



West Bali - Fertile Crops and Dark Forests

A well-kept traveller's secret, West Bali, the former kingdoms of Tabanan and Jembrana, offers the best of the island: kilometres of empty beaches beaten by mighty surf, stunning rice terraces, lush coffee plantations, forests and hidden temples. It is also the home of the West Bali National Park and the endemic, threatened Bali Starling.

An Eco-Lodge at Sarinbuana

Feel like hiding in a lush forest where the most likely beings you will meet are monkeys, eagles, squirrels and a friendly owner obsessed with protecting the fragile ecology of Bali? Then climb up to the cosy bungalows of Sarimbuana Jungle Lodge, a home for nature lovers and bird watching fans. On a sunny day, the view stretches out as far as the coast of



Uluwatu, over a landscape of dense foliage. Local youngsters trained as guides are ready to take you on trekking routes ranging from a short 5km walk to a one-day long forest

hike to Puncaksari - unless you prefer to combine a visit to the bat cave in Soka Beach with a trek around the Wanagiri and Pupuan areas. A 30m bird watching tower has been constructed with the cooperation of the local community; binoculars are available for guests.

A Mountain Retreat at Prana Dewi

On two hectares of land at the base of Mt Batukaru, Prana Dewi offers uniquely designed bungalows set within private landscaped gardens featuring fish ponds, organic rice fields and small waterfalls. The owner of Prana Dewi, Pak Dehan, is also devoted to the community of Wongayagede. The friendly staff come from the nearby village and are actively

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encouraged to learn about forgotten forms of traditional agriculture and organic farming. Ask them for a tour of the organic garden, or for walks in the nearby area. Yoga courses are organized twice a month for three to six days, or upon request for groups. The lovely restaurant serves mostly locally-grown organic food. Climbing of Mt Batukaru can be arranged with local guides, as well as camping at the summit (2276 m, 6-7 hours for the ascent).

Perancak/ Kurma Asih

Bali has long been the hub of a vast sea turtle trade network, and Perancak, a fishing village on the southwest coast, was once renown for its turtle-hunters.

Escalating trade in turtle products, coupled with rapid beach development and destructive fishing, had driven the turtles almost extinct by 1996. Then the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) opened a Bali branch for a save-the-turtle campaign, and reached out to adat leaders for help. In 1997, the first nesting turtle in 37 years returned to Perancak. These two events inspired Wayan Tirta, an adat leader of Perancak, to form Kurma Asih (Turtle Lovers), a group of 20 fishermen who joined forces with WWF to restore Perancak as a turtle habitat. Support community turtle conservation by adopting a nest in 2003, with your friends, family, school or office. Witness the imprinting and release of your hatchlings in Bali or receive documentation from afar. The best time to visit is in the May through October nesting season. Tours can be arranged through the Village Ecotourism Network or through



Anom Astika Jaya in Kurma Asih.



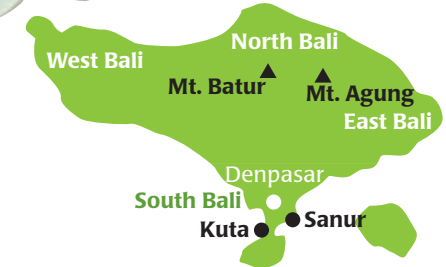
Bali

A Rich Culture in Harmony with Nature

Nature and culture lovers will feel at home in Bali. Featuring the mighty Agung Volcano (3142 m) as well as the largest volcanic caldera in the world (the crater and lake of Batur), Bali has great dive sites on its eastern and western tips, and fantastic surf spots along its southern coast. But the stunning beauty of Bali lies in the web of relations between its people, their complex Hindu-animistic religion, and the surrounding nature. Over centuries, the Balinese have carved their hills to develop an amazing network of rice fields and gardens, earning the island its reputation as paradise on earth.

The unique culture with its 6,000 temples and colourful ceremonies performed all year long have attracted many tourists, most of them concentrated around the beaches and cultural hubs of the South: Kuta, Sanur, Nusa Dua and Ubud. All around the island, the Balinese life has kept the quiet pace of a life centred around rice cultivation and community rituals. To protect the island, many ecotourism initiatives have been developed over the last years. Enjoy our selection to discover the best of Bali, in an intimate and respectful way.

To get an introduction to Balinese culture, contact the Village Ecotourism Network (jed@wisnu.or.id). This non-profit organization can take you to several community ecotourism projects, where you will enjoy spending the night in clean home-stays, and touring the surroundings with the villagers. Coffee lovers will enjoy the tour of Pelaga, in the centre of Bali, where the best organic coffee of the island is grown. Enjoy a tour of the plantation and a meal with the villagers. Sea lovers will be delighted in Ceningan, a small islet southeast of Bali, where you can sail and snorkel with fishermen after visiting traditional algae farms. For more insights in traditional rural Bali, take a tour of Tenganan, one of the most ancient communities in Bali, or Sibatana, where you can discover the strange snake-fruit plantations.



South Bali - Gateway to Paradise

South Bali is the gateway to the island, drawing crowd of visitors to the great beaches of Kuta or the quiet resort life of Sanur Beach. Nature lovers and surfing aficionados will hide on the quiet beaches of Canggu or admire the awesome landscapes of the Bukit Peninsula. Further north amidst green rice fields, Ubud and its thousand art galleries continues to be the cultural hub of the island.

An Eco-Lodge at Udayana

Tucked away inside the complex of Bali's oldest university, the Udayana Eco-Lodge is set high up in the Jimbaran Hills, with wonderful views of the Benoa Harbour with Mt Rinjani and Mt Agung in the back. The rooms are in a two-storey building set in a lush garden full of bougainvilleas, which provides a shelter for many species of birds and butterflies. The lodge is surrounded by 32 hectares of bush land, providing guests with an ample choices of treks for light walking or bird watching. In the afternoon, try the cricket net or tennis court and dip into the fresh, spotless pool to cool down your aching muscles.

Support Nature at Hotel Santai Sanur

As hinted in its name, which means loosen up, this friendly hotel offers simple rooms in a relaxed and warm atmosphere along a quiet tree-lined street of Sanur.

The hotel is managed by an environmental NGO, the PPLH (Pusat Pendidikan Lingkungan Hidup - the environmental education centre). You'll find a small library inside the lobby with a collection of books about environmental issues. The simple, pleasant rooms are in a two-storey building, facing a small pool. In front,



Santai Café greets you under a lush shade of old trees and a traditional lumbung (rice granary). Opt for the special seafood fried-rice, or the tasty vegetarian dishes. --> santai@indosat.net.id

An Ecotourism Village at Sua Bali (Gianyar)

"I wanted to create a place where visitors could really get to know Bali," explains Ida Ayu Agung Mas, "whereby tourists and hosts can meet based on a equal footing." Sua Bali - literally Meet Bali - is located near the small, traditional village of Kemenuh, 7 km from Ubud or Gianyar. Everything is simple here, in a relax and personal atmosphere - awakening at cock crowing and sleeping to the songs of the cicadas. From the cooking course, to wood carving or painting classes and discussions with local experts on architecture, medicine or rice cultivation, Sua Bali offers a deep introduction into the local pool of knowledge and culture. -->www.suabali.co.id

Singing Birds above your Eyes at Bali Bird Walks

As you join Bali Bird Walks, you'll suddenly understand why birds are hidden behind every tree leaf on Balinese paintings. Without being an expert ornithologist, you'll soon learn to spot some 30 out of over 100 bird species found in the rice fields and ravine forests around Ubud. Victor Mason, a long-standing ornithologist and author of *Birds of Bali* (Periplus Editions), created these walks and is still occasionally leading them. Ten percent of the proceeds obtained from Bali Bird Walks are placed in the Bali Bird Park conservation fund.



East Bali - Under the Volcano

Spread below the cone of Mt Agung (3142m) and the famous caldera of Mt Batur, east Bali - the three former kingdoms of Klungkung, Karangasem and Bangli - is a world of contrasts: Lush rice fields around Sidemen or arid slopes above Amed, royal baths in Tirtagangga or haunted temples in Nusa Penida. Here you'll find the most challenging hikes and the best dive spots of Bali... a home for nature lovers.

Kamasan Village and the Art Centre

This village is the centre of the classical wayang painting style, which depicts scenes inspired from traditional shadow-puppet shows, or wayang, based on the Mahabharata or Ramayana epics. Opened in 2001, the Kamasan Art Centre

offers several cultural programs from one to several days, giving visitors a chance to practice the arts. Every afternoon, adults and children come to the centre for regular practice of gamelan, dance, silver craft or painting.

Although Kamasan painting tends to be dominated by men, the art centre also supports woman artists. Besides painting, it is also possible to visit the silver craft studio (bokor), and see bullet carving artists.



Taste the Salt of the Earth at Hotel Uyah in Amed

This charming place has spacious, well-decorated rooms lined around a small pool, each with its own terrace offering a desert-like view of the salt panning beach, stretching for a good hundred meters towards the sea. Great food is served at the Café Garam. Hotel Uyah strives to be an eco-hotel, preserving the environment while making guests happy. Hotel Uyah (The Salt Hotel in Balinese) supports the local salt farmers, helping them to sell their salt to tourists, restaurants and exporters at a higher price than what they get normally on the market. The friendly staffs have been trained to guide tourists around the salt fields, and explain everything you want to know about traditional salt making.



North Bali - The Other side of Bali

North Bali, the former kingdom of Buleleng, is the other side of Bali - wedged between the sea and the north volcanic chain, opened to the outside for centuries, it has a distinct culture, 125km of beaches, hidden villages, mountain lakes, and the first ecotourism centre of Bali.

An Eco-Tourism Centre at Puri Lumbung in Munduk

The first of its kind in Bali, Puri Lumbung Cottages is more than a hotel - it is an eco-tourism project dedicated to the discovery, conservation and enhancement of the unspoiled area around Munduk and Tamblingan. Set in a lush flowery garden, the cottages - unfortunately located a bit too close to each other - are replicas of the local lumbung, or rice granaries. They offer either great rice field views or simple garden views.

Puri Lumbung has helped the local villagers establish several guesthouses in Munduk, offering cheaper accommodation in Dutch colonial style houses, with a family atmosphere.

One of them is Guru Ratna Homestay, which has three plain rooms, as well as two more recent ones with verandas offering great views onto the valley. Learn how to cook the local specialities or how to make ritual offerings with the owner's family. Excursions or walks can be organized. Another alternative in the same style is Meme Surung Homestay.

True to the spirit of eco-tourism, Puri Lumbung Cottages proposes an endless menu of treks and tours to waterfalls, bird watching areas and historical sites. Choices range from an easy two hour walk in nearby clove and coffee plantations, to a more challenging seven hour walk from the Tamblingan Lake to Jatiluwih through natural forest. Another favourite is an easy walk through rice terraces and small river banks to learn about the traditional subak irrigation system. A wide array of traditional activity classes are also available including weaving, painting, woodcarving and playing local musical instruments. You can also ask for boat trips on the nearby lakes.

Fight for the Corals at Taman Sari in Pemuteran

The spacious cottages of this slightly upmarket resort are set up in a pretty garden with a beachfront pool. The beach is spotless thanks to the staff's daily clean-up program. Taman Sari supports one of the largest rehabilitation project for coral reefs, where coral are grown using electricity to speed their development. The owner of Taman Sari has also facilitated community initiatives to protect the coral reefs from destructive fishing.



Diving and glass bottom cruises are arranged with Archipelago or other local dive centres. Make sure you go for a dive in the coral reef rehabilitation site a few hundred meters from the shore.



Boats and snorkelling equipment can be rented from local villagers, which provide them with an additional income.

