

## ACCESS TO MINANGKABAU

Indeed, Minangkabau is worth visiting because of its tropical climate, mild, without extreme high temperatures, where days are sunny and warm along the coastal plain, and fresh, cool mountain air up the highlands. The nights are comfortably cool, and rather cool up country.

Tourists from abroad can comfortably visit Minangkabau at any time during the whole year.

Airliners are operating in and out of Tabing Airport nearby Padang. Among them are the Garuda Indonesian Airways (GIA), the Merpati Nusantara Airlines.

The principal shipping lines offering regular service to and from the seaport Teluk Bayur, are the Pelni and the Jakarta Lloyd.

Visitors need a valid passport with Indonesian Visa. A tourist visa for up to 30 days is easily obtainable at all Indonesian Embassies, consulates or legations abroad.

The Indonesian currency is the Rupiah, abbreviated Rp., with the present exchange rate fluctuating around Rp 625.— to the US dollar. Foreign currency can be changed into Rupiah at authorized exchange offices of the Bank Negara 1945 or B R I in Padang or Bukittinggi. These exchange offices also accept travellers' cheques.

They can be bought at any antique shop in Padang or Bukittinggi.

Most foreign tourists choose Bukittinggi to be visited and many of them spend several days here because of its fresh and cool mountain air, and strategic location.

So, when you arrive in Padang, take a bus for a two hours drive overland to Bukittinggi. Public buses of the latest types of Mercedes - make serve daily communication between Padang and Bukittinggi, which covers only 91 km. Among the buses are the N P M, Tri Arga, Cemerlang, etc.

From Bukittinggi you can visit the following places of interest :

Places	Distance from Bukittinggi	Transportation
1. Sianok canyon	at the outskirts	by horse cart
2. Zoological garden & Art Museum	in Bukittinggi	by horse cart
3. Taman Wira Cakti	in Bukittinggi	by horse cart
4. Benteng or Fort de Kock	in Bukittinggi	by horse cart
5. Koto Gadang	weaving mills (8 km)	by "Mersi"
6. Pandai Sikat	for handicraft (16 km)	by "Oplet"
7. Lake Maninjau	± 30 km	by public bus
8. Lake Singkarak	± 37 km	by public bus
9. Lima Kaum (Historic site)	± 50 km	by bus
10. Puncak Lawang (top of Lawang) for sightseeing	± 30 km	by bus
11. Harau (waterfall & canyon)	± 25 km	by taxi
12. Air Mancur (waterfall)	± 30 km	by taxi
13. Sungai Jernih (fishes)	± 10 km	by taxi
14. Ngatau Kamang (Cave)	± 12 km	by taxi
15. Payakumbuh has its specific food and souvenirs :		
16. Bukittinggi has sanjai and karakaliang (cracknels) from the Dutch		krakeling
17. Padang Panjang has "dakak-dakak."		