

Surabaya History

Surabaya's history stretches back centuries, with evidence suggesting its existence even before the colonial era. Here's a glimpse into its past:

Early Days (Pre-colonial era)

- There's debate on the exact founding date. Some sources point to 1275 AD, when King Kertanegara of Singasari supposedly first discovered the area.
- Another document mentions a conflict in 1293 AD between Raden Wijaya and Kublai Khan's Mongols. This date is commemorated as Surabaya's anniversary.
- The Majapahit Empire played a crucial role. Surabaya served as the Majapahit kingdom's main gateway port due to its strategic location on Java's north coast. The city thrived as a trading hub during this era (14th century).
- The name "Surabaya" itself is believed to be unrelated to the popular legend of a shark and crocodile battle. Instead, it might come from Majapahit-era terms signifying bravery ("sura") and danger ("baya").

Colonial Period and Beyond

- European arrival marked a shift. The Dutch recognized Surabaya's potential and made it a major trading center in the Dutch East Indies.
- The city continued to grow in importance, becoming one of the biggest in the Netherlands Indies by the late 19th century.
- Indonesia's Independence Struggle
- Surabaya played a significant role in Indonesia's fight for independence. The city's resistance against British forces in November 1945, exemplified by the "Arek-Arek Suroboyo" (Surabaya Youths), is a defining moment in Indonesian history. The city is known as "Kota Pahlawan" (Hero City) due to this bravery.

Modern Surabaya

Post-independence, Surabaya transformed into a metropolis. It's one of Indonesia's fastest-growing metropolitan areas and is known for its efforts towards becoming a cleaner and more organized city.