



Yogyakarta, the Cultural Capital of Java

7 – 12 September 2024

Embark on a captivating journey through the cultural wonders of Yogyakarta, Java's beating heart of tradition and creativity. As the successor state of the ancient Mataram Sultanate, Yogyakarta boasts a fascinating blend of tradition and modernity. Explore the majestic palaces of the Yogyakarta and Surakarta sultans and immerse yourself in the mesmerizing world of Javanese dance, wayang kulit, gamelan music, and batik artistry.

Discover the spiritual essence of the region at the magnificent Borobudur and Prambanan temples, which are UNESCO World Heritage Sites that stand as testaments to Java's ancient Hindu and Buddhist heritage. Walk along the streets and ancient monuments of Yogyakarta city, inscribed last year as “Cosmological Axis of Yogyakarta and its Historic Landmarks”, Indonesia’s latest UNESCO World Heritage Site inscribed in 2023. Wander through bustling markets, where spices' aromas mingle with traditional crafts' colors, and savor authentic Javanese cuisine's flavors.

We will also visit the palace of Surakarta, where tour participants can learn about the heritage, culture and history of Surakarta, and the role of traditional kingdoms in the Indonesia of today. A meeting with ICOMOS Indonesia is being arranged and we hope to hear about their success in securing WHS inscription for Yogyakarta and ongoing conservation endeavours.

With its welcoming atmosphere and boundless artistic energy, Yogyakarta invites you to embark on a journey of cultural exploration and discovery. Come and experience the magic of Yogyakarta, where tradition meets innovation in perfect harmony.



About Our Specialist Guide

Professor Farish A. Noor is a Malaysian academician, historian, and political scientist who is currently serving as Professor of Politics in the Faculty of Social Sciences, at the International Islamic University of Indonesia UIN.

His main area of research has been Southeast Asia in the 19th century, focusing on the discursive aspects of colonial rule and the production of

Orientalist writings in the region. Over the past ten years, he has also been researching the phenomenon of transnational religio-political movements, as well as the development of religio-politics in South and Southeast Asia, looking at the rise of Muslim, Christian, and Hindu political-religious revivalism in particular. His other interests include antiques and material history, and he has written about the plastic arts of Southeast Asia, focusing on things such as the Indonesian-Malaysian keris to the development of woodcarving and architecture.

Prof Farish has also written and hosted several documentary series on Channel NewsAsia including 'Our Southeast Asia', 'Inside Indonesia with Dr Farish', 'Across Borders' and 'Inventing Southeast Asia'.

Cost of Tour

ICOMOS Singapore Members: S\$1380 for Twin Sharing Room, \$1550 for Single Room

Non-members: \$1480 for Twin Sharing Room, \$1650 for Single Room

PACKAGE INCLUSIVE	PACKAGE EXCLUSIVE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Return flight including all airport taxes (subject to changes) and 20kg luggage both ways flying with Scoot Airlines TR 200 07SEP SINYIA 0825 - 0945 TR 201 12SEP YIASIN 1030 - 1345 • Accommodation 4 Nights at Grand Zuri Malioboro or Riss Hotel (4*) • Micro Bus 31 Seater • English Speaking Driver • Meals as listed in the programme • Entrance Fee (Up Stupa Borobudur) • Ramayana Ticket 1st Class • Horse Carriage (Andong) at Candiredjo Village • Parking • Mineral Water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Travel Insurance ➤ Personal Expenses at Hotel (Laundry, Mini Bar, Room Service) ➤ Tipping for Guide and Driver ➤ Anything that is NOT LISTED in the itinerary

- Prices are subject to change at any time before confirmation.
- Schedules may change according to on-site conditions.
- There will be no refunds or cost reductions if tourist attractions, meals, or hotels are canceled by the participant and not by the Agent, or due to force majeure or unforeseen circumstances.

To Book

Contact Ms Wendy Chua

(Email: icomos.secretary@gmail.com) to book a place on this not-to-be-missed tour. This tour is limited to 20 persons only. A non-refundable deposit of \$500/pax must be paid by PayNow via ICOMOS Singapore UEN: 201311938E by 3pm on 7 May 2024. Hurry!

If you have difficulties with PayNow payments, please let us know.



Photo by Gunawan Kartapranata / CC BY-SA 4.0 | Wikipedia

Tour Programme (subject to changes)

DAY 1: 7 Sept 2024 (Saturday) (L/D): GEREJA GANJURAN & CHECK-IN

Depart Singapore on SCOOT TR200 at 0825 for Jogjakarta International Airport (YIA) Arrive in Jogjakarta 0945.

Visit Gereja Ganjuran (Sacred Heart of Jesus) in south Jogja, a Roman Catholic church built in Javanese architectural style, followed by Goa Maria Sendangsono, a cave shrine & holy spring set in a religious complex marked by a large Virgin Mary statue. Check-in hotel thereafter.

If time permits, we will have a late afternoon or evening stroll along Jalan Malioboro, the thoroughfare of Jogja. We can also do this on days 2 or 3 as well.

DAY 2: 8 Sept 2024 (Sunday) (B/L/D): BOROBUDUR & NEARBY MONUMENTS

After breakfast, we will leave for the UNESCO-inscribed (1991) Borobudur Temple. Established during the relatively brief Sailendra dynasty of Central Java between 778 and 856 AD, Borobudur is the largest Buddhist monument in the world and is often considered one of the world's seven wonders. The temple consists of nine platforms stacked in a "wedding cake" manner, six square and three circular, topped by a central dome. The structure is adorned with 2,672 relief panels and originally 504 Buddha statues.

We will also visit the nearby Buddhist temples of Pawon and Mendut, which, together with Borobudur, lie in one straight line. Candiredjo Village (Riding Horse Carriage) is next, where we will ride a traditional horse carriage, followed by a visit to the Gereja Ayam "Chicken Church" whose shape resembles a hen to most onlookers, although the builder had intended it to be the shape of a dove. We will return to Jogja for dinner after this.

DAY 3: 9 Sept 2024 (Monday) (B/L/D): GEDONG SONGO

Day trip to the magnificent Gedong Songo, an 8th-century Hindu temple 83km and approximately 2 hours from Jogja and situated at a remote mountainside overlooking the plains of Central Java. The allure of Gedong Songo lies not only in its historical significance but also in the harmonious blend of architecture with the surrounding natural grandeur. Constructed adjacent to a 1,270-meter hill near Mount Ungaran, this site comprises five Gedong (temple groups): two situated on the eastern slope of the hill, two facing northward, and one positioned to the west. In total, there are nine temples, each venerating the Hindu deities Shiva and Parvati.

After lunch, we will visit some plantations in the idyllic Javanese countryside before returning to Jogja. There may be time for jalan jalan along Malioboro if we return to the city early.

DAY 4: 10 Sept 2024 (Tuesday) (B/L/D): JOGJAKARTA PALACE, WATER CASTLE, PRAMBANAN TEMPLE & SEWU TEMPLE. RAMAYANA EVENING DANCE SHOW AT PRAMBANAN

We start the day with a becak (tricycle) ride to the Jogjakarta Palace (Kraton), with a lecture on the cosmology of Javanese architecture and the history of the Jogjakarta Palace. We will also visit the Water Castle and the Sono Budoyo Museum. Both the Kraton and the Water Castle form part of Indonesia's latest UNESCO World Heritage Site, "Cosmological Axis of Yogyakarta and its Historic Landmarks". We may watch a wayang kulit performance (to be confirmed later), or the traditional dance Uyp-Uyo at the Kraton.

After lunch, we head for the awe-inspiring Prambanan Temple, constructed in the 9th century. Inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1991, Prambanan stands as Indonesia's largest Hindu temple complex and the second-largest in Southeast Asia, behind only Angkor Wat. According to a theory, the building of Prambanan Temple was built to commemorate the victory of the Hindu Sanjaya Dynasty over the Sailendra Dynasty which built the Borobudur Temple. Dominating the skyline is the towering central edifice, soaring 47 meters high amidst a sprawling collection of individual temples. Originally comprising 240 temple structures, the Prambanan temple compound showcases the splendor of ancient Java's Hindu art and architecture, serving as a pinnacle of the classical period in Indonesia.

After dinner as the sun sets, experience a truly unforgettable cultural journey with the Ramayana Ballet Prambanan, an enchanting live performance set against the backdrop of the majestic Prambanan Temple. A spectacular ballet featuring 200 dancers, musicians, and gamelan players who bring the timeless epic of the Ramayana to life. This show tells the story of Prince Rama's heroic quest to rescue his beloved Princess Sita from the clutches of the demon king Ravana.

DAY 5: 11 Sept 2024 (Wednesday) (B/L/D): SURAKARTA (SOLO)

Located 65 km northeast of Yogyakarta, Solo is Jogja's twin royal city, Java's second cultural capital, and a major producer of dyed Batik and Javanese artistic traditions such as dance, puppetry and music. We set off for Solo after breakfast, to visit the Kraton of Surakarta, also called the Kasunan. Built in 1745, it remains the residence of the Sunan or Sultan of Surakarta. We will learn about the heritage, culture and history of Surakarta, and the role of traditional kingdoms in the Indonesia of today. You can also witness some of the old carriages, guns and cooking utensils used by Surakarta kings during their reign.

After lunch, we will visit the local batik factory and market, and attend a lecture on the symbolism of batik and how to decipher the meaning of batik. We will then return to Jogja for dinner and any final souvenir shopping.

DAY 6: 12 Sept 2024 (Thursday) (B) DEPARTURE FOR HOME

After breakfast depart to the airport.

Flight TR201 flight to Singapore at 1030, reaching Singapore 1345.



Geologische kaart van Java en Madoera in 26 Bladen, Source: "David Rumsey Map Collection, David Rumsey Map Center, Stanford Libraries".

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