

Get the Most Out of a Visit to the Mpu Purwa Museum



The perfect time to spending time is on Friday and Saturday. If you're in Malang, that won't be a problem at all since Malang offers many tourism destinations, both traditional and modern ones. One example of the traditional one is Mpu Purwa Museum. The museum displays hundreds of items from Javanese kingdoms, so your desire to meet Javanese ancient goddess is no longer a dream. As an educational and historical object, the museum has its unique sides that differentiate it from other museums.

When I visited Mpu Purwa Museum for the first time, I felt like many visitors first exploring the place, confused and a little uninterested. The placement of the collections was untidy and some of the artifacts didn't have any description, so I had to make up stories and let them consumed my thoughts instead. However, after a couple of times visiting the museum again, a few improvements have been done. The last time I step on my feet at the museum, I was amazed by the new face of the museum.

One thing that should be acknowledged about Mpu Purwa Museum is that the museum was established in 2004 as Mpu Purwa Hall, a building used to keep historical items. Because of some requirements that should be fulfilled, the museum was inaugurated in 2018 and was named after Ken Dedes's father, Mpu Purwa.

Located in Soekarno Hatta St., particularly in Griya Santa B No. 210 Mojolangu, Lowokwaru, Mpu Purwa Museum opens seven days a week, from Monday until Thursday at 08.00 AM to 04.00 PM, Friday until Thursday at 08.00 AM to 03.00 PM, and Sunday at 10.00 AM to 03.00 PM. The visitors do not need to pay any tickets to enter the museum because it is free. With its limited area, 50x40 meter², this second-story building utilizes its place into an educational purpose.

The collections of Malang traditional masks hanging on the fence can be seen from the outside. In the front yard of the museum, many kinds of flowers are planted in the gardens. When the day is hot and you still don't want to leave the museum, you can stay at the gazebo, enjoying the fresh air. another facilities of the museum are ACs, CCTVs, CD player, movie room, seats, information boards, parking lot, and restroom.



Mpu Purwa Museum consists of two stories. The first floor is mostly occupied by statues and Malang traditional masks. Meanwhile, the second floor is dominated by the illustrations representing the history of Ken Arok and Ken Dedes. According to the museum guard, there are 136 ancient objects on display. Those are the heritages from

five Javanese Kingdoms, consisting of Kanjuruhan, Mataram Kuno, Kadiri, Singosari, and Majapahit.

There are seven prominent artifacts in the museum. Five artifacts are placed in the first story, such as two pieces Namaiken, Brahma Catur Muka, Siwa Maha Guru, and Singa Stambha. Ganesha Tikus and Dewi Laksmi are the other two well-known statues on the second floor. Since some of the collections are old and are not in good condition, some reconstructions have been done by the conservation team. The artifacts restructured are mostly the common ones. The original quality of the rare and prominent ones are safely kept until now.

Historical objects are worth taking to consider. It is rare to appreciate an ancient statue without stopping to think about it. And stopping and thinking is going to be difficult when many people are pushing you from every direction. In Mpu Purwa Museum, you will not experience that kind of incident since the museum is not crowded. You can stand in front of an item for ten minutes straight without being interrupted. Furthermore, it's quite impossible to see all of the permanent collections in one single visit, so the museum provides a barcode scan in each item.

The busy months of the museum are from July to December since they are *Bulan Kunjungan Musem*, an annual visit from schools around Indonesia. On a daily basis, the estimation of the visitors per day is 100 visitors, with students become the majority of the visitors. Some museums generally have an annual event to attract more visitors. No exhibitions are run annually in the Mpu Purwa Museum, however. The museum occasionally holds an event namely *Sinau Sejarah* on Saturday and Sunday. It's an event where the visitors can enrich their knowledge about Indonesian culture and

heritage, such as batik, wayang, and many more. *Sinau Sejarah* is not only focusing on the museum itself.



Although the museum is an enjoyable place to visit, some cons still exist. Male and female bathroom is placed into one bathroom, and the condition of the bathroom is dirty and inappropriate. Although there is a movie room in the museum, it can't be used due to a technical issue. The visitors are not allowed to bring any snacks and beverages inside the museum, but it doesn't mean that the museum isn't obligated to provide trash bins in certain areas. Moreover, there is no seat on the first floor, so the visitors have to rest in either the gazebo or the second floor.

There are several things to consider before visiting Mpu Purwa Museum. People who want to visit the museum can go there by car, motorcycle or bicycle, but a bus or such kind because the museum is located in a residency area, and the street is unable to be passed by massive automobiles. Moreover, Soekarno and Hatta St., is the business area in Malang, so the traffic always happens. People also have to pay attention to the weather forecast. On rainy days, there are many puddles of water and mud on some parts of the street heading to the museum. It will be wise if people look up many articles about the museum on the internet first, so they can be more prepared and have some kind of imagination of the place.

Mpu Purwa Museum has its characteristics to attract people. Just like any other tourism objects, it has advantages and disadvantages. The artifacts will stay in your memory and leave you in love with Malang. While in the museum, stay as long as you're enjoying it, and once you're done, you can come back another day. Mpu Purwa Museum is worth repeating visits.