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# Enhancing Bandung as a Global Destination for Coffee Tourism Innovation

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**Abstract:** Bandung, Indonesia, known for its colonial architecture and gastronomic offers, hopes to become a global coffee tourism destination. This study explores Bandung's coffee culture, including brewing methods and historical relevance, to develop personalized experiences and effective marketing strategies. Bandung may attract coffee fans while also supporting local coffee producers by focusing on coffee education, conducting specialty coffee events, and offering coffee vacation packages. Bandung's global appeal is further enhanced by digital marketing and virtual reality experiences. Understanding Bandung's coffee culture helps to preserve the city's legacy and solidifies its status as a top coffee tourism destination.

**Keywords:** bandung, coffee culture, tourism, marketing strategies, specialty coffee, sustainable development

JEL Classification: L83, M1, O1

#### Introduction

Bandung, a historic city in Indonesia, has evolved as a popular tourist destination, known for its compelling blend of colonial architecture, sustainable urban planning, and culinary quality (Setiadi et al., 2023; Agoes & Agustiani, 2023). To continue and promote Bandung as a global tourism hub, it is critical to conduct research into the city's coffee culture, which is an important component of its cuisine and tourism business. Understanding Bandung's coffee culture and performing research on coffee tourist marketing is critical for profiting on this well-known component of the city's cuisine (Maspul, 2023). Understanding the motives and interests of coffee travelers allows Bandung to create bespoke experiences as well as effective marketing and branding approaches (Astari et al., 2023). These studies would shed light on the distinctive features of Bandung's coffee scene, such as the coffee-making method, history, and cultural value. Bandung can offer immersive experiences that attract coffee fans looking to explore the city's rich coffee legacy and revel in one-of-a-kind coffee products.

Furthermore, doing studies on coffee education, holding specialty coffee events, and providing coffee travel packages would help boost Bandung's position as a global coffee tourism destination. By building coffee education facilities, Bandung may provide visitors the opportunity to learn about various coffee kinds, brewing techniques, and the art of coffee tasting. Hosting specialized coffee events would bring together coffee professionals, aficionados, and visitors, creating a stimulating setting for networking, knowledge sharing, and promoting Bandung's coffee superiority (Maspul & Almalki, 2023). Furthermore, offering coffee travel packages that include guided tours of coffee estates, trips to local coffee shops, and interactive coffee workshops will provide visitors a more immersive and full coffee experience.

Enhancing Bandung as a Global Destination for Coffee Tourism Innovation

Studying Bandung's coffee culture also helps to improve the local economy and preserve the city's coffee legacy. Understanding the economic impact of coffee tourism allows Bandung to create plans to assist and sustain local coffee farmers, producers, and craftsmen. In addition, studies into sustainable coffee production practices can encourage ecologically friendly ways while ensuring the long-term survival of Bandung's coffee sector (Jawo et al., 2023). Bandung can protect traditional coffee production methods, indigenous coffee varietals, and the region's cultural relevance for coffee by prioritizing its preservation.

To increase Bandung's visibility and appeal to a global audience, extensive research into digital marketing, branding, and virtual reality experiences is required (Wedel et al., 2020). Bandung may improve its online presence and entice potential visitors from all around the world by researching successful digital marketing approaches and cooperating with influencers. Implementing virtual reality technologies to provide immersive previews of Bandung's coffee-related attractions and cultural experiences would spark curiosity and interest, ultimately increasing tourist arrivals and cementing Bandung's position as a top global destination for coffee tourism.

Studies on Bandung's coffee culture are critical for preserving and promoting the city as a global tourism destination. Understanding the unique characteristics of Bandung's coffee scene, developing tailored experiences, and implementing effective marketing strategies will allow the city to attract coffee enthusiasts and position itself as a destination for immersive cultural experiences and exceptional coffee tourism products. These activities help to improve the local economy, preserve coffee heritage, and enhance Bandung's allure as a must-see destination for coffee enthusiasts.

#### Method

The qualitative study undertaken, which included discussions with local coffee roasters and professionals, site visits, and observations, provided unique insights into Bandung's coffee culture. The investigation uncovered the distinctive features of Bandung's coffee scene, including its rich history, diversified coffee-making techniques, and cultural relevance. It gave an insight into coffee travellers' motives and tastes, allowing for creating of specialized experiences and effective marketing initiatives. The study also emphasized the significance of coffee education, specialty coffee events, and coffee travel packages in boosting Bandung's status as a global coffee tourist destination. It also underlined the economic importance of coffee tourism and the need to support local coffee farmers, producers, and craftspeople. While the study has several limitations, such as potential participant bias and subjective judgments, it provides useful information that can help influence the marketing and sustainability of Bandung's coffee culture and tourism business.

#### **Result and Discussion**

Bandung, a historic city in Indonesia, has grown in popularity since its colonial history under Dutch authority until Indonesian independence (Benda, 1966; Fakih, 2023; Colombijn & Coté, 2015). Bandung's tourism business is real, blending its distinct postcolonial identity with a sustainable cityscape and Pasundan wisdom. With its dynamic highland setting and relics of Dutch colonial coffee plantations, Bandung provides a pleasant and tranquil environment that draws travelers from all over the world. Furthermore, Bandung's image as a creative and culturally varied city, combined with its culinary delights, has catapulted it into the international tourism spotlight (Debray, 2020; Prasetya, 2019). This article will look at ideas for long-term tourist sustainability in Bandung and positioning it as a worldwide tourism hub, notably in coffee tourism.

Enhancing Bandung as a Global Destination for Coffee Tourism Innovation

# Bandung's Unique Characteristics

Bandung's well-preserved colonial architecture highlights the city's historical significance and contributes to its popularity as a tourist destination. The cityscape is peppered with buildings from the Dutch colonial era of the 17th century. These structures, noted for their remarkable architectural design, reflect Bandung's rich history and cultural legacy. The preservation of colonial buildings not only improves the city's architectural attractiveness, but also gives visitors an insight into its history (Wiryomartono, 2023).

According to Pratiwi (2011), Bandung's colonial heritage has had a considerable impact on the city's tourism business. The author emphasizes the necessity of conserving colonial-era structures, which serve as concrete reminders of Bandung's past and cultural identity. Both government and private initiatives have driven preservation efforts, with the goal of maintaining the authenticity of the city's architectural legacy. The concept of heritage tourism complements Bandung's approach to preserving its colonial buildings. According to Timothy and Boyd (2003), heritage tourism is defined as traveling to experience places, artifacts, and activities that authentically represent the stories and people of the past and present. Bandung's colonial structures are preserved and shown, allowing visitors to engage with the city's past and immerse themselves in its cultural narrative (Ning, 2017).

Furthermore, Bandung's sustainable city planning enhances its appeal as a tourist destination. The city has incorporated sustainable urban development strategies, including as green spaces, pedestrian-friendly neighborhoods, and efficient public transportation networks (Gaputra et al., 2020). These projects encourage environmental sustainability and improve the quality of life for both residents and visitors. Bandung's sustainable city development follows the ideas of sustainable tourism. According to the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), sustainable tourism is "tourism that takes full account of its current and future economic, social, and environmental impacts, addressing the needs of visitors, the industry, the environment, and host communities." Bandung hopes to reduce the negative effects of tourism while increasing the advantages to the local population and the environment by adopting sustainable practices (UNWTO, 2013; Sharpley, 2020).

The incorporation of green areas into Bandung's urban planning is an important part of sustainable tourist development (Andari & Setiyorini, 2016). These places provide tourists with a break from the city's hustle and bustle while also encouraging environmental protection. According to research, green spaces improve visitors' psychological well-being and add to their overall happiness with the site (Jiang et al., 2018). Many public places have become hubs of innovation for local artisans, as well as magnets for worldwide visitors drawn to Bandung's beauty and other unique features.

Moreover, Bandung's sustainable transportation infrastructure also play an important role in tourism growth. The excellent public transit network, which includes buses and trains, allows visitors to easily explore the city while reducing their dependency on private vehicles. Sustainable mobility alternatives reduce carbon emissions and traffic congestion, resulting in a more pleasant and sustainable tourism experience (Gössling et al., 2018). Bandung distinguishes itself from other cities by conserving its colonial architecture and embracing sustainable city design. These distinguishing traits enhance the city's appeal as a tourist destination and lay the groundwork for long-term tourism growth.

## Gastronomy and Coffee Tourism in Bandung

Bandung's position as Indonesia's culinary capital is well-known globally. Its vast choice of local delicacies has won it a place on the Taste Atlas (2023) as the world's tenth best city for culinary delights, surpassing well-known destinations such as Paris, Bangkok, Seoul, Milan, Moscow, Rio de Janeiro, and Macau. Furthermore, Bandung's numerous coffee shops, which combine modern aesthetics with colonial-era architectural designs, add to the city's appeal.

Enhancing Bandung as a Global Destination for Coffee Tourism Innovation

Bandung's rich coffee culture, mixed with its verdant natural landscape and historic structures from the Dutch colonial era, improves the whole tourist experience.

The concept of gastronomic tourism is particularly pertinent to Bandung's culinary scene. Gastronomic tourism emphasizes the discovery and appreciation of local foods and beverages as an essential component of the travel experience (Hall & Sharples, 2004). Bandung's varied choice of local delicacies, which includes traditional Sundanese cuisine as well as international fusion meals, allows tourists to immerse themselves in local culinary traditions and enjoy the city's food culture. Since the Taste Atlas (2023) has named Bandung one of the top ten cities in the world for culinary delights, highlighting the city's importance in the global gastronomic landscape. This rating method considers the quality and variety of local food, iconic dishes, and a destination's overall culinary reputation. Bandung's placement on this list demonstrates its capacity to provide visitors with unique and great culinary experiences.

In addition to its gastronomic offers, Bandung's coffee culture is a major attraction for visitors. The city is famous for its numerous coffee shops, which combine modern aesthetics with colonial-era architectural features. These coffee shops offer a distinct atmosphere in which guests can have a cup of coffee while immersed in the historical charm of Bandung's colonial past (Sakina, 2020). Coffee tourism in Bandung can be viewed through the lens of cultural tourism. Cultural tourism focuses on immersing visitors in a destination's native culture, traditions, and heritage. Bandung's coffee shops not only sell a range of coffee blends, but also provide opportunities for visitors to interact with the city's coffee culture, learn about the coffee-making process, and understand the historical significance of coffee in Bandung (Maspul & Almalki, 2023; Oktafarel et al., 2021).

Bandung's natural setting, with its lush foliage and highland location, enriches the coffee tourism experience. The city's pleasant and tranquil atmosphere is great for coffee lovers to unwind and enjoy their favorite drink. Furthermore, the relics of Dutch colonial-era coffee farms offer historical and cultural significance to Bandung's coffee tourism, allowing tourists to connect with the city's history and learn about the roots of the coffee business (Pham & Shilliam, 2016; Iskandar et al., 2018). Bandung's gastronomy and coffee tourism enhance the entire tourism experience by providing visitors with a taste of the city's culinary legacy as well as the opportunity to learn about its unique coffee culture. These attractions adhere to the ideas of gastronomic and cultural tourism, emphasizing the value of local food, beverages, and cultural experiences in enriching a destination's tourism offering.

# Specialty Coffee and the Coffee Value Chain in Bandung

In recent years, the global trend of specialty coffee has caused huge waves in the coffee business. Specialty coffee is coffee obtained from specific places, with an emphasis on quality, distinct flavors, and sustainable production processes (Sunarharum et al., 2014). This tendency has not only changed consumer preferences, but it has also transformed the coffee value chain in coffee-producing countries such as Indonesia, affecting production, processing, distribution, and consumption (Maspul, 2023a; Payne, 2022).

Indonesia, one of the world's top coffee producers, has been actively involved in the specialty coffee trend (Neilson et al., 2018 & Ibrahim & Zailani, 2010). The country's different coffee-growing regions provide a wide range of flavor profiles and varietals, making it a perfect destination for coffee connoisseurs looking for one-of-a-kind coffee experiences. Bandung, located in West Java, is a major city in Indonesia's coffee sector that has embraced the specialty coffee movement.

Bandung's coffee tourism scene adheres to the concepts of specialty coffee by allowing visitors to experience the whole coffee value chain. Coffee cafes in Bandung frequently acquire their beans from local coffee farms, allowing visitors to learn about the origins of the coffee they drink and the sustainable practices used in production (Purnomo, 2018; Hasyim

Enhancing Bandung as a Global Destination for Coffee Tourism Innovation

et al., 2023). This direct connection to the coffee value chain increases the cultural tourism experience by allowing tourists to witness the cultivation, harvesting, and processing of coffee firsthand.

Furthermore, Bandung's coffee shops function as educational venues where tourists can learn about the city's coffee culture and the complexities of the coffee-making process (Permatasari, 2019). Tourists can learn about the art and science of making the ideal cup of coffee, from espresso brewing techniques to manual brewing methods like pour-over or siphon. This unique approach to coffee tourism not only piques the interest of coffee connoisseurs, but it also creates a deeper understanding for the craft and the people involved in its production.

Bandung's natural environment, with its lush vegetation and highland setting, adds to the coffee tourism experience (Hoffman, 1995). The city's pleasant temperature and good soil provide ideal circumstances for coffee cultivation. Coffee farms in the surrounding areas highlight the beauty of the sceneries while also allowing visitors to observe the coffee-growing process in a scenic environment (Sinnott, 2011; Maspul, 2023b). This connection to the natural environment lends authenticity to the coffee tourism experience, allowing visitors to appreciate the symbiotic relationship between the land, the farmers, and the coffee they consume.

Bandung's coffee tourism also benefits from the remains of Dutch colonial-era coffee farms (Protschky, 2007). These historical sites offer insight into the city's coffee legacy and the roots of the coffee business. Visitors can explore the colonial-era buildings, learn about the history of coffee production at the period, and understand the cultural significance of coffee in Bandung's past. This combination of history, culture, and coffee provides tourists with a unique and enriching experience, allowing them to identify with the city's character and learn about the progression of its coffee business (Maspul, 2023b).

In addition, Bandung has established itself as a global center for specialty coffee production and culture, thanks to the presence of current and modern coffee roasters as Wheels Coffee Roasters, Upnormal, and Makmur Jaya. These local establishments contribute to the rapid growth of Bandung's coffee sector. Aroma Coffee Factory, founded by Tan Houw Sian in 1930, is also an important part of Bandung's coffee heritage. With its rich coffee legacy and the rise of these inventive coffee roasters, Bandung has gained international recognition for its superb coffee production and thriving coffee culture.

In the final discussions, Bandung's gastronomy and coffee tourism offerings are consistent with both the global trend of specialty coffee and the concepts of cultural tourism. Bandung provides tourists with the opportunity to explore the coffee value chain, learn about the coffee-producing process, and appreciate the city's cultural legacy, making it an all-encompassing coffee tourism destination. This not only improves the entire travel experience, but also helps to promote sustainable coffee techniques, local economic development, and cultural preservation.

#### Sustaining Bandung's Tourism in the Long Term

To sustain Bandung's tourism business throughout time and position it as a worldwide tourism hub, the following fresh and unique concepts and examples might be implemented:

Maintaining Cultural Heritage: In addition to maintaining Bandung's colonial-era structures, innovative ideas can be used to make them more appealing and attract visitors. For example, some of these old sites could be converted into interactive museums or cultural centers where visitors can participate in immersive experiences about Bandung's history and legacy. This could include interactive displays, guided tours, and cultural seminars. For instance, a colonial-era building has been transformed into a "Living History Museum" where visitors can dress in traditional Sundanese clothes, learn traditional dances, and take part in traditional craft projects.

Enhancing Bandung as a Global Destination for Coffee Tourism Innovation

Sustainable City Development: Building on Bandung's dedication to sustainable urban development, creative concepts can be applied to improve the city's eco-friendliness. For example, creating urban agricultural programs in the city where visitors can participate in activities like organic gardening or farm-to-table experiences. This would not only promote sustainable methods, but also educate visitors on the significance of sustainable food production. For example, creating rooftop gardens in Bandung's commercial buildings and conducting rooftop farm tours, which let visitors to learn about urban farming techniques and sample locally grown fruit.

Coffee Tourism Promotion: To capitalise on Bandung's coffee culture, novel techniques might be explored to promote coffee tourism. One proposal is to create a "coffee trail" that takes visitors through several coffee shops and cafés, highlighting unique blends, brewing methods, and anecdotes about each place. This customized experience would allow visitors to discover Bandung's thriving coffee industry while also supporting local companies. For example, create a smartphone app with a virtual map of the coffee trail, including information about each coffee shop, recommended coffee blends, and user feedback.

Digital Marketing and Branding: In the digital age, new digital marketing methods are critical for promoting Bandung's tourism worldwide. Beyond traditional methods, immersive technologies such as virtual reality (VR) or augmented reality (AR) can provide potential visitors with a virtual tour of Bandung's attractions, allowing them to imagine themselves exploring the city's coffee shops, tasting local cuisine, and engaging with its cultural heritage. For example, create a VR experience that sends customers to Bandung's famed Braga Street, where they can virtually wander around the coffee shops, interact with baristas, and learn about the area's history. Furthermore, using social media influencers and cooperating with digital content makers to highlight Bandung's unique experiences, such as participating in coffee cupping sessions or uncovering undiscovered culinary gems, can help generate buzz and attract a larger audience. For example, collaborate with prominent travel vloggers to create compelling video content that highlights Bandung's coffee culture, gastronomy, and cultural heritage, reaching a worldwide audience and motivating potential visitors.

Bandung can position itself as a top global tourism destination by putting these creative and innovative concepts into action, attracting visitors looking for immersive cultural experiences, sustainable city environments, and distinctive coffee tourism products.

#### Innovative Ideas for Coffee Tourism in Bandung

To strengthen Bandung's role in global coffee tourism, the following in-depth and novel concepts can be considered:

Coffee Education Centers: By establishing specialized coffee education centers in Bandung, visitors can gain immersive experiences and in-depth understanding about coffee. These centers can provide workshops, training programs, and instructional tours that cover a wide range of coffee topics, such as coffee cupping, roasting processes, latte art, and the science behind brewing. Bandung's coffee education centers can work together with local growers, baristas, and coffee specialists to provide realistic and interesting learning experiences. Consider the development of a cutting-edge Coffee Academy in Bandung, complete with professional coffee equipment and facilities. The academy may provide lessons in coffee farming, processing, brewing techniques, and barista skills, drawing both local and international coffee enthusiasts.

Specialty Coffee Events: Bandung can establish itself as a specialty coffee destination by hosting international coffee events, contests, and conferences. These events can highlight Bandung's vibrant coffee culture, attracting coffee professionals, aficionados, and industry experts from all over the world, as well as providing networking chances for local coffee entrepreneurs. The events may feature live coffee roasting demonstrations, brewing competitions, panel talks on coffee sustainability, and presentations by famous coffee

Enhancing Bandung as a Global Destination for Coffee Tourism Innovation

specialists. For example, host an annual Bandung Specialty Coffee Festival, where local and international coffee roasters, baristas, and coffee enthusiasts come together to celebrate the art and culture of coffee. The festival may include coffee tastings, workshops, coffee-themed art exhibitions, and live music performances.

Coffee travel Packages: By partnering with local coffee shops, hotels, and tour operators, Bandung can offer specifically crafted coffee-themed travel packages. These packages can provide guests with a full and complete coffee tourism experience. They may involve tours to coffee estates, where tourists can observe the coffee cultivation process and engage with farmers. The packages may also include coffee seminars in which attendees can learn about brewing techniques, engage in cupping sessions, and create their own distinctive coffee blends. Collaboration among many stakeholders in the coffee value chain guarantees that tourists have a full and enriching experience. For example, the "Bean to Cup Experience" package includes a guided tour of a coffee plantation, hands-on coffee processing activities, a latte art instruction taught by a barista, and a tasting session at a local coffee shop.

Coffee Research and Development: Bandung can invest in coffee research and development projects to help the global coffee industry. Bandung can collaborate with universities, research organizations, and coffee experts to investigate novel coffee varietals, growing techniques, and sustainable farming practices. This research could lead to the creation of new coffee flavors and revolutionary coffee production methods. Bandung's coffee research and development activities have the potential to attract international cooperation and establish the city as a hub for coffee innovation. For example, establishing a Coffee Research Center in Bandung that includes laboratories and research facilities. The center can concentrate on issues such as climate change's impact on coffee cultivation, the development of disease-resistant coffee types, and sustainable agricultural techniques.

Bandung can secure its status as a top global destination for coffee tourism by embracing these new and inventive concepts. These initiatives will not only attract coffee connoisseurs, but will also benefit the local economy by promoting sustainable coffee practices and encouraging innovation in the coffee business.

#### Conclusion

Bandung has evolved as a standout tourism attraction, attracting visitors with its alluring blend of colonial grandeur, sustainable city planning, and culinary pleasures. The preservation of its ancient structures reflects the city's rich legacy and cultural character, making Bandung an appealing destination for historical tourism. Furthermore, Bandung's commitment to sustainable city development, as seen by its green areas and efficient public transit, not only increases its appeal but also supports environmental sustainability. The city's famed coffee culture, illustrated by its unique coffee shops that flawlessly merge modern aesthetics with colonial-era architecture, provides tourists with an immersive experience of Bandung's thriving coffee scene. Bandung's coffee tourism adheres to the concepts of cultural tourism, allowing tourists to learn about the coffee-making process, delve into the city's history, and appreciate the natural surroundings.

Furthermore, the specialty coffee craze has had a significant impact on Bandung's coffee value chain, encouraging sustainable production techniques and strengthening the local economy. Bandung can strengthen its position as a global tourism hub by adopting innovative concepts such as transforming historic sites into interactive museums, promoting urban agricultural programs, leveraging digital marketing and branding, establishing coffee education centres, hosting specialty coffee events, offering coffee travel packages, and investing in coffee research and development. To assure Bandung's tourist industry's continuous growth and success, future research can focus on improving the visitor experience through the combination of technology, sustainable practices, and cultural preservation.

Enhancing Bandung as a Global Destination for Coffee Tourism Innovation

Moreover, continued study and collaboration among local coffee specialists, universities, and research institutes can result in the development of novel coffee varietals, cultivation techniques, and sustainable farming practices, increasing Bandung's status as a coffee innovation hub. Bandung's unique blend of history, sustainability, and culinary pleasures positions it to captivate guests and prosper as a top-tier destination for the foreseeable future. Bandung can consolidate its position as a global tourism destination by implementing these forward-thinking efforts and continuing to explore new growth opportunities, providing visitors with immersive cultural experiences, sustainable environments, and great coffee tourism goods.

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