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**Southern Asia** Topics specific to Southern Asia, from Iran and Armenia east through Pakistan and India to China / Vietnam / Indonesia.



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## How to bring your bike from Malaysia to Indonesia and vice versa

As the current situation is quite confusing and the past weeks brought lots of frustration with them, I wanna share all information about our crossing in detail for any fellow bikers to save them time, money and hassle.

### Malaysia > Indonesia

So here is how we smoothly shipped our bikes from Malaysia to Indonesia in **May 2012**, to be exact from Port Klang to [Tanjung Balai Asahan](#) on Sumatra (don't mix it up with the other port called Tanjung Balai close to Singapore!)

**You need:**

- Indonesian Visa

You **can not** get a visa on arrival in Tanjung Balai!

You can get it within one day in KL or Penang. Bring two passport photos, passport copy and copy of the Malaysian entry stamp. In KL there are copy shops and passport photo service right next to the embassy.

If you are really willing to take the risk, you can let them ship the bike itself and fly to Medan where you can get VOA. But the traffic is very dense, it will take you at least(!) three hours on the road to get to Tanjung Balai to see the bike.

- Carnet de Passage (see below, if you don't have one yet)
- Invitation letter by Ikatan Motor Indonesia (IMI). Takes at least 5-10 working days and numerous emails to remind them to send it out, look below for details.

- police recommendation letter (good to have, only after you cleared customs in Indonesia)

As far as I know it's a legitimation to ride a big bike in Indonesia, though I can't read it and the police officers had no clue about it either. Not sure if you actually ever gonna need to show it to a police officer when you get stopped and what are the consequences of not having it.

*Note: Just back from Indonesia where I did about 10,000 km between Medan and Bali. Was stopped by police several times, they never wanted to see more than my national driving license. So if you can get the bike from the port without police letter, I wouldn't bother getting that letter again.*

- two copies of each: passport, carnet in-side with vehicle details, IMI invitation letter
- international driving license (police might want to see/stamp it)

### **Our shipping agent Izanil**

Young local guy speaking good English, working at the port customs (I think) as well as running some kind of shipping business with office directly at the port. Not always easy to reach or reliable to call back, but in the end was worth his money.

Don't expect him to give you an exact date and time when the next ferry can bring your bike. We drove to Port Klang one Thursday and were told the ferry already left at 10:40am. While being noticed the following week on the eve of Tuesday to be ready the next morning. So always keep in touch with him and be ready for getting up early to reach the port by 9am. He will meet you there and bring you to their office right at the pier.

Best if you contact him as soon as you come close to Malaysia. If there's no ferry you can easily spent 2-3 days doing a loop around Malaysia's beautiful roads and still come back to KL fast.

Usually they do bikes on Tuesday and Thursday, while the ferry itself should go six times a week Mon - Sat. I assume it depends on the demand of passenger using the ferry or also the correct combination of boat, captain and custom personal at duty. The ferry company he arranges the transport with is called "**Dragon Asia Ferry services**".

He will arrange for you:

- ferry tickets
- export stamps in the carnet on the Malaysian side
- custom to open the gate at the Malaysian side for you. (there's no gate on the Indo side they will rather push your bike through the custom building)
- ferry crew to load and unload the bike for you

### **The boat**

The ferry we had (**Langkawi 1**) is a pure person carrier but got enough space to take two large overland bikes and one smaller one. Doesn't hurt to bring a spanner or two to fix it for the journey. We had a 300+ kg Africa Twin and a CB400. Both handled without issues.

### **The crossing**

We met Izainil at 9am close by the port of Port Klang at [a big crossing with RHB bank](#) which gave us more than enough time (Go on straight and turn right at the T-junction, and you will get to the port building). After breakfast we went to his office at the port and waited for him to get the tickets and the carnet

stamps. Then we went back to the bikes and waited for the customs to open the pier gate for us. While I had to carry my rather light luggage into the customs building to be scanned, the luggage of the Africa Twin was allowed to stay on the bike (stating that it's only dirty laundry) and only one smaller backpack was checked.

You drive the bike to the boat first and go back to get the Malaysian exit stamp or the other way round, but better wait until you are sure that the customs is ok with you bringing your bike in.

Once you have your ferry ticket you are registered with your passport number as passenger, so they will look out for you if you are missing, but anyway they had us and our bikes on the boat before any of the other passenger was.

By 12.30 the ferry left (this can be somewhere between 11am and somewhere in the middle of the night depending on when the ferry is ready to leave, it tends to break often). The crossing took about 4 hours which is considered short (can be up to 8 if the sea is rough).

Loading and unloading seems quite troublesome on seeing the stairs and very high ledge of the ferry door, but there were about 10 ferry guys who brought the bikes in and out within a minute. You might not want to look at them lifting your precious bike over water and down stairs though. 😊

But you really need to have a sharp eye on bikes and belongings. Best if one can handle the paperwork of passport/carnet and the other looks out for the bikes. Keep in mind that on the Malaysian side you have to give your fingerprints on exit, while getting the entry stamps for two passports in Indonesia was no issue.

## Customs

We did not have troubles with authorities on either side at all, they were very friendly and curious. No bribe or fee, but rather them giving us a pack of cigarettes. My new carnet from AAM also got an exit stamp in Malaysia despite it being the issuing country and us telling them that the Indonesian entry stamp should be the first on it. But I guess it will be okay.

In Indonesia they will push your bike to the customs building and also bring your luggage there for you which is about 150 m from the arrival hall, just be quick so that you always have it in sight. And of course never leave the key with the bike.

The Indonesian customs still seemed very inexperienced with carnets, we had to show them where to stamp and sign, but I'm sure that will change quite fast. The local police officer which showed up asked us for the police recommendation letter, but when we stated that we will go and get it ourselves, he left the scene. The office is in the center of Tanjung Balai, maybe 7 km from the port and the officers wanted to call it a day as well 😊.

## What did we pay?

120 RM for the ferry ticket for one person (included some water and a simple rice + fish meal on the boat)  
900 RM for one bike (disregarding size/weight)  
200 RM commission for Izainil  
40.000 IDR per bike for unloading  
25.000 IDR per bike for the police letter

On the Indonesian side the staff unloading our bikes wanted 100.000 Rupiah for each bike. We stated that the captain was already paid to distribute it to the workers as well and that we don't have any money with us. In the end they let us go with us giving them the 80.000 IDR we had (which is more than reasonable for Indonesia and the barely 20 minutes work they did, I guess). But from a biker crossing shortly after us we know that the unloaders asked for 200.000 IDR for one bike (it was in the middle of the night though) before they even touched it. So, even if you can still haggle with them, expect to pay at least 100.000 IDR.

Best to bring some IDR along, you will only find ATMs several km closer to the city and it took us 5 stops to find one which accepts VISA.

It makes it the cheapest option for time being. Bringing the bike over as cargo to other ports will bring along more transportation charges, port fees, up to 10 days of waiting, require you and the bike traveling separate and additional costs for plane ticket and accommodation while you wait. Also take in account that your visa is running while waiting.

## Contacts

+60 136367611 Izainil, shipping agent at Port Klang

+62 8121117477 Diah Yanuardani, former(!) IMI, but still kindly handles invitation letters (yanuar\_danie@yahoo.com)

The new official contact for it is [imi@imi.co.id](mailto:imi@imi.co.id) or +62 21 5712032, but I didn't have luck with getting a reply.

+62 816857388 Freddy Soemitro, IMI official, call him when you have problems with bike customs on the Indonesian side

## What if I don't have a carnet?

You can get the needed carnet (CDP) from AAM (Automobile Association of Malaysia) even if your vehicle is registered in another country (it will cost you way less than in Singapore!). It takes about three days from application until you can pick it up, if it's urgent they can do it until the next day. You have to go to the main office in Sha Alam.

Contact: Ms. Haniza at AAM: +60 129421931

She's knowledgeable about the process and very helpful!

You need:

- Registration paper
- Driving license national/international
- Proof of insurance
- Passport

The costs are:

<bike value as stated in insurance> as refundable deposit (can be a bank security)

+ 500 RM fee for the carnet

+ 100 RM for one year AAM membership

I said that my insurance doesn't state any value, so they estimated my '96 Super 4 on their side at 5000 RM. When I was asked for my address in Malaysia, I gave the one of my guesthouse, no questions asked.

The appendix of my registration actually states a way higher value, but I left that page at home. So ask them for an estimation first (takes one minute) it will almost definitely be way lower.

## How to get the invitation letter from Ikatan Motor Indonesia (IMI):

You need:

1. applications Letter (including your route):

Quote:

"I'm \_\_ from \_\_ and doing a RTW trip with my \_\_, planing to come into Indonesia at port \_\_, going from \_\_ to \_\_, \_\_ and leaving at \_\_.

2. scan of passport
3. scan of visa
4. scan of carnet
5. photo of your motorbike

I only took photos of carnet, visa etc. due to not having a scanner at hand, it did the job.

Send it by email to Ms. Diah Yanuardani: [yanuar\\_danie@yahoo.com](mailto:yanuar_danie@yahoo.com)

The official email is [imi@imi.co.id](mailto:imi@imi.co.id) but I never got any reply from there.

## How to get the police recommendation letter in Indonesia?

- Take all your papers and copies along with the police letter I attached to show them what kind of paper you need. (The bike was not necessary, but showing a photo to the curious officers won't hurt)
- If possible get a local speaking English to come with you to explain.
- Go to the traffic police in center of Tanjung Balai, quite a large complex (sorry, don't have coordinates right now, hope someone else can add it), the address on our letter says:

Kepolisian Negara Republik Indonesia  
Daerah Sumatera Utara  
Resor Tanjung Balai  
Jl. Jend. Sudirman No. 20 Tanjung Balai 21313

- Wait, have a seat, be astonished how much Indonesian smoke and chit-chat your way through until you get the paper (took us about 2.5 hours with help of a local)

The fee you pay is up to you, 25.000 IDR per bike was accepted.

### **Port Klang**





**Tanjung Balai**





Police recommendation letter:



**KEPOLISIAN NEGARA REPUBLIK INDONESIA  
DAERAH SUMATERA UTARA  
RESOR TANJUNG BALAI**

Jl. Jend. Sudirman No. 20 Tanjung Balai 21313



**SURAT REKOMENDASI**

No. Pol : B / **66** / V/2012/LL

1. Rujukan surat dari IMI ( Ikatan Motor Indonesia ) No : 244/IMI/F/V/2012, Tanggal 10 Mei 2012, Perihal pemasukan kendaraan bermotor dengan CPD Carnet dan izin mengendarai kendaraan bermotor di Indonesia.

2. Dengan ini diberikan Rekomendasi kepada :

a. Nama : [REDACTED]  
b. Alamat : [REDACTED]  
c. Waktu Pelaksanaan : Tgl. 17 Mei s/d 17 Juli 2012  
d. No. Pasport : [REDACTED]  
e. No. Carnet : [REDACTED]  
f. Berlaku s/d : 27 April 2013  
g. Penerbitan : AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION OF MALAYSIA  
h. Merek : HONDA  
i. Tahun Pembuatan : 1996  
j. Warna : HITAM  
k. Nomor chasis : [REDACTED]

3. Hal – hal yang perlu di perhatikan :

- Mematuhi segala peraturan dan ketentuan berlalu lintas (rambu, marka) yang berlaku selama dalam perjalanan.
- Menjaga ketertiban selama dalam perjalanan maupun tempat tujuan.
- Melaporkan kepada Pos / Kantor Polisi terdekat apabila terdapat halangan, kecelakaan lalu lintas.
- Menggunakan helm standar sesuai dengan ketentuan.
- Rekomendasi ini berlaku tanggal tersebut di atas kecuali di perpanjang karena terdapat hambatan di jalan oleh serendah rendahnya Kasat Lantas Polres setempat.

4. Demikian untuk menjadi maklum.

Dikeluarkan di : TANJUNG BALAI

Pada tanggal : 17 MEI 2012

**KEPALA SATUAN LALU LINTAS POLRES TANJUNG BALAI**



**A. MANULANG**

**AJUN KOMISARIS POLISI NRP 63040783**

Tembusan :

- Dirtantas Polda Sumatera Utara

Mr. Lim is well known in the RTW biker scene and very reliable. Besides I wouldn't know any alternative anyway. Just an agent who does crate/container shipping which would be a whole lot more expensive. He used to ship from Penang to Belawan as well but after one Swiss biker got his bike impounded by the Indonesian navy despite having a carnet he is no longer doing that. That poor guy had to pay a fortune to get his bike back.

The costs with Mr. Lim are **700.000 Rupiah in Belawan and 400 Ringgit in Penang (all inclusive, as of July 2012)**. On both sides an agent will bring you through everything. You really only have to drive the bike to the port and off the port on the other end.

Just contact Mr. Lim by email in advance in what week you want to do the shipping, then let the guy in Belawan know when you will bring the bike.

They ship only once a week on Tuesday and the bike reaches Penang on Wednesday afternoon. What they didn't tell me is that the customs for the boat close at least 5 hours before departure. I had to wait another week :-/. So you should drive to the Belawan office latest on Monday to get all the papers done. Then you can either leave the bike in a locked warehouse (they didn't charge me for that, even though it was several days) or bring it again the next day for the loading.

Don't leave without the bill of lading and your carnet stamped out correctly.

### **Agent in Penang:**

CAKRA ENTERPRISE  
2ND FLOOR, 187 LEBUH PANTAI aka Beach road,  
GEORGETOWN, PENANG. Tel:042625879  
[cakrashipping@gmail.com](mailto:cakrashipping@gmail.com)

Person in charge:

Mr Lim

Mobile: +60 124709717

Very nice guy and replies to emails quite fast.

### **Agent in Belawan:**

PT MELDA JAYA  
JL. BANGKA TIMUR NO. 49  
BELAWAN  
Tel No: 77671410 (but however I added international predial or what, it didn't work for me)

Person in charge:

Anarek (or similar!)

Mobile: +62 82166209122

His English is quite ok compared to the others and he's working for the custom himself.

Sadly I didn't record the coordinates, but it's a tiny shop house in a tiny side street in the middle of that small port town. You drive in almost until the port authorities and cross over the railway tracks to your right, then just ask for the street.

Their working hours can be odd as they only do this one shipping a week from what I have been told, so best is if you contact Anarek before you go there.

### **Penang**

Was nice to watch. However took 3-4 hours, onions and potatoes go first 😊



