

GUIDE
TO THE
DUTCH EAST INDIES.

COMPOSED BY INVITATION
OF THE
KONINKLYKE PAKETVAART MAATSCHAPPIJ
(Royal Steam Packet Company).

BY
Dr. J. F. van BEMMELEN,
Late Lecturer on Nat. Hist. at the Gymnasium Willem III at Paderborn,
AND
G. B. HOOYER,
Retired Lieut.-Colonel of the East Indian Colonial Army.

Translated from the Dutch
BY
The Rev. B. J. BERRINGTON, B.A.
Private Teacher of the English Language at The Hague.
WITH 16 PLATES, 13 MAPS AND PLANS, AND A COPIOUS INDEX.

London: LUZAC & CO., 16, GREAT RUSSELL STREET,
Batavia: G. KOLFF & CO.

1897.

Ascent of the Gede and the Pangerango.—Instead of returning to Sindanglaja, you can continue the walk up the mountain towards TJIBEUREUM along the road that branches off below Tjibodas. Along a mountain path, here and there densely overgrown and badly kept, through a primeval wood, we reach the Bat grotto, and get to the waterfalls of the Tjibeureum (130 metres high), flanked by those of the Tjikoendoel and Tjibodas, over slippery bridges and a rocky ground. The majesty of this scene is overwhelming. From this point we must return to the open place, where the road divides, and choose the left path to ascend the Gede. Still climbing, we reach in two and a half hours Kandang-Badak (*badak* = rhinoceros). Those denizens of the wood have, if not entirely, at least for the greatest part, disappeared from this mountain. One couple is said to be still living on the Pangerango. Continuing to climb, taking the path to the right, we reach in another hour and a half, along steep slopes and narrow paths, the summit of the last-named mountain, called Mandalawangi. For the active crater of the Gedeh, the left path has to be taken.

How, and at what time best to undertake this mountain ascent, and what you have to take with you in the shape of food and clothing, is to be ascertained from Mr. Leroux, who has already shown himself of great practical assistance to many tourists.

Most people start in the afternoon from Sindanglaja, ascend during the night through the wood, in order to enjoy the sunrise and the absence of clouds around the summit, and to admire the lovely panorama of the interior and the mountain-chains of West Java. In that case one can be back in the hotel in the afternoon. We might also visit Tjibodas and Tjibeureum, the first day, pass the night at Kandang-Badak, and the next morning before sunrise, departing at four o'clock a.m. with torches, ascend the Pangerango, and again descend to Kandang-Badak, to pass the night there again, in order to ascend the Gedeh on the third day early in the morning, and to return to Sindanglaja the same day.

The Pangerango (Mandalawangi).—The whole chain of mountains which is named the Gedeh, belongs to one of the most remarkable volcanoes of Java, as the two crater-pits by which they are bored through, are of an extraordinary circumference. That of

a wilderness. In half an hour this lake, which is almost circular in shape, with its diameter of 700 feet, can be walked round, and the waterfall, solfatara, and the hot springs which heat the water and put it into a bubbling motion, can be visited.

The green banks that rise high in the north, form a strange contrast to the surface of the water, which receives its white reflection from the sulphur and the alum, at the bottom of the lake.

No volcanic eruption has taken place here since 1822.

About 150 to 250 metres lower, we find in the north-west, at the source of a small valley, completely surrounded by shrubs, PADJAGOLAN, the valley of the dead (slaughter-place), with a bare, crumbled bottom of a pale grey-yellowish colour, which throws out choking vapours, that stick to the bottom, kill the small animals and reduce them to the mummy state.

The journey back to Garoet again affords lovely views of the mountains, with which we have now become acquainted, and of the conical SEDA HOKKIR (the revived death) at our very feet.

Unnecessary to say, that where the high mountains and the virgin woods that cover them are so easily reached, as is the case here, the gathering of orchids and other forest plants presents no difficulty.

Hunting.—From Soekaboemi, Tjiandjoer, Bandung, and Garoet, excursions can be undertaken to the thinly populated, wild country of the South Preanger, where tigers, rhinoceroses (*badak*), panthers, wild buffaloes (*banjing*), deer, wild boars, etc., etc., may be hunted. For this, however, arrangements must be made, the particulars of which cannot be given in such a book as this.

With the assistance of the Government officials, and the numerous amateur sportsmen amongst the Europeans, there is no great difficulty, however, with regard to this.

As far back as 1877 the Prince of Lichtenstein went with only one European hunter, and a few coolies from Soekaboemi, to the *alang alang* fields, situated on the south seashore, remained there twenty days, and shot, among other animals, a rhinoceros. The Archduke of Austria Este, too, went in 1892 with a large company of hunters from Tjiandjoer to the south, where the great herds of half-wild "Karhouwen" graze. The landed proprietors of these parts often make interesting hunting parties for big game. Of the native population one need stand in no fear. The Soendanese are willing and