

Jakarta: Gateway to Indonesia

Mike Smith says you need time, private transportation & a great deal of patience to survive the heat, humidity & heavy traffic in Jakarta. If you have all three it is easy to enjoy the shopping, fine dining, historical areas, culture & quality entertainment in Indonesia's capital city.

I had been to Jakarta on many occasions, but always in transit or for business meetings, rarely staying more than 24 hours. Being published in numerous magazines & online travel websites such as GoNomad has its advantages as you can get free trips.

Thus, I was happy to take accept Visit Indonesia Tourism's offer of a familiarization trip, accompanied by two young bloggers, Mint & Tsuriki, to experience how Jakarta has developed as its economy has boomed.

Jakarta is a sprawling city of 13 million people, almost as many motorbikes & several million cars. It is culturally diverse, has a colourful & controversial history and a host of modern facilities. Public transport, except for taxis, is not easily available to tourists who must rely on private means or group tours.

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