General Information   
  
Location: Southeast Asia. A portion of Indonesia shares the island of Borneo with Malaysia and Brunei. It shares the island of New Guinea; the western section, known as Irian Jaya, is under Indonesian administration, and the eastern section is part of Papua New Guinea. The rest of the republic includes the Greater and Lesser Sunda Islands, and the Moluccas.

Area: 1,904,443 sq.km.   
  
Relief: A stretch of relatively open water—consisting of the Java, Flores, and Banda seas—divides the major islands of Indonesia into two unequal strings of islands: the comparatively long, narrow islands of Sumatra, Java, Timor, and others, to the south, and Borneo, Sulawesi, the Moluccas, and New Guinea to the north.  
  
A chain of volcanic mountains rising to heights of more than 3,805 metres (12,483 feet) extends from west to east through the southern islands from Sumatra to Timor. Mount Jaya (5,030 metres/16,502 feet), in the Sudirman Range of Irian Jaya, is the highest elevation in the republic. Each of the major northern islands has a central mountain mass, with plains along the coasts. The most extensive lowland areas are on Sumatra, Java, Borneo, and Irian Jaya. Over many centuries, periodic volcanic flows from the numerous active volcanoes have deposited rich soils on the lowlands, particularly in Java.

**Climate:** The climate of Indonesia is tropical, with two monsoon seasons—a wet season from November to March and a dry season from June to October.

**Population:** Total population 255,461,700 The largest ethnic group are the Javanese, who comprise 42% of the population, and are politically and culturally dominant. The Sundanese, ethnic Malays, and Madurese are the largest non-Javanese groups. A sense of Indonesian nationhood exists alongside strong regional identities.

**Language:** More than 700 regional languages are spoken in Indonesia's numerous islands.Most belong to the Austronesian language family, with a few Papuan languages also spoken. The official language is Indonesian (also known as Bahasa Indonesia) a variant of Malay,which was used in the archipelago.

**Alphabet:** Latin (Indonesian alphabet)

**Religion:** While religious freedom is stipulated in the Indonesian constitution,the government officially recognises only six religions: Islam, Protestantism, Roman Catholicism, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Confucianism.Indonesia is the world's most populous Muslim majority country, at 87.2% in 2010, with the majority being Sunni Muslims (99%).

**State government:** Indonesia is a republic with a presidential system.

**Capital:** Jakarta (population 9,607,787)   
  
**Large Cities:** Surabaya, Bandung, Medan, Bekasi, Semarang.