62 (0)21 314 1842) packs in everyone from students to celebrities morning, noon and night.*

F.8 Nasi padang



Singaporeans may say they can't live without it, but nasi padang, named after its birth city in Sumatra, is 100 percent Indonesian. Chose from among more than a dozen dishes -- goopy curries with floating fish heads or rubbery cow's feet -- stacked up on your table. "It always looks so dead," a friend once said. Indeed, otak (brain) leaves little to the imagination. Chuck away the cutlery and dig in with your hands then wash the spice away with a sweet iced tea. *Try out any Sederhana or head for Garuda Nasi Padang; Jl. Gajah Mada, Medan, Sumatra.*

F.9 Gudeg

Fit for a sultan it may not be, but gudeg is the signature of the royal city of Yogyakarta. Sweet jackfruit stew is boiled for hours in milk and palm sugar, making the fruit so soft tender it falls apart with little chewing. Other are thrown into the mix but teak leaves give it a coloring. Like nasi uduk, it is served with rice, egg, chicken and crispy, fried beef skin. Gudeg traditional foods in Yogyakarta.



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F.10 Rawon

A beef stew from East Java that goes heavy on the keluak nut to give it a nutty flavor and a deep, black color.

The soup base also mingles with garlic, shallots, ginger, turmeric and red chili to make it nice and spicy. *The most famous variant, Rawon Setan (literally Devil's soup) is found in Surabaya (Jl. Embong Malang).*



F.11 Pecel Lele

The sight of fried catfish may surprise first-time diners since it looks almost the same as it does living -- eyeballs and all. Served with rice and red and green sambal, this is simple street fare that fills the belly, which may be why it's a standout across Jakarta. *If you want to go native, head to Bakmie GM near Sarinah Mall and look for the "Pecel Lele" banner that shields diners from the street as they dig into the sweet, grilled meat.*



F.12 Opor ayam

Small diners, called warungs, now sell this traditional dish of braised chicken in coconut milk on a daily basis. Still, it remains a staple on tables around the end of Ramadan, when it's served with packed rice cakes (*ketupat*). A little like a mild, slightly chalky curry with less prep time required, it's filled with Indonesia's signature spices -- garlic, ginger, cumin and coriander. *To see how mom makes it, check out Ibu Endang Warung (Jl. Cipete Raya opposite Epilogue).*



F.13 Babi guling

Pork is uncommon in this Muslim majority nation, but we had to include roast suckling pig given the near hysteria it generates on the Hindu island of Bali. The Balinese respect their food and lavish attention on its preparation. Before spit-roasting the pig they bath it in coconut water and rub it with chili, turmeric, garlic and ginger to ensure succulence. *See why people fly from Jakarta to scarf the crispy skinned pork at Warung Ibu Oka (Jl Suweta, Ubud), but be sure to get there before 3 p.m.*



F.14 Gulai



Gulai is the common name for curry dishes, namely those from north Sumatra. Indonesian curries have regional variations that depend on the types of meat and fish available -- though gulai almost always incorporates cinnamon. Opor and rendang can be considered gulais, but better to try out the rainbow of other options. *For a tangy fish-head curry, try Pagi-Sore, a national franchise that hails from Sumatra (Jl. Pondok No. 143,*

Padang).

F.15 Bubur ayam

From blue-collar workers to government ministers, almost everyone starts their day with this rice gruel, a savory porridge served with soy sauce, fried shallots, shredded chicken, beans and crackers. Outside Java variations can include corn, cassava and fish, while a sweeter version -- for those who prefer not to start their day with a blast of chili -- is made with mung beans. *Bubur ayam is also popular in the wee hours of the morning. Join the late-night revelers at Bubur Ayam Mang Oyo, Jl. Sulanjana (near Gasibu), Bandung.*



F.16 Asinan Sayur

When palates crave the opposite of Javanese sweetness, this pickled vegetable salad offers reprieve. The secret is in the dressing, a thin peanut sauce swirled with palm sugar to offset the salty snap of preserved mustard leaf, carrot, cabbage and cucumber. The krupuk cracker crunch comes from a yellow disc made with egg noodles. *Yaya has been serving up bowls of Asinan for 22 years outside the iconic Ragusa Ice Cream shop (Jl. Veteran 1No. 10.) He also makes a mean dried-squid salad called juhi.*



F.17 Cah kangkung



Otherwise known as water spinach, a common river weed, kangkung gets stir fried with sweet soybean sauce, huge slices of garlic, bird's-eye chili and shrimp paste to take it from a poor man's food to something with a kick. Because it grows well in any kind of soil, it is a common ingredient in dishes throughout Asia. Here the cah indicates its Chinese origins. *Try it along with gurame at Santika, Jl. Bendungan Hilir across from the market.*

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