

= Ganting Grand Mosque =

The Ganting Grand Mosque (Indonesian : Masjid Raya Ganting ; also written and pronounced Gantiang in Minang) is a Sunni mosque located in Ganting , Padang , West Sumatra , Indonesia . Construction began in 1805 , making it the oldest in Padang and one of the oldest in Indonesia . It is a Cultural Property of Indonesia .

The building , which involved persons from various cultural backgrounds in its construction , was the centre of an Islamic reform in the area during the 19th century . Future president Sukarno spent a time of exile at the mosque in 1942 . It survived the tsunami which struck Padang following the 1833 Sumatra earthquake , but was severely damaged after earthquakes in 2005 and 2009 .

The one @-@ floor establishment continues to be used as a center for prayer , as well as religious education ; it also functions as a pesantren for the community . The mosque is also a tourist attraction .

= = Early history = =

According to Abdul Baqir Zein , the mosque was first built in 1700 at the foot of Mount Padang , then moved to the bank of Batang Arau , as the Dutch colonial government intended to use the previous location to build a road to Emma Haven Port . It was later moved to its present location . However , the Indonesian Department of Religion documents the mosque as having been constructed in 1790 with a wooden frame and a roof made from Sago palms . According to this documentation , a sturdier mosque was built in 1805 . Another history of the mosque , from the Culture and Tourism Department of the City of the Padang , suggests that the mosque was first constructed in 1805 . The small mosque had stone flooring , wood and dirt walls , and a pyramidal ceiling like the mosques in Java .

The construction of the mosque was spearheaded by three local figures , Angku Gapuak (a rich merchant) , Angku Syekh Haji Uma (the village chief) , and Angku Syekh Kapalo Koto (an ulama) , while the funds were provided by Minang businesspeople and ulamas throughout Sumatra . It was erected on waqf land donated by locals and located in the center of the city 's Minang district . Construction of the mosque finished in 1810 ; it measured 30 by 30 metres (98 ft × 98 ft) and had a fence 4 metres (13 ft) out from the mosque .

Since its establishment , the mosque has been used to counsel future hajj participants . It also served as the first point of departure for hajj participants from Central Sumatra , who left Sumatra via Emma Haven after the port was opened in 1895 . Before the end of the Padri War , in 1818 the Minang Ulamas held a meeting at Ganting to discuss the steps they would take to eliminate mysticism and superstition from Islam on the island .

In 1833 a large earthquake on the west coast of Sumatra struck up a tsunami which destroyed much of Padang . The mosque was one of several buildings which survived the tsunami . Its stone floor was later replaced by a mixture of clam shells and pumice .

= = Modern history = =

The floor had received work beginning in 1900 , when tiles from the Netherlands , ordered through Jacobson van den Berg . The tiles were installed by a company @-@ appointed worker ; installation was completed in 1910 . That year , the Dutch established a cement factory in Indarung , Padang . To transport the cement to the port at Emma Haven , the Dutch built a stone road in front of Ganting Grand Mosque ; this road took up roughly a third of the waqf land the mosque had been built on . As compensation , the Dutch sent the Genie Command Corps of West Sumatra (an area that includes modern day West Sumatra and Tapanuli) . The corps expanded the front chamber until it was 20 metres (66 ft) in length ; they also built a Portuguese style façade . The mosque 's floor was replaced with cement imported from Germany . Meanwhile , ethnic Chinese under Captain Lo Chian Ko began working on an octagonal dome , resembling the top of a vihara . The mihrab for the imam to lead prayers and preach was given Chinese @-@ style carvings . In 1921 Abdul Karim Amrullah

established the Thawalib Schools in Padang mosques , including Ganting , to better educate the local populace in Islam . The alumni later established the Persatuan Muslim Indonesia (Permi) , under the Masyumi Party . The mosque was the location of the first national jamboree of Muhammadiyah 's scouting organisation , Hizbul Wathan , in 1932 .

When the Japanese began occupying the Indies in 1942 , Sukarno ? at the time a Dutch prisoner in Bengkulu ? was evacuated to Kutacane . However , once they reached Painan they discovered that the Japanese forces had already occupied Bukittinggi ; this quashed hopes of bringing Sukarno to Barus in Tapanuli . The Dutch left Sukarno in Painan . Hizbul Wathan members , at the time based out of Ganting , went to retrieve Sukarno and bring him to Padang by cart . For several days after arriving in Padang , Sukarno slept at the mosque ; he also delivered a speech . During the three @-@ year Japanese occupation the mosque served as the military 's headquarters in central and western Sumatra . It also functioned as a training camp for Gyugun and Heiho soldiers , military units formed by the Japanese which consisted of native soldiers ; the Gyugun was formed by the ulamas , while the Heihos were taken from the santri .

After the Allies landed in Sumatra , many of the Muslim Indian soldiers brought by the English deserted and joined the native revolutionaries . They planned strategy in the mosque , including the assault on a British barracks . One of these Indian soldiers , who had died in the assault , was buried at the mosque . Since 1950 , after Indonesia 's independence was recognised , the Ganting Grand Mosque has hosted numerous statesmen from both Indonesia and abroad , including Vice President Mohammad Hatta , Minister of Defence Sultan Hamengkubuwana IX , and General Abdul Haris Nasution . Foreign dignitaries who have visited the mosque included people from Malaysia , Saudi Arabia , and Egypt .

Construction on the mosque has continued . In 1960 the mosque 's 25 columns , originally constructed from brick , were covered in ceramic tiles ; seven years later , this was followed seven years later by the construction of minarets on the left and right of the dome . In 1995 , the walls of the main chamber were covered in tile .

On 10 April 2005 an aftershock measuring 6 @.@ 7 on the Richter scale struck the west coast of Sumatra two weeks after a larger earthquake struck Nias . This caused crackage to the columns supporting the mosque 's roof . Three years later , the Ganting Grand Mosque was one of 608 places of worship severely damaged when another large earthquake struck the area on 30 September 2009 . The earthquake collapsed part of the mosque 's façade and caused severe structural damage to the interior columns ; as a result , the community feared that the mosque would collapse . Before renovations were completed in 2010 , prayers had to be held in the yard . In 2011 the Ganting Grand Mosque was listed as one of Indonesia 's 100 most beautiful mosques in a book compiled by Andalan Media . The only other mosque from West Sumatra included was Raya Bayur Mosque , Agam Regency .

= = Architecture = =

Ganting Grand Mosque is built on land measuring 102 by 95 @.@ 6 metres (335 ft × 314 ft) ; the mosque itself is 42 by 39 metres (138 ft × 128 ft) . The building has verandas on its front and sides , a mihrab , and a central area . The extra land can hold more people during the Eid prayers , on both Eid ul @-@ Fitr and Eid al @-@ Adha . The courtyard is surrounded by an iron fence , separating it from the busy streets on the eastern and northern sides of the mosque . On the southern side , as well as behind the mosque proper , there are numerous graves , including that of Angku Syekh Haji Uma , one of the mosque 's founders .

The architectural blend of numerous schools shows clearly because of the different cultural groups involved in the mosque 's construction , including the architecture of Europe , the Middle East , China , and the Minangkabau . The mosque 's roof goes upwards in five steps , with the dome at the top ; the first step is square , while the rest are octagonal . Each part of the roof has slits in it for lighting .

= = = Veranda = = =

The mosque proper has two main verandas , at the façade and its side . Both verandas measure 30 by 4 @. @ 5 metres (98 ft × 15 ft) and have two doorways , one of which leads to the rooms for wudu located on the northern and southern sides of the mosque . On the western side of the mosque is a room (ribat) for its keeper , measuring 4 @. @ 5 by 3 metres (14 @. @ 8 ft × 9 @. @ 8 ft) . The ribat has a 225 @- @ by @- @ 90 @- @ centimetre (89 in × 35 in) door facing east and a window measuring 90 by 90 centimetres (35 in × 35 in) .

The forward veranda measures 12 by 39 metres (39 ft × 128 ft) and has six doorways to the east and two each to the north and south ; in each doorway hangs an iron grate door . Each of the east facing doorways is decorated with a pair of non @- @ supporting columns . In the center of the veranda is the 220 by 120 by 275 centimetres (87 in × 47 in × 108 in) minbar , which juts out to the front and has an iron grate door . The minbar is only used during Eid prayers . Aside from the doors , the veranda has two windows with iron trellises , one each to the north and south .

On the eastern wall of the front veranda hangs a geometric carving created with square and rectangular panels . There are also arc designs which merge into ring and axehead shapes . The walls measure 34 centimetres (13 in) thick and 320 centimetres (130 in) high . Inside the veranda there are seven double iron @- @ wrought cylindrical columns with a diameter of 45 centimetres (18 in) . These columns rest on concrete pedestals measuring 113 by 70 by 67 centimetres (44 in × 28 in × 26 in) . There are also two square columns on the northern and southern sides , near a central , octagonal room which has one doorway from the east and one window .

= = = Main chamber = = =

The main chamber is a 30 @- @ by @- @ 30 @- @ metre (98 ft × 98 ft) square , with eight entrances on the east and due each on the north and south . The doors measure 160 by 264 centimetres (63 in × 104 in) and have wooden doors with spread fan carvings on the threshold above . There are two windows with wooden frames on the eastern wall , flanking the doors , as well as three windows on both the north and south walls and eight on the west . These windows measure 1 @. @ 6 by 2 metres (5 ft 3 in × 6 ft 7 in) . As with the doors , the threshold above the windows is decorated with spread fan carvings . The walls are made of concrete covered in ceramic , while the floor is made of white tiles with a flower motif .

This main room includes 25 soko guru , or main columns . They are hexagonal in shape and with diameters ranging from 40 to 50 centimetres (16 to 20 in) . These columns are made of red brick and bound with egg whites , lacking any iron framework . The 25 columns are arranged in 5 rows , representing the 25 prophets in Islam . Each column is covered in marble engraved with the names of the prophets , from Adam to Muhammad . These columns are the main supports for the octagonal roof above .

On the western side of the room is a mihrab flanked by two smaller rooms on its north and south . The mihrab measures 2 by 1 @. @ 5 metres (6 ft 7 in × 4 ft 11 in) . It is 320 centimetres (130 in) tall on the east side and 210 centimetres (83 in) tall on the west side .

= = = Other areas = = =

The Ganting Grand Mosque Masjid has wudu chambers measuring 10 by 3 metres (32 @. @ 8 ft × 9 @. @ 8 ft) on the north and south sides of the side verandas . These enclosed chambers were built as permanent structures in 1967 . The mosque 's library is in a structure on the northern side of the mosque , which is connected to the mosque proper . There are also three smaller structures on the grounds for the consultation of future hajj pilgrims . One of the structures was once part of the a Thawalib school .