



Interesting Facts about Indonesia - Geography, Polity, National Flag

Hey aspirant, welcome back to our captivating "**Know your Country**" series. This time, we invite you to join on an exploration of the remarkable country Indonesia. It's a country that has so much to offer. It has stunning beaches to rich cultural heritage, Indonesia is true gem.

Indonesia is known as the "**Republic of Indonesia**", is a country in Southeast Asia and Oceania between the Indian and Pacific oceans. Indonesia is the world's fourth-most populous country and the most populous Muslim-majority country. Indonesia is the world's largest archipelagic state and the 14th-largest country. Indonesia is one of the more complex countries in the world, with 336 ethnic groups speaking 583 languages and dialects. It is only recently that these people have been contained within one political framework. Before looking at different aspects, one must know the country **symbols of the particular country**.



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Indonesia	
Official Name	Republic of Indonesia
Capital	Jakarta
Continent	Asia
President	Joko Widodo
Currency	The rupiah
Language	Bahasa Indonesia
Religion	Muslim, Christians, Islamic
National Flag	
National Anthem	Indonesia Raya
National Game	Badminton
National Bird	Javan Hawk-eagle
National Tree	Teak
National Flower	The puspa bangsa

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[Source: International Banker]

So now, let's move on the first aspect of the blog i.e. **History of Indonesia**.

History of Indonesia

The Indonesian archipelago was formed during the thaw after the Last Glacial Maximum. Early humans travelled by sea and spread from mainland Asia eastward to New Guinea and Australia. Homo sapiens reached the region by around 45,000 years ago. Fossilised remains of Homo erectus, popularly known as the "Java Man", suggest the Indonesian archipelago was inhabited two million to 500,000 years ago. Homo sapiens reached the region around 43,000 BCE.

Ancient Period And Medieval Period:

The history of Indonesia has been shaped by its geographic position, natural resources, a series of human migrations and contacts, wars and conquests, as well as by trade, economics and politics. Indonesia is an archipelagic country of 17,000 to 18,000 islands stretching along the equator in Southeast Asia. Although Muslim traders first travelled through South East Asia early in the Islamic era, the spread of Islam among the inhabitants of the Indonesian archipelago dates to the 13th century in northern Sumatra.

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[Source: History-maps.com]

The arrival of Europeans in South East Asia is often regarded as the watershed moment in its history. Other scholars consider this view untenable arguing that European influence during the times of the early arrivals of the 16th and 17th centuries was limited in both area and depth. This is in part due to Europe not being the most advanced or dynamic area of the world in the early 15th century.

Colonial Period:

Today, Indonesia is a diverse and multicultural nation with a population of over 270 million people. The country is known for its natural beauty, rich cultural heritage, and significant contributions to global art, music, and cuisine. It is also one of the world's fastest-growing economies and a major player in the Southeast Asian region. In 1914 the exiled Dutch socialist Henk Sneevliet founded the Indies Social Democratic Association. Initially a small forum of Dutch socialists, it would later evolve into the Communist Party of Indonesia in 1924. In the post-World War I era, the Dutch strongly repressed all attempts at change.

Independence and Beyond:

The Indonesian National Revolution, or the Indonesian War of Independence, was an armed conflict and diplomatic struggle between the Republic of Indonesia and the Dutch Empire and an internal social revolution during postwar and postcolonial Indonesia. It took place between Indonesia's declaration of independence in 1945 and the Netherlands' transfer of sovereignty over the Dutch East Indies to the Republic of the United States of Indonesia at the end of 1949.

Before going further we will get discuss about **the events of the country**:

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Here is the timeline of some key events of Indonesia

- **1883** - Volcanic eruption of Krakatoa (Krakatau) island causes devastating tsunamis.
- **1928** - A youth conference pledges to work for "one nation, one language, one people" for Indonesia.
- **1942** - Japan invades Dutch East Indies.
- **1945** - After Japanese surrender, nationalist leader Sukarno returns from internal exile and declares independence.
- **1949** - The Dutch recognise Indonesian independence after four years of guerrilla warfare.
- **1950** - Maluku (Moluccas) declares independence from Indonesia and fights an unsuccessful separatist war
- **1962** - Western New Guinea, or West Papua, held by the Netherlands, is placed under UN administration and subsequently occupied by Indonesian forces.
- **1975** - Portugal grants East Timor independence. Indonesia invades the following year and annexes it as a province.
- **1997** - Asian economic crisis.
- **1999** - Free elections are held in Indonesia.

The timeline showcases Indonesia as a rich and diverse history in a simple way. Let's move on to the next aspect of this blog i.e. **Geographical Aspects**.

Geographical Aspects of Indonesia

Indonesia, the world's largest archipelago, is located between mainland Southeast Asia and Australia in the Indian and Pacific oceans. Spanning a total land area of 1,904,569 square kilometers, Indonesia is made up of approximately 17,504 islands, 6000 of which are populated. It is the largest archipelago in the world, with over 17,500 islands stretching more than 5,000 kilometers from west to east.

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[Source: Tripadvisor]

Demographical Aspects:

Indonesia is now at the third stage of demographic transition. This third stage is also known as the late expanding stage because both the mortality rate and the birth rate are decreasing at a slower pace, resulting in population growth that starts to level off. These two groups are the Javanese and Sundanese. Both groups originate from the island of Java, Indonesia's most populous island, which contains almost sixty percent of the country's total population.

Indonesia has a relatively young population compared to Western nations, though it is aging as the country's birth rate has slowed and its life expectancy has increased. Indonesia is undergoing a demographic transition with a sizeable decline in infant mortality and a reduction in fertility rates.

Soil and Vegetation:

Indonesia is one of the world's main suppliers of rubber, coffee, cocoa, and palm oil; it also produces a wide range of other commodities, such as sugar, tea, tobacco, copra, and spices. Among the most fertile soils are the ando soils, which developed on the andesitic volcanic sediments of the northeastern coast of Sumatra. Highly fertile soils, also derived from or enriched by basic andesitic volcanic material, occur on Java and Celebes as well. The distribution of Indonesian flora is dominated by broadleaf evergreen forests. This is mostly seen in the regions where population density is still relatively low, such as Sumatra, Borneo, Sulawesi and West Papua. On Java and Bali the vegetation is dominated by cultivated plants.

Climate and Weather:

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Indonesia's climate is largely hot and humid, with rainfall occurring mostly in low-lying areas and mountainous regions experiencing cooler temperatures. The cities of Jakarta, Ujung Padang, Medan, Padang, and Balikpapan have an average minimum temperature of 22.8°C and a high of 30.2°C. Its climate is almost entirely tropical, dominated by the tropical rainforest climate found in every major island of Indonesia, followed by the tropical monsoon climate that predominantly lies along Java's coastal north, Sulawesi's coastal south and east, and Bali, and finally the tropical savanna climate

Now, let's look at the **Political aspects of Indonesia**

Political Aspects of Indonesia

The politics of Indonesia take place in the framework of a presidential representative democratic republic whereby the President of Indonesia is both head of state and head of government and of a multi-party system.

- **Legislature:** The legislative building complex. The House of Representatives. The MPR is the legislative branch of Indonesia's political system. The MPR is composed of two houses: the DPR, which is commonly called the House of Representatives, and the DPD, which is called the Regional Representative Council.
- **Judiciary:** The judiciary is independent of the executive and the legislature. The 1945 constitution provided for a limited separation of executive, legislative and judicial power. The governmental system has been described as "presidential with parliamentary characteristics"
- **Executive:** The executive branch of Indonesia is headed by a president, who is head of government and head of state. The president is elected by general election and can serve up to two five-year terms if re-elected. The executive branch also includes a vice-president and a cabinet.



[Source: The christian science Monitor]

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Currently, Indonesia is divided into 38 provinces, 9 of which have special status. The terminology for special status are "Istimewa" and "Khusus", which translates to 'special' and/or 'designated' in English. Under Article 20A of the amended 1945 Constitution, the DPR has three main functions: legislative, budgeting and oversight.

So now, let's look at the **Culture of Indonesia**.

Culture of Indonesia

Language:

The national language, Bahasa Indonesia, is the language of virtually all instruction at all levels of government education in Indonesia, and this variety of Malay also provides the language for all textbooks.

Cuisine:

Seven main Indonesian cooking methods are frying, grilling, roasting, dry roasting, sautéing, boiling and steaming. Some popular Indonesian dishes such as nasi goreng, gado-gado, satay, and soto are ubiquitous in the country and are considered national dishes.

Festivals:

A national festival celebrated across the country is the Independence Day of Indonesia. It is celebrated on the 17th of August every year. Apart from these, Rambu Solo Ceremony, Nyepi, Waisak, Baliem Valley Festival, Bau Nyale, Galungan, and Lampung Krakatau Festival are some of the major festivals in Indonesia.

Performing Art:

The best known theater and drama in Indonesia is the Javanese and Balinese shadow puppet theater based on the Ramayana epic, with its brilliant puppeteers (dalang) who may manipulate over a hundred puppets in all-night oral performances accompanied by a gamelan orchestra.

Sporting Culture:

In traditional Indonesian culture, there is no actual concept for physical exercise as the counterpart of modern sport. Native Indonesians usually linked the physical activities to tribal practices; mainly for ritual, art, physical fitness and martial purposes.

Art and Craft:

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Indonesian crafts and arts are diverse: jewelry, beadwork, batik, pottery, metal, baskets, wood carving, leather puppet, stone carving, and painting. While we only witnessed a few of these during our short stay on Bali and Java, the quality and beauty of the work were impressive.

Cultural values:

The Indonesian People are composed of various ethnic groups, of which the Javanese which is the largest ethnic group with about 40%, followed by the Sudanese with 15%. The political sphere is, to be said, dominated by Javanese. 86.1% of Indonesians are Muslims and the rest are Christian, Hindu or Buddhist.

Multiculturalism:

Indonesia is a multicultural country. It includes several racial, religious and cultural groups. A nation consisting of 13,000 islands, 300 ethnic groups and 200 languages.

Indigenous Heritage:

The culture of Indonesia is varied, with its melting pot of colonial and immigrant influences as well as its indigenous traditions, from the Portuguese traders to the Dutch colonialists to Chinese, Indian and Malay settlers.



[Source: Thoughtco]

Education of Indonesia

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All Indonesian citizens must undertake twelve years of compulsory education, which consists of 6 years in elementary school, 3 years in junior high school, and another 3 years in senior high school. Schools in Indonesia are run by either the government, or private. In Indonesia, all citizens must undertake twelve years of compulsory education which consists of six years at elementary level and three each at middle and high school levels. Islamic, Christian and Buddhist schools are under the responsibility of the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

Economy of Indonesia

Indonesia's main exports include crude petroleum and natural gas as well as rubber, coffee, cocoa and palm oil. Indonesia's islands are dotted with architectural remnants of Hindu-Buddhist and other empires. The economy of Indonesia is one of the emerging market economies in the world and the largest in Southeast Asia. As an upper-middle income country and member of the G20, Indonesia is classified as a newly industrialized country.



[Source: Holidify]

Now, let's check out **some interesting facts about Indonesia**.

Interesting Facts about Indonesia

Indonesia is the hottest spot on the Pacific Ring of Fire with Indonesia having roughly 130 active volcanoes, approximately four small earthquakes that occur daily, and sitting between the most active seismic areas on earth, it is the hottest spot on the Ring of Fire.

1. **Bali:** Bali has always been the most favorite tourist destination in Indonesia since a long time ago. Also known as the Island of the Gods.
2. **Komodo dragon:** The Komodo dragon, which holds the distinction of being the largest species of lizard in the world, is the official animal of Indonesia. However, the national emblem of Indonesia actually contains a mythical bird called a Garuda.

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[Source: Holidify]

It is a sovereign state and has an elected legislature. Indonesia has one of the unique cultures in the world. With multiple countries influencing during its colonial era, Indonesia has one of the most diverse cultures in the world. It has a vast collection of natural resources like tin, gold and oil.