



Revisiting West Sumatra and West Pasaman 2019 – No. 6, December 2018



NO TIME TO READ? Go to the last page 14.

Dear all,

from Hubert, who lives in Jakarta and therefore knows the most recent changes, I received a response on Newsletter 5. The message, to which I added some comments resulting from more research:

- **ALWAYS check your flight details**, i.e. Terminal and even the Airport. There are many changes coming up.
- Garuda’s international and domestic flights arrive and leave from Soekarno-Hatta/Cengkareng, CGK Terminal 3. Terminal 3 is home of Garuda. <https://www.airport-jakarta.com/terminal-3.php>
- (Today, December 24, almost all Citilinks, Garuda’s budget airline, depart from Terminal 1. <https://www.airport-jakarta.com/cgk-departures-airline-citilink?tp=0>)
- If one needs to switch Terminals at the CGK airport, you can use the intra-airport train-shuttle service or taxi. A short trip, but for Rp 50,000 (about 3 €) you may prefer the convenience. The price might have gone up. Compared to other trips of the same distance, perhaps 5 minutes, it is very expensive.
- The old Halim Airport south of Jakarta serves increasingly for civil domestic flights: Halim Perdanakusuma (HLP) – Padang (PDG):

| Airline | Departure | Arrival |
|----------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Batik | 15:30, 18:55 | 13:50, 20:00 |
| Citilink (by Garuda) | 17:10 | 21:10 |



Transportation to Jakarta:

- International Arrival at Terminal 3: a new taxi queuing service has been introduced. One needs to get tickets at ticket machines next to the taxi stands.
- Payments at road toll stations are non-cash only. Taxi drivers will use a BCA flazz card or preloaded cash cards from any other bank to make the payment at the toll. These cash cards can (or have to be) also be used for public transportation such as TransJakarta buses and also inner-city trains in Jakarta. (I purchased and re-loaded the cash cards at TransJakarta bus stops or train stations.
- The drive from the airport to downtown takes about 45-60 minutes during the week – during rush hour it may take much, much longer. (If it is only for relaxing from the flight and adjusting: Take a hotel at the airport! They are inexpensive and you may get a free flight show! Experience how it is like to live close to the airport! Are airplanes nowadays still noisy? – For returning from the city to the airport better calculate 90 minutes or take the airport train.)

Telephone SIM Cards:

- You just need your passport for SIM registration. (They may also ask for your return ticket). At the arrival hall of Terminal 3, there is a GraPARI Telkomsel service centre. There are numerous call/data packages, for example: Telkom, Paket Simpati costs about IDR 100,000 (6 €) for 10 GB / 100 minutes / 30 days. (Check for a similar service from Telkom just outside the arrival hall in Terminal 2 where hotel agents and money changers have their booths. The advantage: people at the airport are more likely to communicate in English. Don't mind for *slightly* higher prices at the airport. The price mentioned here may perhaps be for the load and not include the SIM card, which should cost approximately Rp 50,000. But who knows, prices drop once in a while. Even in Indonesia.)
- I would recommend to use the Telkomsel network for coverage in rural areas.
- Free Wi-Fi connections also at Terminal 3.



Hotel in Padang

We decided that The Axana Hotel will be a suitable place to stay while in Padang.

<https://www.booking.com/hotel/id/the-alana-padang.de.html#availability>

(There seems to be a glitch: the website address says a^lana, but the name is Axana.)

I talked to the Hotel and we negotiated for the **“Deluxe” Rooms** with either Kingsize and Twin Bed. Including breakfast for up to two persons, the price is Rp 550,000, which is presently less than € 35 per room. We booked for three nights (see below).

To get this price, we told them that the total number of nights will be 60. We assume that some participants will arrive one or two days earlier and some will leave Padang after Friday 22. Risk: we may not get enough Deluxe rooms if not ordered soon. We might have to accept Superior rooms. There are many other hotels close by. But moving is annoying. Therefore, **please inform us soon about your date of arrival and date of departure** to get the rooms in The Axana.

As a commitment, I will have to arrange for a down payment, which I will get back, once you have settled your bill. Our core program for The Axana Hotel is:

Arriving in Padang Check-in Fr 15 – Check out Su 17 Departure to Pasaman

Returning from Bukittinggi: Check in Th 21 - Check out Fri 22or later to your destination

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| In | Tu 21 | We 13 | Th 14 | Fr 15 | Sa 16 | | Pasaman Bukittinggi | Th 21 | Fr 22 | Sa 23 | Su 24 | Mo 25 |
| Out | | | | | | Sun 17 | | | Fr 22 | | | |

Again:

What will be the **date of your arrival?**

What will be the **date of your departure?**

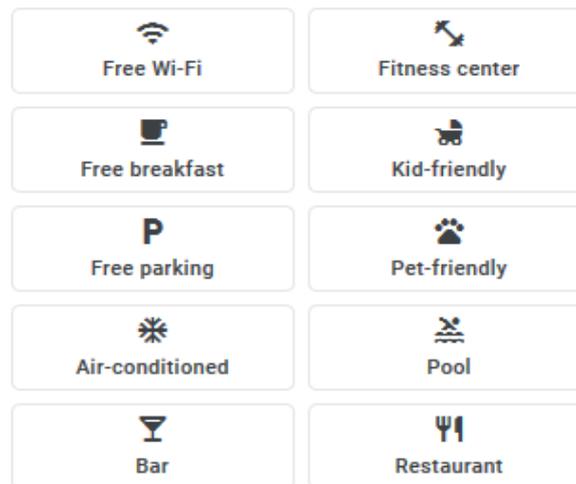


Hotel in West Pasaman

The hotel with AC rooms in Simpang Empat (or Simpang Ampek, often this location is also named Lingsuang Aua) is Al-Istiqamah Hotel (+62 753 65256). Just enter in Google the key words: "Al-Istiqamah Hotel Pasaman". Or: <https://mapcarta.com/ChIJpfyNfG18KjAR7-fzuo-pPb0U> Unfortunately for data processing, this Hotel can also be found under Istiqmah.



Amenities



I have not identified a swimming pool on one of the pictures in the net and not on google earth. See also google earth photo below. But who knows, the development is fast. Concerning the bar and availability of beer (rather restrictive), I refer to an article below.



The price of this hotel will be slightly below the price of the accommodation in Padang. Rp 500,000 is about € 30.

We have to book now. They offered
 5 Superior rooms
 15 Deluxe rooms
 10 VIP rooms



It is not a matter how much will be the discount on the published prices. It will be more about the reservation of the rooms.

Frankly, I did not yet inquire in which respect the rooms differ. The VIP rooms are certainly larger. Probably the TV too. The owners of this hotel know that there is no hotel competing in this class in a circle of more than 100 km. I heard that they serve Indonesian Breakfast: rice. I am sure that they can prepare a continental breakfast with toast and jam. I am not sure about butter. Could be Blue Band. Perhaps we will have to bring it along from Padang.

It is easier to negotiate when I know the exact number of rooms and types that I have to confirm. I cannot exclude the possibility that a high ranking government delegation or rich investors demand the rooms. It is just that you know if something turns out to be not as envisaged.

We need to know your preference: a) Superior, b) Deluxe, c) VIP

Two years ago I was in **Hotel Guchi** (+62 753 65256). Was/is rather basic, but they had also AC rooms with toilette. The tariff for the Deluxe (AC) rooms is 350,000 (about € 22) and they do not serve breakfast, just tea or coffee and a doughnut, pisang (pisang goreng, fried banana) or similar. Compared to the standard rooms, the deluxe rooms have AC. Guchi offers VIP rooms at Rp 600,000. They are more spacious. The TV is larger- Should there be too few rooms at Al-Istiqamah Hotel, would you accept Hotel Guchi or another hotel? (I will visit the hotels before you arrive.)

Here is a list of hotels and accommodations in West Pasaman (not clear, if still valid): You may goggle to learn more about the alternatives. And propose.

DAFTAR HOTEL DI KOTA SIMPANG EMPAT DAN KABUPATEN PASAMAN BARAT

DAFTAR HOTEL DI KOTA SIMPANG EMPAT DAN KABUPATEN PASAMAN BARAT

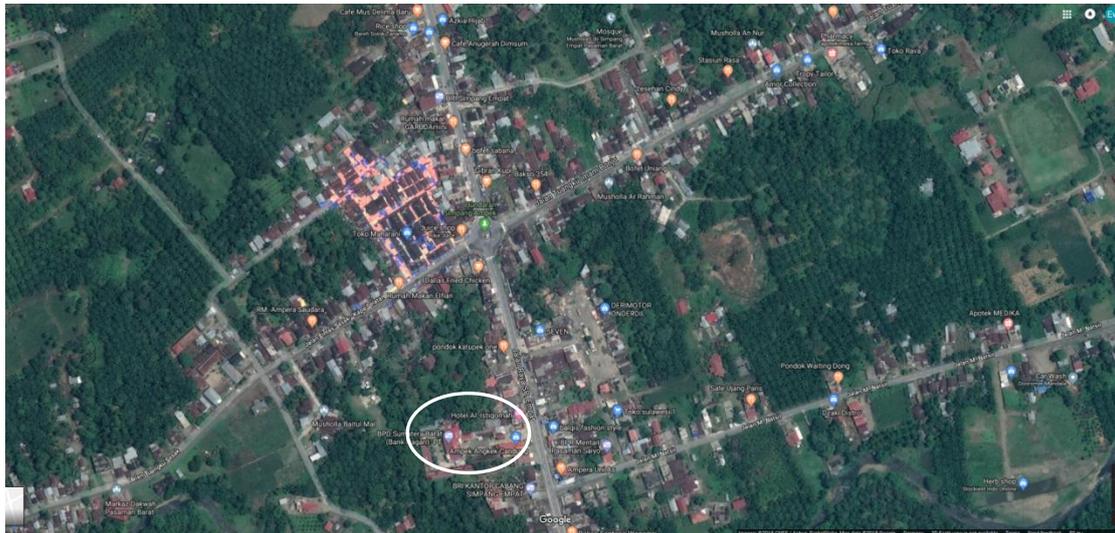
| Hotel Name | Class | Adress & description | Phone +62 0753 |
|--------------------------------|------------|--|------------------|
| Sungai Beremas | | | |
| Bayu Samudra | Mess | Pasar Muara Air Bangis | 085274153115 |
| Koto Balingka | | | |
| Juita Wisma | Wisma | Jorong Air Balam Parit | 081267588192 |
| Lembah Melintang | | | |
| Nita Utama Hotel | Melati | Jl. Flores No. 195 Uj Gading | 470289 |
| Sastra Indah Wisma | Wisma | Tamiang Ujung Gading | 470222 |
| Sentosa Wisma | | Ujung Gading Kec. L. Melintang | |
| Talamau | | | |
| Merdeka Talu Mess | Mess | Pasar Baru Talu | 081374939417 |
| Pondok Kenangan | Penginapan | Pasar Baru Talu | 60014 |
| Simpang Empat / Pasaman | | | |
| Al-Istiqamah | Melati | Jl. Jend. Sudirman, Simpang Empat Simpang Empat- Pasaman Barat Sumatera Barat 26366, Indonesia AIR CONDITIONING/ AC HOT WATER REFRIGERATOR / KULKAS TV CHANEL WASTAPEL WELLCOME DRINK PARKING AREA FREE WI-FI PERLENGKAPAN MANDI TV CHANEL | 65718 |
| Amanah Wisma | Wisma | Jl. Ki Hajar Dewantara | 7464009 |
| Ega Asri Hotel | Melati | Jl. Simp. Ampek - U. Gading | 08126793792 |
| Guchi Hotel | Melati | Jl. Batang Toman No. 2 | 65256 |
| Mandala Hotel | Melati | Simpang Empat Selatan | 65572 0812662300 |
| Pasaman Hotel | Melati | Jl. Btg Toman- Simpang IV | 65460 |
| Rodja Wisma | Wisma | Simpang Empat Selatan | 65136 |
| Yanti Wisma | Wisma | Jl. Lubuk Landua P. Tujuh | 65389 |





Interesting

Formerly, the area which is now the West Pasaman Regency consisted of 4 Districts: Kinali, Pasaman, Lembah Malintang and Sungai Beremas. Now, it is at least 11 Districts. About tripling the number of government jobs. The aspiration of the mother in law.



Simpang Empat: Roads to Sasak (left), to Kinali (bottom), to Sukamenanti/Talu (top right). And what are people cultivating behind and around their houses? Oil palms, of course! The circle: Hotel Al-Istiqamal.

NARKOBA¹: A country fights misuse of narcotic substances.



Students in West Pasaman take a urine test, Monday, July 23, 2018 15:34 WIB
 Head of West Pasaman National Narcotics Agency, Irwan Effendry, when examining student urine in West Pasaman. - The National Narcotics Agency of West Pasaman Regency, West Sumatra conducts urine tests for 60 students who are members of scout union (Pramuka) in West Pasaman. (Simpang Empat, AntaraneWS Sumbar).

¹ This is an abbreviation of Narcotics and dangerous substances (Bahan Berbahaya)



Two visitors to the cafe in West Pasaman are positive for using drugs 21 Desember 2018

Two visitors to the entertainment venue at the Modesta cafe in West Pasaman Regency, West Sumatra (West Sumatra) tested positive for drugs after a joint team of the local National Narcotics Agency conducted raids and urine tests on visitors to the entertainment venue.



Hotel in Bukittinggi

| | January | February |
|-----------------------|---------|----------|
| Avg. Temperature (°C) | 20.1 | 20.1 |
| Min. Temperature (°C) | 15.9 | 16 |
| Max. Temperature (°C) | 24.3 | 24.3 |

We will spend the night from Wednesday to Thursday in Bukittinggi. Be aware, it can get quite cool at night (16°C is the average! It can get colder.).

We propose to look for accommodation in the middle of the town close to Jam Gadang, the clock tower (see picture) . There are some very nice hotels some km from the city center, but the traffic in the afternoon and in the morning is awful. Really traffic jam. Staying in the city allows to independently stroll around to Benteng (19th-century ruins of Fort de Kock), from there over the bridge across Jl Ahmad Yani, a tourist hot spot with small cozy restaurants, to the zoo and the market. It is also possible to walk to the rim of the canyon Ngarai Sianok (Jl. Panorama).



A prestigious hotel is The **Novotel******. It's new name is The **Hills Bukittinggi**. 101 Rooms. The price for one night starts below € 50 (booking.com).

https://www.booking.com/hotel/id/the-hills-bukittinggi-convention.de.html?label=gen173nr-1DCAEoggl46AdIm1gEaDuIAQGYAQe4ARfIAQ_YAQPoAQGIAGGoAgM;sid=dee60edf60081f88fe6970b2c790a1bd;all_sr_blocks=25628910_104436303_2_0_0;checkin=2019-02-19;checkout=2019-02-20;dest_id=-2674320;dest_type=city;dist=0;group_adults=2;hapos=8;highlighted_blocks=25628910_104436303_2_0_0;hpos=8;room1=A%2CA;sb_price_type=total;sr_order=popularity;sreepoch=1545591115;srpvid=c8de84a5418c034a;type=total;ucfs=1&

Grand Rocky Hotel ****

This is an alternative to Novotel/The Hills. It is about 200 m closer to the centre. Rocky has got 143 rooms. The rating is lower against Novotel: in one portal: 6.0 vs. 8.4, in another one 7.9 vs. 8.3. I prefer Novotel.

<https://www.agoda.com/grand-rocky-hotel-bukittinggi/hotel/bukittinggi-id.html?asq=h2%2FAMnsnOGTI0HZzzE3GmKLtuhGLYWdJ6mi08UgQlorJbpmzNQAiOf4t%2BvGNjaZzE4HGU9JIHTWNLtIY6nm5%2F3aGxwSE6A67JwpRjF8rxttiEC19Vj5LCISDnH9ADh49F55e2NomojiNyhZplExaAb0sObdvC8B9gDNmR7WdVaZiXHwWXBfno%2BzbubyRzMiiMVZM7JW7mTEmEHZSQtYg%3D%3D&hotel=303355&tick=636812151883&languageId=1&userId=5e555931-547e-43ff-bb3a-ce20b811e365&sessionId=mscjdgupbvxitooapax10j1l&pageTypeld=7&origin=DE&locale=en-US&cid=-218&aid=130589¤cyCode=EUR&htmlLanguage=en-us&cultureInfoName=en-US&ckuid=5e555931-547e-43ff-bb3a-ce20b811e365&prid=0&checkIn=2019-01-17&checkOut=2019-01->



[18&rooms=1&adults=2&childs=0&priceCur=EUR&los=1&textToSearch=Grand%20Rocky%20Hotel%20Bukittinggi&productType=-1&travellerType=1](https://de.hotels.com/ho626044/benteng-hotel-bukittinggi-indonesien/)

<https://de.hotels.com/ho626044/benteng-hotel-bukittinggi-indonesien/>

| | |
|--|--|
|  <p>Grand Rocky Hotel Bukittinggi</p> <p>★★★★★</p> <p>€ 43 from Agoda.com</p> |  <p>Best seller</p> <p>Novotel Bukittinggi</p> <p>★★★★★</p> <p>€ 46 from Agoda.com</p> |
|--|--|

The prices are indications. I intend to contact the hotels soon.

Benteng Hotel

This hotel was the choice in 1980. I stayed there the first time in Bukittinggi. The location is great. You would go there if you are very nostalgic. I saw a price quotation of € 38. I guess it is negotiable, but more than 15% discount is very questionable. WLAN is in the Lobby only. The capacity is limited: 36 rooms.

Smaller hotels

Hotel Yuriko **, 40 rooms, the Superior Room is below € 20 including breakfast. They got a high rating from their guests.

Transport / Car Rental



This is a picture of the kind of cars for our transport needs. Following is an outdated list that gives the impression that it is probably not a problem to hire a car. <http://desnantara-tamasya.blogspot.com/2011/05/daftar-rental-sewa-mobil-padang.html>

We will rent AC cars with a capacity of three to five, maybe seven passengers in three rows. Avanza, Kijang



and similar. As we have to bear the cost for the driver, accommodation and food, and various other expected and unexpected cost,

we will charge the participants €20 each per day. For six days: € 120. The price includes fuel and driver. Just relax and enjoy what you see. For the trip to Abai Siat the tariff might be slightly higher, depending on the number of persons travelling there. Reason is the distance and difficult road condition.

Transport from Padang Airport (Bandar Inernasional Minangkabau, BIM) to Padang city

I wrote about it in the earlier letter. Since May 21, 2018, a train connects the airport in Padang with the final railway station Simpang Haru in the city. I found this choice only recently. Picture below: At the airport terminal





https://id.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kereta_api_Minangkabau_Ekspres

| | |
|---|---|
| Start of operation Mulai beroperasi | 21 Mei 2018 (Diresmikan Oleh Presiden Joko Widodo) inaugurated by the President |
| Perjalanan | |
| Distance -Jarak tempuh | 23,005 km |
| Time - Waktu tempuh rata-rata | 40 menit |
| Frekuensi perjalanan harian | 5 kali pergi pulang sehari / five times daily |
| Pelayanan | |
| Kelas layanan | Eksekutif komuter bandara |
| Fasilitas difabel | Facilities for disabled persons existing |
| Susunan tempat duduk | 32 tempat duduk disusun 2-2 saling berhadapan 32 seats are arranged 2-2 in front of each other |
| Fasilitas kereta makan | Tidak ada no restaurant |
| Jenis kaca jendela Type of window | Kaca panorama dupleks, dengan <i>blinds</i> , lapisan laminasi isolator panas Duplex panoramic glass, with blinds, a layer of heat insulating laminate. |
| Fasilitas hiburan Entertainment facilities | Ada Yes, existing |
| Bagasi | Ada |
| Lain-lain Others | toilet, alat pemadam api ringan, AC, rem darurat toilets, light fire extinguishers, air conditioners, emergency brakes. |

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Kereta api Minangkabau Ekspres merupakan layanan kereta api komuter bandara kelas eksekutif yang melayani rute Padang-Stasiun Bandara Internasional Minangkabau. Diresmikan pada 21 Mei 2018, satu rangkaian kereta ini terdiri dari empat kereta dengan kapasitas angkut 393 orang. Kereta bandara yang berbasis Kereta Rel Diesel Elektrik ini dibuat oleh PT Inka. Kereta api Minangkabau Ekspres ini merupakan KRDE Eksekutif Keempat setelah KA ARS Kualanamu, KA Kedungsepur (retrofit dari Nippon Sharyo MCW 302), dan KA ARS Soekarno-Hatta.^[1] Rangkaian ini merupakan rangkaian pertama KRDE Bandara buatan PT Inka Madiun, disusul oleh Kereta api ARS Adi Soemarmo (sementara rangkaian digunakan pada Kereta api Solo Ekspres).</p> | <p>Minangkabau Ekspres train is an executive class airport commuter train service that serves the Padang-Station route of the Minangkabau International Airport. Inaugurated on May 21, 2018, a series of trains consists of four trains with a capacity of 393 people. The airport train based on the Electric Diesel Rail Train was made by PT Inka. This Minangkabau Express train is the Fourth Executive KRDE after the ARS Kualanamu Train, Kedungsepur Train (retrofit from Nippon Sharyo MCW 302), and Soekarno-Hatta ARS Train. [1] This series is the first series of the Airport KRDE made by PT Inka Madiun, followed by the ARS Train Adi Soemarmo (while the circuit is used on the Solo Express Train).</p> |
|---|--|

At inauguration, the ticket price was Rp 10,000 (about 0.60 €)



Schedule Jadwal perjalanan Minangkabau Ekspres sesuai Gapeka 2017

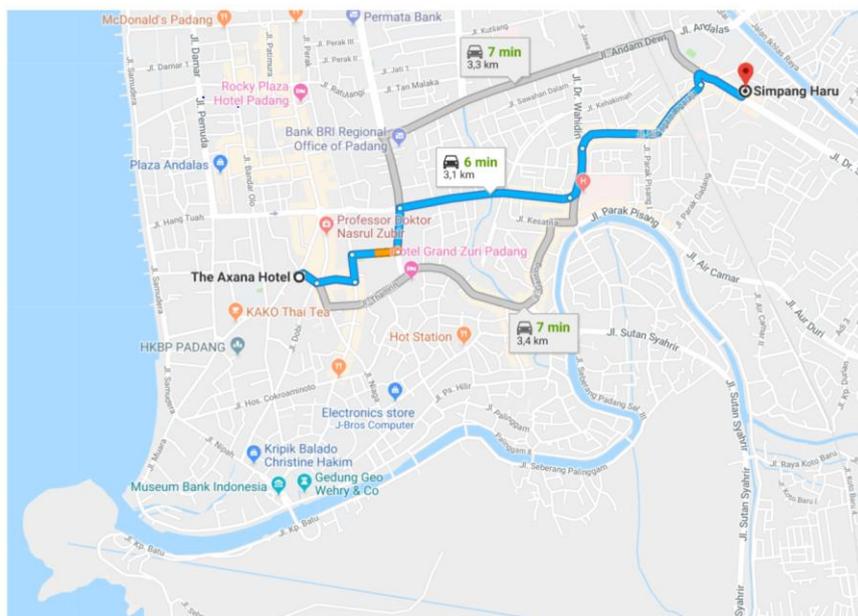
(BIM - Padang) from Airport to city

| Stasiun | Train # B13 | | B15 | | B17 | | B19 | | B21 | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | Arrival Datang | Departure Berangkat | Dat | Ber | Dat | Ber | Dat | Ber | Dat | Ber |
| Bandara Minangkabau | - | 07.40 | - | 09.45 | - | 12.10 | - | 14.45 | - | 17.55 |
| Duku | 07.47 | 07.49 | 09.52 | 09.54 | 12.17 | 12.19 | 14.52 | 14.54 | 18.02 | 18.04 |
| Tabing | 08.04 | 08.06 | 10.09 | 10.11 | 12.34 | 12.36 | 15.09 | 15.11 | 18.19 | 18.21 |
| Padang | 08.20 | - | 10.25 | - | 12.50 | - | 15.25 | - | 18.35 | - |

(Padang - BIM) to Airport

| Stasiun | Train # B14 | | B16 | | B18 | | B20 | | B22 | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | Arrival Datang | Departure Berangkat | Dat | Ber | Dat | Ber | Dat | Ber | Dat | Ber |
| Padang Simpang Haru | - | 06.15 | - | 08.35 | - | 11.10 | - | 13.20 | - | 16.20 |
| Tabing | 06.29 | 06.31 | 08.49 | 08.51 | 11.24 | 11.26 | 13.34 | 13.36 | 16.34 | 16.36 |
| Duku | 06.46 | 06.48 | 09.06 | 09.08 | 11.41 | 11.43 | 13.51 | 13.53 | 16.51 | 16.53 |
| Bandara Minangkabau | 06.55 | - | 09.15 | - | 11.50 | - | 14.00 | - | 17.00 | - |

From the railway station take a taxi to Hotel The Axana. (3.1 km)





Or a Bendi! For about Rp 50.000, or slightly more (€ 3).



Summary

Accommodation in Padang

I will check in at The Axana Hotel: Yes or No:

I will check in at The Axana Hotel on: day, DD.MM.

I will check-out on: day, DD.MM.

Room preference at Al-Istiqamah Hotel in West Pasaman:

- Superior
- Deluxe
- VIP

In case there are not enough rooms available:

I am ready to stay in another hotel in West Pasaman Yes or Never

Preferred accommodation in Bukittinggi

- Novotel or Grand Rocky
- Any less luxury hotel