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# Jakarta Inside Out



## Synopsis

A teeming metropolis of ten million, Jakarta remains one of the least understood cities in Asia. Here for the first time, the veil (and sometimes the sarong!) is lifted, exposing the city's idiosyncrasies with irreverent prose and striking photography. From love hotels to ladyboys, sweatshops to soap opera celebrities, pigeon racing to piracy, Jakarta Inside Out leads readers on an illuminating pop culture exploration of Indonesia's frenzied capital. This book is an essential tool for residents, visitors or anyone wishing to understand what makes Jakarta tick.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"...a light and entertaining book...JAKARTA INSIDE OUT makes compelling reading for visitors and residents alike." -- Endy Bayuni, The Jakarta Post, September 22, 2002"...direct and punchy text supported by stunning photographs...captures more than just a glimpse of Jakarta's underbelly." -- TEMPO Magazine, 21 October 2002"...marries the bizarre character of Jakarta to the new hip publishing format that is transforming coffee-table-publishing into pop art." -- Michael Vatikiotis, Far Eastern Economic Review, 31 October 2002"...newcomers to Jakarta will need information as politically-incorrect as this...while Jakartans will celebrate this as an everlasting memento." -- Nirvana Magazine, 21 October 2002"Excellent...A finger-on-the-pulse primer packed with edgy photos and good tips...Provides a technicolour glimpse of the city's underbelly. " -- Lonely Planet"Graced with striking photographs of city-life and irreverent, witty observations...It avoids the exotic cliches of most books on Indonesia." -- Time MagazineA witty book full of sharp observations.

-- Goenawan Mohamad, Tempo Magazine Not a conventional traveler's guide; Ziv is a joy to read. -- I-S Magazine, Singapore Striking photographs of city life and irreverent, witty observations...the ideal Jakarta primer. -- TIME Magazine Ziv expertly weaves city life with the tumultuous politics of the past five years. -- Far Eastern Economic Review

The Far Eastern Economic Review writes "Ziv expertly weaves city life with the tumultuous politics of the past five years. From the student demonstrations that helped bring down Suharto, to the hardships of ordinary city folk brought on by the financial crisis of 1997, there's no escaping the impact of politics in modern Jakarta."

The book is quite frank, perhaps a bit too much so, but don't let it scare you off from going, and don't use it as a quote source with the locals in JKT. I recommend Jakarta: 25 Excursions and Culture Shock! Jakarta for those traveling there. However, the content will prepare you for the realities of traffic jams and other realities of the city and people. I would, however, counter that the people I met there were extremely friendly and helpful, and want to learn to know and enjoy their city. Perhaps a look at what is modern and what is beautiful would also help. Do go to a mall and get a J. Co. coffee, and do take the bajaj within the city. Do tour on weekends, and hire a local guide (3-4 good sites if you do an internet search) to avoid trying to negotiate the city in traffic on a weekday -- all for a reasonable cost, including transportation. The local perspective will help you relax, enjoy, and go with the flow.

A very entertaining book, with many great accompanying photos. I am a native Jakartan living in the US, and when I found this book it instantly took me back to my hometown. This book reveals to the reader aspects of Jakarta not found in guidebooks, like the myriads of ice-drink concoctions to the ever-present Bajaj, arranged by the author in alphabetical order. Daniel Ziv has an intimate understanding of the city's many elements and he dishes them out in a way that blends the informative with humor and a bit of an irreverent tweak. I would recommend this to anyone who plans on relocating or spending an extended time in Jakarta, as well as to any travelers who gets a kick out of learning a bit deeper into the soul of the city they are visiting. The other book I would recommend highly is Culture Shock: Jakarta by Derek Bacon.

It's rare to come across a book that truly is valuable for novice and expert alike, that informs about serious matters while entertaining the reader, and that can be read quickly and yet is a "keeper" for

one's library. In Jakarta Inside Out, Daniel Ziv has written one of the best insider's guides to the dirty, messy, smelly, and yet fascinating Indonesian capital. In a series of one and two page essays on various categories peculiar to Jakarta, Ziv gives the reader new to things Indonesian a great introduction to the capital and country, and yet the long-time expert will also find much of value--not the least of which is Ziv's style. His text is a hoot, and the photographs he has chosen capture all the wackiness of Jakarta. Let's hope Ziv changes jobs frequently, allowing him similar sojourns in various Asian capitals and opportunities to produce more essential guides like Jakarta Inside Out.

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