

Indonesia

Country name	Indonesia
State title in English	Republic of Indonesia
State title in official language	Republik Indonesia
Name of citizen	Indonesian
Official languages	Indonesian (Bahasa Indonesia) ¹
Country name in official language	Indonesia
Script	Roman
ISO-3166 code (alpha-2/alpha-3)	ID/IDN
Capital	Jakarta ²
Population	276 million (UN data)

Introduction

Indonesia is the world's largest archipelagic state, stretching across both sides of the equator from the city of Banda Aceh at 05° 33' 28" N, 095° 19' 20" E in the west, to the city of Jayapura at 02° 31' 36" S, 140° 42' 51" E in the east. It is made up of over 17,500 islands (of which around 1,000 are permanently settled) strategically located along major sea lanes between the Pacific and Indian Oceans.

Geographical names policy

Indonesian is written in Roman script. PCGN recommends using place names as found on official Indonesian-language sources. [Badan Informasi Geospasial \(BIG\)](#) (formerly known as Bakosurtanal) is the official Indonesian mapping agency.

Language

Indonesian (Bahasa Indonesia) (ISO 639: *idn*) is the official and most commonly spoken language in Indonesia, and is a modified version of Malay. It is the official language of the government, education and mass media. With over a thousand recognised ethnic groups, more than 700 local languages and dialects are spoken in the home and the local community, the most common of which is Javanese (ISO 639: *jav*) spoken by around 40% of the population³, followed by Sundanese (ISO 639: *sun*) spoken by around 37%. English is also widely spoken in Indonesia.

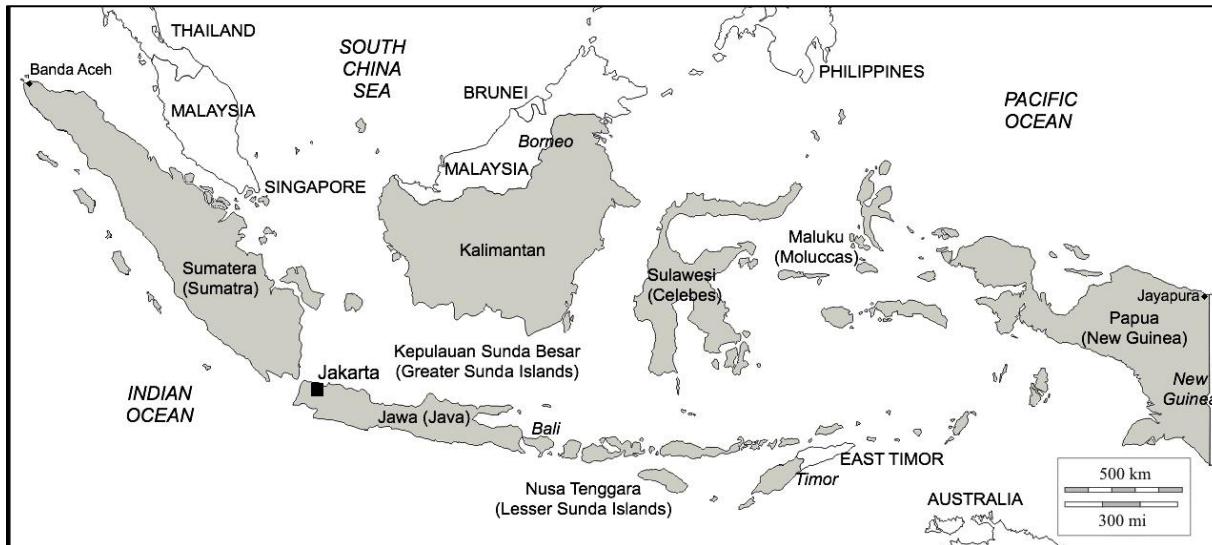
¹ Article 36 of the [Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia](#).

² Officially *Daerah Khusus Ibukota Jakarta* (Special Capital Region of Jakarta). Construction of the new capital city of Indonesia, Nusantara, began in summer 2022 on the island of Kalimantan. Jakarta will continue to be the commercial and financial capital.

³ <https://indonesia.go.id/profil/suku>

The Indonesian Archipelago

The islands of Indonesia can be grouped into the Kepulauan Sunda Besar (Greater Sunda Islands) of Sumatera (Sumatra), Jawa (Java), Sulawesi and Kalimantan⁴; the Nusa Tenggara (Lesser Sunda) islands of Bali and a chain of islands that runs eastward through the island of Timor⁵; the Maluku (Moluccas) islands; and Papua, the western part of the island of New Guinea⁶.



Map showing the island groups of Indonesia, produced by PCGN for illustrative purposes only, and is not to be taken necessarily as representing the views of the UK government on boundaries or political status.

Administrative structure

In May 1999, Indonesia embarked on a reform of regional governance⁷, decentralizing most functions of the government to the rural districts and municipalities and increasing local participation in politics and the economy. The Regional Autonomy Law⁸ gave authority to two levels of regional government, provinces (*provinsi*) at the first-order administrative level (ADM1), and regencies (*kabupaten*) and municipalities (*kota*) at the second-order administrative level (ADM2) to make their own policies and local laws. In 2022, Central Papua, Highland Papua and South Papua split from Papua province, and in 2023 Southwest Papua split from West Papua province.

The provinces are grouped into island-based geographical units, as shown in the table below, but the groupings have no administrative function.

The administrative structure of Indonesia presently comprises thirty-eight (38) first order administrative divisions: 35 provinces (*provinsi*), two special regions (*daerah istimewa*) (Aceh and Yogyakarta) and one capital district (*daerah khusus ibukota*) (Jakarta). Nine provinces have special autonomous status: the capital city of Jakarta; the royal city of Yogyakarta; the Islamic territory of Aceh; indigenous people have privileges in the local government in the six Papuan provinces of Papua, Central Papua, Highland Papua, South Papua, Southwest Papua and West Papua. The provinces are sub-divided into 514 at ADM2 level: 416 regencies (*kabupaten*) and 98 municipalities (*kota*) that are further subdivided into districts and again into administrative villages.

⁴ Kalimantan is the Indonesian name for the island of Borneo. Brunei and part of Malaysia are in the north of the island.

⁵ The eastern half of the island of Timor is the independent state of East Timor. The Oecusse-Ambeno district of East Timor is an exclave in the western, Indonesian part of the island of Timor.

⁶ Papua is the Indonesian name for the island known in English as New Guinea. The island is divided between two countries: the western half comprises the Indonesian provinces of Papua, Papua Barat, Papua Pegunungan, Papua Selatan and Papua Tengah; the eastern half comprises the major part of Papua New Guinea (an independent country since 1975).

⁷ Following the resignation of President Soeharto, in 1998.

⁸ Law No 22 of 1999 on regional autonomy.

Indonesia: First-Order Administrative Divisions

Island(s) (conventional name in brackets)	Province (ADM1) (short form in bold type)	Anglicized province name	Indonesian Abbreviation ⁹	ISO 3166-2 code	Centre	Centre co- ordinates	Number of ADM2s	Province website
Jawa (Java)	Provinsi Banten	-	-	ID-BT	Serang	06° 06' 54" S, 106° 09' 01" E	8	http://www.bantenprov.go.id/
	Daerah Khusus Ibukota Jakarta Raya ¹⁰	Special Capital Region of Jakarta	DKI Jakarta /DKI	ID-JK	Jakarta ¹¹	06° 10' 28" S, 106° 49' 46" E	6	http://www.jakarta.go.id/
	Provinsi Jawa Barat ¹²	West Java	Jabar	ID-JB	Bandung	06° 54' 14" S, 107° 37' 07" E	27	http://www.jabarprov.go.id/
	Provinsi Jawa Tengah	Central Java	Jateng	ID-JT	Semarang	06° 59' 36" S, 110° 25' 13" E	35	http://www.jatengprov.go.id
	Provinsi Jawa Timur	East Java	Jatim	ID-JI	Surabaya	07° 14' 57" S, 112° 45' 03" E	38	http://www.jatimprov.go.id
	Daerah Istimewa Yogyakarta	Special Region of Yogyakarta	DI Yogyo / DIY	ID-YO	Yogyakarta	07° 46' 58" S, 110° 21' 39" E	5	https://jogjaprov.go.id/berita
Kalimantan	Provinsi Kalimantan Barat	West Kalimantan	Kalbar	ID-KB	Pontianak	00° 01' 52" S, 109° 19' 19" E	14	http://www.kalbarprov.go.id/
	Provinsi Kalimantan Selatan	South Kalimantan	Kalsel	ID-KS	Banjarmasin	03° 19' 13" S, 114° 35' 23" E	13	http://www.kalselprov.go.id

⁹ The Indonesian abbreviations are often used on Indonesian sources such as websites and news articles.

¹⁰ Jakarta is the capital city of Indonesia and also a province.

¹¹ This is the capital city of Indonesia, situated on the island of Jawa (Java).

¹² Some Indonesian province names contain geographical terms, such as compass points, e.g. Jawa Barat means West Java. See the glossary on page 6 for a full list of terms.

TOPONYMIC FACTFILE

Island(s) (conventional name in brackets)	Province (ADM1) (short form in bold type)	Anglicized province name	Indonesian Abbreviation ⁹	ISO 3166-2 code	Centre	Centre co- ordinates	Number of ADM2s	Province website
Kalimantan cont.	Provinsi Kalimantan Tengah	Central Kalimantan	Kalteng	ID-KT	Palangkaraya	02° 12' 49" S, 113° 54' 39" E	14	http://kalteng.go.id/ogi/
	Provinsi Kalimantan Timur	East Kalimantan	Kaltim	ID-KI	Samarinda	02° 12' 49" S, 113° 54' 39" E	10	http://www.kaltimprov.go.id/home
	Provinsi Kalimantan Utara	North Kalimantan	Kaltara	ID-KU	Tanjung Selor	02° 50' 17" N, 117° 21' 57" E	5	http://www.kaltaraprov.go.id
Maluku (Moluccas)	Provinsi Maluku	-	-	ID-MA	Ambon	03° 41' 50" S, 128° 11' 08" E	11	http://malukuprov.go.id
	Provinsi Maluku Utara	North Maluku	Malut	ID-MU	Sofifi	00° 44' 00" N, 127° 33' 00" E	10	http://www.malutprov.go.id/
Nusa Tenggara (Lesser Sunda Islands)	Provinsi Bali	-	-	ID-BA	Denpasar	08° 39' 00" S, 115° 13' 00" E	9	http://www.baliprov.go.id/
	Provinsi Nusa Tenggara Barat	West Nusa Tenggara	NTB	ID-NB	Mataram	08° 35' 00" S, 116° 07' 00" E	10	http://www.ntbprov.go.id/
	Provinsi Nusa Tenggara Timur	East Nusa Tenggara	NTT	ID-NT	Kupang	10° 10' 18" S, 123° 36' 27" E	22	http://nttprov.go.id/ntt/
Papua (New Guinea)	Provinsi Papua ¹³	-	-	ID-PA	Jayapura	02° 32' 05" S, 140° 42' 20" E	9	https://papua.go.id
	Provinsi Papua Barat ¹⁴	West Papua	Pabar or PB	ID-PB	Manokwari	00° 51' 21" S, 134° 03' 46" E	7	http://papuabaratprov.go.id/

¹³ Former name: Irian Jaya (until November 2001).

¹⁴ Former name: Irian Jaya Barat (until February 2007). <http://www.radionz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/167695/papuan-province-changes-name-from-west-iran-jaya-to-west-papua>

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Island(s) (conventional name in brackets)	Province (ADM1) (short form in bold type)	Anglicized province name	Indonesian Abbreviation ⁹	ISO 3166-2 code	Centre	Centre co- ordinates	Number of ADM2s	Province website
Papua (New Guinea) cont.	Provinsi Papua Barat Daya	Southwest Papua		-	Sorong	00° 53' 00" S, 131° 17' 00" E	6	https://papuabaratdayaprov.go.id/
	Provinsi Papua Pegunungan	Highland Papua	-	ID-PE	Wamena	04° 05' 42" S, 138° 56' 42" E	8	-
	Provinsi Papua Selatan	South Papua	-	ID-PS	Merauke	08° 29' 21" S, 140° 23' 07" E	4	https://papuaselatan.go.id/
	Provinsi Papua Tengah	Central Papua	-	ID-PT	Nabire	03° 22' 05" S, 135° 29' 47" E	8	-
Sulawesi (Celebes)	Provinsi Gorontalo	-	-	ID-GO	Gorontalo	00° 32' 28" N, 123° 03' 34" E	6	http://www.gorontaloprov.go.id/
	Provinsi Sulawesi Barat	West Sulawesi	Sulbar	ID-SR	Mamuju	02° 40' 29" S, 118° 53' 19" E	6	https://sulbarprov.go.id
	Provinsi Sulawesi Selatan	South Sulawesi	Sulsel	ID-SN	Makassar	05° 08' 24" S, 119° 25' 20" E	24	http://www.suselprov.go.id/
	Provinsi Sulawesi Tengah	Central Sulawesi	Sulteng	ID-ST	Palu	00° 53' 30" S, 119° 52' 15" E	13	http://www.sultengprov.go.id/
	Provinsi Sulawesi Tenggara	Southeast Tenggara	Sultra	ID-SG	Kendari	03° 56' 42" S, 122° 29' 56" E	17	https://sultra.bpk.go.id
	Provinsi Sulawesi Utara	North Sulawesi	Sulut	ID-SA	Manado	01° 28' 56" N, 124° 50' 56" E	15	http://www.sulutprov.go.id/
Sumatera (Sumatra)	Provinsi Aceh ¹⁵		NAD / Aceh	ID-AC	Banda Aceh	05° 33' 28" N, 095° 19' 20" E	23	http://acehprov.go.id/

¹⁵ Former name: Nanggroë Aceh Darussalam (until 2009).

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Island(s) (conventional name in brackets)	Province (ADM1) (short form in bold type)	Anglicized province name	Indonesian Abbreviation ⁹	ISO 3166-2 code	Centre	Centre co- ordinates	Number of ADM2s	Province website
Sumatera (Sumatra) Cont.	Provinsi Bengkulu	-	-	ID-BE	Bengkulu	03° 47' 21" S, 102° 15' 45" E	10	https://bengkuluprov.go.id
	Provinsi Jambi	-	-	ID-JA	Jambi	01° 37' 13" S, 103° 36' 41" E	11	https://jambiprov.go.id
	Provinsi Kepulauan Bangka Belitung ¹⁶	Bangka Belitung Islands	Babel / Kepbangbel	ID-BB	Pangkalpinang	02° 07' 49" S, 106° 06' 38" E	7	http://www.babelprov.go.id/
	Provinsi Kepulauan Riau	Riau Islands	Kepri	ID-KR	Tanjungpinang	00° 55' 00" N, 104° 27' 00" E	7	https://www.kepiprov.go.id
	Provinsi Lampung	-	-	ID-LA	Bandar Lampung ¹⁷	05° 25' 32" S, 105° 15' 29" E	15	http://www.lampungprov.go.id
	Provinsi Riau	-	-	ID-RI	Pekanbaru	00° 32' 00" N, 101° 27' 00" E	12	https://www.riau.go.id/home/
	Provinsi Sumatera Barat	West Sumatera	Sumbar	ID-SB	Padang	00° 57' 11" S, 100° 22' 04" E	19	http://www.sumbarprov.go.id/
	Provinsi Sumatera Selatan	South Sumatera	Sumsel	ID-SS	Palembang	02° 59' 06" S, 104° 45' 15" E	17	https://sumselprov.go.id
	Provinsi Sumatera Utara	North Sumatera	Sumut	ID-SU	Medan	03° 35' 00" N, 098° 40' 00" E	33	http://www.sumutprov.go.id

¹⁶ Sometimes seen as Bangka Belitung.

¹⁷ Previously called Tanjungkarang-Telukbetung until the two towns of Tanjungkarang and Telukbetung combined and became known as Bandar Lampung in 1993
<http://www.hukumonline.com/pusatdata/detail/21292/node/1060>.

Glossary

Barat	west
Besar	great
Daerah	region, district, territory (first-order administrative division)
Daerah Istimewa	special region, special territory (first-order administrative division)
Daerah Khusus Ibukota	special capital region (first-order administrative division)
Ibukota	capital, metropolitan
Istimewa	special
Kabupaten	regency (second-order administrative division)
Kepulauan	islands, archipelago
Khusus	special
Kota	municipality (second-order administrative division)
Nusa	homeland/island
Pegunungan	highland
Provinsi	province (first-order administrative division)
Pulau	island
Pulau-pulau	islands, archipelago
Raya	greater
Selatan	south
Tengah	middle
Tenggara	southeast
Timur	east
Utara	north

Useful references

- BBC Country Profile: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-pacific-14921238>
- CIA World Factbook <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/indonesia/>
- FCDO Travel Advice: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/indonesia>
- Indonesian geospatial information agency: Badan Informasi Geospatial (BIG) (formerly known as Bakosurtanal) <https://www.big.go.id/>
- International Organization for Standardization (ISO): www.iso.org
- ISO Online Browsing Platform (OBP): <https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/>
- Languages: www.ethnologue.com; www.omniglot.com
- Indonesia Geoportal: <https://tanahair.indonesia.go.id/portal-web>
- The Central Statistics Agency (Statistics Indonesia): <http://www.bps.go.id/>
- 2020 Indonesian census: <https://setkab.go.id/en/statistics-indonesia-releases-2020-census-results/>
- US Board on Geographic Names (BGN) Geographic Names Server: <https://geonames.nga.mil/geonames/GNSHome/index.html>

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