

Sample Itinerary

UniGO Indonesia

Indonesia, the largest archipelago in the world, is a land of diverse wonders. With over 17,000 islands, this country's beauty, culture and cuisine will leave you in awe. Whether you are exploring the picturesque landscape of Bogor or immersing yourself in the artistic vibe of Yogyakarta, Indonesia is a treasure trove of biodiversity and thrilling adventures. Notably, its capital city, Jakarta, ranks as the 8th most instagrammed city in the world, making it a hub of urban excitement!

Did you know: Indonesia is home to the Komodo dragon, the world's largest lizard!

Overview

Please note that activities and locations on this itinerary are indicative and may change.

Indonesia

Indonesia is a vast archipelago boasting diverse cultures, stunning landscapes and rich biodiversity. Your trip will centre around two main areas – Bogor and Yogyakarta.

Yogyakarta

Yogyakarta (known as Jogja/Yogja) is a top tourist destination in Indonesia, particularly because of its proximity to ancient temples like Borobudur and Prambanan. Your trip begins with a scenic train ride into Jogja, offering a glimpse of its captivating landscapes. You will also get to learn about the history and impact of Mount Merapi's volcanic activity and enjoy rest and relaxation activities. Possible excursions include the Grojogan Sewu Waterfall and the majestic Keraton Surakarta (Solo Palace), showcasing the region's splendour and heritage.

Bogor:

Located 60km (1 hour) away from Jakarta, Bogor is an important economic, cultural and scientific and tourist centre. Originally a mountain resort town, at the foot of Mount Salak, it is now a densely populated city, which is renowned for its lush and extensive botanical gardens and cooler climate. In Bogor, you will have the opportunity to engage with local partners and get involved in grassroots projects.

Pre- departure preparation

You'll participate in comprehensive pre-trip preparation in November and December that will include briefings, workshops and online learning about health and wellbeing, risks and safety, insurance, cultural awareness, language (optional but highly recommended) and behavioural and academic expectations. The pre-departure workshops will introduce you to key perspectives on environmental sustainability and our local, national and global challenges.



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Study tour

You'll travel in groups of 30 accompanied by University of Tasmania academics and Australian Volunteers International (AVI) staff member.

During your 18-day trip, you'll explore the themes of sustainability and adapting to natural disasters including monitoring, management, clean up and rebuilding, as well as forest fires and earthquakes. Flying in to and out of Jakarta, you will also visit Yogyakarta, Surakarta and the villages of Argomulyo and Bagelen. You will be introduced to the socio-political, cultural and historical context of the country through meetings with government and diplomatic officials and opinion leaders. You will participate in curated and guided visits to significant cultural and historical sites.

Jakarta

Jakarta is the capital of the Republic of Indonesia, a historic mix of cultures, it is the largest metropolis of southeast Asia and the second largest urban in area in the world. The seat of Indonesia's national and provincial government, as well as ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) and home to numerous Indonesian and multinational corporations. Packed with skyscrapers, heritage buildings, museums, monuments and malls, it's a dynamic 24 hr city. Home to over 11 million people, be prepared for traffic jams, busy streets and exciting nightlife.

Yogyakarta

Yogyakarta (also known as Jogja) is a vibrant city of some half a million people, sandwiched between beaches and at the foot of an active volcano, Mount Merapi, it has a vibrant street food scene and traditional markets. Jogja is an important centre for classical Javanese fine arts and culture such as ballet, batik, wayang (puppetry), literature, and visual arts. Must see cultural heritage sites are the UNESCO World Heritage sites of Borobudur, 9th century Buddhist temples, Prambanan temple, the largest Hindu temple site in Indonesia and Kraton, the Royal Palace of the Sultan of Yogyakarta. Hop in a motored becak (rickshaw) and visit Kotagede, a historic district known for its silver smithing, as you tour the maze of narrow streets, you will see the effects and restoration associated with the 2006 Earthquake.

Argomulyo and Bagelen villages

Argomulyo, is a village located in Central Java, surrounded by mountains, lush green forests, terraced paddy fields and waterfalls. You will learn about the impact of and community response to natural disasters through visiting eruption sites and learning from the village's Disaster Response Team. Surrounded by forested hills, Bagelen, is a rural Javanese village, featuring contemporary street art murals that highlight the history of this area. Members of the Bagelen community practice cultural dakwah, linking Islamic teaching with local traditions influenced by Hinduism and Buddhism, you will learn about local cultural and economic activities through performances, field visits and workshops.

Surakarta

Also called Solo, Surakarta is an interesting city to enjoy some down time. Solo is famous for the quality of batik, a dying technique where wax is used to create images and symbolic motifs. It is a great place to visit antique and flea markets and taste a range of traditional food.





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After enjoying a good night's sleep in your heritage hotel and a morning swim in the pool, you may choose to enjoy wandering its broad tree lined streets and visit its historic buildings, such as Keraton Surakarta, the palace of Susuhunan Pakubuwono, and the Pasar Gede market. There are also a huge range of local foods to try including Serabi Notosuman- pancakes made from rice flour and coconut milk, with a variety of toppings or Nasi Liwet steamed rice cooked in coconut served with omelette, shredded chicken, tempeh and vegetables.

Take a break from the heat and enjoy the cooler climate whilst visiting the 15th century enigmatic temples of Sukuh and Cetho, the origins of its builders and their sculptural style are still unknown. Based at about 1,000 metres above sea level, there are stunning views of Mount Lawu.

Feel like a challenge? Head to Tawang Mangu, Grojogan Sewu (waterfall) and tackle over 1,000 stairs, keep an eye out for monkeys and be prepared to get wet.

Bogor

Located 60km away from Jakarta, Bogor is an important economic, cultural and scientific and tourist centre. Originally a mountain resort town, at the foot of Mount Salak, it is now a densely populated city, which has undergone rapid expansion. It is renowned for its lush and extensive botanical gardens and cooler climate. Under the guidance of Institut Pertanian Bogor you will learn more about the intersection between research, community capacity building and development, environmental conservation, and education and the building of ecological intelligence.

You will also visit Kebun Raya, Bogor Botanical gardens, which are the perfect place to learn about the richness of Javanese flora. You will have time to enjoy the city's vibrant street food scene. Try Toge Goreng for breakfast (noodles, tofu, sticky rice cake and bean sprouts served with a fermented soya bean sauce) or head to Ah Poong (floating market) and enjoy the scenery as you sample food from all over Indonesia.

Our partner Universities

Engagement with local University partners is a focal point of the trip and interactions include formal learning opportunities, such as seminars and lectures, as well as immersive learning via field visits to research sites. You'll visit:

- Universitas Gadjah Mada University (UGM)
- Institut Pertanian Bogor University (IPB)
- Engaging with academics and local students, you'll participate in learning activities and experience campus life.

Our community and not-for-profit partners

You'll visit a diverse range of environmental and cultural sustainability initiatives delivered by not-for-profit and community groups and, wherever possible, we will introduce you to University of Tasmania Alumni and Australian volunteers working in-country.

Your study tour will conclude with a final celebration event where you will share your learning and reflections, experience cultural activities and, of course, enjoy a final shared meal together.

