

## Sumatra Highway July, August 1995, from Bukittinggi to Medan

A compilation of my visits to this area in resp. 1995, 1996 1998 in our slideshow

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More pictures in our slideshow. Most pictures are available on request.  
Eleven pages, twenty pictures

In 1995 our travel schedule was, more or less, as follows.

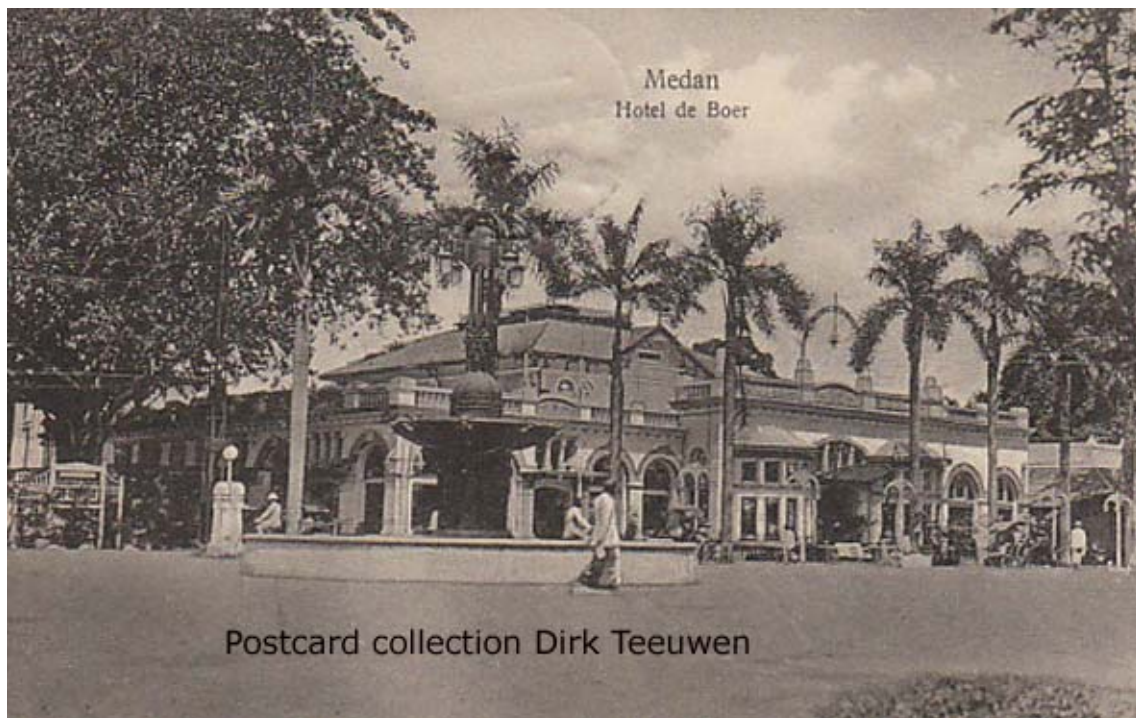
- (Bukittinggi)
- Sipirok, hotel Torsiboni
- Lake Toba, Samosir Island at Tuk Tuk: hotel Silintong (four nights)
- via Pematang Siantar (hotel Siantar) to Medan, hotel Sumatra Village (four nights)
- Bohorok
- (back to Bali)

The trip was a wonderful one. Landscapes were breathtaking. Beautiful Dutch colonial as well as more modern Batak architecture can be found everywhere. The same goes for historical sites like those on Samosir Island (see the slide show). Much colonial heritage is present in Medan and partly well kept. However there is always a lot of rain on Sumatra.

Between 1850 and 1900 Batak area was brought under Dutch supervision. A part of this area accepted Christian faith. Most Sumatrans are Muslims. In Deli - around Medan, northern part of "Batak country" - a Dutch planter, Nienhuys, went into the hinterland and opened a Dutch plantation to grow tobacco (eastern bank Deli river, near Medan's Esplanade). Chinese and Indonesian coolies were shipped to Sumatra from 1870 on. Consequence was a rapid grow of Medan with houses, Chinese temples, mosques and churches. In 1870 Medan was still a small village. Now in 2008 the population is 2.500.000.

Under Dutch supervision Deli was a sultanate until 1950. A part of the royal family was murdered by Indonesian nationalists in 1945 in a most brutal way: they were cut into pieces. The family still lives in Maimoon Palace. In 1888 the family moved from Labuhan Deli to Medan.

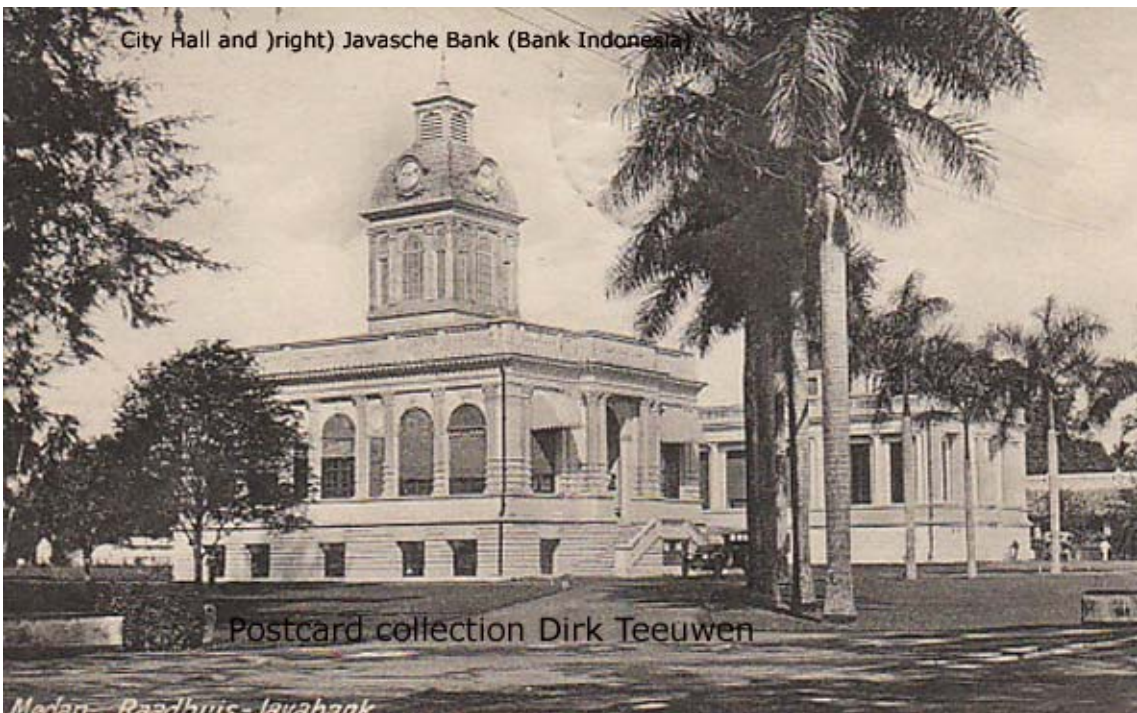
Some of the colonial buildings in Medan: 1886 Post Office and Witte Sociëteit (Clubhouse Witte), 1888 Maimoon Palace, 1898 hotel De Boer, 1908 City Hall, 1907 Sultan Mosque, 1911 (new) Post Office, 1919 Javasche Bank (Bank Indonesia), etc.



Hotel De Boer, Medan 1902



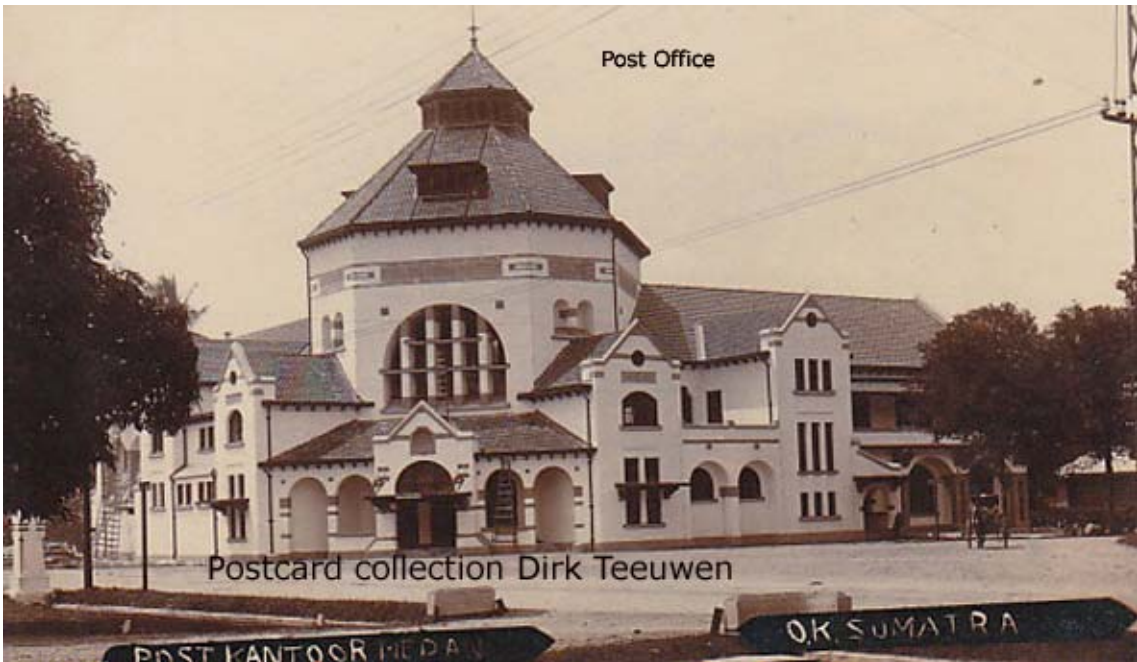
Resident's Residence, Medan 1912



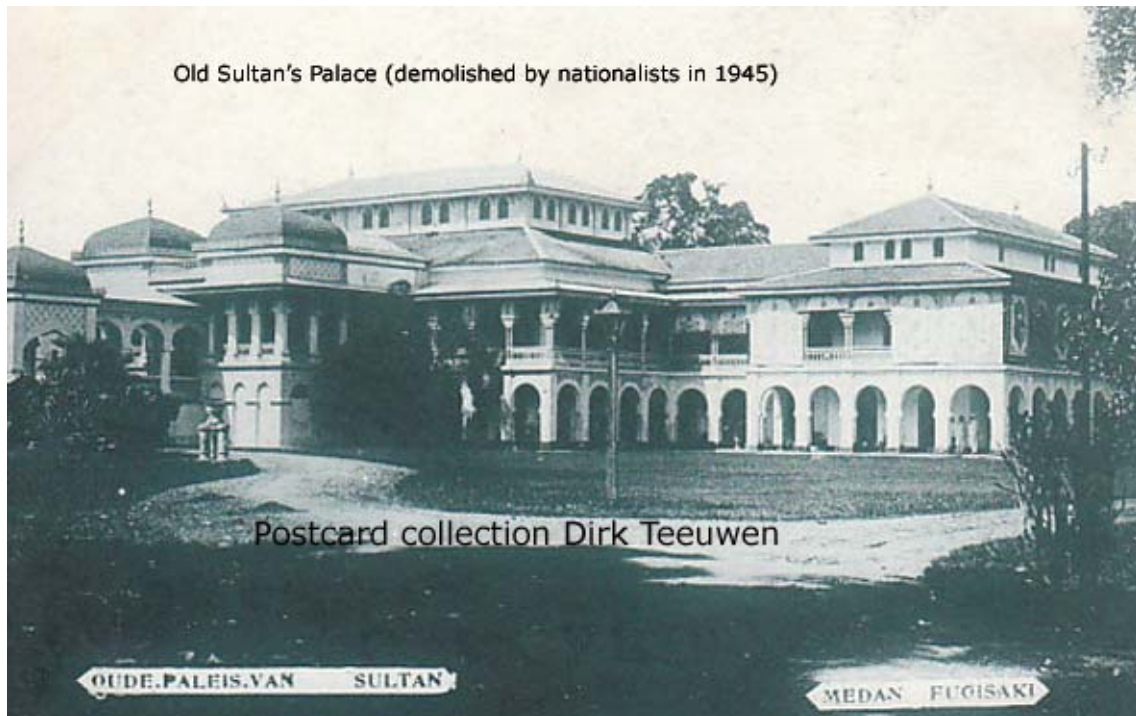
City Hall and Javasche Bank, Medan 1914



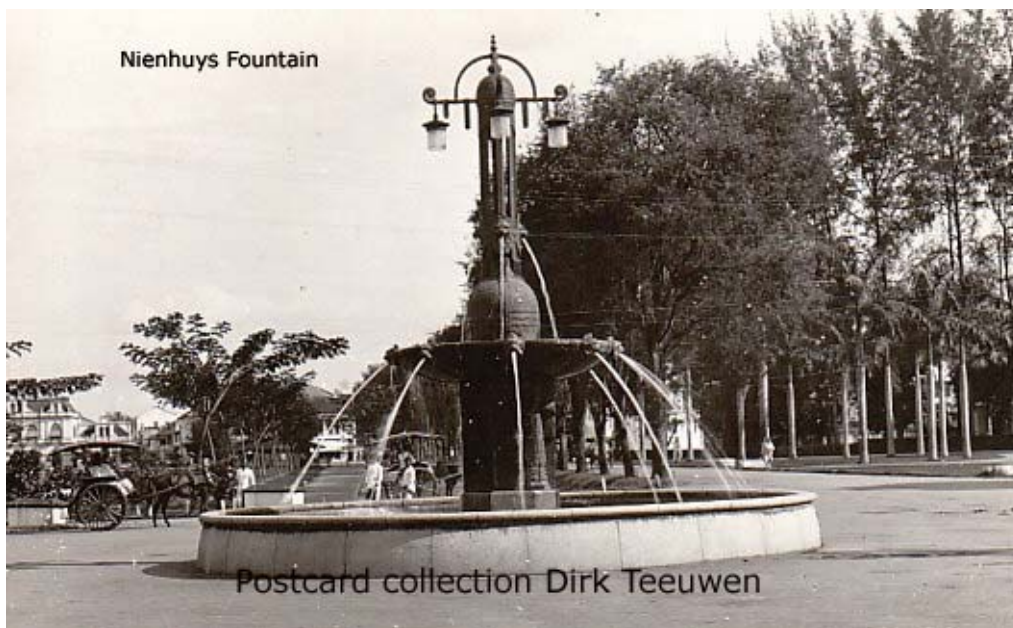
Head Office Deli Maatschappij, Medan 1920



Post Office, Medan 1930



Old Sultan's Palace, Medan 1918



Alun Alun Medan, Nienhuys Fountain



Photo Dirk Teeuwen  
[www.rendez-vous-batavia.nl](http://www.rendez-vous-batavia.nl)  
Padangsidempuan, Theological Muslim Institute

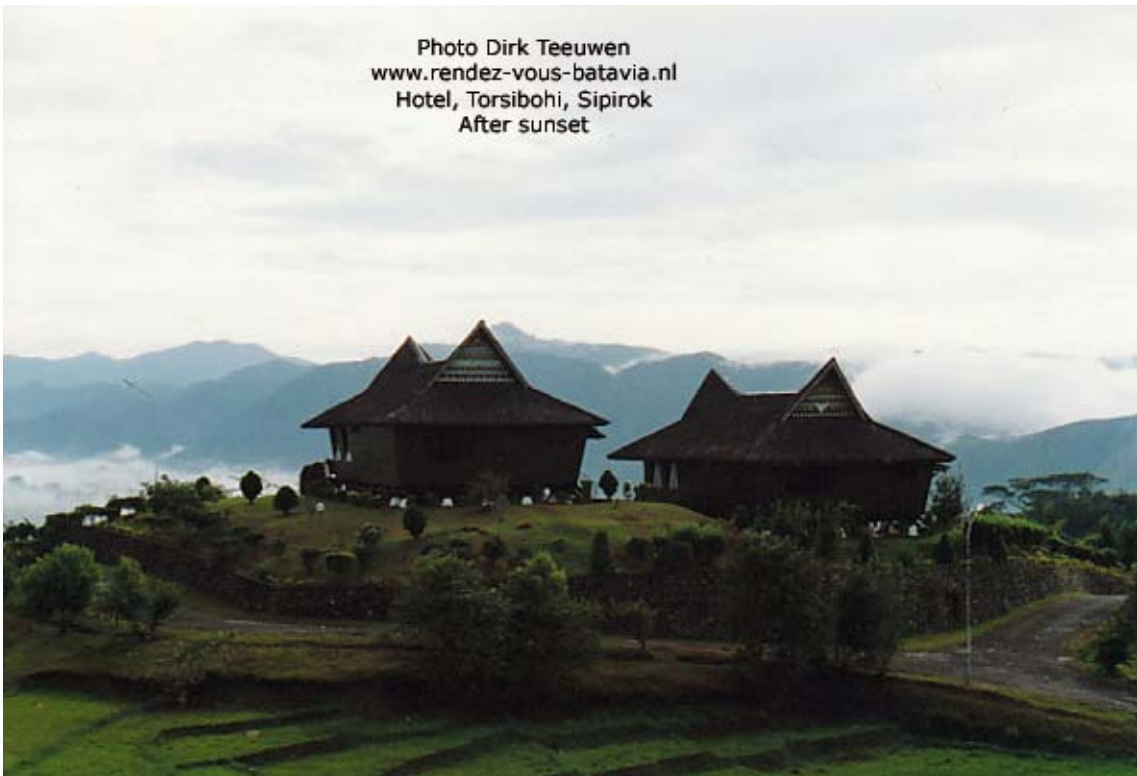


Photo Dirk Teeuwen  
[www.rendez-vous-batavia.nl](http://www.rendez-vous-batavia.nl)  
Hotel, Torsibohi, Sipirok  
After sunset

Photo Dirk Teeuwen  
www.rendez-vous-batavia.nl  
Lake Toba / Samosir



Photo Dirk Teeuwen  
www.rendez-vous-batavia.nl  
Lake Toba / Samosir  
Toba Beach Hotel



Photo Dirk Teeuwen  
[www.rendez-vous-batavia.nl](http://www.rendez-vous-batavia.nl)  
Lake Toba / Samosir  
Old village, Ambarita, with defense walls



Photo Dirk Teeuwen  
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Batak architecture, Amlapura  
Lake Toba / Samosir



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Pematang Siantar  
Alun Alun, Siantar's hope



Photo Dirk Teeuwen  
[www.rendez-vous-batavia.nl](http://www.rendez-vous-batavia.nl)  
Medan, 1996 Independence Day



Photo Dirk Teeuwen  
www.rendez-vous-batavia.nl  
Pematang Siantar  
Hotel Siantar



Medan: formerly the head office of the Dutch Deli Maatscappij (Deli Company)

Source: Impact Postcards, photo by Alan Compost 1994







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[www.rendez-vous-batavia.nl](http://www.rendez-vous-batavia.nl)  
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End of the article

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