

Good Guide to Social and Cultural Etiquette in Indonesia

Before you arrive in Sumatra, Indonesia, do a little research on local customs and cultural etiquette. This will help you a long way when you are travelling through the small villages. We have listed a few of the main ones below.

Enjoy your travels, if you need to understand something - just ask.

Respect the religion in Indonesia: Indonesia has the largest population of Muslims in the world and most identify as Sunny Muslim. If you are a female, its classed as impolite to wear skimpy clothing. When entering a mosque, women should cover their shoulders and hair. Men should wear long pants and long sleeves. We know you are on holiday and you want to enjoy your time, however, please respect the local religion.

Remove your shoes: Like most countries in Asia, please remove your shoes at the door, when entering a house.

Use your thumb to point at things: If you use the normal index finger, people consider that as rude.

Being affectionate in public: People tend to mind their own business, but often, people will give you nasty looks if you display affection in public.

Never use your left hand for anything. Don't eat with it, don't pick things up with it and don't touch people with it – as it's considered the hand you use to wipe yourself in the bathroom. Funny as that sounds, and if you just so happen to be a lefty, then you may struggle with this. If you see people staring at you, then you know the reason why.

When you met someone older than you: Always bend slightly when meeting or greeting an Indonesian older than you or in a position of authority.

For more helpful tips and ideas, you can look at the following website:

[The Official Website of Indonesia Tourism - Indonesia Travel](#)