

West Java



From the cool, creative city of Bandung to the fizzing surf of Pelabuhan Ratu and hundred places in between, West Java offers a lot.

There are beautiful landscapes, invigorating cool air and a relaxing, unhurried pace or, on the area's three coastlines, a vast array of sights and activities.

The west coast has been developed as a new tourist destination and offers the chance to visit the infamous Krakatau volcano. On the rocky southern coast facing the Indian Ocean, the fishing settlements of Pelabuhan Ratu and Pangandaran offer surf, seafood and unspoiled scenery.

On the northern coast, the ancient spice ports of Banten and Cirebon provide a glimpse of history and an enduring cultural tradition. Inland, the colonial hill resort of Garut and the traditional valley settlement of Tasikmalaya show two different facets of the region's distinctive character.



Welcome to Bandung

Bandung is cool, cultural and close (to Jakarta that is, via a stunning train, car or indeed plane journey through or over the mountains). As well as being a centre for artists and creative types, it is the provincial capital of West Java and Indonesia's third largest city. Known in colonial times as the Paris of Java because of its European ambience and sophistication, Bandung shares with Miami a fine legacy of Tropical Deco architecture dating from the 1920s.

Situated on a plateau in the beautiful Parahyangan mountains, Bandung's pleasant climate and lush surroundings have offered an escape from the heat of the lowlands since the mid 19th century when it was the heart of the region's most prosperous plantation area. Host to the historic Asia Africa conference in 1955, Bandung is now a centre for higher education, commerce and aircraft industry which, despite its modern amenities, still retains much of its colonial era charm.

Bandung is also renowned for its shopping, particularly for shoes, textiles, clothing and denims which are found in the colourful Jeans Street. Bandung, with its cool mountain air, is a popular second stop for those visiting the national capital, and an essential stay-over for travellers en route through Java.



Shopping

This is the reason most locals go to Bandung these days. The city has a reputation for cheap clothes and shoes and is particularly famous for the dozens of Jeans shops along Jl Cihampelas plus an ever reproducing swathe of new factory outlets. Jl Cibaduyut attracts tourists looking for good value footwear.

For more upmarket designer clothing, try Bandung Indah Plaza on Jl Merdeka, one of the city's chief shopping areas. The city is also in the process of building a major new plaza to match those in Jakarta.

The Sarinah Department Store on Jl Braga is good for local craft even if the prices are a little high. The Alun Alun area in the centre of town is surrounded by shopping centres, particularly on Jl Dalem Kaum. On Jl Braga there are a number of antique, craft and leather shops.

The cheapest textiles, batiks and clothes are at Pasar Baru in Chinatown, the site of the first market in Bandung back in 1812. Other shops selling batik, Batik Keris and Danar Hadiare, are on Jl Tamblong.

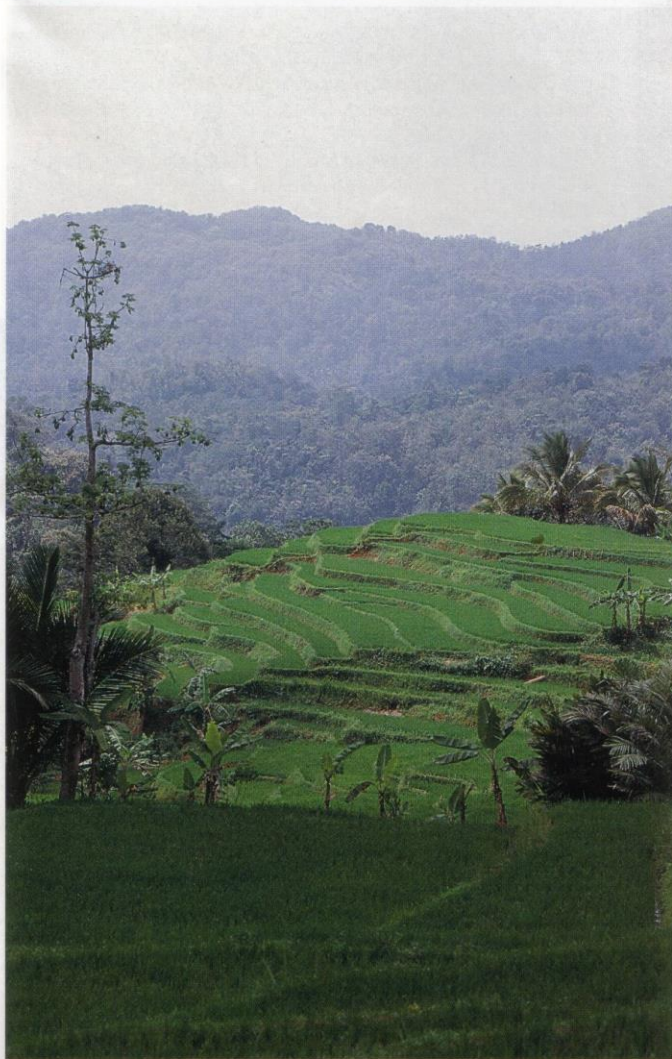
Another traditional market selling bargain clothes and shoes is at Pasar Kota Kembang off Jl Dewi Sartika, with a textiles shopping centre next door. One of the best night markets in Bandung, selling cheap fruit and vegetables, is along Jl Sudirman in the centre of town.



The paraffin lamps add a romantic touch to the shopping experience.

Thundering hooves

On the slopes of Tangkuban Perahu, not far from the modern city of Bandung, a unique concept in tourism has been born. A functioning cavalry unit has opened its doors to the public. For horse lovers, lovers of open spaces and fresh air, or just anyone



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who wants to try something different, you can come and experience what it's like to be a soldier in the cavalry; living, working and riding horses on the slopes of West Java's most picturesque mountainside.

Braga

Originally running from the railway tracks, south to the Savoy Homann Hotel, the street called Braga was often described as 'The Fifth Avenue of Indonesia'. In the 1930s most of the luxury goods available in the country were sold here to visiting Dutch weekenders and planters.

Braga was the place to 'see and be seen', during the era when Bandung was considered the 'Paris of Java'. There are about 75 buildings of architectural merit on Jl Braga itself and a number of historic sites within the Braga district. These include the Alun-Alun Square with the Pendopo (Mayor's residence) on the south side, the Grand Mosque on the west and the post office and banks



on the north.

On Jl Banceuy is the prison cell in which Soekarno, Indonesia's first president, was incarcerated by the Dutch. Across the Cikapundung River, behind the art deco PLN Building is a night market. The area also contains several excellent examples of tropical art deco architecture including the City Hall, St. Angela's School, the restored Preanger Aerowisata and Savoy Homann hotels, and Gedung Merdeka, originally the Concordia social club, which in 1955 was the site of the first Asia Africa conference. Today, the Braga area forms the Central Business District of Bandung.

Lembang

Just north of Bandung, the hill town of Lembang is renowned for its pleasant climate and abundance of fresh flowers, fruits and vegetables. It is now also home to several beautiful restaurants, near the flower market and some chic hotels. The town sits on the flank of Tangkuban Perahu ("upside-down boat") volcano. In the Tangkuban Perahu Nature Reserve, visitors can view the active crater and follow a number of nature trails. Also in the vicinity of Lembang are the beautiful Maribaya and Cimahi waterfalls and the Ciater hot springs complex.

Puncak

Forming part of the towering volcanic massif south of Bogor, Puncak, meaning "summit", is a cool air resort offering outstanding views of dense rainforest and manicured tea plantations; trekking, horseback riding, hot springs and a safari park. On the way to Puncak, just 60 km south of Jakarta, the town of Bogor has grown around an 18th century resort called Buitenzorg ("Free of Cares"). The world famous Bogor Botanical Gardens (Kebon Raya), conceived by Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles and opened in 1817, are renowned for their range of species and as a centre of research. Descending to the south of Puncak are the resorts of Cibodas; a branch of the Bogor Botanical Garden; and Cipanas where you'll find hot mineral springs and the Presidential Summer Palace. The Javana



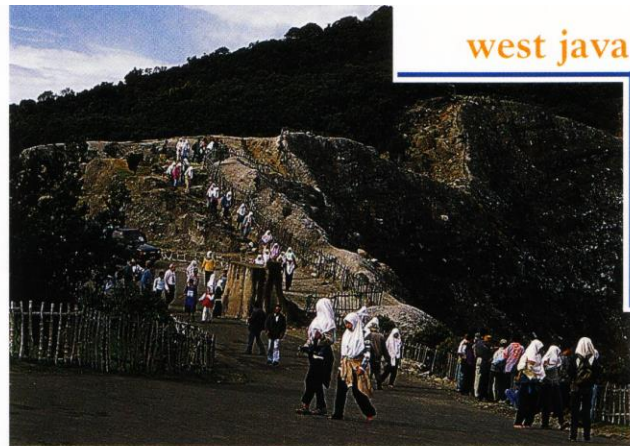
Spa offers luxurious personal pampering and adventure sports, such as mountaineering and river rafting.

Bogor & Cibodas Botanical Gardens

Both the Bogor and Cibodas Botanical Gardens offer visitors an unforgettable experience. The Bogor Botanical Gardens are sited literally in the centre of the city of Bogor and were designed by Sir Stamford Raffles. The Cibodas Botanical Gardens are located at near the village of Cimacan on the slopes of Mount Gede, about 85 km from Bandung.

Bogor Palace

Bogor Palace was built in 1745 by the Dutch Governor Generals and the Dutch authorities from 1870 to 1942. If you wish to visit the palace, permission has to be granted in advance.



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Sensational Dream

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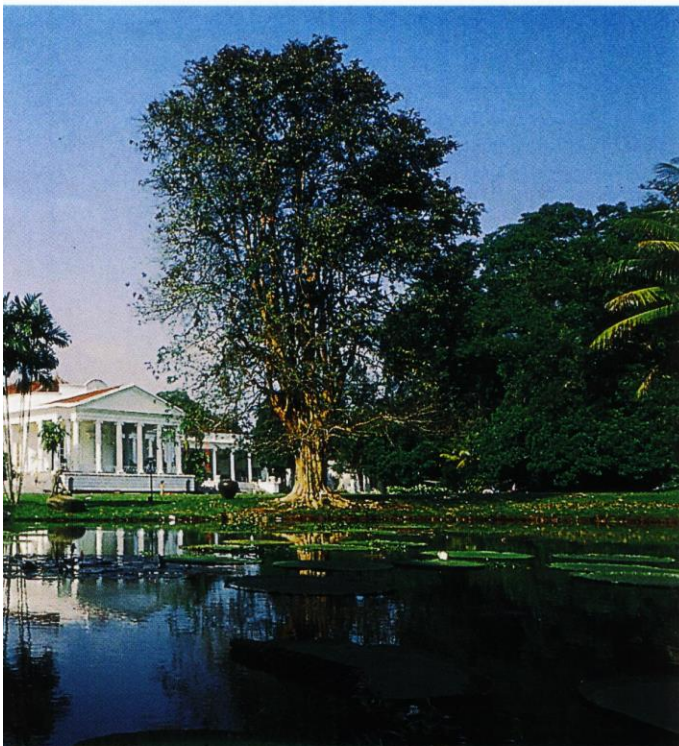
In Indonesia, In Java, In Bandung, in the heart of the Sundanese culture at Savoy Homann Bidakara Hotel, where the splendor of past is complemented by today's modern luxury standards and facilities, creating an atmosphere of timeless elegance and grace. Savoy Homann Bidakara Hotel, located in the center of Bandung, has been maintained as the city's landmark hotel.

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The only historical in the heart of the city

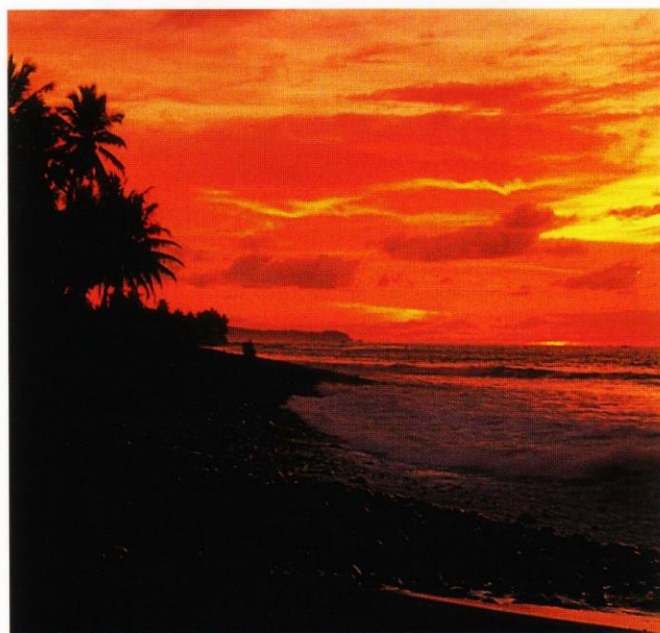


Pelabuhan Ratu

Pelabuhan Ratu, the home of Ratu Kidul, the queen of the South seas, is only three hours by car from Jakarta. When you visit this exciting beach resort area, there's lots to do: you can pay a visit to the fish market; see the unique marine ceremonies; watch sea turtles laying their eggs at Pangumbahan beach; and if you're looking for adventure, a white water rafting trip on the Citarik river will be an unforgettable experience; these are just some of the delights for visitors to the legendary Pelabuhan Ratu area.

Cirebon

Welcome to the Sultan's palace, the centre of West Javanese royalty, where you have a chance to view the unique treasures and traditions of the past. Cirebon is a meeting place of many different cultures, a unique mix of Sundanese, Islamic, Chinese and even Hindu and per-Hindu cultures. Just a short journey from Cirebon is the spa resort of Sangkanurip where you can relax and enjoy the therapeutic hot springs of Ciremai. These are just some of the delights for visitors to the royal city of Cirebon area.



Sultan's Palace

The historical royal complex of Keraton Sultan Kasepuhan or Sultan's Palace is certainly worth a visit. To the west of the palace, there is a great mosque known as the Masjid Agung which was built in 1498 by Raden Sepet. Not far from the Kasepuhan Palace, there is the Kanoman Palace which was built in 1527 by Panembahan Girilaya, next to Pasar Kanoman or the Kanoman market. The Keprabonan Palace was originally a residence of Prince Raja Adipati Keprabonan, the eldest son of Prince Kertawijaya, the founder of Penguron Prabonan. The Kanoman and Kasepuhan Palaces have become museums which are open to the public.

Pangandaran Beach

Pangandaran Beach is located 223 km from Bandung and is fast becoming one of the most popular tourist beaches in Indonesia, outside of Bali. There are many water recreation facilities at Pangandaran including wind surfing, boating, swimming and camping as well as fishing. Other beautiful beaches well worth visiting are Cangkrungan, Batu Layar and Cirengganis.

Mount Papandayan

Mount Papandayan is truly one of West Java's natural wonders. on the border of the Bandung and Garut regencies, about 74 km south of Bandung, Mount Papandayan is one of the most spectacular volcanoes in the province. The top of the mountain is easily reached, via the special road leading to the crater.

Green Canyon

The Green Canyon is located about 35 km west of Pananjung beach and provides visitors with truly dramatic views as travels along the Cijulang river. The Green Canyon is fully equipped with international facilities.

The water, with a complex combination of minerals, most notably sulphur, springs from the earth's crust at a fervid 45 degrees Celsius, and cools down to a cosy 40-42 degrees by the time it's piped into the several swimming pools, and directly into each room's hot spring bathroom'.

After a long journey, or a long week, sinking into a steaming sulphur bath is quite simply delicious. Just relax and let the week's stresses dissolve away like vapour in the air. afterwards you feel fresh and invigorated energized and relaxed. Which is just as well because there are loads of activities to keep you busy. Horse riding is available with around 40 horses kept on the premises, or you can whack a few balls out at the spectacular driving range which has views across to the mountain where the more daring can enjoy hang-gliding, if the conditions are suitable. For families, there's a large picnic area which contains a series of cascading waterfalls and shallows where the children can splash around, or the hotel can also arrange group hikes through the nearby tea plantations, to see how the tea is harvested and processed.

As for food the resort includes a 24 hour pool-side restaurant, with seating for around 100, and another pool-side cafe with seating for about 40 and multifunction hall capacity 750 persons. Both feature an Indonesian and international menu.

On weekends, the resort stages cultural performances such as the traditional 'Lion Dance' and 'ram fights' in the picnic gardens. They also have live musical performances twice a month, and live music in the restaurant every Saturday night, Sunday noon and evenings toward public holiday.

With the recent prolonged financial crisis in Indonesia, other resorts and hotels have experienced dramatic drops in their occupancy rates. The Sari Ater resort however has been fortunate to enjoy a constant stream of guests. The management like to think that's because their resort is a proven reliever of stress and health complaints-and they have no hesitation in pointing that out. "If you don't believe it just come up and try us out" says Sari Ater's General Manager.

The Sari Ater Hot Spring Resort is around three hours drive from Jakarta via the Cikampek toll road, and around 45 minutes drive from Bandung via Lembang. The drive up to the resort is spectacular in itself and offers panoramic views of the surrounding tea plantations and pine forests-simply enchanting, especially around sunset.



Sari Ater Hot Spring Resort
Hotel & Recreation

For further information and reservations contact Sari Ater direct-
Phone: 62-260-471700, 471800, 471900 Fax: 62-0260-470890

E-mail: marketing@sariater.co.id

[Http://www.sariater.co.id](http://www.sariater.co.id)

Almost Heaven West Java

Indonesians seem to talk a lot about "refreshing", and for those who live in bustling, polluted cities like Jakarta and Bandung it's easy to understand why. Sometimes 'getting away from it all' becomes more than just a diversion-it's a necessity. And when time is short you need somewhere fast. The Sari Ater Hot Spring Resort is one of those places.

Located at 1500m above sea level on the slopes of the Tangkuban Perahu volcano, Sari Ater has been blessed with an abundance of sparkling, health-giving spring water-combined with a cool climate, pine forests and lungfuls of fresh mountain air, you have the definition of a mountain retreat.

The hot springs, which are said to have special healing powers, are the main attraction at the resort. But due to demand, a hotel and recreation park have sprung up to cater for the numbers of city slickers eager to unwind.

The hotel comprises 103 spacious rooms and bungalows in Sundanese style, all with satellite TV, movie channel, refrigerator and mini bar. Bungalow suites also have a kitchenette with cooking facilities.

