

Colonial Cirebon, a romantic experience from the good olden days by drs (MSc) Dirk Teeuwen, Holland

(Pictures are available on request.)



Picture 1. Balai Kota, City Hall along Jalan Siliwangi (formerly Kadjaksanweg), an architectural masterpiece in a mixture of Amsterdam (business-like) style and frivolous art deco. A creation of the Dutch architect J. J. Jiskoot, 1927. Cirebon is known as Prawn City, Kota Udang. Large plaster stucco prawns are visible around the top of the building.



Cirebon was, in days gone by, the capital of a sultanate.

The most attractive route to Cirebon is the approach from Bandung. The best hotel in Cirebon is without doubt Hotel Puri Santika. The guests can have dinner, often with fine seafood, near the swimming pool. Puri Santika is an excellent starting point to visit the very beautiful colonial city centre, its kratons (sultan's palace forts) and its colonial harbour.

Only a few tourists make a trip to this town. I hope that the Cirebon municipal government will never try to stimulate tourism. A visit to Cirebon means: no herds of Europeans, no simple minded Americans and no Japanese walking around obtrusively in a single-minded way.

Cirebon must remain as it is now (please!): for the benefit of the Cirebonese and of myself of course. Mark! "Formerly", in my text following now, means "in the Dutch period".

Picture 2. The author Dirk Teeuwen in front of the sentry box near the resident's office of Cirebon.

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1. Around Jalan Siliwangi



Picture 3. Beside the City Hall there is much more to see around Jalan Siliwangi, formerly Kadjaksanweg. The colonial Dutch resident's office, for example, was constructed approximately in 1880.

Picture 4 (below, of course). The inner court of the resident's office.



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Picture 5. The front verandah of the resident's office above-mentioned. Picture 6. The business-style Dutch railway station from 1928 with its stained windows.



Picture 7. The railway station from 1929

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2. Around Cirebon harbour: the Dutch colonial quarter



Picture 8. Dutch trade offices (1924) along Jalan Pasuketan



Picture 9. Flowers from Cirebon: Cirebon beauties, photographed by surprise by the author, during a powdery break.
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Picture 10. Jalan Pasuketan, formerly Pasoeketan, Bank Escompto in the Dutch period (appr. 1920)



Picture 11. The colonial Clubhouse Phoenix, Sociëteit Phoenix (appr. 1925), along Jalan Yos Sudarso, formerly Tjangkolweg. There is not so much to see on this picture. But the fact, that the clubhouse survived turbulent times, is very remarkable.

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Picture 12. The Dutch (and Indonesian nowadays) post-office (appr. 1925), along present Jalan Yos Sudarso.



Picture 13. Bank Indonesia (1915), formerly Javasche Bank, along Jalan Yos Sudarso.



Picture 14. More Dutch business offices (1920) can be find along Jalan Pasuketan, building period 1920-1930. Jalan Pasuketan runs from the south to the harbour in the north of Cirebon.

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3. Kratons, sultan's palaces, of Cirebon



Picture 15. Kraton Kasepuhan from 1528 is a visit for the full value.



Picture 16 . A part of the interior of kraton Kasepuhan (1589) in Dutch style. Picture 17 (right) The entrance in Balinese style of kraton Kanoman.

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Picture 18. One of the reception rooms of kraton Kasepuhan
 Picture 19. The author with princess Etcha of kraton Kecirebonan, a nice and very hospitable lady. The small but beautiful kraton (1838) is still occupied by members of the sultan's family. All the same: visitors are very welcome and so are there donations.



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Picture 20. Part of the pendopo of kraton Kecirebonan, Cirebon.
Picture 21. Mesjid, mosque, Agung close to kraton Kasepuhan from 1591.



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4. Cirebon's colonial harbour.



Picture 22. Speaks for itself.
Picture 23. Dutch warehouse from 1918



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Picture 24. Another fine example of a Dutch warehouse from the same period.
Picture 24. Our last one! Office of the harbour master(1892).



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