



In-Depth Bali

11 days

Tour Description

Experience unforgettable Bali, an island known for its welcoming residents, stunning scenery and diverse cultural and spiritual traditions. Tour a variety of religious sites, including holy springs and temples, as well as experience local culture in the form of colorful dances, shadow puppet performances, ancient healing rituals and traditional farming techniques. Meet the locals and relax your cares away on the beach.

Highlights

- ❖ Visit the famous Bat Cave Temple
- ❖ Meet with a Traditional Balinese Healer
- ❖ Experience rural life in a remote northern mountain village
- ❖ Observe the traditional weaving technique known as ikat
- ❖ Attend traditional Balinese dance performances
- ❖ Explore a traditional market in Denpasar
- ❖ Learn new techniques and ingredients in a Balinese cooking lesson

Sample Tour Itinerary

Ubud – 5 nights

Day 1: Arrive Bali

Upon arrival into Bali, you will be met your friendly English-speaking assistant, who will accompany you to your Ubud hotel by private motorcoach. Ubud is one of the island's major art and cultural centers, and its tourism industry focuses on culture, yoga and nature. Tonight, join your tour escort and fellow group members for a welcome dinner at your hotel.

Day 2:

This morning board your motorcoach for a full-day cultural excursion. Travel to Kintamani, with its magnificent panoramic view of Batur Lake and an active volcano. Visit Tampaksiring holy spring temple, its sacred waters said to have healing and restorative properties. Continue to see some of the most important Hindu Temples at Bangli. Also included is a performance of the Barong & Kris dance, a ritual dance-drama featured at festivals and temple ceremonies. The dance tells of the eternal struggle between good (Barong) and evil (Rangda). Dinner is on your own tonight. Your tour escort can offer many recommendations, as Ubud is quickly becoming one of the best places in Bali for restaurant dining.

**Day 3:**

Today we head to eastern Bali for a full-day motorcoach tour. We visit Karangasem Palace, built in the 19th century by the first king of Karangasem Kingdom, located in the quiet city of Amlapura. See the fishing village of Kusamba, also well-known for making sea salt. Head to the nearby Bat Cave Temple, located in Pesingham Village. The cave, which is forbidden to enter, is home to thousands of fruit bats, which are believed to be the guardians of the sacred temple. We will tour Tenganan, one of the oldest Balinese traditional villages, the Tirta Gangga water garden, and an ikat factory in Sideman village. Ikat is a traditional weaving technique that was brought to Indonesia centuries ago by traders, and has since developed into a highly respected art. This evening, after dinner in the hotel, we attend a performance of the primitive Kecak dance. Also known as the Ramayana Monkey Chant, the dance has its roots in sanghyang, a trance-inducing exorcism dance.

Day 4:

Enjoy a day at leisure in Ubud. Many opportunities await, including an invigorating spa visit, a yoga class, shopping or exploring Ubud on your own. Dinner is on your own tonight, giving the opportunity to enjoy the great variety of Ubud's restaurant offerings.

Day 5:

This morning we board our motorcoach and visit the Bird Park and Reptile Park. This afternoon we visit a gamelan maker. A gamelan is a set of musical instruments, featuring such instruments as gongs and bamboo flutes. The native art form pre-dates the Hindu-Buddhist culture that dominated Indonesia in its earliest recorded times. We also visit a dukun, a traditional Balinese healer, who will tell us about traditional medicine and healing rituals. In the late afternoon visit Petulu – a bird watcher's paradise – to see the white herons return to roost. This evening, after dinner in your hotel, attend an optional performance of the classical female Legong dance, the most graceful of Balinese dances, or a shadow puppet performance.

Pemuteran – 2 nights**Day 6: Arrive Pemuteran**

This morning after breakfast we check out of our Ubud hotel and transfer to the north of Bali, a region of quiet black sand beaches and the home of the old capital city. Along the way we visit a remote mountain village to experience rural life. Stop at a village elementary school before visiting a farmer in the fields, where we can observe or participate in traditional farming. Continue to the village compound for a lesson in how to make a temple offering and a woven bamboo hat. After lunch in the village, we stop at the Pulaki monkey temple, a Hindu shrine where it is not uncommon to see a group of monkeys standing around during the day. Then it is on to Pemuteran, a small fishing village that is our home for the next two nights. Dinner is in your hotel this evening.

Day 7:

This morning after breakfast, we have the opportunity for an optional morning snorkel excursion to Menjangan Island including equipment, private boat and lunch. Visibility is excellent and there is an abundance of reef fish, turtles, and hard and soft corals. The afternoon and evening are on your own to enjoy explore this small, relaxed village. Enjoy dinner on your own at the hotel or other local restaurant, where delicious seafood options abound.



Southern Beach Resort – 4 nights

Day 8: Arrive Southern Bali Beach Resort

This morning after breakfast, we check out of our hotel and head south. Visit the Candi Kuning traditional market in Bedugul, home to row upon row of exotic flowers, vegetables, fruits and spices, alongside shops offering art and local crafts. Bargaining is not only encouraged, it is expected. Next we travel to Ulun Danu Temple, located on the side of the shallow Lake Beratan. In the village of Munduk, we learn about local vegetation and farming as we take the short hike to reach the impressive falls, on the path lined with clove, coffee and avocado trees, just to name a few. Returning to the village, we will have a cooking lesson in a local hotel overlooking terraced rice fields. Then it's onward to our beach resort in southern Bali, our home for the next three nights. Enjoy dinner with your fellow travelers at your resort this evening.

Day 9:

This morning we head to nearby Denpasar to visit Bali's largest traditional market, Kumbasari market, which offers an interesting peek into the lives of the local Balinese people who do their everyday shopping here. There are flowers, spices, vegetables, housewares, clothing and fabric, and even gold for sale in this sprawling complex. Continue to Royal Temple Taman Ayun which is known as "the great royal temple." Next we travel to the Alas Kedaton Monkey Forest, home to many tame monkeys roaming around the Alas Kendaton Temple grounds, to create a peaceful and sacred atmosphere. Then it's on to Tanah Lot Sea Temple. Tanah Lot means "Land Sea" in Balinese language. The temple, one of seven sea temples around the Balinese coast, sits on a large offshore rock which has been shaped by years of ocean tides. At the base of the rocky island, poisonous sea snakes are believed to guard the temple from intruders and evil spirits, and a giant snake is said to protect it. We return to the resort in mid-afternoon and the rest of the day is yours at leisure. Enjoy dinner on your own this evening.

Day 10:

Enjoy a day at leisure at your beach resort. Watch the sunrise from the beach and watch the locals fish as they have for centuries. Treat yourself to an invigorating spa treatment, sunbathe, or ask your tour escort to recommend one of the many optional excursions available. Tonight gather together with your group members for a farewell dinner.

Day 11:

Today we transfer to Denpasar airport for the return flight and take some of the "Bali Way" back with you, as you go back to your daily life.

INCLUSIONS

- Accommodations: Ubud 5 nights, Pemuteran 2 nights, Southern Bali Beach Resort 3 nights
- Meals: Continental breakfast daily, lunch and dinner as noted in itinerary
- Ground transportation via air conditioned luxury coach
- English speaking assistants and guides
- Admission tickets as outlined in the itinerary