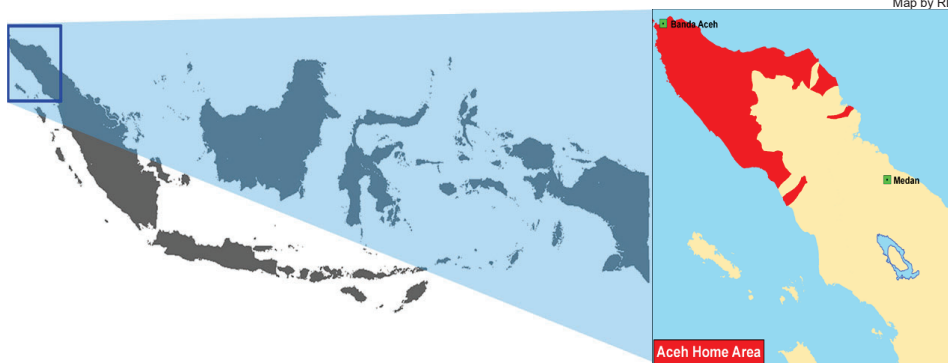


ACEH



Create

The Aceh are expert to make jewellerys



Map by RD

Demography	Aceh Language	Status
Location: Aceh Population: 3.850.000 Major religion: Islam	Bible: Yes Jesus film: Yes Online Media: No	Believers: < 100 jiwa ^(3,373) Engaged: Yes Indigenous Church: 0

Identity and Location

The Aceh people live in the northernmost part of Sumatra, in the Special Islamic Province of Aceh with Banda Aceh as its capitol city. In the past, Banda Aceh was the stopping place for Indonesian Muslims making the Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca by ship. Thus it is called the “Front Porch of Mecca.”

The Aceh people, also called Akhir, A.Tsing, or Ureung, comprise the majority in Aceh. Both their ethnic group and their heart language are called Aceh. Nearly all Aceh are Muslims, famous throughout Indonesia for devout belief and practice.

The Aceh strongly prefer conversation in their own language, but most use Indonesian language as well. Aceh people form the majority in most regencies of the province, including Aceh Besar, Pidie, Aceh Barat, Aceh Utara. This leaves only Aceh Selatan and Central Aceh where they are not a majority.

Society and Culture

Most Aceh work as farmers and fishermen. Traditional homes contain a great room serving as both family room and kitchen, with a separate room for sleeping. The great room contains a ceramic-lined fire pit filled with slow-burning coals. Traditional Aceh homes stand on stilts about two meters above the ground. Under the house live the livestock: cattle, goats, sheep and chickens. Tools and firewood are also kept under the house. The floor and walls of the houses are made of coconut tree lumber and bamboo. The rooves are either terracotta tile or thatch. Nowadays, however, new homes are mostly block construction.

Traditionally, both men and women in Aceh wore a sarong (a modest and colorful skirt). However, in recent years there has been a move toward preferring Islamic

clothing.

The traditional Aceh weapon is the rencong, an ornate sword used in formal ceremonies. Men wear it folded into the front of their sarong

Women generally do all the housework and most men do not get involved, even in raising children. All children, even the smallest, must help with housework. Inheritance is distributed according to Shariah law: sons receive a double portion compared to daughters, but daughters always receive land and houses.

Beliefs

The Aceh are devout Sunni Muslims and have been instrumental in spreading Islam throughout Indonesia and other Southeast Asian countries. It is often said, “To be Aceh is to be Muslim.”

Aceh people have strongly opposed other Aceh people who converted to other religions. The Special Islamic Province of Aceh is the only province of Indonesia that officially implements Shariah Law, and has influenced other Indonesian provinces toward implementing Shariah. One example of Shariah implementation in Aceh is obligating all women to wear Islamic head coverings, even if they aren’t Muslims. Yet up to the present, other ethnic groups in the province have freedom to worship according to their own beliefs. Many Aceh people are still influenced by animistic beliefs such as belief in a variety of spirits and superstitions.

Needs

Aceh people still need help rebuilding from many events that have destroyed much of their infrastructure: the 2004 tsunami, earthquakes, and the military conflict between Indonesian national troops and the Free Aceh Movement (GAM) secessionists.