

# Gua Putri Pukes

*A den of tragedy and disobedience*

Gua Putri Pukes is a cave that is filled with myth. It is said that the statue in the cave is the statue of Pukes princess, a princess that was sent away for marriage. She disobeyed her mother's command and turned back to look at her family, resulting in her being turned to stone. Although the truth of the story can't be verified, it becomes folklore that has been passed down from one generation to another as a moral lesson.

## “Curse” out of longing



Just like any other caves, Gua Putri Pukes (Putri Pukes Cave) is filled with stalagmites and stalactites. However, visitors can also see Pukes princess “standing” at a corner of the cave, fully “covered” in stones. Legends said that if people feel sympathetic to the princess while looking at the statue, tears will come out from the statue’s “eyes.”

Pukes princess’ statue is accompanied by an old well coated in red. Water emerges from the well once every three months, and the locals believe that the water can cure any disease or sickness. Nearby, there is a stone that is commonly used for meditating. It’s hard to miss the gem since there is the word “bertapa,” which literally means meditating, written on it.

## Things to Know

The entrance fee for the cave is 5,000 IDR, though sometimes it will be more expensive for foreign tourists. There is no need to worry about getting lost since a guide is assigned to visitors.

Aceh is also known for its Syariah Law. It is best for tourists to wear formal clothes such as shirts and long pants.

## How to get there

Gua Putri Pukes is located in Takengon, and it is only 10 to 15 away from the city (around 5 km away from Takengon). The walking distance of the cave makes it easily accessible by everyone, either by feet, motorcycles, or cars.

**Google Map:** <https://goo.gl/maps/fgVoaN39CmEJPYiY8>

**Image source:**

<https://steemit.com/story/@iJoel/the-legend-of-lake-laut-tawar-aceh-tengah-putri-pukes-become-s-stone-9d34c726ab7a5>