



Indonesian Ladies Association



Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia
Canberra

INDONESIAN CULTURAL CIRCLE

"THE MAGNIFICENT WEST JAVA"

E-NEWSLETTER: 2ND EDITION

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MESSAGE FROM CHAIR OF THE INDONESIAN LADIES ASSOCIATION



With pleasure, I welcome you back to the second edition of the Indonesian Cultural Circle (ICC) e-Newsletter.

Following the success of the 1st edition and good feedback from the ICC members, in this edition we will share another region as part of the wonderful Indonesia: "The magnificent West Java".

Greetings,
Caecilia Legowo
Chair of the
Indonesian Ladies
Association
The Embassy of the
Republic of Indonesia
in Canberra

Happy Independence Day, Indonesia! This coming August, Indonesia will celebrate our 75th Independence Day. This edition will talk about West Java, a region which played a vital role in shaping our history to become the nation that we are today.

Many tourists only experience the lush, volcanic panoramas of West Java through the the internet, but this dramatic, diverse region has plenty to entertain the inquisitive travelers who enjoys breaking away from the typical itinerary.

West Java stretches from the remote islands of the Ujung Kulon National Park, in the west to the sweeping beaches of Pangandaran in the east. In between, you can visit the infamous offshore volcano of Krakatau; surf in the chilled coastal resorts, Cimaja and Batu Karas; experience local culture in Cianjur; and stroll through Bogor's lush botanical gardens. It's also the most densely populated region in the entire country.

Let's start from Bandung, the capital of West Java province. Worldwide, Bandung is better known today for its historic Bandung Conference, - otherwise known as the first Asian-African Conference in 1955, that brought together 29 newly independent countries from the two continents representing over half of the world's population.

Our story continues by taking you to the northern side from Bandung, at the foothills of the mountainous Pahrayaran region, Purwakarta. Take in the captivating beauty of the industrial area that also provides cultural ethnicity. Then, you can relax in a small city called Cirebon that will take you back to 16th century commercial life, with its palaces, batik shops, and mosques and crowded markets.

As the easing restrictions have taken into place in the ACT state gradually, let us all hope that the pandemic will be over soon, and we could go back into our usual ICC meetings. Thank you for your continued support to the ICC during these trying times.

Let's stay united and stay strong.
May God bless us all.

Jaipong Dance

SUNDANESE

Tari Jaipong or Jaipong Dance is a common social dance from the Sundanese people of West Java. The name Jaipongan came from people mimicking the sounds created by the drums or *kendang* in the ensemble.

The movements are based on *Pencak Silat* (martial arts) movements and the dance moves are very alluring. The dancers usually invite the audience to join them at the end of the dance.



Cirebon Mask Dance

CIREBON, WEST JAVA

The Mask Dance is one of the art forms that has become a valuable cultural asset for the city of Cirebon in West Java.

There are several variations of the Cirebon Mask Dance, including the Mask Dances of Panji, Samba, Rumyang, Tumenggung, and Kelana, each of which has its own unique character and meaning.



THE ULTIMATE LIST OF

WEEKEND GETAWAY

Indonesia is full of beautiful, exotic places. Whether meandering along beaches of clean, warm sand, admiring amazing scenery from houses erected on mountainsides, or exploring narrow alleys filled with bougainvillea flowers in front of beautiful stores and local cafés, a single trip can truly awaken one's energy and love for Indonesia.

CIREBON

Cirebon is located right on the border between the provinces of West Java and Central Java on the northern coastal plains of Java. Cirebon is the most interesting place to visit because of its multi-nations acculturation; Sundanese and Javanese mixture with Chinese, Indian, Arab and European. The palace buildings and Islamic graves are decorated with old Ming porcelain plates. Its Batik art has strong Chinese influences, and mosques have strong Arabian influences.

As the fourth largest city on Java's north coast after Jakarta, Surabaya and Semarang, its industry and trade is thriving. A visit to Cirebon will take you back to 16th century commercial life, with its palaces, batik shops, and mosques and crowded markets. The city also attracts visitors through its many culinary favorites.

PURWAKARTA

Aside from the capital city of West Java, Bandung, another city worth a visit is **Purwakarta** Regency that was once better known as an industrial area. However, over time Purwakarta has grown into an attractive destination that showcases its authentic identity as the cultural window to the Sunda ethnic group's way of life.

For those who search for refreshing nature, Lake Wanayasa, Cipurut Waterfall, and Cidomas River are perfect getaways from the hustle and bustle of daily city life. If you're up for a little bit of adventure, go trek and hike to some of the challenging trails up Mount Lembu, Mount Parang, Mount Cupu, and Mount Bangkok.



Kawah Putih or White Crater, located in Ciwidey 50 kms to south of Bandung, is one of two craters of Mount Patuha. As the name suggests, the Crater Lake and its surroundings are dominated by a pale white color which radiates a hypnotizing ambiance. The volcanic crater is filled with surreal turquoise-colored water, making you feel like you're entering a different realm.



Tangkuban
Perahu
(pictured
left)

Braga Street
(pictured
below)

BANDUNG: THE PARIS VAN JAVA

Not many people would think that the landlocked city of Bandung, the capital city of West Java, would have become the second most popular tourism destination in Indonesia after Bali.

Known as "Paris van Java" or the 'Paris of Java' Bandung, is where the traditional and contemporary meets. Flocks of cafés, bakery shops and artworks formed as murals are typical views that can be seen along the Bandung crowded streets. But it is not only coffee or art that has carried Bandung's reputation as the city of fashion. Bandung is one of the world's rag-trade powerhouses, attracting thousands of fashion-crazed visitors from all over the world, where people are aware that haute couture can be found here at a fraction of the usual street price.

Bandung has now also developed to become the Creative City, where millennials and students are encouraged to express their exuberant creativity in art, music, and innovative digital creations.



Catch the scent of sulphur oozing from the fiery heart of our planet at *Tangkuban Perahu* volcano. The volcano holds legendary meaning through Dayang Sumbi, a Sundanese beauty who was given the secret to eternal youth. Many years later her estranged son returned and fell in love with her. It was only before the marriage that Dayang Sumbi recognised who he really was and refused to marry him unless he completed the near impossible task of building a dam and a huge boat in one night until before sunrise. However, fearing that her son might actually achieve the impossible request, Dayang Sumbi spread acres of red silk over the plains to the west. Thinking the sun had risen, her son smashed the dam and kicked the boat upturned, creating the peak of the *Tangkuban Perahu*, which means volcano overturned boat.



**"INDONESIA'S
NATURAL
BEAUTY
IS ONLY AN
ENTRY GATE
INTO A
WHOLE NEW
EXPERIENCE"**

WEST JAVA CULINARY

An Exceptional Taste of Sundanese Feast



Nasi Liwet & Sate Maranggi

Who can deny the daintiness of Sundanese foods, the popular cuisine from West Java? Compared to other traditional Indonesian delicacies, Sundanese food is mostly characterized by their fresh sourness, slight sweetness, saltiness, and perfect spiciness. The other leading components include the raw green veggies famously known as “*lalap*” which is accompanied by shrimp paste condiment.

The choice of rice as a staple food for daily consumption goes far back into the ancestry of the Indonesian people. Considering the many varieties of rice, the number of ways in which to cook it are unsurprising. Such techniques include *liwet*, where the rice is cooked in a special pan on a firewood stove.

Similar to *Betawi's nasi uduk*, *nasi liwet* is a traditional Javanese style of cooking rice that includes coconut milk and chicken broth, with the fragrance of bay leaves and lemongrass. It's common to eat *nasi liwet* along with a variety of side dishes and extra coconut cream.

Satay is not always confined to Padang or Madura – just travel to West Java and you'll find the delicious *Sate Maranggi*. Originating from the region of Purwakarta, the skewered mutton or beef is marinated with some spices, namely coriander and ginger, then grilled over a medium heat. Instead of being doused with peanut sauce, it's just presented with pickles and sweet soy sauce.

Traditional Dessert

Talking about food would not be complete without talking about dessert. And West Java is all about the best traditional dessert that you can get.

To close your Sundanese main course, the *Surabi* would be an enticing option.

The traditional pancake, made of the mixture of wheat and rice flour, is uniquely baked on a clay cake mold over hot charcoal. When you go to Bandung, you can easily find this Indonesian version of a pancake and might be tempted to get a little twist by topping it with *durian* sauce. But if you are not familiar yet with *durian* sauce, there is a wide variety of toppings you can select, such as palm sugar (the original one), banana, cheese, and jack-fruit.



The second recommended option for dessert is *tape*, the Indonesian term which refers to fermented glutinous rice or cassava. *Kuningan* regency, West Java, is renowned for its fermented dish called *tape ketan*. Also known as *peuyum ketan*, the delicacy is wrapped in apple rose leaves and commonly sold in black buckets. The fragrance from the combination of fermented glutinous rice and the apple rose leaves is so tempting. This is best served cold.

Another dessert, *Colenak* - the acronym of "*Dicocol Enak*" (deliciously dipped) - is a sweet delight which is actually grilled *peuyeum* dipped in palm sugar sauce and filled with grated coconut. Other variations include durian and jack-fruit.

For a "hotter" option, West Javanese traditional drink called *bajigur* is worth to try. Blending coconut milk with coffee, salt, and palm sugar, *bajigur* is served while still hot. The Sundanese specialty drink is normally enjoyed with steamed cassava or sweet potato.

“

*Food is the
reason you
should
travel!*



WAYANG GOLEK PUPPETS

In west Java, the traditional puppet *Wayang Golek* performances take place in the open theater to celebrate events such as births and weddings. The *dalang* (puppeteer) is accompanied by a *gamelan* (percussion) orchestra and singers.

Each puppet has a carved and painted head with an elaborate headdress and a long neck that can swivel. The puppets are carved from soft wood and decorated with traditional piece of cloths (*batik*) and also adorned with jewellery. Headdress, costumes and colours vary for each puppet and can also indicate to the audience the kind of character it represents.



The word "*wayang*" refers to both the puppets and the theatre.

Dating back the early 16th century, traditional Javanese tales and plays from the *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata* were performed. These variety of plays combines Hindu stories with Buddhist and Muslim ideas as well as the Javanese folklore. Usually, the stories are divided into different episodes. They illustrate the fight of good against evil through conflict, culminating in the triumph of the good forces and the destruction of evil.

Wayang Golek can still be seen in Indonesia. Although originally puppets are made for Wayang Golek theatre, many are now made for sale to tourists.

"Wayang Golek is a traditional art form, in which performances blending myth, tale, and history accompanied by beautiful gamelan orchestra."

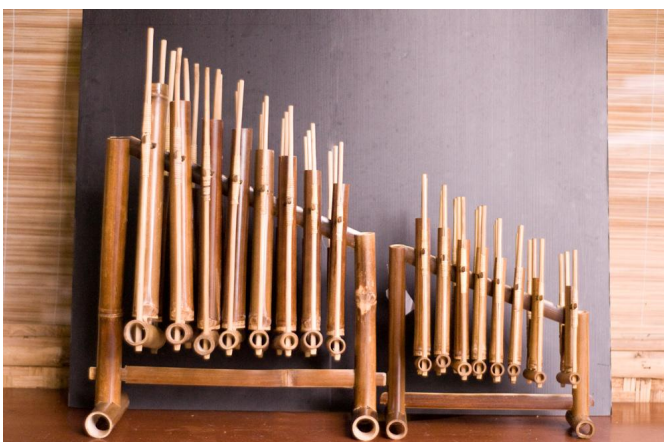




ANGKLUNG

UNESCO'S MASTERPIECE OF ORAL AND INTANGIBLE HERITAGE OF HUMANITY

The name of this popular musical instrument derives from the swaying body motion of its players. The *angklung* has been in use in West Java since well before the Hindu era.



Originally based on the pentatonic scale, the *angklung* was modified in 1938 by a teacher from Hollandsch-Inlandsche School, *Daeng Soetigna*, to have a diatonic scale, assisting in the instrument's return to popularity in education and entertainment.

Comprising of a bamboo frame and bamboo tubes that makes a sound once struck, the *angklung* became prominent during the time of the Kingdom of *Sunda*, when the instrument was played to honour the goddess of fertility, *Dewi Sri*.

In line with its usage in religious ceremonies, the *angklung* and its bamboo tube sizes serve a philosophical purpose, symbolising the interdependency of human lives.

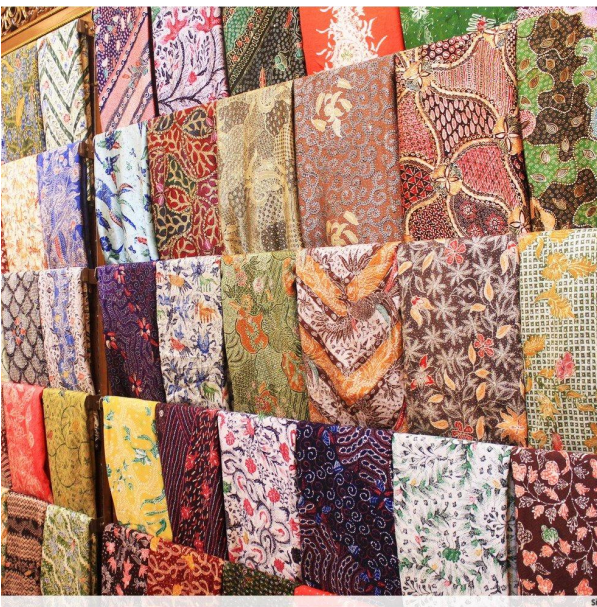
The big and small tubes of bamboo signify the development of mankind, with bigger tubes embodying human aspirations to become a greater self and smaller tubes depicting the dreams of an individual.

Together, the tubes create a harmonious relationship, describing life as it should be.



CIREBON BATIK

THE COLOURFUL INDONESIAN BATIK



Next to Yogyakarta, Solo, and Pekalongan, the other center of exquisite Indonesian batik art is found in the city of Cirebon on the northern coast of West Java Province.

Unlike the ones from land-bound Yogyakarta or Solo (Surakarta) – both are located in inland Java Island – batik from Cirebon fall into the coastal category. They are more colourful, and patterns include flowers, butterflies, clouds, sea creatures, and mythical animals. Historically, coastal batik are for tradesmen, while inland batik are for the royals.

Cirebon's classic royal batik styles have also been developed by the royal palaces (the *Kasepuhan* and the *Kanoman* Sultanates), while the coastal batik itself emerged from trade and fishing communities who brought their own motifs and style. Royal batik is characterized by motifs of royal symbols based on religious philosophy, while the coastal batiks are more dynamic and open to current trends.

In general, the ornaments of Cirebon's batik can be classified into 5 groups: *Wadasan*, *Geometric*, *Pangkaan (Buketan)*, *Byur*, and *Semarangan*.



Megamendung (*Wadasan* group which highlights the royal batik style) is the most common pattern from Cirebon. It depicts heavy clouds in bright colours. The form of the clouds is similar with the ones found in antique Chinese artifacts. This confirms the long & diverse history of Cirebon – depicting how the most prominent Muslim leader and ruler married a princess from China.



EXPLORE WEST JAVA

THE ADVENTURE AWAITS YOU



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C2D0VTOa8-M&feature=youtu.be>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=luWjUxO1KbU&feature=youtu.be>