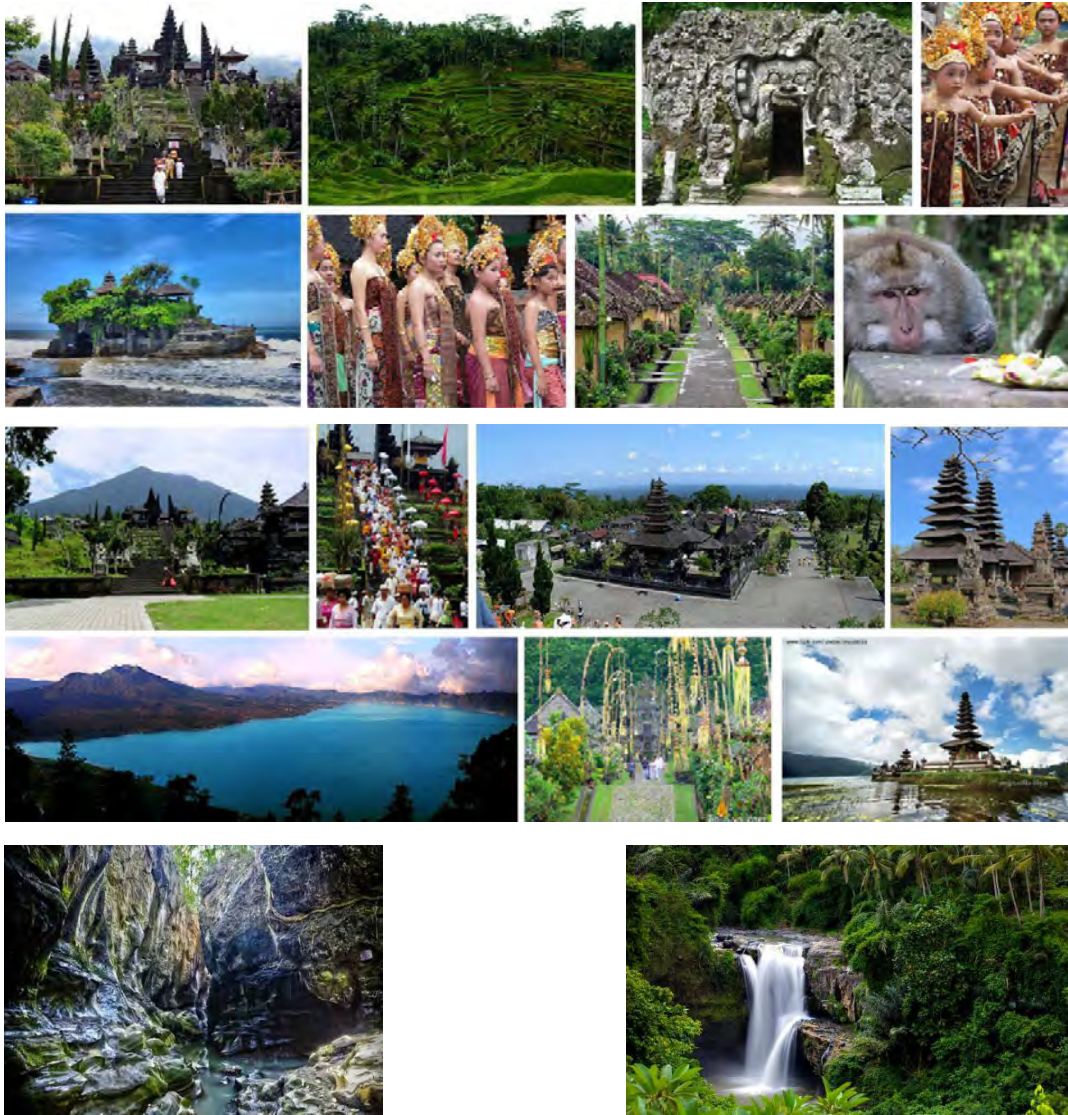


KOMANEKA

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About Bali



With a reputation as being one of the most beautiful and diverse tourist spots in Asia, Bali attracts at most 1,000,000 visitors a year, from all around the world.

Geographically, Bali lies between the island of Java and Lombok. Bali is small, stretching approximately 140 km from east to west and 80 km from north to south (5620 square kilometers). The tallest of a string of volcanic mountains that run from the east to the west, is Gunung Agung, which last erupted in 1963. Lying just 8 south of the Equator, Bali boast a tropical climate with just two seasons (wet and dry) a year and an average annual temperature of around 28C. The wide and gently sloping southern regions play host to Bali's famed rice terraces, among some of the most spectacular in the world. In the hilly, northern coastal regions, the main produce is coffee, copra, spices, vegetables, cattle and rice.



The Balinese have strong spiritual roots and despite the large influx of tourists over the years, their culture is still very much alive. The main religion is Hindu Dharma, and although originally

from India, the Balinese religion is a unique blend of Hindu, Buddhist, Javanese and ancient indigenous beliefs and different from the Hinduism practiced in India today. Naturally curative, the Balinese have traditionally used their talents for religious purposes and most of the beautiful work to be seen here has been inspired by the stories from the Mahabaratha, Ramayana and other Hindu epics.

The majority of Bali's 3,400,000 people live, for the most part, in tight village communities with large extended families. The largest town is the capital Denpasar and Singaraja in the north. The main tourist area stretches from Kuta to Seminyak. Kuta became a major attraction during the tourism boom of the 70's, because of its famed white-sand beaches, the surf and stunning sunsets.

Today, the Kuta to Seminyak stretch is a major tourist destination, with hundreds of hotels, bars, restaurants and shops. Those in search of a little of peace and quiet tend to head for the more sedate resorts of Sanur and Candi Dasa, on the east coast, or Lovina in the north. Nusa Dua, on the Southern-most peninsula of the island, houses many five-star hotels. The central village of Ubud, in the hilly region of Gianyar, has also blossomed as a tourist attraction and is now considered to be the artistic and cultural center of Bali.



Komaneka at Keramas Beach

History



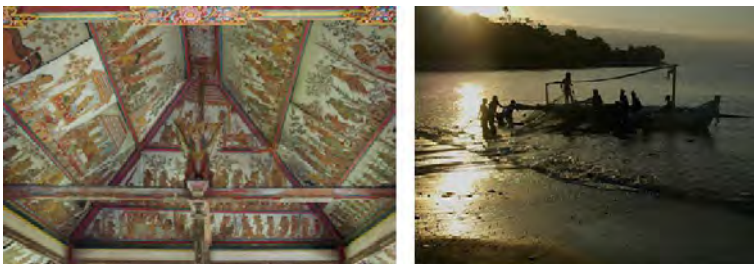
Although there are no artifacts or records dating back to the stoned Age, it is believed that the first settlers on Bali migrated from China around 2500 B.C. By the Bronze era, around 300 B.C quite an evolved culture existed on Bali. The complex system of irrigation and rice production which is still in use today was established around this time.

It appears that the main religion, around 500 A.D. was predominantly Buddhist in influence. A Chinese scholar, Yi-Tsing, in 670 A.D reported, on a trip to India, he had visited a Buddhist country called Bali.

It was not until the 8th century that Bali received the first strong influx of Hindu and Javanese cultures. With the death of his father around AD 1011, the Balinese Prince, Airlangga, moved to East Java and set about uniting it under one principality. Having succeeded, he then appointed his brother, Anak Wungsu, as ruler of Bali. During the ensuing period there was a reciprocation of political and artistic ideas. The old Javanese language, Kawi, became the language used by the aristocracy, one of the many Javanese traits and customs adopted by the cause.



With the death of Airlangga, in the middle of the 11th century, Bali enjoyed a period of autonomy. However, this provide to be short-lived, as in 1284 the East Javanese King Kertanegara, conquered Bali and ruled over it from Java. In 1292, Kertanegara was murdered and Bali took the opportunity to liberate itself once again. However, in 1343, Bali was brought back under Javanese control by its defeat at the hands of Gajah Mada, a general in the last of the great Hindu-Javanese empires, the Majapahit.



With the spread of Islam throughout Sumatra and Java during the 16th century, the Majapahit empire began to collapse and a large exodus of aristocracy, priests, artists and artisan to Bali ensued.

For a while Bali flourished and the following centuries were considered the golden age of Bali's cultural history. The Principality of Gelgel, near Klungkung, became a major power centre for the arts. And Bali became the major power of the region, taking control of neighboring Lombok and parts of east Java.

The People



Life in Bali is very communal with the organization of villages, farming and even the creative art being decided by the community. The local government is responsible for schools, clinics, hospital and roads, but other aspects of life are placed in the hands of two traditional committees, whose roots in Balinese culture stretch back centuries. The first, Subak, concern the production of rice and organizing the complex irrigation system.



Everyone who own the Sawah, or rice field, must join their local Subak, which then ensures that every member gets his fair distribution of irrigation water. The other community organization is the Banjar, which arranges all village festivals, a marriage ceremonies and cremations. Most villages have at least one Banjar and all males have to join one when they marry.

Banjars, on average, have a membership of between 50 to 100 families and each Banjar has its own meeting place call the Bale Banjar. As well as being used for regular meetings, the Bale (pavilion) is where the local gamelan orchestras and drama group practice.



Balinese Hindu people are believe their life are support by other creatures in this world. So when they built any constructions they will following three concepts in their daily life call **“Tri Hita Karana”** with is mean “ three causes of the happiness.”

Tri Hita Karana are:

- **Parahyangan** mean how the Balinese make a good relationship to the creator (the God), so Balinese Hindu people will always built a temple or shrine where ever they live.
- **Pawongan** mean how the Balinese make a good relationship to other human, so every single Balinese people are keep their respect to other Balinese or to every body.
- **Palemahan** mean how the Balinese make a good relationship to other creatures in this universe, so for other creatures Balinese has several ceremony to showing the respects to them.

The Tri Hita Karana still very strong appear and still exist on this island.

Religion



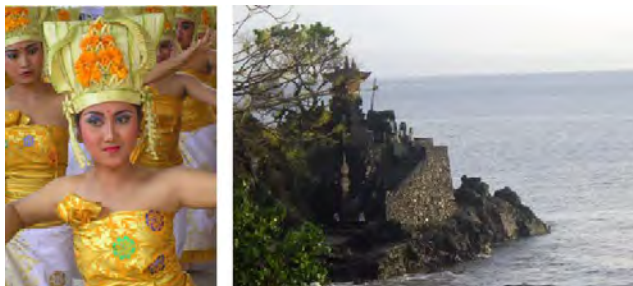
The Balinese are Hindu yet their religion is very different from that of the Indian variety. The Balinese worship the Hindu trinity Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva, who are seen as manifestations of the Supreme God Sang Hyang Widhi. Other Indian Gods like Ganesh (the elephant-headed God) also often appear, but more commonly, one will see shrines to the many Gods and spirits that are uniquely Balinese.

Balinese believe strongly in magic and power of spirits, and much of their religion is based upon this. Some temples, Pura Besakih for example, on the slopes of mount Agung, are considered especially important and people from all over Bali travel to worship there.



Offering play a significant role in Balinese life as they appease the spirits and thus bring prosperity and good health to the family. Everyday small offering trays (canang sari) containing symbolic food, flowers, cigarettes and money, are placed on shrines, in temples, outside houses and shops, and even at dangerous crossroads.

Festivals are another great occasion for appeasing the Gods. The women bear huge, beautifully arranged, pyramid of food, fruit and flowers on their heads while the men might conduct a blood sacrifice through a cockfight.



There are traditional dances and music and the Spirit (Guardian) are invited to come down to join the festivities. The festivals are usually very exciting occasion and well worth observing.

Dances and Dramas

Dance and drama have historically played an important role in Balinese society. Balinese dances are famous all over the world and the Balinese themselves take them very seriously. Birthdays, weddings, and temples festivals are all occasions for dramatic performances and dance is inextricably linked with the Balinese religion. Through this medium, people learnt about the tales of the Ramayana, Mahabrata and other epic stories from Balinese history. Especially dance in Bali it will be divided become three classifications are;

1. **Wali dance** the secret and very holy dances with is only performed during a very special temple festival procession.
2. **Balih balihan dance** this type of dance come from new creation of artist to showing their amazed about what happen in our daily live, so most of this type of dance are very new.
3. **Bali dance** this type of dance are created, developed, and progress in the island. Especially Wali dance and Balih balihan dance now day become so many to performed at several places for commercial occasion so two type of dances will become a Bali dance type.



The following are brief description of some of the more well-known dance-dramas that can be seen at regular performances, throughout Bali.

Baris Dance

This is warrior's dance. It is usually performance by men, either solo or in a group of five or more, its purpose is to protect the visiting Gods at temple festival from evil spirits. The dancers wear headdresses with a triangle of white clothe at the back.



This dance requires great skill, with the artist having to display the whole range of inner emotions, mainly through facial expression

Barong and Rangda Dance



Rangda

Barong and Rangda

The witch, however, uses her magical powers to turn the keris knives in upon their owners, who fall into a trance and start trying to stab themselves. The Barong uses magic to protect his followers from the knives. In the end, the Barong triumphs and Rangda retreats to recuperate her strength for the next encounter. All that remains is for a priest to help the keris dancers out of their trance, with the help of a little holy water. The Barong and Rangda dance is a very powerful performance and is not taken lightly by those involved

This is basically a story about the struggle between good and evil. Good is personified by the Barong Keket, a strange, fun-loving creature in the shape of ashaggy semi-lion.

Evil is represented by Rangda, a witch. Ultimately, the two characters engage in battle, at which point the Barong's keris-bearing follower rush in to attack Rangda

Kecak Dance

The most famous Balinese dance, the Kecak, originated from the Sanghyang dance choirs, who chant a distinctive 'Kechak - kechak' accompaniment. The Kecak, as a dance, developed in the 1930's, in the village of Bona, where it is still performed regularly.



The dance depicts a sub-plot from the Hindu epic the Ramayana. In the story the wife of Rama, Sita, is kidnapped by Rama's arch-enemy, the king of Lanka, and taken to his palace of Alengka.

In his search for Sita, Rama enlists the aid of the red monkey king Sugriwa. Together they select Hanoman, a white monkey with magical powers, to find Alengka and seek out Sita. Rama gives Hanoman his ring so that he can prove his identity to Sita when he finds her.



Hanoman finds Sita, gives her the ring, and attempts to destroy the palace where Sita is held, but is caught. In perhaps one of the performance's most dramatic scenes, Hanoman is bound and placed in a ring of straw that is set on fire.

The sun has set by this time, so we see the white and gold monkey dance back and forth over the burning straw, eventually kicking the sparks up into the air as he chases off his persecutors. The great general returns with his army of monkey warriors, portrayed by the choir. The bad guys are defeated. Sita is reunited with Rama.

The Kecak is so popular among tourists that you can find performances almost anywhere on Bali.

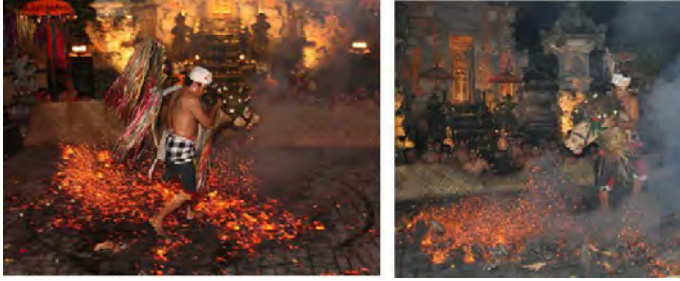
Legong Dance

The story derives from the history of East Java in the 12th and 13th centuries : when on a journey the King of Lasem finds the maiden Rangkesari lost in the forest. Rangkesari's brother, Prince Daha, gathers an army together to rescue his sister.



Princess Rangkesari then tries to persuade Laksmi to let her go to avoid a war, but he denies her freedom. On his way to battle, Daha is attacked by a raven, a bad omen, and is later killed in battle. The dance only takes the story up to the point where the king departs for battle, and it is performed by three people, two Legongs and their attendant, the "Condong". The Legong is a very classical and graceful dance, and is always performed by pre-pubescent girls, often as young as eight or nine years old.

Sanghyang Trance Dance



The Sanghyang is a divine force that enters the bodies of the entranced dancers. There are a number of dances, but the most common are the Sang Hyang Dedari and the Sang Hyang Jaran. The Sang Hyang Dedari is performed by two girls, and is very similar in style to the Legong; the main difference is that the Sanghyang Dedari girls are supposedly untrained and can keep in perfect time with each other, even though their eyes are firmly shut.

The accompanying music is provided by a female choir and a male Kecak choir. In the Sanghyang Jaran, a boy dances around and through a fire, riding a coconut palm hobbyhorse. This is a frequently called the “Fire Dance“, for the sake of tourists. In both dances, a priest is always on hand to help bring the dancers out of their trance-state at the end of the performance.

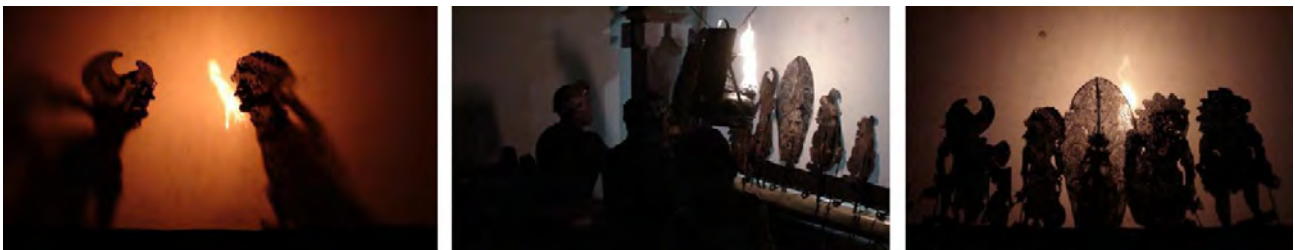
Mask Dance

In Bali, masks are considered sacred objects, and are revered as such. The best ones are traditionally carved on auspicious days, and the dancers who wear them are believed to be possessed by the spirits of the masks. Characters can be identified from the shape of the features; noble characters always wear full, refined masks; while evil is represented by bulging eyes and garish colors.



The characters are silent, but communicate using complex gestures of the hand, head and body. The story lines usually follow popular myths or episodes from history

Wayang Kulit (Shadow Puppet)



Wayang Kulit is one of the great story-telling traditions of the Javanese and Balinese. The Wayang show normally consist of a small 4-piece orchestra, which provide a musical accompanist, around 60 'puppets' carved out of flat pieces of water buffalo hide and the dalang, or puppet – master. Good characters normally speak in ancient 'kawi' and evil or coarse characters speak Balinese.

Ramayana

Bharata, the third son of King Dasaratha and Rama's younger brother was crowned as King of Ayodia to fulfill his father's wish. For this reason Rama, the legal heir to the throne, left his father's palace followed by his wife 'Shinta' and younger brother Laksmana to a forest call Dandaka.



Rahwana, the king of Alengka intended to kidnap Shinta and ordered his Prime Minister Maricha to transform himself into a golden deer to allure Shinta. By using hid trick, Rahwana succeeded in kidnapping Shinta and brought her to his Kingdom. While on their way to Alengka, they were encountered by a huge eagle "Jatayu", who was a friend of Rama.



Jatayu tried to recapture Shinta with all his might but Rahwana was too powerful for him and he was defeated. Rama and Laksmana were told by Jatayu of the whereabouts of Shinta before his death. Hanoman, the sacred white monkey met Shinta in the garden Alengka, and having done his duty, Hanoman destroyed the garden.

Accompanied by all monkey troops, Rama and Laksmana attacked Alengka. A great battle took place between Rama and Rahwana which ended with Rama's victory. Finally, Shinta met her beloved husband and joyfully returned to Ayodia.



Best Destination Around Bali

A. Temples

Pura Uluwatu *(located at south of Bali)*



This cliff-top temple, dedicated to the spirit of the sea, has spectacular views and is popular for viewing sunsets. During the Galungan festival, people from all over the island travel here to worship.

Pura Besakih ‘Bali’s Mother Temple’

(located at northeast of Bali)



This temple is the holiest and the biggest temple of Hindu in Bali, located on the slopes of Bali’s Mount Agung. Widely referred to as the ‘Mother Temple’ of Hinduism in Bali.



This temple is the holiest and the biggest temple of Hindu in Bali, located on the slopes of Bali’s Mount Agung.

Widely referred to as the ‘Mother Temple’ of Hinduism in Bali. The temple’s anniversary, Odalan, is an excellent day to visit if you are looking for pageantry. But you should expect a crowd of several thousand people. That ceremony comes in the tenth month of the Balinese calendar, usually in April.

Pura Gunung Kawi *(Tampak siring) located at northeast of Ubud*



Set in a ravine in Tampak Siring, the temple ‘candies’ are carved into the rock face. There are five royal tombs at the rear of temple complex.

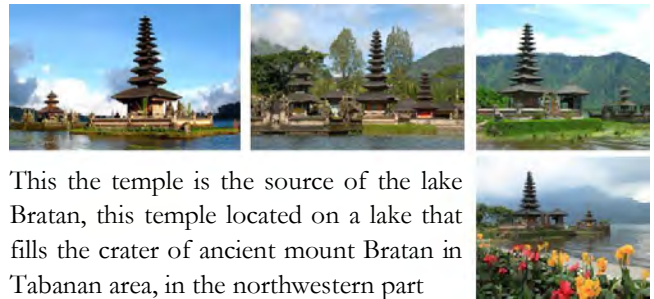
Pura Ulun Danu Batur *(located at north of Bali)*



The second of the most important temple after the Besakih housing with more than 90 shrines. Worth visiting at any time of year, especially during the odalan festival, usually in March, depending on the full moon, which is dedicated to the Goddess of the crater lake, who is said to control the Irrigation systems for the entire island.

Pura Ulun Danu Bratan

(located at northwestern of Bali)



This the temple is the source of the lake Bratan, this temple located on a lake that fills the crater of ancient mount Bratan in Tabanan area, in the northwestern part of Bali, in an elevation of 1239 meters above sea level. This Ulun Danu temple is dedicated to the Goddess of serene lake Bratan, as a manifestation of God as Wisnu, the preserver.

Pura Luhur Batukaru

(located at south of Bali)



Mount Batukaru grants an exceptional shade to the entire district of Tabanan. The gloom of Pura Luhur (Luhur temple) achieves the best scenery, ideally located at the foot of Mount Batukaru. The temple has a 2 meters meru to Maha Dewa, Mount Batukaru’s guardian spirit. Grandly located among the lofty trees of the rain forest, this is a unique encounter between man and nature.

The road to the temple branches out at Pacung, where a restaurant overlooks the rice paddies offers the unforgettable memory of Bali.

Pura Tirta Gunung Kawi (*Sebatu–Tegallalang*)
located at northeast of Ubud



A water temple dedicated to the Rice Goddess. Near the temple grounds is small spring-fed lake with sacred goldfish, which are said to be the guardians of the Spirit of the spring.

Pura Tirta Empul



This temple has water source is believed to be the source of life and prosperity to this day. That's how the temple of Tirta Empul got started.

Temple inscriptions mention that Tirta Empul was constructed in 960 AD, when the king Indrajaya Singha Warmadewa ordered its construction.



While this place was not of any particular interesting to the ancient Balinese kings, it attracted the attention of President Soekarno, the first Indonesian president, who built his presidential villas just west side of the temple.

This villa has made the name of Tampak Siring well known around the world. Tirta Empul is divided into 3 courtyards. At the first courtyard is also a pool for public bathing place.



There is a total of 30 shrines in Tirta Empul, with later ones added by the local people who are responsible for the

upkeep of the temple. Like most Balinese temples, an odalan ceremony is performed in every 210 days.



There is an old stone sculpture at the last courtyard in the form of buffalo. The buffalo is considered the mount of the God Shiva and the animal is called Nandi in the Hindu pantheon.

Pura Taman Ayun



Located on the district of Mengwi in Badung Regency. This temple established in the of 1634 by the King of Mengwi “I Gusti Agung Anom” the founder of the Mengwi Kingdom when he move his Kingdom from Balahayu to Mengwi. The Pura Taman Ayun means the “Temple of the Beautiful Gardens”.



Pura Taman Ayun covers an area of 250m by 100m. Originally dating from 1634. It is nice to visit in the afternoon while on the way to Tanah Lot.

Pura Alas Kedaton



This temple was inspired and erected in 1250 by a high priest from the island of Java. Wild monkeys and large Bats now inhabit the area around it, which attracts many tourists making it a popular sightseeing landmark.

The monkeys, which can be seen everywhere is very charming and tame because of the food they received from the amused tourists.



Although outsiders are not allowed on the temple ground, there are small pathways lined by trees going around the temple with many bats hanging upside down on the tree tops that can be seen.



Alas Kedaton

Pura Tanah Lot *(located at west of Bali)*



The chronicles attribute the temple at Tanah Lot to the 16th century to priest Dang Hyang Nirartha.

This Temple was built in the 15th century by the priest, Pedanda Bahu Rawuh or Dang Hyang Nirartha from Majapahit Jawa.



Tanah Lot is 13 km from Tabanan “it is in Beraban village”.

When the tide is low people can walk to the temple. It looks like a floating one if the tide is high.



There are many caves under the temple lived by the peaceful sea snakes, which has white and black colors.

B. Caves

Goa Gajah or Elephant Cave *(Gianyar Regency)*



Dating from the 11th century, there are conflicting opinions as to whether this cave was originally a Buddhist or Hindu heritage.



Although not very large, it boasts some interesting carvings.

Goa Lawah or Bat Cave *(located at east of Bali)*



Famous for the thousands of fruit bats that live here, this can be an interesting experience. Located in Klungkung Regency, East Bali near the Kusamba Beach.



C. Palaces

Puri Saren Agung Ubud *(Gianyar regency)*



From the late 19th century to the mid-1940s, this was the seat for the local ruler. It's a series of elegant and well preserved pavilions, many of the decorated incongruously with colonial-era European furniture. Visitors are welcome to stroll around, though there are no signs indicating what you are looking at, so it palls quickly.



Evening dance performances are held in the courtyard, and it is the best and most dramatic setting for these in Ubud.

Kertha Gosa (Court of Justice)

located at eastern of Bali



A palace dedicated to the God of love, this palace was home to the kings of Klungkung.

Although only two pavilions and the entrance gate remain, the hall of justice, Bale Kerta Gosa and Taman Gili (the floating hall) are worth seeing for its beautiful painted ceiling and carved pillars.



D. Water Palaces

Taman Ujung Water Palace

(located at eastern of Bali)



Set in beautiful landscape park, the ruins of this palace are a tribute to the slightly eccentric designs of King Anak Agung Ngurah / The King of Karangasem.

Tirta Gangga Royal Bathing Pools

(located at east Bali)



Great views from both Mountain Agung and Lombok Strait.

This palace was damaged during the 1963 on the eruption of Mountain Agung, but the pools still function and can be taken advantage of, for a small fee.



E. Traditional Villages of Bali

Penglipuran Village (Bangli regency)



Penglipuran is a traditional village at the administrative village of Kubu village. Located 700 meters above sea level with fresh air.



From historical point of view, according to the village elders, the words Penglipuran is drive from words Pengeling Pura, means a holy place for remembering their ancestors.

Another opinion stated that Penglipuran is derived from the word Penglipuran, means relaxation, since on the royal period this place was a good spot for resting place.



Population in this village is 743 persons, most of them are farmers and just a few as civil servants and handicrafts are well developed in this remote village.

Tenganan Village (near Karangasem)



This is one of the most conservative village of the original villages in Bali. This walled village is situated on a valley and surrounded by hills. The villagers claim that their ancestors were the origin people from Bedaulu kingdom.

They always keep their custom well with a strict rule in order to protect their purity. This village also known as a centre for weaving. The only place in Indonesia where 'geringsing' cloth is made.



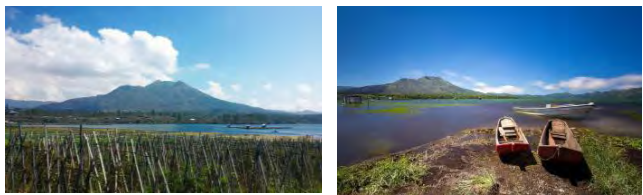
F. Lakes

Lake Batur (*located northern of Bali*)



Lake Batur is the largest lake in Bali. It was formed by the volcano about 30.000 years ago.

The lake is about 10 km long and it's deepest point is 65 meters. The lake provides a lot of sources of freshwater fish.



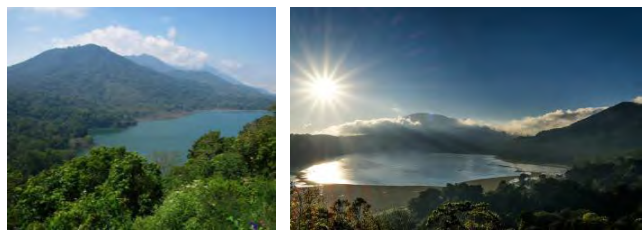
The main village at the south part of the lake is Kedisan. It's possible to rent a boat and make a trip on the lake. Around the lake there are some hot spring available.

Lake Buyan and Lake Tamblingan

(*located north west of Bali*)



Located further north are the twin lakes of Buyan and Tamblingan.



The rainforest surrounding the lakes has lain untouched for more than 1000 years, and it is home to species of birds, trees, flowers unseen elsewhere on the island. See and feed the monkeys too.

Lake Bratan (*near Bedugul*)



Location of the superb Ulun Danu Temple, this lake offers both superb-scenery and water sports such as jet-skiing for the more adventurous.

G. Rice Terraces

Ceking

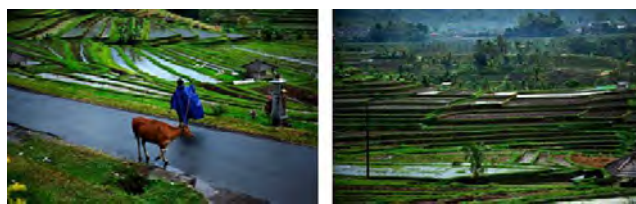


Nearest rice terrace for those who stay in Ubud area, located in Tegallalang Village – Gianyar regency, about 20 minutes by car from the Ubud town.



While enjoying the amazing view of the rice terrace, a small shopping of Balinese Handicraft with best price can be done.

Jatiluwih (*western of Bali*)



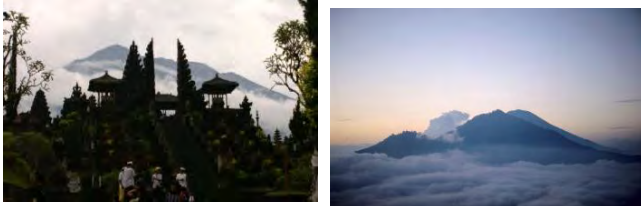
Approximately 20 km from Tabanan, the road climbs up high into the hills to a small village named Jatiluwih at a height of 850 meters above sea level.



The view here is one of the finest imaginable: Bali's terrace paddy fields stretch in endless contours over hills and valleys as far as the eye can see.

H. Volcanoes

Mount Agung

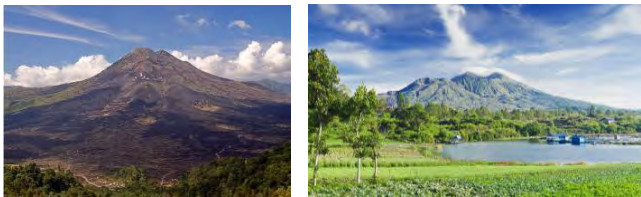


Balinese believe that Mount Agung is a replica of Mount Meru in the Hindu mythology.



Mount Agung or Gunung Agung is the highest Mount on the island with a top just over 3000 meter. Mount Agung is also an active volcano with the last eruption in 1963 and 1964.

Mount Batur

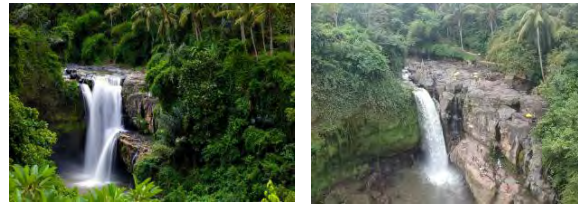


Mount Batur is also an active volcano located in the northwest of Mount Agung. The Mountain has caldera measuring 13,8 x 10 km.



I. Others

Tegenungan / Belang Singa Water Fall



Located around 11 km from Keramas village, the Tegenungan waterfall is approximately 15 meters high. The water is clean and clear, thus its sharp drops have been genuine attractions of this waterfall surrounded by vegetation. Getting to the falls is a pleasant drive down paved village roads lined with stretches of green rice fields on both sides.

Hidden Canyon Beji Guwang



Beji means ‘sacred spring’, while Guwang is the name of the village where this beautiful secret place is found. It is known for its clear water and black stone with a river situated between 30-meter high stone walls that are naturally formed in amazing shapes and patterns. It is close to Sukawati Art Market, located in Banjar Wangbung, Guwang Village, Sukawati, in Gianyar, approximately 15 minutes from Komaneka at Keramas Beach.

Ubud Monkey Forest



The Ubud Monkey forest is a small nature preserve on the southern outskirts of Ubud. Along with its lush surroundings and a beautiful temple are hundreds of monkeys Balinese macaques, to be more specific

Mas Village



About 5 kilometers to the south from Ubud, is the center of the fine quality wood art, this villages is the hometown of many Balinese master of wood carver.

Now many collection of fine wood Carving is still can be found.



Celuk Village (*Sukawati, Gianyar*)



The village of Celuk, a center of gold and silver work has original designs in delicate filigree make Balinese jewelry one of the most unusual styles in Asia.

Although individual pieces are elaborate, they have simple origins in their making. Artisans use a tree stump with a protruding iron spike as a pounding base, a bamboo stem to catch the filings, and a manually operated gas pump for heat. As with most Balinese crafts, gold and silver work is largely an hereditary trade.

Apprentices begin young by the time the boys are twelve, they are already producing fine ornaments from the metals. However, the increased demand by tourists has resulted in the craft extending beyond the traditional clan. Almost every family in Celuk now makes or sells gold and silver work. Kuta and Kamasan (near Klungkung) are other such smiting centers, the latter famous for large silver bowls.

Batuan Village



For over a thousand years Batuan has been a village of artists and craftsmen, old legends and mysterious tales. Batuan's recorded history begins in A-D. 1022, with an inscription that is housed in the main village temple, Pura Desa Batuan.

The name 'Batuan' or 'Baturan' mentioned here prompts villagers to joke about being 'tough as stone' or 'eating rocks'- as batu means 'stone' in Balinese.

But it likely refers to an ancient megalithic tradition in which standing stones served as meeting places and ceremonial sites for the worship of ancestral spirits.



Kebun Raya Bedugul (*Botanical Garden*)



Kebun Raya Bedugul or Bedugul Botanical Garden is renowned for its wide selection of plants. It's a very airy site with mountain atmosphere.

Encompassing 120 hectares, the gardens were established in 1959 as a branch of the Bogor National Botanical Garden.



There is a large collection of native plants and over 500 specimens of orchids.



Walking around at Bedugul

Candi Dasa *(located at east of Bali)*



Candi Dasa is an area located on the southeast of Bali Island, the point of interest on this Village is the Candi Dasa Beach.



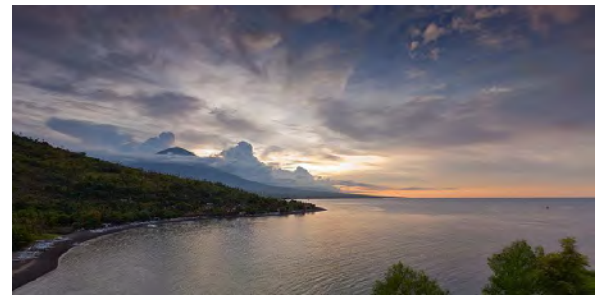
View near Candi Dasa

Hotels and Restaurants are available with more affordable prices compare with other destination in Bali

Amed *(located at east of Bali)*



Bali is not just an Island with thousand temple or the Island of the Art, but Bali also has the most spectacular underwater tourist destination 'Amed' is the name of the destination, visited by beginner and professional diver from all over the world.



A complete facilities and underwater tour operator is available for the visitors.

Balinese New Year “Nyepi”



Situation in Bali when Nyepi day

Nyepi is the Balinese New Year in Bali, Nyepi is also a religious event and a symbolic replay of these philosophical principles. At the beginning of the year, the world is clean. Bali is a Hindu society, one which believes in the **“Karmapala”** principle, according to which the dynamics of life, and of an individual’s fate, is set in motion by action. Human lives are plotted on a “Samsara” cycle of incarnation, each of which determined by the quality of human actions (karma) in his former existence. The ideal is thus to put the system at rest, to control one’s action, and thus to subdue one’s demons. Only in such a way can humans hope to achieve deliverance from this life cycles (moksa) and eventually merge with the Oneness of the void, the Ultimate Silence of Sunya.

The day before Nyepi, all villages perform an exorcism at the main village cross-road, considered the meeting place of the demons. A Siwa Priest, addressing the middle world of Sengguhu priest propitiating the nether world are all in attendance.



And, at night all the demons of Bali are let loose on the roads in carnival of fantastic monsters, the **“Ogoh-Ogoh”**.

The Ogoh-Ogoh cavalcade of demons is as relaxed as Nyepi is serious. It took on its present shape some twenty years ago, when Nyepi was emerging as the display of religious power it has become today.



Since there had to be demons, the Balinese made them, ever bigger and ever more monstrous. To be used once, during the Ogoh – Ogoh procession and burned immediately after. Hence the mandatory religious prohibitions of Amati geni (no fire), Amati karya (no work), Amati lelungan (no travelling) and Amati lelungan (no pleasure). It is the day of self - control, fasting and introspection for Hindu follower, when the entire island becomes early quiet. Do not expect to be able to do anything on the day of Nyepi, which begins at sunrise. You will have to stay in the hotel. No traffic or pedestrians are allowed on the street, and everyone must stay indoors, use electricity is kept to minimum, and nobody works. The day after Nyepi we called **“ngembak geni”** the people have **“sima krama”** when they visit friends or relation and socialize together.

Balinese Special Days

1. Galungan



Balinese has a very strong believe with two powers in this universe which is always has struggle each other. Two powers it self are “Dharma” mean good or positive with “Adharma” mean bad or negative, they have eternal battle among them will never win or lose each other.

So Balinese has a full respect to them and try to make them in balanced to create the harmony. For the white and black cloth on every shrines, on statues, on big trees is a small example how the Balinese showing their respect to both powers. But especially on the day call **“Galungan”** it is the time for **“Dharma”** or good or positive power has win and Balinese has a big celebration for it.

Galungan day is come every 210 days, during celebration Balinese will come to every temple to worship with the family to showing their respect to the God and also to the ancestor. One day before Galungan Balinese will make a “penjor” (bamboo decoration) will put in front of entrance houses.



Penjor as symbol of the dragons Basuki as lord of the mount and dragon Anantabhoga as lord of the earth the place for plantations to grow.

2. Kuningan

Balinese has another celebration 10 days after Galungan call Kuningan day will come every 210 days. The word Kuningan take from word “Kuning” mean yellow, so the celebration will full of yellow colors for offering, foods and decorations.



Yellow colors as symbol of the meeting between “bhakti”(worship) with “asih”(blessing), so on Kuningan day is the great time for worship from the people will meet with the blessing from Gods and Ancestors. After all procession finish it is the time for the Ancestors will return to heaven. On this day when some temples on the island will have a temple festival and procession.

Bali Cremation Ceremony

“Ngaben”

Hindu funerals in Bali are intensely suggestive ceremonies of great cultural and religious significance. Funerals are centre on cremation of the body requiring a complex apparatus and characterized by a large following known as ngaben or pelebon.



This practice is considered essential if the 5 elements making up the microcosm of the human body are to be returned to their original residence, the universe's macrocosm. The five elements, Panca Maha Bhuta, are the earth (pertiwi), water (apah), fire (teja), air (bayu), and ether (akasa). Since the primordial dimension can only be attained through water and fire, the ashes are dispersed in the water of the sea or if the distance is too great, in a river.

The funeral ceremony is generally led by a priest and punctuated by a lavish offering of gifts. For the occasion, a large bullock-shaped wooden structure is built and then entirely covered with white drapes if the deceased belongs to a priestly caste in black.

There are ceremonies for every stage of Balinese life but often the last ceremony is the biggest. A Balinese cremation can be an amazing, spectacular, colorful, noisy and exciting event. In fact it often takes so long to organize a cremation that years have passed since the death. During that time the body is temporarily buried. Of course an auspicious day must be chosen for the cremation and since a big cremation can be very expensive business many less



wealthy people may take the opportunity to bring in at a larger cremation and sending their own dead on their way at the same time. Brahmans, however, must be cremated immediately. Apart from being yet another occasion for Balinese noise and confusion it's a fine opportunity to observe the incredible energy the Balinese put into creating real works of art which are totally ephemeral. A lot more than a body gets burnt at the cremation. The body is carried from the burial ground (or from the deceased's home if it's an 'immediate' cremation) to the cremation ground in a high, multi-tiered tower made of bamboo, paper, string, tinsel, silk, cloth, mirrors, flowers and anything else bright and colorful you can think of. The tower is carried on the shoulders of a group of men, the size of the group depending on the importance of the deceased and hence the size of the tower.

The funeral of a former rajah or high priest may require hundreds of men to tote the tower. A long the way to the cremation ground certain precautions must be taken to ensure that the deceased's spirit does not find its way back home. Loose spirits around the house can be a real nuisance. To ensure this doesn't happen requires getting the spirits confused as to their whereabouts, which you do by shaking



the tower, running it around in circles, spinning it around, throwing water at it, generally making the trip to the cremation ground anything but a stately funeral crawl.

Trekking Activities

Keramas area is rich in scenic beauty of its nature offering breathtaking views of rice paddy, besides the beach, rivers as regulating Balinese traditional irrigation system. To experience countryside walk in a tropical and fresh air environment is an exciting activity. A trek route takes at approximately Two hours walk and a professional hotel trekker will guide you to explore the exciting and adventure routes.

This activity should be reserved at least one day before. This activity is suggested starting at 7 am or at 4 pm.

Three different choice of routes are available as follows :

Best time for the trip are :

Morning : 07.00 am

Afternoon : 04.00 pm

NOTE :

For further information and booking to the above activities, please feel free to contact your **Personal Assistant** at extension **6**.

Tour Option Around Bali

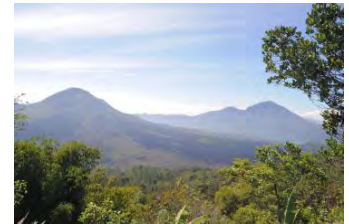
1. **Ubud Tour** (hourly tour or half day tour is recommended)

- **Monkey Forest** (in Ubud)
- **Goa Gajah / Elephant Cave** (temple)
- **Ceking** (rice terrace)
- **Tegenungan (water fall)**
- **Baterfly Park**



2. **Kintamani Tour** (half day tour or full day tour is recommended)

- **Kintamani** (temple, mountain and lake)
- **Tampak Siring** (Tirta Empul temple - bathing place)
- **Gunung Kawi** (temple)
- **Tegenungan (waterfall)**
- **Ceking** (rice terrace)



3. **Sunset Tour** (full day tour is recommended)

- **Taman Ayun** (temple)
- **Alas Kedaton** (temple and monkey forest)
- **Tanah Lot** (temple)



4. **Batu Bulan Tour** (half day tour is recommended)

- **Barong Dance**
- **Celuk Village** (gold & silver smith)
- **Mas Village** (wood carving)
- **Batuan Village** (balinese compound)
- **Tegenungan/Belang singa** (water fall)



5. **Bedugul Tour** (full day tour is recommended)

- **View of twin lake** (lake Buyan and lake Tamblingan)
- **Lake Bratan and Ulun Danu Temple**
- **Botanical Garden** (Bedugul)
- **Angseri Village** (hot water spring)
- **Taman Ayun Temple**



6. **East Bali Tour** (full day tour is recommended)

- **Kertha Gosa** (museum of justice)
- **Goa Lawah / Bat Cave** (temple)
- **Tenganan** (traditional village)
- **Candi Dasa** (resort compound in beach area)
- **Tirta Gangga** (hot water spring)



7. **Rice Terrace Tour** (full day tour is recommended)

- **Taman Ayun** (temple)
- **Alas Kedaton** (monkey forest)
- **Jati Luwih** (rice terrace)
- **Batu Karu** (temple)



To explore the above objects (countryside, temples, most traditional village to see cultural activities or from traditional performances to shopping destination), your **Personal Assistant** at extension **6** would be so happy to arrange and organize the trip to your favorite destination.

One day in advance is strongly suggested to discuss about this activity.