

# Indonesia

## Visiting, Living, Retiring in Indonesia

The warm climes of Indonesia have attracted the attention of retirees from colder climes. While many come for a one-month stay on a tourist visa, there is now a way to stay longer, on a retirement visa. Other important issues related to retirement are [Purchasing Property](#), [Indonesian income tax](#) and [Medical Care](#).



"[How to Retire in Bali](#)" - as the title suggests is a complete to retiring in Bali. The guide book covers all of the essential information you need to know before contemplating a move to Bali, such as visas, health care, insurance, buying property, finding accommodation and adapting to life in Bali. The book includes interviews with retirees who have already made the move to Bali. You can learn from their experiences and come out with a better understanding of what it is actually like to live in Bali, rather than just visiting the island for a holiday.

## Retirement Visas - KITAS Lansia – Retirement Temporary Stay Permit

The Immigration Department has issued the long-awaited revisions to regulations that allow the granting of temporary stay permits for those over 55 years of age.

This facility to provide renewable stay permits of one year's duration was originally announced and regulated in February 1998 by the Keputusan Presiden RI nomor 31 tahun 1998, then completed in October 1998 by the Keputusan Menteri nomor M.04-IZ.01.02 tahun 1998.



In the first few years after the regulations were issued few retirees were actually able to actually get the visa due to the strict requirements. The "better explanation" of the regulations in April 2002 (*decree by the General Director of Immigration in law No. F. 492-UM.01.10, April 18, 2002*), brought the requirements within closer reach of the financial capabilities of most retiree.

The retirement visa facility is intended to assist those wishing to spend their retirement in Indonesia and has the following requirements:

- Applicant is 55 years of age or older,
- Possess a passport or travel documents with more than 18 months remaining validity,
- Submit full identification (copy of all passport pages) and four passport photos 4 x 6 cm,
- Curriculum vitae,
- Statement from Pension Fund Foundation or Bank from the country of origin (or Indonesia) of funds available, minimum of US\$1,500 per month, to provide the applicant living expenses during the proposed stay in Indonesia (Total US\$18,000 per year) (VERY stiff compared to other countries requirements - US\$600/month in Panama),
- Proof of medical/health insurance, life insurance, and third-party personal liability insurance in country of origin or Indonesia,
- Statement of living accommodation in Indonesia. Minimum cost of US\$35,000 if purchased house/apartment or, a minimum rental cost of US\$500/month in Jakarta, Bandung, and Bali; US\$300/month for other cities in Java Island, Batam, and Medan, and other cities a minimum US\$ 200/month.) in the tourist areas according to the regulations,

- Statement to declare employment of an Indonesian maid servant whilst living in Indonesia,
- Payment of Immigration Fee based on effective regulations,
- Sponsor letter from the appointed travel agency, costs to be paid by applicant,
- Statement agreeing not to engage in business activities or work for a living. You MAY NOT WORK in Indonesia on this visa!
- You may stay in Indonesia for one year on this visa, extendable for up to a maximum stay of five years.

You can enter first on a senior citizen visit visa (VOA) and then after a month apply for the limited stay permit (KITAS).

Typical fees for a retirement visa range from Rp 5 million - Rp 7 million. Note that the Keputusan Menteri nomor M.04-IZ.01.02 tahun 1998 and subsequent regulation M.07-IZ.01.02 TAHUN 2006, effective 31 August 2006, limits the eligibility of the retirement visa to citizens of the following countries:

|                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| Argentina        | Malaysia            |
| Australia        | Maldives            |
| Austria          | Malta               |
| Bahrain          | Monaco              |
| Belgium          | The Netherlands     |
| Brazil           | New Zealand         |
| Brunei Darusalan | Norway              |
| Bulgaria         | Oman                |
| Canada           | <b>Philippines</b>  |
| Cyprus           | Poland              |
| Denmark          | Portugal            |
| Egypt            | Qatar               |
| Estonia          | Russia              |
| Finland          | Saudi Arabia        |
| France           | Singapore           |
| Germany          | South Africa        |
| Greece           | South Korea         |
| Hungary          | Spain               |
| India            | Suriname            |
| Iran             | Sweden              |
| Ireland          | Switzerland         |
| Island           | Taiwan              |
| Italy            | Thailand            |
| Japan            | United Arab Emirate |
| Kuwait           | United Kingdom      |
| Liechtenstein    | USA                 |
| Luxemburg        |                     |

Various firms offer their services to act as a coordinators for seniors and must sponsor all those applying for this visa facility. One of these is [Rami Formalities](#).

Be advised that even on a retirement visa, you will be liable to pay [Indonesian personal income tax](#), taxed at the rate of 35% for incomes over Rp 200 million/year.

### **KITAP for Senior Citizens**

After extending the limited stay permit for five times (5 years), foreign retirees can apply for a permanent stay permit visa (KITAP) through a Senior Foreign Tourist Travel Bureau, as follows:

Application letter and guarantee from tourist travel bureau as a sponsor.

- License (SIUP) and tax number (NPWP) of the travel bureau.
- Appointment letter of travel bureau to handle the Foreign Senior Tourist.
- Curriculum vitae.
- Original and copy of valid passport
- Four photographs, size 2x3 cm.
- Statement of accounts, issued by Pension Fund Institution or bank/s declaring funds of not less than US\$1,500/month are available to finance his/her stay in Indonesia.
- Statement/evidence verifying actual stay at available accommodation facilities through the purchase or rental at minimum specified rates.
- Statement to declare employment of Indonesian maid-servant during his/her stay in Indonesia.
- The most recent, still valid, limited stay permit visa.

### **Naturalization for Senior Citizens**

After obtaining an permanent stay permit (KITAP), citizenship or naturalization can be sought in a process requiring one year, based on the qualifications of the retiree.

### **Property Ownership for Foreigners**

Changes to the laws in early 2010 are opening up some possibilities for financing of property purchases for retirees, see "[Indonesia Signals Modest Changes in Property Ownership Rules for Foreigners](#)" for more information. See also, [Buying Property in Indonesia](#)

### **Household Shipments on a Retirement Visa**

If the retiree already has already been issued a KITAS card, then there should be no problem in sending personal effects/household goods to Indonesia. Problems can occur when the retiree does not have the KITAS card in hand, but has already shipped their household goods.

We suggest that you use "door to door" shipment services so that the moving company in Indonesia can sort out the paperwork and clearance for you. Just talk with your moving company in Indonesia first and discuss that that you are on a retirement visa/KITAS, so there won't be any working permit requirement applied for the shipment clearance.

### **Personal Accounts** *(of the application process)*

The saga of one of the successful applications for a retirement visa:

I started the process with first getting the implementation procedure (*Petunjuk Pelaksanaan=juklak*) that was issued by the Director General of Immigration on March 2000.

With that paper I saw the officer in charge of KITAS at the immigration office on Jalan Surapati, Bandung. The man first said, that he did not have the JUKLAK. I keep insisting that the document exists. Finally he took it out of his drawer and said : "I have the document. I read it, but I have never used the new rule before. Get your stuff together and we'll see what can be done. Anyhow, since you are leaving for LA, get yourself a visa sosial/budaya. We will go from there."

These are the papers/documents I put together:

- Copy of my retirement statement from the retirement office in the US
- Copy of my health and hospital insurance coverage
- Copy of my life insurance policy
- Copy of my house rental contract
- Statement that I employ two Indonesians
- My abbreviated curriculum vitae
- Sponsorship and guarantee statement from my brother (Indonesian citizen)
- Sponsorship and activity statement of a Non-Profit Organization where I help for free

At the Surapati office I was told that I had everything I needed. Three days later, I was told to be at the immigration office. They gave a big envelope and told me to go with the envelope to the provincial immigration office at Jalan Jakarta. After waiting for half an hour I was called in. I handed the envelope to the guy behind the desk. He looked at the papers in the envelope and told me: "You can NOT get a KITAS yet. You have to be here, in Indonesia, four months continuously. Come back in four months."

I went back to Jalan Surapati and was told: OK. We will extend your Sosial Budaya visa, three or four times. After the fourth extension, I was told by the Surapati office that my papers are ready to be delivered to Jalan Jakarta. I was also told that after the Jalan Jakarta office , all the papers will be sent to Jakarta, first to the Justice Department and then to the Director General of Immigration. After everybody had signed in Jakarta, my papers would be sent back to Bandung, to the Surapati office. I almost gave up hope, but a friend at the Surapati office came to me and said: "Don't worry I'll see to it that the papers go to all those offices. The approval will be back here in two weeks."

Ten days later I got a call: "Your KITAS request has been approved. We need to take your finger prints and signature." The fingerprinting took two minutes. My passport had to be properly stamped and signed off and the KITAS had to be typed, stamped and signed off. All that took two hours. When I looked at my KITAS, I noticed it was only for six months. I asked the man in charge: Why only for six months, why not for a year?

The reply was: Come back here in five months, then I will extend it for a full year. That's the whole story. I hope this can be of some help for those who are interested in obtaining a retirement visa."

Note: The official cost for a KITAS Lansia (Lanjut Usia) is the same than for any other KITAS type, i.e., .IDR 700.000 as per Peraturan Pemerintah nomor 19 tahun 2007. However, we would advise anyone who does not want to spend lengthy hours in the Immigration office to use an agent for this visa. There are many pitfalls and to be honest, it is better to be extra patient.

To help avoid these hassles of trying to work it out your self use a qualified appointed agent like [Rami Formalities](#).