



I N D O N E S I A

INDONESIA AT A GLANCE

- Indonesia, the largest archipelago in the world, lies along the equator at the crossroads of Asia and Australia. This strategic position has greatly influenced its cultural, social, political, and economic life
- Indonesian has 13,670 islands stretching over 3200miles between the indian and Pacific oceans, a distance greater than the width of the United States. Its total land area is almost 3 times the size of texas.
- Indonesia has five main islands namely Kalimantan (Borneo), Sumatra, Papua (Irian), Sulawesi (Celebes) and Java those island contain the majority of the population, but Java is by far the most populated.
- 80% of country territory is in fact water, Indonesian refer to their country as Tanah Air or "Our (Nations of) Land and Water"
- Since Indonesian straddles the equator, it experiences the typical year-long hot and humid weather patter of tropical countries. Afternoon thunderstorms are common. Indonesia has only two seasons, and even these are not extremes. The dry season (june-sept), the wet season (dec-march)
- Indonesia is the 4th most populated country in the world-after china, India and USA-its population was estimated in 2000 as 225 million.
- Indonesia is a former colony of the Netherlands. However only older Indonesians have any familiarity with the Dutch language. Although there are over 583 ethnic languages and dialects used daily in the country, Bahasa Indonesia is the official language of Indonesia.
- The most fascinating feature of Indonesia is the incredible diversity of its people. It is a country where more than 300 different ethnics groups speak 250 distinct languages and have their own individual culture and customs.
- Even the physical appearance of the people varies from region to region. They differ vastly in skin and hair coloring, hair type and facial features.



I N D O N E S I A

INDONESIAN CULTURAL VALUES

As Indonesia consists of many different ethnic groups, customs and culture are also vary. However in general, Indonesian values are as follows:

RELATIONSHIPS

- Indonesians are more **Collectivism** rather than individualism.
 - It is extremely important in Indonesia to conform to the group rather than be different. "Doing your own thing," or deviating from the accepted behavior, is considered embarrassing and unnatural.
 - As a result for Indonesian, Group Harmony, Cooperation and Consensus are very important. For example value group harmony rather than individual achievement, and consequently avoid direct conflict. Most major decisions are made by team consensus rather than by the president of the organization.
- Indonesian values **Respect & Seniority** (or Hierarchical or High Power Distance), it shows at paying high respect for the boss, teacher, parent, elders, and senior persons. Indonesians show great deference to a superior.
 - Good manner, and courtesy towards other are important. In this regard, term of address should be considered. Indonesian use titles before names when addressing of referring to people as a gesture of respect. When addressing people who are older, respectable or of higher status, be sure to use a title, while when addressing friends or similar of similar age you can omit it.
- **Intimacy** Public displays of intimacy between people of the opposite sex are considered improper, though it is perfectly acceptable for friends of the same sex to walk hand in hand. Kissing in public is taboo.

COMMUNICATION

- Indonesians are generally **indirect in their approach**.
 - Indonesian existence is a calm and peaceful one. When something unpleasant cannot be avoided, however, it is dealt with by maintaining an outward calm.
 - Indonesian **hate confrontation, preferring to hide negative feelings** such as jealousy and anger. They do not complain or shout, but cope with stress by smiling and quietly withdrawing. If pushed



I N D O N E S I A

beyond limits, however, an Indonesian can lose control or even run amok in blind anger, a word that originated in this region.

- The implications of this characteristic in the daily life is that people **tend not to talk, request or refused something directly**. Since it is considered impolite to disagree with someone, Indonesians (mostly Javanese) rarely say no. We are expected to be perceptive enough to differentiate a polite yes (but mean no) from actual yes. Westerners often interpret this as deceit but Indonesians are simply being polite by their own cultural standards.
 - In conversation, Indonesian always strive to “maintain the peace”. This often means **speaking in a roundabout, indirect manner** – to ask for a glass of water, a person might clear his throat and comment on how dry and dusty the day is; no one would upset a host by refusing an invitation, even if unable to make it to the party.
 - **Body language and gestures are important, sometimes is more important than verbal language**. Indonesians of all ethnic groups are comfortable with silence, in both business and social settings. A silent pause allows time for thought; it does not necessarily signal either acceptance or rejection. Westerners often find such pauses uncomfortable.
-
- **FLEXIBLE TIME** Indonesians have a laid-back approach to punctuality-a person can arrive between an hour to three hours late without causing offense.
 - **BATHING** Indonesian bathe at least twice a day, and the more water splashed around, the cleaner the better. In a typical bathroom one does not climb into the stone water storage basin or mandi. Icy cold water is splashed from this mandi over oneself for an invigorating bath, which leaves everything soaking wet. Most rural homes do not have toilets and one simply uses a nearby stream. A squat toilet is usually a hole in the ground with footrests on the either side. There is usually no flush system or toilet paper, as water is preferred for reasons of hygiene.
 - **SICKNESS** Most Indonesia prefer to have mild illnesses treated at home. The cure any illness due to masuk angin(the entrance of the wind), oil is rubbed onto a person's neck and back with a heavy metal coind that is vigorously scraped along the skin. The deep red stripes that remain for a day or two actually look much worse than they feel



I N D O N E S I A

INDONESIAN FAMILIES

- Since Indonesian is a family oriented, in which family is playing an important role in daily lives. Although family is important, but with the closed relationship, in general they are not openly showing their feelings/affection.
- Families play a major role, in difficult times, entire families come together and relatives pitch in, especially in some ethnic (Minang - West Sumatra, and Batak - North Sumatra) the concept of family means big families.
- In general, parents especially father has a dominant role in the family. The head of family, generally makes all major decisions, often after discussion with all. The schooling, college, even marriage is sometimes decided by parents.
- Sons are generally pampered and spoiled. Most are not asked to do house chores. However, in "modern, urban families", girls and boys are treated equally and have same privileges and even sometimes boys are expected to help at home.
- In general, parents treated their children as their babies, so when the children has to make decisions they always ask permission or opinion from parents as a form of respect.
- Obedience in general is very important value in the family, consequently decisions or rules are not supposed to be questioned.

RELIGION

- This is the land where four of the world's major religions are practiced-where prayers are offered to Allah (Islam), Shiva (Hinduism), Buddha (Buddhism), and the Christian God. The majority of Indonesians are Muslim
- Being a multicultural nation with a multi religion society, Indonesian people have learned about the importance of tolerance and respect side by side with harmony.
- Religion and religious practices are important, even in some parts of Indonesia it becomes the basic norms of society.
- Muslims observe the obligatory prayer five times a day. Prayer in Islam is actually an inner and outer action, which serves as a direct link between the worshipper and God.



I N D O N E S I A

- Observant Muslim fast from dawn to sundown during the month of Ramadan. It is expected that people pay respect to this ritual and do not eat or drink in front of fasting Indonesians.
- In Islam, Muslims cover themselves and avoid wearing “revealing” outfits, however, not all Indonesian Muslims women wearing this kind of dress.
- Islam has dietary restriction for pork and alcohol, in this regard any food contains pork and alcohol are also prohibited.

FOOD HABITS

- Indonesian eat three time a day. Rice is the staple food in most parts of Indonesia and can be eaten for breakfast, lunch and dinner with either fish, meat, vegetables or eggs. Most Indonesian food is highly spiced with hot chili peppers or is accompanied by a fiery red chili paste called sambal. Indonesian Food tends to be spicy, oily, and often deep-fried. Fresh fruits as dessert are also served after meal.
- The traditional way to eat is with fingers of the right hand. Indonesian believe that food tastes better when it is eaten by hand rather than with a fork and spoon. In cities and towns, people do use a fork and spoon. Knives is not necessary.
- Indonesians eat with their right hand. The left is considered unclean as it is used for toilet purposes. At most, it is used to hold a glass of water if one is eating with the right. The left hand is usually kept on the table.
- Guests are always honored with special treatment. IF they are present, the table is laden with far more food than guests can possibly eat

SCHOOL SYSTEMS

Schooling years

- The schooling years are divided as follows:
 - Pre-Primary : Lower Kindergarten (Play Group,) and Kindergarten, for two years from age 4.
 - Primary : 1st to 6th grades
 - Secondary : 7th to 9th grades (Junior High School)



I N D O N E S I A

- o Higher Secondary : 10th to 12th grades (Senior High School)

After 12 years of Primary and Secondary schooling above, a student can continue their study as follows:

- 3 - 4 years of college/university studies which results in a B.A, B.Sc.
- Then if he/she so desires, 2 years post-graduate studies resulting in MBA, MM, MA, M.Sc., etc.,
- 3 – 4 years of non-degree studies (we called it diploma).

There are a very tight competition to get a seat in good schools (mostly state own universities), as many candidates apply. In this regard, students have to sit in the entry tests.

Grading System

- In Primary up to Senior High School, the grading systems usually are range from 1 to 10, or 10 to 100. Although there are many grading system but in general the grading system is as follows:
 - o 9 – 10 = Outstanding
 - o 8 = Excellent
 - o 7 = Good
 - o 6 = Fair
 - o 4 – 5 = Poor
 - o 1 -3 = Fail
- In colleges/universities, the grading system is also ranging from 1 to 10, or 10 to 100, but then converted to alphabetical grading (A to E).
- 6th Grade and 9th Grade has a National Exam, generally in the month of May all over Indonesia
- Schools sessions are start July. A year school session is divided by two semesters.
- 12th Grade called Senior High School, one chooses a stream: science, humanities or commerce. At the end of 12th is a final National Exam.



Bina Antarbudaya

The Indonesian Foundation for Intercultural Learning



I N D O N E S I A

FOTO-FOTO

- peta indonesia
- foto di bali, pantai
- anak mandi diguyur
- makan garpu dan sendok
- makanan
- orang sholat
- pake jilbab
- anak sekolah biasa
- anak sekolah pesantren
- anak-anak main lari karung
- merin dan anka baju kalimantan
- tarian
- baju-baju daerah
- anak cium tangan ortu
- Bromo
- mesjid / gereja / temple atau orang yang lagi natalan atau dll
- keluarga