

Indonesian tourism climbs 13.67%

by Asia Pulse,
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The number of foreign tourists visiting Indonesia in the first 11 months of 2007 rose 13.67 per cent to 4,109,831, from 3,615,739 in the same period last year, the Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS) said.

The increase reflected encouraging developments, particularly for those engaged in the tourism industry, BPS Deputy Chief for Distribution and Service Statistics Ali Rosidi told a press conference here Wednesday.

In November 2007 alone, a total of 398,983 foreign tourists visited Indonesia via the country's 15 gateways, up 8.57 per cent from the same period last year, he said. The number of tourist arrivals in November 2007 rose 13.56 per cent from October 2007, when it was 351,351, he said.

Compared to November 2006, 11 of the 15 gateways saw an increase in the number of tourist arrivals in November 2007 with Adi Sumarmo Airport in Solo, Central Java, recording a 62.41 per cent rise, Hasanuddin Airport in Makassar, South Sulawesi, (60.25 per cent) and Juanda Airport in Surabaya, East Java, (47.97 per cent), he said.

Meanwhile, the other four gateways, namely Simpang Tiga, Mataram, Ngurah Rai and Manado saw a decline in the number of tourist arrivals, he said. The number of tourist arrivals through the Hasanuddin Airport in November 2007 represented a 335.23 per cent increase compared to the previous month.

But if compared to November 2006, the number of tourist arrivals through Ngurah Rai Airport rose 24.40 per cent in November 2007, he said. The occupancy rates of star-rated hotels in the country's 10 tourist destinations in October 2007 reached an average of 47.46 per cent, up 1.09 points from a month earlier.