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Your keys to understanding the city – we help you decide what to do and how to do it

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Tips for a smooth trip

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What’s where

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The best things to see and do, neighbourhood by neighbourhood

**Top Sights**
Make the most of your visit

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The insider’s city

**The Best of Jakarta**
The city’s highlights in handy lists to help you plan

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Welcome to Jakarta

One of the world’s greatest megalopolises, Jakarta is a dynamic city of daunting extremes with surreal juxtapositions on every street corner. Despite the maddening traffic, life here is lived at an all-out pace, driven by an industriousness and optimism that’s palpable. It’s a microcosm of Indonesia, where the rich, poor and everyone in between rub good-natured shoulders.
Merdeka Square (p46)
Merdeka Square is the city’s beating heart, where locals stroll and canoodle, ascend the huge monument, have an authentic meal, ponder a herd of deer or otherwise escape the teeming streets.
Taman Mini Indonesia Indah (p78)
Explore the entire archipelago at this large park that recreates the nation’s myriad cultures in miniature.

Jakarta’s Upscale Malls (p98)
For major brands, designer outlets and Indonesian boutiques, explore high-end complexes such as Plaza Indonesia, Grand Indonesia (pictured), Kota Kasablanka, Pacific Place and Plaza Senayan.

Bogor (p100)
Once the chosen retreat of colonials fleeing the stifling, crowded Batavia, today Bogor is an ideal day trip from Jakarta. The highlight is Kebun Raya, a beautiful, world-class botanical garden.