**Indonesia (A Page in the Submenu under Destinations)**

**Add an image gallery of 8 photos of Indonesia here using Meta Slider. Some image files will be placed on Blackboard in Week 5. However you can choose your own eg from pixabay.com.**

**Insert a space (a blank line) via &nbsp; (in Text mode) if required.**

Indonesia stretches across several time zones from Sumatra right across to West Papua. It has a population of over of over 250 million, spread out over more than 18,000 islands. Approximately half of these people live on the densely populated island of Java. The urban area around its capital city Jakarta alone is estimated to house over 30 million. The national language is bahasa Indonesia, but there are a large number of local languages (estimated at over 300) still spoken around the archipelago. Despite these enormous numbers and the widespread poverty evident in many parts of the country, the Indonesian people as a whole are very friendly and welcoming to foreigners.

However please take care not to offend the locals and respect the local cultures. Poor behaviour by foreigners, though seemingly tolerated, but actually detested, by the locals in Bali is still poor behaviour. Listen to any advice you receive from locals and avoid any dangerous situations, as you would in any country. We always advise travellers to check the travel advice on the Australian government travel advisory Website: <http://www.smartraveller.gov.au/> The vast majority of travellers experience very few problems.

Entry to Indonesia is normally via the tourist island of Bali or via the capital city Jakarta, though there are a few other gateways such as Medan in Sumatra. Australians and others can obtain a 30-day on arrival at the airport when they arrive. This can be extended for another month, though like many things in Indonesia, this involves a little patience. The cost of travel and accommodation in Indonesia is exceptionally low by Australian standards. It helps if you have a little Indonesian before you arrive, but it is not essential, especially in the major tourist area.

Surprisingly many parts of the country is very seldom visited by foreign tourists, but the country is very safe for the most part. There are an incredible range of attractions from Lake Toba and orang-utans in Sumatra to volcano gazing and diving in Sulawesi or Maluku, and surfing along the entire southern coastline. Other famous attractions include the cliff-side tombs of Torajaland in Sulawesi and the Komodo Dragons of eastern Indonesia, not to mention the cultural and tourist delights of Bali and nearby Lombok.

However the list of attractions is simply endless. You would need months, or even years, to explore the country. Do not be afraid to explore, including the wonderful culinary delights, available almost everywhere. Our advice is try anything, within reason, be that riding a scooter along the coast through the rice fields, swimming in a secret river gorge or trekking up a volcano with a local guide. Even travelling by train, bus or ferry to the next exotic destination can be a true delight. Internal flights with reputable airlines, such as Garuda or Lion Air, are surprisingly cheap. If you are in a hurry, this can be a great way to travel.

There are some dramatic sights around the country, particularly the towering volcanoes and the spectacular sunsets at the wonderful beaches. Except in parts of Bali and occasionally in Java most of these beaches are uncrowded, and even empty. If you are a diver or a surfer, this is the one country in Southeast Asia you must visit. Also be sure to take in some of the cultural events such as a Ramayana or Kecak performance, the Hindu temples of Bali and the magnificent Borobudur temple near Yogyakarta in central Java. Come on, what are you waiting for?

For further details go to the Lonely Planet Website: <http://www.lonelyplanet.com/indonesia#ixzz3guSeKNeG>