

**IF YOU
ONLY HAVE
3 MINUTES**

BANYUWANGI
The
Sunrise of Java



exploring Banyuwangi

UNDERSTANDING INDONESIA

HIDDEN PARADISE IN EASTERN JAVA

Hidden Paradise in Eastern Java



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Banyuwangi

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PHOTO COVER | FRONT: IMAM HANANI - BACK: ANOM MANIK AGUNG

foreword

PHOTO: EVAGRIANA

Can you picture yourself seeing an exotic blue flame flares up from a breathtaking, volcanic crater? Can you imagine the sensation of surfing on one of the best waves in the world? Can you picture the tranquility of stopping by the natural, white sand beach?

Or, imagine you are standing amidst thousands of folk dancers moving in unison right at the edge of the beach. And how does it feel to witness such dancers rhythmically moving to their ecstatic trance?

You could experience those excitements in Banyuwangi, East Java, Indonesia. Being "Little Indonesia", Banyuwangi is a mixture between stunning natural landscape and unparalleled richness in art and culture.

Reach Banyuwangi in two hours by plane from Jakarta, the Capital of Indonesia, and transit in Surabaya, the capital of East Java. From Singapore, you could drop by Surabaya and continue the trip to Banyuwangi. Even from Australia, you could fly to Bali first and continue by land after crossing Bali Strait to get to Banyuwangi.

Renown as The Sunrise of Java, Banyuwangians are open, friendly egalitarians with strong sense of arts. Arts and culture of the Banyuwangians—specifically various forms of traditional dance, music, and rituals—are characterized by elegance, depth of philosophy, and entertaining actions.

Banyuwangi also has Triangle Diamond with extraordinary tourism potentials. The Triangle is a mixture between mountain, beach, and forest area with unparallel value of flora and fauna. One of which is Plengkung Beach, a beach with one of the world's best waves that suits the surfers. And also Merah Island Beach and Hijau Bay with clean white sand beaches that nature preserves. There is also savanna that will bring you to the time when the world is free, makes your imagination roams wild in an adventurous challenge.

In Banyuwangi, everyday is an amazing day. We call it "Banyuwangi Experience" that you feel in this place only. Nothing's like Banyuwangi. There is only one. Explore Banyuwangi: the place you definitely want to go back to.

Banyuwangi Regent,

Abdullah Azwar Anas

 @a_azwarnas



PHOTO: I NYOMAN HARYADI

ijen crater

ONE word to describe Ijen: **fantastic!** Located on 2368 m above sea level on the mountaintop, this is the world's largest acidic crater lake with approximately 200 meter in depth and width reaches 5,466 hectares. The crater is part of Ijen National Park that serves also as a tourism site.

Every person hikes on Ijen will always have great memories and will surely miss them.

Witness the beautiful sunrise and turquoise lake in the crater filled with six million litres of acid solution. Also, greet the amazing sulphur miner. Yet, nothing more breathtaking than blue flame phenomenon. It is a rare sight to behold because the other place with this kind of natural wonder is Iceland. Come before the morning breaks and be awed with glorious blue flame. ■



G-Land

plengkung beach

THE surfers called the wave in this beach as one of The Seven Giant Waves Wonder. Located in Alas Purwo National Park, Banyuwangi Regency, East Java, Plengkung Beach is a paradise for the surfing aficionados.

The high-speed wave is long and towering, making almost perfect wave tube that suitable for the wave seekers.

Eight Americans had done first surfers' expedition to Plengkung Beach in 1972. Five of them were travelling by land while the other three were chartering a boat, and had camped there for ten days. Plengkung is best visited within May to October, and perfect to surf in July to September because the height of the wave would reach its culmination. ■



PHOTO: IGA BRIANANDA ISOFI

merah island beach

A NEW favourite site, Merah Island Beach located 80 km from downtown Banyuwangi in Pesanggaran Sub-district, characterized with little green hill about 200 m high with red soil by the shore. Merah means red in English.

Visitors could reach the hill by crossing the sea when reflux. There is also a Hindu temple where the devout do their rituals.

Local government of Banyuwangi had held an international surfing event annually in Merah Island Beach since 2013. Not only the waves could reach 5 meter, 3 km of white sand shore offers you a place to enjoy the nature. The wave formation that tends to be more flat than G-Land yet more beautiful than Kuta, Bali, had become a new attraction for beginner surfer and public in general. ■



PHOTO: AMAN ROHMAN

hijau bay

LOCATED about 90 km on the south of the city of Banyuwangi, Hijau Bay sits on the area of Sukamade Beach, Meru Betiri National Park. It gets the name from the picture perfect landscape made of clear green surface highlighted with white sand shore and 8-meter high of fresh waterfall. Hijau means green in English.

Hijau Bay is also a home for the rare and famous *Rafflesia Arnoldii* or “corpse flower”,

and also the Japanese Cave where the soldiers built a fortress in World War II.

Hijau Bay is 2 km away from the last settlement, concealed behind a barrier reef and close to rocky beach. It is as nature preserves, tranquil and far from the crowds with stunning view. It is like visiting a hidden Eden on Earth. ■



sukamade beach

LOCATED inside Meru Betiri National Park, the distance between Sukamade Beach and downtown Banyuwangi is about 100 km. You could take advantage from an off road jeep to cross five tributaries. Visiting Sukamade Beach is no different from experiencing an unforgettable adventure.

Sukamade Beach had been acknowledged as a conservation site since 1972, and became most favourite nesting place for turtle. WWF (World Wide



Fund for Nature) stated that green sea turtle are the regular.

Visitors could observe the turtles appear on Sukamade Beach to lay eggs.

They could also visit hatcheries and watch the hatchling release to the high sea, or even bird watching. The river and mangrove are perfect to do some bird-watch. ■



sadengan

savannah

LOCATED in Alas Purwo National Park, Banyuwangi, Sadengan is an 84-hectare of vast savannah that has attracted tourists and travellers from French, Australia, Sweden, and many more. Sadengan also frequently used as the place to shoot Indonesian adventurous TV programs.

Sadengan is a home for bull, deer, and peacock. The population of bull (*Bos javanicus*) in 2012 is 125. And thus the nickname "bull pasture". ■



PHOTO: RENDRA KURNIA

gandrung sewu parade

THIS is a colossal folk Banyuwangi performance involving 1000 pairs of dancers, emphasizing on how thriving the culture preserved. All of the performers are wearing scarlet wardrobe that presents along the shore of Boom Beach, from afternoon to sunset. With various age ranges, 7 to 70 years old, this performance is a sight to behold.

This traditional event had started since 2012.

There were only 1000 of total dancers that time, thus the name Gandrung Sewu. Sewu is Javanese for a thousand. In 2013, there were 1000 more accompanying dancers called Paju.

It is an exotic and unforgettable view to see thousands of dancers performing with the sunset as the background. ■

banyuwangi ethno carnival

BANYUWANGI Ethno Carnival (BEC) is a part of Banyuwangi local government effort to preserve traditional culture and mix it with modernity. As a fashion carnival event that held annually since 2011, BEC takes 2.2 km of the street as the catwalk, right in downtown Banyuwangi. And this is how the local government takes local tradition into sophistication that will wow the world.

Different from any similar events held in other

cities, BEC sticks to the presentation of true local traditional arts.

Not only the models are from locals wearing traditional outfit with stylish design, but also the traditional performers in their original attire.

The parade will always emphasize the theme of local Banyuwangi arts and culture, all in its uniqueness. ■





PHOTO: YAMTONO

kebo-keboan

ritual

A TRADITIONAL ceremony that is a part of Banyuwangi agrarian society, Kebo-keboan has attached into people's spiritualism living to ask for the rain. In this ritual, the farmers dressed up like buffalo (kebo in local language).

Kebo-keboan usually conducted in prolonging drought, or when the unfortunate phenomenon comes because of the pests attack.

This is also a ritual that represents gratefulness to God that has given His bounty through rice harvest in the paddy field.

Kebo-keboan is held every year at the time of the first full moon by Islamic calendar or Javanese calendar—Muharram month or Suro. For the people of Banyuwangi, the month is rich with mystical power. During the ritual, there will be a person wearing buffalo attire and act like one because of possessed, and will chase anyone who takes the already planted rice seedlings. ■



PHOTO: KASTIYONO

seblang dance

A **FOLK** dance, Seblang is regular event in two villages in Banyuwangi—Bakungan and Olehsari—located within Glagah Sub-district. As a ritual to repel bad luck and keeping the village safe, Seblang dance is performed a week after Eidul-Fitri in Olehsari and a week after Eid ul-Adha in Bakungan. The local shaman chooses the dancer from the descendant of Seblang dancer also. It is more interesting because in Olehsari, the dancer has to be a pubescent virgin while in Bakungan a woman who is already in menopause.

Seblang dance is a unique attraction because it is interactively involving the audience.

In the ritual process, the shaman will recite the mantra that will make the dancer possessed.

Then, she will throw her dancing shawl to the audience. Whoever gets the shawl has to dance with the performer, or the performer would run after him or her. ■



PHOTO: M SUJAI





PHOTO: DAMMER SARAGIH

petik laut parade

PETIK Laut is a regular event held by the fishermen in Banyuwangi to show their gratitude to God for the bounty and safety on the sea, and massively involving thousands of people.

In Petik Laut, small boats with food offerings are floated out to the sea. The background would be Holy Book recite or traditional music.

Petik Laut held in the last Wednesday of Sapar (the name of a month in Javanese calendar) that the fishermen believed to be the time when disease and disaster come down.

Fisheries production in Banyuwangi had been exported to approximately 18 countries. ■



PHOTO: PANCA SYURKANI

International banyuwangi tour de ijen

THE event with the concept of sport-tourism is held annually, and had been in the agenda of Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) since 2012.

The distance of the route is more than 600 km and joined by the cyclist from Indonesia and abroad.

These cyclists will follow the challenging route presented in beautiful landscape, from green urban area, lush agricultural region, plantations of coffee, rubber, and clove, up to the mountain with steep uphill road. International Banyuwangi Tour de Ijen has become a new attraction also for the tourists. ■



green development

LOCAL government of Banyuwangi Regency has committed to continuously developing with concern to environment and conservation aspects.

Banyuwangi develops a city that is not only human-friendly but also nature-friendly. It can be seen from the layout of the city.

The pavilion, hotels, parks, and also airports, all of which have environment perspectives. The under construction Blimbingsari Airport is in the process of becoming

Indonesia's first green airport.

The local government is also emerging people awareness by Oxygen Alms. In this program, every local is encouraged to plant one tree in his or her home. Tree serves as the lungs of the nature. Thus, the government is consistently forbid the cutting of trees that produce oxygen.

Parks and many public spaces in Banyuwangi are also equipped with total of 1,200 free Wi-Fi connections. ■

Please don't hesitate to contact us for any inquiries



banyuwangi coffee

BANYUWANGI is not only about the beauty of its nature, friendliness of its people, or its exotic culture. You could also enjoy Banyuwangi from the delicious aroma of its special coffee. Boasts as one of the best in the world, Banyuwangi coffee is harvested from plantations divided by Ijen Mountain. The sea breeze and mountain wind also influenced the taste and aroma.

We could call Banyuwangi as The City of Coffee with its intimate and modest slogan: "Once brewing, we are brothers". There are warmth and togetherness in it. In 2012, coffee and beauty of Banyuwangi were introduced in the event of Miss Coffee International. Held in Bali, the participants were visiting coffee plantations in Belawan, right at the foot of Ijen Mountain. They roasted the coffee together in Kemiren Village, also known as traditional village of Using tribe. This is also the spot where Mass Coffee Roasting Festival took place, and had broken the record for Indonesian Museum of Record (MURI – Museum Rekor Indonesia). ■

dragon fruit & mangosteen

BANYUWANGI is the biggest city of mangosteen fruit producers in East Java. The farmers are supplying mangosteen (*Garcinia mangostana*) not only to big cities in Indonesia, but also to China, Taiwan, Singapore, and Middle East. This sweet fruit production is spread in seven sub-districts: Kalipuro, Songgon, Sempu, Glenmore, Licin, Glagah, and Giri. In 2013, the government had stated that mangosteen production up to 23 thousand tons.

Dragon fruit production is also developing and flourish head to head with mangosteen. In these past years, dragon fruit had exceeding orange. Banyuwangi farmers cultivated red-fleshed dragon fruit, and the domestic supply is continuously increasing.

Through agro-tourism development, tourists could interactively plant and harvest mangosteen and dragon fruits, including the information and knowledge about the benefits of such fruits to health. ■



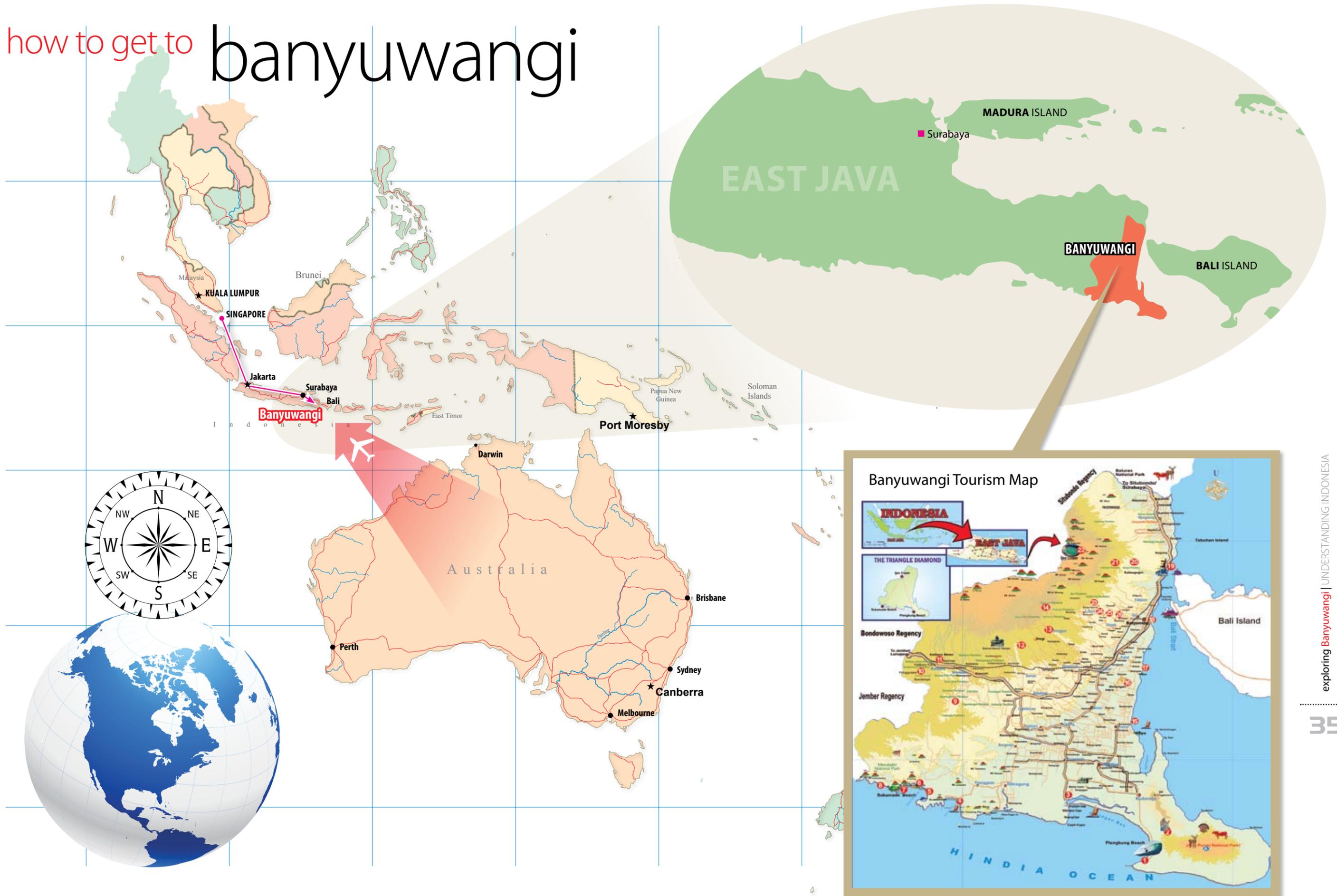
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