

Jakarta

Jakarta, the capital of Indonesia, has expanded greatly since the Dutch colonial period, when it was known as Batavia. The city's rapid growth reflects Indonesia's remarkable economic development from the late 1980s.

Located on the northern coast toward the western end of the island of Java, Jakarta is Indonesia's centre of government, business and industry. The city spreads over more than 670 sq. km and has a population that now exceeds 8.5 million. The main business and residential areas of Jakarta are located some 11 km from the harbour of Tanjung Priok.

Jakarta is the country's media and literary centre; one quarter of all Indonesia's newspapers are printed here. The city has a film industry, a modern theatre academy, several universities, and the oldest medical school in Southeast Asia.