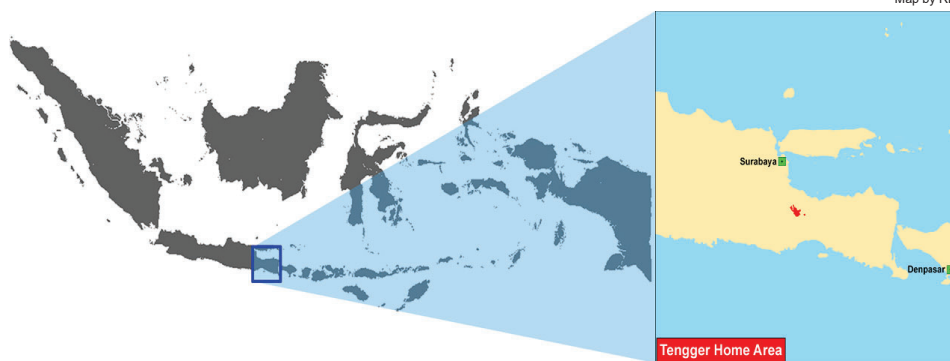


# TENGGER



Photo by RD



Map by RD

Demography	Jawa Language	Status
Location: East Java	Bible: No	Believers: <500
Population: 88.000	Jesus Film: No	Engaged: Yes
Major Religion: Hindu	Online Media: No	Indigenous Church: 0

## Identity and Location

The Tengger people live around Mount Bromo in East Java. They live in portions of the regencies of Pasuruan, Probolinggo, and Malang. The Tengger adhere to Hinduism and, according to legend, are the direct descendants of the Majapahit Empire. The name “Tengger” comes from a combination of the two names of the founders of the people group: Joko Seger and Roro Anteng. “Teng” comes from ‘An-teng’ and “ger” comes from ‘Se-ger’. The Tengger dialect of the Jawa language is spoken in the areas of Mount Bromo, including Pasuruan, Probolinggo, Malang, and Lumajang. In Pasuruan, the dialect can be found in Tosari District, and in Probolinggo it can be found in Sukapura District. In Malang, the Tengger dialect is found in the Ngadas area of Poncokusumo District. In Lumajang, this dialect is spoken in the Ranupane area of Senduro District. The Tengger dialect is thought to come from the old Kawi variety of Jawa and maintains some ancient phrases no longer used in modern Jawa. Some evidence of this includes the pronouns reang (masculine “I”) and isun (feminine “I”). In addition, words that end in ‘a’ in old Kawi Jawa are also pronounced with “a” in the Tengger language whereas in modern Jawa the convention is to pronounce these words with an “o.”

## Society and Culture

The Tengger people are honored as being honest, unenvious, and non-confrontational while upholding the values of equality, democracy, and living together in community. The day-to-day language used by the Tengger people is Jawa Tengger, a form of ancient Jawa. Their language, unlike Jawa, does not have different levels based on the social hierarchies of the community. Unlike the Bali people, Tengger communities do not have palaces, libraries, or rich cultural traditions. They do, however, have several important artifacts such as bronze bells and

cisterns on the slopes of northern Tengger which have become ruins. Even so, they are rich in their beliefs and traditional ceremonies which include: karo (the largest festival which is celebrated similar to Christmas), kapat (a festival of praise to the wind), kawulu (a festival giving offerings for the preservation of earth, water, air, sun, moon, and stars), kasangan (a festival requesting the safety and preservation of the Tengger people), and kasada (a festival of throwing offerings or sacrifices into the crater of Mount Bromo).

## Beliefs

The Tengger area has long been considered a holy place, ever since the Majapahit era. Since that time the inhabitants have been known as worshippers of Sang Hyang Widi Wasa (a Hindu deity). Even now, they follow a Hindu tradition stretching back to the Majapahit Empire. There are strong similarities between the Hinduism in Bali and the Tengger. Both are Hindu Dharma. However, the Tengger variety does not have a caste system and the Tengger people’s traditions are based on those originating from the Majapahit Empire. For the Tengger, Mount Bromo (Brahma) is believed to be a holy mountain and every year the Tengger hold a ritual known as Yadnya Kasada. This ritual begins in the temple at the foot of the north side of Mount Bromo and continues up to the rim of the crater. From the middle of the night to early morning on the full moon of the 10th Javanese month (known as kasodo), adherents bring offerings and throw them into the crater.

## Needs

Travel throughout the Tengger areas requires much caution, as many of the roads are steep, narrow, poorly maintained and difficult to pass. If the road systems were improved, the Tengger people could develop a unique tourist industry (such as Bali has) which would be interesting for both local and foreign tourists.<sup>(RD)</sup>