Appendix 1

WELCOME TO JAKARTA

The most modern city in the Indonesian archipelago, Jakarta is the proud Capital of the Republic of Indonesia.

It is the seat of the National Government and National Parliament, center of Banking, Finance as well as Business and Trade and the hub of domestic and international air transportation in the country.

Founded in the 16th century when the town was already a busy Asian trading port, Jakarta then became the center of administration in the colonial era under Dutch East Indies rule. But it was also in Jakarta where the people of Indonesia declared their Independence on 17 August 1945 from three centuries of being burdened under the yoke of colonization.

Today Jakarta is an autonomous province comprising 5 Municipalities and one District, namely Central Jakarta, North Jakarta, West Jakarta, East Jakarta and South Jakarta and the District of the Thousand Islands, or Pulau Seribu in the Bay of Jakarta. The city is cut by no less than 13 rivers with the largest being the Ciliwung river. With a population of over 9 million people, Jakarta continues to spread out to link with its neighboring districts and towns to make up the Greater Jakarta area, popularly known as Jabodetabek, short for the names of the towns of Jakarta-Bogor-Depok-Tanggerang-Bekasi.

Jakarta today is a melting pot of Indonesia’s hundreds of ethnic groups who call this multi-cultural and cosmopolitan capital city “home”.

For international Businessmen and Government officials, Jakarta is the city for meetings and conventions, offering large Convention halls for meetings and exhibitions with latest state of the art facilities as well as luxurious hotels with large ballrooms and prime accommodation amenities.

For visitors, Jakarta offers the best in Shopping, Entertainment and Leisure activities. People from around the country and abroad come in droves to attend the many national and International Concerts performed here by world’s singing stars. Jakarta is also where to find Fun and Recreation parks for the whole family from the huge Ancol Dreamland with its many heart-stopping rides to the more cultural Taman Mini Indonesia and the popular Ragunan Zoo. There are also plenty of opportunities for world class Golf, and Diving and Beach sports. In this large city is an unbelievable wide choice for Shopping in over a hundred huge modern and fully air-conditioned malls, as well as at South East Asia’s largest wholesale textile market at Tanah Abang, or cute wayside antique stalls at Jalan Surabaya.

For lovers of food there is a wide array of cuisines to try from across the Indonesian archipelago – from nasi goreng and satay to rendang and more – as well as from around the world – from Chinese food to
Korean, Japanese, Turkish, and European food, or just simple hamburgers or noodles. While in the evenings, numerous hangouts are open to plunge into Jakarta’s exciting nightlife.

For the more serious minded and history buffs, do not miss the National Museum, the National Monument and the Textile Museum, and you should visit Jakarta Kota Tua or Old Batavia, the 17th century center of administration and business activities of the Dutch East India Company, VOC. Today around the plaza are a number of Museums from the Wayang Museum to the Bank Mandiri Museum, where you can see banking activities in eras gone by.

To see for Chinese Heritage, Jakarta also has its own Chinatown in Glodok and Petak Sembilan. Visit Jakarta’s oldest temple, browse and shop in typical Chinese stores and eat your fill at Pecenongan. While all around the center of town you will also find European buildings, heritage from the Dutch colonial era.

Beneath Jakarta’s modernity, the indigenous culture of the people of Jakarta, known as the Betawi are far from forgotten. The Betawi openness, joviality and democratic nature have spread to newcomers permeating everyday life in the capital. The Ondel-ondel, the giant puppets that are the icons of the city, are today an inseparable part of Jakarta. For a glimpse into the life of the Betawi take time to visit Setu Babakan, a true Betawi village.
The City Hall

The City Hall Building

The City Hall of Jakarta is a classic and historical building located on Medan Merdeka Selatan #8. It’s a key part of the office cluster of Jakarta Capital City Government as it’s where the governor and his staff have their office. Before this, Jakarta’s seat of government had relocated several times. When Stad Batavia was established in 1905, which was afterwards renamed Gemeente Batavia, the government had its office at the Stadhuis, a classic 18th century building located at Stadhuisplein (now the Jakarta History Museum and Taman Fatahillah, respectively). As a consequence of progress, the city of Batavia grew increasingly towards the south to eventually relocate its civic center to Weltevreden (now Gambir); the office of Gemeente Batavia, however, became isolated from downtown.

Therefore, in 1913, the office of Gemeente Batavia was moved to Tanah Abang West (now Abdul Muis #35, Central Jakarta). Only to be again relocated to Koningsplein Zuid (now Medan Merdeka Selatan #9) in 1919.

During Japanese occupancy, between 1942 and 1945, Gemeente Batavia was renamed Djakarta Tokubetsu Shi, though it continued to occupy the office at Koningsplein Zuid #9. This was later renamed Gambir Selatan following Indonesia’s independence. Offices of the city government remained where they were even if the city was given the new title of National Government of Djakarta City; the office building was renamed Municipal Hall of the National Government of Djakarta City. Soewirjo took office as the first mayor.

The Dutch occupied Jakarta in an aggression on 21 July 1947. The NICA Government took control over the Municipal Hall and on 21 November detained and banished Soewirjo and city officials from Jakarta. The National Government of Djakarta City was effectively decapitated. On 9 March 1948, the Dutch formed a Pre-federal government which had Jakarta as State Capital and which fell under direct control of the Federal Government. Jakarta was consequently renamed Stadgemeente Djakarta. This name remained in effect until 27 December 1949 when the Dutch Royal Government acknowledged the Republic of Indonesia’s sovereignty. As of 31 March 1950, Jakarta carried the title of Djakarta Municipality and Soewirjo was again appointed mayor. On that very year, Gambir Selatan was renamed Medan Merdeka Selatan.

In 1945, during the mayoral tenure of Sudiro, the first expansion of office space for the Djakarta Municipal Government was commissioned in order to allow for broader public service activities. The building at Merdeka Selatan 8, which at the time was the office of the Dutch Royal High Commissioner to Indonesia, was merged with the City Hall while the municipal government handed down a building at Medan Merdeka Barat as replacement. Mayor Sudiro used the building at Medan Merdeka Selatan 8 as a joint office shared with the Gotong Royong City Council.
In 1960, during the tenure of Sumarno, Jakarta was granted the special position of being equivalent to that of First-level Autonomous Region. The Municipal Government of Djakarta Raja was consequently renamed Djakarta Capital City Government (DCI Djakarta for short), headed by a governor. Following the introduction of reformed spelling in 1972, spelling of the official title was altered so that the short form now read “DKI Jakarta”. Going back a little, by virtue of Law No. 120 of 1964, Jakarta was officially the capital city of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia.

In 1969, to provide proper space for city council sessions, Block C (the Municipal Hall) was built while Block F (4 storeys) was built to meet workspace needs of the council’s secretariat.

In 1972, to accommodate the ever-expanding and increasingly varied governance activities and public services, the Jakarta Capital City Government demolished building #9 and built in its place a new 24-storey building. The building, later known as Block G Building, purposed as a “learning” and pilot project for the construction of other high-rises and to be used as reference in the drafting of regulations concerning multi-storey buildings.

The entire construction process – from planning and designing to the performing of construction calculations and earthquake-proofing – was carried out by Indonesian experts. The first stage of construction was completed in 1974 and the final stage was ready in 1976. President Soeharto inaugurated the new building on 28 April 1976.

In 1972, the office cluster of Jakarta Capital City Government was expanded further to the interior towards Kebon Sirih. The new building was allotted to the Regional Revenue and Treasury Service and named Block H. After that, new buildings were built, namely, in succession, Block D (offices and office facilities, including a bank and a fire department) and Block F (offices, office facilities).

Increased activities of the city council, of whose members were elected in 1977 – either with linkage to working relationships with the Jakarta Capital City Government or to the people’s awareness to communicate aspirations and issues constitutionally – created the need for a proper building facility to ensuring smooth implementation of duties and responsibilities. Therefore, in 1982, Jakarta Capital City Government built the City Council building, which faced Kebon Sirih, the site formerly occupied by the Dutch Embassy. The site was selected on basis that the council and governor as regional head form a regional government unity, and it would only make sense for the city council building to be in immediate proximity to the office cluster.
2. HISTORIC JAKARTA

Pre-colonial, Colonial, Independence, and Modern Indonesia

The oldest part of Jakarta lies on the North West coast of Java where the Ciliwung river pours out into the Bay of Jakarta.

This harbour town was first known as Sunda Kelapa. But on 22 June 1527 Prince Fatahillah razed Sunda Kelapa and founded the town of Jayakarta on the same site. This is the date that Jakarta takes as the establishment of the city. Jayakarta was a thriving port where traders from China, India, Arabia and later the Europeans, as well as those from all over the archipelago exchanged their wares.

In 1619, the Dutch VOC under Jan Pieterszoon Coen destroyed Jayakarta and built a new town on the west bank of the Ciliwung river, which he named Batavia, after the Batavieren, the Dutch tribal ancestors. Batavia was planned similar to Dutch towns, in a series of blocks cut by canals and defended by a fortified wall and a moat. This part of Batavia was completed in 1650. Old Batavia was where the Europeans lived, while the Chinese, Javanese and other indigenous groups were relegated outside the city entrenchment.

In its heydays, Batavia became known as the Jewel of the East, the seat of the VOC and later it became the seat of the Dutch Government over the sprawling East Indies archipelago.

During the Japanese occupation in 1942, the Japanese again changed the name from Batavia to Jakarta.

On this 1.3 square kilometers of land, - today part of north and west Jakarta, - is where the Dutch built a fortress, a city wall, canals and administrative buildings.

Center of Old Batavia was the Municipal Hall, known as Stadhuis, fronted by a large plaza, known as Stadhuisplein, that has a fountain in its center that supplied water to the surrounding buildings. Today the plaza is called the Fatahillah and the Stadhuis has become the Fatahillah Museum which houses the complete history of the growth of the city of Jakarta.

Around the square are important buildings. On the East side was the Court of Justice, which is now the Museum of Fine Arts and Ceramics. Here you will find paintings of Indonesia’s maestro painter Raden Saleh as well as those of the more contemporary painter, Basuki Abdullah, Affandi and more.

To the west you can find the Wayang Museum that was once owned by the large Dutch company Geo Wehry.

Nearby is the Kota Railway Station, also known as the Beos Station. This is an art deco building, which continues to be in use and still retains its original architecture. While to the north are a number of commercial buildings which now house the Museum Mandiri and the Bank Indonesia Museum.
Historic Places around Kota Tua (the Old Batavia)

The Jakarta History Museum

Also known as the Fatahillah Museum in the Old Batavia district, the Museum follows the history of Jakarta. Originally built in 1707 as the Stadhuis, or the Municipal Hall of Batavia, the building now houses the history of the city of Jakarta from prehistoric times until today, in metals, textiles, stones, crystal, ceramics, paper, and bone. Here is the “Jagur” cannon, believed to enhance fertility, the axe used for beheading of criminals, paintings of consecutive Dutch Governor Generals from 1602 – 1942.

Here there also original antique colonial furniture once used by the colonial powers. The Museum has a dark and scary dungeon that was once a prison, where at one time Indonesia’s National Hero, Diponegoro, was imprisoned and chained.

The Wayang Museum

The Wayang Museum is also located at the Fatahillah Square. “Wayang” are the typical stylized Indonesian puppets that draw their tales from the Hindu epic poems the Mahabharata and the Ramayana as well as relate the feats of ancient Javanese kings in destroying their opponents.

While “wayang” is a way of popular story-telling yet it is a sophisticated art form that conveys deep philosophical thoughts and learnings. For this reason Wayang has also been designated a UNESCO World Heritage.

Most well known are the finely crafted leather puppets that are used for shadow puppet performances, but in this Museum you will find all kinds of puppets from different parts of Java. There are the wayang golek puppets from West Java, These are wooden puppets played by the “dalang” or the story teller, who changes his voice and intonations following the character in action, whether male or female, king or commoner.

Wayang can also be performed by human actors, in which case it is called “Wayang Wong”. Here are also masks, wayang beber, Wayang Revolusi, Wayang Suket and more, totalling some 5,500 items.

The Museum also has a collection of puppets from different countries, from China, India, Thailand, Cambodia to France and Suriname. The oldest in the collection is the Wayang Kyai Intan created in 1870.

The Fine Arts and Ceramics Museum

Still at the Fatahillah Square is the Fine Arts and Ceramics Museum. Here are displayed a collection of rare paintings by Indonesia’s maestros like Raden Saleh, Affandi, Basoeki Abdullah, S. Sudjojono, to contemporary Dede Ero Supria and more. There are also collections of ceramics and sculptures by G. Sidharta.
Bank Indonesia Museum and Bank Mandiri Museum

If you are interested in Banking, then visit the Bank Indonesia Museum and the Bank Mandiri Museum also around the Square. In the Bank Indonesia Museum you can follow the history of the archipelago’s Banking system from Dutch colonial times to today.

While the Bank Mandiri Museum shows how a private bank was run in the old colonial days.

A mural shows the four seasons in Europe and a Dutch Captain, named Cornelis Houtman. The building itself has still retained the aura of the good old days, where ceramic mosaic floors are still in place in the lobby, the meeting room and offices of the bank directors.

With the growth of the city, the Dutch expanded Batavia further south to present-day Merdeka Square – then called Koningsplein around which today stand the Merdeka Palace, the Supreme Court of Justice, the National Museum and many important government offices including the office of the Governor of Jakarta as well as the American Embassy.

In the center of the Merdeka Square now stands the National Monument, an obelisk-shaped needle on a large platform, dedicated to the historic Struggle for Independence of the Indonesian people. Below is the museum of the History of Indonesia’s Independence.

The actual site where the historic Proclamation of Independence took place on the 17th August 1945 is on Jalan Proklamasi in the Menteng area. Here stands a statue of the Declarators of Independence, Soekarno and Hatta. On this site once stood the residence of Soekarno, Indonesia’s first President, but which has been razed and now stands a five storeyed building once dedicated to the Grand Development Design of the Republic of Indonesia.

Historic Places Around Merdeka Square

The National Monument

The National Monument stands proudly in the center of the 1 square kilometer Merdeka Square, symbolizing the hard-fought struggle of the Indonesian people to gain their Independence.

Obelisk-shaped and covered in white Italian marble with a golden fire on the top, the Monument is 132 meters tall and stands on a platform which houses a museum and diorama encapsulating the history of the Republic of Indonesia.

The golden flame is 14 meters high with a 6 meter diameter. Made of bronze weighing 14.5 tons, it is covered with 50 kg of pure gold leaf. Its base is a platform at a height of 115 meters, which can be reached by elevator and is a perfect look-out place to see the Jakarta skyline.

The Monument is surrounded by a green park where spotted deer can be seen grazing. There is also a musical fountain that plays each Sunday night.

On Sundays, the area becomes an open park where Jakarta’s inhabitants are free to bike, jog and play games.
The Monument is often used for Festivals including New Year's Eve celebrations.

The National Monument was designed and built in 1961 by Indonesian architects and engineers Soedarsono, Silaban and Roosseno.

On the North side facing the Merdeka or Freedom Square stands the Merdeka Palace with adjoining Presidential Offices and State Secretariat s. Behind the Merdeka Palace but still within one complex is the Negara Palace (State Palace) which faces the other side towards the Ciliwung river along Jalan Juanda. In addition to a building for special guests, and Highlight of a visit to the Museum is the Gold and Jewelry room where are found precious crowns, ornaments, keris and jewelry once worn by royalty and the aristocracies around the archipelago. The National Museum has recently been expanded to make room for better displays.

The Office of the Governor of Jakarta is situated on the South side of the Merdeka Square, at Jalan Medan Merdeka Selatan No. 9, adjacent to the Office of the Vice-President and the American Embassy.

In 1905 the Batavia Municipal office was located in the Stadhuis, the present Jakarta Museum at the Fatahillah Square. However, in 1919 the office was moved to the building which has now become the office of the Governor of Jakarta. In 1982 a highrise building was constructed right behind the Governor’s office facing Jalan Kebon Sirih, which houses the Jakarta’s Provincial Parliament. The Jakarta Governor’s office and the Jakarta Provincial Parliament building are therefore adjoining.

Serious construction of Modern Jakarta was started by Indonesia’s first president, Soekarno, who built the wide avenue connecting the Merdeka Square with the then new residential town of Kebayoran.

This avenue was earmarked exclusively for highrise buildings. And so today, one sees only tall buildings on the Sudirman-Thamrin 6 lanes avenue. President Soekarno, who was a civil engineer by education, also built the National Monument and the Istiqlal Mosque. Indonesia’s first highrise hotel, the Hotel Indonesia – now Hotel Indonesia Kempinski - was also built then, as was the Wisma Nusantara across this iconic Hotel Indonesia round-about fountain, today popular sites for political demonstrations.

Soekarno also built the Bung Karno Sports Center at Senayan, where the entire complex was earlier designed as a huge Olympic-sized village. Today, though, the Senayan area also has five star hotels, the Jakarta Convention Center, shopping malls and Television stations. While the Sports Center is often used for super gigs where international celebrities perform for immense crowds.

Bunderan HI, the Hotel Indonesia Circle

The Hotel Indonesia Circle is today’s heart of the metropolitan city of Jakarta. Consisting of a refreshing fountain and the Welcome to Jakarta Statue, this roundabout connects the 19th century Menteng area with 21st. century Jakarta with its modern skyscrapers, toll roads and wide avenues along Jalan Thamrin-Sudirman.

Around the circle are large hotels, supermalls and banks welcoming visitors in grand style to Indonesia’s capital city.
The original Hotel Indonesia, from which this circle derives its name, has been revamped, extended and raised, and is now the Hotel Indonesia Kempinski with adjoining Grand Indonesia mall and the tall BCA Tower, now one of the tallest buildings in the city.

Opposite is the Grand Hyatt with the equally grand Plaza Indonesia, shopping center for the elite and international visitors. Behind these two buildings is the famous Tanah Abang Textile wholesale area, and the Thamrin City mall.

On the other side is the Wisma Nusantara building, Jakarta’s first highrise building built by the Japanese with war reparation.

Today, Bunderan HI is the center of the city. On Jakarta’s Car free days, the Circle is closed to all vehicles and becomes the favorite spot for community sports, cycling, jogging and family recreation. On Jakarta’s anniversary celebrations Bunderan HI with its Welcome Statue is filled with musical entertainment for all to enjoy.

**Senayan and the Semanggi cloverleaf bridge**

President Soekarno also built the Bung Karno Sports Center at Senayan, where the entire complex was earlier designed as a huge Olympic-sized village. The Senayan complex houses the large Gelora Bung Karno Stadium and many sports facilities for tennis, archery, golf, swimming and others.

Today, though, the Senayan area also contains the Jakarta Convention Center, five star hotels shopping malls and Television stations. While the Stadium and other Sports facilities are often used for super gigs where international celebrities perform for immense crowds.
3. GREATER JAKARTA

Home to over 10 million people, Jakarta is a city of contrasts; the traditional and the modern, the sacred and the worldly.

Its population comprises of all ethnic groups in the Indonesian archipelago, living under the national motto: Bhineka Tunggal Ika, meaning: Unity in Diversity.

Spanning an area of 661 square kilometers (255 sq mi) Jakarta is one of the world’s largest cities. Capital of the Republic of Indonesia, Jakarta is an autonomous province consisting of five municipalities, namely: Central Jakarta, North, West, East and South Jakarta and the District of Pulau Seribu or the Thousand Islands.

Since Indonesia’s Independence in 1945, Jakarta’s population grew by leaps and bounds, new suburbs emerged, absorbing the one-time surrounding rural villages or kampungs. The metropolitan capital spread to all directions, first adding the Kebayoran area, then Pondok Indah, in the south, but now growing east, north, further south and west, so that today, Jakarta has become one almost seamless city with the adjoining towns of Bogor, Depok, Tangerang, and Bekasi. The greater Jakarta area is, therefore, known following its acronym: Jabodetabek.

Fortunately, town planning in this sprawling metropolis is such that each suburb is self-contained, complete with facilities like hospitals, schools, universities, shopping centers, and religious buildings that are all available within easy reach in one neighborhood.

Nonetheless, since the thousands of offices in high rise buildings are still centralized in the city, the millions of commuters who travel at peak hours in the morning and in the evenings from and to the suburbs, cause daily traffic snarls that are almost impossible to overcome, even with the construction of wide toll roads, overhead roads and traffic tunnels.
4. JAKARTA AND CULTURE

Jakarta is a multicultural city. In Jakarta, local culture, Betawi, fuse with European, Indian, Chinese, and Arab influences.

In the 4th century AD, Jakarta, then named Sunda Kelapa, was already known as a busy port of the Hindu Pajajaran kingdom where were settlements of traders from China, India and Arabia, as well as of ethnic groups from the many islands in the Indonesian archipelago who came to trade predominantly in pepper. During the European Age of Discovery in quest of the Spice Islands, the first Portuguese vessel anchored here in 1522 and carried home a large cargo of precious pepper.

In 1527, fearing the power of the Portuguese who supported the Hindu Sunda kingdom, Prince Fatahillah of the Islamic kingdom of Cirebon attacked the town and established a new town called Jayakarta on 22 June 1527, which today is taken as the official date of birth of the city of Jakarta. Towards the end of the 17th century in 1596, the first Dutch merchant ships anchored here, followed in 1602 by the first British ship of the English East India Company.

In 1619, Dutch forces under Jan Pieterszoon Coen attacked Jayakarta, razing it completely to the ground. Upon its ruins he established the town of Batavia, - now known as Old Batavia - to become the center from which he ruled Dutch interest across the archipelago from the Stadhuis, now the Fatahillah Museum housing the history of Jakarta.

Because Batavia continued to be attacked by the surrounding Javanese kingdoms of Demak and Mataram, the Dutch built a walled city here, where indigenous Indonesians were kept outside the walls while only Europeans and Chinese could live inside the walls. Nonetheless, at the uprising and massacre of the Chinese, in 1740 these were relegated to the area known as Glodok, today's Chinatown, the city's center for trade and business.

In the meantime, the many indigenous ethnic groups intermarried and merged to form the Betawi ethnic group. The Betawi are today considered the indigenous people of the city of Jakarta.

Today, Old Batavia, with its many Dutch heritage buildings together with the nearby Kota are preserved and revitalized to become an important business center business area as well as historic tourist destination. The large buildings once housing government offices and large corporations now house among others the Wayang Museum, the Arts and Ceramics Museum, and other heritage sites.

Meanwhile, with the growth of the city, the government moved the capital south to Weltevreden, today’s Menteng area in Central Jakarta, where the Dutch built palaces, churches, cathedrals, theatres and museums, besides opulent residential areas. This is the reason why most of the Dutch colonial heritage buildings can be found in this municipality.

After a 3 years occupation by the Japanese from 1942-1945, the Indonesian people declared their Independence on 17 August 1945. Soekarno, was chosen as the first President of the Republic of
Indonesia. The name Batavia was again changed to be called Jakarta. It was President Soekarno who first planned the modernization of Jakarta further south along the present Jalan Sudirman. Soekarno also built the National Monument, the Istiqlal Mosque, the Senayan Sports Stadium and the wide Thamrin-Sudirman Boulevard as well as Indonesia’s first highrise hotel, the Hotel Indonesia.

With this rich history multi-racial and multi-ethnic heritage, Indonesia’s capital city, Jakarta has become a convergence of national and international interest and networks, providing lessons of the past and creations, innovations and hope for generations to come.
RECREATION

For recreation and attractions to keep each and everyone in the family happy, Jakarta offers a large variety of both outdoor and indoor fun for all.

Most popular are the Ancol Dreamland or Taman Impian Jaya Ancol Park, the Taman Mini Indonesia Indah (Indonesia in Miniature Park), the Ragunan Zoo, Kidzania for the young and Waterbom for who love swimming.

Located along the northern coast of Jakarta, Ancol Dreamland is a vast area that offers beach, and beach sports, it has a theme park with lots of exciting rides, a sea Aquarium with salt water pool where dolphins perform regularly, there are Disney-like pavilions with rides, one of which is the Palace of the Dolls, or Istana Boneka, and plenty more for the entire family to spend a fun-filled weekend.

Taman Mini, on the other hand, offers more cultural and scientific presentations, providing an insight into the whole of Indonesia in museums and pavilions. Here you can stroll and study the various houses typical to Indonesia’s many islands. There are also regular performances from across the archipelago, and for family recreation Taman Mini has also added the Snowbay Water Park.

The Ragunan Zoo has Jakarta’s largest collection of animals, sited among cool shady trees. The Zoo is a popular park especially at long weekends. Its prime attraction is the Gorilla area.

While Kidzania, at Pacific Place Mall, is a fun and educational way to open up the world of careers for young children. By playing the different professions, from pilot to nurse, teacher or firemen, kids are urged to visualize their future career in life.

Besides these, Jakarta also has a popular ice-skating rink at Taman Anggrek Mall, and a great deal more to spend happy days with the entire family in Jakarta.
Not many people are aware that Jakarta is also blessed with romantic tropical islands-get away, far away from busy and noisy city streets.

The string of islands that lie in the Bay of Jakarta are known as Pulau Seribu, or the Thousand Islands, which together form the Pulau Seribu National Park.

Comprising - not quite one thousand, but some 110 large and small islands, they stretch from the nearest island called Pulau Ayer to those far out into the Java Sea like Pulau Putri, Pulau Sepa and Pulau Hantu. Some 20 islands are tourist resorts, with only 6 islands having local inhabitants. The District capital of Pulau Seribu is at Pulau Pramuka, located right in the midst of this cluster.

The Thousand Islands are the natural water and beach playgrounds for Jakarta citizens. Each island offers different types of recreation from just beach combing, boating, jet skiing and snorkeling, to fishing and scuba-diving further out to sea. A number of islands such as Pulau Ayer, Pramuka, Pulau Kotok and Pulau Putri have bungalows for rent complete with facilities to enjoy island life at your leisure.

To make your holiday complete, here are also Dutch colonial vestiges to explore in archaeological parks as well as nature reserves for breeding of hawksbill turtles and protection of mangrove forests. Several types of flora and fauna frequently found in the Thousand Islands include coral reefs, starfish, sand starfish, Betok fish (Anabas Testudineus Bloch) and ornamental fish such as the Sargent Major fish among others. Regular boats leave Marina Ancol to the various islands at 8.0am and 9.0 am, returning around 1.0 pm or 2.0 pm. Speedboats are also available for rent. There are also special departures to the tourist resorts.
SHOPPING

In Jakarta you will find exclusive top-end boutiques selling well-loved brands from around the world, located in an amazing array of over 100 luxurious, fully air-conditioned malls that are spread over all neighbourhoods of Jakarta.

In Jakarta’s malls you will find everything under one roof: from fashion wear, to electronic goods, books, flowers, beauty salons, furniture, cinemas, spa, children playground, gyms to all inclusive supermarkets.

Not to mention the large variety of restaurants to pamper shoppers after an exhausting day of buying and sightseeing. For those looking for bargains items but still in good quality, find these at wholesale markets for textiles, gems, electronic goods, while those searching for the quaint and rare items can browse along open street-side shops selling all kinds of antiques, or even birds, plants and flowers.

Fashion and Batik

Jakarta is Indonesia’s Fashion center, home to Indonesia’s top designers such as Iwan Tirta, Ghea, Harry Darsono and many more, who have their own boutiques and also showcase their collections in top class malls. Most outstanding and very trendy today is the Indonesian Batik, from exclusive haute couture creations to ready-to-wear, or casual and beach wear, Batik is loved by Indonesia’s fashionistas as well as Indonesia’s fashion-conscious young generation who wear Batik to formal occasions, to the office or as day wear.

Recognized as UNESCO World Heritage, Batik comes in traditional hand-drawn cotton and silk to modern stamped or printed materials, comfortable to wear for shopping or going to the office, or even to attend exclusive occasions. Jakarta offers the gamut of Batik materials and Batik wear. Besides finding Batik at the exclusive boutiques of Iwan Tirta, Ghea, Obin, Alleira and other Indonesian brands, large shops that carry Batik include Batik Danar Hadi, Batik Keris, Pasar Raya. More affordable Batik clothes and non-batik dresses can be found at Tanah Abang. Another Fashion draw in Jakarta is the Muslim Wear, where Indonesia’s designers create fashionable and colorful Muslim wear.

The latest popular Mall of Indonesia at Kelapa Gading holds the annual Jakarta Food and Fashion Festival that celebrates Indonesia’s huge and successful Fashion and Culinary scene, that you should certainly not miss.

Luxurious Malls, Wholesale and Specialty Markets

With over 100 malls strewn across the city there is ample choice among malls catering to the high end market, like Plaza Indonesia, Grand Indonesia, or Pacific Place and also those which caters to the Indonesia’s burgeoning middle class, like Pondok Indah Mall, the brand-new Casablanca, Central Park and Taman Anggrek in West Jakarta and a host more, too many to mention. But most popular with visitors are shopping centers like the Tanah Abang market, Mangga Dua area for imported goods, Pasar Mayestik and Pasar Baru for selected imported textiles and of course Glodok, Jakarta’s Chinatown.
However, if you are looking for something quaint or completely different, then there is the Antique market at Jalan Surabaya, the Art Market at Ancol, the Gems market at Rawabening. There is also birds market in Kebayoran, and along Jalan Pramuka. Jakarta offers a kaleidoscope of goods to shop till you drop, or just great fun to browse.
MUSEUMS AND LANDMARKS

To understand the history of the country, visit Jakarta’s many Museums and historical landmarks. The National Museum houses artifacts of the entire Indonesian archipelago from prehistoric times to the modern era. Here are stone statues, ceramics to intricate gold crowns and accessories.

Visit Kota Tua or Old Batavia for an insight into the history of Jakarta, then wander through the many museums around the Fatahillah Square, housing Wayang puppets, paintings of Indonesia’s master painters from Raden Saleh to Affandi, or see old-style banking and money at the Mandiri and the Bank Indonesia museums.

Other historic landmarks in Old Batavia are the Dutch drawbridge, the tower of the harbourmaster, old Chinese temples, and a lot more.

While, Taman Mini Indonesia (TMII) offers a wide range of museums as well as fascinating regional pavilions of original houses and architecture from around Indonesia.

CONVENTIONS AND EXHIBITIONS

Capital city of the Republic of Indonesia and hub of the country’s finance, business, trade and communications, Jakarta offers a wide range of Conventions and Exhibition Facilities. The Jakarta International Convention Center (or JICC), to the Jakarta International Expo (JIEX) are the two largest complexes, both close to large hotels to ensure plenty of accommodation for delegates.

Complementing these are the many multi-function facilities in super deluxe hotels, found among others at the Shangri-La, the Hyatt Regency, Marriott, the Ritz-Carlton and a host more. The city’s Meetings and Exhibition areas are filled year round with domestic and international Meetings, Conventions and Exhibitions covering a wide variety of topics, from automotive to furniture, handicrafts, agriculture, adventure & extreme tourism, robotics, and a whole lot more.
ENTERTAIMENT

When the sun sets over the city, which in the tropics comes regularly around 6.0 pm - and the working day comes to a close, a different world comes to life in Jakarta.

As the millions of professionals and workers stream out of the tall high-rise buildings, many do not go home directly but prefer to hang out with friends and enjoy each other’s company while waiting out the worst peak traffic time.

This is when Jakarta’s cafes, restaurants, karaoke, cinemas and way-side food streets fill up with hungry crowds looking for food, fun and entertainment to unwind from the daily grind. For where to dine and list of the many restaurants and food streets offering both Indonesian and international cuisine, check our Culinary Attractions and as the night proceeds, elegant dinner shows, concerts, music clubs and lounges continue to entertain until the wee hours of the morning, when the first vendors start to bring their wear to market even before the break of dawn. (For where to go for concerts, gigs, cultural performances, check our list of Concerts and Theaters venues).

Some of the best hangouts can be found in luxurious hotels as Lowey at the Oakwood, Burgundy at the Grand Hyatt, or in malls such as the Red Square and Black Cat at Plaza Senayan. Among popular Nightclubs are the Immigrant, Illegals, Stadium Jakarta at Jalan Hayam Wuruk and more on the road to Glodok Chinatown. There are also karaoke lounges for the family and friends to sing the night away, while for those looking for a good movie can watch favorite stars in plus cinema, mostly found within malls.

ART AND CULTURE

A modern, metropolitan city, Jakarta attracts artists from throughout the Indonesian archipelago as well as world class celebrities. Jakarta offers theaters, and concert halls seating hundreds, such as at the Jakarta Theatre of Taman Ismail Marzuki (TIM), as well as large auditoriums seating thousands such as in the JICC Hall or at the Sentul Convention Center. While for extra-large gigs, the Gelora Bung Karno Sports Stadium is used, whereas for really large open-air cultural performances, these are often held on the platform of the National Monument.
GOLF AND SPA

This metropolitan city has a wide range of great golf courses ideal for just that. This is the place to hob-nob with Jakarta’s elite while having a wonderful and relaxing round of golf. Most of Jakarta’s Golf Courses have been designed by internationally acclaimed architects and professionals golfers like Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, Greg Norman, Rober Trent Jones Jr. and more. Jakarta has also hosted a number of prestigious Golf Tournaments, including the recently CIMB-Niaga Golf Professional Championship held at the Royale Golf Course.

Jakarta’s Golf scene offers challenging courses that are easily accessed, extend superb hospitality, services and facilities, and best of all are highly enjoyable at a reasonable prices. A number of best courses are located just outside the administrative province of Jakarta in the Greater Jakarta region, but since these normally offer grand scenic mountainous vistas, distance to reach them should not deter you, especially when you start in the fresh morning hours.

For the ladies, since time immemorial, princesses and ladies of the courts in the ancient kingdoms on Java have been pampered with luxurious massages and aromatic body treatments to keep themselves beautiful and attractive at all times.

They showered in invigorating springwater fresh from the mountains or in pools filled with scented water. Additionally, to keep their inner wellness and youthfulness they drank special concocted herbal drinks made of handpicked choice leaves and roots. These special Indonesian herbs for inner health and outer beauty are known as “jumu”, which are for different purposes, to cleanse the skin, to brighten the eyes, to keep the body slim and a lot more.

Today, pioneers in Indonesian cosmetics among whom Mooryati Soedibyo herself a princess from the royal court of Solo, and Martha Tillaar have both modernized the age-old beauty treatment and jamu into modern cosmetics through meticulous pharmaceutical research and production. Both their product lines are today among best sellers on the counters and in Spas and salons. Both Martha Tillaar and Mooryati Soedibyo have also pioneered the Spa and Wellness programs in Indonesia, giving visitors the same luxurious treatment as in palaces of old, but with professional staff who adhere to international standard requirements.

Now in Jakarta, besides the Martha Tillaar Spas and the Taman Sari Royal Heritage Spas a host of other Spas brighten up the city scene, including in five star hotels and upmarket malls, which offer similar treatments, some providing the Indonesian lulur and the Indonesian massage, others have gone international with hydrotheraphy, Swedish Spa, or with Shiatsu, gym and others. All in beautiful soothing surroundings.
CULINARY

Living in these original Spice Islands, Indonesian women have used spices for ages, not only to preserve food for the family before the invention of the fridge, but moreover, to serve a large variety of delectable dishes.

The artful mixing and fusion of the different spices have caused the taste of food to vary from island to island and from province to province.

Among the most well-known and top of the list worldwide is Rendang, best known dish from Padang, West Sumatra, voted as “the World’s Most Delectable Food” by CNNGo viewers in 2011. These are beef cubes slow-braised in a variety of spices over a small open fire until it is completely caramelized. Nowadays, there are more than 16 kinds of rendang made of chicken or duck, eel, tuna, eggs, and even potatoes and vegetables.

The other most popular dish is Satay, - barbequed beef, chicken or mutton skewered covered in peanut and soya sauce. Another favorite is Nasi Goreng, or fried rice, that is mixed with lots of seafood, eggs, or chicken slices.

For a soup, one of the best known is Soto Ayam, a kind of soup made from chicken broth or coconut milk, spiced with crushed galangal, cloves, and nutmeg, and filled with slices of chicken or shrimps, and glass noodles.

Jakarta’s own culinary icons are Asinan Jakarta and Gado-gado Jakarta. Both are a mix of vegetables comprising spinach, watercress, beansprouts, long beans, cucumbers and others. While the Asinan consists of pickled vegetables drenched in sweet and sour sauce, gado-gado Jakarta consists of boiled vegetables covered in soya and peanut sauce. Both can be taken as appetizer or eaten as a snack.

Other Jakarta favorites are its desert known as Kue Lumpur Jakarta, or mudcake, and Bir Pletok, or pop beer. Containing zero alcohol, the concoction is mixed with ginger, cloves, cinnamon, lemon and nutmeg and poured into a bamboo tube complete with ice cubes. The tube is then shaken and stirred, making the popping sound of “pletok-pletok”, hence known as bir pletok.

Indonesian Food can be enjoyed at Fine Dining Restaurants like the legendary Oasis Restaurant at Jalan Raden Saleh, where diners are served by a bevy of traditionally dressed waitresses, or in less formal but no less tasty Indonesian restaurants, or at Jakarta’s many food streets such as at Jalan Sabang, or at the many hawker centers. Please click here for a list of Indonesian Restaurants.

As a modern cosmopolitan city, you will find entire floors of Jakarta’s ubiquitous malls dedicated to some of the most delectable foods in the world, Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Thai, to Western Food, all are available. For European fine dining, though, best are at the luxurious hotels like the Grand Hyatt, the Marriott, the Shangri-La, and a host more.
Restaurants offering best Chinese cuisine include **the Duck King**, at Grand Indonesia and at Senayan City and more. And for best Chinese street food stroll down **Pecenongan** and **Petak Sembilan** in Chinatown.

As for fast foods, from hamburgers, fried chicken, to noodles and nasi goreng, Those meals are so very popular that you'll easily find them at around almost every corner of the city.

For a selection of where and what to dine around Jakarta, please check our Culinary in the following pages.