

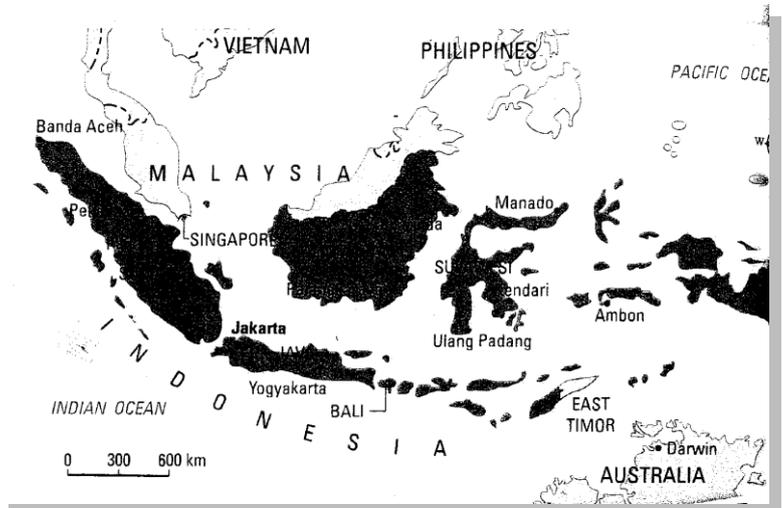


# Sekilas Budaya

## *The Indonesian archipelago*

An *archipelago* is a cluster of islands and Indonesia is one of the largest in the world, with around 6000 islands to its name!

The archipelago of Indonesia is only around 1000 kilometres from Australia's shoreline, making it one of our closest neighbours. From Darwin, the capital city of the Northern Territory, it is just a two-hour flight to Indonesia. Indonesia comprises many islands, each with its own capital city, unique language, customs and traditions. The five main regions are the islands of **Sumatra**, **Java**, **Kalimantan** and **Sulawesi**, and the province of **West Papua**. Other islands of significance are Bali, Ambon, Lombok and Flores. Some of the characters in the book have a special connection with these places.



Orang-utan



**Kalimantan** is an island shared by Malaysia and Indonesia. Well known for its natural environment, namely rainforests, Kalimantan is also famous for its orang utan sanctuary. Equally interesting are the Dayak people, who live close to the sea and rivers. The Dayak people traditionally live off the land, but in the past they were known to be savage head-hunters and pirates!

Wayang kulit shadow puppets



**Sumatra** is an island with a troubled past of a civil war, the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami and several earthquakes. Nevertheless, Sumatra is a unique place with

many wonderful cultural idiosyncrasies. The Batak and Minangkabau houses are among the most intriguing types of housing you will see in the world. Take a look at the photo!



Minangkabau house



Candi Borobudur

Indonesia's capital city Jakarta is located on the island of **Java**. With over 200 million people, it is a densely populated island! Many cultural specialities that are associated with Indonesia originated from

Javanese traditions, such as the shadow puppets called **wayang kulit** and yummy satay! And no visit is complete without a visit to Candi Borobudur and Candi Prambanan.



Market in Bali



Surfing in Bali



Stilt house in Papua

**Bali** is so well known, it is sometimes thought of as a small country rather than a part of Indonesia! Bali has a population of almost 4 million people, the majority being Hindus. Bali is most famous for its shopping, beaches, beautiful scenery and most of all, friendly locals. Very popular with tourists, Bali is a world-renowned surfing destination.

Papua, previously known as **Irian Jaya**, is a most intriguing place. The Indonesian inhabitants here have remained largely undisturbed by modern civilisation and live in remote tribes in the dense rainforest. Some tribes live in stilt houses, high up near the rainforest canopy.

**Sulawesi** is a distinctive shape, hard to mistake for any other island. In the southwestern 'leg' live the Toraja people. Typically farmers, they are Christians who also maintain ancient spiritual customs. One such custom is the Tana Toraja funeral. The deceased are buried in rock caves and young children are placed in tree hollows. Rather than being a sad occasion, funerals are elaborate affairs and considered very important celebrations.



Ambon

A very tiny island in the Moluccas, **Ambon** was a popular place during the spice trade and the period of Dutch colonialism in the 17th century. Some say Ambon has the most pristine beaches in Indonesia, but they are rarely seen by tourists due to civil unrest there. Fishing and diving are very popular here, with abundant and varied sea life just off the shore.