

The Dutch had scarcely obtained possession of Amboina, when the natives began to entertain the same wish for their expulsion as they had formerly for that of the Portuguese, and eventually they were so oppressed that they took up arms, and being numerous and powerful, their efforts to regain their independence were not finally overcome until 1670. Shortly after the Dutch obtained possession of the island, the jealousies that existed between them and the English caused them to seize on the English factory and execute its occupiers after torturing them. This crime, which is generally known as the massacre of Amboina, led to many disputes between the two nations, which were not finally settled until the peace of Breda in 1667.

Amboina Island consists of two peninsulas, joined together by a low narrow isthmus, thus forming two large bays. The smaller or southeast peninsula, on which is the town, is called "Leytimur," the larger or northwest peninsula, "Hitoe," the low isthmus "Baguala," the bay on the southwest side of the island "Amboina Bay," and that on the northeast "Baguala Bay." In 1683 the Dutch Governor formed a design of cutting a canal through the isthmus of Baguala, and so joining the bay of that name to Amboina Bay. This idea was frustrated partly by the superstitions of the Amboinese, who asserted that blood spouted from the ground each time they inserted their spades, and partly by a notion, promulgated without reason, that the level of the sea in Baguala Bay was considerably higher than that in Amboina Bay.

The Governor or Resident of Amboina has jurisdiction over the neighbouring islands of Ceram, Bouro, Amblau, Manipa, Kelang, Bonoa, Ceram Laut, Nussa Laut, Saparoea, Haruku, and Melano.

The whole island is mountainous, and rises to an elevation of 4000 feet above the level of the sea. The highest mountain, Capaha, is in Hitoe Peninsula; the highest mountain in Leytimur is Soya, 2030 feet above the sea. There are records of an eruption from a volcano on the west side of the island in the years 1674, 1694, 1816, and 1820, and in 1824 a new crater was formed; since that date, however, all eruptions have ceased, and some of the European inhabitants appear ignorant that there ever was an active volcano on the island. Earthquakes are occasionally felt, but, from a record kept by the Dutch authorities, appear to happen only between the months of December and June, or during the northwest monsoon.

The chief advantage derived by the Dutch from the possession of Amboina was the monopoly of the clove cultivation. They would not, however, have succeeded in securing to themselves the exclusive trade in this spice, which is spontaneously produced in all the Molucca Islands, had they not confined the cultivation of the tree to Amboina by destroying all they found elsewhere. Besides cloves, considerable quantities of Cajeput oil are exported.

Fort Victoria at Amboina, formed by the Portuguese in 1521, is situated close to the landing place; in fact, the main road goes through the centre of the fort, there being