

**Join us in Java!
Java Sugar Mill Tour
August 2017**



Join us (John and Wilson) for a visit to see the truly amazing heritage Java Sugar Mills and their narrow gauge railways.

Our Way:

We plan to offer in-depth visits to the mills which can best give us the total picture of the traditional sugar process from cane cutting and loading onto wagons in the fields, the working of wagons along temporary track to the permanent railways by water buffalo or small diesels, field trains taking the cane to the mills in the afternoon/evening (along with empty trains in the morning), yard work, gantries unloading the cane into the mill's train of crushers (normally driven by 4-5 large stationary steam engines), the smaller steam pumps moving the juice, the sugar process leading to off-white sugar being bagged at the end and moved to warehouses (often with teams of labourers and often using railways).

We will **not** try to provide steam loco action every day (which can only be achieved by chartering locos that can barely move themselves and don't have anything realistic left to do) followed by a long distance drive to the next mill which can provide the same depressing spectacle and missing some interesting mills in the process.

What's on offer

A tour around less-busy, more-traditional eastern Java in a loop from Surabaya east to Pasuruan, Probolinggo and Situbondo, south through the hills to Jember, a daytime train ride to Madiun where we stay for several days to see the last real, conventional steam in Java before returning to Surabaya airport (end of main tour) or an optional 'post-tour' repeat visit to the Probolinggo area (for field work at Kedawung sugar mill). We will use only 4 different hotels during the main tour period in Pasuruan/Probolinggo, Situbondo, Jember and Madiun meaning you have time to establish yourself at each place (to

unpack, sort out washing and find the best shops and restaurants).

Itinerary

Pre-tour	Date	
-2	30 July 2017	Depart Europe or North America for Java, Indonesia
-1	31 July 2017	Arrive Surabaya Airport, Java, overnight in designated tour hotel near airport

Day of Tour	Date	Activity and overnight
1.	01 August 2017	Leave Surabaya airport or airport hotel 9-10 am to Probolinggo or Pasuruan, afternoon at Kedawung mill
2.	02 August 2017	Kedawung field trains
3.	03 August 2017	Morning at Gending, Wonolagan and/or Pajarakan mill, transfer to Situbondo, Hotel Rosali
4.	04 August 2017	Wringinanom mill and field lines
5.	05 August 2017	Olean mill and field lines (steam charter)
6.	06 August 2017	Asembagus mill and field lines
7.	07 August 2017	Additional day for Wringinanom/Olean/Asembagus field lines
8.	08 August 2017	Additional day for Wringinanom/Olean/Asembagus field lines (Based on what we have seen on our first visits to these mills, the group will decide which to return to. The target is field trains and we don't anticipate going inside the mill compounds.)
9.	09 August 2017	Morning free or empty field trains at Olean or Wringinanom, early lunch, departure to Prajakan mill for the molasses train (14:00), transfer to Jember
10.	10 August 2017	Semboro mill and steam charter
11.	11 August 2017	Jatiroto mill and field lines

12.	12 August 2017	Semboro mill and steam charter
13.	13 August 2017	Jatiroto field lines (overnight Jember or Probolinggo)
14.	14 August 2017	say goodbye to Combo, transfer to Madiun by day train, meet up with Agus, possible afternoon Rejoagung mill visit or free time
15.	15 August 2017	Purwodadi mill real working steam
16.	16 August 2017	Pagotan mill converted fireless steam , Kanigoro mill steam charter (if this is possible, mill may be closed)
17.	17 August 2017	Purwodadi mill real working steam and Sudhono mill (Indonesian Independence Day - sugar mills work as normal although mill hooters blow for a minute at 10 am)
18.	18 August 2017	drive via Surabaya Airport for afternoon/evening flight home (end of tour) or (start of post tour) late afternoon visit to Kedawung field lines overnight Pasuruan.

Optional Post Tour

1.	19 August 2017	Kedawung field lines (time to track down loaded trains on this huge system, village scenes close to the mill, street running to the south west, both small and large diesels in use. This is a pretty decrepit system which we think is on its last legs - some lines including the flat crossing with the state railway have already gone - see it while you can!)
2.	20 August 2017	Kedawung field lines (a friendly mill, everyone is welcoming but come prepared with cigarettes, bottled water or soft drinks and foreign coins!)
3.	21 August 2017	Kedawung field lines (we will ask for permission to visit the other 3 mills in this area, in case action at Kedawung is slow. We also have the option to return to Jatiroto and Semboro field lines which are not far away.)
4.	22 August 2017	early morning departure to Surabaya Airport, end of post tour tour, depart from Surabaya

By focussing on the 10 best mills, we will visit the last 6 with diesel field work, 1 with a molasses train transfer from mill to storage tanks, 1 with real working

conventional steam, 2 with fireless steam and 2 with steam charters. The majority of these mills also have interesting steam equipment inside the mills.

Post tour

Your guides have decided to spend their extra time in Java concentrating on empty and full field trains at Kedawung. You are very welcome to join us if this is also of interest to you.

Pricing & Tour numbers

With the US dollar really strong, we have taken the opportunity to renegotiate the tour price with our local guides. We can now offer an 18 day main tour for \$2660 and the main plus post tour for \$3220. This represents a significant reduction in the original dollar tour price but we wanted to make this tour affordable to someone who has savings or earnings in British pounds (or other currencies that have fallen against the dollar. We need 4 additional people (total 8 people) to offer this tour as described. A version of the tour will go ahead with less than 8 people but the price and what we get for our money will depend on our renegotiations with the guides.

Included/not included in the price

The daily tour price includes your en-suite single air conditioned hotel room including breakfast, transport in a private minibus, services of a local guide, mill access permissions (based on one mill per day on average over the whole period which should equal at least one access to each mill on the tour), bottled water, and the assistance of two experienced Java hands (John and Wilson) who will guide you at the mills and to dinner each night (note that dinner and lunch are not included in the tour price) which will either be Javanese, Indonesian or Chinese Indonesian. Lunch will either be a sit-down meal or a stop at a convenience store.

Local beer (Bintang, Anker, Bali Hai - all decent 5% lager beers) should be available with dinner but may be difficult to come by otherwise.

Charters

As charters cannot be guaranteed, we have now removed them from items included in the tour price. We will advise you if a charter is possible at Olean, Semboro (possibly 2 charters) and Kanigoro closer to the start of the tour along with the anticipated price. Should you not wish to participate in some or any charters, please let me know when booking the tour.

After the 2015 tour, I noted:

In 2015, steam charters cost between Rp 2.5 million and Rp 3.2 million (depending on the mill and the loco chartered) which was affordable when split between a group of 6 or more. Charters seem inevitably to involve tips for the loco crews and security officials that are not asked for if we visit to see real working steam and diesels. These extra costs will also have to be borne by the group.

(Rp 3 million is now equivalent to US \$224 - 8 January 2017 or \$28 each.)

Before and after

Should you wish to visit Mount Bromo (overnight) for sunrise over the volcanoes, we can arrange this for you either prior to the start of the tour or at the end with a car and driver.

Should you wish to continue at the end of the tour from Madiun to Solo and/or Yogyakarta and/or Borobudur and Prambunan, we can arrange this for you with a car and driver.

Please ask us for details.

Should more than one participant wish to do this, we can coordinate this so you can share transport and reduce on the cost.

If your special interest is stationary steam

The main interest of the tour leaders is the sugar mill railways. However, we would be delighted to have you on this tour and our extended stays at around 10 mills with a potential visit to 3-6 more mills, should allow you plenty of time to explore inside the mills. However, please note that only one mill visit per day (on average) is included in the tour price (18 days = 18 mill visits included). Return visits (where normally the main group will be concentrating on field lines and don't plan to re-enter the mill compound) will be at additional cost for permission once you have exceeded your tour allowance. Also note that the headquarter's letter of permission clearly states that the mill can charge separately to see the railway operation **and** to go inside the mill. On my last trip in 2015, we were never once asked to pay twice to access the railway and the mill but this could happen in 2017. You may be asked to choose 'the mill' or 'the railway' or pay extra for the other. Because all access to the mill compound is by advance letter of permission from the headquarters in distant Surabaya which states the date of the visit, we will need to know if and when you would like repeat access to a mill so that this can be covered in the letter of permission. The letters are issued for free with payment made at the mill when the permission is used. You should, therefore, feel free to ask for permission on more dates that you think you will need. However, you will need to do this before our guides visit Surabaya in July to apply for permissions. (The additional price of mill admission should be \$10 per person per visit payable in Indonesian rupiah if you need to pay this yourself.)

Book a place on this tour

You can book a place on this tour (a maximum of 6 more places are available to make a total of 10 of us) with a refundable deposit of £400. Please contact me if you would like to book your place.

John Raby

(with support from **Wilson Lythgoe**)

8 January 2017