

# Banyuwangi

East Java · Indonesia

## TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic




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## Overview

Banyuwangi is the easternmost regency on Java. It sits across a narrow strait from Bali and is much quieter than its neighbor. Volcanoes, savanna, rainforest and surf beaches all lie within one regency.

The main draw is the Ijen crater, where visitors hike before dawn to see blue flames and a turquoise acid lake. The regency also has several national parks, turtle beaches and a strong local culture. The Osing people keep their own language, dances and village rituals. This region suits active travelers who want nature and a slower pace, and many arrive from Bali by ferry.

## When to visit

The dry season, roughly June to September, is the best time for hiking and beaches. Roads are easier and skies are clearer. The wet season brings heavy rain from about December to March, and muddy trails and flooded river fords can stop trips to remote areas such as Sukamade.

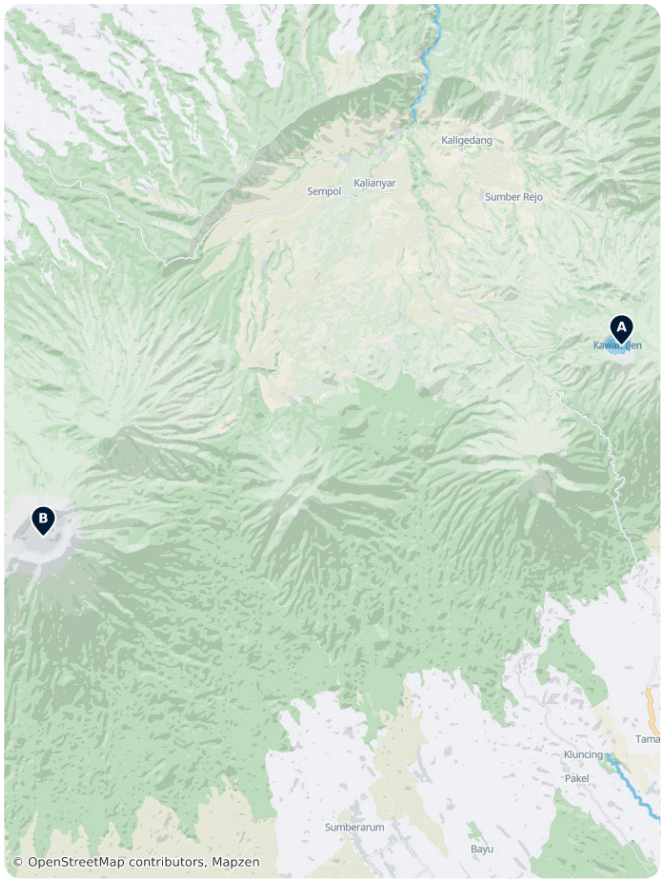
Dry months also bring wildfire risk. In September 2026 a fire closed the Ijen crater for about three weeks. Ijen also closes for a monthly cleanup day and can close for weather or volcanic activity, so check the official Ijen page before you book a tour.

The biggest local event is Kebo-keboan in the village of Alasmalang. Men dressed as buffalo plow a rice field in a ritual of the Osing people. It takes place once a year in the Javanese month of Suro, which starts at the Islamic new year.

| MONTH | CONDITIONS | DAY °C avg / max | NIGHT °C avg / min | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| January | Poor<br>Poor for wildlife watching | 29° / 32°<br>Feels like 34° | 25° / 24° | 27 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 11 (Extreme) |
| February | Poor<br>Poor for wildlife watching | 29° / 32°<br>Feels like 34° | 25° / 24° | 25 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 12 (Extreme) |
| March | Poor<br>Poor for wildlife watching | 29° / 31°<br>Feels like 34° | 25° / 24° | 24 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 12 (Extreme) |
| April | Fair<br>Fair for wildlife watching | 29° / 31°<br>Feels like 34° | 25° / 24° | 19 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 11 (Extreme) |
| May | Good<br>Good for wildlife watching | 29° / 31°<br>Feels like 33° | 24° / 23° | 14 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 9 (Very high) |
| June | Great<br>Great for watersports | 28° / 30°<br>Feels like 32° | 24° / 22° | Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 8 (Very high) |
| July | Great<br>Great for watersports | 28° / 30° | 23° / 21° | Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 8 (Very high) |
| August | Great<br>Great for watersports | 28° / 30° | 22° / 21° | Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 10 (Very high) |
| September | Great<br>Great for watersports | 29° / 31° | 23° / 21° | Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 11 (Extreme) |
| October | Great<br>Great for watersports | 31° / 33°<br>Feels like 34° | 24° / 22° | Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 12 (Extreme) |
| November | Fair<br>Fair for wildlife watching | 31° / 33°<br>Feels like 35° | 25° / 24° | 18 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 11 (Extreme) |
| December | Poor<br>Poor for wildlife watching | 30° / 33°<br>Feels like 34° | 25° / 24° | 25 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 10 (Very high) |

Climate data: NASA POWER (MERRA-2) · 1996–2025

## Top sights




- A Ijen Crater is the main reason to come. Miners carry sulfur out of the crater by hand, and ignited gas makes blue flames before dawn. A large turquoise acid lake fills the crater. The crater straddles the border with Bondowoso Regency.
- B Mount Raung is an active volcano west of Ijen. Climbing it is a demanding trip for experienced hikers.
- Baluran National Park is known as the Africa of Java for its open savanna. It lies north of the ferry port in neighboring Situbondo Regency.
- Alas Purwo National Park covers the southeastern peninsula. It has the Sadengan savanna, forest trails, and Plengkung beach, known as G-Land, a famous surf break. Visitors enter through the Rowobendo gate.
- Meru Betiri National Park protects the rainforest and coast in the south. Its Sukamade beach is a turtle nesting site.
- Pulau Merah (Red Island) is a surf beach with a small hilly island about 100 meters offshore that you can reach on foot. Beginners can surf the gentler waves here.
- De Djawatan Forest is an old grove of tall trembesi (rain) trees near Cluring, popular for walks and photos.

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## What to experience

- Hike to the blue flames at Ijen. The gate opens at 2 a.m. The climb to the rim takes about two hours, and the descent into the crater about 45 more minutes. Gas masks are required, and a guide is advised.
- Watch a Gandrung dance. This female dance of the Osing people is the symbol of Banyuwangi and is performed at local festivals and cultural events.
- Join a night turtle watch at Sukamade. Turtles nest on the beach almost every night of the year, and rangers guide visitors.
- Attend Kebo-keboan in Alasmalang in the month of Suro.
- Surf or learn to surf at Pulau Merah. The waves are mild enough for beginners. G-Land at Plengkung is for experienced surfers.

## Day trips

Most sights are far from the town center, so each trip is a full day. Plan a driver or your own vehicle.

- A Baluran National Park lies north of the Ketapang ferry port, in Situbondo Regency. Drive in for the Bekol savanna and look for banteng, deer and monkeys.
- Alas Purwo National Park: south of Banyuwangi on the Blambangan peninsula. Enter at Rowobendo for Sadengan savanna and the beaches. Surfers continue to Plengkung.
- Pulau Merah: about 60 km southwest of the city on the south coast. Go for the beach, the surf and sunset.
- Ijen crater: a night trip. Tours leave late at night so you reach the crater before sunrise.




## Where to explore

Nearby parks and mountains in East Java:

- For savanna wildlife, see Baluran National Park.
- For rainforest and turtle beaches in the south, see Meru Betiri National Park.
- Heading west, Bromo Tengger Semeru National Park has the Bromo volcano and sunrise viewpoints. It is a long overland trip from Banyuwangi.
- For big-city gateways, see Surabaya and Malang.

## Getting there

- By air: Banyuwangi Airport (Blimbingsari) has a small number of domestic flights. Many visitors fly to Surabaya or to Denpasar on Bali instead and continue overland.
- From Bali: take the car and passenger ferry from Gilimanuk to the Ketapang port. The ferry runs around the clock and the crossing takes roughly an hour. You can buy tickets in the ASDP Ferizy app. Ketapang Ferry Port is the port on the Java side.
- By train: trains from Surabaya end at the Ketapang area stations next to the ferry port.
- By bus: long-distance buses connect Banyuwangi with Surabaya and Malang, and with Bali across the ferry.

## Getting around

- Public transport: local minibuses and buses serve the main roads, but they do not reach the national parks or Ijen.
- Tours and drivers: most visitors hire a driver by the day or join a tour. Ijen tours usually include the night transfer and a guide.
- Motorbikes: rental is common near Ketapang and the town center. Check the roads and your license before you ride.
- Distances: sights are spread over a large regency, so allow a full day for each area.

### Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

**Low**

Sights are spread across a large regency and are reached by car, motorbike or tour.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

**Low**

Long distances and hilly roads make cycling impractical for most visitors.

## Driving

- Is a car worth it? A car with driver is the most practical way to reach Ijen, the parks and the south coast. Distances are long.
- Driving side: traffic keeps to the left.
- Rough roads: the last stretch to Sukamade needs a 4WD vehicle and crosses rivers without bridges. Heavy rain from December to March can make it impassable.
- Night driving: the Ijen approach roads are steep and dark before dawn. A local driver is a safer choice.

# Food & drink

Look for these local dishes. Sego tempong is rice with a very hot sambal, fried chicken or fish and vegetables. Rujak soto mixes a spicy vegetable salad with beef soup. Pecel pitik is chicken with a grated coconut dressing.

Eat at warungs (small family restaurants) in the town center and near the Ketapang port. Coffee grows on the slopes of Ijen, so try a local cup after your hike.

## What to eat & drink

### LUNCH

**Gado-Gado · gado-gado**
A vegetable salad with tofu and tempeh, dressed in peanut sauce.

**Padang rice · nasi padang**
A dozen or more small dishes brought to the table at once; you pay only for what you eat.

### SNACKS & STREET FOOD

**Krupuk · kerupuk**
Deep-fried prawn or fish crackers, a common side at nearly every meal.

### SWEETS & DESSERTS

**Martabak · martabak manis**
A thick, folded pancake filled with chocolate, cheese, or nuts, sold from street carts in the evening.

### DRINKS

**Kopi Tubruk · kopi tubruk**
Coarsely ground coffee steeped directly in the cup, Indonesia's everyday way of drinking coffee.

### SIGNATURE DISHES

**Nasi Goreng · nasi goreng**
Indonesia's everyday fried rice, usually with egg, chicken, and a fried cracker on the side.

**Satay · sate**
Skewered, grilled meat served with a peanut or sweet soy sauce.

**Rendang · rendang**
Slow-cooked beef in coconut milk and spices, originally from West Sumatra.

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## Safety & health

Banyuwangi is a relaxed region with little street crime. The main risks are natural.

- Ijen: sulfur gas can irritate the lungs. Wear the mask and leave the crater floor if the wind blows gas toward you. The rim path is narrow and slippery in the dark.
- Fires and weather: dry-season fires and wet-season rain can close parks at short notice.
- Sea: surf beaches such as Pulau Merah have strong currents. Swim only where locals do.
- Wildlife: keep your distance from banteng and monkeys in the parks.
- Water: drink bottled water.

## History

Banyuwangi was once part of Blambangan, the last Hindu kingdom on Java. Blambangan was fought over for generations by Javanese, Balinese and Dutch powers. The Dutch East India Company took control in the late 18th century.

Today the Osing people carry on that heritage. They are descendants of Blambangan and speak Osing, their own Javanese dialect. You see it in Gandrung dance, Kebo-keboan and village customs in places such as Alasmalang.

## Country facts

Check these basics before you travel to Indonesia.

CURRENCY
**IDR Rp**

EMERGENCY
**112**

ELECTRICITY



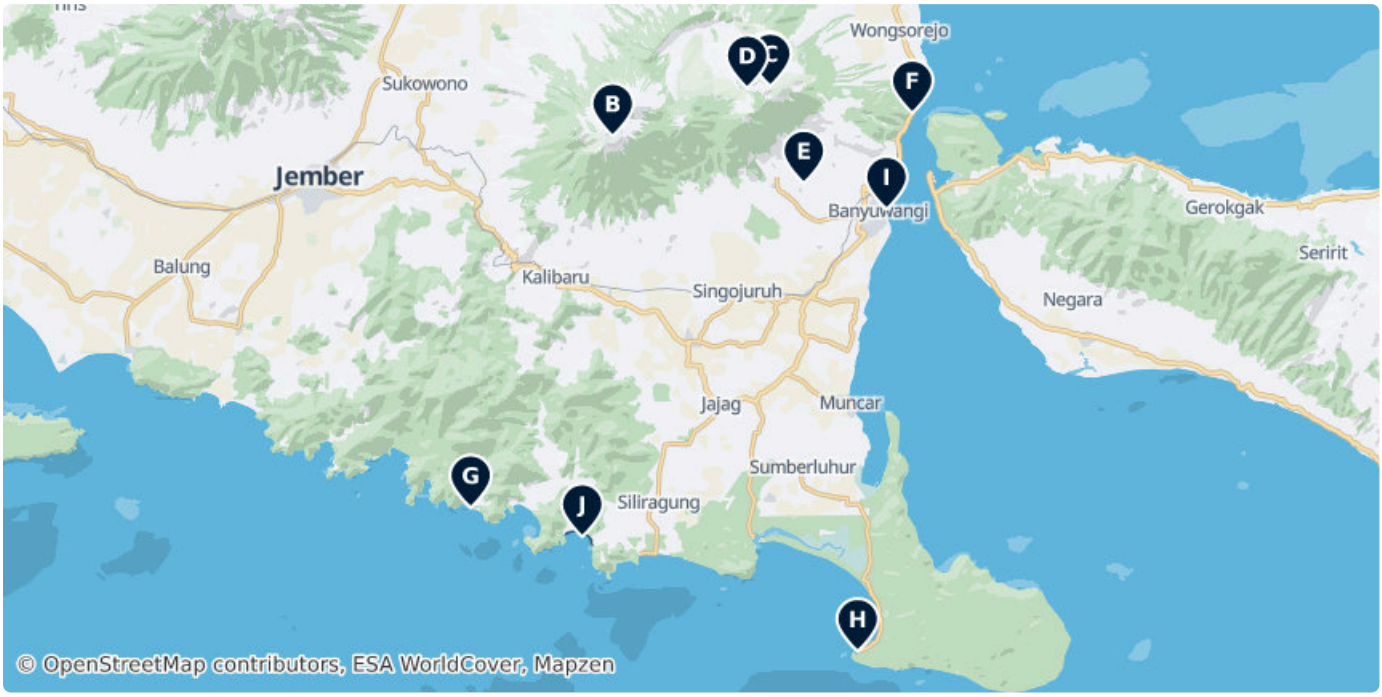
Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
Indonesian

TAP WATER
**Not safe to drink**

# Banyuwangi Essentials

Banyuwangi serves as the eastern gateway to Java, defined by the Ijen and Raung volcanic massifs. This collection features the Ijen crater, home to a highly acidic turquoise lake and rare electric-blue sulfur fires. The region's coastline includes G-Land's world-renowned surf breaks at Plengkung and the protected turtle nesting grounds of Sukamade within Meru Betiri National Park. Inland, the landscape transitions from sulfuric rivers like Kalipait to the multi-tiered cascades of Jagir, offering a diverse overview of East Java's geological and marine environments.






## A Ijen Crater

The Ijen volcano complex is a group of composite volcanoes located on the border between Banyuwangi Regency and Bondowoso Regency of East...

68453, Indonesia (-8.05793, 114.24310)



## B Mount Raung

The Raung, or Mount Raung is one of the most active volcanoes on the island of Java in Indonesia.

68195, Indonesia (-8.11964, 114.05503)

## C Blue Fire viewpoint

Situated on the rim of the Ijen crater, this vantage point provides a direct line of sight to the electric-blue flames caused by the combustion of sulfuric gases at temperatures up to 600°C.

(-8.06033, 114.24414)

## D Air Terjun Kalipait

A river of yellowish, acidic water flowing from the Ijen crater lake. The waterfall's high sulfur content prevents most vegetation from growing along its rocky, terraced banks.

(-8.06250, 114.21654)

## E Jagir

A multi-tiered waterfall sourced from three distinct springs. The site features three separate cascades located within a short walk from the road in Kemiren village.

(-8.17576, 114.28450)

## F Bukit Watu Dodol

A hilltop viewpoint overlooking the Bali Strait. It offers views of the ferries traveling between Java and Bali, as well as the Gandrung statue and the landmark rock formation below.

(-8.09237, 114.41475)

## G Sukamade beach

Located within Meru Betiri National Park, this remote beach is a significant nesting site for four species of sea turtles. It features an on-site hatchery and conservation facility.

(-8.56118, 113.88437)

Mo–Su 08:00–16:00

## H Pantai Plengkung

Known globally as G-Land, this beach is situated in Alas Purwo National Park. It is famous for its long, consistent left-hand barrel waves, cited among the best surf breaks in the world.

Indonesia (-8.73169, 114.34927)

## I Pantai Boom

A former commercial port near the city center, featuring a black sand coastline, a marina, and a landmark spiral pedestrian bridge. It offers direct views across the strait to Bali.

(-8.20678, 114.38375)

## J Pantai Pancer

A fishing village beach located near the foot of Mount Tumpang Pitu. It serves as an alternative surfing spot and a departure point for traditional boat trips to nearby hidden coves.

Indonesia (-8.59540, 114.01843)

## DATA SOURCES

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