

museum encounters
JAKARTA





Museum Encounters: JAKARTA
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DEDICATION

Mary McKay had the idea to create a directory of all of Jakarta's museums. She went well beyond the mere idea; Mary researched, searched, found, photographed, toured, described, categorized, and committed to paper every museum in this book. It should almost go without saying that this book is dedicated to Mary McKay. This book is, simply, Mary's Book.

CONTENTS

Museum Definitions	ii
Foreword	iii
About the Publisher	iv
Preface	v
Practical Information	vi

Museums

North Jakarta	1
Central Jakarta	10
South Jakarta	31
East Jakarta, Taman Mini Area	38
Greater Jakarta	59
Other Museums throughout Indonesia	71
Indices (by English name)	86
(by Indonesian name)	88
(by Category)	90
Additional Resources	92
Acknowledgments	94

MUSEUM DEFINITIONS

"Museum means a dwelling for the Muses – a place for study, reflection and learning. Therefore museum exhibitions are self-defining as well. They have the mission to provide places for education and reflection."

David Dean, Museum Exhibition – Theory and Practice

"A building in which objects of historical, scientific, artistic or cultural interest are stored and exhibited."

Oxford English Dictionary

"Place for viewing artifacts or exhibits; an archive, building, depository, exhibition, foundation, gallery, hall, institution, library, menagerie, repository, salon, storehouse, treasury or vault."

Roget's 21st Century Thesaurus

"A museum is a non-profit making, permanent institution in the service of society and of its development; open to the public which acquires, conserves, communicates, and exhibits, for purposes of study, education and enjoyment, material evidence of man and environment."

International Council of Museums

by Intan Mardiana, Director of Museums

Every museum presents more than a classical mosaic of an era. Each museum is a window through which one comprehends all ages. Yet all museums everywhere began with the principal idea of creating a home for the cultural objects in the museums' collections. Today, museums play a much greater role as social – cultural – educational institutions; collecting, preserving, presenting, and communicating evidence of man and his environment, for study and enjoyment, and in the service of society.

I am aware that this guidebook is not perfect, but I hope that it will provide a means to get to know the museums and historical buildings of Jakarta. I am certain this guidebook will spread information about the wealth of Indonesia's cultural heritage and attract the public's attention to learn more about their culture and gain deeper insights into the sublime values implied therein.

In addition, I wish to thank everyone who participated in the production and publication of this book and hope that it will be beneficial to all.

Kata Pengantar

Setiap museum selalu menghadirkan lebih dari sekedar mozaik klasik suatu masa. Sebenarnya museum adalah pintu yang bisa menghubungkan ke setiap zaman. Dimana-mana museum selalu mulai dengan sebuah prinsip untuk mencari wadah bagi semua koleksi obyek budaya. Saat ini, museum bahkan memainkan peranan yang jauh lebih besar sebagai institusi sosial – budaya – pendidikan; sebagai pengumpul, pemelihara, penyaji dan badan komunikasi untuk bukti keberadaan manusia dengan lingkungannya untuk pembelajaran dan hiburan; dan sebagai sarana pelayanan masyarakat.

Saya sadar bahwa buku panduan ini belum sempurna, tetapi saya berharap buku ini bisa digunakan untuk mencari tahu museum-museum dan gedung-gedung bersejarah di Jakarta. Saya yakin buku ini akan memberikan informasi tentang kekayaan warisan budaya Indonesia dan dapat menarik perhatian masyarakat umum untuk lebih mempelajari budaya mereka serta bisa mengetahui lebih dalam tentang nilai-nilai luhur yang dikandungnya.

Sebagai tambahan, saya menghaturkan terima kasih kepada semua pihak yang telah berpartisipasi dalam memproduksi dan mencetak buku ini, dan saya berharap bahwa buku ini dapat bermanfaat bagi semua.

Direktur Museum, Intan Mardiana



The Indonesian Heritage Society

The Indonesian Heritage Society is a non-profit organization offering participants the opportunity to learn more about the rich cultural heritage of Indonesia and dedicated to supporting Indonesia's cultural institutions, especially museums.

Since 1970, our varied activities have provided a stepping-stone to discovering the culture, life, history, and art of this vast archipelago for those new to Indonesia as well as those who may have lived in Jakarta all their lives. The Society has a large multinational base with participants from more than 40 countries.

Contact the Indonesian Heritage Society library at +62 21 572 5870 or info@heritagejkt.org for further information or visit our website at www.heritagejkt.org.

Jakarta has developed into a modern, bustling city. It is home to well over 12 million people representing many of the ethnic groups from throughout the Indonesian archipelago. Drawing upon the diverse customs and cultures of these indigenous groups, along with influences from foreign countries, Jakarta embodies a fascinating history and heritage. A drive through some of Jakarta's streets is enough to convince even the casual observer of this. What such a drive would lack is the context, the background, and the essential facts about what is observed. Such information is the domain of museums, and, as this book attests, Jakarta has a wealth of museums.

The Indonesian Heritage Society organizes a wide range of activities to highlight the diverse artistic, historical, and cultural traditions of Indonesia for people living in Jakarta. Among these activities is the popular "Explorers," which began in 1988. Explorers meet regularly in small groups to research and visit sites of cultural and historical interest. The information gathered by the Explorers has been collected, verified, and organized into one of the Indonesian Heritage Society's most popular publications, *The Jakarta Explorer*, which will soon be in its fourth edition. Following the same principles, the Heritage Society now presents *Museum Encounters: JAKARTA*.

In this guide we limited ourselves to the museums under the wide umbrella of the Museum Directorate. The many interesting private museums in Jakarta are another project altogether.

Although the text has been checked for accuracy, discrepancies may occur due to insufficient details or conflicting interpretations. Similarly, the maps included in this edition are not precise renditions of Jakarta's frequently changing streets, but should provide sufficient direction to make it easy to find each museum. Buildings, street names, and even the locations of institutions often change within Jakarta — seemingly more so than in many other major cities.

With this in mind, it is important to note that every one of the locations described in this book has been visited and information concerning the sites — including relevant telephone numbers, addresses, and opening hours — were up to date at the time of publication.

The many volunteer contributors to this book encountered a number of interesting tidbits, twists, and turns during the course of research and production, and have enjoyed investigating the sites. It is our sincere hope that readers will find it a useful resource to guide their own discovery of Jakarta's 57 museums — a number that is sure to grow.

Museum Encounters: JAKARTA Team, Jakarta, May 2008

The Bare Necessities

Whether you plan on visiting a single museum or conquering all of Taman Mini, a few simple considerations and a handy water bottle will make your day much more pleasant.

- If your plans include considerable outdoor activity, you may want to bring along an umbrella to protect you from sun and/or rain.
- Binoculars will enhance your visit to some of the locations described in these pages (e.g., the National Monument and the Maritime Museum and Lookout Tower — although a pirate's spyglass may be more fitting for the latter).
- Simple hand fans are available all around Indonesia; they are both attractive and practical accessories.
- Your choice of footwear for the day can make the difference between energy or agony.
- Although not all exhibitions allow photography, a camera is an obvious "must." In fact, you're likely to find a few unique things to photograph while en route to your destination.

Local Etiquette

Jakarta is a huge, multi-ethnic city reflecting a mixture of the traditional and the modern. As a generalization, most Indonesians are friendly and courteous, and welcome visitors. Politeness and mutual respect for customs and culture are appreciated in return.

Listed below are a few rules of etiquette that will make your stay or visit much more enjoyable.

- Dress should be conservative; brief tops or shorts should not be worn by men or women, especially when visiting places of worship and official sites. Elbow-length or long-sleeved shirts, long trousers, and skirts covering the knees are appropriate.
- Jewelry should be kept to a minimum and be inconspicuous.
- Respect the privacy of people living and working in the areas that you are visiting. Always request permission before entering any site.
- Always request permission before taking photographs. A small tip or donation is always appreciated, so carry small change.
- Avoid using your left hand to give or receive (the left hand is reserved for personal hygiene).
- Do not point with your foot or finger; it is considered polite to use your thumb to point.
- Placing your hands on your hips is impolite as it could be seen as a sign of anger or aggression.
- Wear shoes that can be taken off easily, since shoes must be removed before entering a mosque, a Sikh temple, and certain Hindu temples. It is also customary to remove shoes on entering a home.

Guides

Your visit to many of Jakarta's museums may be greatly enhanced with the services of a knowledgeable guide. Several of the museums provide guides, but often they require advance notice to arrange for this service. With each museum listing in this book we have supplied information about the availability of guides, and a list of useful resources when visiting museums appears on the last pages. If no guide is available, either from the museum itself or from our list of guides, we recommend contacting:

- **Tour Guides and Tour Leaders Club**

Jalan Diponegoro, No 25

Telephone (62 21) 315 0401

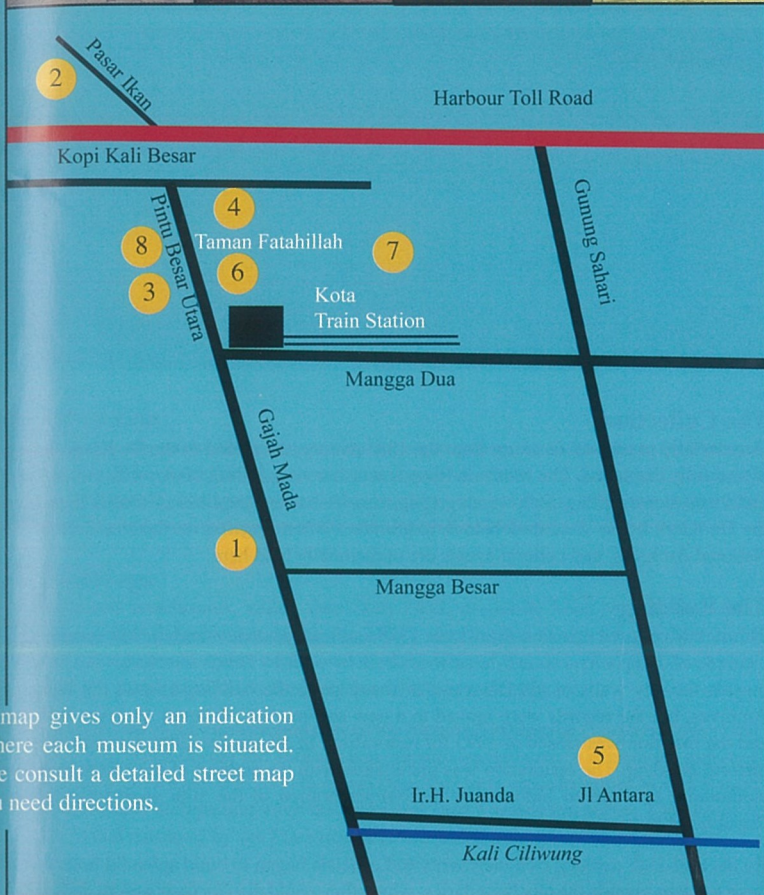
Facsimile (62 21) 390 3844

E-mail: kalmia_jkt@yahoo.com

Telephone Numbers

Telephone numbers for museums and for recommended guides are included in the text. As with all countries, the Indonesian telecommunications system has its own idiosyncrasies:

- Mobile/cellular phones here are called hand phones, or simply "HP." Hand phone numbers begin with "08" and may have as many as 12 digits. When calling a hand phone from within Jakarta, begin by dialing "08."
- To call an Indonesian hand phone from abroad, dial "62" (the country code), omit the zero, then dial the rest of the number beginning at "8."
- Fixed/land lines in Jakarta have five to nine digits. In this guide, the numbers appear as one would dial from within Jakarta.
- Outside Jakarta, dial the city code ("021" for Jakarta, "0251" for Bogor) before fixed line numbers.
- Outside Indonesia, begin with "62" (the country code), omit the zero in the city code ("21" for Jakarta; "251" for Bogor), then dial the number.



This map gives only an indication of where each museum is situated. Please consult a detailed street map if you need directions.



Press/Journalism Museum

Jakarta History Museum

Fine Arts and Ceramics

Wayang Museum



GEDUNG ARSIP NASIONAL Reyner de Klerk House

Jalan Gajah Mada, No 111
Harmoni
Tel: 634 7744

Category: Architecture, History

Notice required for English-speaking guide or for large groups

Hours: Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun 08:00-16:30
Monday and public holidays – closed
When hired for special events – closed

Entrance fee, guide fee

The Collection

Wonderfully preserved furniture from the 18th century, the period of the De Klerk family, is tastefully displayed. The Museum Shop is worth a visit, selling books with cultural and historical themes along with *wayang* (puppets), china, and replicas of Dutch tiles from the De Klerk house described below. Exhibitions, often drawing on the treasures of the National Archives, and cultural events are occasionally held here.

The Building

This newly restored mansion dates from 1760 and is a beautiful – and the last remaining – example of the spacious country residences built by wealthy Dutch merchants and officials outside the city walls of old Batavia. For many years the building housed the National Archives, but the records were moved to a new and modern National Archives building and the mansion was closed in 1995 for restoration. In November 1998 it reopened as an historic building. The restoration was undertaken with the support of the Dutch business community as a gift to Indonesians in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Republic of Indonesia.

By the mid-18th century, rich merchants and officials began to build splendid homes with large gardens outside the city boundaries, where they could display their wealth and escape unhealthy conditions. Reyner de Klerk (1710–1780), who was promoted through the ranks of the Vereenigde Oostindische Compagnie (VOC) hierarchy to become Governor General in 1777, had this house and its annexes built. The estate originally extended from the Ciliwung River in front to the Krukut Canal at the back.

The new National Archives building (Arsip Nasional Republik Indonesia) is now situated on Jalan Ampera Raya and is a high-security area used strictly for research and as a document-storage facility for the nation's archives.

2



MUSEUM BAHARI DAN MENARA SYAHBANDAR

Maritime Museum and Lookout Tower

Jalan Pasar Ikan, No 1
Sunda Kelapa
Tel: 669 3406

Category: Architecture, History

Notice required for English-speaking guide

Hours: Tues, Wed, Thurs, Sun 09:00-15:00
Fri 09:00-12:00 and 13:00-14:30
Sat 09:00-13:00
Mon and public holidays – closed

Entrance fee includes admission to Lookout Tower, guide fee additional

The Collection

Original and scale-model boats are on display, representing the techniques of traditional boat building. The collection also contains navigational charts and equipment, seashells, paintings, historical photographs, and other maritime memorabilia. The front wall of the museum is the only remaining part of the old city wall of Batavia.

The Buildings

These restored warehouses, which date from 1652, originally held pepper, tea, cloth, coffee, and other valuable goods for the VOC, also known as the United East India Company. Sturdy construction of the warehouses ensured the centuries-long survival of the buildings, which now house the Maritime Museum collection.

There is no record of the construction date of the Menara Syahbandar (Lookout Tower) but there is evidence that during the 1600s it was situated on the water's edge at the entrance to the Ciliwung River and was used to signal ships that were close to shore. Now it is used to view the Sunda Kelapa area over the reclaimed land towards the ocean. The Tower is maintained and managed by the Maritime Museum and is located on the adjacent site.



MUSEUM BANK MANDIRI

Museum of Bank Mandiri

Jalan Lapangan Stasiun, No 1
Kota

Tel: 690 2000

Category: Economic History

English-speaking guide available

Hours: Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun 09:00-16:00
Mon and public holidays – closed

Entrance fee

The Collection

Bank Mandiri was formed in 1999 with the merger of four banks: Bank Bumi Daya, Bank EXIM, Bank Bapindo, and Bank Dagang Negara. The museum has an abundant collection of banking items from the four banks, including vaults, ledger machines, and well-maintained directors' offices.

The Building

This building was designed by three Dutch architects: J. J. J. de Bruyn, A. P. Smits, and C. van de Linde. Construction commenced in 1929 and the building was officially opened to the public on January 14, 1933, by the president of the Nederlandsche Handel Maatschappij (NHM) Bank, Batavia.

The large four-story building is well preserved and still very impressive today. The main staircase, which leads to the conference rooms and directors' offices, features a wonderful stained-glass window, given in 1932 by Dr. C.J.K. van Aalst. During the Japanese occupation of Indonesia, the vaults in the basement area were used as a prison.

MUSEUM BANK NEGARA**Museum of Banking**

Jalan Taman Fatahillah I
Across from Jakarta History Museum

Tel: 251 1946

Category: Economic History



Notice required for English-speaking guide

Admission by appointment only

Entrance fee

The Collection

Bank Negara Indonesia was founded in 1946 by Mr R.M. Margono Djojohadikoesoemo. A small exhibition displays machines and articles used for the printing of post-war Indonesian currency from the 1950s until nationwide currency was developed. There is a photo board with past and present directors of the bank, including its founder.

The Building

The museum was opened in July 1980 and is housed on the ground floor of Bank Negara Indonesia's head office, which was opened in 1978 in Kota.

5



MUSEUM BHAKTI "ANTARA" Press/Journalism Museum

Jalan Antara, No 59
Pasar Baru

Tel: 345 8771

Category: Political History, Science & Technology

English-speaking guide available

Hours: Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun 10:00-20:00
Mon and public holidays – closed

Entrance fee

The Collection

The museum collection consists of:

- communications equipment used in spreading the news of the Proclamation of Independence to the Republic of Indonesia and to the world
- cameras and typewriters — a private collection of Adam Malik, the founder of the Indonesian news agency, Antara
- articles about the history of the news agency
- production and communication equipment and furniture used by Antara in the early years
- an antique motorcycle

The Building

The museum was first housed in a building known as the Gedung Graha Bhakti, the former editorial offices of Antara, the Indonesian news agency. It is an historical building where news of the Proclamation of Independence was spread to Indonesia and around the world. The museum now resides two doors down from the original site, in a more spacious building also built in the early 20th century along Dutch architectural lines.

The museum was officially opened to the public on December 13, 1992. It is located next to the Ciliwung River in the commercial district of Pasar Baru, which was built in the 1820s. The neighborhood is a cultural conservation area where other examples of European architecture are located.



MUSEUM SEJARAH JAKARTA

Jakarta History Museum

Jalan Taman Fatahillah, No 1
Kota

Tel: 692 9101, 690 1483

Category: Architecture, History

Notice required for English-speaking guide

Hours: Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun 09:00-15:00
Mon and public holidays – closed

Entrance fee, guide fee

The Collection

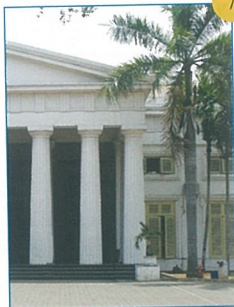
There are over 23,000 articles in the museum's collection and not all can be shown. The items permanently on exhibit include an 18th-century stone lion holding the coat of arms of Batavia, prehistoric relics, antique maps dating from 1638 and later, a model of the old town of Batavia showing the castle and the town walls, the Sword of Justice used for public executions, portraits of important historical figures, and an interesting collection of colonial furniture and artifacts obtained by the Batavian Society for Arts and Sciences. There is also a small library with a collection of historical books dating back to the 15th century.

Located in the courtyard is the Si Jagur, an old bronze Portuguese cannon. Brought from Malacca by the Dutch in 1641, it is regarded by the Javanese as a sacred object and a fertility symbol. Until recently, childless women visited Si Jagur on Thursdays and, after offering flowers, would sit astride the cannon.

The Building

The beautiful old Stadhuis, or City Hall, of Batavia is the largest and finest remaining example of Dutch colonial architecture in the region. The building resembles the old City Hall in Amsterdam. The current building was constructed on the site of two previous city halls. The second of these served as the seat of local government from 1627 to 1707, but became inadequate for the needs of the growing colony. The third building was completed in 1710 under Governor General Abraham van Riebeeck (son of the founder of Capetown, Jan van Riebeeck). Behind the museum today is a pleasant and leafy oasis. In 1740, however, it was the scene of a massacre of 500 Chinese men, women, and children who had been brought there for protection from an enraged mob.

The City Hall served as the main prison compound for Batavia until 1846. After World War II, the City Hall served first as military offices and then as police offices. It was restored in 1974, when it became the Jakarta History Museum.



MUSEUM SENI RUPA DAN KERAMIK

Fine Arts and Ceramics Museum

Jalan Pos Kota, No 2
Fatahillah Square
Tel: 690 7062, 6902 6091

Category: Architecture, Arts

Notice required for English-speaking guide

Hours: Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun 09:00-15:00
Mon and public holidays – closed

Entrance fee, guide fee

The Collection

With around 400 pieces in its collection, the Fine Arts and Ceramics Museum displays wooden totems, batik cloth, sketches, sculpture in various media, and paintings, as well as a wide variety of ceramics.

The paintings span the period from the 19th century to current times and include several works by well-known Indonesian artists, including Raden Saleh and Affandi. Classical Balinese sculptures, symbolic wood totems, and sculptures by modern artists from throughout the archipelago are also on display.

The collection features ceramics of local and foreign origin, ranging from antique to contemporary. A number of Majapahit-era (14th century) items are on view, along with items from Japan, Vietnam, Thailand, and Europe. Chinese ceramics — particularly from the Ming and Qing dynasties — account for the largest number of items.

The museum also houses a reference library, a souvenir shop, and an earthenware studio, which is open to the public.

The Building

Formerly the Dutch Council of Justice, this building was constructed between 1866 and 1870 in the Greek classical style. Since that time, the building has served several functions, from military dormitory to mayor's office to official museum office. The building, designated as "*Balai Seni Rupa*" (the Fine Arts Center) in 1976, was renamed the Fine Arts and Ceramics Museum in 1990.