

Betawi of Indonesia



The Betawi are considered the original inhabitants of Jakarta. They are often called "Jakarta People, Batavi, Batawi, or Jakarte". The authentic Betawi people can be found in the outlying areas of Jakarta, such as in Pasar Minggu in South Jakarta or Condet in East Jakarta and the area of Kampung Sawah in Bekasi, West Java.

In the inner city, the Betawi live as traders, civil servants, laborers, craftsmen or private employees. However, in the outskirts of the city (such as Jagakarsa, Cirasas, Cilangkap) most Betawi have agricultural occupations such as fruit growers, rice farmers, or fishermen.

Many Betawi orient their daily personal and communal lives toward Islamic ethics. An example of Islam's influence is the following four principles that are followed by most Betawi. First, at every encounter they will use the Islamic greeting, Assalamualaikum which is answered, Walaikumsalam. Second, they must perform the five daily compulsory prayer times. Third, a daughter must be married when she reaches the eligible age. Fourth, a guest must be served according to the full capability of the host. Their foundational philosophy is, "Blessings are for today. Tomorrow is tomorrow's matter." They believe that God will give blessings, but they also believe in the presence of spirits in places like trees, bridges, and graves.

The Betawi youth need access to scientific knowledge in order to adapt to the information and technological era. The lower rungs of Betawi society remain primarily agricultural and need to broaden their worldview. The Betawi must pursue higher levels of achievement, thrift and competition in order to survive in the large metropolitan area of Jakarta that greatly values productivity and efficiency.

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Primary Religion:

Islam

Disciples (Matt 28.19):

< 0.002%

Churches:

1

Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):

Population (date):



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Item Name	Item Note	
Have They Heard The Gospel?		Profile Summary
Believe In Jesus As God & Only Savior (%)	< 0.002%	
Number Of Churches	1	
Countries Where People Group Lives		Group Description
Country Name	Indonesia	
Society & Culture		Group Description
Social Habits/Groupings	It is difficult for the Betawi to be separated from their family. If they are in their hometown and experiencing difficulty, they can request financial assistance from their family members. This situation sometimes gives the impression that they are less industrious in seeking a livelihood compared with outsiders.	
Art Forms	The Betawi also have special arts such as folk theatre (lenong), giant parade puppets parades (ondel-ondel), traditional brass music (tanjidor), masks (topeng), and puppet theatre (wayang golek). However, today the Betawi are rarely involved in the presentation of their own traditional arts.	
History Of People Group	They originated from the mixture of peoples who arrived in Batavia (Jakarta's historical name) and they have occupied the port city of Jakarta since the 15th century.	
Comment (Culture)	The farmland is gradually decreasing because much of it is sold for housing developments, industry and other modern uses. Consequently, the farmers are changing jobs for more urban occupations such as laborers, traders, and motorcycle taxi drivers.	
Education		Group Description
Comment (Education)	The formal educational level of this indigenous Jakarta population is usually rather low. Possibly, they have connected "school" with the Chinese or Dutch Colonists' lifestyles, which they have rejected. This antipathy to public education is reinforced when Islamic teachers urge them to avoid government schools and instead study in Islamic schools (pesantren) and seminaries (madrasah).	