

Yogyakarta, Indonesia — 90-Day Survival Guide

0. City Overview & Quick Facts

Yogyakarta (often called “Jogja”) is Java’s cultural capital and one of Indonesia’s most liveable mid-sized cities. It is cheaper, calmer, and more Indonesian than Bali, but still has enough cafés, universities, and coworking spaces to support remote workers. The city sits at the foot of active volcanoes — Merapi to the north and a chain of dramatic peaks to the east — and is the gateway to two of Southeast Asia’s greatest monuments: Borobudur and Prambanan.

For nomads, Yogyakarta offers an attractive trade-off: rent is roughly half of Bali’s, food is outstanding and cheap, and the city is compact and walkable in its core. Downsides include weaker English outside tourist zones, hotter and more humid weather than Bali, fewer international-standard hospitals, and limited nightlife outside the student corridor.

Fact	Detail
Population	~375,000 (city); ~4 million (greater Yogyakarta metro)
Area	32.5 km ² (city); much larger metro
Elevation	~113 m above sea level
Language	Indonesian (official); Javanese (daily); English limited outside tourist areas
Currency	Indonesian rupiah (IDR)
Timezone	WIB (UTC+7)
Climate	Tropical; wet season Nov–Mar, dry season Apr–Oct
Religion	Mostly Muslim with Christian, Hindu, and Buddhist minorities
Power	230V, Type C / F plugs
Water	Tap water not potable; bottled or filtered water standard
Internet	Fibre 20–100 Mbps in city apartments; patchier in villages

Why nomads stay: very low cost of living, rich culture, proximity to UNESCO temples, strong local food, university-town energy, less tourist fatigue than Bali.

Why nomads leave: language barrier, limited international healthcare, fewer beaches, less polished infrastructure, and a smaller expat network.

1. Landing — First 72 Hours

Arrival at Yogyakarta International Airport (YIA) and Adisutjipto Airport (JOG)

Most international flights land at **YIA** in Kulon Progo, about 45 km west of the city. Some domestic flights still use **Adisutjipto (JOG)**, closer to the centre. Check your ticket carefully.

Airport to city centre

Option	Cost	Time	Notes
Airport train to Tugu station	IDR 50k–75k	35–40 min	Fast, avoids traffic; best for Malioboro area
Damri airport bus	IDR 25k–40k	60–90 min	Budget; drops near city centre
Grab / GoCar / taxi	IDR 150k–250k	45–90 min	Door-to-door; book in app
GoBike	IDR 40k–80k	30–50 min	Solo with backpack only

If arriving at JOG, the airport train to Tugu is even quicker and cheaper.

First 24-hour checklist

1. **Cash.** Withdraw IDR at the airport from BCA, Mandiri, or BNI. ATMs are common in the city but scarce in temple villages.
2. **SIM or eSIM.** Telkomsel, XL, and Indosat are all reliable. Passport required for registration. Tourist SIMs start around IDR 50k–100k.
3. **Transport apps.** Install Grab, Gojek, and sometimes Maxim (popular in Java and often cheaper). Top up via Alfamart/Indomaret.
4. **Base.** Most nomads start in **Prawirotaman** or **Malioboro** for the first few nights, then look for a monthly apartment.

Move-in tests

- AC test, hot water test, internet speed test (aim for 25+ Mbps for calls, 50+ preferred).
- Water pressure, window seals, mosquito screens.
- Confirm lease terms, deposit, electricity cost, and whether the landlord lives on-site.

2. Visa & Immigration

Yogyakarta uses Indonesia's national visa rules. The most common path for a 60–90 day stay is VoA + one extension; longer stays require a B211A visit visa or a remote-worker/KITAS route.

Option	Detail	Cost (2026 est.)
Visa on Arrival (VoA)	30 days; many passports eligible	IDR 500,000 (~\$30)
VoA extension	+30 days; biometrics at immigration office	Government fee + agent IDR 800k–1.2M
B211A visit visa	60 days, extendable up to 180 days total	Varies; usually via agent
Overstay	IDR 1,000,000/day; can blacklist/deport	Avoid entirely
KITAS / remote worker	Long-stay paths; require sponsor/proof of funds	Agent-dependent

Practical extension process 1. Enter on VoA. 2. Around day 20–25, contact a Yogyakarta visa agent. 3. Submit passport for a day when immigration needs biometrics/photo. 4. Collect before day 30.

Agents are cheaper and faster than doing it yourself if you do not speak Indonesian. Overstaying is not worth the risk.

3. Money & Banking

Cash dominates in warungs, markets, becak rides, and scooter rentals. Cards work at hotels, chain restaurants, supermarkets, and some cafés. QRIS mobile payments are spreading but can be hard to set up as a foreigner.

ATMs * BCA, Mandiri, BNI, and BRI are the main networks. BCA has the best withdrawal limits. * Withdraw the maximum to reduce fees. * Keep your card's daily limit in mind; some cards cap at \$500–1,000 equivalent.

Cards and apps * Visa/Mastercard accepted at mid-range places; Amex rare.

* Grab/Gojek/Maxim accept foreign cards. * Top up e-wallets with cash at mini-marts.

Local bank account Difficult on a tourist visa. Most nomads use Wise/Revolut plus ATM cash.

Tipping Not expected. Round up for drivers and leave small change at cafés.

4. Neighborhoods & Housing

Yogyakarta is compact but the vibe changes quickly from street to street.

Malioboro

The tourist heart: the Sultan's palace, Beringharjo market, street food, batik shops, and hotels. Busy and loud but walkable. Monthly rent for a basic 1BR apartment: \$200–400. Best for first-timers who want to be in the middle of everything.

Prawirotaman

The main backpacker and nomad quarter south of the palace. Quieter than Malioboro, with cafés, guesthouses, and small hotels. Many long-stay nomads rent rooms or apartments here. Monthly rent: \$250–500.

Sosrowijayan

Backpacker lane behind Tugu station. Very cheap guesthouses, social, but not ideal for focused remote work. \$150–300/month.

Sleman / north of the ring road

A student-heavy area around Gadjah Mada University. Cheap apartments, good local food, less English. \$150–350/month.

Near Borobudur / Magelang

Rural, temple-focused, quiet. Good if your main goal is sunrise at Borobudur and a slow village pace, but internet can be patchy and amenities limited. \$150–350/month.

Renting tips

- Facebook groups (Jogja Expats, Jogja Housing) are useful.
- Airbnb works for short stays but costs more than local listings.
- Electricity is usually separate. AC use in the hot season can add \$30–80/month.

- Many landlords prefer cash payment and a 1-month deposit.

5. Transport

Yogyakarta is one of Indonesia's most walkable cities in its historic core, but you will need motorbikes, apps, or buses for longer distances.

Scooters

- Rental: IDR 50k–80k/day, or IDR 800k–1.5M/month.
- Fuel is cheap (IDR 10k–15k/litre).
- Helmet mandatory; international driving permit (IDP) with motorbike endorsement strongly recommended.
- Traffic is lighter than Jakarta/Bali but can be chaotic; drive defensively.

App-based transport

- **Gojek / Grab / Maxim:** motorbike and car options. Motorbike trips around the city: IDR 5k–25k. Car trips: IDR 25k–100k.
- Maxim is often the cheapest but has the least English support.

Public transport

- **Trans Jogja:** air-conditioned bus with fixed routes. Fare: IDR 3,600 with card, slightly higher cash. Good for north-south corridors.
- **Regular buses:** very cheap (~IDR 3,000) but no fixed stops; say “kiri” to exit.
- **Becak (pedicab):** IDR 10k–25k for short Malioboro trips.
- **Andong (horse cart):** IDR 50k–100k for scenic rides; tourist-oriented.

Inter-city travel

- **Solo/Surakarta:** 1 hour by train or bus.
- **Jakarta:** 7–8 hours by train or 1 hour by flight.
- **Surabaya/Malang:** 4–6 hours by train or bus; flights also available.
- **Bali:** 1-hour flight from JOG, or long overland bus/ferry journey.

6. Food & Dining

Yogyakarta is one of the best food cities in Indonesia for budget eaters. Local specialities are cheap, filling, and everywhere.

Must-try dishes

- **Gudeg:** young jackfruit braised in palm sugar and coconut milk, served with rice, chicken, egg, and sambal krecek. The city's signature dish.
- **Sate klatak:** salted beef skewers from Bantul, grilled over charcoal.
- **Bakpia:** flaky mung-bean pastry; popular souvenir.
- **Soto:** aromatic turmeric meat broth.
- **Nasi kuning:** turmeric coconut rice, often cone-shaped.
- **Mie godhog / mie jawa:** Javanese boiled noodle soup.
- **Kopi joss:** charcoal-dropped coffee sold by street carts around Malioboro.
- **Wedang uwuh:** warm Javanese herbal drink.

Typical prices

- Gudeg rice meal at a warung: IDR 15k–35k (\$1–2).
- Sate klatak plate: IDR 25k–50k.
- Café brunch in Prawirotaman: IDR 40k–90k.
- Kopi joss from a street cart: IDR 5k–15k.
- Mid-range dinner for two with drinks: IDR 200k–400k (\$12–24).

Dietary notes

- Halal food is easy to find; the city is majority Muslim.
- Vegetarian options exist but are less developed than in Bali or Chiang Mai.
- Tap water is unsafe; ice in reputable places is usually fine.

7. Remote Work & Coworking

Yogyakarta has a growing but smaller remote-work scene than Bali or Bangkok. It is driven partly by the city's large student population and low costs.

Internet

- Fibre 20–100 Mbps is available in newer city apartments.
- Power is generally stable in the city centre; villages and older buildings may experience cuts during storms.
- Mobile 4G is cheap and works as a backup.

Coworking spaces

- The main cluster is in **Prawirotaman** and around the southern ring road.
- Day pass: IDR 75k–150k (~\$5–9).
- Monthly membership: IDR 1M–2.5M (~\$60–150).
- Spaces tend to come and go; check recent reviews before buying a monthly pass.

Cafés

- Prawirotaman and Malioboro have many laptop-friendly cafés.
- University areas (Sleman) have cheap student cafés but may be noisy.
- Expect to order every 2 hours if you camp for a half-day.

Time zone

WIB (UTC+7), same as Bali and Bangkok. Schedule overlaps with Europe are easier than with the Americas.

8. Healthcare

Yogyakarta has decent hospitals for a mid-sized Indonesian city, but serious or complex cases may require evacuation to Jakarta or Singapore.

Facility	Location / Phone	Notes
RSUP Dr. Sardjito	Jl. Kesehatan No.1; +62 274 587333 / emergency +62 274 583613	Major public teaching hospital; 24/7 ER
RS Bethesda Yogyakarta	Jl. Sudirman No.70; +62 274 563617 / emergency 0821-4887-1090	Large private hospital; English-speaking staff
RS Ludira Husada Tidar	Jl. Tidar No.30 A, Magelang; +62 293 362260	Private hospital near Borobudur
RS Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta	Jl. KH. Ahmad Dahlan; +62 274 512653	Private city-centre hospital
Klinik Panti Rapih	Jl. Cik Di Tiro No.30; +62 274 514845	Catholic hospital/clinic

Travel insurance * Get a policy with outpatient coverage; minor infections and scooter scrapes are common. * Evacuation coverage is strongly recommended because the highest-level trauma/neuro care is in Jakarta.

Common health issues * **Dengue:** present year-round; use repellent. * **Bali belly / traveller's diarrhoea:** from contaminated water or food; drink bottled/filtered water. * **Scooter injuries:** common; wear a helmet and know your insurance exclusions. * **Heat exhaustion:** Yogyakarta is hot and humid; hydrate.

Emergency numbers * General emergency: **112** * Police: **110** * Ambulance: **118** or **119** * Search and rescue: **115**

9. Dental

Yogyakarta is not a major dental-tourism hub like Bali, but prices are still far below Western rates and quality is reasonable at private clinics.

Procedure	Typical price (USD)
Cleaning + checkup	\$25–50
Filling	\$30–70
Crown	\$200–500
Root canal	\$100–300
Single implant	\$700–1,300

Ask at RS Bethesda or look for private dental clinics in Prawirotaman and Malioboro. Standard travel insurance usually excludes dental.

10. Safety & Emergency

Yogyakarta is generally safe and less crime-prone than Jakarta or Bali's party zones. Most risks are traffic, natural hazards, and cultural mistakes.

Crime

- **Petty theft:** phone snatching and bag slashing by passing motorbikes are the main risks. Keep phones out of back pockets and bags on the non-traffic side.
- **Scams:** overpriced becak/andong rides for tourists, fake guides at temples, counterfeit batik. Use apps or agree prices in advance.
- **Drugs:** Indonesian drug laws are extremely severe; possession of small quantities can lead to long prison sentences or the death penalty. Do not risk it.

Natural hazards

- **Mount Merapi:** active volcano north of the city. Check alert levels before trekking or jeep tours; eruptions can close the airport and disrupt travel.
- **Earthquakes:** Java is seismically active. Know your building exit and avoid top-floor rooms if risk-averse.
- **Wet-season flooding:** some streets flood during heavy rain.

Motorbike safety

- Wear a helmet, closed shoes, and ideally long pants.
- Drive on the left; expect chaotic intersections.
- Do not ride after drinking; police checkpoints exist.

Cultural safety

- Dress modestly at Borobudur, Prambanan, and the Kraton: covered shoulders and knees.
- Remove shoes before entering homes and some temple areas.
- Speak quietly and avoid public displays of affection near religious sites.

11. Weather by Month

Yogyakarta is hot and humid year-round. The dry season is the best time for temple visits and volcano views.

Months	Season	Rain	Temp (°C)	Notes
Jan–Mar	Wet	Heavy	24–31	Cheapest; daily afternoon storms
Apr	Transition	Moderate	25–32	Improving weather
May–Sep	Dry	Minimal	24–33	Best for temples and Merapi views
Oct	Transition	Low	25–32	Last good month before wet season
Nov–Dec	Wet start	Increasing	24–31	Prices drop; rain returns

May is usually the hottest month. August is often the driest. Air conditioning is essential.

12. Shopping & Daily Life

Markets

- **Beringharjo Market:** batik, spices, produce, and everyday goods in the Malioboro area.
- **Malioboro street vendors:** souvenirs, T-shirts, street food, buskers.
- **Kotagede silver workshops:** jewellery and crafts in the old capital area.
- **Local pasar:** cheapest produce; go early morning.

Supermarkets and mini-marts

- **Alfamart / Indomaret:** on nearly every corner; basics, snacks, SIM top-ups.
- **Superindo / Hypermart / Jogja City Mall supermarkets:** larger shops with more variety.

Pharmacies

- **Kimia Farma, Guardian, Apotek K-24** are common.
- Many medications are available without prescription; use responsibly.

Laundry

Wash-and-fold shops are everywhere; typical cost IDR 8k–15k/kg.

13. Groceries, Markets & Meat

Cooking at home is cheap if your apartment has a basic kitchen. Local markets are the best value for fresh produce.

Fresh produce

- Tropical fruit: mango, papaya, banana, snake fruit, rambutan, durian.
- Vegetables: spinach, water spinach, bean sprouts, eggplant, chayote, cassava leaves.
- Tofu and tempeh are staples and very cheap.

Meat and fish

- Chicken is the most common protein; beef is available but can be tough.
- Pork is harder to find than in Bali because Yogyakarta is majority Muslim; look for Chinese-Indonesian or Christian-owned restaurants.
- Fresh fish is available but less central to the diet than on the coasts.

Water

- Tap water is not safe to drink. Use gallon refills or bottled water.
- Filtered water dispensers are common in apartments.

Spices

- Sambal, kecap manis, terasi, coconut milk, and fresh turmeric are Javanese kitchen staples.
- Imported Western ingredients are available in larger supermarkets at 2–4× the price.

14. Language & Local Etiquette

English is less widespread than in Bali. A few Indonesian phrases make daily life much easier.

Useful phrases

- **Terima kasih** — thank you
- **Tidak** — no
- **Ya** — yes
- **Permisi** — excuse me

- **Maaf** — sorry
- **Berapa harganya?** — how much?
- **Saya tidak mengerti** — I don't understand
- **Enak** — delicious
- **Pedas** — spicy
- **Tidak pedas** — not spicy

Etiquette

- Use your right hand for giving and receiving money, food, and business cards.
- Remove shoes before entering homes and some prayer/religious spaces.
- Dress modestly; shorts and sleeveless shirts are fine in tourist areas but less appropriate at the Kraton, Borobudur, and Prambanan.
- Greet with a slight nod and smile; handshakes are common but a soft grip is polite.

15. History & Culture Snapshot

Yogyakarta is the last surviving sultanate in Indonesia and a city shaped by Javanese court culture, Dutch colonial rule, Indonesian independence, and student activism.

Key historical layers

- **Mataram kingdoms:** the old Javanese capitals were nearby (Prambanan, Ratu Boko, Kotagede).
- **Kraton Yogyakarta:** still the residence of the Sultan and a centre of Javanese culture.
- **Dutch colonial era:** the city became a special region with hereditary sultan rule.
- **Indonesian independence:** Yogyakarta was the revolutionary capital (1946–1949) and retains a special autonomous status.
- **Student city:** Gadjah Mada University and other institutions make Jogja youthful, politically active, and artistic.

Arts

- **Batik:** Yogyakarta is one of the great batik centres; Beringharjo market and local workshops are good places to learn and buy.
- **Wayang kulit:** shadow-puppet theatre, often performed at the Kraton.
- **Gamelan and classical Javanese dance:** still practised and taught.
- **Contemporary art:** AFFA Museum, Art:1 New Museum, and numerous galleries.

16. Tourism & Day Trips

Yogyakarta's main draws are within easy reach of the city.

Within the city

- **Kraton Yogyakarta:** working palace of the Sultan. Entry ~IDR 25k. Visit in the morning for cultural performances.
- **Taman Sari Water Castle:** royal baths, underground tunnels, and pools. Entry IDR 15k–25k.
- **Beringharjo Market:** batik, spices, and local chaos.
- **Kotagede:** old Mataram capital; silver workshops and historic lanes.
- **Affandi Museum:** works of Indonesia's best-known expressionist painter. Entry ~IDR 50k.
- **Ullen Sentalu Museum:** Javanese art and culture in a stylish setting near Kaliurang. Entry ~IDR 100k.

UNESCO temples

- **Borobudur:** 9th-century Buddhist monument, the largest in the world. Foreigner entry ~IDR 455k. Sunrise tickets cost more and must be booked in advance.
- **Prambanan:** 9th-century Hindu temple compound. Foreigner entry ~IDR 362k–400k. Sunset is spectacular.
- **Ratu Boko:** hilltop ruins near Prambanan; good for sunset views.
- **Mendut and Pawon:** smaller Buddhist temples near Borobudur.

Volcano and nature

- **Mount Merapi jeep tour:** IDR 450k–700k per jeep for a 1.5–2 hour lava-field sunrise tour.
- **Kaliurang:** viewpoint and forest area on Merapi's southern slopes.
- **Dieng Plateau:** full-day trip to highland Hindu temples, crater lakes, and cool weather; ~3 hours from Yogyakarta.
- **Pindul Cave tubing:** underground river tubing near Gunungkidul.

Beaches and south coast

- **Parangtritis Beach:** black-sand beach south of the city; popular local weekend spot.
- **Timang Beach:** dramatic gondola ride to a rocky outcrop; full-day tour from IDR 350k.
- **Gunungkidul beaches:** quieter white-sand coves further east; best visited by scooter or driver.

17. Master Links

Resource	URL / Contact	Use For
Indonesian Immigration	imigrasi.go.id	Visa rules and extensions
Indonesian e-Visa	evisa.imigrasi.go.id	Apply online
Borobudur / Prambanan tickets	ticket.injourneydestination.id	Official temple tickets
RSUP Dr. Sardjito	+62 274 587333	Major public hospital
RS Bethesda Yogyakarta	+62 274 563617	Private hospital
Wikivoyage Yogyakarta	en.wikivoyage.org/wiki/Yogyakarta	Independent travel info
Gadjah Mada University	ugm.ac.id	Language courses, events

18. Final Budget Table

Monthly cost-of-stay estimates for Yogyakarta, in USD. FX rate used: **16,500 IDR = 1 USD** (rounded for planning).

Category	Lean Nomad	Comfortable Nomad	Premium Nomad
Room	\$180 (guesthouse / local apartment / shared house)	\$380 (private 1BR apartment in Prawirotanaman/Sleman)	\$800 (upmarket serviced apartment or villa)
Food	\$130 (warung food, self-catering)	\$250 (mix of warung + cafés/restaurants)	\$450 (daily restaurant meals, imported groceries)
Transport	\$35 (scooter rental + fuel or app bikes)	\$70 (scooter + some car trips)	\$140 (private driver days + scooter)
Coworking	\$0 (cafés / home Wi-Fi)	\$70 (day passes or basic monthly)	\$140 (dedicated desk or private office)
Insurance	\$40 (basic travel insurance)	\$80 (travel insurance with outpatient cover)	\$150 (comprehensive nomad insurance + evacuation)

Category	Lean Nomad	Comfortable Nomad	Premium Nomad
Visa	\$25 (VoA amortised + extension)	\$35 (VoA + agent)	\$60 (B211A or longer-stay visa)
Entertainment	\$50 (temple visits, local events)	\$170 (temples, day trips, cafés)	\$350 (daily tours, fine dining, weekend trips)
Buffer	\$20	\$35	\$80
TOTAL / month	\$480	\$1,090	\$2,170
90-DAY TOTAL	\$1,440	\$3,270	\$6,510

Assumptions by Tier

Lean Nomad (~\$480/mo) Guesthouse or shared local apartment, warung food for every meal, scooter or app bikes, no coworking membership, basic insurance, minimal temple/day-trip spending.

Comfortable Nomad (~\$1,090/mo) Private 1BR in Prawirotaman or Sleman, mix of warung and café meals, scooter plus occasional car, flex coworking pass, decent insurance, regular temple visits and weekend trips.

Premium Nomad (~\$2,170/mo) Upmarket apartment or villa, daily restaurant dining, private driver days plus scooter, dedicated coworking desk, comprehensive insurance, frequent tours to Borobudur, Prambanan, Merapi, and beyond.

19. Glossary of Local Terms

- **Gudeg** — sweet jackfruit stew, Yogyakarta’s signature dish
- **Sate klatak** — salted beef skewers from Bantul
- **Bakpia** — flaky mung-bean pastry
- **Kopi joss** — charcoal-dropped coffee
- **Wedang uwuh** — warm Javanese herbal drink
- **Becak** — pedicab
- **Andong** — horse-drawn cart
- **Ojek** — motorbike taxi
- **Angkot** — shared minivan
- **Pasar** — market
- **Beringharjo** — central market near Malioboro
- **Kraton** — royal palace
- **Candi** — temple
- **Terima kasih** — thank you
- **Tidak** — no

- **Permisi** — excuse me

20. Sources & Credits

- Wikipedia — Yogyakarta
- Wikivoyage — Yogyakarta
- Indonesian Immigration (imigrasi.go.id)
- Borobudur / Prambanan official ticketing (injourneydestination.id)
- RSUP Dr. Sardjito and RS Bethesda Yogyakarta listings
- Local cost estimates from Numbeo, Nomads.com, and Jogja expat forums
- Weather and transport data from official and travel sources

Compiled: 2026-07-16. Confirm visa, medical, and attraction prices directly with official sources before travel.