Status.

INDONESIA

The short answers: one page from each of our four guides

Free
FOUR GUIDES, FOUR PAGES



EDITION 01



EDITION 02



EDITION 03



CITY GUIDE 01

Living well in Indonesia, checked by hand

Hotel status, five-star buffets for less, the expat essentials and the Jakarta city guide. Every figure dated, every price in rupiah with US dollars beside it.

FROM THE EDITOR

Start with the short answer

Every Status Indonesia guide opens the same way: one page that tells you what to do, before the detail that tells you why. This sampler collects those pages from our four guides, so you can see how we work and which guide you need.

Each guide is researched by hand from official pages, operators and dated local sources, and every price is in rupiah with US dollars beside it at Rp18,101 to the dollar. Rules and prices in Indonesia change quickly, so each guide carries its version and date on the cover.

EDITION 01	**The Indonesia Hotel Elite Guide** Sample: The whole guide on one page	16 pages
EDITION 02	**The Buffet Issue** Sample: The whole issue on one page	14 pages
EDITION 03	**Expat Essentials** Sample: Your first fortnight on one page	25 pages
CITY GUIDE 01	**Jakarta** Sample: Where to live: every expat area compared	30 pages

How to use this sampler

The four pages that follow are taken straight from the full guides, so the page numbers at the bottom are the guides' own. Links in them work: tap an app, bank or program to go to its official site.

The whole guide on one page

If you live in or travel often to Indonesia, Accor Platinum is the status to chase. A paid membership supplies half the nights, and the hotels that count cost as little as Rp400,000 a night.

Rp3.999m
ALL Accor+ Explorer in Indonesia: 30 status nights and Gold on day one

16
Paid nights in 90 days for Marriott Platinum through the phone-only challenge

12
Nights to turn a Hilton status match into Diamond

20–30%
Off hotel dining with free or paid programs, often with no stay needed

Rp3m
Smallest locked deposit found for a credit card that can bring hotel status

~21%
Tax and service added to Indonesian bills, so always compare final totals

THE PLAYBOOK

Five moves, in order

1. **Buy ALL Accor+ Explorer in early January**
   Its 30 status nights reset on 31 December, so January gives you a full year to add the other 30.

2. **Fill the gap with cheap Accor nights**
   ibis and ibis Styles in Bandung, Yogyakarta, Surabaya and Bali count the same as a Sofitel. Watch for a fast-track promotion to cut the number further.

3. **Use your Accor Gold to match into Hilton**
   Hilton's open status match accepts Accor Gold and up. Apply just before a stretch where 6–12 Hilton nights is realistic.

4. **Phone Marriott for the challenge**
   Request it before taking any Marriott credit card, and plan to finish between February and December.

5. **Collect the free extras**
   Register cards for Mastercard and Visa hotel statuses, and use the dining programs that need no stay.

The whole issue on one page

The cheapest way into a five-star buffet is almost never the walk-in price. In Jakarta, Grab Dine Out vouchers cut 50–60% at seven hotels; everywhere else, groups, free loyalty programs and lunch do the work.

60%
Off JW Marriott's Sailendra and the Ritz-Carlton Mega Kuningan with Grab Dine Out vouchers

Rp373k
Cheapest weekday buffet at a major Jakarta five-star: Collage, Pullman Central Park (US$21)

Rp250k
Sunday brunch at The Papandayan, Bandung, the cheapest five-star brunch we found (US$14)

Rp417k
Pullman Legian's Monday seafood market with Balinese dance (US$23)

30%
Off food for up to 10 people with ALL Accor+ Explorer, the strongest paid dining card

×1.21
Turns a "++" menu price into what you pay: 10% service plus 10% tax on top

THE RULES

Six habits that halve the bill

1. **Compare nett prices, never "++"**
   A Rp588,000++ lunch is Rp711,480 at the till. Every price in this issue is nett unless it says otherwise.

2. **Open Grab Dine Out before you book**
   In Jakarta it beats every other discount. Check the voucher's valid days in the app before you pay, because blackout dates only show there.

3. **Bring a group**
   Buy 3 get 4 and buy 4 get 5 deals are common. Five people at Hilton Bandung's brunch pay about Rp289,000 each instead of Rp362,000.

4. **Join the free programs**
   IHG members get 20% off, Hilton members 10% (25% for Gold and Diamond), and new Shangri-La Circle members get a 25% buffet voucher. None needs a hotel stay.

5. **Go at lunch**
   Weekday lunch is usually the cheapest session, and theme nights the dearest. Fairmont's lunch was about Rp604,000 against Rp881,000–917,000 for its theme nights.

6. **Know the children's rules**
   Under-6s eat free at many hotels, and 6–11s usually pay half. Hotel Mulia in Jakarta lets under-8s eat free.

The whole issue on one page

Almost everything in Indonesia is easier with a local number, a working wallet and a stay permit. Do these in order and most of the rest of this issue becomes optional reading.

Rp3,500
Any TransJakarta bus ride (US$0.2); MRT, LRT and bus trips within three hours are capped at Rp10,000

Rp175k
A month of 60 Mbps Biznet fibre (US$9.7), the fastest home ISP in Opensignal's tests

6
Countries whose own payment apps link to QRIS: Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Japan, South Korea and China

1 July
Since 1 July 2026 every new SIM needs a face scan at an official counter

Rp2.5bn
New minimum paid-up capital for a foreign-owned company (US$138,114), down from Rp10bn

US$25k+
What a medical evacuation from Bali to Singapore can cost without insurance

CHECKLIST

Seven things to do in your first two weeks

1. **Register your phone at the airport**
   A phone bought abroad gets blocked unless its IMEI is registered. Long-stayers register with Customs before leaving the arrival hall; then buy a SIM at an official counter (face scan required).

2. **Install Grab, Gojek and Traveloka**
   Grab takes foreign cards for rides and food. Traveloka books flights, trains, ferries and hotels with a foreign card.

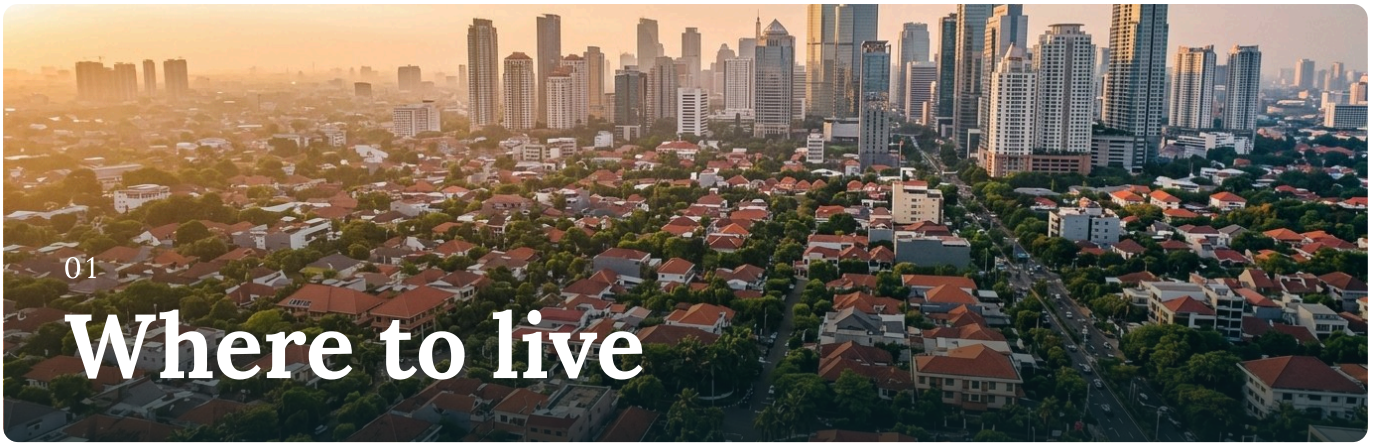
3. **Buy a Mandiri e-money or BCA Flazz card**
   At any Indomaret or Alfamart. It opens every toll gate and pays the MRT, TransJakarta and KRL.

4. **Register your address (SKTT)**
   Once your KITAS is issued, the local Disdukcapil office gives you a NIK number. Banks, BPJS and the licence office ask for it.

5. **Open a bank account**
   CIMB Niaga or Permata are the friendliest with a KITAS; Mandiri's Livin' WNA app works with a passport. Keep Wise as a back-up.

6. **Sort health cover**
   BPJS is compulsory if you're employed; private international cover is what gets you into the good hospitals and evacuated if needed.

7. **Get the right licence**
   An IDP with the motorcycle class, or an Indonesian SIM once you have a KITAS. Without one, insurers can refuse a crash claim.



01

Where to live

Pick your area by your commute first and your lifestyle second. A 10 km trip can take 20 minutes or 90 depending on the hour, so living near work, school or an MRT station matters more than anything else.

Area	Feel	Best for	Typical rent	Watch for
Central Menteng, Thamrin, Sudirman	Leafy colonial-era streets, embassies, the CBD and the big hotels	Couples and singles working in the CBD	Menteng studio US$550–800; two-bed US$1,200–1,800	Menteng houses are scarce and expensive
Kemayoran Central–North	The old airport, rebuilt as a planned district of towers, parks and the JIExpo, with the new K Mall (opened November 2025)	Value seekers who want to be central; people working in the north or centre	1-bed from about Rp3.9m (US$215); 2-bed about Rp3.9–7.9m at Grand Palace, The Mansion and Taman Kemayoran Condominium	Traffic during big JIExpo events such as the Jakarta Fair; fewer Western restaurants, though Pasar Baru, Senen and Ancol are close
South Senopati, SCBD, Kebayoran Baru, Kuningan, Setiabudi	The expat heartland: restaurants, bars, offices and high-end towers	Most expats; nightlife and dining	SCBD studio US$700–1,000; Kuningan two-bed US$1,300–2,000	Highest rents; weekday traffic around SCBD
Deep south Kemang, Pondok Indah, Cilandak, Cipete	Houses with gardens, international schools, a slower pace	Families; people who want a house	Kemang house US$1,400–2,200; Pondok Indah house US$2,000–3,500	Long drives to the north and west; the MRT helps along Fatmawati
North PIK, Pluit, Kelapa Gading, Ancol	Waterfront new towns, Chinese-Indonesian food scenes, huge malls	Food lovers; people working near the port or airport	PIK studio about US$500; Kelapa Gading two-bed US$700–1,100	Some low-lying areas flood in the rainy season; far from the south
West Puri Indah, Kebon Jeruk, Slipi, Tanjung Duren	Big malls (Central Park, Puri Indah), mid-priced towers	Value; quick airport access	Taman Anggrek studio from about Rp4.5m (US$250)	Fewer expat services
East Rawamangun, Pulomas, Halim, Cibubur	Local, residential, the Halim airport and Whoosh station	Budget; people working in the east	Lowest in the city	Few international restaurants or schools
Beyond the border BSD City, Alam Sutera (Tangerang)	Planned towns with schools, malls and the ICE convention centre	Families who want space	BSD condo US$600–1,000; house US$1,000–1,800	An hour or more to central Jakarta at peak

Rents: Asia Lifestyle Magazine, Jakarta expat guide (September 2026), and Jendela360 listings (November 2026).

GET THE FULL GUIDES

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CITY GUIDE 01	**Jakarta** Where to live, play and eat, with 89 restaurants in sixteen categories	30 pages PDF + mobile
SUPPLEMENT	**The Festive Supplement 2026** Christmas and New Year's Eve buffets, and the dates when discounts stop working	5 pages

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Every guide comes as a print-quality PDF and a mobile version that reads like a website on your phone, with links to official sites throughout.

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