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The fascination of the remote

THE NAME OF THIS COUNTRY, ACTS AS A MAGNET THAT ATTRACTS TRAVELLERS LOOKING FOR ADVENTURE IN REMOTE NATURAL PLACES. AWAY FROM TRADITIONAL MASS TOURS, VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK IS SURROUNDED BY FARMING VILLAGE. SOWN THE LANDSCAPE OF ACTIVE VOLCANOES GIVES THE PLACE A AIR OF MYSTERIOUSNESS.

Selamat Datang! (Welcome to Indonesian or Bahasa) says the sign at the entrance of the village of Ngadisari. From here we ascend in one of the jeeps to go up the mountain road, the hamlet of Cemoro Lawang, the goal of our journey. We are in Southeast Asia, Indonesia, the land of a thousand islands, more precisely in the second largest, Java, about 100 km from the port of Surabaya and another 600 km of the capital, Jakarta

We came here in search of volcanoes. And there's no better place than this to find them. The islands of Sumatra and Java are based on one of the most volcanically active places in the world. Not far from here in 1883, a whole island exploded in the air, the famous Krakatoa, and near the coast of Sumatra occurred an undersea earthquake that generated the tsunami that claimed the lives of millions of people in December 2004.

The volcanoes are indeed to fear but that is the reason that I generate such fascination hard to resist.

The jeeps ascend with difficulty and all is covered by some kind of fog so it is not easy to have a good look the view. It is cold and the humidity touches your bones. The local people smile and some of them smoke relaxingly they all hung together under their colourful blankets. They are from the millenary culture of the Tengger, primitive inhabitants of the East Mountains of Java.

At last we arrive at Cemoro lawang located 2.000 meters over the level of the sea. We say in a simple hotel and go to bed early. The following day will be one of great discoveries.

At three in the morning our door is knocked. It is our guide a Tengger man with fragile aspect. In the middle of the fog we leave the village and we start walking an ascended path surrounded by vegetation only lightened with the internal lights. We can barely keep the guides pace that turns out to be in a better shape than us. Exhausted we reach the summit after walking for two hours the darkness around us is complete. We can feel cold. The sun begins to shine on the East and what we see takes our breath away.

Down there covered still by the fog there lies a crater of 10 km of diameter where you can see two volcanic cones. The gray colour is opened and smoky, it's the Gunung (mt in Bahasa). Bromo of 2.396 meters. It is inactive and that is why it is covered by vegetation it's the Gunung Batok of 2440 metres.

IN FRONT: PANORAMIC VIEW OF THE CRATER OF 10 KM DIAMETER STILL COVERED BY THE FOG THE ENTRY OF THE NATIONAL PARK BROMO TENGGER-IN THE VILLAGE OF NGADISARI. TYPICAL HOUSES OF THE FARMERS OF THE VALLEY. OUR GUIDE MICHHU IN HIS HOME. MEMBERS OF THE TRIBE TENGGER THAT HAVE LIVED IN THIS REGION FROM IMMEMORIAL TIMES.

We are stunned by the imposing figure of the mountain. As if we were mute witnesses of the prehistoric gestation of the land we contemplate with visceral terror as the mountain spits a cloud of ashes making it bigger and bigger.

It is the magnificent Gunung Semeru that with its 3676 meters it's the oldest mountain in Java and the most active volcanoes. Punctually it spits each 20 to 25 minutes a huge cloud of ashes. Due to this the vegetation cannot survive a volcano in activity.

Already over several emotions we spend time enjoying the stunning scenery. We are standing on top of Gunung Pananjakan (2702 m), where you have the best view of the Crater of M. of Tengger.



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The village of Lawang Cemoro barely discernible is like hanging on the edge of crater surrounded by countless farm parcels. No doubt these are very fertile lands and its inhabitants have learned to use them from time immemorial. Most of the vegetables consumed in the neighbouring cities, including Surabaya, come from this area. Fortunately, the entire region is protected within the National Park Bromo-Tengger Semeru, so hopefully that keeps the beauty for future generations of travellers eager to volcanoes and strong impressions. Selamat Jalan, Terima Kasih! (Goodbye and Thanks!)