

## CULTURE

Solo together with Yogyakarta are the two main centres of Javanese culture and tradition. Thanks to ISI - Institut Seni Indonesia, Solo's well-known art school and Taman Budaya Surakarta, the local art centre, there is a very rich cultural life in Solo. Mainly for dance, traditional and contemporary, Solo is leading in Indonesia.

**Carnivals** - Thanks to the personal mission of Solo's former mayor Jokowi, who rebranded and promoted Solo as "The Spirit of Java", a Javanese culture and heritage centre, batik capital, and tourist-friendly city, there are regular special themed, very colourful carnivals along Jl. Slamet Riyadi; like the Batik Carnival and Wayang Orang Carnival.

**Art performances** can be seen at Taman Budaya Surakarta Jl. Ir Sutami 75, Kentingan and Teater Besar ISI Surakarta, Jl. Ki Hajar Dewantoro, Kentingan. Unfortunately their PR is not that professional, so sometimes it is difficult to know when performances are taking place – best is to drop in from time to time and see the posters at the black board in front of the theatre at Taman Budaya.

**Museum Danar Hadi** show casts an exquisite private collection of 10 000 plus Batik pieces, antiques and modern. A must see for the enthusiast of the traditional art of hand made batik, Jl. Slamet Riyadi 261.

**Traditional Art Performances** – on the 26th of every month at 8:00 PM at SMKI Surakarta – High school for Performing Arts, Jl. Sangihe, Kepatihan Wetan.

**Traditional Dance** - Every Wednesday morning from 9:30 until about mid-day the dancers of Soeryo Soemirat, the classical Javanese dance school that is part of the Mangkunegaran palace, rehearse Javanese court dances in the Pendopo accompanied by the meditative sounds of the royal gamelan orchestra. The palace is on Jl. Ronggowarsito. It has three entrances, one from the west, east and south. The Pendopo is in the central courtyard; you cannot miss it. Watching the dance rehearsals is free and open to anyone. If you are interested in a guided tour of the palace; there are English, German, Dutch and Japanese speaking guides available who will show you around for a small fee.

**Festivals** - Every year around September the „Solo International Performance Art Festival“ (SIPA) takes place, a 3 days long art event featuring local and international programs. Information and schedules about all events taking place can be obtained at the Solo Tourist Office at Jl. Slamet Riyadi next to Bank BCA's main branch. There you can also get all kind of brochures and city maps. The FB pages Kota Solo / Event Solo / Agenda Solo are also very usefull to get information about what is going on in town.

**Wayang Kulit** – once a month, on malam Jumat Kliwon according to the traditional Javanese calendar, there is a Wayang Kulit performance at the Pendopo of Taman Budaya Surakarta. It starts at 9:00 PM and goes on until around 4:00 AM the next morning. Note: malam Jumat Kliwon means that the event is on the evening before (Thursday night), as traditionally the day already starts at 6:00 PM in the evening!

**Wayang Orang** – is the traditional theatre showing scenes from the Mahabharata and Ramayana using human actors instead of shadow puppets. There are performances on Monday to Saturday at 8:00 PM at Sriwidari Park along Jl. Slamet Riyadi.

