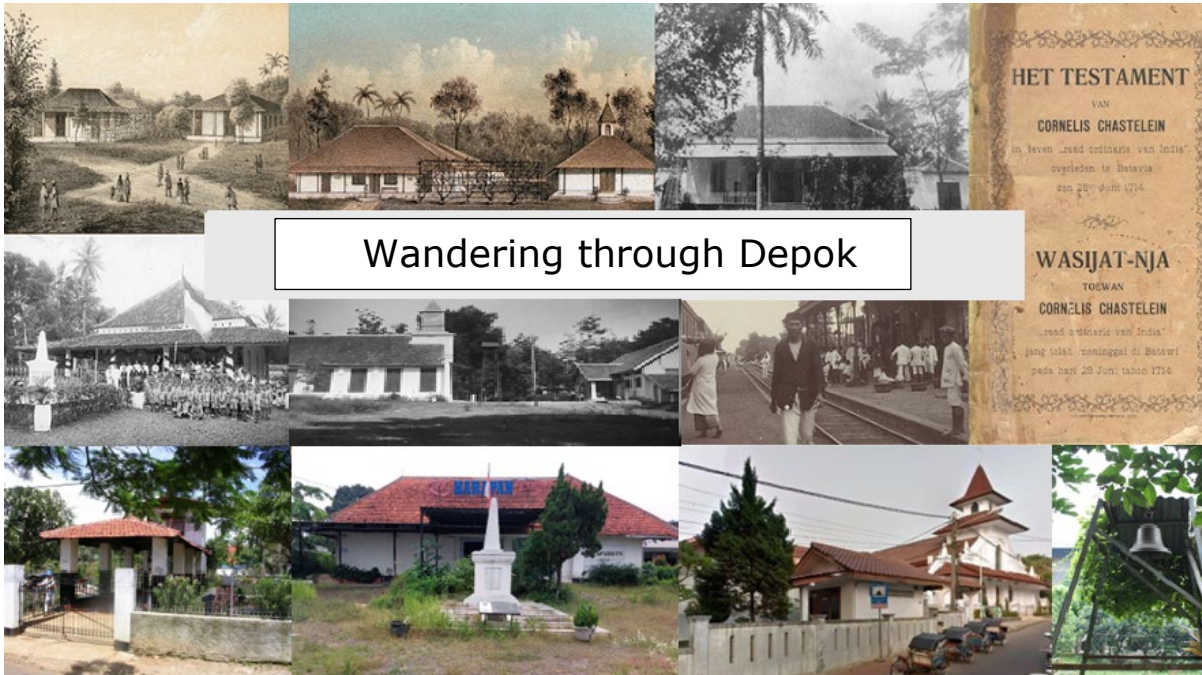


Wandering through Depok



Content

A historical walking tour through Depok Lama	3
Places of interest.....	4
Arrival in Depok Lama and beginning of the walking tour	5
By car: Sluisbrugstraat now Jalan Margonda Raya – map nr. 20 –	5
By train: Depok railway station – map nr. 1 –	5
Nature monument Taman Hutan Raya (<i>Cagar Alam</i>) – map nr. 2 –	6
Seminary Depok – map nr. 3 –	7
Jalan Kartini (Pasarstraat) – map nr. 4 –	7
Jalan Pemuda (Kerkstraat) and Jalan Mawar (Gang Bakker) – map nr. 5 en nr. 10 –	8
Former town hall and memorial needle – map nr. 6 –	8
Former European Primary School – map nr. 8 –	9
Immanuel Church – map nr. 11 –	10
Gedung Yayasan Lembaga Cornelis Chastelein, former vicarage – map nr. 12 –	10
Gedung Eben Haëzer, former community centre – map nr. 13 –	11
Former Special Depok Primary School – map nr. 14 –	11
Lunch break.....	12
De Jembatan Panus (Panus bridge) – map nr. 16 –	13
Taman Doa or Prayer Garden at the Jalan Jambu – map nr. 17 –	13
Cemetery – map nr. 18 –	14
Football field – map nr. 19 –	15
Sluisbrug (lock bridge) – map nr. 20 –	16
Neighbourhood church bell in the Jalan Bungur – map nr. 21 –	17
Rawa Besar and the former brick and roof tile factory of Depok – map nr. 22 –	18
Brief history of Depok and its inhabitants	19

A historical walking tour through Depok Lama

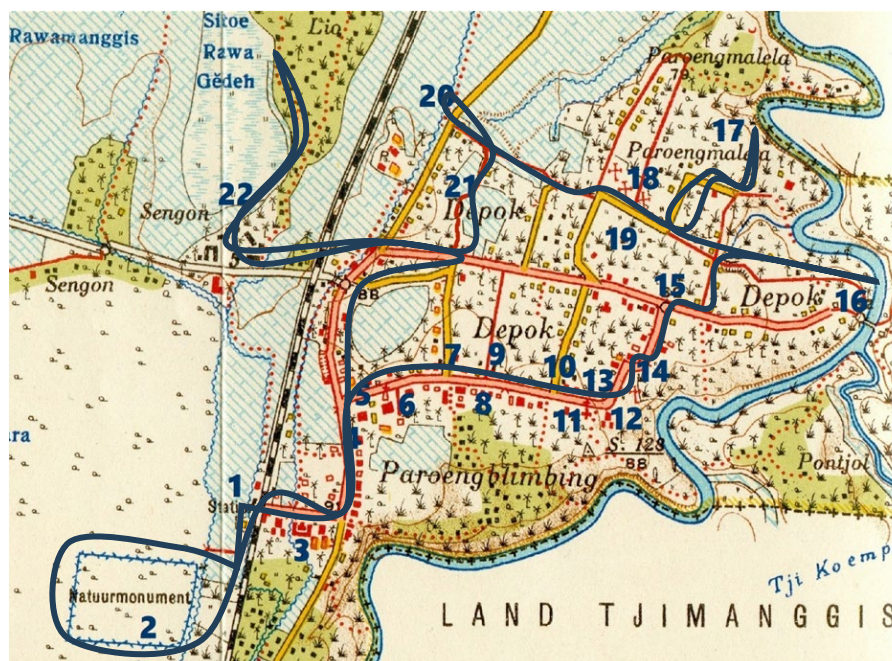
People sometimes ask if the old Depok (Depok Lama) still exists and if there is still something of *tempo doeloe* to be found there. Well, that is certainly the case! Although time has not stood still, the street plan in Depok Lama is still virtually unchanged, compared to more than a century ago. Only the streetscape has changed. Many houses, buildings and striking places of yesteryear can still be found there.

For a walk through Depok Lama, at intervals for coffee, tea, or a snack, be sure to set aside at least a full day. During the walk you will undoubtedly meet residents in the small streets, and some even speak a word of Dutch.

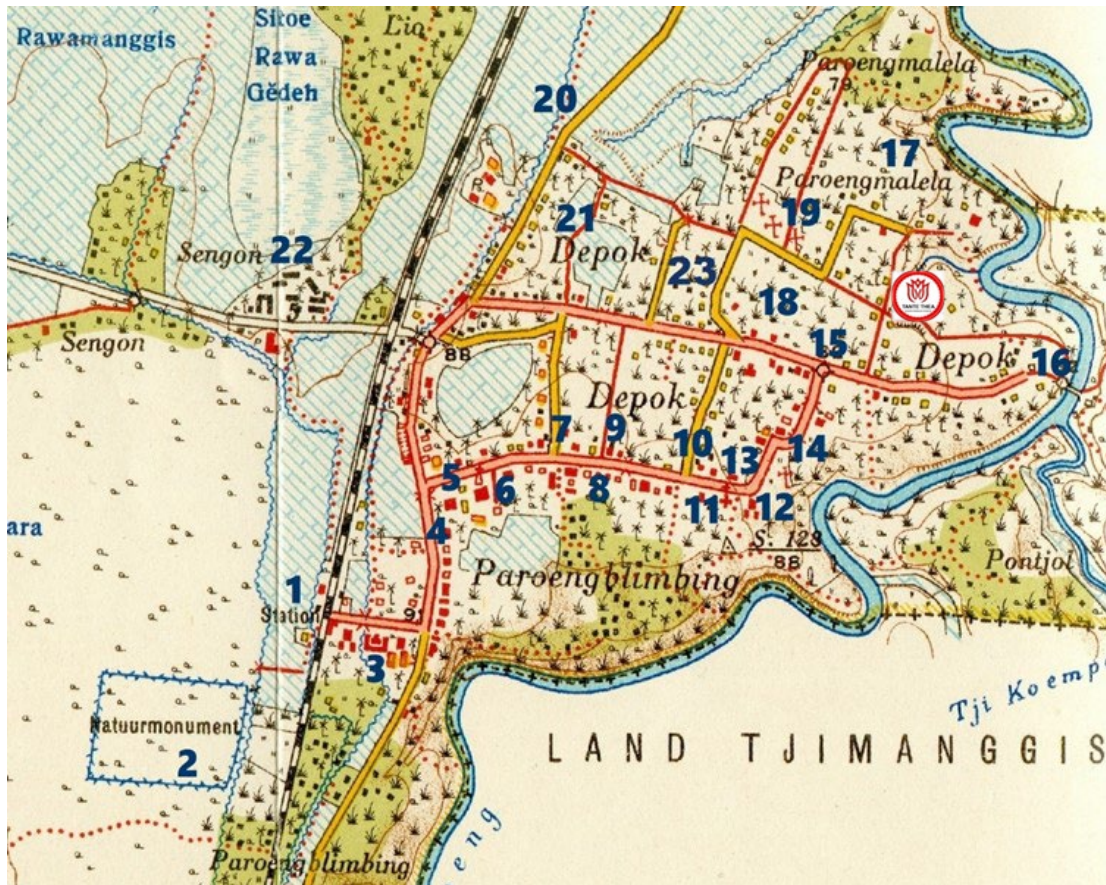
Depok Lama is easily accessible by car as well as by train. In this itinerary, the walk starts and ends at Depok Lama railway station, but you can start and end at any point underway. You can also shorten your walk or just follow parts of it if you wish.

The description of buildings or places of interest refers to numbers on a map of Depok Lama from 1917 on page 4. Parts of the route are also shown on contemporary topographical maps as an orientation aid for the hiker. The winding blue line on the map fragment below shows how you can wander through Depok and discover many historical places of interest.

Enjoy your walk, *selamat jalan-jalan!*



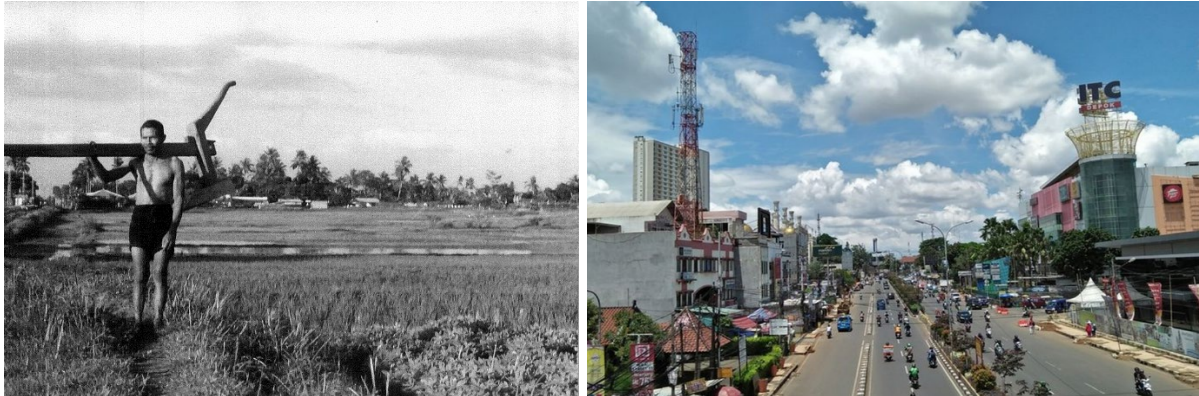
Places of interest



1. Railway station
2. Nature monument
3. Former Seminary Depok
4. Jalan Kartini (Pasarstraat)
5. Jalan Pemuda (Kerkstraat)
6. Town hall and memorial needle
7. Jalan Melati (Gang Saartje)
8. Former European Primary School
9. Jalan Kenanga (Gang Martha)
10. Jalan Mawar (Gang Bakker)
11. Immanuel Church
12. Vicarage
13. Community building Eben Haëzer
14. Former Special Depok Primary School
15. Jalan Siliwangi (Middenweg)
16. Panus Bridge (Jembatan Panus)
17. Taman Doa
18. Cemetery
19. Football field
20. Jalan Margonda Raya (Sluisbrugstraat)
21. Jalan Bungur neighbourhood church bell
22. Former brick and roof tile factory
23. Jalan Cempaka (Gang Lambertus).

Arrival in Depok Lama and beginning of the walking tour

By car: Sluisbrugstraat now Jalan Margonda Raya – map nr. 20 –



- If you drive into Depok by car from Jakarta, you will immediately see the urbanization.
- In the picture on the left, you can see in the background the Sluisbrugstraat along which people used to enter Depok. The Depokker Okkie Tholense carries his plough with which he worked his rice fields. Depok had green pastures at the time and the rice fields depicted were on the outskirts of Depok, near the border with Pondok Cina.
- Today, the Sluisbrugstraat is a busy four-lane road, along which high-rise buildings and shopping centres have risen on both sides. The road is now called Jalan Margonda Raya.
- The ITC building in the image on the right marks the former border of Depok.
- There are no car parking facilities near the railway station, but there are several streets nearby where you can park, such as Jalan Belimbing Raya, which is directly opposite Jalan Stasiun Depok Lama.

By train: Depok railway station – map nr. 1 –

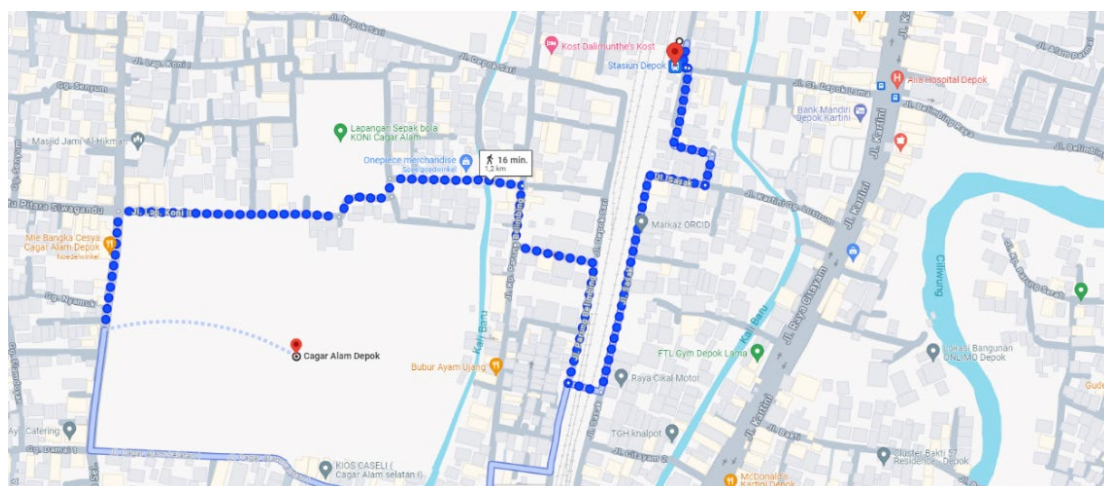


- If you travel by train from Kota station in Jakarta, do not get off at Stasiun Depok Baru, but continue one stop further in the direction of Bogor and get off at Stasiun Depok.
- From the exit of the station, walk straight down the street, past the *warungs* (shops) on both sides of the Jalan Stasiun Depok Lama.
- You can choose to first visit the oldest nature monument in Java. The *Cagar Alam* is a plot of primeval forest, measuring 200 by 300 meters on which seven water sources can be found. The Faculty of Forestry of the Bogor Agricultural University (Institut Pertanian Bogor) conducted research on it in 2011 and found more than 83 species from 43 plant families, more than 27 tree species, 30 undergrowth species and 4 liana species.

Nature monument Taman Hutan Raya (Cagar Alam) – map nr. 2 –



- If you skip the detour to the nature reserve, continue the route as described below, starting with Seminary Depok – map nr. 3 –.
- The walk to the nature monument from the time of Cornelis Chastelein, the founder of Depok, is one and a half kilometres long and leads through the streets of Pancoran Mas.
- Coming from the railway station, on Jalan Stasiun Depok Lama, immediately turn right into a narrow unnamed street that runs parallel to the railway line.
- At the end, turn left, after a few meters turn right and then turn right again after. You are now walking in Jalan Sasak, which you leave after about 250 metres by turning right in the direction of Jalan Parung Belimbing and walking into it after about 30 metres.
- After about 200 metres turn right to Jl. Kp. Parung Belimbing and after about 50 metres turn left towards Jalan Lap. Koni II. Follow the Jalan Lap. Koni II approx. 250 metres.
- After that, turn left towards Jalan Cagar Alam Selatan and halfway you will arrive at the entrance of the nature monument. One century ago, visitors could pick up the key to the entrance gate at the stationmaster's . Nowadays, visits are only possible with a guide, but it is unclear where access can be requested. This is often a matter of knowing the right contacts. Local residents may be able to assist you.
- You can choose to walk around Cagar Alam in order to return back to the station.



Seminary Depok – map nr. 3 –



- From the station, walk past *warungs* (shops) on both sides of Jalan Stasiun Depok Lama down the street.
- A century ago, halfway, on the right side of the former Stationsstraat, stood the buildings of the Seminary Depok. There, young people were trained to be missionaries who could spread the Gospel to their own communities.
- The seminary buildings later housed the Pa van der Steur Orphanage that later on moved toward another location on the west side of the station. The old buildings with surrounding gardens no longer exist.
- The Jalan Stasiun Depok Lama is crossed at the end by the Jalan Kartini, formerly called Pasarstraat. Today it is a busy dual carriageway.
- If you turn right into Jalan Kartini you will come across the old post office on your right, but your walking route turns left and follows a part of Jalan Kartini.

Jalan Kartini (Pasarstraat) – map nr. 4 –



- From Jalan Stasiun Depok Lama, turn left into Jalan Kartini and after about 250 metres you will see the oldest telephone pole in Depok (circa 1910) on your left.
- Cross the street there on the zebra crossing and you will walk into Jalan Pemuda, formerly named Kerkstraat.
- At the entrance, the great old Waringin tree of yesteryear has now given way to a modern stone arched portal that marks the beginning of the street.
- The arched portal at the beginning of Jalan Pemuda is shown above (right) and marks the start of your walk through the former Kerkstraat.

Jalan Pemuda (Kerkstraat) and Jalan Mawar (Gang Bakker) – map nr. 5 en nr. 10 –



- You walk all the way out of Jalan Pemuda – **map nr. 5** –.
- Along the way, you will see multiple landmark locations and you will have opportunities to pause, have a coffee, or feast on sweets and food at one of the roadside *warungs* .
- The images above show the former Kerkstraat around 1921, at the point where the side street Gang Bakker begins, which is now called Jalan Mawar – **map nr. 10**.

Former town hall and memorial needle – map nr. 6 –



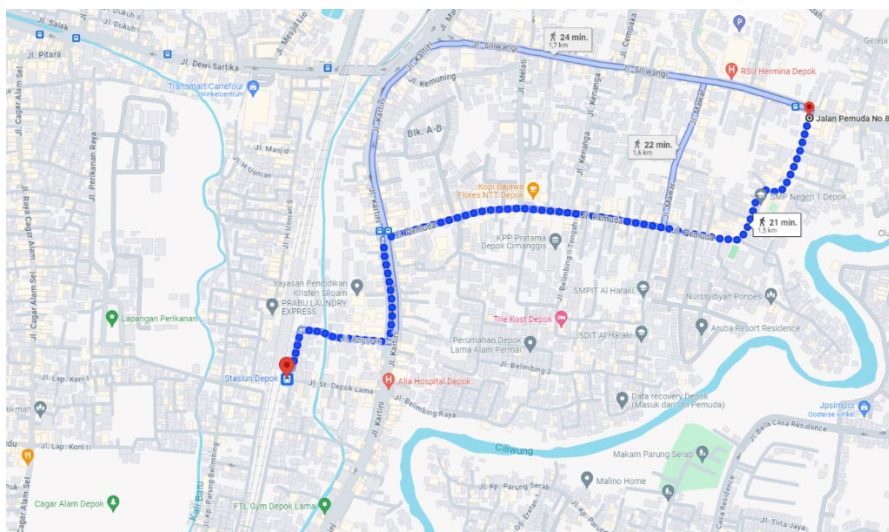
- On your right, after about 150 metres, you will see a plot with the former town hall building that used to house the *Gemeentebestuur Depok*, or Municipal Council. On 28 June 1914, a memorial needle was erected in front of that building on the occasion of Depok's 200th anniversary.
- After the dissolution of the Private Land Depok in 1952, the land was largely expropriated, and the self-government of the Depok community ended. The building became redundant as a town hall and the memorial needle from 1914 was demolished in the 1960s.

- After a period in which the building was rented out, between 1952 and 1962, it was converted into a hospital. The Rumah Sakit Harapan was opened on 11 June 1967.
- On June 28, 2014, Depok celebrated its 300th anniversary. To mark the occasion, a replica of the memorial needle was built and placed where the original once stood.
- The building served as a hospital until 2023 and was closed in that year. It is now awaiting a new destination.

Former European Primary School – map nr. 8 –



- After about a hundred meters you will pass a turnoff on your left to Jalan Melati, formerly called Gang Saartje. The Depok women Saartje Laurens once lived there.
- Jalan Melati – **map nr. 7** – offers a shortened route to Jalan Siliwangi, to which Jalan Pemuda eventually also leads to. The Jalan Melati ends in a T-junction with the Jalan Siliwangi, which was previously called Middenweg.
- Jalan Melati is home to several people with knowledge about Depok's history, who also speak Dutch very well. So, feel free to have a chat when meeting them during your walk.
- After a detour to the Jalan Melati, continue on Jalan Pemuda. The Jalan Pemuda will eventually end up on the Jalan Siliwangi – **map nr. 15** –.
- The next side road on your left is Jalan Kenanga, formerly called Gang Martha – **map nr. 9** –. This road also leads to Jalan Siliwangi.
- At the opposite side of the turnoff to Jalan Kenanga you will find the former European Primary School on your right. The building dates back to 1890 and served as a primary school until 2021. The building is now closed and is awaiting a new destination.
- Further on in Jalan Pemuda, you will pass again another side street to your left that also leads to Jalan Siliwangi. This is Jalan Mawar, formerly called Gang Bakker. At the beginning of the road there was once a bread bakery – **map nr. 10** –.



Immanuel Church – map nr. 11 –



- Before Jalan Pemuda makes a sharp turn to the left, you will find the Gereja Immanuel or Immanuel Church on your right.
- Adjacent to the Immanuel Church you will find the former vicarage. The building was erected at the same time as the church.
- In 1854 not only the church but also the vicarage were partially rebuilt on their old foundations. The church has been modified several times afterwards.
- It is worthwhile to visit the inside of the church. In its porch you will find memorial plaques that tell the story of Depok's eventful past.
- In a side building behind the church, you can find are two wooden panels on which all pastors are listed that worked in Depok since the Depok community was founded by Cornelis Chastelein in 1714.
- In the bell tower one can still see an old Dutch bell from 1677 with the inscription 'SI DEUS PRONOBIS QIS CONTRA NOS 1677'. It means: When God is with us, who will be against us.

Gedung Yayasan Lembaga Cornelis Chastelein, former vicarage – map nr. 12 –



- In 1952 – when the Private Land Depok was dissolved – the vicarage next to the Immanuel Church became the office of the Yayasan Lembaga Cornelis Chastelein foundation.
- This foundation received the expropriation compensation from the Indonesian government and became the owner of the land and the buildings the Indonesian government symbolically returned to the Depok community after the dissolution of Depok in 1952. The foundation takes care of the Christian community or *Kaum Depok*, consisting of descendants of the freed slaves of Cornelis Chastelein.

- The vicarage has been preserved, largely in its original state and it houses also the archives of the Depok community.
- Feel free to visit the building, which in the past also served as residence of the headmaster of the Special Depok Primary School.
- The staff can tell you about the building's past. Once inside, let yourself be surprised by the historic atmosphere of the building and its friendly inhabitants.
- Hidden on its premises there are still some graves of missionaries, which are more than a century old. However, they are not easy to find.

Gedung Eben Haëzer, former community centre – map nr. 13 –



- Around 1915, a community centre called Eben Haëzer was erected right across the Immanuel Church. The name means: Hitherto the Lord has helped.
- It now serves as an annex for the SMA Kasih (Sekolah Menengah Atas Kasih), further education after the secondary school.

Former Special Depok Primary School – map nr. 14 –



- Follow the bend of Jalan Pemuda to the left. On your right you will see a school building.
- That school building was once the former Special Depok Primary School, which started around 1830 as a mission school, located in the church building.
- The first school building dates from 1837 and consisted of only one classroom. In 1872 it was extended with two classrooms on either side (image left).
- In 1929 the Special Depok School was given a new building. It is currently home to the SMP N-1 (Sekolah Menengah Pertama Negeri-1), a secondary school.
- Continue on the Jalan Pemuda until it ends at a T-junction with Jalan Siliwangi, formerly Middle Road – **map nr. 15**.
- On your right you will see the Gang Kerbau. Buffaloes used to be taken along this road towards the river Ciliwung, where they could drink and where they were washed.

Lunch break

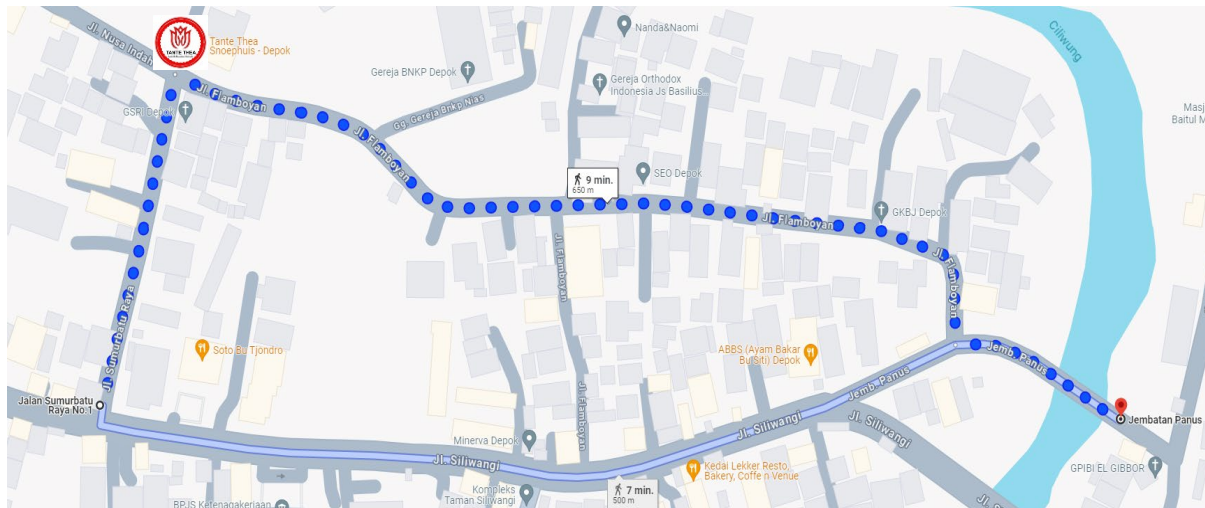
- It's time for a moment of rest and some refreshments.
- You can turn left into Jalan Siliwangi where you will find various places to eat.
- You can also choose to cross Jalan Siliwangi and walk 20 meters to your right, until you come across a side road on your left.
- That side road, the Jalan Sumurbatu Raya, ends after about 50 meters at a fork in the road.
- Right in front of you is a cozy tavern called *Tante Thea Snoephuis*. There you can enjoy good coffee, tea or refreshments. You can also enjoy fantastic Dutch and Indonesian food.
- In the meantime, Aunty Thea can tell you endlessly in Dutch, English or Indonesian about Depok's history and the people of Depok Lama.
- On the map the tavern is indicated with the logo as shown below.



Tante Thea Snoephuis

Contact : 081314151698

Jl. Sumur Batu no. 10, Depok Lama, 16431

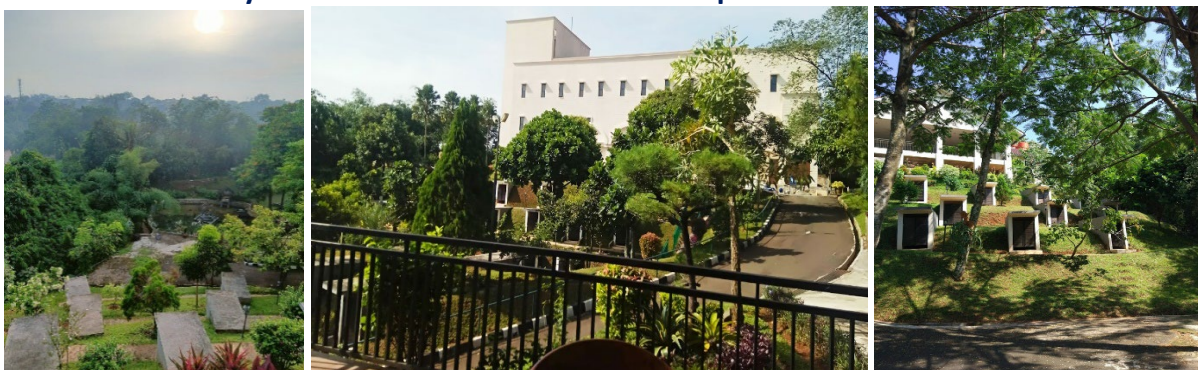


De Jembatan Panus (Panus bridge) – map nr. 16 –



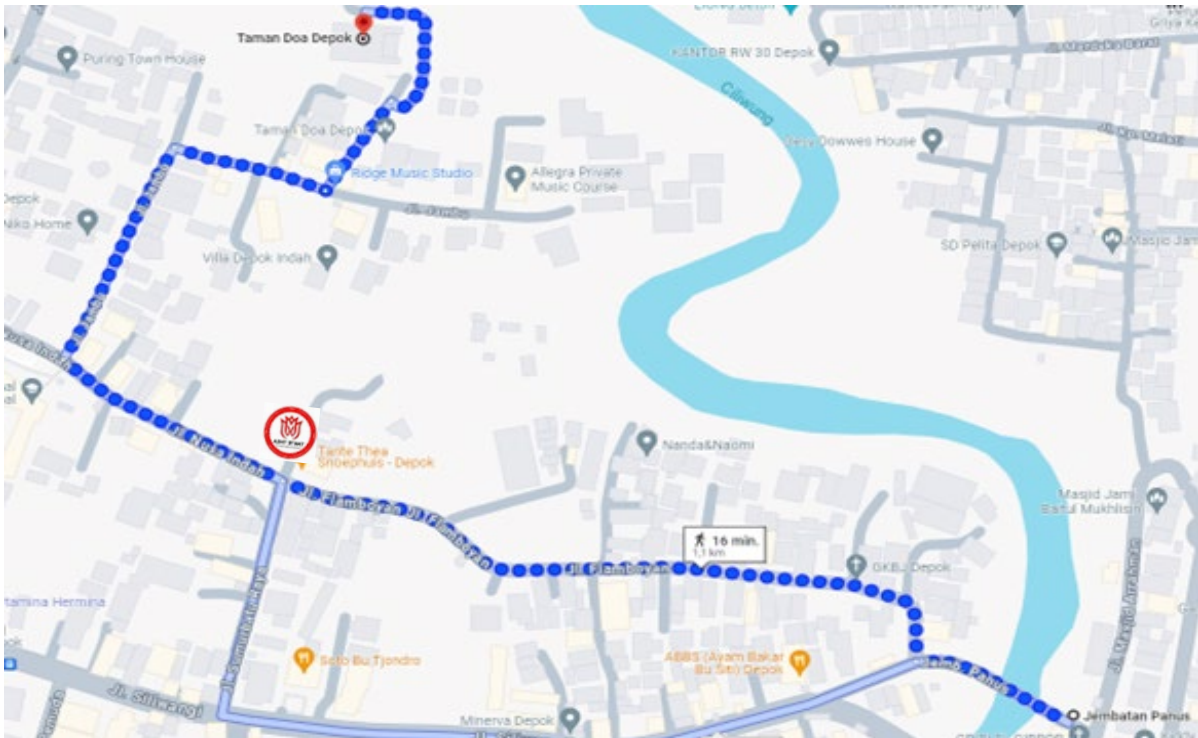
- Refreshed after a moment of rest, it is worthwhile to turn right at the fork in the road and to follow Jalan Flamboyan. On both sides of the road live Depok families or *Keluarga Depok Asli*. On the left side of the road Leander and on the right side Isakh. There is a friendly atmosphere in the street.
- Follow the road at the end with a bend to the right and turn left immediately afterwards.
- You can already hear the river and after a few metres you are walking on a stone bridge across the river Ciliwung.
- The Ciliwung formed a natural barrier to protect the east side of Depok, which was located on the west bank of the river.
- For centuries, it was only possible to cross the river by bamboo raft or *getek*. In 1917, the stone bridge was designed and built by the Depok engineer André Laurens.
- The bridge is 5 meters wide and spans the river with a length of 65 meters. Its original name was European Bridge, but it was soon popularly called Jembatan Panus or Panus Bridge. Nearby lived Stephanus Leander. They called him Uncle Panus and so the bridge was named after him.
- Around 1990, a modern steel road bridge was built next to the stone bridge, which now serves as the main connection for motorized traffic.

Taman Doa or Prayer Garden at the Jalan Jambu – map nr. 17 –



- From the Panus Bridge, walk back on Jalan Flamboyan until you reach the fork in the road again at *Tante Thea Snoephuis*. Follow the road that is called Jalan Nusa Indah from that point onwards. The first road on your right is Jalan Jambu.
- It is worthwhile walking into Jalan Jambu and making again a small detour. After the road bends to the right, you will enter a quiet and friendly neighbourhood where many people of the Isakh family live.

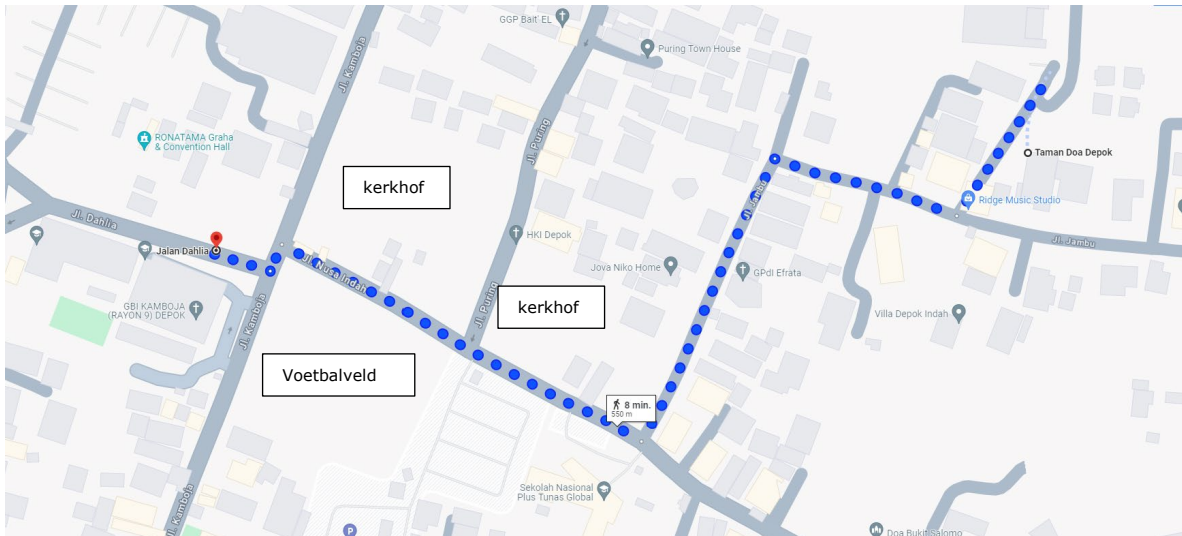
- The road eventually comes to a dead end, but about 100 metres after the bend you will see the entrance to the *Prayer Garden* or the *House of Sacrifice* on your left at number 35.
- This *Taman Doa* or garden of silence was erected in December 2015 and is open to visitors.
- The silence in the beautiful landscape garden next to the Ciliwung is inviting. After your visit, take the same road back and turn right on Jalan Nusa Indah.



Cemetery – map nr. 18 –



- Back on the Jalan Nusa Indah, turn right and you will pass a side road on your right, the Jalan Puring.
- On your right lies the cemetery of Depok, which has been in use since 1851. In the period before that, deceased Depokers were buried near the water sources of Pancoran Mas. Those water sources of Pancoran Mas can still be visited but are too far away to walk from here.
- The tombstones on the cemetery tell the story of many Depok families and contain a wealth of family information.
- An inventory of the graves can be found on the website: <https://www.decalonne.nl/de-begraafplaats-van-depok/>
- The cemetery consists of a small and a large plot, separated by the Jalan Puring.



- From this point, you can terminate your hike in two ways.
- You can make a detour via the *Pintu Air* or lock bridge and the swamp lake called Rawa Besar, which was formerly called Situ Rawa Gede.
- On the shores of the lake, Cornelis Chastelein himself built the Depok brick and roof tile factory, which closed in the sixties of the last century and no longer exists.
- You can alternatively choose to walk back to your starting point through other streets and return to the Depok Lama railway station. Both routes are described below in turn.

Football field – map nr. 19 –

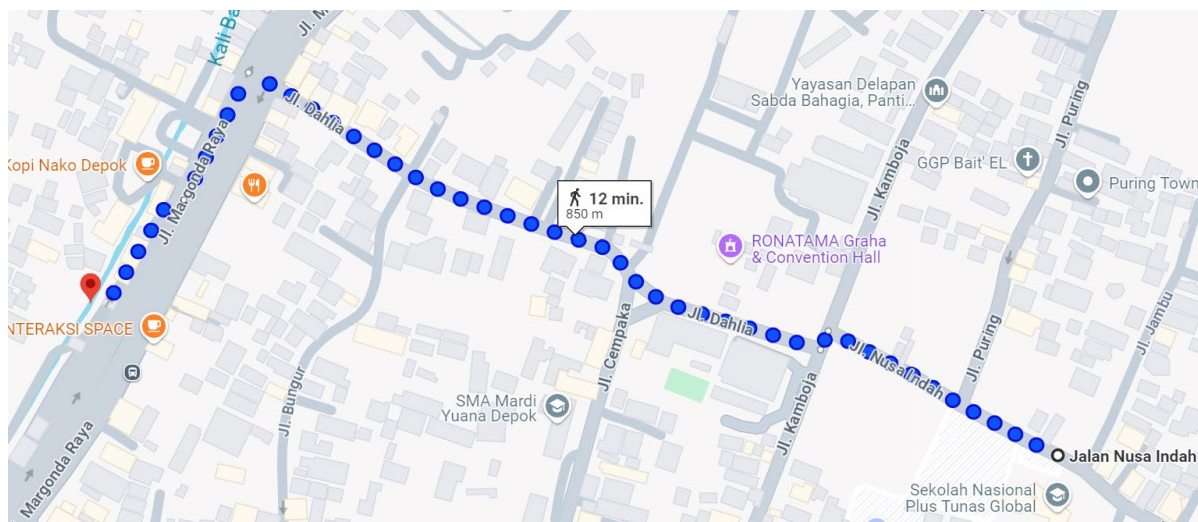


- Opposite the cemetery on Jalan Nusa Indah, you will see a football field that used to be a coconut garden.
- After the liquidation of the Private Land Depok in 1952, the site was purchased by the Yayasan Lembaga Cornelis Chastelein foundation from private owners and turned into a sports and community area.
- The symbolic value of the football field became evident in 2021, when the community successfully protested against initiatives to sell the football field in order to convert it to a commercial sports complex.

Sluisbrug (lock bridge) – map nr. 20 –



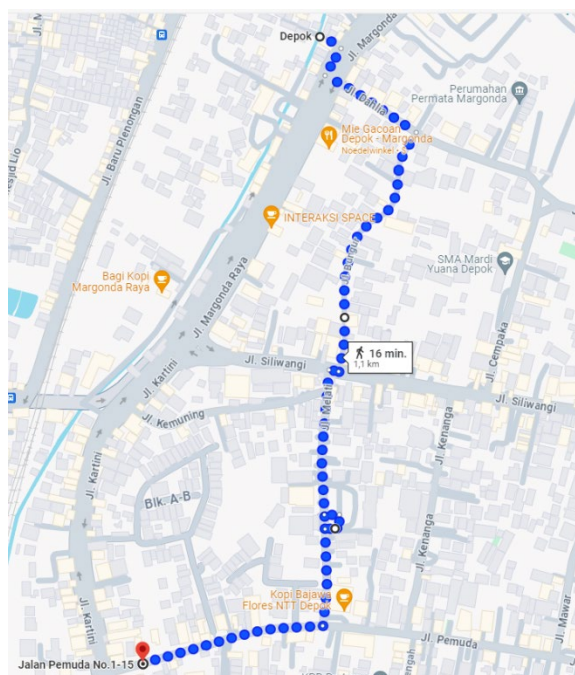
- The *Pintu Air* is a lock in an irrigation canal that is nowadays called Kali Baru with a small bridge next to it. The lock was built in the nineteenth century (which is why the road next to it was formerly called the Sluisbrugstraat or Lock Bridge Street, now called the Jalan Margonda Raya).
- You can get to the *Pintu Air* by following Jalan Nusa Indah from the cemetery, turning left at the end and immediately turning right again into Jalan Dahlia. The street used to be called Gang Carolus, after one of the oldest residents at the time.
- Walk all the way down Jalan Dahlia until you reach the busy Jalan Margonda Raya, which you will cross.
- Then follow that road to your left and after a short while you can turn right, under a gate called Gang Pintu Air 1, into a footpath between the buildings that leads to a small bridge over the Kali Baru, from where you can also see the lock.



Neighbourhood church bell in the Jalan Bungur – map nr. 21 –



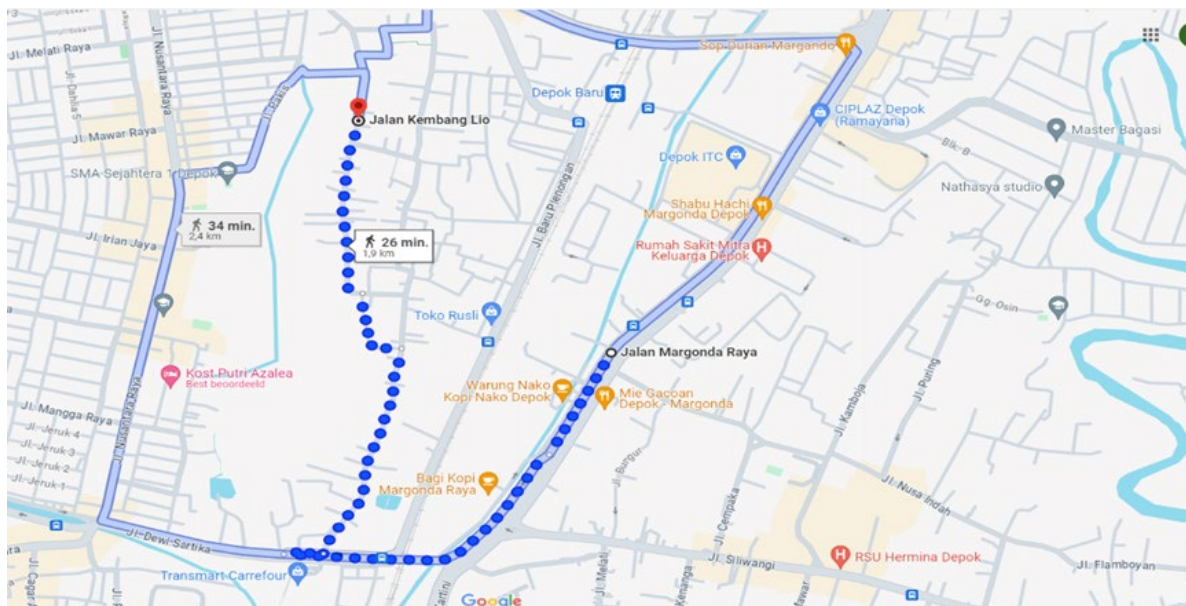
- Turn back and cross Jalan Margonda Raya again to walk back to the Jalan Dahlia, where you will take the first side road to your right. Now you walk in the Jalan Bungur.
- This is a quiet and tranquil road, that used to be called Gang Sepi, where halfway on your right, at a garden fence, you will see a bronze bell hanging in a small metal bell tower.
- This bell or *lonceng* is rung when the church bell of the Immanuel Church on Jalan Pemuda is rung. In the past, such neighbourhood bells were spread across Depok.
- At the intersection between Jalan Pemuda and Jalan Siliwangi, which you crossed earlier in your hiking trail – [map nr. 15](#) –, there stood a similar bell tower. However, that bell has been lost. The Jalan Bungur bell is the only remaining neighbourhood bell of Depok Lama. Diagonally opposite the bell, you can find an undeveloped plot of land that used to be called Rawah Kandang, because there used to be a cow shed overthere.
- At the end of Jalan Bungur, cross the Jalan Siliwangi, walk a bit to the right and then turn left into Jalan Melati. You will now arrive at Jalan Pemuda again.
- Turn right and at the end turn left into Jalan Kartini. After two dead-end streets and one small alley you will find on your right the Jalan Stasiun Depok Lama. You are now back at your starting point of the hike.
- In case you have not yet visited the Taman Hutan Raya (Cagar Alam) nature monument at the beginning of your walk, and you still feel like taking a small detour, you can still go there from the station. Just follow the route description on page 6 – [map nr. 2](#) –.



Rawa Besar and the former brick and roof tile factory of Depok – map nr. 22 –



- Getting to the shores of Rawa Besar is a challenge. Cross Jalan Margonda from Jalan Dahlia, turn left and to walk along the road until you can turn right into Jalan Dewi Sartika.
- Follow this road and turn right into Jalan Mesjid Lio. After five hundred metres, turn left until you reach a T-junction with Jalan Kembang Lio, where you turn left and follow the road for approximately 500 metres. You will now arrive at a quay with a view of the lake.
- The Depok brick and roof tile factory used to be located on the southern bank of Situ Rawa Gede, which is now called Rawa Besar. The factory no longer exists.
- In the shallow marsh lake, also fish were caught by fishermen who cast their nets from a bamboo raft. In the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, fishing was an annual folk festival called *ngubek* or *ngubek leuwi*. Villagers would then go into the shallow lake and drive the fish into set out nets or baskets. In shallow places, they scooped the fish out of the water with woven baskets or with their bare hands. This tradition existed until a few decades after the Second World War.
- To return to the railway station you can walk around the lake, but there are few roads that run along the shore. It is therefore best to walk the same route back and in order to return to the railway station via Jalan Bungur – **map no. 21** –



Brief history of Depok and its inhabitants

In the history of the world, there are sometimes special people who have contributed to major changes in society. Cornelis Chastelein (1657–1714) was such a person. He was a VOC director and a member of the Council of the Indies in Batavia. He was best known as the founder of Depok, nowadays located between Jakarta (Batavia) and Bogor (Buitenzorg).

Cornelis Chastelein was born in Amsterdam and descended from a Dutch regent family that originally came from Dordrecht. After the death of his parents, he left for the Dutch East Indies as a young man. There he made a career in the service of the Dutch East India Company (VOC) and in Batavia he developed into an idiosyncratic, visionary and well-respected VOC administrator. His mission was to reform the Dutch East Indies into a more sustainable colony, in which the local population was given more autonomy and local traditions were more respected. He described his ideas about agrarian, social and administrative reforms in intriguing manifestos and he put those ideas also into practice.

In the then unexplored surroundings of Batavia, he acquired lands, where he established his life's work: the land of Depok. There he established an autonomous and self-sufficient agricultural community for his Christian slaves.

He made a smooth and successful career in the service of the VOC. From bookkeeper he became shopkeeper, merchant and second chief merchant. However, when Director-General mr. Willem van Outhoorn became his superior, he resigned. He gave as a reason for his dismissal that he suffered from a "toenemende swakheyt" or increasing weakness. However, nothing could be further from the truth. In reality he totally disagreed with the trade policy of his new boss, who was only interested in making profit. As an unemployed citizen, Chastelein devoted himself wholeheartedly to his personal interests. He acquired large tracts of land on which he had country houses built and where he experimented with agricultural methods and new crops. Between 1693 and 1697, in order to obtain labour forces, he had about one hundred and fifty slaves brought in from various parts of the region, the coast of Bengal, the Coromandel coast and Makassar, but especially from Bali. In his visionary manifestos he described how he thought the Dutch East Indies should be developed and he criticized the trade policy of the VOC. His main occupation also became his life's work, namely the foundation of an agricultural community in Depok, together with and destined for his Christian slaves, whom he set free after his death.

When Governor-General Van Outhoorn was succeeded in 1705 by a kindred spirit and friend of Chastelein, Joan van Hoorn, Chastelein returned to the service of the VOC. In 1708 he was appointed as member of the Council of the Indies and in 1709 he was offered the position of President of the Council of Justice. On 10 November 1710 he was appointed Political Commissar of the Batavian Church Council and on 29 November 1710 he became President of the College of Weesmeesters. He held these positions until his death on June 28, 1714. He was buried with great honour at the cemetery of the Portuguese Buitenkerk in Batavia (now the *Gereja Sion* in Jakarta). His date of death is also considered to be Depok's founding date. In his will, Cornelis Chastelein bequeathed Depok to his Christian slaves who were already living and working there at the time and who were set free. They were the progenitors of the present-day Depok community in Depok Lama. The land of Depok was bequeathed to them in common ownership. Whether they were Christians or Muslims, they gained their freedom indiscriminately. In addition, they were granted self-government over the land of Depok. Depok thus became an example of how Chastelein envisaged how society was to be organized in the Batavian area. In this way, Chastelein distinguished himself from the prevailing ideas of

his contemporaries. He opposed the extreme trade policy of the VOC and strove for a more humane and social policy, in which more attention was paid to the cultural values of the indigenous population. He also sought more autonomy for the local population, promoting agriculture and introducing a fairer legal system. In fact, the foundation of Depok was not only an act of rebellion against the VOC, but it was also a social experiment that turned out to be successful in hindsight .

Baptism and marriage archives show that the descendants of the freed Depok slaves can be grouped into twelve recurring family names. Those twelve surnames are: Bacas, Isakh, Jacob, Jonathans, Joseph, Laurens, Leander, Loen, Samuel Soedira, Tholense and Zadokh, the latter name being extinct in the meantime. Chastelein's will shows that these surnames, however, did not exist in his time, with one exception. In his will a carpenter named Elias Soedira is mentioned, so that Soedira is considered to be the oldest family name of the Depok community.

The most important characteristic of Depok was that the freed Christian slaves owned the land in common ownership and ruled it themselves. In doing so, Chastelein put his money where his mouth was. During his lifetime, he argued that Java could only really become a stable and prosperous colony if the population would be less oppressed and would gain more self-government. When one considers that slavery was only abolished in the Dutch East Indies in 1860, it is clear that Chastelein was far ahead of his time and held liberal views. He also stipulated in his will how Depok was to be governed by a board, consisting of a council of 7 councillors, led by a head. By majority vote, the board decided on everyday household matters and also on disputes between the residents of Depok.

Before urbanization increased in the second half of the twentieth century, the village of Depok (now Depok Lama) was surrounded by forests, fruit gardens and rice fields. In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, Depok's green pastures were still quite isolated. With the arrival of the Depok railway station in 1873, along the newly constructed Batavia-Buitenzorg railway, this isolation was broken. Depok became an attractive commuter town for people who worked in the hot and increasingly busy Batavia (Jakarta) or Buitenzorg (Bogor).

Shortly after Indonesia's independence in 1949, the autonomy of Depok, which had existed since 1714, came to an end. On August 4, 1952, the so-called Private Land Depok was dissolved by the Indonesian government and the communal lands were expropriated. Since then, Depok became an ordinary municipality of the new Republic of Indonesia. The people who continued to live there were allowed to keep their private lands, but the communal sawas, fields and gardens were nationalized. The community received financial compensation in return. As a symbolic gesture, the government returned to the Depok community some plots of land and some buildings, including the grounds of the Immanuel Church, the presbytery, the cemetery, the Depok school and the Municipal Council. The Depok community set up a foundation to manage the common property and to take care of the Depok Christian community with education, poor relief and spiritual assistance.

In 1982, Depok became a village or *Kota Administratif* in Bogor District. On April 27, 1999, it became the independent city municipality of *Kota Depok* with more than two and a half million inhabitants. The *Kaum Depok* or community of direct descendants of the freed Christian slaves still exists in Depok Lama, the old historical centre of *Kota Depok*, although

many of them have also been scattered elsewhere in the world. Their legacy includes a multifaceted history of more than three centuries, which has not only defined their socio-cultural identity, but also sheds a unique light on the history of this part of Indonesia.

If you wish to learn more about Depok's past and the history of the Depok community, you can read the history in: *Drie eeuwen Depok. De erfenis van Cornelis Chastelein (1657-1714) aan zijn vrijgemaakte christenslaven*, which is available at any Dutch bookstore. On the website <https://depok.nl/geschiedenis/> you will also find more information.

