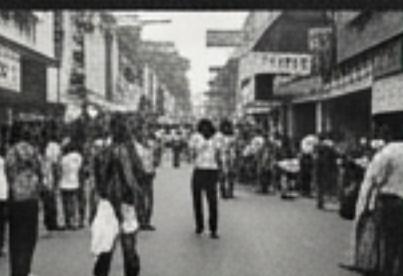


Beneath the traffic and the malls, Jakarta hides a history of sonic rebellion. This deck outlines a physical journey through three distinct eras of the city—from the silence of the 1960s ban to the noise of the 1970s revolution.

Jakarta Sonic City: The Resistance Route

A walking tour through the secret history
of Indonesian Rock & Roll.



A curated narrative based on the archives of the city.



The Era of Silence

The Concept of 'Ngak Ngik Ngok'

In the early 1960s, Western Rock & Roll was officially banned by President Sukarno, who dismissed the genre as 'Ngak Ngik Ngok' (a derogatory term meaning dog noises). To play it was criminal; to listen to it was subversive.

The Context: The city was defined by a tension between official state propaganda broadcast on the airwaves and the private obsessions of the elite hidden behind closed doors.

Stop 1:
Taman Suropati



The Gilded Cage
(1960s)

Stop 2:
Jalan Surabaya



The Analog Internet
(1970s)

Stop 3:
Jaya Pub



The Time Capsule
(1975–Present)

Three locations. Three eras. One story of how
music survived oppression to define a generation.



1

Stop 1: The Gilded Cage

Location: Taman Suropati, Menteng

2

Menteng is the “Beverly Hills” of Jakarta—a neighborhood of wealth, diplomacy, and silence. In the 1960s, this park was the center of the “Anak Menteng” world (the children of the elite).

3

While the state demanded conformity, the mansions bordering this park were hiding the secret sounds of The Beatles, smuggled into the country by diplomatic families.



The Day the Music Died (Temporarily)

The Artifact:
Koes Plus Records

The 'Double Life' of Menteng collapsed in 1965. The legendary band Koes Plus was arrested at a private party in a neighborhood just like this. Police stormed the house, dragged the band members to Glodok Prison, and burned their records. The arrest proved that even the elite were not safe from the culture war.





From Silence to Noise

In late 1965, the regime changed. The ban on Western music was lifted. However, the infrastructure for rock music had been destroyed. There were no formal record stores and no distribution networks.

The youth were hungry for sound, but they had nowhere to buy it. They needed a new supply chain.

Stop 2: The Analog Internet

Location: Jalan Surabaya
(10 minutes east of Taman Suropati)

This street stepped in to fill the void. It evolved from an antique market into the primary hub for music distribution in the post-ban era.

For the youth of the 70s, this wasn't just a market; it was their connection to the outside world.





Digging for Zeppelin

Subhead: The Rise of the ‘Gondrong’

Jalan Surabaya became the headquarters for the ‘Gondrong’—the counter-culture rebels of the new order. They flocked to these stalls to dig for bootleg tapes of Deep Purple and Led Zeppelin. It was a dusty, chaotic treasure hunt that defined the aesthetic of a generation.

The Sonic Fusion

The Irony: Guruh Soekarnoputra was the son of the very President who had banned ‘Ngak Ngik Ngok.’ He lived just one street over on Jalan Sriwijaya.

The Masterpiece: Guruh shopped at Jalan Surabaya to find the Western records he needed. He fused those rock influences with traditional Gamelan to create the ‘Guruh Gipsy’ album—widely considered the masterpiece of Indonesian Prog Rock.

Takeaway: You are standing in the supply chain that birthed a new genre.





Stop 3: The Time Capsule

Subhead: Location: Jaya Pub, Thamrin

Established in 1975, Jaya Pub is the oldest pub in the city. In its prime, it was the 'Studio 54' of Jakarta—but for Blues, not Disco. It stands today as a living museum of the era.



A Sanctuary in the Concrete Jungle

As Jakarta transformed into a concrete metropolis under authoritarian rule in the 70s and 80s, **Jaya Pub** became the ‘Safe House.’ It was dark, loud, and free.

It was dark, loud, and free. Here, dissidents drank with actors; poets drank with musicians. It was a rare space where social hierarchies dissolved in smoke and blues music.



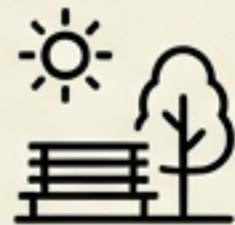
The Last Temple of “Cool”



Look at the red velvet decor. It has not changed in 50 years.

This specific room has survived dictatorships, massive civil riots, and the modernization of the city into mega-malls. It remains the last standing temple of the original Jakarta “Cool.”

Plan Your Walk



1. Start at Taman Suropati

Late afternoon. Best time to see the mansions and enjoy the park atmosphere.



2. Walk to Jalan Surabaya

10 minutes East. Browse the vinyl sections and antique stalls.



3. Ride to Jaya Pub

Take a Gojek to the Jaya Building (Thamrin). It is a short ride from Menteng.

Logistics Note: Jaya Pub is open Monday–Saturday, 5:00 PM - 2:00 AM. (Closed Sundays).

Echoes of the City

Jakarta is often defined by its traffic and its sprawl. But if you know where to listen, it is a city of deep sonic layers. The resistance against silence that began in a Menteng park still echoes in the red velvet booths of Jaya Pub.



Created based on 'Jakarta Sonic City: The Resistance Route.'
A guide to the sounds, places, and history of Jakarta's musical underground.