

## **TRIP TO YOGYAKARTA**

Yogyakarta (usually spoken as 'Jogja') is a city with outstanding history and cultural heritage. Yogyakarta was the central of the ancient Mataram palace (1575-1640), and till now the kraton (the sultan palace) exists in its real functions. Besides, Yogyakarta has numerous thousand-year-old temples as inheritances of the great ancient kingdoms, such as the Borobudur and Perambanan temples.

Besides the cultural heritages, Yogyakarta also has beautiful natural panoramas. The green rice fields cover the suburb areas with a background of the Merapi mountain. The natural beaches will be easily found in the southern of Yogyakarta.

### **Day 1, 22 March 05**

#### **Malioboro / Sastrowijayan Street**

We arrived Yogyakarta at 06.00 in the morning. The flight was on time and soonest we get down from the plane, we went to the taxi counter and asked for a taxi to Jalan Sastrowijayan with the price of Rp. 25,000. The taxi driver drove us right to the alley of Sastrowijayan street (on the big road of Malioboro street) where you can find most of the home stay and budgeted hotels. We found "Rezeki home stay" and decided to stayed there for the holiday. Place is located at Gang I and was charging Rp. 35,000 per day excluding breakfast and with cold shower. In that alley, you can find 3 bookstore and several restaurant. Alley was small but the atmosphere was good and friendly.

In Yogya, the society lives in peace and has typical hospitality. We went around the road and there were many kind people who will just show you the road and explain other things with good hospitality and sincere smile. But one must be caution with the people who tried to sell you batik or painting because these people are mostly known as the people who cheat the tourist by selling the fake and bad quality of handicraft or batik with a ridiculous high price.

Malioboro street was heavy with the traffic, souvenirs shops, delman (horse carriage) and becak (people carriage). Price of food is slightly expensive along the road of Malioboro. At day time, the place was busy with the carriage food stall but when the night down, the carriage will be replace with the food served on the floor (called as 'lesehan'). Normally most of the places will sell almost the same kind of food such as fish or chicken grill, some local foods and Chinese foods.

#### **Keraton (Sultan Palace) & Art Center**

Historically, Yogyakarta was a sultanate. The governor of Yogyakarta until now has always been Sultans of Yogyakarta. The place is not too far from Malioboro street and still used as a real palace. We walked from the hotel to Keraton and paid Rp. 3,000 for the admission. Keraton is a really simple place by looking at the design and the architecture. Nothing much that we can see there but with the ticket price above, you can get a good guide to show you around the place and tell you historical things around the Keraton.

After the Keraton, as recommended by the guide, we went to the art central. This is just a house which used for storing and showing art / painting. We went by becak which only cost us Rp. 3,000 to the place. The place was cozy with a lots of painting with different size and price. If you are interested to buy some batik painting then this is the good place to visit. The price is start from the small painting which cost Rp. 25,000 till the big painting which can cost millions rupiah. They will show you they way they wax and wash the paint to get the better background of the painting.

Nothing much we can do around Yogyakarta city except than going around under the sizzling weather and see the busy street of Malioboro.

## **Day 2, 23 March 05**

### **Borobudur Temple**

The place we stayed had offered some package of tour such as 8 hours Borobudur tour with cost of Rp. 35,000 and Prambanan tour with the same price (both excluding entrance fee). We decided to go by ourselves to experience the bus and road of Yogyakarta.

We went out to Malioboro street and stop bus no. 4 to go to the bus terminal price of Rp. 1,000 per person. The terminal is actually not too far from the town but the bus has to go around to many places before it actually stops at the terminal. The drives took us around 45 minutes to terminal. We were joking saying that with Rp. 1,000 we managed to see whole Yogyakarta, in fact, this is true..

From the terminal, we took another bus with the sign of Borobudur temple and paid Rp. 7,000 per person. The journey took 1 hour 45 minutes although the bus was driven very fast. We stopped at the terminal bus and walk another 1 km to reach the place. There were choices of Delman, Becak or you can easily walk to the temple. Entrance fee for tourist is USD 10 while for local is Rp. 7,000.

Borobudur is one of best-preserved ancient monuments in the world and it is listed as one of the World Wonder Heritage. The monument is the biggest Buddhist temple of the world and it has been acclaimed by the world as a cultural heritage mankind that are the most frequently visited by over a million domestic as well as by foreign visitors up to now. The story of Borobudur is remain a mystery since no written documents had been found so far. Based on the brief inscription most scholars notified that Borobudur was built around 8<sup>th</sup> century when Samaratungga – King of Ceilendra Dynasty ruled Central Java. The meaning of Borobudur remain vague. It is a compound of words Bara and Budur. “Bara” from Sanskrit has a meaning of complex of the temples on monasteries while “Budur” reminds us of the Balinese word “Beduhur”, which means above. Accordingly Borobudur means “Monastery on the hill”.

Borobudur has full of philosophical ornaments with relief’s engrave on the wall of the temples tell about the beautiful learning of life.

We spend lots of hours in Borobudur just by enjoying the nice view and sitting there reading our book. The air was good but too bad the weather was dull. Basically, no cloud because of the rain and we were little bit disappointed by the result of the dull pictures.

One bad thing about Borobudur is the hard time to find the way out. The compound was set in such way that we have to go trough all the souvenirs shops and went around and around to finally find the way out.

## **Day 3, 24 March 05**

### **Prambanan Temple**

Today, we did the same things as yesterday. Get into bus no. 4 to terminal and then get the bus to Prambanan. The bus fare is Rp. 3,000 per person. This time the bus driven very slowly as the bus driver has all the time in the world. It took us an hour or more to reach the place. We have to do another walk as well for another 1 km or so. Entrance fee is the same with Borobudur which is tourist USD 10 and local is Rp. 7,000.

Prambanan is beautiful and fertile region. In ancient time, it was the place where the capital of a Kingdom – now known as “Kraton Boko” – stood. But it is pity that the ruins of the palace cannot give any hint about the existence of the Kingdom and those who had reigned there. A clearer hint is from Kalasan’s increption which was written in “Pranagari” characters, dated from AD 778.

This was clarified in the inscription of Raja Balitung from the year of AD 907. Raja Balitung's inscription mentions the pedigree of the kings who reigned in that period. It was the period when the Sanjaya dynasty reigned. Their religion was Hinduism.

Simultaneously, during that very period, the dynasty of Cailendra, whose religion was Buddhism, was also blooming. This Cailendra dynasty had been closely related to the Kingdom of Sriwijaya in Palembang. At that particular time, Buddhism reached its peak and left many grand monuments which still stand to the present time.

#### **Day 4, 25 March 05**

##### **Parangtritis Beach**

On the day 4, we went to visit the famous Parang Tritis beach. We again, went to the bus terminal and find the bus to Parang Tritis. Cost for the fare is Rp. 8,000 per person and it took around 2 hours to get there.

According to the local legend, Parangtritis beach claimed as the location of palace of "Kanjeng Ratu Kidul", the ruler of the Southern Ocean invisible world. Regardless the truth of the legend, the beach is one of tourism sited that you should visit.

Swimming along the seashore is not allowed because it's wave are not too friendly. It wasn't really disappointing as walking around the seashores or eat the young coconuts is really nice and relaxing.