



Legend

Prambanan Archaeological Park Complex

- Motor Parking
- Car Parking
- Bus Parking
- Souvenir Shop
- Ticket Box
- Information Center
- Public Toilet
- Management Office
- Museum
- Cleaner Office
- Ramayana Open Air Theatre
- Trimurti Indoor Theatre
- Gardener Office

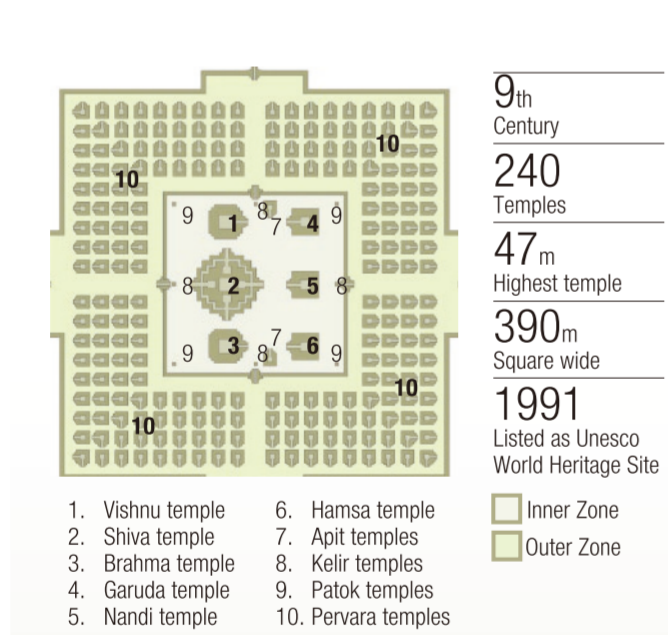
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Prambanan

The Most Beautiful Hindu Temple in the World

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Rara Jonggrang Temple as main complex of Prambanan compound is 9th century Hindu temple compound in Central Java, Indonesia, dedicated to the Trimurti, the expression of God as the Creator (Brahma), the Preserver (Vishnu) and the Destroyer (Shiva). The temple compound is located approximately 17 kilometres northeast of the city of Yogyakarta.

According to the history, Rakai Pikatan, a Hindu prince from Sanjaya Dynasty, who had married into the ruling Buddhist Sailendra monarchy built all the temples in the Prambanan archaeological park. In its original form, the temple complex contained over 250 large and small temples. The temple compound was expanded by successive Mataram kings with the addition of the hundreds of perwara temples around the central temples. It served as the royal temple of the Kingdom of Mataram for its religious ceremonies and sacrifices. However, in the 10th century the temple was largely abandoned because the Mataram dynasty moved to East Java. It then collapsed during a major earthquake in the 16th century.

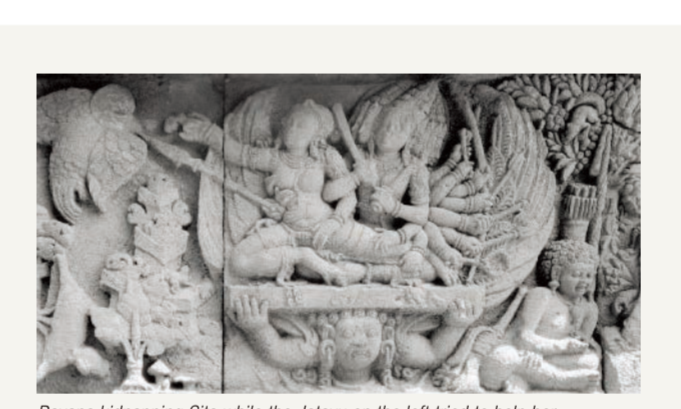
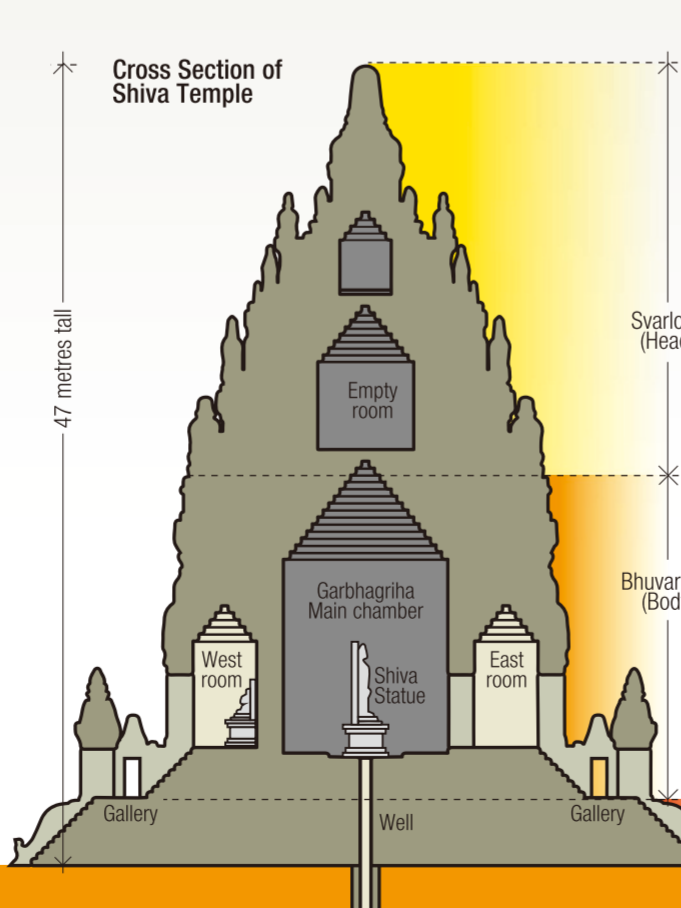
The Roro Jonggrang Legend

The 1000th statue of the temple was the statue of a slender virgin lady named Roro Jonggrang, who turned into stone by a young and powerful man named Bandung Bondowoso after her attempt to thwart Bondowoso's effort in building a thousand temples and two wells in one night for the lady failed. Bondowoso was in love with Roro

Jonggrang and asked her to marry him. However, Roro Jonggrang was full of hatred because Bondowoso killed her father; hence she tried to refuse his proposal by asking him a seemingly impossible task. As a man who had unseen troop of spirits, it was easy for Bondowoso to finish the task. After nearly a thousand temples had been built, Roro Jonggrang asked the villagers to pound rice and to set a fire in order to look like the morning had broken. This way, the spirits had no choice but left before completing the last one temple. Bondowoso realised that the lady had cheated him so he turned Roro Jonggrang into the 1,000th statue. This is a very interesting folklore that local people love to share.

Ramayana and Bhagavata Purana

The temple is adorned with panels of narrative bas-reliefs telling the story of Hindu epic; Ramayana and Bhagavata Purana. The narrative bas-relief panels was carved along the inner balustrades wall on the gallery around the three main temples. The bas-relief of Ramayana illustrate how Sita, the wife of Rama, is abducted by Ravana.



The monkey king Hanuman brings his army to help Rama and rescue Sita. This story is also shown by the Ramayana Ballet, regularly performed at full moon at Trimurti open-air theatre in west side of the illuminated Prambanan complex.

Prambanan panel: Lion and Kalpataru

The lower outer wall of these temples were adorned with row of small niche containing image of sinha (lion) flanked by two panels depicting bountiful kalpataru (kalpavriksha) tree. These wish-fulfilling sacred trees according to Hindu-Buddhist beliefs, is flanked on either side by kinaras or animals, such as pairs of birds, deer, sheep, monkeys, horses, elephants etc. The pattern of lion in niche flanked by kalpataru trees is typical in Prambanan temple compound, thus it is called as "Prambanan panel".

Lokapala, Brahmana, and Dewata

Across the narrative panel of reliefs, above the temple body wall on along the gallery decorated with statues and reliefs depicting the gods and the brahmin's receipts. The statues of the Gods Lokapala, god heavenly guard over the eyes of the wind can be found in Shiva temple. While the statues of the brahmins composing the Vedic scriptures are found at Brahma temple. In Wisnu temple there are statues of gods flanked by two apas or celestial nymphs.



The Shiva Temple

The Shiva temple is the tallest and largest structure in Prambanan Loro Jonggrang complex, it measures 47 metres tall and 34 metres wide. The main stairs located on the eastern side. The eastern gate of Shiva temple is flanked by two small shrines, dedicated to guardian gods, Mahakala and Nandhisvara. The Shiva temple encircled with galleries adorned with bas-reliefs telling the story of Ramayana carved on the inner walls of the balustrades.

The Brahma & Vishnu Temple.

The two other main shrines are that of Vishnu on the north side of Shiva shrine, and the one of Brahma on the south. Both temple facing east and each contain only one large chamber, each dedicated to respected gods; Brahma temple contains the statue of Brahma and Vishnu temple houses the statue of Vishnu. Brahma and Vishnu temple measures 20 metres wide and 33 metres tall.

The other three shrine in front of three main temples is dedicated to vehicle (Vahana) of the respective gods – the bull Nandi for Shiva, the sacred swan Hamsa for Brahma, and Vishnu's Kite Garuda.

Restoration & Acknowledgement

Worldwide knowledge of its existence was sparked in 1814 by Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles, then the British ruler of Java, who was advised of its location by native Indonesians. Prambanan has since been preserved through several restorations. The largest restoration project was undertaken between 1975 and 1982 by the Indonesian government and UNESCO, following which the monument was listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.