



JAKARTA RELOCATION STARTER KIT

FOR PROFESSIONAL

EAST JAKARTA

Jakarta Relocation Starter Kit for Professionals (2026 Edition)

Relocating for work to Jakarta – *the vibrant capital of Indonesia* – can be both exciting and overwhelming. This starter kit is a **comprehensive guide for professionals** (domestic and international) planning a **relokasi profesional ke Jakarta** (professional relocation to Jakarta). We've broken down the city into five key regions – **Central, South, West, East, and North Jakarta** – each with its own character, housing market, amenities, and lifestyle. Whether you're looking for a high-rise **apartemen Jakarta Selatan** (South Jakarta apartment) near the office or a quieter suburban vibe, this guide provides updated insights (2024–2025 data) to help you make an informed move. We'll cover area overviews, popular neighborhoods, housing costs, transport links, coworking hubs, leisure spots, pros and cons, relocation tips, and local FAQs for each region. *By the end, you'll feel prepared to start tinggal di Jakarta Timur or any area with confidence – and when you're ready, Noble Asia's team is here to help you find your perfect home and offer a private tour.* Let's dive in!

East Jakarta



Overview and Demographics

East Jakarta (Jakarta Timur) is the city's largest region by area and the most populous, with roughly **3.3 million residents as of mid-2024** (about 29% of Jakarta's population). It's often characterized as more suburban and industrial compared to the city center. Stretching from just east of the Golden Triangle out to the borders of Bekasi, East Jakarta encompasses a variety of landscapes: bustling markets and commuter towns, quiet residential complexes, and significant green spaces. The demographics here are predominantly local Indonesian families and workers who often commute to other parts of Jakarta. Key industries in East Jakarta include **manufacturing and logistics** – the **Pulogadung Industrial Estate** is a major hub hosting factories and warehouses. There's also a strong military presence with the **Halim Perdanakusuma Air Force Base** (and now the *Halim* stop of the new Jakarta-Bandung high-speed rail). Culturally, East Jakarta is known for preserving Betawi (native Jakarta) heritage; you'll find pockets with traditional Betawi houses and frequent *ondel-ondel* (giant puppet) appearances at events. Lifestyle in East Jakarta is more low-key and budget-friendly. While it lacks the glitzy malls of South or the skyscrapers of Central, it offers spacious housing at lower cost, local shopping centers, and a sense of community. Notably, East Jakarta is home to **Taman Mini Indonesia Indah** – a 150-hectare cultural theme park showcasing Indonesian heritage, which is a beloved recreational spot. Overall, East Jakarta provides a more relaxed pace of city life, suitable for those who prefer a neighborhood feel and possibly more space (it's common to find houses with yards here) while still being in the capital.

Top Neighborhoods for Professionals

East Jakarta might not be the go-to for expats traditionally, but it has several neighborhoods that are convenient and pleasant for professionals, especially those working in eastern parts of the city or seeking affordable options:

- **Cawang and Jatinegara:** These areas sit at the western edge of East Jakarta, closer to the city center. **Cawang** is a strategic node – it's where major roads and the **Cawang interchange** meet (toll roads to Bekasi and to South/Central). It also has the **Dukuh Atas LRT station** nearby now (Jabodebek LRT). Many government offices (like the Ministry of Finance training center) and offices line MT Haryono street in Cawang. Living here, you have apartments like *Signature Park Grande* and *The H Tower* aimed at young professionals. **Jatinegara**, known for its traditional market and train station, has older charm and new developments (Bassura City superblock is a notable one with Bassura Mall and apartments, popular for its reasonable rent and on-site facilities). Professionals choose these areas for excellent connectivity – you can get to central Jakarta in 15-30 minutes by train or bus, and you're at a nexus for going south or east.
- **Kalibata and Pasar Minggu (East edge of South Jakarta):** Though administratively South Jakarta, they border East and share characteristics. **Kalibata City** apartment complex is a famous affordable option especially for young professionals or students – it's a city within a city, with its own mall and tons of small units for rent. It's right by the KRL station so commuting to downtown is easy. Nearby **Cililitan** in East Jakarta has the PGC mall and many commerce. If you work around the TB Simatupang business district (South, but nearby), living here is convenient and cheaper than South proper.

- **Rawamangun and Pulogadung:** **Rawamangun** is an established residential area known for its university (UNJ – State University of Jakarta) and a large bus terminal. It has a number of cozy residential pockets with landed houses, plus some mid-rise apartments. Rawamangun feels neighborly, with tree-lined streets and favorite local eateries (e.g. Soto Betawi H. Ma'ruf). **Pulogadung**, adjacent, is more industrial but also has a large residential population working in those industries. For someone working in **Pulogadung Industrial Estate**, living in Rawamangun or Pulomas can cut commute time. Also, the **Jakarta LRT (Velodrome station)** is in Rawamangun, connecting to Kelapa Gading, which adds to appeal. Apartments around Rawamangun like *Tifolia* and *Callia* are relatively new and moderately priced.
- **Ciracas and Cibubur:** On the southeastern fringe, **Ciracas** and **Cibubur** offer a more suburban vibe. Cibubur (partly East Jakarta, partly Depok) is known for its large housing complexes and even townhouses targeting middle-class families. It's greener and quieter, popular with those who don't mind driving. A lot of new townships have been developed here (like Kota Wisata, though that's slightly outside Jakarta border). If you work in East Jakarta or even in the new capital project (which might eventually connect via tolls), this side is nice. It is farther from central – commuting daily could be a pain due to traffic on Jagorawi toll – but with **high-speed rail at Halim** and future LRT, connectivity is improving.
- **Kramat Jati and Pasar Rebo:** These areas are central within East Jakarta. **Kramat Jati** has a famous wholesale market (Pasar Kramat Jati) and is otherwise a residential district. It's near the toll road and the Jakarta Outer Ring Road, so driving to various parts is straightforward. **Pasar Rebo** is near the fringe, hosting the Jakarta OBI (one of Jakarta's main hospitals) and the start of Bogor highway. People who have jobs in greater Jakarta (like Bogor, Depok) sometimes settle here to be in between. Housing here is mostly houses or townhouses rather than high-rises, and you can find relatively large homes at lower rent compared to inner city.

In essence, East Jakarta's "best" neighborhoods may not have the brand recognition of Kemang or Menteng, but they offer strategic location for those with offices in East or needs to travel out of city, and they cater well to families with a need for space or professionals on a tighter budget.

Average Rental and Purchase Prices

East Jakarta is known for more **affordable housing** in the Jakarta context. Let's detail the costs:

Rental Prices: East Jakarta's rent spectrum starts quite low compared to other regions. According to sources, *affordable apartments in East Jakarta start from around IDR 2 million per month* for a basic studio – indeed, apartments like **Gading Icon (Kelapa Gading border)** or **Casablanca East (Klender)** have small units in the 2-3 million range. On average, you can get a decent **2-bedroom apartment for around IDR 4–5 million/month** in many East Jakarta complexes, which is the lowest among Jakarta regions. For example, at **Bassura City** (Cipinang), a 2BR was often listed ~Rp 5 million. Even the new LRT-connected **Tifolia** or **Urban Signature** in Pulomas have 1BRs in the 3-4 million range. Landed houses for rent are also cheaper – you might find a simple 3BR house with a small yard in, say, Cijantung or Klender for Rp 4–6 million/month, which is very hard to come by in South/Central. Higher-end options: East Jakarta does have a few luxe

apartments (like **The Oasis in Cawang** or **equivalent**), but they top out maybe at Rp 8–10 million for a large 3BR penthouse, still less than a similar unit elsewhere. Notably, East Jakarta likely has the **lowest average living cost** among Jakarta regions – BPS data often shows household expenditure slightly lower than others. So, rent plus daily expenses here can really stretch your rupiah further.

Purchase Prices: Buying in East Jakarta is also relatively affordable. Many new apartment projects here cater to middle-class buyers with prices perhaps **IDR 20-30 million per m²**, depending on location and stage of completion. For instance, off-plan apartments in Cawang or Jatinegara might sell at ~Rp 25 mil/m², while older ones can be below Rp 20 mil. The Global Property Guide notes non-prime Jakarta areas (which include East) averaging **IDR 27.2 million/m²**. If you dream of owning a landed house, East Jakarta could be your chance within the capital – land prices in areas like Pondok Bambu or Setu start lower than in West or South. You could find small plots in some neighborhoods for maybe IDR 10–15 million/m², whereas central areas would be multiples of that. Thus, a house with a yard might be achievable if that's your long-term plan. Investors sometimes eye East Jakarta because infrastructure like the LRT and high-speed rail can boost property values in connected areas (e.g., around Halim or Cawang, property prospects have improved). One tip: Always check the developer's credibility; because East has many budget apartments, ensure the building quality and management won't be an issue down the line.

Summary: East Jakarta is the **budget-friendly frontier** of the city. Renting here can save significant money – you could easily save 30-50% on rent compared to a similar space in South/Central, which you might channel into other investments or simply enjoy a higher disposable income. Buying also offers more choices in moderate price brackets, whether a condo or a modest house, making East an attractive option for young professionals planning to settle down.

Access to Public Transport (MRT, LRT, KRL, Bus)



East Jakarta's transport landscape is evolving, with new projects coming online recently. Here's the situation:

- **Commuter Rail (KRL):** The main **Jakarta-Bekasi KRL line** cuts through East Jakarta. Key stations: **Jatinegara** (a big junction just at the border of East/Central), **Klender**, **Buaran**, **Cakung** (East Jkt, then onward to Bekasi). If you live near these, you have a direct train to Sudirman/Tanah Abang/Kota by transferring at Jatinegara or Manggarai. Another line is the **Jakarta-Bogor line** skirting the very south-west of East Jkt, with **Tebet and Cawang** station (though those might be just inside South's border) – still accessible to East Jakarta residents near Kuningan border. KRL is crowded but efficient; many East residents take it daily from Bekasi/Cakung to downtown.
- **TransJakarta Buses:** East Jakarta has extensive busway coverage. **Corridor 10** (Tanjung Priok – Cililitan) goes north-south in East, connecting to the Cililitan terminal (PGC mall). **Corridor 7** (Kampung Rambutan – Ancol) also serves East areas like Kampung Melayu. **Corridor 9** (Pluit – Pinang Ranti) runs east-west along MT Haryono (with stops in Cawang). And the new **BRT links** serve areas like Bekasi from East Jakarta. Essentially, you can get a TransJakarta bus from points like **Pulogadung Terminal** or **Kampung Rambutan** to most parts of the city. The dedicated lanes might end as you near central, but at least partially your ride is swift. Also, feeder minibuses (MikroTrans)

circulate within neighborhoods to these terminals for a 1-time fare.

- **MRT:** Currently, the north-south MRT ends at Dukuh Atas in Central. The planned East-West MRT (Phase 3) will eventually cross East Jakarta (likely from Ujung Menteng through Kalimalang to West Jakarta). But that's some years away (construction planned 2024 onwards). So no MRT in East yet. However, East residents often use the **MRT by commuting to South**: e.g., if you live in Cawang, you might take a short KRL or bus to **Setiabudi MRT Station** or **Dukuh Atas** then MRT onward. When phase 3 opens, it'll be a game-changer: a direct MRT line along **Jl. Basuki Rahmat (Kalimalang)** is expected – possibly hitting areas like Cipinang, Cawang. Keep an eye on that, as property along Kalimalang might surge.
- **LRT (Light Rail Transit): Yes!** Jakarta's first LRT line (separate from Jabodebek) is in East/North. It runs from **Pegangsaan Dua (Kelapa Gading)** to **Velodrome (Rawamangun)**. Though relatively short, it is operational and serves residents of Kelapa Gading and Rawamangun. For East Jakarta folks, it's useful if you're near Pulomas or Rawamangun to go to Kelapa Gading's malls without driving (also a further phase is planned to connect it to Dukuh Atas central, but timeline unclear). Additionally, the new **Jabodebek LRT** has lines from Bekasi and Cibubur that converge at **Cawang** and go to Dukuh Atas. For example, from **Halim or Cawang East Jakarta, you can board the LRT to central**. This opened in 2023, providing a shiny new option that avoids traffic. So if you live near **Halim, Cawang, Jatiwarna**, etc., check out the LRT stops – it might cut a lot of commute time.
- **High-Speed Rail:** While not inner-city transport, worth noting: the **Jakarta-Bandung HSR** terminus is at **Halim Station** (in East Jakarta). If you travel to Bandung for work or leisure, from late 2023 onward you could zip to Bandung in 45 minutes from there. Halim is accessible via LRT or a short drive from Cawang. It puts East Jakarta on the map as a national transport node.
- **Road Network:** East Jakarta has **excellent toll road access**. The **Jagorawi Toll** (to Bogor) starts in East, the **Jakarta-Cikampek Toll** (to Bekasi/Bandung) runs through it, and the **JORR (Outer Ring)** arcs across it. If you drive, living near a toll gate like in Cibubur or Cakung is great for weekend escapes or reaching far-flung areas. However, **traffic on arterial roads** can be heavy: e.g., Jalan Kalimalang (to Bekasi) is often jammed, as is Jalan Dewi Sartika or Jalan Raya Bogor during rush hours. East-west travel inside East Jkt, like from Cipayung to Pulogadung, can be slow due to limited big roads – many use the toll or circumnavigate.
- **Biking/Walking:** Some East Jakarta areas have more space for biking (Cibubur has a community of cyclists thanks to slightly less dense traffic and access to rural routes). **Taman Mini** area is good for jogs or biking inside the park. Walking is like elsewhere in Jakarta – do-able in residential streets, but main roads might lack sidewalks. However, East being more suburban in parts means you might actually stroll around your housing complex comfortably, and many do morning jogs in their neighborhoods.

In summary, **connectivity in East Jakarta is decent and improving**. If you leverage the KRL and LRT, you can reach central Jakarta fairly smoothly. Buses cover everything else. And if you drive, outside peak hours East's tolls make it swift to go places (but at peak, tolls jam too). The big deals are the LRT and future MRT, which increasingly integrate East Jakarta into the city's modern transit network.

Coworking Spaces and Corporate Hubs



East Jakarta may not be a traditional business hub, but it has its share of offices and is catching up with the coworking trend as well.

Corporate Hubs in East Jakarta:

- **MT Haryono / Cawang:** Along the MT Haryono corridor (in southern East Jkt) are several office buildings, often housing government agencies or back-offices of companies. For example, **Wisma Aldiron, Graha Dirgantara**, and some bank offices are there. Nearby **Halim area** might see a surge with the high-speed rail – possibly new transit-oriented developments.
- **Kawasan Industri Pulogadung:** This is a key industrial estate. Many manufacturing companies (pharmaceuticals, consumer goods, electronics) have factories and sometimes head offices here. Professionals in engineering or operations might find themselves here. It's more factories than fancy offices, but still a concentration of business activity.
- **Kuningan Timur / Kalibata:** On the western edge, near Kalibata, there's **Graha PLN** (state electricity company HQ), and at the very border, **some Kuningan offices spill into East** (like around Casablanca area). If you live in East Jkt, some workplaces in South are actually quite close.
- **East Jakarta Provincial Offices:** East Jakarta has its own municipal offices, and some national ministries have branches or training centers here (e.g., Ministry of Social, some police academies,

etc.). So public sector professionals might be stationed in East for those.

- **Retail and Others:** East Jakarta has big retail warehouses (e.g. giant **Carrefour distribution center** in Pulogadung) and a lot of automotive dealerships and service centers (along Jl. Raya Bekasi etc.). If you're in retail management or auto industry, you might frequent these. Also, media: the main studios of **TVRI (state TV)** are in East Jakarta (Senayan is for office, East for studios).

Coworking Spaces: Coworking is naturally less dense than in CBDs, but it's emerging, especially with many startups trying to tap into university talent from East Jakarta (like from Univ. of Indonesia in nearby Depok or UNJ in Rawamangun).

- *CoHive East Jakarta* – CoHive (before downsizing) had a space at **Plaza Basmar** in Jatinegara if recall. There might still be coworking facilities in that mall or area by other providers.
- *Workspace Cibubur* – With new developments, some coworking pop up in outer areas in ruko (shophouses).
- *Universities and Incubators:* BINUS (though West/Central) and others have tech incubators. Even if not formal coworking, communities like **Google Developer Groups** sometimes meet in East Jakarta venues (e.g., CodeLabs in Rawamangun).
- *Chain coworking in malls:* Don't be surprised if within a couple of years, GoWork or JustCo opens in **AEON Mall Cakung** or **Mall @Bassura** because remote work is now common and East has many commuters who might choose local coworking instead of going to HQ daily.

For now, a lot of East Jkt professionals might actually work remotely from home or meet in cafes. For instance, **Starbucks in Cibubur or Rawamangun** on weekdays will have laptops around. On the flipside, office rents in East Jkt are cheaper, so some companies (especially call centers or back offices) purposely set up here. As an East Jakarta resident, that could mean job opportunities closer to home – an increasing trend is decentralized offices.

Industry-specific note: East Jakarta is big on logistics (numerous **warehouses and trucking companies** in areas like Ciracas, Cakung). If you're in supply chain management, you might have a base here. Also, East has **the Jakarta Dry Port** (in Cakung/Cilincing border area) facilitating cargo – again, a niche but important hub.

To sum up, East Jakarta is not a corporate ghost land – there are pockets of enterprise. And if you're remote or entrepreneurial, the supportive infrastructure (internet is fine, coffee shops aplenty) is there. You might have to hunt a bit more for formal cowork spaces, but they do exist and are growing as East Jakarta continues to develop.

Cafés, Gyms, Parks, and Schools



Source: nowjakarta.co.id

East Jakarta provides a very homely environment with adequate, if not extravagant, amenities. Let's break those down:

- Cafés & Dining:** East Jakarta's dining scene is more about local flavor and family restaurants. For instance, **Kuliner Malam Pecenongan** (though technically Central) is within reach; more locally, **Jalan Pemuda Rawamangun** has a lively strip of eateries from traditional soto to modern cafes catering to UNJ college kids. You'll find a number of *Kopi Janji Jiwa* or *Fore* coffee outlets for your caffeine fix as the local coffee chain trend is everywhere. In Cibubur and Kelapa Gading (north of East), there are lots of new cafes and dessert places thanks to younger populations there. Malls like **AEON Cakung** introduced many Japanese eateries, and **Bassura Mall** has the typical urban food courts and chains (Pepper Lunch, etc.). If you like street food, try **Pasar Minggu's street satays** or **Gudeg Kendil Bu Tjitro** (Jogja style stew) near Cawang – East Jkt has many gems. A unique area is **Bandung-style eateries** in Cibubur due to proximity to West Java (lots of Sundanese restaurants with lesehan seating, e.g. *Bumbu Desa* or *Saung Apung* at TMII area). The bottom line: you'll eat well, often at lower prices than downtown. Don't miss **Taman Mini** – inside it has pavilions serving regional foods, so you can have Padang lunch or Ambonese snacks while visiting.
- Gyms & Fitness:** East Jakarta has fewer high-end gyms, but you do have **Celebrity Fitness** at Kota Kasablanka (just outside East) or **Gold's Gym** at AEON Mall. There's also a **Fitness First** at Mall Bassura. For a more local vibe, smaller fitness centers and martial arts dojos are common.

Basecamp fitness in Rawamangun is one known smaller gym. If you prefer sports: **Gelanggang Olahraga (GOR) Rawamangun** is a big sports complex with a stadium and facilities for tennis, badminton, etc., open to public bookings. **Velodrome Rawamangun** was built for Asian Games 2018 – now it's used for cycling events and sometimes open for public cycling on certain days (plus it houses the LRT). **Taman Mini** has a swimming arena and **snowbay waterpark** for recreation. Many neighborhoods have futsal centers or badminton halls – joining a local sports club can be a fun integration (Jakarta folks love badminton!). For outdoor jogging, aside from parks, many people jog in **cemetery parks** like **Menteng Pulo** or **Kalibata Heroes Cemetery** because they are large, green, and relatively quiet – somewhat unconventional but common practice.

- **Parks & Recreation:** East Jakarta boasts **Jakarta's largest concentration of parkland**. **Taman Mini Indonesia Indah (TMII)** is a vast cultural park with gardens, lakes, museums (Stamp Museum, Transport Museum, etc.), and even a small aviary and small zoo. It's perfect for weekend picnics or cultural exploration (and after a major revamp in 2022, it's even nicer). There's also **Taman Mini Skyworld** (space science center) inside. **Bumi Perkemahan Cibubur** (Cibubur Camping Ground) is another green expanse often used for scouting events, but open to the public for nature walks. **Lapangan Banteng East?** Actually, Lapangan Banteng is central – scratch that. **Cornel Simanjuntak Park** in Klender and **Ciracas Park** are local green spots improved by the city. The **East Flood Canal (BKT)** has been developed with jogging tracks and parks along its banks; in the afternoons you'll see cycling and fishing there. Additionally, East Jakarta has **Lubang Buaya** (historical park related to a dark chapter in Indonesia's history, with a museum) – not exactly a relaxation park, but a historic site to visit. And if you venture just outside East Jkt, **Mekarsari Fruit Garden** (in Cileungsi) is a huge agro-tourism park with orchards and activities – a popular family day trip. For kids in-city, **Taman Legenda** in TMII is a theme park with rides, and **SnowBay Waterpark** in TMII or **Eldorado Waterpark** in Cibubur are hits on hot days. So, plenty of options to get fresh air and fun.
- **Shopping & Markets:** East Jakarta has a mix of modern malls and traditional markets. Malls include **Bassura City Mall**, **AEON Mall Jakarta Garden City** (complete with an ice rink and Japanese shops), **Mall @ Cipinang Indah** (smaller neighborhood mall), **Pondok Gede Plaza** (older mall in the south). These cover your needs for supermarkets, cinemas (Bassura has CGV cinema), and fashion stores. But the soul of shopping here is in markets: **Pasar Kramat Jati** (wholesale groceries), **Pasar Jatinegara** (knick-knacks and fabrics, popular for wedding supplies), **Pasar Klender** (daily needs), and **Pasar Cipinang** (famous for rice trade). If you like thrifting, **Pasar Senen** (just outside East) is a massive thrift clothes market. For electronics, many East residents hop to **ITC Cempaka Mas** (North/East border) – one of Southeast Asia's largest IT malls – for gadget deals. It's part of living in East to explore these markets where you can haggle and find everything, often at local prices.
- **Schools & Education:** East Jakarta has numerous schools, though fewer international ones compared to South. However, a notable one is **Australian International School (AIS)** which had a campus in Pejaten (near East border). In Cibubur area, there's **BHK (Bunda Hati Kudus) Catholic School** known for expat Indonesian community, and **Beacon Academy** (an IB school in Kelapa Gading, reachable from East). Many expat families in East might actually send kids to **schools in South or North** and utilize school bus services (for instance, many living in Halim or Cawang send kids to JIS or BIS using provided buses). Local schools in East are plenty and some are quite good:

Labschool Rawamangun is one of Jakarta's top public/private high schools (affiliated with UNJ, known for academic excellence). **SMA Negeri 14, 21** etc., are well-regarded public high schools. Also, **Al Azhar Jakarta Timur** (Islamic private school) and **Marsudirini (Catholic)** are examples of strong private schools. Higher education: East has **Universitas Negeri Jakarta (UNJ)**, **Trilogi University**, and is a short commute to **University of Indonesia (UI)** in Depok. So if you or family want to pursue studies, UI is world-ranked and reachable by train or driving. There are also many vocational and polytechnic institutes in East Jakarta given the industrial nature of the area. In summary, for families, East Jakarta offers a safe, community-oriented schooling environment – but if international curriculum is needed, be prepared for a bit of a commute (or consider moving near the school). On the bright side, often houses in East can be bigger for the same cost, meaning easier to host at-home activities or tutors if needed.

Pros and Cons of Living in East Jakarta

Pros:

- **Affordable Family-Friendly Living:** East Jakarta is arguably the best area in the city for getting a larger home on a budget. If you want a house with a garden or a spacious apartment without paying a fortune, East is where you'll find it. This makes it great for families – kids have space to play, and there are many local parks and recreation areas (Taman Mini, etc.). The cost of living is lower (market groceries, local eateries are cheaper). Overall financial stress is less, allowing potentially a higher quality of life on the same salary.
- **Authentic Local Atmosphere:** Living in East Jakarta gives you a slice of real Jakarta life. You'll interact more with local residents, partake in neighborhood events, and experience diverse Indonesian cultures (especially at places like Taman Mini). It's less expat-centric, which can be a pro if you want to integrate and learn the language and culture more deeply. There's a warmth in the communities here; neighbors often know each other, and there's a strong sense of *gotong royong* (mutual help).
- **Green Spaces and Recreation:** Compared to concrete-dominated Central, East Jakarta has notable green lungs and leisure spots. Weekends don't always have to mean malls; you can go to a park, a cultural site, or a waterpark within a short drive. For those who enjoy jogging, cycling, or picnics, East provides options without leaving the city. Also, the air can be slightly better in pockets near these green areas (though Jakarta in general has pollution issues).
- **Strategic for Travel:** If your work extends to other cities (Bandung, Bekasi, etc.), East Jakarta's positioning is very strategic. You directly access highways to industrial estates in Bekasi/Karawang, and the new high-speed rail and existing tolls make going to Bandung relatively quick. Even heading to Central Java by train or car is more straightforward from the east side. Additionally, the **Halim airport** (which sometimes handles VIP flights, and potentially more domestic flights if reopened for commercial use) is right there, which could be convenient.

- **New Infrastructure Growth:** East Jakarta is on the cusp of transformation with infrastructure investments (LRT, MRT in future, high-speed rail). As these mature, the conveniences will increase (less traffic due to public transit, more commercial developments). By choosing East, you might be ahead of the curve, benefitting as things improve year by year. It's exciting to see an area develop and be part of its growth story.

Cons:

- **Distance from City Center:** If you work in, or frequently visit, places in Central or South Jakarta, East Jakarta can feel far. Commuting to a Sudirman office from deep East could be 1+ hour by car in traffic. While public transit helps, it might involve multiple transfers (e.g., ojek to station, then train, then maybe another ojek). Spontaneous socializing in expat hubs can be harder – you might think twice about attending a weeknight dinner in Senopati when you live in Cibubur due to the trek back. Essentially, you're a bit removed from the "downtown action."
- **Limited Nightlife/Entertainment:** East Jakarta is quieter in terms of nightlife or high-end dining. There are few bars or clubs (and those present cater more to locals with dangdut music or karaoke). If you seek a vibrant expat nightlife or gourmet international cuisines frequently, you'll be commuting to South/Central for that. East's restaurants are great but mostly local or franchise, not Michelin-starred stuff (not that Jakarta has Michelin yet, but you get the idea). Some may see this as a pro (less temptation to overspend on pricey outings), but for others it might feel limiting.
- **Public Services Variability:** While improving, some parts of East Jakarta might have less robust city services. Issues like irregular garbage collection, occasional water supply drops, or slower emergency response in far-flung areas could occur (though Jakarta's core is pretty well-covered). Also, East Jakarta has historically been more flood-prone because many rivers flow through (the government built the East Flood Canal to alleviate this). Still, during extreme rain, certain neighborhoods (Cawang, Kampung Melayu) have had flooding. It's much better now, but one should still inquire about flood history of a property – e.g., **"Apakah banjir waktu 2020?"** (Did it flood during 2020 big flood?) when house-hunting.
- **Fewer International Schools and Hospitals:** As discussed, there aren't many international schools in East Jakarta, meaning potentially long bus rides for kids or compromising with a local curriculum (which is fine for many, but some expats prefer international). Similarly, top-tier private hospitals (with English-speaking staff and international accreditation) are mostly in Central/South (like MMC, Siloam, etc.). East Jakarta has good hospitals (RSU Persahabatan, etc., and a new **Mayapada Hospital in Kuningan** just at the border might serve East residents), but for some specialized care one might go to central hospitals. It's something to consider if health or schooling is a top priority – you'll manage but it requires planning.
- **Perception and Language:** It's worth noting that some expats initially have a perception that East Jakarta is "far" or "less developed." While not necessarily true across the board, you might get fewer expat peers around you, which can be isolating if you don't actively engage with either locals or expat groups online. And language – in day-to-day East Jkt life, you'll use more Bahasa Indonesia. If you're not prepared, even tasks like explaining your address to a delivery person can frustrate

you. However, this “con” often flips to a “pro” as folks pick up basic Bahasa quickly out of necessity.

Relocation Tips for East Jakarta

- **Research Neighborhoods Thoroughly:** East Jakarta is vast. Spend a weekend driving around potential areas at different times. See how traffic flows, find the nearest markets, and gauge the environment. If you work in **Kuningan/Sudirman**, maybe look at East Jakarta’s western parts (Cawang, Rawamangun) for shorter commutes. If you have kids in international school in North, perhaps Pulomas or Kelapa Gading Permai (North/East border) is good. And if you want that suburban calm, Cibubur or Pondok Kopi might be it, accepting a longer commute. Understanding each sub-district’s vibe (industrial vs. residential, older vs. newer developments) will help you pick the right home base.
- **Check Commute Options:** Once you narrow an area, figure out the best commute method. Are you near a **KRL station or LRT stop**? If so, fantastic – test out a ride from there to your office in rush hour to see the feasibility. If not, is there a TransJakarta route or will you drive? For drivers: note toll access points. For instance, living near **TMII** gives quick access to JORR toll, beneficial if you need to go to the airport or south often. If possible, practice the commute one morning before finalizing housing – it gives a real picture (maps can say 45 min but reality can be 90).
- **Engage with the Community:** Breaking the ice in a new neighborhood helps a lot. Introduce yourself to your RT/RW heads (neighborhood chiefs) if you rent a house. They can assist with local issues and it’s culturally respectful. If you’re in an apartment, join the resident’s WhatsApp group if available (many have them). Participate in any **complex events** – some places have morning exercise groups or monthly arisan (social gathering). Being the new face, locals might be curious; a friendly hello and a bit of Bahasa (even a simple “Selamat pagi” on morning walks) goes a long way in being welcomed.
- **Utilize Local Facilities:** Don’t hesitate to use local markets, clinics, tailors, etc. East Jakarta has everything you need, often at lower cost. Find a trusted **neighborhood doctor or clinic** for minor health needs (many speak some English, and you’ll avoid the trip to central for every small thing). The same goes for car mechanics or home repair services – there will be a local handyman known in the area who can help (ask neighbors for recommendations). Embracing local facilities not only saves money but also builds your network of go-to people.
- **Adapt to Pace and Plan Outings:** East Jakarta life might move at a slightly different rhythm. It gets lively at local markets early morning, quiet in the hot midday, then busy again when kids come home and people visit night markets. Adapt to this – maybe do grocery runs at 7 AM when it’s cool and vibrant. Also, plan your city outings smartly: if you want to dine in South Jakarta on a Friday, maybe go straight from work rather than from home to avoid doubling back in traffic. Or cluster errands – when you go to Central for something, tick off all items (e.g., that specialty store visit, meet a friend, etc.) before returning. With a bit of planning, the distance feels negligible.

- **Stay Connected Online:** Since the expat population in East is sparse, leverage online communities for social needs or information. Jakarta has many interest-based groups (photography clubs, cycling groups, etc.) – join those and attend meet-ups; distance matters less if it's a weekend hobby meet. Also, keep an eye on services like **GoJek/Grab** – they can solve a lot: food delivery, package courier, even getting a massage at home via the app. This is a lifesaver on days you don't want to battle traffic for a single thing. East Jkt is fully covered by such services, so use them to make life easier.

East Jakarta FAQ

Q: Is East Jakarta very far from the expat hotspots like Kemang or SCBD?

A: It depends on where in East Jakarta and what time of day. Geographically, East Jakarta borders South Jakarta, so some parts (like Cawang or Kalibata) are pretty close – maybe a 20-30 minute drive to Kemang in light traffic. But if you're in the far east (Cibubur or near Bekasi), yes it's a bit far – maybe 1 to 1.5 hours to SCBD in normal traffic. In Jakarta, distance is less about kilometers and more about congestion. The city's improving transit (LRT, etc.) which will help. Many expats living in East still go to Kemang or SCBD on weekends, they just plan for it. If you leave early evening or go on Sundays, it's fine. If you try at rush hour Friday, it will be a slow journey. So "far" is relative; with smart timing, nothing in Jakarta is unbearably far – but you won't be as central as living in, say, Menteng.

Q: Are there modern amenities like malls, cinemas, and international grocery stores in East Jakarta?

A: Yes to malls and cinemas; partial to international groceries. East Jakarta has modern malls such as **AEON Mall Jakarta Garden City**, **Bassura Mall**, **Green Pramuka Square (in Rawasari)**, **Cibubur Junction**, etc. They house cinemas (CGV, XXI) where you can watch the latest movies – no need to go to a far mall for that. They also have department stores and supermarkets like Hypermart, AEON, or Farmers Market. For international groceries: AEON Mall has a Japanese supermarket with imported goods; **AllFresh** in some areas might carry certain imports; and there's always **online grocery services** that deliver everywhere. But you won't find something like Ranch Market (expat-oriented supermarket) on every corner as in South; the closest might be in Kelapa Gading or Kuningan. However, common needs like cheeses, cereals, etc., you can get at big supermarkets or order online. Also, **Kemchicks (famous import store)** in Kemang or SCBD delivers, so you can manage. In short, day-to-day items are fully available in East Jkt, and specialty items require a bit more effort (either a trip or delivery). But given the growth, I wouldn't be surprised if soon a high-end grocer opens in an East Jakarta mall as demand rises.

Q: How's the quality of healthcare in East Jakarta?

A: There are several reputable hospitals in East Jakarta. For instance, **RSUP Persahabatan** in Rawamangun is a well-known general hospital especially for respiratory health. **RS Premier Jatinegara** (formerly Mitra International) is a private hospital often used by locals for good care. **Columbia Asia Pulomas** is another private hospital that's modern. For major or specialized cases, many expats still prefer hospitals in central/south (like MMC, SOS Medika, or Siloam), but in emergencies rest assured East Jakarta hospitals can stabilize and treat you. Also, Halim Airbase has a good clinic for minor needs. One aspect: not all hospitals in East have a lot of English-speaking staff, but major ones do have some English-speaking doctors (and certainly specialists who trained abroad). It's wise to identify a nearby hospital and perhaps do a trial with a general check-up to see if you're comfortable. Additionally, many doctors from central also practice in East as visiting consultants. So healthcare is available; just keep a list of emergency numbers (110 for ambulance

via Jakarta health office, or private ambulance services). If you have insurance that directs you to certain hospitals, check which ones in East are included. Overall, everyday healthcare (pharmacies, clinics) is easy to find, and serious healthcare is reachable.

Q: Do many professionals actually choose to live in East Jakarta, or is it mostly local families?

A: East Jakarta is predominantly local families and long-time Jakarta residents. It's historically been less of an expat magnet. However, that is slowly changing. Many young Indonesian professionals working in Kuningan or Thamrin choose to live in new apartments in East Jakarta because they're more affordable – so you'll find a community of young working folks at places like Bassura City, Tifolia, or along the Cawang corridor. For expats, the numbers are smaller but not zero. You see some expats in Cibubur area (some commuting to Halim or even to factories in Karawang), and a handful in apartments near the center (maybe those working as teachers in Jaktim schools or with NGOs). If you're an expat professional and considering East, you wouldn't be the first, but you might be one of only a few in your immediate area. This isn't necessarily bad; many find it enriching. And since Jakarta's traffic means colleagues often socialize near work rather than home, you won't miss too much – you can join after-work hangouts in Kuningan then go home, for example. In summary, the professional community in East is growing domestically, and a few foreign professionals live here usually for particular reasons (like proximity to a specific workplace or family reasons). The trend might increase as more office space and infrastructure develops in East Jakarta.

Q: What are some key tips for enjoying life in East Jakarta?

A: Embrace what the area offers! **Tip 1:** Explore **Taman Mini** thoroughly – get the annual pass if you like; there are always events (cultural dance shows, etc.) and you can invite friends for a picnic there. **Tip 2:** Use those toll roads on weekends – East Jakarta is a gateway. Go hiking in **Gunung Pancar** (Bogor) or a day trip to Bandung early Saturday; you'll get there faster than friends in West Jakarta. **Tip 3:** Join a local gym class or community rec group. Could be a badminton club, a cycling group along BKT, or even a cooking class at a community center. It helps build a social circle. **Tip 4:** Take advantage of lower costs to try new things – e.g., hire a tutor to learn Indonesian gamelan or batik (Taman Mini has workshops) since you're right there. **Tip 5:** Enjoy the food adventure – roam night markets like **Pasar Malam Kuliner Condet** (if it happens periodically) or warungs in Matraman. You'll find favorite goto mie ayam (chicken noodle) or bakso that you'll swear is the best in town. Life in East Jakarta can be very fulfilling once you dive in – it's perhaps a bit of a hidden gem overshadowed by flashier parts of Jakarta, but you as a resident get to discover its richness day by day.

Your Jakarta Journey Begins!

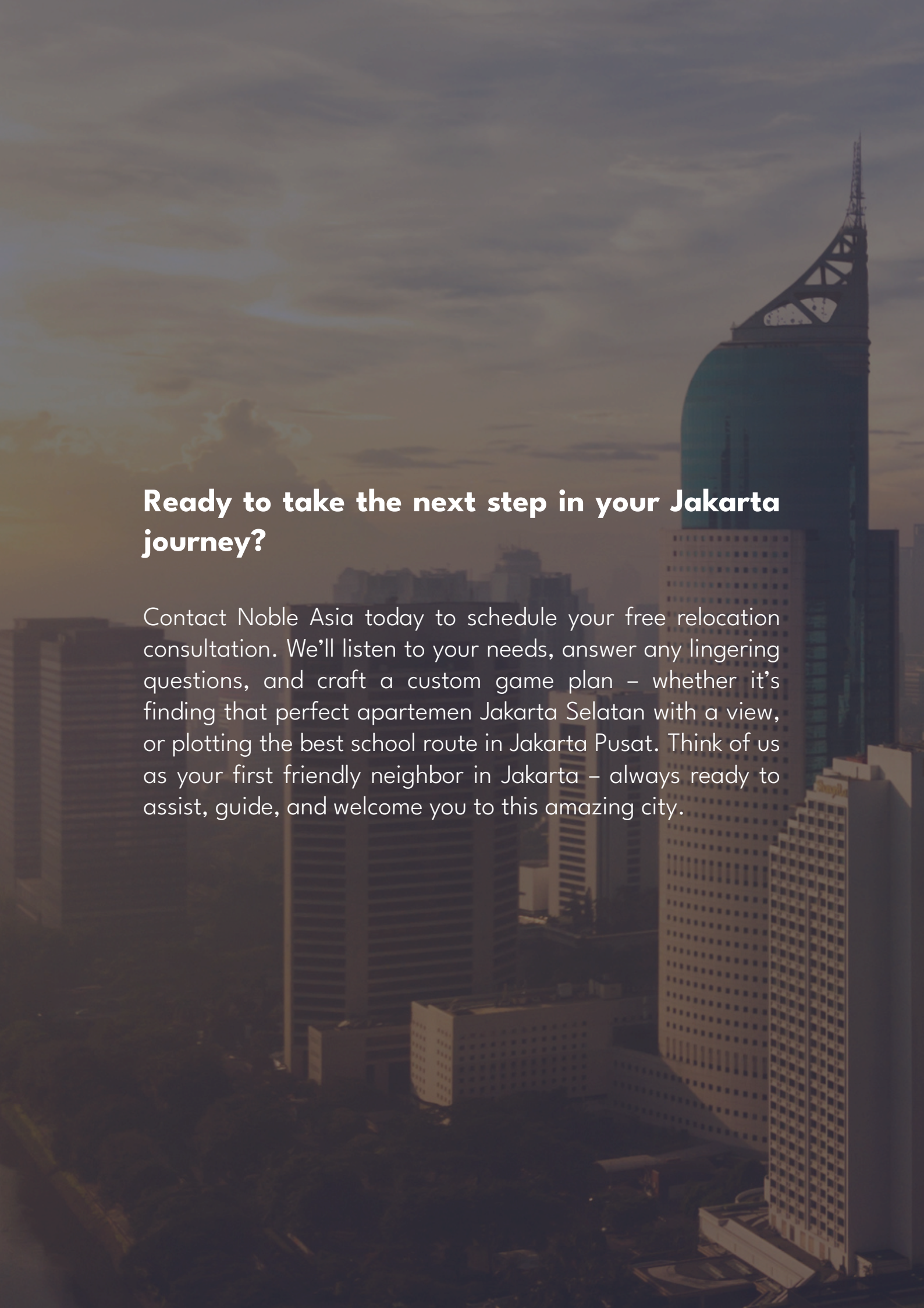
Relocating to Jakarta is a grand adventure – a chance to dive into one of Asia’s most dynamic cities and make it *your own*. This **Jakarta Relocation Starter Kit** has walked you through the five regions – **Central, South, West, East, and North Jakarta** – each with its distinct flavor, pros and cons, housing markets, and lifestyle offerings. By now, you’ve likely identified a region (or two) that resonates most with your needs and personality.

Whichever area you choose, remember that Jakarta is all about **community and exploration**. Don’t be afraid to venture beyond your neighborhood – a professional living in South can still enjoy North’s seafood weekends, and a family in East can make mall trips to West – the city becomes truly yours when you explore its entirety. Embrace the local language (learn those key phrases like *makan* for eat, and *terima kasih* for thank you), savor the street foods, and engage with the friendly locals. Jakartans are known for their warmth and humor – they’ll love sharing insider tips or a good joke once you break the ice.

A few **final practical tips** as you gear up for the move:

- **Choose a Reputable Realtor:** Especially for renting or buying property, a trusted agent (like **Noble Asia**, who specializes in Jakarta relocations) can save you time and stress. They’ll help negotiate the best deal, navigate paperwork, and ensure you avoid any pitfalls with leases or local regulations.
- **Get Your Paperwork in Order:** Before and after arriving, handle those bureaucratic must-dos – work permit (for expats), KITAS, registering your address with the local authorities (for Indonesians, update your KTP), and so on. It’s not glamorous, but it smooths out your stay. Noble Asia or your employer’s HR can often guide you through these steps.
- **Budget Smartly:** Moving cities has upfront costs – deposits, furniture, maybe a car purchase. Plan a relocation budget (our kit’s cost breakdowns can feed into this) so you’re prepared. And maintain an emergency fund for those unpredictable *Jakarta* moments (like a sudden need to replace a flooded appliance or a last-minute flight home).
- **Stay Open-Minded and Flexible:** Jakarta can be a paradox – ultramodern one moment and deeply traditional the next. Traffic might throw off your schedule, or a rainstorm might change your plans. Patience and a sense of humor go a long way. In return, this city will reward you with unforgettable experiences and opportunities for growth, both professional and personal.

Lastly, **we encourage you to reach out to us at Noble Asia**. As relocation specialists passionate about Jakarta, we’re here to help make your transition seamless. Whether you need a personalized area tour, housing search tailored to your criteria, or just have questions about daily life here, **Noble Asia’s team is just a call or message away**. We can connect you with fellow expats, provide private tours of neighborhoods you’re eyeing, and even set up meetings with residents who’ve been in your shoes. We want you to not just move to Jakarta, but *thrive* here.



Ready to take the next step in your Jakarta journey?

Contact Noble Asia today to schedule your free relocation consultation. We'll listen to your needs, answer any lingering questions, and craft a custom game plan – whether it's finding that perfect apartemen Jakarta Selatan with a view, or plotting the best school route in Jakarta Pusat. Think of us as your first friendly neighbor in Jakarta – always ready to assist, guide, and welcome you to this amazing city.