

How best to get from Soekarno-Hatta International Airport (CGK) to the door of your hotel in Lembang (or how I did it)

Before arrival fill out the immigration and customs forms, which you receive aboard the aircraft.

a) If you already have a visa, go direct to immigration.

b) If you are eligible for purchasing a 'visa on arrival,' then the first thing to do is to go to the counter where you make payments for your "visa on arrival" and pay \$ 25. Preferably, have it ready. You get a receipt for your payment. Next go with your passport and the receipt to the adjacent counters for "visa on arrival: foreigners." Here the visa will be entered and stamped into your passport.

Next, for both categories, proceed to the baggage collection area and from there, via customs, to the exit.



The Cipaganti desk: Third from left.

Ignore the various people who want to offer you taxi rides as you will invariably end up with a bad deal. Instead, exit the terminal, turn left and walk along the outside of the terminal building all the way down to the very end where there is a bus terminal. There, go to the Cipaganti (*pronounced: chipaganti*) desk (third from the left when I used their service - their name was not displayed, unlike the names of the three other operators).

Cipaganti uses different vehicles with different levels of comfort and different prices. Sizes vary from that of an ordinary public transport bus to minivans with different numbers of seats, and thus different spacing between seats. Choose the five-seater Hyundai minivan for maximum comfort and ask for door-to-door service so



Interior of the 5-seater Hyundai minivan.



230000Rp (or appr. \$23)

that they drop you off at the hotel. The cost for the three-hour trip will be 200 000 Rupiah for the ride to Bandung and an extra 30 000 Rupiah for the drop-off at the hotel door in Lembang. That is the equivalent of \$ 23 only. The receipt specifies: "No tip."

Even if you are traveling in a small group, this is a better option than hiring a taxi.

Enjoy the ride!