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Why West Java – the Indonesia You Don't Know



You already have Borobudur in your memory. You stood on the rim of the Bromo crater at dawn. You know nasi goreng in Yogyakarta costs 12,000 IDR. You've had your first time, and one thing you know for certain: you want to come back, but not for the same trip.

Or you haven't been anywhere yet. And instead of walking the trail everyone walks, you want to start on the side where foreign tourists number barely a handful a week.

Either way, you've found the right book.

This Is the Part of Java Nobody Talks About

West Java is a province with no single big magnet. There is no Borobudur here, no Ijen and no Bromo. What there is instead: the UNESCO-recognised cliffs of the Ciletuh Geopark, where waterfalls drop straight into the Indian Ocean, and you can see all of them in one day. There is the last wild Javan rhino in the world, around 68–75 animals in Ujung Kulon Park, not one of them in a zoo. There are the limestone gorges of Green Canyon in Pangandaran, turquoise water at 18–22°C. There is the Baduy tribe in Banten, living without electricity, phones or shoes, and you can reach them on a suburban bus from Jakarta for 10,000 IDR (~0.65 USD).

Then Bandung with the Tangkuban Perahu volcano, where you boil eggs in mud at 90°C, and Kawah Putih, a crater lake that shifts colour from milky white to turquoise depending on the temperature. Cirebon is the city that bridges West and Central Java culturally, with its own Mega Mendung batik pattern and a soup called empal gentong you will not cook anywhere else.

None of the above has queues. None of the above sits on any popular "top 10 Indonesia" list.

Who This Volume Is For