



*Description*  
of the  
**Route through Batavia**

COMPILED BY  
THE OFFICIAL TOURIST BUREAU  
NOORDWIJK 36, WELTEVREDEN

To Batavia

Coming from the Docks, motor cars proceed *via* the well-kept Priok Road, along the interesting harbour canal for *prahoës* or native cargo boats. At the left is the ultra-modern electric train, connecting Priok with Batavia and Weltevreden. After passing an electric power station a turn is made to the left, the road running along tropical scenery typical of Java. Twice the railway is crossed and then at the canal sluice gates the right hand side is taken *via* Jacatra Road to Gelderlandscheweg. At the end of the Gelderlandscheweg one's attention is drawn to a section of an old wall, which is surmounted by a white-washed human skull, transfixed by a spear point. A tablet below the skull, bears an explanation in Dutch and Javanese to the effect that "in detested memory of the traitor Peter Elberfeld, building on this spot is forbidden now and henceforth."

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Skull of Peter  
Elberfeld

Peter Elberfeld was an influential half-caste, who conspired against the Government, intending to massacre all Europeans in Batavia. The plot however was betrayed by a native girl, and the ring-leaders were beheaded.

Portuguese  
Church

A few yards further on, the Portuguese Church is reached, situated also on the right hand side of the road-way. In the Church-yard is the tomb of Swaerdecroon, who was Governor-General from 1718 — 1725. After passing the church the route is *via* the Binnen-Nieuwpoort Street (note the imposing Java Bank Building to the left) to the Kasteelplein — the nerve centre of Batavia in olden days.

Old Batavia

The lower city, as it is generally called, antedates Weltevreden (the upper town) by approximately three centuries. It stands as already said, on a site near the sea and was built in the old Dutch style, intersected by canals and narrow streets. As the town was very unhealthy, however, the Dutch were obliged to leave establishing the new town of Weltevreden, Batavia becoming the dwelling place of the natives and Chinese.

On the Kasteelplein the first building of importance in this old district is the Town Hall, standing on a large square. It is a substantial looking building dating from 1710 and at the



Willemslaan the left side of the Koningsplein is taken, one passes the head office of the Royal Packet Navigation Co., the Central Railway station, the Willemschurck and several private mansions. On Koningsplein South is the mansion of the Governor and the building of the Royal Natural Historical Society, which has a public library attached. On the west side the Museum is situated.

#### Museum

The Museum has a wonderful collection of images from Bhuddistic and Hindu temples, a large collection of objects relative to the religious and family life in all parts of the Netherlands East Indies, wonderful gold and silver work from Bali and other islands, and an interesting collection of old weapons. A visit to the Museum gives one a most instructive and complete idea of what is to be found in these regions.

#### New Suburbs

From the Museum a short trip should be made through the new suburbs via Koningsplein - Museumlaan - Tanah Abang West - Kebon Sirih - Menteng - Entree Nieuw Gondangdia - Van Heutz Boulevard - (Landhuis s' Jacob) - Boulevard Menteng - Pegangsaan (English Club) - Through Sluisweg and around Matramanpark - crossing Tjiliwoeng - Matramanlaan - Salemba (Medical College and Opium factory) - Laan Raden Saleh - Tjikini Pleasure grounds, formerly Zoological Gardens and Tjikini Swimming pool - Menteng - Koningsplein East - Koningsplein North - Gang Secretarie to the hotel.

#### MISCELLANEOUS FIGURES

Total population	300,000
Total Number Europeans	30,000
Average temperature	F. 79
(temperatures ranges from F. 74 to F. 86)	
Rainy season	November-March
Dry season	April-October
Postal Tariff; foreign mail	
letter	20 cents
postcard	12½ cents



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present time is used as offices of the Resident and his staff. A turn to the left brings one face to face with the Court of Justice. The Penang Gate, rather an unimposing piece of architecture dating from 1671, is a little further on. This gate once formed part of the walls of the city, which were subsequently demolished. Passing through this archway and just to the left, an old cannon is to be seen half buried in the mud.

Sacred Cannon

Its history is unknown and it bears no date, but the butt end is fashioned to represent a closed fist and has an inscription in Latin "*Ex me ipsa renata sum*" (out of myself I was reborn). The natives believe this gun has the power of fertility. According to native superstition, this old gun will some day be joined to its mate, a duplicate gun in Bantam, and that on that date the rule of the Hollanders in Java will terminate.

Fish Market  
Aquarium

*It is prohibited to take pictures of the Fish Market and environs.*

From the Holy Cannon one proceeds along streets lined with big godowns, and after crossing two bridges, the second one being a restored Dutch draw-bridge, the Pasar Ikan (fish market) is reached. The old canal leading towards the sea, which in olden times was the means of communication between the roadstead and the town, is very interesting for its pictures of native life. About 400 yards further ahead at the left side of the harbour canal is the Aquarium,



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Noordwijk 36

Waterlooplein

standing in the centre of a garden. The Aquarium contains wonderful specimen of fish of gorgeous colouring and of extraordinary shape. No visitor to Batavia should omit paying a visit to it. From the Fish Market a return is made to the Penang Gate, where a turn to the right is taken. The route is now *viâ* the Kali Besar – the modern commercial and banking centre – and through the Chinese quarter, a most picturesque part of the town. On the right stands a beautiful old building which gives a good impression of the type of architecture in vogue in Batavia centuries ago. Along Molenvliet, especially interesting for its scenes of native life, – Noordwijk (the main European shopping centre) – Sluisbrug – at the right side is a well kept park, with the Atjeh monument. In the centre of the park with the Tjiliwoeng river for moat, is an old fort called Prins Hendrik, a part of the old defense system of Batavia. The route continues *viâ* the Chatholic Church to the Waterlooplein. The white building on the East side was built by the famous Governor-General Daendels as a palace, but is now used as Government offices. Before the building is a bronze statue of Jan Pieterszoon Coen, the founder of Batavia (1619,) opposite the white house is the Masonic Lodge, at the other side the "Concordia" Club. At the end of Willemslaan, one of the streets between Waterlooplein and Koningsplein is a monument to the memory of General Michiels, who was killed in the expedition to Bali in 1849. Proceeding through



# TOURIST - MAP - OF THE DUTCH EAST INDIES

