

# INSIGHT GUIDES

INSPIRING YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE

## INDONESIA



## Getting around the e-book

This **Insight Guide** e-book is designed to give you inspiration for your visit to Indonesia, as well as comprehensive planning advice to make sure you have the best travel experience. The guide begins with our selection of Top Attractions, as well as our Editor's Choice categories of activities and experiences. Detailed features on history, people and culture paint a vivid portrait of contemporary life in Indonesia. The extensive Places chapters give a complete guide to all the sights and areas worth visiting. The Travel Tips provide full information on getting around, hotels, activities from culture to shopping to sport, plus a wealth of practical information to help you plan your trip.

In the Table of Contents and throughout this e-book you will see hyperlinked references. Just tap a hyperlink once to skip to the section you would like to read. Practical information and listings are also hyperlinked, so as long as you have an external connection to the internet, you can tap a link to go directly to the website for more information.

## Maps

All key attractions and sights in Indonesia are numbered and cross-referenced to high-quality maps. Wherever you see the reference [map] just tap this to go straight to the related map. You can also double-tap any map for a zoom view.

## Images

You'll find hundreds of beautiful high-resolution images that capture the essence of Indonesia. Simply double-tap on an image to see it full-screen.

## About Insight Guides

**Insight Guides** have more than 40 years' experience of publishing high-quality, visual travel guides. We produce 400 full-colour titles, in both print and digital form, covering more than 200 destinations across the globe, in a variety of formats to meet your different needs.

**Insight Guides** are written by local authors who use their on-the-ground experience to provide the very latest information; their local expertise is evident in the extensive historical and cultural background features. All the reviews in **Insight Guides** are independent; we strive to maintain an impartial view. Our reviews are carefully selected to guide you to the best places to stay and eat, so you can be confident that when we say a restaurant or hotel is special, we really mean it.

Like all **Insight Guides**, this e-book contains hundreds of beautiful photographs to inspire and inform your travel. ~~We commission most of our own photography, and we strive to capture the essence of a destination using original images that you won't find anywhere else.~~

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# Map Legend

## City

	Freeway/Highway/Motorway
	Divided Highway
	Main Roads
	Minor Roads
	Pedestrian Roads
	Pedestrian Area
	Steps
	Footpath
	Railway
	Funicular Railway
	Tunnel
	Important Building
	Transport Hub
	Park
	Bus Station
	Tourist Information
	Main Post Office
	Cathedral/Church
	Mosque
	Synagogue
	Beach
	Statue/Monument
	Airport

## Regional

	Freeway/Highway/Motorway (with junction)
	Freeway (under construction)
	Divided Highway
	Main Road
	Secondary Road
	Minor Road
	Track
	Footpath
	International Boundary
	State/Province Boundary
	National Park/Reserve
	Ferry Route
	Marshland/Swamp
	Glacier
	Salt Lake
	Airport/Airfield
	Church (ruins)
	Monastery
	Castle/Castle Ruins
	Chateau/Stately Home
	Cave
	Place of Interest
	Viewpoint
	Beach
	Windmill
	Cable Car
	Crater
	Ancient Site
	Border Control



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# This land of untamed natural beauty offers a plethora of unique opportunities for the intrepid traveller

Few, if any, other countries on the planet offer the mind-boggling array of holiday options that Indonesia has within its borders. The bonus is that a multitude of them are virtually untapped, giving those who yearn for personal contact with exotic cultures, nature or history such an abundance of choice that time is the only constraint.

The world knows of Bali, Indonesia's primary tourist destination, and to a lesser degree the court cultures and historic monuments of Central Java and the beaches of Lombok. In recent years, travellers have begun exploring further afield. Divers are flocking to remote Papua's Raja Ampat, surfers are lured by the daring breaks along the country's southern coastlines, and hardy climbers explore the many volcanoes. But there is still so much more. Granted, getting to many of these places takes an adventurous spirit, as infrastructure is weak off the beaten path, but for those wishing for unique and authentic experiences, with careful planning they are here for the taking.

For culture aficionados, art, theatre, dance, music, rituals and handicrafts abound. In the remote forests of Kalimantan live the former headhunting Dayaks, and amid the hills and valleys of Central Sulawesi the Torajans still hold elaborate funeral ceremonies. On the small islands east of Lombok exist various ethnic groups whose isolated locations, far from the country's commercial centres, have left their lifestyles and traditions almost untouched. Indonesia's easternmost outpost, Papua, is home to extraordinary "lost world" cultures of great interest to anthropologists.

There are remains of megalithic cultures on Nias Island (Sumatra), Sumbawa, Sumba, Solor (Nusa Tenggara) and Sulawesi. Houses built in distinctive architectural styles range from the curved roofs of the Minangkabau and Batak (Sumatra) regions to Dayak longhouses (Kalimantan), the highly symbolic thatched-roof houses of western Sumba and the treetop homes of the Korawai in Papua.

Wildlife-lovers may already know about the Komodo dragons, the rare Javan rhino, Sumatran elephants and tigers, as well as both Sumatran and Borneo orang-utans. But many aren't aware that most of these creatures are found within Indonesia's national parks, which are untapped treasure troves of rare species of mammals, birds and plants. In addition to diving, surfing, trekking and climbing, opportunities for other outdoor sports are prolific. And for those who prefer viewing nature in a more relaxed way, scenic drives and sailing cruises afford spectacular scenery.

## INDONESIA'S TOP 10 ATTRACTIONS

The astonishing array of Indonesian cultures and customs is equalled by the amazing landscapes and wildlife of this nation of islands.



## Top Attraction 1

**Borobudur.** Mesmerising Borobudur is the world's largest Buddhist monument. Dating from the 9th century, this gigantic stupa forms the shape of a mandala – a geometric aid to meditation. For more information, [click here](#).

Corrie Wingate/Apa Publications



## Top Attraction 2

**Orang-utans.** The best places to see these magnificent creatures are the rainforests of Tanjung Puting National Park (Central Kalimantan) and Gunung Leuser National Park (North Sumatra). For more information, [click here](#) and [here](#).

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## Top Attraction 3

**Gunung Bromo.** Arrive before dawn to witness the sunrise illuminate one of the world's most remarkable volcanic landscapes. For more information, [click here](#).

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## Top Attraction 4

**Kuta, Sanur and Seminyak beaches.** Visions of Bali almost always include its southern beaches, with Kuta in the limelight for surfers and young partygoers, followed by the trendier scenes at upscale Sanur and Seminyak. For more information, [click here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).

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## Top Attraction 5

**Yogyakarta (Jogja).** The Javanese art, dance and music cultivated by 18th-century royalty remain alive in Yogyakarta today, blending seamlessly with the modern-day life of students, farmers and handicraft makers. For more information, [click here](#).



## Top Attraction 6

**Lake Toba.** A water-filled ancient caldera, the largest and deepest in the world, Sumatra's beautiful Lake Toba is believed to have been formed by a series of super-eruptions nearly 900,000 years ago. For more information, [click here](#).

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## Top Attraction 7

**Ubud.** The cultural heartland of Bali, Ubud and its environs attract seekers of spirituality, wellness programs, health foods and tranquility. Others are drawn by the wealth and handicrafts and artwork produced here. For more information, [click here](#).

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## Top Attraction 8

**Komodo National Park.** In addition to its extraordinary reptiles, this remote corner of Indonesia offers some of the best diving and snorkelling in the Asia-Pacific region. For more information, [click here](#).

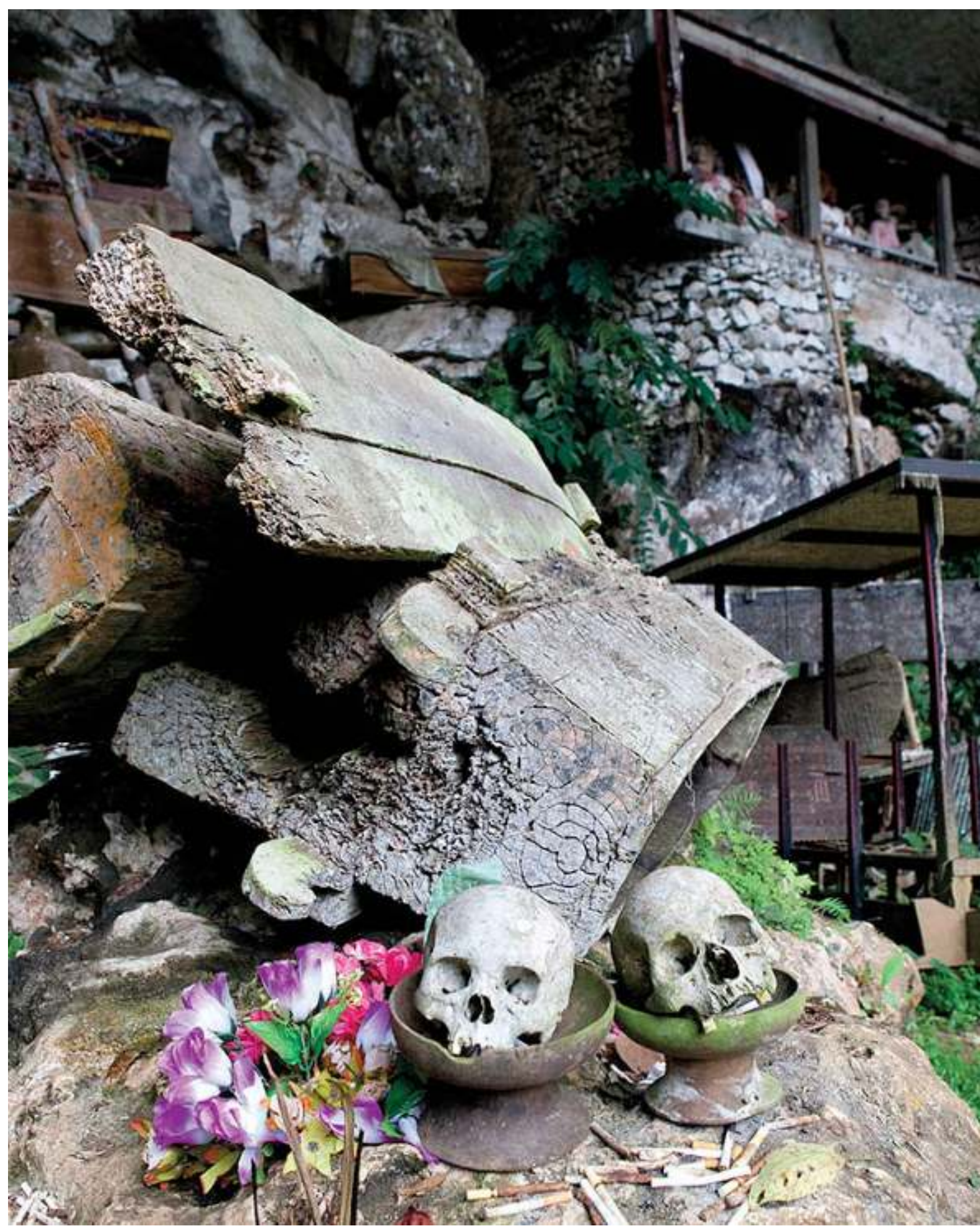
Indonesian Tourist Board



## Top Attraction 9

**Ikat-weaving villages.** In remote Nusa Tenggara are many islands where ikat textiles are still woven on back-strap looms. Each village has its own motifs and colours, many of which are collected by aficionados. For more information, [click here](#).

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# Top Attraction 10

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**Tana Toraja.** Tucked away in the green highlands of South Sulawesi, Tana Toraja is a land of breathtaking vistas, ancient funerary rituals and graves guarded by wooden effigies. For more information, [click here](#).

While Indonesia's best-known treasures are on most visitors' itineraries, others await those willing to go off the beaten track... Here at a glance are our recommendations for both familiar and lesser-known destinations.



Balinese landscape.  
Corrie Wingate/Apa Publications

## Best Scenery

Terraced rice fields. Dazzling terraced rice fields stretch endlessly along the road from Antosari, passing through Belimbing, to Pupuan, West Bali. For more information, [click here](#).

Volcano views. Enjoy spectacular views of three of Java's mightiest volcanoes from the hilltop

Gedung Songo temples north of Yogyakarta. For more information, [click here](#).

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Stormy seas. View the stormy Indian Ocean crashing onto the shore from Bali's cliff-top Tanah Lot temple. For more information, [click here](#).

Green valleys. The lush, green valleys of South Sulawesi's Tana Toraja are dotted with stone graves, colourful traditional houses and picturesque farmland. For more information, [click here](#).

Crater lake. Ascend through dense jungle to the ridge atop Lombok's Gunung Rinjani for fabulous vistas of the crater lake Segara Anak. One for experienced hikers. For more information, [click here](#).



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