

# 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) <sup>1</sup>
Country name in official language	Indonesia
Script	Roman
ISO-3166 code (alpha-2/alpha-3)	ID/IDN
Capital	Jakarta <sup>2</sup>
Population	281.6 million <sup>3</sup>

## 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) and is 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: *ind*) 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 population<sup>4</sup>, followed by Sundanese (ISO 639: *sun*) spoken by around 37%. English is also widely spoken in Indonesia.

<sup>1</sup> Article 36 of the [Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia](#).

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> [BPS-Statistics Indonesia 2024 data](#).

<sup>4</sup> <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 Kalimantan<sup>5</sup>; the Nusa Tenggara (Lesser Sunda) islands of Bali and a chain of islands that runs eastward through the island of Timor<sup>6</sup>; the Maluku (Moluccas) islands; and Papua, the western part of the island of New Guinea<sup>7</sup>.



*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 governance<sup>8</sup>, decentralizing most functions of the government to the rural districts and municipalities, thereby increasing local participation in politics and the economy. The Regional Autonomy Law<sup>9</sup> 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), allowing them 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.

Indonesia's provinces are grouped into island-based geographical units, as shown in the table beginning on page 4, although these groupings have no administrative function.

<sup>5</sup> Kalimantan is the Indonesian name for the island of Borneo. Brunei and part of Malaysia are in the north of the island.

<sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> 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 six Indonesian provinces of Papua, Papua Barat, Papua Barat Daya, Papua Pegunungan, Papua Selatan and Papua Tengah; the eastern half comprises the major part of Papua New Guinea (an independent country since 1975).

<sup>8</sup> Following the resignation of President Soeharto, in 1998.

<sup>9</sup> Law No 22 of 1999 on regional autonomy.

## TOPONYMIC FACTFILE

The administrative structure of Indonesia currently consists of 38 first order administrative divisions, comprising 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; and 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 second-order administrative units (ADM2): 416 regencies (*kabupaten*) and 98 municipalities (*kota*), which are further subdivided into districts and again into administrative villages.

Indonesia: First-Order Administrative Divisions

Island(s) (conventional name in brackets)	Province (ADM1) (short form in bold type)	Anglicized province name	Indonesian Abbreviation <sup>10</sup>	ISO 3166- 2 code	Centre	Centre co- ordinates	Number of ADM2s	Province website
<b>Jawa (Java)</b>	Provinsi <b>Banten</b>	-	-	ID-BT	Serang	06° 06' 54" S, 106° 09' 01" E	8	<a href="http://www.bantenprov.go.id/">http://www.bantenprov.go.id/</a>
	Daerah Khusus Ibukota <b>Jakarta Raya</b> <sup>11</sup>	Special Capital Region of Jakarta	DKI Jakarta /DKI	ID-JK	Jakarta <sup>12</sup>	06° 10' 28" S, 106° 49' 46" E	6	<a href="http://www.jakarta.go.id/">http://www.jakarta.go.id/</a>
	Provinsi <b>Jawa Barat</b> <sup>13</sup>	West Java	Jabar	ID-JB	Bandung	06° 54' 14" S, 107° 37' 07" E	27	<a href="http://www.jabarprov.go.id/">http://www.jabarprov.go.id/</a>
	Provinsi <b>Jawa Tengah</b>	Central Java	Jateng	ID-JT	Semarang	06° 59' 36" S, 110° 25' 13" E	35	<a href="http://www.jatengprov.go.id">http://www.jatengprov.go.id</a>
	Provinsi <b>Jawa Timur</b>	East Java	Jatim	ID-JI	Surabaya	07° 14' 57" S, 112° 45' 03" E	38	<a href="http://www.jatimprov.go.id">http://www.jatimprov.go.id</a>
	Daerah Istimewa <b>Yogyakarta</b>	Special Region of Yogyakarta	DI Yogya / DIY	ID-YO	Yogyakarta	07° 46' 58" S, 110° 21' 39" E	5	<a href="https://jogjaprov.go.id/berita">https://jogjaprov.go.id/berita</a>
<b>Kalimantan (Borneo)</b>	Provinsi <b>Kalimantan Barat</b>	West Kalimantan	Kalbar	ID-KB	Pontianak	00° 01' 52" S, 109° 19' 19" E	14	<a href="http://www.kalbarprov.go.id/">http://www.kalbarprov.go.id/</a>
	Provinsi <b>Kalimantan Selatan</b>	South Kalimantan	Kalsel	ID-KS	Banjarbaru <sup>14</sup>	03° 26' 33" S, 114° 49' 57" E	13	<a href="https://kalselprov.go.id/">https://kalselprov.go.id/</a>

<sup>10</sup> The Indonesian abbreviations are often used on Indonesian sources such as websites and news articles.

<sup>11</sup> Jakarta is the capital city of Indonesia and also a province.

<sup>12</sup> This is the capital city of Indonesia, situated on the island of Jawa (Java).

<sup>13</sup> Some Indonesian province names contain geographical terms, such as compass points, e.g. Jawa Barat means West Java. See the glossary on page 8 for a full list of terms.

<sup>14</sup> Banjarmasin was the centre of the province until 15<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

# TOPONYMIC FACTFILE

Island(s) (conventional name in brackets)	Province (ADM1) (short form in bold type)	Anglicized province name	Indonesian Abbreviation <sup>10</sup>	ISO 3166-2 code	Centre	Centre co-ordinates	Number of ADM2s	Province website
<b>Kalimantan (Borneo) cont.</b>	Provinsi <b>Kalimantan Tengah</b>	Central Kalimantan	Kalteng	ID-KT	Palangkaraya	02° 12' 49" S, 113° 54' 39" E	14	<a href="http://kalteng.go.id/ogj/">http://kalteng.go.id/ogj/</a>
	Provinsi <b>Kalimantan Timur</b>	East Kalimantan	Kaltim	ID-KI	Samarinda	02° 12' 49" S, 113° 54' 39" E	10	<a href="https://www.kaltimprov.go.id/">https://www.kaltimprov.go.id/</a>
	Provinsi <b>Kalimantan Utara</b>	North Kalimantan	Kaltara	ID-KU	Tanjung Selor	02° 50' 17" N, 117° 21' 57" E	5	<a href="http://www.kaltaraprov.go.id">http://www.kaltaraprov.go.id</a>
<b>Maluku (Moluccas)</b>	Provinsi <b>Maluku</b>	-	-	ID-MA	Ambon	03° 41' 50" S, 128° 11' 08" E	11	<a href="http://malukuprov.go.id">http://malukuprov.go.id</a>
	Provinsi <b>Maluku Utara</b>	North Maluku	Malut	ID-MU	Sofifi	00° 44' 00" N, 127° 33' 00" E	10	<a href="http://www.malutprov.go.id/">http://www.malutprov.go.id/</a>
<b>Nusa Tenggara (Lesser Sunda Islands)</b>	Provinsi <b>Bali</b>	-	-	ID-BA	Denpasar	08° 39' 00" S, 115° 13' 00" E	9	<a href="http://www.baliprov.go.id/">http://www.baliprov.go.id/</a>
	Provinsi <b>Nusa Tenggara Barat</b>	West Nusa Tenggara	NTB	ID-NB	Mataram	08° 35' 00" S, 116° 07' 00" E	10	<a href="http://www.ntbprov.go.id/">http://www.ntbprov.go.id/</a>
	Provinsi <b>Nusa Tenggara Timur</b>	East Nusa Tenggara	NTT	ID-NT	Kupang	10° 10' 18" S, 123° 36' 27" E	22	<a href="http://nttprov.go.id/ntt/">http://nttprov.go.id/ntt/</a>
<b>Papua (New Guinea)</b>	Provinsi <b>Papua</b>	-	-	ID-PA	Jayapura	02° 32' 05" S, 140° 42' 20" E	9	<a href="https://papua.go.id">https://papua.go.id</a>
	Provinsi <b>Papua Barat</b>	West Papua	Pabar or PB	ID-PB	Manokwari	00° 51' 21" S, 134° 03' 46" E	7	<a href="http://papuabaratprov.go.id/">http://papuabaratprov.go.id/</a>
	Provinsi <b>Papua Barat Daya</b>	Southwest Papua	-	-	Sorong	00° 53' 00" S, 131° 17' 00" E	6	<a href="https://papuabaratdayaprov.go.id/">https://papuabaratdayaprov.go.id/</a>

# TOPONYMIC FACTFILE

Island(s) (conventional name in brackets)	Province (ADM1) (short form in bold type)	Anglicized province name	Indonesian Abbreviation <sup>10</sup>	ISO 3166- 2 code	Centre	Centre co- ordinates	Number of ADM2s	Province website
<b>Papua (New Guinea) cont.</b>	Provinsi <b>Papua Pegunungan</b>	Highland Papua	-	ID-PE	Wamena	04° 05' 42" S, 138° 56' 42" E	8	-
	Provinsi <b>Papua Selatan</b>	South Papua	-	ID-PS	Merauke	08° 29' 21" S, 140° 23' 07" E	4	<a href="https://papuaselatan.go.id/">https://papuaselatan.go.id/</a>
	Provinsi <b>Papua Tengah</b>	Central Papua	-	ID-PT	Nabire	03° 22' 05" S, 135° 29' 47" E	8	-
<b>Sulawesi (Celebes)</b>	Provinsi <b>Gorontalo</b>	-	-	ID-GO	Gorontalo	00° 32' 28" N, 123° 03' 34" E	6	<a href="http://www.gorontaloprov.go.id/">http://www.gorontaloprov.go.id/</a>
	Provinsi <b>Sulawesi Barat</b>	West Sulawesi	Sulbar	ID-SR	Mamuju	02° 40' 29" S, 118° 53' 19" E	6	<a href="https://sulbarprov.go.id">https://sulbarprov.go.id</a>
	Provinsi <b>Sulawesi Selatan</b>	South Sulawesi	Sulsel	ID-SN	Makassar	05° 08' 24" S, 119° 25' 20" E	24	<a href="http://www.sulselprov.go.id/">http://www.sulselprov.go.id/</a>
	Provinsi <b>Sulawesi Tengah</b>	Central Sulawesi	Sulteng	ID-ST	Palu	00° 53' 30" S, 119° 52' 15" E	13	<a href="http://www.sultengprov.go.id/">http://www.sultengprov.go.id/</a>
	Provinsi <b>Sulawesi Tenggara</b>	Southeast Tenggara	Sultra	ID-SG	Kendari	03° 56' 42" S, 122° 29' 56" E	17	<a href="https://sultra.bpk.go.id">https://sultra.bpk.go.id</a>
	Provinsi <b>Sulawesi Utara</b>	North Sulawesi	Sulut	ID-SA	Manado	01° 28' 56" N, 124° 50' 56" E	15	<a href="http://www.sulutprov.go.id/">http://www.sulutprov.go.id/</a>
<b>Sumatera (Sumatra)</b>	Provinsi <b>Aceh</b>		NAD / Aceh	ID-AC	Banda Aceh	05° 33' 28" N, 095° 19' 20" E	23	<a href="http://acehprov.go.id/">http://acehprov.go.id/</a>
	Provinsi <b>Bengkulu</b>	-	-	ID-BE	Bengkulu	03° 47' 21" S, 102° 15' 45" E	10	<a href="https://bengkuluprov.go.id">https://bengkuluprov.go.id</a>
	Provinsi <b>Jambi</b>	-	-	ID-JA	Jambi	01° 37' 13" S, 103° 36' 41" E	11	<a href="https://jambiprov.go.id">https://jambiprov.go.id</a>

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

<sup>15</sup> Sometimes seen as Bangka Belitung.

## 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 Geospasial (BIG) (formerly known as Bakosurtanal) <https://www.big.go.id/>
- International Organization for Standardization (ISO): [www.iso.org](http://www.iso.org)
- ISO Online Browsing Platform (OBP): <https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/>
- Languages: [www.ethnologue.com](http://www.ethnologue.com); [www.omniglot.com](http://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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