

# Banjarmasin

INDONESIA



POPULATION  
**4,200,000**

Banjarmasin is the largest city in South Kalimantan and home of the Banjar People. It is situated on the eastern side of the Barito River, about 22km from the south coast of the island of Borneo. Together with its neighbouring city, Banjarbaru, it forms the ninth largest metropolitan city in Indonesia.

It has remained an important harbour city since ancient times. It sits at the junction of the Barito & Martapura rivers, which play a significant role in the Banjarese way of life. Each morning there are floating markets where farmers and merchants trade their goods on boats.

## Language

Banjarese is the spoken language of the indigenous communities of South and Central Kalimantan. It is recognised as a separate language by the Indonesian government, but is essentially a dialect of Malay and not widely spoken outside of the region. Bahasa Indonesia is the official language in Kalimantan.

## Religion

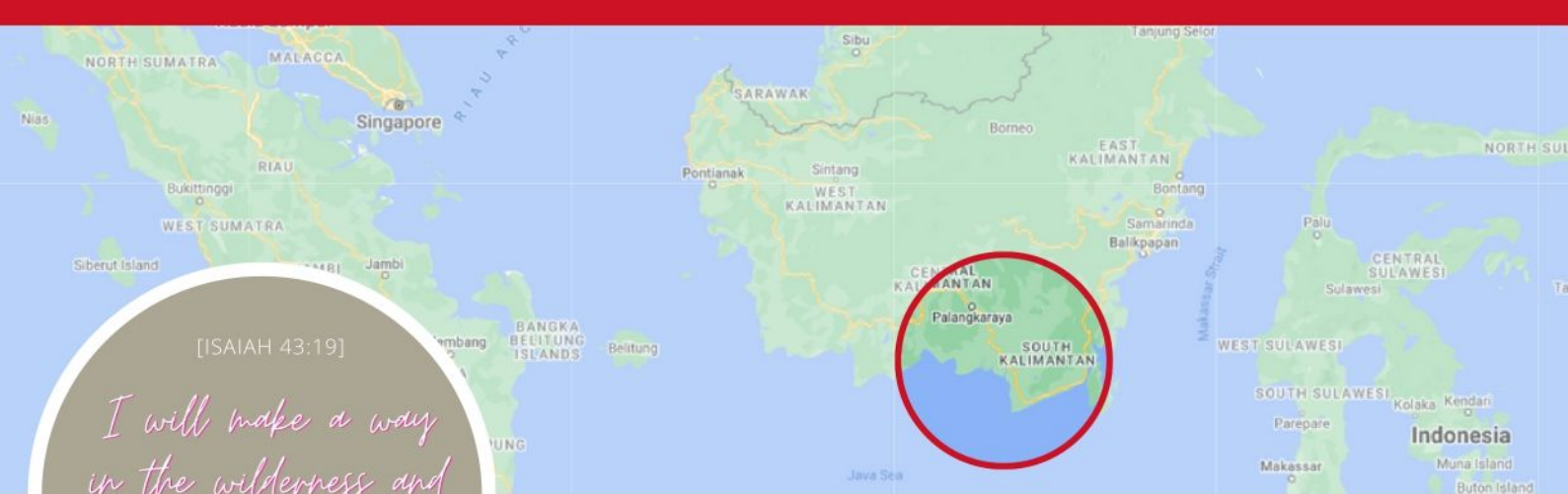
Being Banjarese by definition includes professing Islam; its influences can be seen in every aspect of individual and family life. There is also a traditional animistic undercurrent in their belief system, teaching that certain supernatural powers live in objects such as stones, trees and mountains.

## Economy

Agriculture is the most common occupation among the Banjarese. A vast area of tidal swampland has been reclaimed for wet-rice fields, fruit and vegetables. Many Banjarese women sell produce from their boats at the pasar terapung (floating market).







[ISAIAH 43:19]

*I will make a way  
in the wilderness and  
rivers in the desert.*



## Pioneering Priority

Although there are many followers of Jesus in south Kalimantan, there has been little outreach to the Banjar people. There are only a handful of known followers of Jesus amongst the Banjar. More workers are needed - is God calling you to the Banjar people?

## Opportunities

**Business** opportunities exist in many areas including, but not limited to, agriculture, import/export, and IT.

**Tourism** is a growth area. Banjarmasin is the gateway to the Sebangu National Park, offering opportunities for eco-tourism.

**Teaching** at the Tech School or University is open for people with a Master's Degree or higher. Other teaching opportunities exist for people with an ESOL certificate.

**Study** a Master's Degree at one of the universities in Banjarmasin.

## Prayer

- Praise God for the Banjar who have decided to follow Jesus.
- Pray that followers of Jesus would find ways to serve the Banjar people, demonstrating God's love in practical ways.
- Pray that other followers of Jesus in Kalimantan would develop an increasing burden to reach out to the Banjar.
- Pray that the Banjar followers of Jesus would boldly share the Good News with their family, friends and neighbours.
- Pray for more workers to catch a heart and vision for the Banjar people and explore opportunities to live and work in Banjarmasin long-term.

**Language Learning:** Long-term workers in Banjarmasin will need to learn Bahasa Indonesian. Language schools are available in various locations. This option can provide a visa for up to two years.

