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THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA: A TOURISM GEOGRAPHY PERSPECTIVE

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Abstract. The Republic of Indonesia, the world's largest Muslim-majority country, is simultaneously a Southeast Asian state, an archipelagic nation, and a member of ASEAN. Extending across the Malay Archipelago and New Guinea, Indonesia occupies a strategic position as a natural geographical bridge between Asia and Australia. It shares land borders with Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, and Timor-Leste, and maritime borders with Singapore, Vietnam, Thailand, the Philippines, Australia, Palau, and India. Comprising more than 17,500 islands, 36 provinces, and two special administrative regions, Indonesia is the world's largest archipelagic state and the fourth most populous country, with a total area of 1,904,569 km².

This tourism-geography-oriented study analyzes Indonesia's physical and human geographical characteristics and evaluates its agricultural, industrial, energy, and tourism potential. The primary objective is to develop a national identity profile and to present the country's tourism resources within a geographical framework. Given the limited number of studies on Indonesian geography in the domestic academic literature, this research aims to contribute to the field by offering an integrated assessment of Indonesia's geographical features and tourism profile.

Keywords: Indonesia, Tourism Geography, Regional (Country) Geography, Archipelagic State, Geographical Location.

Introduction

The Malay Archipelago, the largest archipelago in the world, is located in Southeast Asia and comprises several countries, including Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei, Timor-Leste, Singapore, and the Philippines. Encompassing the Greater Sunda Islands, the Lesser Sunda Islands, the Moluccas, and the Philippine Islands (four major archipelagic groups), the Malay Archipelago contains more than 330 volcanoes, over 25,000 islands, and covers an area of approximately 2 million km². Within this archipelago, the state with the greatest number of islands and the largest population is undoubtedly Indonesia. Indonesia is also the largest economy in Southeast Asia. The Aru, Tanimbar, Bunguran, Biak, Derawan, Tukangbesi, Sula, Anambas, Batu, Maliya, Togian, Butung, Talaud, and Mentawai archipelagos are examples of Indonesia's smaller island groups, all of which are located within the Malay Archipelago [1, 2, 3].

With its natural landscapes, historic mosques, tropical beaches, spectacular rice terraces, breathtaking ocean views, Buddhist and Hindu temples, colorful cultural and ethnic composition, thousands of bays, beaches, and islands, high religious diversity, hundreds of diving and surfing centers, and impressive volcanoes and waterfalls, Indonesia represents a unique and extraordinary country. It is a multi-faith and multi-identity archipelagic state in which Christians and Buddhists, Muslims and Hindus, as well as Chinese and Malay communities coexist in peace and harmony. Possessing territories in both the Northern and Southern Hemispheres, Indonesia is also one of the few countries with lands in both Asia and Oceania. It is a highly fragmented, multi-layered, and culturally diverse archipelagic state composed of thousands of landmasses. As the world's most populous Muslim-majority country, Indonesia comprises more than 17,500 islands and has coastlines along eleven seas. Moreover, Indonesia is among the rare countries whose seas are entirely enclosed within its national boundaries. The Bali Sea, Flores Sea, Molucca Sea, and Java Sea are examples of seas located wholly within Indonesian territory. In conclusion, as a unitary, secular republic with a

presidential system, Indonesia is a rapidly transforming, industrializing, and developing country that is increasingly attracting the attention of inquisitive tourists [4, 5].

The main objectives of this study can be summarized as follows:

- To identify Indonesia's geographical location, economic potential, and regional characteristics.
- To provide essential geographical information about Indonesia for travelers and tourists.
- To present Indonesia's tourism resources, principal tourism attractions and national tourism potential for interested visitors.
- To discuss Indonesia's major national characteristics in terms of physical geography, economic geography, and tourism geography.
- To explain the climatic features of the Indonesian islands, as well as their political geography, population characteristics, and distinctiveness in terms of flora and fauna.
- To identify Indonesia's principal natural and cultural tourism attractions.
- To determine the features that distinguish Indonesia from other countries and to explain the characteristics specific to this state.
- To develop a tourist guide framework for those planning to visit this archipelagic country.

1. The Geographical Location and General Geographical Characteristics of the Republic of Indonesia

Situated between two continents and two oceans, Indonesia represents a fragmented state with territories in both the Northern and Southern Hemispheres, as it possesses lands and islands located both north and south of the Equator. Extending across three time zones and stretching over 5,200 kilometers in an east–west direction, the country lies within the world's largest archipelagic system. Within its borders, remarkable ethnic, linguistic, cultural, and religious diversity is observed, with more than 700 languages spoken. Although Indonesian is the official language, Dutch, English, Chinese, Malay, Hindi, and Papuan languages are also widely used. Among the most commonly spoken local languages are Sundanese, Javanese, Acehnese, Balinese, Toba, Banjar, Buginese, Madurese, Minangkabau, Dairi, Gorontalo and Batak Archipelago [6, 7, 8, 9].

Located across the Malay Archipelago and the island of New Guinea, Indonesia functions as a natural “geographical bridge” between Asia and Australia. It shares land borders with three countries Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, East Timor and maritime borders with seven others: Singapore, Vietnam, Thailand, Philippines, Australia, Palau, and India. More than 10,000 of its islands are uninhabited and lack permanent settlement; in other words, fewer than 6,500 islands are inhabited. Of these islands, only 7,870 have officially recognized names, while 9,634 remain unnamed. After Canada, Indonesia possesses the second-longest coastline in the world, measuring 54,716 kilometers. Furthermore, after the United States and Russia, Indonesia ranks third globally in the number of volcanoes [10, 11, 12, 13].

When classified into major and minor islands, Indonesia's largest islands include Sumatra, Borneo (Kalimantan), Java, Sulawesi (Celebes), New Guinea, Bali, Lombok, Sumba, Seram, Halmahera, Sumbawa, Flores, Bangka, Aru, Madura, Buru, Talaud, Tanimbar, Bunguran, Belitung, and Timor. Bordered by the Pacific Ocean to the north and the Indian Ocean to the south, Indonesia has coastlines along eleven distinct seas: the Andaman Sea, the South China Sea, the Java Sea, the Timor Sea, the Seram Sea, the Arafura Sea, the Savu Sea, the Molucca Sea, the Banda Sea, the Flores Sea, and the Celebes Sea [3, 7].

As one of the world's twenty largest economies, Indonesia comprises 36 provinces, two special administrative regions, and more than 17,500 islands. Each island possesses its own distinctive culture, traditions, and natural landscapes. Indonesia is the world's largest archipelagic state and, with a total area of 1,904,569 km², ranks as the 14th largest country globally. In other words, the Republic of Indonesia is approximately five times larger than Germany in territorial extent. With a population exceeding 284 million in 2024, Indonesia is the fourth most populous country in the world. More than half of the population (56%) resides on the island of Java, where the former capital, Jakarta, is located. With approximately 154 million inhabitants, Java is the most populous

island in the world. The city of Nusantara, located on the island of Borneo (Kalimantan), has been designated as Indonesia's new capital [11, 12,13,14].

Over the centuries, the Indonesian nation has been shaped by the influences of Indian, Portuguese, Arab, Chinese, Filipino, and Malay cultures. Situated at the intersection of Islamic, Buddhist, Hindu, and Christian civilizations and within the transitional zone between Asia and Oceania, Indonesia's strategic geographical location has transformed it into a stage of genetic and cultural interaction, as well as a vibrant space where races, beliefs, and nations converge. Contemporary Indonesian society reflects a complex cultural synthesis of ethnic minorities and religious identities, ancient civilizations and colonial states, languages, and diverse traditions. This unique geographical position, demographic synthesis, and cultural hybridity are evident across all regions and provinces of the country.

The Constitution of Indonesia is founded upon secular principles. At the same time, Indonesia is the country with the largest Muslim population in the world, with more than 88% of its citizens identifying as Muslim. Buddhists, Hindus, Confucians, and Christians constitute the largest religious minorities. More than 300 ethnic groups reside within the country. Approximately 40% of the population is Javanese, followed by 15% Sundanese, 3.7% Malay, 3.6% Batak, 3% Madurese, 2.9% Betawi, and 2.7% each Minangkabau and Bugis. As these figures indicate, the Javanese constitute the largest ethnic community in the country.

Indonesia has the largest economy in Southeast Asia and is among the rapidly rising market economies. As a middle-income country and a member of the G20, it is categorized among industrializing and developing states. In 2025, Indonesia's nominal GDP reached 1,429 billion USD, ranking it as the 17th largest economy in the world (with Türkiye ranking 16th). In other words, Indonesia's annual economic output is nearly equal to that of Türkiye. In 2024, Indonesia recorded a foreign trade surplus of 31 billion USD, with exports totaling 265 billion USD and imports 234 billion USD. The Republic of Indonesia ranks among the world's top three producers of palm oil, cloves, cinnamon, coconut, natural rubber, cassava, vanilla, coconut oil, rice, and cocoa. It is also among the top six producers of coffee, tea, and tobacco. Major urban centers with populations exceeding one million include Jakarta, Surabaya, Bandung, Bekasi, Depok, Tangerang, South Tangerang, Medan, Palembang, Semarang, Makassar, Batam, Bogor, Bandar Lampung, Pekanbaru, and Padang [15,16,17].

Owing to its stable fiscal policies, advantageous geographical position, high proportion of young population, abundant natural resources, single-digit inflation and unemployment rates, and balanced and sustainable domestic and foreign policies, Indonesia is expected to continue its steady path of economic growth and prosperity in the coming years. Its principal trading partners include China, Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines, the United States, India, Vietnam, South Korea, and Thailand.

2. Physical Geographical Characteristics of the Republic of Indonesia

The highest point in Indonesia is Mount Puncak Jaya (5,030 meters), located in the western part of the island of New Guinea. There are approximately 400 volcanoes across the Indonesian archipelago, 128 of which are active. Among the most active volcanoes are Kelud (which has erupted more than 30 times over the past millennium) and Merapi (which has erupted 80 times in the same period), both situated on the island of Java. Despite being one of the most hazardous countries in the world in terms of earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, Indonesia hosts millions of curious travelers and international tourists each year.

Those wishing to embark on rainforest safaris, swim and sunbathe on tropical islands, engage in surfing and snorkeling, enjoy spa tourism, observe endemic plant species, predatory animals, and wildlife, visit historic mosques and Buddhist and Hindu temples, experience romantic honeymoons, or explore centers of faith and authentic local architecture constitute the majority of foreign visitors to Indonesia. The following discussion outlines the most distinctive and remarkable features that differentiate Indonesia from other countries, thereby offering an answer to the question: "Why Indonesia?"

Located within the equatorial and sub-equatorial climatic zones, Indonesia experiences high temperatures and high humidity throughout all twelve months of the year. It can therefore be stated that the country is suitable for marine tourism 365 days annually. Depending on geographical location and altitude, average monthly temperatures across the country range between 26°C and 35°C. The difference between daytime and nighttime temperatures rarely exceeds 8-9°C. In other words, due to maritime influences and high humidity levels, significant variations in daily, seasonal, or annual temperature averages are generally not observed. Under the influence of the monsoon climate, annual precipitation ranges from 1,500 to 3,500 millimeters, reaching up to 6,100 millimeters in certain regions [18,19].

Two principal seasons dominate the Indonesian islands: the rainy season and the dry season. Nationwide, the “rainy season” occurs between November and April, while the “dry season” prevails from May to October. The rainy or “monsoon” season is typically characterized by frequent and heavy rainfall, cloudy skies, and elevated humidity. Nevertheless, some tourists prefer visiting Indonesia during the monsoon season due to fewer crowds and lower accommodation prices. When is the best time to visit Indonesia? The answer largely depends on individual preferences. If fewer tourists and more affordable prices are desirable, the monsoon season may be advantageous. However, for those seeking sunny and stable weather conditions, the dry season is the most suitable period for travel [20,21].

Indonesia is among the world’s richest countries in terms of biodiversity, endemic species, and rainforest ecosystems. Approximately 17% of the planet’s biological diversity is found within the Indonesian archipelago. Indonesian flora consists of unique tropical plant varieties, a significant portion of which are endemic and relict species. After Brazil, Indonesia possesses the second-highest level of biodiversity in the world.

In addition to its biological wealth, Indonesia is rich in natural resources. The country possesses substantial reserves of coal, tin, copper, nickel, bauxite, gold, silver, manganese, iron ore, kaolin, marble, and granite. Furthermore, significant petroleum and natural gas deposits are actively exploited within its territory.

The Republic of Indonesia is the world’s largest archipelagic state composed entirely of islands. The Indonesian islands are located within the Malay Archipelago, the largest archipelago on Earth. The name “Indonesia,” derived from Greek, literally means “Indian Islands.” Sumatra, Borneo (Kalimantan), Java, Sulawesi (Celebes), and the western portion of New Guinea constitute the country’s largest islands. Indeed, three of the world’s ten largest islands-Borneo, New Guinea, and Sumatra are situated wholly or partially within Indonesian territory. In demographic terms, it should also be emphasized that the island of Java is both Indonesia’s and the world’s most populous island.

Indonesia is, in many respects, a country of contrasts and complexities - vibrant, multifaceted, and challenging to define comprehensively. While numerous common features unite the Indonesian islands, each island also possesses distinctive geographical, economic, touristic, and cultural characteristics. Different islands are inhabited by different nations and ethnic communities, where diverse local languages are spoken, various faith communities coexist, and distinct traditions are practiced. Consequently, although the islands share similarities in certain social, cultural, economic, ecological, demographic, geographical, and tourism-related aspects, they simultaneously display significant differences. One certainty remains: the coasts, forests, waterfalls, beaches, caves, and other natural attractions of each island are unique and exclusive to that particular location. In other words, while similarities may exist in cultural structures and social traditions, diversity rather than uniformity characterizes Indonesia’s natural beauty and tourism appeal [22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28].

3. The Republic of Indonesia from the Perspective of Countries Geography and National Records

The following section outlines country-specific characteristics and geographical phenomena unique to Indonesia. It examines the features and landmarks that render the Indonesian archipelago exceptional, while also presenting the national records of the world’s largest archipelagic state.

- The Republic of Indonesia is the largest country in the world composed entirely of islands. The name “Indonesia,” derived from Greek, literally means “Indian Islands.”

- As one of the world's twenty largest economies, Indonesia comprises 36 provinces, 2 special administrative regions, and more than 17,500 islands.

- Nusantara, officially known as Ibu Kota Nusantara, is Indonesia's new capital and first planned city. Located in East Kalimantan Province on the eastern part of Borneo (Kalimantan), it officially replaced Jakarta as the capital on 17 August 2024.

- More than 9,600 Indonesian islands remain unnamed. Additionally, over 10,000 islands have neither permanent population nor permanent settlement.

- Indonesia is one of the most earthquake- and volcano-prone countries in the world. On average, 3–4 mild or moderate earthquakes occur daily.

- Java is both Indonesia's and the world's most populous island.

- Indonesia ranks as the world's fourth-largest coffee producer. Among its many coffee varieties is the famous "kopi luwak," produced from coffee beans processed through the digestive system of the Asian palm civet.

- Borneo is a unique island divided among three countries: Indonesia, Malaysia, and Brunei. It is the world's third-largest island. Indonesia's portion (Kalimantan) covers approximately 73% of the island, Malaysia's states of Sarawak and Sabah about 26%, and Brunei less than 1%.

- Lake Toba in Indonesia is the world's largest crater lake.

- The Indonesian islands are situated within the Malay Archipelago, the largest archipelago on Earth.

- As Southeast Asia's most populous country, Indonesia ranks as the 14th largest country globally, with an area of 1,904,569 km².

- With a population exceeding 284 million, Indonesia is the fourth most populous country in the world, after China, India, and the United States.

- The 9th-century Borobudur Temple, constructed in central Java, is the world's largest Buddhist temple. Featuring 1,460 relief panels and 504 Buddha statues dedicated to Lord Buddha, it is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the most significant Buddhist pilgrimage destinations globally.

- Approximately 17% of the planet's biological diversity is found within Indonesia.

- More than 700 languages are spoken across Indonesia, which spans two continents and two oceans. Bahasa Malaysia and Bahasa Indonesia represent two standardized varieties of the Malay language used in Malaysia and Indonesia, respectively. Although mutually intelligible to a considerable extent, they differ in spelling, grammar, pronunciation, vocabulary, and dominant sources of loanwords.

- More than half (56%) of Indonesia's population resides on the island of Java.

- The national flags of Indonesia and Monaco are frequently confused due to their identical red-and-white color scheme.

- Indonesia spans three time zones and possesses territory in both the Northern and Southern Hemispheres.

- Despite covering only 1.3% of the world's land area, Indonesia hosts approximately 17% of all known biological species.

- Indonesia ranks among the world's top three producers of palm oil, cloves, cinnamon, coconut, natural rubber, cassava, vanilla, coconut oil, rice, and cocoa.

- It is also among the world's top six producers of coffee, tea, and tobacco.

- The Indonesian archipelago borders two oceans and eleven seas and ranks as the 14th largest country by area.

- The islands are home to more than 100 endangered animal species.

- Puncak Jaya, located in Papua Province on the island of New Guinea, rises 4,884 meters above sea level and is the highest island peak in the world.

- Approximately 400 volcanoes exist in Indonesia, 128 of which are active.

- The world's largest flower, *Rafflesia arnoldii*, grows in Indonesia.

- Indonesia is the only country where tourists can observe the Komodo dragon in its natural habitat. The Komodo dragon, the world's largest lizard species (reaching up to 3 meters in length), inhabits five islands: Komodo, Rinca, Flores, Gili Motang, and Padar.

- Sumatra is one of only two places in the world where wild orangutans can be observed in their natural environment. In Indonesian, "orang" means "person" and "utan" means "forest," hence "orangutan" literally translates as "man of the forest."

- Indonesia became the first developing country to operate its own satellite system. The first launch of Palapa took place on 8 July 1976. Owned by the Indonesian telecommunications company Indosat and launched by the United States, Palapa marked a milestone in national technological development.

- Krakatoa produced one of the most catastrophic volcanic eruptions in recorded history in 1883, resulting in more than 36,000 deaths and the destruction of 165 coastal villages between Java and Sumatra.

- Jakarta, founded in 1580, is Indonesia's largest city and former capital, with a population exceeding 12 million. The Greater Jakarta metropolitan area surpasses 32 million inhabitants.

- Mount Bromo in East Java is one of Indonesia's most prominent natural tourist attractions, famous for its lunar-like landscape and accessible caldera.

- After Canada, Indonesia has the second-longest coastline in the world, measuring 54,716 kilometers - approximately six times longer than that of Türkiye.

- The Torajan people of Sulawesi practice distinctive funerary traditions, placing wooden coffins on cliffs or in rock-cut tombs, with elaborate ceremonies attended by hundreds of guests.

- Indonesia is a leading peanut producer; the well-known peanut-sauce dish Gado-Gado is widely available from street vendors to luxury restaurants.

- The country is renowned for its spectacular rice terraces, particularly on Bali and in the Toraja Valley of Sulawesi.

- Indonesia has the largest Muslim population in the world, with more than 87% of its citizens identifying as Muslim.

- Three of the world's ten largest islands - Borneo, New Guinea and Sumatra - lie wholly or partially within Indonesian territory.

- Mount Ijen (Gunung Ijen) in East Java is notable for its turquoise acidic crater lake, Kawah Ijen, and its rare "blue fire" phenomenon, as well as sulfur mining activities.

- Approximately 57% of Indonesia's territory (about 910,000 km²) is covered by well-preserved tropical rainforest, including around 2% mangrove forest systems.

- Grasberg Mine in Papua Province is the world's largest gold mine and one of the largest copper-producing sites globally. Operated by Freeport-McMoRan, it plays a crucial role in Indonesia's position within the global mining sector.

4. Tourism Potential of the Republic of Indonesia

Tourism in Indonesia constitutes not only a key component of the national economy but also a major source of foreign exchange earnings. In 2017, Indonesia ranked 20th in the global tourism industry and was simultaneously identified as the ninth fastest-growing tourism destination worldwide. According to the 2024 Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index, Indonesia ranked 22nd among 119 countries with a score of 4.46. These indicators reflect significant progress in the national tourism sector. Previously, in 2019, Indonesia ranked 40th among 140 countries with an index score of 4.3. Collectively, these data demonstrate substantial growth in tourism over the past five years. The country's rich historical and cultural heritage, thousands of natural attractions, numerous religious and historical centers, more than 17,500 islands, extensive ocean coastlines, and a wide range of national parks, waterfalls, volcanoes, beaches, and tropical rainforests render Indonesia an attractive and competitive tourism destination [29, 30, 31,32].

Table 1. Top 10 Most Visited Tourist Destinations in Indonesia [29, 30, 31,32, 33, 34]

Top 10 Islands	Top 10 Cities	Top 10 National Parks
Java	Cakarta	Gunung Leuser National Park
Bali	Yogokarta	Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park
Sumatra	Batam	Kerinci Seblat National Park
Sulawesi	Denpasar	Komodo National Park
Borneo	Mataram	Ujung Kulon National Park
Lombok	Kuta	Bunaken National Marine Park
Bintan	Surabaya	Bromo Tengger Semeru National Park
Gili	Makassar	Kepulauan Seribu National Park
Flores	Palembang	Mount Ciremai National Park
Komodo	Manado	Mount Rinjani National Park

In recent years, a significant increase in international tourist arrivals has been observed in Indonesia. In 2000, the country received 5.1 million visitors; in 2010, 7.0 million; in 2015, 10.4 million; and in 2019, 16.1 million. In other words, during the twenty-first century, Indonesia has not yet reached the threshold of 20 million international arrivals. For instance, in 2024, the country was visited by 13.9 million tourists. Approximately 59% of visitors travel to Indonesia for leisure purposes, while 38% travel for business. The main source countries of inbound tourism are Singapore, Malaysia, China, the United States, Australia, South Korea, and Japan. The most popular destinations within Indonesia include Bali, Lombok, West Java, Central Java, East Java, the Jakarta Metropolitan Area, North Sumatra, Lampung, South Sulawesi, South Sumatra, Banten, and West Sumatra. The proportional distribution of international tourist arrivals by country of origin is as follows: Malaysia (28.70%), Singapore (16.97%), China (15.57%), the United States (6.75%), Japan (13.85%), South Korea (24.19%), India (7.68%), Australia (7.03%), and the United Kingdom (14.03%) [35, 36, 37, 38].

Located along the southeastern margin of the Eurasian Plate and the western margin of the Pacific Plate, the Indonesian archipelago lies within the so-called “Ring of Fire,” one of the most tectonically active and hazardous zones on Earth. As a consequence of these geological and geographical conditions, the country is frequently exposed to natural hazards such as earthquakes, tsunamis, tropical cyclones, and volcanic eruptions. These adverse natural characteristics represent major constraints on national tourism development and contribute to negative destination perceptions.

Which islands, cities, beaches, national parks, and tourism centers should foreign visitors prioritize when traveling to Indonesia? What are the most prominent and popular tourism attractions that define the country’s tourism image? The following section summarizes Indonesia’s most renowned, most visited, and most sought-after natural and cultural tourism attractions in tabular form.

Table 2. Top 30 Natural and Cultural Tourism Attractions of Indonesia [39, 40, 37, 41]

Top 30 Natural Attractions	Top 30 Cultural Attractions
Raja Ampat Archipelago	Borobudur Buddhist Temple
Gili Islands	Yogyakarta Palace Complex
Jomblang Cave	Tana Toraja Historical Burial Sites
Tengger Volcanic Complex	Monas National Monument
Komodo National Park	Prambanan Temple Complex
Tanjung Puting National Park	Taman Mini Ethnopark (Jakarta)
Munduk Waterfall	Mandalika - Kuta Tourism Zone

Krakatau Volcano	Masjid Raya Mosque (Medan)
Sendang Gile and Tiu Kelep Waterfalls	Jatiluwi Rice Terraces
Sumba Island	Tirta Gangga Water Palace
Rinjani Volcano and Surroundings	Pura Tanah Lot Hindu Temple
Nusa Penida Island	Bali Bird Park
Lake Toba Caldera	Goa Gajah Hindu Temple
Lembongan Island	Pura Besakih Hindu Temple
Tumpak Sewu Waterfall	Bogor Botanical Garden
Lore Lindu National Park	Baiturrahman Grand Mosque
Mount Merapi	Dieng Plateau and Temples
Benang Stokel and Benang Kelambu	Masjid Raya An-Nur (Pekanbaru)
Sekumpul Waterfall	Bali National Museum
Bukit Baka Bukit Raya National Park	Narmada Water Palace
Flores Island	Puri Lukisan Museum
Kerinci Seblat National Park	City of Bukittinggi
Bintan Island	Sade Traditional Weaving Village
Bunaken Marine National Park	Istiqlal Mosque (Jakarta)
Saronde Island	Hubbul Wathan Grand Mosque
Bangka Belitung Islands	Jakarta National Museum
Kelimutu Lakes	Wae Rebo Village (Flores)
Derawan Islands	Kintamani Village (Bali)
Alas Purwo National Park	Uluwatu Hindu Temple
Ubud Monkey Forest (Bali)	Jakarta Catholic Cathedral

Marine national parks, islands and atolls, coral reefs, beaches and coastal zones, bays and secluded coves, surfing areas and tropical diving centers, thousands of uninhabited islets, and extensive coastlines - together with distinctive coastal geomorphological formations - constitute Indonesia's most valuable natural assets and its principal tourism resource base [27, 28, 31, 38, 41]. Moreover, the country's geographical, ecological, geomorphological, hydrographic, and geological diversity is directly reflected in its tourism diversification. The combination of rich insular diversity, extensive cultural heritage, and a wide range of tourism products represents one of Indonesia's major comparative advantages.

Although rural tourism, ecotourism, mountaineering, agrotourism, hunting tourism, religious tourism, adventure tourism, lake tourism, health tourism, farm tourism, cave tourism, scuba diving tourism, river tourism, botanical tourism, SPA tourism, highland tourism, and volcanic tourism are all present in Indonesia, marine tourism constitutes the dominant tourism sector. Tropical islands, secluded bays, and romantic beaches form the core of marine tourism activities. The following section presents a summary of Indonesia's most renowned, most scenic, and most impressive beaches and the islands on which they are located.

Conclusion. Indonesia represents a distinctive geographical and cultural space located at the intersection of civilization and largely preserved natural environments. Its archipelagic structure, characterized by strong spatial, ethnic, and cultural heterogeneity, generates a unique tourism landscape shaped by diverse traditions, belief systems, and ecological settings. The coexistence of multiple religions, ethnic groups, and languages across more than 17,500 islands forms a complex cultural mosaic that significantly enhances the country's attractiveness for international tourism. In addition to well-known destinations such as Sumatra, Java, Bali, Lombok, and Sulawesi, numerous lesser-known islands offer substantial potential for further tourism development.

Indonesia's tourism system supports a wide spectrum of market segments, including ecotourism, marine and adventure tourism, cultural and religious tourism, wellness tourism, and agrotourism. Recent trends indicate rapid growth in halal tourism, scuba diving tourism, yoga and

meditation tourism, and backpacking travel. Importantly, tourism development in many regions is increasingly aligned with principles of sustainability and environmental responsibility. As a result, eco-friendly tourism has become a strategic component of national tourism policy. The country's exceptional biodiversity, extensive coral reef systems, volcanic landscapes, tropical rainforests, and rich architectural and religious heritage collectively position Indonesia as one of the world's most diversified and resilient tourism destinations, with strong prospects for long-term sustainable growth.

What do the unique and fascinating Indonesian islands offer?

They are characterized by:

- Tropical coral reefs, majestic waterfalls, and remarkable canyon valleys.
- Unique coastal formations, secluded bays, dramatic cliffs, and peninsulas.
- Exceptional national parks, volcanic landscapes, and numerous SPA centers.
- Warm, clean, and turquoise seawaters throughout the year.
- Breathtaking natural scenery, tourist caves, and therapeutic hot springs.
- Distinctive local museums and authentic art centers.
- Rich ethnic and religious diversity and a substantial cultural heritage.
- Hundreds of historically significant Buddhist and Hindu temples with unique architectural features.
- Numerous surfing and diving sites, as well as extensive snorkeling areas.
- Accommodation facilities suitable for all budgets and a wide variety of tourism services.
- Colorful coral reefs, extensive uninhabited areas, and rich underwater biodiversity.
- Numerous uninhabited islets and many agrotourism centers.
- Vast and pristine tropical forests inhabited by diverse and striking wildlife.
- Numerous zoological gardens and urban recreational areas, along with distinctive agricultural farms and tropical plantations.
- Thousands of SPA, yoga, and massage centers, as well as hot springs and modern water parks.
- Hundreds of small islands, hiking routes, and secluded beaches.
- Hundreds of bays, lakes, river basins, peninsulas, and unique coastal formations.
- Outstanding nature reserves, distinctive marine national parks, impressive volcanoes, and colorful botanical gardens.
- Exceptional flora and fauna species and unique ecosystems not found elsewhere.
- Interesting museums, dynamic shopping centers, and numerous modern accommodation facilities.
- Local legends, extraordinary historical settlements, and a rich Islamic heritage.
- Deep river valleys, lake basins of diverse origins, and extensive rainforest territories.
- Authentic villages, vibrant ethnic minorities, and scenic rice terraces.
- Hundreds of historical mosques and churches, monumental religious temples, and unique cultural monuments.
- A positive, hospitable, and friendly Indonesian population.

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ИНДОНЕЗИЯ РЕСПУБЛИКАСЫ: ТУРИЗМ ГЕОГРАФИЯСЫ ТҮРҒЫСЫНАН

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Аңдатпа. Индонезия Республикасы – мұсылман халқы ең көп мемлекет бола отырып, бір мезгілде Оңтүстік-Шығыс Азиядағы ел, архипелагтық мемлекет және ASEAN ұйымының мүшесі болып табылады. Малай архипелагы мен Жаңа Гвинея аралына дейін созылып жатқан Индонезия Азия мен Австралия арасындағы табиғи географиялық көпір рөлін атқаратын стратегиялық аумақты иеленеді. Ол құрлықта Малайзиямен, Папуа-Жаңа Гвинеямен және Тимор-Лестемен, ал теңізде Сингапурмен, Вьетнаммен, Таиландпен, Филиппинмен, Австралиямен, Палаумен және Үндістанмен шектеседі. Құрамына 17 500-ден астам арал, 36 провинция және екі арнайы әкімшілік аймақ кіретін Индонезия аумағы 1 904 569 км² болатын, әлемдегі ең ірі архипелагтық мемлекет әрі халқы саны бойынша төртінші орын алатын ел болып саналады.

Туризм географиясына бағытталған бұл зерттеу Индонезияның физикалық және әлеуметтік-экономикалық географиялық ерекшеліктерін талдап, оның ауыл шаруашылығы, өнеркәсіп, энергетика және туризм салаларындағы әлеуетін бағалайды. Зерттеудің негізгі мақсаты – ұлттық бірегейлік бейнесін қалыптастыру және елдің туристік ресурстарын географиялық тұрғыдан таныстыру. Отандық ғылыми әдебиеттерде Индонезия географиясына арналған зерттеулердің аздығын ескере отырып, бұл жұмыс елдің географиялық ерекшеліктері мен туризм профилін кешенді бағалау арқылы ғылым саласына үлес қосуды көздейді.

Түйін сөздер: Индонезия, туризм географиясы, аймақтық (елдік) география, архипелагтық мемлекет, географиялық орны.

РЕСПУБЛИКА ИНДОНЕЗИЯ: С ПОЗИЦИИ ГЕОГРАФИИ ТУРИЗМА

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Аннотация. Республика Индонезия, являясь крупнейшей в мире страной с мусульманским большинством населения, одновременно представляет собой государство Юго-Восточной Азии, архипелаговое государство и члена ASEAN. Простираясь на территории Малайского архипелага и острова Новая Гвинея, Индонезия занимает стратегическое положение, выполняя роль естественного географического моста между Азией и Австралией. Она имеет сухопутные границы с Малайзией, Папуа–Новой Гвинеей и Тимором-Лесте, а морские границы — с Сингапуром, Вьетнамом, Таиландом, Филиппинами, Австралией, Палау и Индией. В состав страны входят более 17 500 островов, 36 провинций и два специальных административных региона. С общей площадью 1 904 569 км² Индонезия является крупнейшим архипелаговым государством мира и занимает четвертое место по численности населения.

Данное исследование, ориентированное на географию туризма, анализирует физико-географические и социально-экономические особенности Индонезии, а также оценивает её сельскохозяйственный, промышленный, энергетический и туристский потенциал. Основной целью работы является формирование профиля национальной идентичности и представление туристских ресурсов страны в географическом контексте. Учитывая ограниченное количество исследований по географии Индонезии в отечественной научной литературе, данная работа направлена на вклад в развитие географической науки посредством комплексной оценки географических особенностей страны и её туристского профиля.

Ключевые слова: Индонезия, география туризма, региональная (страновая) география, архипелаговое государство, географическое положение.