



# Java

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## Best Places to Eat

- » Lara Djonggrang (p62)
- » Pasar Ikan, Pangandaran (p98)
- » Via Via (p123)
- » Ikan Bakar Cianjur (p148)
- » Kiosk (p89)

## Best Places to Stay

- » Tugu Malang (p174)
- » d'Omah (p122)
- » Roemahkoe (p139)
- » Kemang Icon (p61)
- » Kampong Tourist (p174)

## Why Go?

The heart of the nation, Java is an island of megacities, mesmerising natural beauty, and profound traditions in art, dance, spiritualism and learning.

Boasting a dazzling array of bewitching landscapes – iridescent rice paddies, smoking volcanoes, rainforest and savannah – most journeys here are defined by scenic excesses.

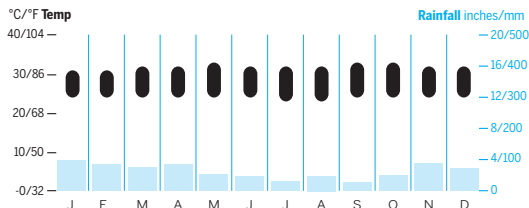
Java's fecund interior is one of the most fertile and heavily populated places on planet earth. Generally the cities are pretty uninspiring, though they do boast the best restaurants and art and music scenes.

Transport can be challenging at times. By road it can be slow going, particularly in the west of the island. However, the rail network is generally reliable and efficient, and flights are inexpensive.

Java is the most complex and culturally compelling island in Indonesia. Invest some time here and you've made a giant leap to understanding this utterly fascinating nation.

## When to Go

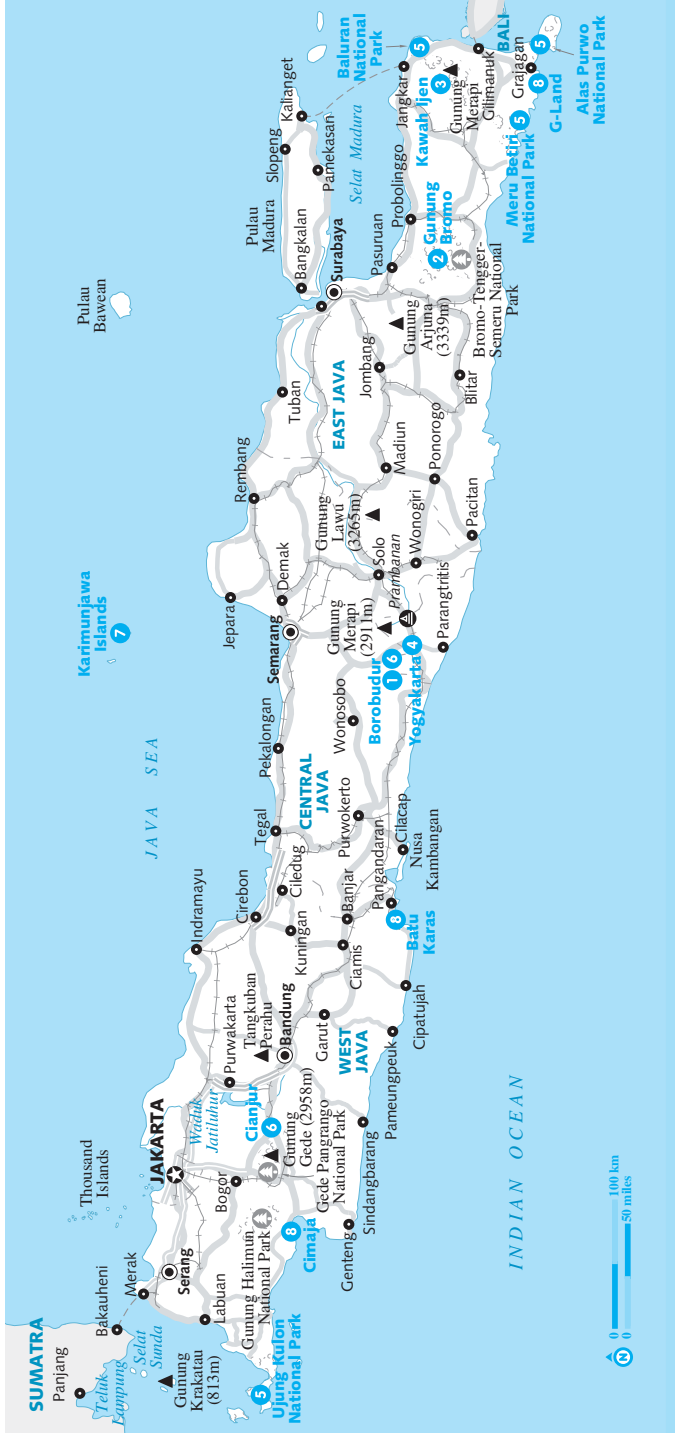
### Jakarta



**May** Spectacular Waisak processions to mark the birth of Buddha in Borobudur.

**Jun** Perhaps the perfect month for travel, with clear skies and few crowds.

**Oct** The climax of the bull-racing season in Madura.



## Java Highlights

- 1 Experiencing the ethereal beauty of **Borobudur** (p109) temple at sunrise
- 2 Gazing over the horizon-filling moonscape scenery at **Gunung Bromo** (p185)
- 3 Hiking to the crater lake of **Kawah Ijen** (p190) with strong-armed sulphur miners
- 4 Time travelling to Java's golden age in the cultural capital of **Yogyakarta** (p113)
- 5 Exploring magnificent national parks: **Ujung Kulon** (p75), **Meru Betiri** (p192), **Alas Purwo** (p193) and **Baluran** (p195)
- 6 Meeting the locals via a community tourism project in **Cianjur** (p85) or **Borobudur village** (p112)
- 7 Getting off the road and experiencing the palm-fringed **Karimunjawa Islands** (p156)
- 8 Surfing, or learn to surf Java's legendary waves at **Cimaja** (p82), **Batu Karas** (p100) or **G-Land** (p193)