

take shelter in
Surabaya

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Take Shelter In Surabaya



Surabaya (look at the cross sign on the map) is industrial city where you hardly find the tourism location. Pretty hot it was.

The Municipal Government and certain institutions have a common idea to develop some parks within. Let's say, to decrease the temperature, and prevent global warming.

Some of them are **Prestasi Park, ITS Forest, Bratang Flora Park and Bungkul Park**. All is green, unpolluted, sportable, and wi-fi supported.

Here, in this e-book, we have small note for you about the four. So when you feel weary walking in Surabaya, you can take a rest. Take a deep breath. Take a shelter.

Prestasi Park or Frustration Park?

Since 2007, Surabaya has achieved some proud of developing the public parks. Leafless zones have been conjured up to beautiful gardens. Few gas stations that built on green area were removed in favor of "Surabaya Goes Green" ambition.

But first, let's talk about Taman Prestasi (the Achievement Park). The Tourism Service of UPTD (technical service unit) THR/Taman Prestasi has handled the park since 2007. This garden has been getting much better from the time when it established in 2004.

Located at Ketabang Kali street, Prestasi Park has built on about 6,000 square meters. This is a good place where the family could relax themselves. Inhale the pure air (thanks to 21 kinds of plant here). Enjoy the toys. Experience the adventures.

There are playing grounds for children, and also small single-engine plane monument that can climb on. "My kid loves so much to play pilot on this plane," said a mother to me.

And oh, look at on the west side! The flow of Kalimas river splitting Surabaya city. Yes, we are welcome to do some river adventure there. But don't expect any adrenaline engaged like you do when [rafting](#). Kalimas is unruffled river.

On Sunday, you just need to pay Rp 2,000 to circle around some part of Surabaya via Kalimas river by a boat. And in other days, you have to find some companions first. Because the boat will be operated by the order.

To order this rowing/motor boat (called *perahu naga* or dragon boat) you must understand budget for gasoline and admiral (boat driver).

"From here to JMP (Jembatan Merah Plaza), for instance. A boat could use up the gas up to Rp 200,000. Give the admiral 50,000. So it'll be total Rp 250,000 for approximately 5 kilometers trip," explained Fery, The Tourism Service of UPTD THR/Taman Prestasi's staff.

Beside destination JMP, the other usual routes are Prestasi Park-Ngemplak, Prestasi Park-Submarine Monument (Monkasel), and Prestasi Park-Petekan bridge.

What if you don't like sailing? No problemo. You can still enjoy the fresh air in Prestasi Park, do jogging, bicycling, horse-riding. I don't know how it runs today, but the tariff was Rp 3,000 per head, per circle. And it used to be the children who ride on. Nah, don't worry, I'm sure the adults have more things to do.

Prestasi Park is not only living in the daylight. After sun goes down, one by one the young men and women come up, flirts each other.

The view of people hug and kiss are easy here. "Some says this is Frustration Park, rather than Prestasi Park, because it's been such place for coping the frustration with the one we love," smiled Ayu, someone who came with her couple.

Then I confirmed this to Fery. He didn't deny, either affirmed it. "If some people come into this place with his lover, can we forbid them? Moreover, they paid for entering."

"Ah, come on!" I debated him, "Since it no longer held by the Garden Service, everybody in-outs this park gratuitously, don't they?"

Silent.

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had no comment. However, Fery guarantees there won't be any immoral action in the Prestasi Park he guards.

Hm, maybe Fery just doesn't know the change from Prestasi Park became Frustration Park has been quiet popular for ones who "dating" here.



story [Iksan](#), photo [BlogSurabaya](#)

ITS Forest The Paradise of Wild Birds

As a man who had ever been lectured in ITS (Sepuluh Nopember Institute of Technology), I admire the park conception of this state institution. ITS's park is not crowded by low trees like any other parks, but the tall trees. It's a mini forest in campus.

We had proclaimed this area as the widest city-forest in Surabaya. Enter it, you will feel chilled after hit by the heat of Surabaya metropolitan. But what people may do not know much is, this is the area where the wild protected birds proliferate.

If one day you visit ITS, you would find a bird looking for the nectar around branches. It can be *Nectarina jugularis* (local name: *Madu Sriganti*). Or when circling around the wet soil near the lecturer's housing, you would see the big white bird stirring up the wet soil. It can be the *Kuntul Kerbau* bird (*Bubulcus ibis*).



The two birds are scarce species and protected by [Governmental Regulation No. 7/1999](#).

Some other scarce and protected birds inside ITS's forest are Bido Snake Eagle (*Spilornis cheela*), River Cekakak (*Todirhampus chloris*), Cow Hawk (*Falco mollucensis*), etc.

They are living with 52 other species in ITS forest. "Among those species, the 36 bird species are the scarce species in global scale," told Agus Satriyono, the Board of Pecuk, a wild birds'



lover club.

Why did the exotic birds love to be there? Agus guessed, it because ITS area is one of the north coast areas which possess the jungle. "Its wetland habitat and the leafy have been invited the birds to come, even stay."

The birds we're talking about mostly are the *Ardeidae* and *Alcedinidae* families whose life very depends on the existence of wet soil.

When the transitional season has come, there would be more birds stopped by on ITS trees. So far, they were around the ITS Stadium and Polytechnic campus. So Pecuk has often stayed tune for bird watching there.

Unfortunately, from 2004 to nowadays the birds' quantity is decreasing. "Perhaps they moved out for a new place, since ITS forest's has been shrinking either," Agus said.

Beside, the smoke from trashes incineration (thank to the janitors) and the bird hunting (thank to the irresponsible persons) are also distracting them.

Frequently we saw, several men carried a rifle in arrogant way, looked up to the poor beautiful birds. The "Shooting Forbidden inside ITS Area" sign was useless. Of course the arrogant people don't care whether those gorgeous creatures are scarce or not.

"For the securities of ITS, please do prohibit strictly the outsiders, and also insiders, who're trying to catch, trap or shoot the birds, stole the nests, in ITS. Me myself observed such activities at about 6 clock in the morning in around the Postgraduate Building," Alam, an ITS student, reported.



story **Brahmanto Anindito**, photo **Brahm** (first one) and **many sources**

Bratang Flora Park

Surabaya's Pollution Shield

When we walk along the side of this 2.5 hectares park, nothing is special. Thing eye-catch for me was only the tall trees view, such view that will connect us to something chilly and peace, even the park is in the middle of city's traffic (and pollution!). The Flora Park is more than we thought at first glance.

Located on Manyar Street, the park is so wonderfully managed. Neat. But leafy. According to Yudi Hardianto, UPTD Flora Park Surabaya's official, we can meet hundreds of plant in this garden. Some of them are rare, like Bisbull.

The park opens from 7 to 18 o'clock. Mostly, everyday it is crowded by Surabaya citizens itself. About 300 people continue in and out the park. When the week-end comes, the visitors even could reach 500 per day.



I tell you what I like from Bratang Flora Park. Go to the north side, there is a wide corral where 13 Bawean deer (*Axis kuhli*) live. Everybody may look and touch them, especially when they get close. But never feed them, because any food can make them sick, or worst: die.

Not far from the deer corral, you will see a big bird cage, with many kinds of bird inside. It's interesting too, if you ask me.



A lot of student used to do outbond place here. Walk further to the park's center, you will meet the 15 meters high of water gush. At each sides, there are sitting and reading place.

"On the whole, the visitors here are young people and family in small number," Yudi said to me. "If you want to come collectively, to held an outbond for instance, please tell the UPTD Garden first on Menur Street. Don't worry, it's free."

A wide fish pond is there too. The water is so fresh and clear so you can possibly see the fishes while dipping your feet there.

Walk through the south side of the park, we will see the leafy tall trees (still) and several play ground for children. That's why this location is suitable with family concept. Have fun with your children.

What about the security? Yudi proudly told me that so far there is no report of any criminal act. "So you don't feel anxiety here," closed the tapering guy with smile.



story and photos **Iksan**

Bungkul Park

Cemetery that Becomes Pleasure Garden

Waiting. Is something I hate, for sky and earth's sake! I don't know what's wrong with this girl. Every time she promised to meet, she has never been punctual. This attitude is very much like the classical Indonesians who never felt guilty when not being on time. What a shame.



I really detest waiting. I need a fresh ai... oh, wait a minute! I am in Bungkul Park Surabaya. Fresh air is everywhere!

God, this garden has been tidied up. Before these days, what was The Bungkul Park? No more than an ugly garden where most people only passed by.

But since 2007, Municipal Government has revitalized it into a stunning park with green things. It is delicious to look at now.

The Bungkul Park itself has existed since a long time ago, far before Indonesian independent's day. A landlord had been owned it. This one of Islamic figure in Surabaya's name is Ki Supa, a.k.a. Sunan (some kind of religious title) Bungkul, a.k.a. Ki Ageng Bungkul.

The sunan was kris (Javanese armor) maker for Brawijaya King in Majapahit, a formerly Indonesian kingdom whose territory was even greater than Indonesia Republic today. Bungkul is father-in-law of Sunan Ampel, one of *Wali Songo* (nine men who brought Islam to Java), by the way.

Sunan Bungkul and his family were buried in east part of this park. So, beside we can take shelter and cheer up in Bungkul Park, we may also make a devotional visit here.

My friend (was a captain of Indonesian Navy) once had invited me to go in. I said yes, and we were inside. Soon the “mystical” ambiance welcomed us.

There were grave, each of them was surrounded by men reading a pocket prayer book. Perhaps they hoped by implore facing a sunan’s grave, their pray would granted more easily. Oh no, this is not Islam I know.

What made Bungkul Park sinking more is the appearance of vagabonds. In 1990s, “When night came, the condition was very deeply saddened. The beggars and homeless drifters were sleeping and eating randomly here, as Bungkul Park their private residence,” a Kedondong quarter citizen reminisced.

Auspiciously, he added, the situation has turned out currently. “The vile Bungkul Park has dressed up. I think the green area is less thick than before, but neater and more gorgeous. Well-organized too! You can see guidance boards on each path. There is also the path for the disables. And jogging track too.”

Not only that, I suppose. Everyone may use the altar in the center of the park to do physical (positive) activity, including mass aerobic.

Hey, skate board and bike’s U field is there!
Organize a public spectacle like indie music performance?
You are welcome.
Just get the permission first. This is common rule in everywhere on earth, I believe.

Or, you only feel like to relax yourself? Not a bad idea at all. If



there is no public spectacle, Bungkul Park used to be peaceful and pleasant.

A worker from [Malang](#), Wawan, told that he loves to come to this Raya Darmo Street and Progo Street's park, "I can't smell the Surabaya's typical pollution. I feel like back to my regency already."

Wawan then also reminded me not to forget bring the laptop and enjoy the wi-fi access facility. When starvation attacks, walk a bit to the park's back, and see the food court around.

Hundreds of people visit Bungkul Park, everyday. The skater boys, the students as an informal discussion group, the families who try to enjoy the fresh air from this city's lungs ... and of course, someone who's waiting patiently like me.



Abruptly, my cell phone sounds. The one I am expecting for texts me, "*I think im gonna B late.msh ngetik bntar.sowry*" (I think I'm gonna be late. Still typing something else. Sorry.) I look the message's time. It's 09:23. That means she wrote this excuse message after 23 minutes to late. Great!

And guess what, she then comes after I've been waiting for more than an hour in boredom. (Sigh) Life is beautiful.

story **Brahmanto Anindito**, photos **Iksan**

<http://warungfiksi.net>