**Ratu Boko Palace : A Majestic Ruin On Top Of The Hill**

Ratu Boko Palace is different from any other temple you’ll expect to see in Yogyakarta. Where most of the ruins and heritage buildings are temples or shrine, this palace – as it implies – is a palace. You might be wondering why the ruins are mostly made from the black stones as you’ve seen in Prambanan temple before. Once, it wasn’t only stones – but as the time goes by, stone buildings remain.

Built in 9th century during the reign of Rakai Panangkaran, a descendant of Sailendra dynasty. The name Ratu Boko means "Stork King". Today, the ruins of the namesaid temple still standing exquisitely on a hillside plateau. Overlooking the magnificent Prambanan temples, villages, and the mystical Mount Merapi as its backdrop.

This palace is not that far from the city centre, located approximately 17 km east of the city of Yogyakarta, where it’s even closer to reach from Adi Sucipto airport. The complex often said as a unique archeological site, where the palace is a mixture from both Hindu and Buddhist architecture. Surrounding this complex, lie many other temples that quite close to reach by walk. It is often thought that the area is famous for the ancient kingdom to built temples for where their people are.

The history of Ratu Boko is unclear, and much of what is understood about the site comes from inscriptions and even folklore. According to the oldest inscription ever found about this temple, dated to 792 AD, Ratu Boko was named as Abhayagiri Vihara. Which means a monastery on a peaceful hill, where it supposed to focus on spiritual life and meditation. This also depicts the peace atmosphere that surrounds this palace. When the sun setting on the west, and the mist starts to fall down upon the villages. The finest splendor of sunset over the horizon.