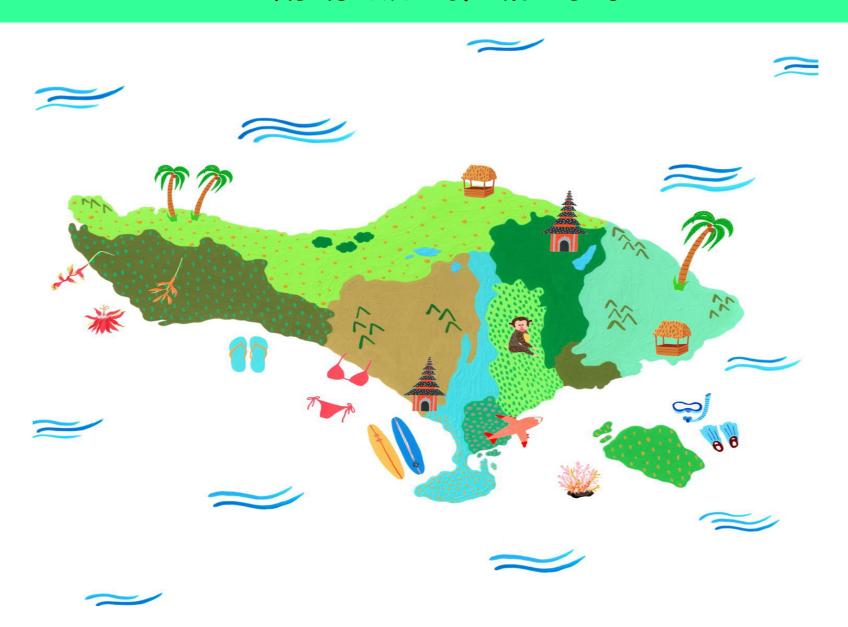
Inspire - Plan - Discover - Experience

BALI

THE ISLAND of the GODS



Contents

Temples

The Balinese live according to their religion, Hinduism. You can feel that immediately when you are traveling in Bali. Daily rituals, visits to the temples, offerings, ceremonies, the smell of incense sticks and the murmuring of prayers are omnipresent.

Rice Teracces - The heavenly stairways to the Gods

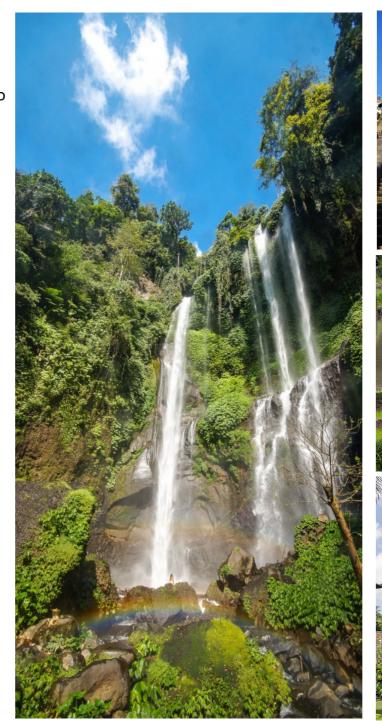
Inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2012. Rice cultivation has a very long tradition in Bali. Rice is a staple food, but still serves as a means of payment and still provides a livelihood for many families in Bali. The monsoon climate and volcanic soils allow for three rice harvests per year.

Waterfalls

Whether small, large, well-known or untouched, each waterfall on Bali has its own charm.

Ubud - A Mecca for Art Lovers

Ubud is so much more than Monkey Forest and Tourist and Traditional Market. Ubud is considered as the artistic capital of Bali and well known for its museums, galleries, studios and diverse handicraft manufactories.









Contents

BLOOMS GARDEN

In June 2019, just before Covid brought everything to a standstill, The Blooms Garden Bedugul opened. Meanwhile, the park complex in the highlands of Bali, located near Danau Beratan Lake, has become a new tourist destination for domestic and foreign tourists.

BEDUGUL BOTANICAL GARDEN

Bali Botanical Garden is officially known as Kebun Raya Eka Karya Bali. It was created for botanical research, conservation, recreation and education at the same time. Here you can relax in a beautiful and peaceful environment while learning about rainforest plantations, birdlife and the role of plants in the daily life of the Balinese people.

DANAU BATUR - The lake in the shadow of the volcano

Of all the lakes in Bali, Danau Batur is not only the largest, but also the most popular. The still active volcano supplies warm water to the three pools of the Batur Natural Hot Springs on its banks. Around the lake are several Bali-Aga villages that have existed for centuries. One of the worth seeing villages is the village of Trunyan. The strangest of Trunyan rituals here is the handling of the dead.

KERTHA GOSA - Formerly the Supreme Court of Bali

For those interested in Balinese history, a visit to the Klungkung Palace in Semarapura, home to the Kertha Gosa Court Hall, is a must.

SAVANNAH TIANYAR - An untapped gem

Savannah Tianyar, an undeveloped gem in nothern Bali that has been spared from mass tourism and rarely visited.

TENGANAN PEGRINGSINGAN -: A Village from the Past

Tenganan Pegringsingan in East Bali is an ancient village where, in the midst of modern Bali, rural life has survived as it has for centuries. It is one of the few Aga-Aga villages in Bali where the pre-Hindu culture has remained alive.

















THE ISLAND of the GODS – Inspire, Plan, Discover and Experience Bali

More than ten thousand temples have been built all over the island until today. They are categorized into several classifications:

9 temples of Kahyangan Jagat, meaning the "Palaces of the Gods",

714 temples of Dang Kahyangan built on the basis of respect for the Maharsi,

4.368 temples of Kahyangan Tiga, "Temple of Heaven Tiga",

differend water temples, sea temples, village temples and uncountable family temples.

Let yourself be inspired by our travel guide and see where the path in Bali takes you.

Committed to the cultural heritage of the island, we invite you...

... to visit richly decorated temples that stand for the deep-rooted beliefs of the Hindus and their ceremonies...

Temples

1 Pura Batu Bolong	9 Pura Lempuyang
2 Pura Besakih	10 Pura Luhur Batukaru
3 Pura Brahmavihara	11 Pura Taman Ayun
4 Pura Goa Gajah	12 Pura Tanah Lot
5 Pura Goa Lawah	13 Pura Tirta Empul
6 Pura Gunung Kawi (The Tombs of the Kings)	14 Pura Ulun Bratan
7 Pura Gunung Kawi Sebatu	15 Taman Tirta Gangga
8 Pura Kehen	16 Taman Ujung

When visiting a temple, the temple rules must be observed. The rules are simple and easy to follow. It's just a matter of respect. To enter a temple, you must cover your shoulders and legs, and women must not be menstruating.

















PURA BATU BOLONG

Very close to the "The mysterious sea temple" Pura Tanah Lot is the small Hindu Batu Bolong Temple. Many who visit Tanah Lot know the temple from his pictures, it stands on a rock with a hole in the middle. Its name is therefore derived from bolong for hole and batu for stone, because the small temple is located on a cliff right on the coast and the jet black rock has some big breakthroughs, hence the bolong.

Pura Batu Bolong was founded in the 15th century as a place of worship as a form of spreading Hinduism in Bali and is one of the Jagat Heavenly Temples in Bali. The people around Batu Bolong Temple believe that God is in the temple to bring peace and prosperity. Hindus in Bali visit this temple daily to perform prayers to seek blessings from Ida Batara Segara for salvation and harmony.

The temple complex consists of two smaller shrines that stand out picturesquely from the black rocks. First you reach the first shrine via a stone staircase. The second is a few meters above on a rock. Depending on the swell and water level, it can get very humid here, because the surf often hits the rock hard from the outside and drives the water up with momentum, where an impressive spray is created.





PURA BESAKIH - BALI'S MOTHER TEMPLE

Pura Besakih is located on the southwest slope at an altitude of 950 meters of the 3,000 m high, still active volcano Gunung Agung.

The exact origins of the temple are unclear, but its importance as a sacred site almost certainly dates back to prehistoric times. The stone bases of Pura Penataran Agung and several other temples resemble megalithic step pyramids that are at least 2,000 years old. It was certainly used as a Hindu place of worship from 1284 when the first Javanese conquerors settled in Bali. As early as the 15th century, Besakih had become the state temple of the powerful Gelgel dynasty.

Over the centuries, 30 temples have been built into the hillside. In total there are over 200 built shrines (pelinggih), open pavilions (balls) and sometimes multi-storey temple towers (meru). When visiting, you have to walk a little uphill and climb stairs, since the buildings and courtyards are connected by stairs and small paths.

In the center are three large temple complexes dedicated to the Hindu gods Brahma, Shiva and Vishnu, the divine trinity. To the west is the Pura Batu Madeg temple precinct dedicated to the god Vishnu and to the east is the Pura Dangin Creteg built in honor of Brahma. Central is the Pura Panataran Agung dedicated to Lord Shiva. It is the largest temple precinct with 60 buildings on seven terraces. Inside is the main shrine, the three-seat lotus throne, closed to non-believers as is customary in Bali.

Temple festivals are held on the anniversary of the temple's dedication and usually on the new or full moon. Odalan is an important Hindu ritual performed by the Balinese to ensure spiritual harmony.

Every 100 years an even greater festival is celebrated in the Mother Temple, the Eka Dasa Rudra, a great sacrificial ceremony in which the universe is symbolically purified.

During the last Eka Dasa Rudra festival on February 18, 1963, the volcano Gunung Agung erupted on the slope of Pura Besakih. To the east of the temple complex, a huge lava flow poured down the mountain and stopped a few meters from the temple. Miraculously, Pura Besakih, the Hindu sanctuary, was spared. Other areas were devastated, over 1,000 people died and 86,000 lost their belongings.





BRAHMAVIHARA TEMPLE – A place of reflection

... an offshoot of the world's largest Buddhist temple complex Borobudur on Java

The name Brahmavihara Arama means "The Four Heavenly Mansions". They form the basis of Buddhist meditation and face other beings for postures or attitudes.

The Bramavihara Arama is composed of the terms Brahma, Vihāra and Ashram. Vihara means 'dwelling place' or 'place to dwell', Brahma is one of the most important Indian deities and ashram is a monastery-like meditation center and means 'place of effort'.

Compared to Borobudur, the temple complex in Bali, often called the small Borobudur, is a young building. It was built between 1958 and 1970 by Bhikku Giri Rakhita, a powerful Brahmin convert to Theravada Buddhism, which is widespread in Thailand. In addition to the Indonesian government, Thailand has financed a large part of the plant. This is also the reason for many Thai decorations, a golden Buddha statue and a collection of Thai paintings and artworks in this place.

Brahmavihara Arama is not a place for quick tourism but a place to stay. The main hall of the ashram features reliefs and sculptural traces depicting the life of Buddha from his birth to enlightenment.

When walking through the park you can simply relax, listen to yourself and find yourself. Here you can see numerous Buddha figures, stupas and brightly painted sculptures.

If you want to go to the temple, light some incense sticks, listen to yourself and soak up the power of this place - a place of respect and appreciation.

Many visitors, especially those who have been here for the first time, feel the need to return to this place of inner contemplation after these profound experiences in order to draw new strength.





GOA GAJAH - The Elephant Cave

The complex probably dates from the 9th to 11th centuries and was rediscovered in 1923 by a Dutch archaeologist. The two large pools of water with springs in front of the cave were found in 1954. They are still used today for ritual ablutions and for drawing holy water.

Nobody knows exactly where the name "elephant cave" for the sanctuary came from. It could be a misinterpretation of the gigantic relief at the entrance of the cave, because the sides were thought to be large elephant ears.

Other speculations say that the name comes from the deity Ganesha whose statue is in the cave. Or it depicts the giant Pasupati who once split Mount Mahameru in two and created the two great volcanoes Gunung Agung and Gunung Batur.

The entrance to Goa Gajah is straight through the wide open mouth of the demon mask. Non-Balinese visitors should place a sacrificial basket before entering to prevent the demon from closing its mouth and devouring them after entering.

The narrow cave has a T-shape. In the narrow, very plain transverse room, there is a statue of Ganesha at the west end and 3 stone lingas at the east end. Lingas are phallic symbols and represent Shiva's creative power. In other rock niches are ancient Balinese depictions of demons.

Strolling through a beautiful park, we reach the nearby Yeh Pulu spring sanctuary, which is well worth seeing and is one of Bali's unique works of art - a 27 meter long and 2 meter high massive rock face with an intricately carved relief. This shows very plastic and lively scenes from the everyday life of the Balinese, from women to priests, animals to hunting. In the lower part there is also a representation of the elephant god Ganesha.

It probably dates from the 14th century, but there is no consensus as to why it was created. It may have been part of a larger complex, perhaps belonging to a monastery or hermitage as there are some ruins in the area.





PURA GOA LAWAH – The bat cave

Pura Goa Lawah, one of the most picturesque temples in Bali, was built by Dang Hyang Nirartha, a Hindu priest from ancient Javanese times who also built many other important temples on the island during his pilgrimage. The cave temple, featuring worshipping shrines built around a cave opening, is home to thousands of bats and, if the local legend is true, a giant king snake wearing a crown.

Other legends surrounding the history of the Bat Cave: On the one hand, the cave is said to be part of a huge cave system. Another cave exit or entrance is said to be in Pura Besakih, about good 20 kilometers away. According to Balinese belief, the cave represents an underground connection between the upper and the lower world. The mother temple Pura Besakih is located at the foot of the 3142 meter high Agung volcano, which is considered the dwelling place of the gods. The Pura Goa Lawah, on the other hand, is located by the sea, which is believed to be the home of demons.

The locals and the temple guardians believe that the tunnels inside the cave lead to Mount Agung (Besakih), and two other areas namely Talibeng and Tangkid Bangbang.

Today, Pura Goa Lawah is still looked after and provided with prayer on a daily basis. Being one of the Kayangan Jagat temples, meaning one of the most sacred/important temples in Bali, Pura Goa Lawah is frequented by the Hindu pilgrims from across the island especially during auspicious days on the Balinese calendar.

Among other things, cremation ceremonies are held here too and the ashes of the deceased are consecrated by the priests and scattered into the nearby sea.





GUNUNG KAWI TAMAKSIRING – The Tombs of the Kings

With its imposing royal tombs, Gunung Kawi is one of the most important and impressive "Must-haves" in Bali.

The Gunung Kawi Tombs date back to the 11th century, the early days of Bali, and were built by King Anak Wungsu to honor his family. There are nine niches in total, over 7 meters high, and according to legend, the giant Kebo Iwo carved the Meru-shaped monoliths out of the rock with his nails. Not much is known about the exact origin of the impressive tomb. Since no remains of the family members were found in the graves, they are memorial stones rather than graves.

Just a few meters from the rock temples is an ancient monastery with narrow passageways and narrow stone chambers carved out of the rock. The monk sanctuary dates from the 9th century and is considered a testimony to Balinese early history. Visitors are only allowed to enter the historic complex barefoot.

Gunung Kawi is accessed via a long stairway carved directly into the rock, comprising around 300 steps. The views of the surrounding area are beautiful on this way into the gorge as the landscape around Gunung Kawi consists of wonderful rice terraces and a particularly lush and tropical landscape.

In addition to visiting the royal tombs in the valley of the Pakerisan River, a trip to the lush green rice fields is also worthwhile. The walk back from the Tombs of the Kings to the car park (remember, 300 steps up) is particularly sweaty in the midday heat. However, there are benches to rest on both sides of the trail and several food and drink stalls.





PURA GUNUNG KAWI SEBATU

Pura Gunung Kawi Sebatu is a beautiful spring temple nestled in a lush valley below the small village of Sebatu, just a few kilometers north of the famous Tegalalang Rice Terraces. As you drive down into the valley, you have a wonderful overview of the entire source temple.

The temple was built in honor of the deity Wisnu - the god of water and keeper of creation.

Wisnu had rewarded the people of Sebatu and their king Mayadenawa with this sacred, empowering and life-giving source after a warfare against an evil king who denied the existence of the gods.

In the spring temple there are several pools of "sacred water" teeming with huge numbers of koi carp, and the pool walls are decorated with beautiful stone carvings that act as gargoyles and irrigate the pools.

The walls of the water basin, which are covered all over with moss and tendrils, form a wonderfully gentle contrast to the transparent, clear, cold water.

The large square spring basin is the sanctuary of the temple. Rising from the holy waters is an open shrine with a stone throne. It is used by the priests for ritual purification purposes.

Also impressive are the ornate, brightly painted carvings and demon figures that adorn the pavilions. Sebatu is famous for its carvings. The pavilions here are maintained, renovated and lovingly renewed by the locals again and again.

In the sacrificial pavilions, offerings of all kinds are piled up on the altars. Other pavilions are prayer and meditation rooms, infinitely golden, colorful and ornate. Each with its own special charm, all together make up the unique energy of these places.





PURA KEHEN – The temple of the Hearth

Pura Kehen is one of the most important Hindu temples in Bali and one of the nine major state temples on the island. As the temple of the Rajas of Bangli, it is famous for its sumptuous and frequent ceremonies, among other things. In addition, it is one of the oldest temples on the island and a perfectly planned step sanctuary, a construction that is rather rare in the region.

The name means "Temple of the Hearth" and is dedicated to the god of the hearth, Hyang Kehen.

The once extremely wealthy members of the blacksmith caste also worship Hyang Api, the god of fire, here. The ancestors of the Rajas of Bangli have their shrines in Pura Kehen and of course the sacred Trimurti of Hinduism, Brahma-Vishnu-Shiva. The complex is located on a mountainside near Bangli in eastern Bali on a total of seven terraces, four of which are designed as preliminary stages and three as full courtyards. This is a very old construction method that is no longer to be found in this form in newer temple complexes. In the inner courtyard (Jaba Tengah), valuable plates made of Chinese porcelain are set into the wall.

The shrine was founded by the priest Sri Brahma Kemute Ketu in the 11th century. It only became a state temple in the 18th century. Particularly impressive is the wide staircase with 38 steps, which is lined with almost life-size demon figures. It leads to the ornate gate (Kori Agung) with its expressive Kala head to ward off demons and into the first courtyard.





PURA LEMPUYANG LUHUR

Mount Lempuyang has an entire complex of seven temples, with Lempuyang being by far the most popular, with its soaring white stone gates framing Mount Agung in the background.

The temples of Mount Lempuyang, represented by the highest pura (temple) at the top of the mountain, Pura Lempuyang Luhur, is one of the "Six Sanctuaries of the World", the six holiest places of worship in Bali.

According to Balinese beliefs, the temples on Lempuyang Mountain are the lynchpins of the island and are believed to bring spiritual balance to Bali. For the Galungan festival, which always takes place in the eleventh week of the Balinese calendar, believers make a pilgrimage up the 1700 steps to all seven temples.

On a 4-hour circular hike you will also explore all seven temples around Mount Lempuyang, these are Pura Penataran Lempuyang, Pura Telaga Emas, Pura Telaga Sawang, Pura Lempuyang Madya, Pura Bisbis, Pura Agung, Pura Lempuyang Luhur.

But most people just come for the classic Instagram photo in front of the Gates Of Heaven Bali, unaware that there is much more to see in the area.

As you can see, Pura Lempuyang is much more than Heaven's Gate, which has been photographed and faked countless times.





PURA LUHUR BATUKARU

Pura Luhur Batukaru was built by the priest Empu Kuturan in the 11th century. In 1604 the temple was destroyed and only rebuilt in the 1950s. Like the Mother Temple at the foot of Gunung Agung, Pura Luhur Batukaru is an ancestral temple. The rulers of the former kingdom of Tabanan are honored here.

The temple is one of Bali's six national shrines and one of the nine "Kayangan Jagat" that protect the island from evil spirits.

A split gate forms the entrance to the Pura Luhur Batukaru. Split gates are called "Candi Bentar" in Bali and symbolize the celestial mountain Mahameru, which according to legend fell in half during transport to Bali.

The temple complex, which is partially overgrown with moss, is a sacred place for the Balinese Hindu population and is of great importance in the Hindu faith. Many areas of the complex are closed to tourists during celebrations and ceremonies.

The temple's largest shrine is a seven-tiered meru in a rectangular lake dedicated to Mahadewa, the "Spirit of the Mountain", Batukaru. Both the lake and the spring that feeds it are considered sacred and healing, and bathing in them is strictly forbidden.

Pura Luhur Batukaru is located at an altitude of 817 m on the southern slope of Mount Batukaru and is the first station of the summit ascent to Mount Batukaru. Once a year there is a pilgrimage to the summit with thousands of believers.





PURA TAMAN AYUN - Temple of the Floating Garden ...

... is considered one of the most beautiful temples on the island. Translated, the full name Pura Taman Ayun means "Temple of the Floating Garden".

The temple was built in the 18th century (source: UNESCO) as a state temple for the Kingdom of Mengwi. According to other sources, the temple is said to have been built in 1634 by Prince Regent I Gusti Agung Anon Putra-Raya of Mengwi, the founder of Mengwi Principality. Regarded as the imperial temple of the Rajas of Mengwi, it reflects the Hindu cosmos

The center of the temple is a rectangular area containing a group of closely spaced seven-, nine- and eleven-story meru (pagodas). In the Meru, gods are worshiped in shrines. The highest Meru in the Pura Taman Ayun with seven and more levels are dedicated to Shiva, Vishnu, Brahma and the gods of the surrounding mountains. Access to the holiest temple area with the Meru and the temple buildings decorated with stone sculptures and ornaments is only permitted for Hindus.

Non-Hindus are only allowed to stay on the so-called "View Walk". The path leads along the boundary wall once around the temple. Since the wall is only about 1.50 meters high, you can still see Meru and all other temple buildings.

Pura Taman Ayun has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2012.





PURA TANAH LOT - The mysterious sea temple

Tanah Lot means something like "Temple of the sea" or "The small island that floats on the sea". The temple is believed to be associated with the spirits of the sea. It's one of seven different sea temples.

At the end of the 15th century, many Hindus fled from Java to Bali due to the spread of Islam. According to legend, one of them, the priest Danghyang Nirartha, discovered the rock on which the temple stands today due to a light signal. After that, he used a nearby spot on the shore to meditate, which soon attracted the attention of other people who then attended his sessions. In order to avoid conflicts with the priests already living there, he therefore shifted his place of meditation from the shore directly to the island. Thus began the story of Tanah Lot.

Below the temple is a small cave that contains a freshwater spring that is considered sacred and the entrance to which is guarded by priests. For a donation you can clean your face with the holy water. Hindus believe that this holy water can keep health and safety in life.

Everyone who visits Tanah Lot should definitely visit the cave of the «Holy Snakes», black and white ringed, poisonous sea snakes, the temple guardians of Tanah Lot. As the priest assures at the entrance to the cave, the Sacred Serpent in Tanah Lot can only be found on the religious site and nowhere else in the world. Anyone who has the courage to touch the highly poisonous snake should first get the blessing of the priest. But as far as is known, none of the sacred serpent has ever bitten a visitor or a local in the Tanah Lot Temple.





PURA TIRTA EMPUL

Pura Tirta Empul is one of the oldest sanctuaries in Bali and one of the nine Balinese state temples.

The temple complex consists of three separate temples, Jaba Pura, Jaba Tengah and Jeroan, dedicated to Vishnu. Vishnu is called the "Sustainer" and is considered an honest and good-natured god in Hinduism.

Legends say that this temple was created by Indra when he pierced the earth. He wanted to create a source of the Elixir of Immortality to revive his powers poisoned by Mayadanawa. Therefore, it is believed that the spring water has magical healing powers.

With the holy water flowing from more than 30 gargoyles into the three bathing pools, the faithful cleanse their minds and souls from evil thoughts and problems.

According to a temple inscription, Pura Tirta Empul ("Tirta Empul" means "bubbling spring") was created in 962 in the Warmadewa Dynasty (10th to 14th centuries). The never-ending spring is probably fed by one of the volcanoes on Bali and carries sufficient water even in times of great drought.





PURA ULUN DANU BRATAN

The temple was built by King Mengwi in the 17th century not far from Candikuning at the southwestern end of Lake Bratan, which was formed in an extinct volcanic crater.

The Pura Ulun Danu Bratan is one of the most important water temples in Bali. It is an originally Hindu-Buddhist temple on the shores of Lake Bratan and dedicated to the deities Shiva, Brahma and Vishnu. The temple complex is known for its meru, multistorey shrines built on two offshore islands.

The smaller, three-storey Meru is dedicated to Shiva, the larger, eleven-storey Meru to three deities: the sea, river and sea goddess Dewi Danu, the rice goddess Dewi Sri and Vishnu, the world preserver.

Pura Ulun Danu Bratan is an extensive temple complex with several temples and a large park right on the lake shore. By the way, Ulun Danu means "head of the lake". On the way through the park-like garden with lawns, flower beds, palm trees, deciduous and coniferous trees, you will also pass a Buddhist stupa. What is special about the pagoda are the four Buddha statues that sit in small niches.

It is not uncommon for a Hindu temple to also contain Buddhist stupas and shrines. Hinduism has merged with Buddhism in a special way in Bali: for the Balinese, Buddha is a manifestation of Vishnu, while according to Balinese belief, Vishnu is a manifestation of the only god Sanghyang Widhi Wasa.

Sitting at an elevation of 4,000 feet (1,200 meters), Lake Bratan is well known for the frequent patches of fog that result from the lake's elevation and humidity. The wisps of mist hanging in the mountains give Lake Bratan a very mysterious atmosphere. It is advisable to plan your visit in the morning if possible.





TAMAN TIRTA GANGGA – Waterpalace ...

... was built in 1947 under Anak Agung Anglurah, the last Raja of Karangasem. The plant was destroyed by a volcanic eruption in 1963 and again by an earthquake in 1979. Tirta Gangga was then rebuilt true to the original. Today, the Water Palace is a 3-acre recreation park with water basins, ponds, water features, a public pool and a temple for both local visitors and tourists.

Visitors enter the water palace from the access road through a split gate (Candi Bentar). A stone staircase leads down to several large pools of water. In the front right basin are stone statues depicting characters from an Indian epic. Around them are stone slabs in the water, over which you can walk across the pool without getting your feet wet. However, you should be careful in which direction you are going. Because the way over the stone slabs is designed as a labyrinth.

Another pool features a fountain in the form of a nine-tiered meru guarded by stone sculptures.

Also worth seeing are the numerous, different gargoyles on the edge of the pool. Sometimes the water comes out of a snarling predatory mouth, sometimes out of the terrifying grimace of a demon.

Hidden in the back part of the park and hardly noticed by most visitors, old sculptures of demons and a banyan tree, sacred to Hindus, under which the sacred spring lies, await you.

All pools and games and the swimming pool are fed by this sacred spring. Tirta Gangga also owes its name to the source. Taman Tirta Gangga means "Holy Water of the Ganges". Most of the locals come to Tirta Gangga mainly for the swimming pool. For Hindus, bathing in the holy water is a ritual and religious act. According to their belief, the holy water purifies the mind and soul.





TAMAN UJUNG - Waterpalace

Taman Ujung was built in 1909 on the initiative of Anak Agung Anglurah and finished in 1921, but not inaugurated until 1937 with a marble stele on which the text is inscribed in Latin and Balinese script and in two languages, Malay and Balinese. The eruption of Mount Agung in 1963 and the earthquake in 1975 almost completely destroyed Taman Ujung. Only a few statues, walls and archways survived these natural disasters. With the help of financial support from the World Bank, however, the facility was able to be completely restored.

From the main entrance you reach the first water palace via a bridge. Two stairs lead to a small hill from which we have a very nice view of the palaces and, in good weather, of the Gunung Seraya volcano and the sea.

Taman Ujung impresses with its architecture, in which the three large ponds are connected by long, elegant bridges and paths. The scenic features and the magnificent mountain scenery in the north and the sea in the southwest also make it a popular place for photographers.

The name Ujung means 'extreme' in Indonesian and often makes it easy for locals to describe its location as one of the island's greatest historical landmarks and attractions on the easternmost part of the island.

Over the years there have been a number of expansions and pool additions around the only existing pool, which was not used as a royal bathing place but as a place of punishment for accused advocates of black magic or Balinese witchcraft known as Pangiwa and Leyaks. This pool was known as Kolam Dirah and is said to have been built during the reign of the previous Raja of Karangasem from 1901.

Two other pools complementing the Dirah Pool, as well as a series of resting pavilions, the Rajas' meditation quarters and the floating pavilions of Taman Gili in Klungkung emerged over time. Taman Ujung has become more and more a retreat and a place to welcome dignitaries visiting Karangasem Kingdom.

Directly across the street is Ujung fishing port. Here you can watch the fishermen coming back from the morning fishing. The catch either ends up at the daily market in Amlapura or is sold locally by women on the street next to the palace.





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Restaurant







Dinner in sunset

Preparing for barbecue

Warm welcome and see you soon

BALI'S RICE TERRACES – ITS HEAVENLY STAIRS TO THE GODS

After various temples and water palaces, now you go to see the rice fields and rice terraces, which were inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2012.

No other landscape is considered more typical of Bali than the paddy fields and rice terraces. The rice terraces, also called "The Heavenly Stairs to the Gods" by the Balinese, are architectural masterpieces and dot the island's lush green landscape.

Rice cultivation has a very long tradition in Bali. Rice is a staple food, but still serves as a means of payment and still provides a livelihood for many families in Bali. The monsoon climate and volcanic soils allow for three rice harvests per year.

For the rice basins, areas are uncovered, the earth tamped down, planted with grass roots and then flooded. The whole thing is supported by walls and dams. The water is obtained from the mountain streams and springs via an ingenious irrigation system in order to be able to flood the hillside terraces.

Flooding and drying out of the rice fields accelerate growth and the rice can be harvested after just a few months. The ripe rice paddies, whose color changes slightly to yellowish, are harvested by hand and spread out in the sun to dry. When it is dry enough, it is threshed to loosen the grain from its ears.

The appearance of the rice terraces changes with the seasons - from lush green to brown after the rice harvest.

A visit to the rice terraces and paddy fields is one of the highlights and is an oasis for every Bali visitor.

Committed to the cultural heritage of the island, you are invited...

... to explore the endless **Rice Fields** and **Rice Terraces** that accompany you everywhere on the island ...

1 Belimbing 4 Sidemen

2 Jatiluwih 5 Tegallanang

3 Munduk 6 Tirta Gangga













BELIMBING RICE TERRACES

From Belimbing you have a wonderful view of the rice terraces, which cover the landscape with a deep green blanket and nestle against the hilly landscape like a huge carpet.

The majority of the population in the village of Belimbing works as farmers. You have an intimate relationship with nature. They still plow their fields in the traditional way today. Due to the topography, machines are only used in a few places. The farmers work their land with the help of buffaloes and at harvest time cut the rice with a traditional tool, a sickle.

To get the rice grains off the ears, they are beaten on a shelf where a net ensures that they are collected. This is all done by hand, mostly by women. The hard work in the rice fields is mostly done by men.

The harvested rice grains are first measured out in a bucket. A full bucket weighs about 10 pounds and is then packed into large 100 pound bags and carried to a collection point. A van takes the sacks to a place where the rice is dried in the sun. After drying, the rice is taken to a factory for further processing, where the membrane around the rice grains is removed, leaving beautifully white rice. Thanks to the fertile soil and the sustainable use of natural resources, it can be harvested 3 to 4 times a year.

In addition to the extensive rice terraces, coffee and cocoa are also grown here and durian, cloves, rambutan and mangoes are harvested.

The best time to visit the rice terraces is on a clear day in the early morning or late afternoon. During the rainy season, the village can be shrouded in fog mostly in the afternoon.





Rice Terraces by JATILUWIH

Jatiluwih is Balinese and means "beautiful". And they are beautiful, the artistically designed rice terraces. They are located in a very rural area at an altitude of 850 meters in the middle of the island of Bali, near the second highest volcano Gunung Batukaru with an altitude of 2,276 meters.

The vastness of the rice terraces is particularly impressive. Visitors can expect an incredible natural landscape full of rice, mountains and jungle. The Jatiluwih Rice Terraces are officially a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The trip alone through the small villages inhabited by rice farmers or farm workers, the dreamy landscape of central Bali with various vantage points from which you have a fabulous view of the rice terraces is worth a trip.

The Jatiluwih rice terraces are not just a sight to behold, they can also be explored more closely during a walk or hike through the rice fields. The local rice farmers don't feel disturbed by the visitors and you can watch them at their hard work.

Various hiking trails of different lengths and durations lead through the rice terraces. For those in a hurry, there is the so-called 15-minute "Tourist Walk". But take your time, because a longer tour through the rice fields is definitely worth it. The routes are up to eight kilometers long and mostly signposted.

Visiting the Jatiluwih Rice Terraces is one of the unforgettable impressions and gives a deeper understanding of the art of rice cultivation.

In addition to rice, cocoa trees, beans, chilli bushes and lemongrass also grow here in the region. A look into the distance reveals a panorama of paddy fields - some lush green, some tawny and harvested, others flooded with water and teeming with soft green saplings; here and there farmers with their rice hats (cone hats) are bent over the fields and are laboriously moving plants or repairing irrigation canals.

The best time to visit the rice terraces is in the morning or mid-morning, when the sky is usually clear and the slopes of Batukaru Volcano are not yet shrouded in mist.





MUNDUK Rice fields

They are at an altitude of around 1100 meters and are still largely managed by hand and offer a picturesque backdrop.

As everywhere in Bali, rice cultivation in Munduk has a very long tradition. Rice has been cultivated in Bali for hundreds of years. Rice cultivation has become a craft over the years and the paddy fields and rice terraces are considered magnificent works of art.

In other countries, rice is often cultivated on wide plains and large paddy fields are laid out. Since Bali is very hilly and even mountainous inland, these plains are absent. Nevertheless, a lot of rice is grown in Bali and this is how the world-famous rice terraces in the hills were created.

While motorized implements can be used on the plains and on large rice fields, the rice fields on the slopes are cultivated with human power and there is only sometimes the possibility of using a plow with oxen or cows to help.

The work in the rice fields is backbreaking work and the wages just ensure the survival of a family. Rice farmers in Bali all belong to an agricultural association called Subak. This cooperative controls and ensures that all rice fields are irrigated fairly.

If there is enough water, it can be harvested up to three times a year.

The Munduk Terraces offer a similar landscape to Tegallalang, albeit with a fraction of the visitors. Here, visitors can easily visit the rice terraces on their own with a long walk. A walk through the rice fields is a pleasant way to relax, because here is a place of peace where you can find yourself again.

But the Munduk region does not only consist of rice terraces, it is also characterized by cocoa, clove and fruit plantations. Visitors can watch farmers harvest cloves and learn how clove oil is made from clove leaves. Coffee, particularly Robusta, thrives at this altitude. Kopi Banyuatis is ubiquitous in Bali and takes its name from the village of the same name not far from Munduk.





SIDEMEN Rice terraraces...

... they are among the best rice growing areas in Bali.

When driving to Sidemen, the holy mountain Gunung Agung with the lush green glowing slopes of the rice terraces can be seen from everywhere.

The Sidemen area itself impresses with its peaceful atmosphere and rural charm that has survived to this day and is the perfect starting point for long hikes through the carefully landscaped rice terraces and fields. However, caution is advised when visiting the rice terraces. Visitors should stick to the marked trails and respect the work of the farmers.

The rice terraces are bordered by earthen walls. A complex system of streams, pipes, canals and aqueducts runs through the fields and supplies the rice plants with the elixir of life, water. The earth walls store the water on the cultivated areas. Visitors to the rice terraces should take special care not to damage the earthen walls. Damage would then have to be repaired by the rice farmers in laborious and strenuous manual work.

Sidemen's rice fields are not for visitors in a hurry. Sidemen are for visitors who take their time, find a nice spot, sit down and soak up the atmosphere.

Sidemen was once a haven for artists and writers who drew inspiration from the scenic surroundings. In the 1930s, the German painter and musician Walter Spies also lived here in Iseh, a small village. Walter Spies became known through his life and work in Bali. After his death, the Swiss painter Theo Meier lived in the property, which can still be visited today.

Sideman Valley is also known for its handicrafts, such as songket and endek weaving techniques, which are woven from silver and gold threads along with cotton in a technique that has been passed down through the generations.





TEGALLALANG Rice Terraces

The Tegallalang rice terraces are situated in a valley that offers an exceptionally picturesque view of the terraces and the surrounding green landscape. Along with those in the villages of Pejeng and Campuhan, the Tegallalang rice fields form three stunning terraced landscapes in the Ubud region.

Tegallalang Rice Terrace is beautifully landscaped with rice fields arranged in descending layers. Visitors can see how Balinese farmers cultivate the rice paddies using the subak irrigation system introduced by royal edict in 1022. Originally, the term subak only described the irrigation system of the rice terraces, which are irrigated via a canal or dam. Subak literally means "connected water".

Today, Subak is a rural organization that provides the legal and practical framework for paddy rice cultivation. A subak includes the association of landowners, in many places several rice terrace fields and the irrigation system required for this.

Visitors who want to see the paddy fields up close can go straight down to the paddy fields and watch the farmers tilling their fields. But be careful, there are no concrete paths in the rice fields, only dirt paths that make the ground slippery when exposed to water.

To enjoy the beautiful panorama and impressive natural scenery of the valley with its rice terraces and coconut trees, the best time to visit is early morning or late afternoon when the tourist buses have left Tegallalang because the rice terraces are full of tourists during the day.





RICE TERRACES of Tirta Gangga ...

... they are among the most beautiful in Bali.

This is mainly due to their special location. The rice terraces start in the north of Amlapura and extend in a small valley between the two volcanoes Gunung Agung and Gunung Seraya. The rice terraces in the Tirta Gangga area are laid out on a slightly flatter terrain and although they look very different from those in the narrow valley, they are also very impressive. Between the fields there are always banana trees and other small bushes.

Just a few hundred meters after the water temple, there are two viewpoints that offer great views of the rice terraces and Gunung Seraya volcano. Especially in the morning, when the fog is still over the rice fields and the sun is rising behind or next to the Seraya volcano, with a bit of luck there is a great spectacle here. The landscape with the rice terraces, over which the mist wafts, fascinates the visitors. There is a touch of mysticism about everything.

Appearance and impression differ fundamentally, depending on whether the rice terraces are fallow, newly planted, ready for harvest or kept in lush green.

Visitors to the Tirta Gangaa Rice Terraces can easily trek through the rice fields on their own. This is not nearly as strenuous as on other rice terraces in Bali. However, caution is advised when visiting the rice terraces. Visitors should stick to the signposted paths and respect the work of the farmers.

Rice terraces, for us they are beautifully designed works of art - but in reality a highly complex irrigation system that supplies the rice plants with the precious commodity of water. The irrigation system is the heart of the rice terraces and one of the most important aspects of rice cultivation. It's sophisticated and thousands of years old.

The rice terraces are limited by earth walls. They store the water in the fields. If there are too many visitors in the rice fields, the earthen walls will be damaged and eroded. The damage then has to be painstakingly repaired by hand by the rice farmers.

The most beautiful spots are often those that are not high on the visitor's list, such as the rice terraces of Tirta Gangga in Karangasem district, not far from Amlapura and Seraya.





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Bali's impressive waterfalls

Some of the most beautiful waterfalls in Asia are located on The Island of the Gods - Bali - whether small, large, well-known or untouched, each waterfall on Bali has its own charm. By the way, waterfall means "Air-Terjun" in Indonesian, so don't be surprised if you keep seeing "Air-Terjun".

During the rainy season (November to April), the falls get quite crowded, but the otherwise crystal-clear water can turn a muddy brown. Also, it can get very slippery during the rainy season and some paths to the falls can be flooded. During the dry season (May to October) the falls have less water and some have almost disappeared.

Committed to the cultural heritage of the island, we invite you...

... to discover impressive and most beautiful waterfalls in the jungle.

1 Aling Aling 7 Leke Leke

2 Banyu Wana Amertha 8 Munduk

3 Dusun Kuning 9 NungNung

4 Git-Git 10 Sekumpul

5 Goa Rang Reng 11 Tegenungan

6 Kanto Lampo 12 Yeh Labuh









ALING ALING WATERFALL

Aling Aling Waterfall in Bali, also known as Sambangan Falls, is for the adventurous. It is located in the Buleleng district in the north of the island, about 11 km from Singaraja and can be reached via a jungle path. The waterfall is surrounded by high cliffs and lush green trees, showing that this area is still natural.

But before we arrive at the waterfall, we have to climb hundreds of stairs first. The effort is then rewarded with an impressive view of the waterfall.

Aling Aling is one of the most impressive waterfalls on the island. Its uniqueness is that it has two stream drains that flow side by side into the valley. The Aling-Aling is about 35 meters high and falls into a pool about four meters deep. The waterfall is considered sacred by the locals. Therefore, swimming and cliff jumping are also prohibited here. The wafts of water often conjure up a rainbow in the valley in front of the waterfall - which then makes the place truly magical.

Although Aling Aling is the more famous name, it's the Kroya waterfall that gets all the attention, within walking distance of Aling Aling is known for daring cliff jumping and an adventurous nature.





BANYU WANA AMERTHA WATERFALL

The four waterfalls of Banyu Wana Amertha are one of northern Bali's most hidden gems. They are hidden and the way to get there leads us through the jungle. On the way we see many exotic plants and trees, including bamboo forests and jackfruit trees.

Bhuana Sari Waterfall is the most popular waterfall in Banyu Wana. It may not be Bali's largest or most impressive waterfall, but it is one of the most beautiful. It's dozens of tiny waterfalls cascading down the rocks in a way that almost looks artificial!

Directly opposite Bhuana Sari is a large waterfall with a cave so visitors can walk behind the waterfall. However, during the dry season (roughly May to December) this waterfall disappears.

Just minutes from Banyu Wana, you come to the massive and absolutely stunning Twin Falls. The Banyumala Twin Waterfalls are definitely among the most impressive waterfalls in Bali. Although the name suggests there are two, it feels like you're seeing a lot more.

Last but not least Banyu Wana Amertha - one of the largest and best waterfalls in Bali. It is a huge cascade with a green background and a wide, shallow pool at the bottom for swimming.

All four waterfalls are worth to be seen.





DUSUN KUNING WATERFALL

Those like you who are looking for off the beaten track experiences must visit Dusun Kuning Waterfall in Taman Bali Village, Bangli Regency.

The descent to the Melangit River, into which the waterfall plunges from a height of 25 meters, is slippery and not without danger. The incline is sometimes over 50 degrees, so it is advisable to walk backwards. But the effort is worth it, because you are rewarded with the most beautiful views of the jungle. Besides the beautiful view, there is also a forest inhabited by hundreds of monkeys that attract visitors' attention.

The steep steps slowly lead you deeper into the jungle until youreach the top of the green metal staircase where you have a beautiful view over the green canyon. To the right and left you can see small waterfalls along the steep green cliffs, all of which flow together in the wildly flowing river. Since the jungle views are one of the highlights of visiting the waterfall and worth coming here, you take your time.

Once you reach the bottom of the metal stairs, you take another five to ten minutes to walk down a small narrow path that takes us up and down steps. The steps are carved out of the stone and covered by small streams of water.

Dusun Kuning Waterfall is not big, but it is different from all other waterfalls in Bali as the water flowed into smaller pools before finally reaching the river.

Committed to the cultural heritage of Bali and following the belief in the preservation of nature and the earth, the local people have managed to preserve the beauty and naturalness of this waterfall by preserving this place in a natural way, including the free wildlife. It's part of the local wisdom how religion guides them to care for the earth.





Git-Git Waterfall

In general, Git Git is a family of 3 waterfalls that are all close to each other and you can reach all three by walking along the river bed. The distance between the first waterfall and the last one is about 1 km, all waterfalls in the jungle are connected by paths and bridges. We only went to the main waterfall, nearby is also the Git-Git twin waterfall and below it a cascade of Mekalongan waterfalls. If you want to reach all Git-Git waterfalls I recommend planning 2-3 hours for it.

The Git-Git waterfall itself is very loud but also breathtakingly beautiful. The water roars down into the pool and then disappears into the thicket of the jungle. The hike to the Git-Git waterfall is an adventure in itself and offers a wonderful insight into the jungle and its variety of plants.

Overall, the Git-Git waterfall is definitely worth checking out. Interestingly, the Balinese believe that when both partners enter the water together, the git-git waterfall tears relationships apart.





GOA RANG RENG WATERFALL...

... not a truly waterfall, perhaps a waterflow.

It takes its name from the cave hidden at the top of the waterfall. It's called Goa Rang Reng, hence the full name of the waterfall Goa Rang Reng Waterfall. This cave is sacred and should not be entered without the express permission of the local guides.

Here at the confluence of the Bangun Lemah and Betiting Rivers, the waters join in a wide and gentle cascade to form the Cangkir River. Unlike most waterfalls, which plunge vertically, Goa Rang Reng Waterfall flows through a canyon through a series of three separate falls, each with their own unique attractions.

After the entrance you come to a large staircase that leads to a smaller natural jungle path. After a short time you can see the beautiful, wide, large rocks on which the water falls.

At the top of the falls is a natural pool where visitors can relax and swim. The waterfall is not high and you can climb the rocks barefoot. In order not to slip while climbing, you should simply hold on to the blue plastic rope laid on the left side of the waterfall.

Goa Rang Reng used to be a place visited only by the village community. It was overgrown with bushes and the path was very difficult. Only a few years ago, the residents decided to open it to the public.

Only a few visitors come here during the week, like you, and so you were able to take in the waterfall almost alone. On the weekends, however, many visitors come here.

Goa Rang Reng Waterfall with its peaceful natural environment makes it an ideal place to relax in our hectic times.





KANTO LAMPO Waterfall

It's not one of Bali's famous waterfalls, but it's still the right place for a day trip.

It got its name from the Kanto Lampo tree that grows around the waterfall. This is very rare and has a unique fruit that can change from yellow to green and when ripe turns red. The fruits often fall into the waterfall, so the locals call this waterfall Kanto Lampo Waterfall.

Until a few years ago, the waterfall was relatively unknown. It wasn't until a picture of the waterfall surfaced on social media that it quickly gained attention. Curious locals came to visit and foreign tourists followed.

For the locals, however, the waterfall has remained a sacred place. During religious ceremonies they still come here to fetch the holy water for it.

On the way to the waterfall, which leads you down hundreds of steps into the valley, you repeatedly pass small shrines and stone reliefs, covered with moss, depicting demons. The second part is a bit more difficult, the natural stone steps are hewn out of the ground and vary in size.

Arrived at the bottom you still have to walk along a narrow river bank until the river then falls from a height of 20 meters as a waterfall on the rocky cliffs. The special thing about Kanto Lampo is its cascade formation. The water doesn't just tumble down, it meets rocky cliffs and forms several water terraces, creating beautiful little curtains of water. The rock structure reminds us a little of the terraces we saw in the rice fields.

Kanto Lampo Waterfall is best visited during the dry season between April and September. The water level stays high in the monsoon season. The higher water levels can make it difficult to reach the waterfall.





LEKE LEKE WATERFALL

The journey there takes you past lush green rice paddies, through rural and indigenous villages, and past beautiful Balinese temples.

Once you arrive at the entrance to the Leke Leke Waterfall, also known as Kipuan Kebo, you can get a walking stick. Although the trail itself is well maintained and leads to the waterfall via concrete steps, sand paths and a bamboo bridge that we have to cross, the walking stick gives an extra support.

After crossing the bamboo bridge, it's only a few minutes before we get our first glimpse of the beautiful Leke Leke Waterfall. Via the picturesque jungle path, lined with beautiful flowers and plants, we reach the bottom of the waterfall after about 15 minutes. Arriving at the foot of the Leke Leke Waterfall, you will be overwhelmed and awed by the beauty of the waterfall.

With a height of 15 meters it is not a giant, but a beautiful hidden waterfall with a narrow jet of water that flows gently into a small and shallow pool of water. Surrounded by green and lush forests, it really feels like stepping into a scene from a jungle movie.

If you want you can even go behind the waterfall where there is a naturally hollowed cave. Even if it is not possible to swim at Leke Leke Waterfall because the pool is too small and shallow, we will enjoy the time and if we are lucky because we got here early enough, we will have Leke Leke to ourselves.





MUNDUK Waterfall

An approximately 800 meter long jungle path leads you to the waterfall past clove trees, where you can watch farmers picking the cloves from the trees on narrow bamboo ladders and selling them at small stalls. The area around the waterfall is known for the cultivation of cloves, which are used in Indonesia to make the popular "kretek" cigarettes, among other things. Their aroma gives the cigarettes their unmistakable taste. In addition to cloves, vanilla, coffee, fruit and rice are also grown in the region.

The path then leads you downhill over several stone steps to the waterfall. Along the way, a sign points to the nearby Golden Valley Waterfall and takes you to a magnificent viewpoint of the jungle and the Golden Valley Waterfall.

Once at the bottom, the water falls from a height of about 30 meters down a rock face overgrown with greenery into a rock pool and refreshes the visitors with a pleasant spray mist. In the dry season, however, the water in the pool is only knee-deep and is therefore not suitable for swimming.

Unlike the more well-known falls in northern Bali, the falls in Munduk are visited by few tourists. With a bit of luck you will have the waterfall all to yourself. The walk to the falls isn't too challenging, but it's advisable to leave early to avoid the midday heat.





NUNGNUNG WATERFALL ...

... is right in the center of Bali. The approach takes you along small country roads, meandering through villages and markets, and slowly ascends towards the mountains of central Bali, surrounded by rice paddies and coconut trees.

From the parking lot there are more than 500 steps down to the falls, and 500 steps back.

At the bottom a path leads along a creek and soon there is a small waterfall on the left. It's really handsome and you might think you have reached NungNung. But only a few meters further there is a wooden bridge over the creek and the waterfall is right in front of you.

NungNung is an incredibly powerful waterfall, 50 meters high, definitely one of the larger and taller waterfalls in Bali, surrounded by beautiful greenery.

The water shoots down with spectacular force and creates a lot of spray. Visitors can take a dip in the pool, but they should be careful not to get too close to the waterfall as the force of the water can seriously injure them.

The waterfall is particularly powerful and spectacular during the rainy season, making it difficult to swim in the pool. Unlike other waterfalls that almost disappear during the dry season, the NungNung's water flow is very strong and never really dries up.





SEKUMPUL WATERFALL

Unlike the nearby Gitgit waterfall, there is not much hype here at the Sekumpul waterfall, even though more and more tourists are discovering it.

To get to the waterfall you should be good on foot. The path cannot be mastered without effort and several hundred steps and it leads through rocky and sometimes slippery areas.

From the parking lot you first walk a few hundred meters on a narrow but well-developed path, past rice fields, but also coffee, cocoa and cloves fields.

Then comes the staircase with hundreds of steps (some say 400) and only partially solid railings. But the view is breathtaking and the waterfall quickly comes into view, first of course from above. Below, the stairs end at a river - but there is no bridge. So shoes off and through the water, which is not too cold, to the other bank. But please be careful, the stones are quite slippery in places. On the other side, a trail leads to the left, after a short stretch it becomes clear why the effort of the descent was worth it.

The path ends directly below the waterfall and you stop with wide eyes, impressed by the spectacle that the waterfall offers. The place is dreamy and magical at the same time. From a height of 80 meters and in seven to eight cascades, the waterfall falls over the steep cliffs into the small pools at the foot of the waterfall, which are excellent for swimming.

Unfortunately, the stairs are still there on the way back, together with the climate of Bali, this requires one or the other drop of sweat. spectacle that the waterfall offers.





TEGENUNGAN Waterfall

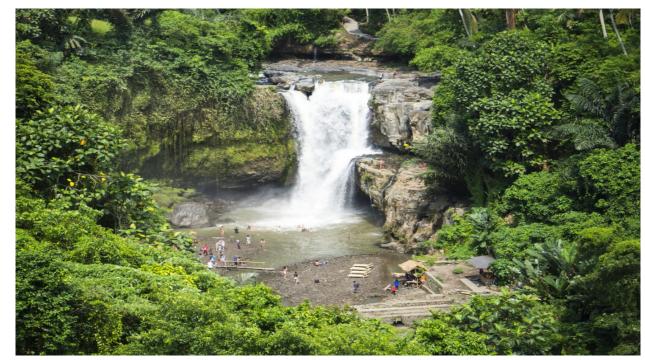
The approximately 15 meter high, very wide and massive Tegenungan waterfall is one of the most famous waterfalls in Bali. It is located on the sacred Petanu River near Ubud.

From the parking lot, a small path first leads to a viewing platform from where you can get a first impression of the waterfall. On the way to the waterfall we pass the Baby Tegenungan Waterfall, which is not much inferior to its big brother.

When visiting the waterfall, you should definitely think of a change of clothes and swimming gear. You don't have to climb on the way to the waterfall, but you can still sweat quite a bit due to the heat in Bali. You can then swim directly at the waterfall. Behind the waterfall there is even a cave that you can swim into.

Also worth seeing are the stone sculptures piled up by locals and tourists.

The best time to enjoy breathtaking views and have the waterfall almost to yourself is the morning before tourists arrive or late afternoon after tourists have left. The blossoming trees in the area, the soothing sound of the water and the voices of the jungle bring you closer to nature. Especially in the morning, the beauty of the green jungle is most impressive when the sunlight shines from above.





YEH LABUH

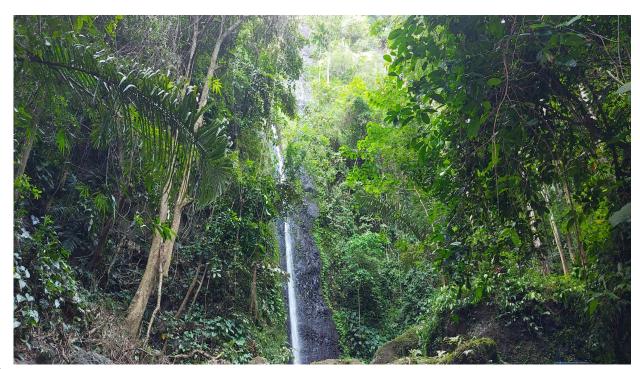
Visiting Yeh Labuh is something for nature lovers and adventurers, because the way there, through the jungle, is easy at first but then becomes a climb on the second stage.

The first stage, mostly downhill, leads on a narrow but well-paved path through the jungle to the waterfall, past small settlements and houses of the few inhabitants of this area. The trail eventually leads to a bridge over Yeh Labuh Creek where there is a hut/shelter and voluntary donations are requested. After the first relaxed stage through the untouched jungle, the demanding part of the way to the Yeh Labuh waterfall begins. On an unpaved path, repeatedly interrupted by smaller climbing tours in steep and rocky terrain, along the stream, we are getting closer and closer to your goal.

On the way there you pass a small intermediate waterfall where children played and which the few families in the area use to wash.

Before you reach the waterfall, you pass an unfinished viewing platform with a pillar that may belong to a later place of worship.

After a few more climbs, accompanied by the sound of the waterfall, you arrive at Yeh Labuh Waterfall in a beautiful panorama. It impresses with its height of guaranteed 40 to 50 meters. Otherwise it is a narrow but powerful waterfall. Since it is such an unknown waterfall, you can be the only one there.





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Restaurant







Dinner in sunset

Preparing for barbecue

Warm welcome and see you soon

UBUD – a Mecca for Art Lovers

Ubud is considered the artistic capital of Bali and is known for art, painting and carving.

Meanwhile, the art is wide-ranging, especially painting and textile art, but traditional wood carvings are also cultivated in Ubud and it is not uncommon for art lovers to purchase Balinese carvings and sculptures from Ubud.

Committed to the cultural heritage of the island you are invited ...

... to visit the numerous museums and galleries in Ubud. They give art lovers and those interested in art an insight into traditional and modern Balinese art.

In Ubud, art is more than just museums and galleries. Architecture and the associated building history are also contemporary witnesses of art.

1 Agung Rai Museum of Art (ARMA) 7 Pendet Museum

2 Blanco Renaissance Museum 8 Puri Lukisan Musem

3 Komaneneka Fine Art Gallery 9 Pura Dalem Agung Padabgtegal

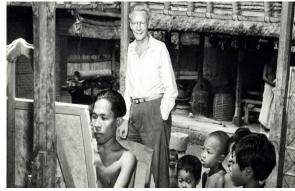
4 Museum of Marketing 10 Puri Saren Agung - Royal Palace

5 Neka Art Mueseum 11 Pura Taman Saraswati

6 Rudana Museum and Rudana Fine Art Gallery













AGUNG RAI MUSEUM OF ART (ARMA)

The Agung Rai Museum of Art (ARMA) was opened in 1996 in a garden area in the center of Bali. Founded by Balinese entrepreneur and art collector Anak Agung Gde Rai, it houses one of Indonesia's most impressive art collections. Including a large collection of paintings by Ubud artists from the 1930s and 1940s as well as contemporary works.

The permanent exhibition features a variety of works by various artists, including Kamasan paintings and Batuan artworks, as well as collected works by Walter Spies. There are also exhibits dedicated to Balinese dance and gamelan practice, as well as modern art.

Some of the images are owned by the ARMA Foundation, and some are on loan from the Agung Rai family.

With its arts and culture education programs, ARMA also has an eye on the future, which is reflected in the programs and efforts to help more people learn about arts and appreciate other forms of traditional performance.

In addition to the art exhibition, the ARMA hosts theater and dance performances and offers training courses and workshops.

The museum consists of several buildings designed in Balinese style, but larger than traditional structures. Wherever possible, local building materials were used in the construction. The two main buildings are the 3300 m² Balé Daja and the 1200 m² Balé Dauh. They are surrounded by spacious gardens with ponds and fountains.













BLANCO RENAISSANCE MUSEUM...

... is a journey into another world!

Antonio Blanco was born on September 15, 1911 in Manila, the capital of the Philippines. His parents were both Spanish, a fact that he believed linked him geographically and spiritually to Miro and Salvador Dali and is also evident in some of his works.

After graduating from high school in Manila, Blanco studied at the National Academy of Art in New York with Sidney Dickinson. During these early formative years, Blanco focused on the human form and was fascinated by the female body more than any other subject. To further his studies and ignite his travel spirit, he traveled extensively around the world before finally arriving in Bali in 1952.

Antonio Blanco is one of the many influential artists who fell in love with Ubud and chose to live and be inspired by its fascinating culture, people and nature.

Perched on a hilltop amidst ornate gardens and an aviary, Blanco created an architectural landmark that is impressive in its own right. It is an embodiment of the life and dreams of the late artist Don Antonio Blanco. The architecture elegantly combines classic European and traditional Balinese design, and in some cases is strongly reminiscent of the Spanish artist Salvador Dali, one of the main representatives of surrealism and the best-known painter of the 20th century.

Here Blanco began to create a new reality for himself. His artistic outpourings of this isolated world have been, and continue to be, much sought after by avid art lovers, collectors, and patrons. Within a few years, Blanco became the most famous foreign artist to make Bali his home.

The building and the art inside offer a fascinating picture of Blanco. The collection shows a lot of eroticism, scenes from traditional Balinese life and illustrated poems by the renowned artist. Blanco devoted himself to numerous art forms, including paintings, collages, poetry and lithographs of beautiful, nude Balinese women. He also made an important contribution to the expat artist movement that helped shape Balinese painting.

By the end of his life, Blanco had begun building his museum in his studio in Campuan. However, he did not live to see his dream come true; he died shortly before it was inaugurated. His son Mario made this dream come true by becoming a painter.













KOMANEKA FINE ART GALLERY

Komaneka Fine Art Gallery is a contemporary art gallery in Bali founded by Koman Wahyu Suteja in 1998. It is known for its collection of contemporary artworks, stunning stone and wood carvings and paintings, by artists with new and exciting visions. Komaneka Fine Art Gallery is one of the few galleries in Bali that has the space to display large-scale contemporary works.

Finding new talents, young artists, and then growing together to win the recognition from the world for Indonesian art is Komaneka Gallery's commitment that is carried out continuously. It promotes young and contemporary talents and artists from Indonesia and abroad who demonstrate new and stimulating dreams of mindfulness with unique works of the world.

From the very beginning, Komaneka Fine Art Gallery has had a passion for exhibiting the work of new, lesser-known talent and painters. The aim was and still is that painters, gallery owners and collectors experience the path to maturity together. The artists at the beginning were mostly under 30 years old, they were and are full of idealism like the young artists and talents of today. Many of the early talents became major artists who are now well known not only regionally but also internationally.

Located in the center of Ubud, Komaneka Fine Art Gallery hosts regular events and artist gatherings. In addition, the gallery is an art library that lends and sells reference works, artist biographies, catalogs and more.

The endless exploration of art and design is one of the main reasons artists are drawn to Bali. Artists from all over the world have come here and interpreted their own vision of Bali in paintings and design work and this is how art thrives in Bali.













MUSEUM of MARKETING 3.0

In the Puri Lukisan Museum, the oldest museum in Bali, you can visit a special kind of museum, the "Museum of Marketing 3.0". Unfortunately, this is only open temporarily.

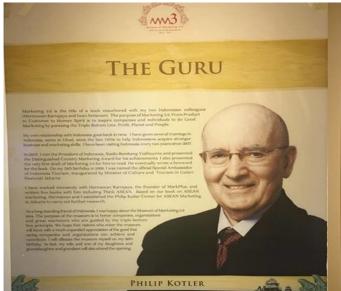
The story of the Museum of Marketing 3.0 begins with a meeting on May 27, 2011 in Ubud with Philip Kotler, US economist and Professor of Marketing at Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management, and Hermawan Kartajaya, President of the Indonesia Council for Small Business (ICSB) and co-founder of the Asia Marketing Federation, with whom he wrote five books, in which he submitted a concept for the "Museum of Marketing 3.0" in Bali. Philip Kotler was enthusiastic about the idea as he was concerned about the poor public perception of the marketing.

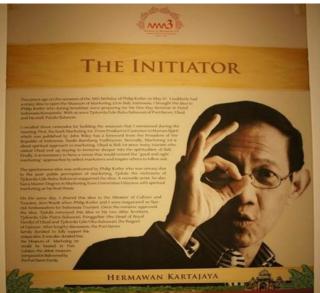
The three princes of Ubud Tjokorda Gde Putra Sukawati, Tjokorda Gde Oka Sukawati and Tjokorda Gde Raka Sukawati supported the idea for the museum. A multifaceted artist, Tjokorda Gde Raka Sukawati also has a master's degree in Marketing from Universitas Udayana with spiritual marketing as her thesis.

The Puri Saren family also decided to fully support this unique idea and it was decided that the "Museum of Marketing 3.0" would be housed in the Puri Lukisan Museum. The land and building for the museum were donated by the Puri Saren family, while the interior design and multimedia systems came from various parties.

As the world's first marketing museum of its kind, it showcases companies and marketers who build their mission, vision and values around the idea of serving customers as whole people. The museum aims to showcase sustainable business practices beyond legal compliance, hoping to inspire other companies to follow suit.

Irman Gusman, Chairman of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia, laid the foundation stone for the museum on May 30, 2010 in the presence of more than 400 guests from overseas. The museum was officially opened on May 27, 2011 by the Indonesian Minister for Culture and Tourism, coinciding with Philip Kotler's 80th birthday. Since opening, the Philip Kotler Center for ASEAN Foundation has worked with the Puri Saren family to run the museum.













Neka Art Museum - inspiring and fascinating.

Among all the activities, visiting the Neka Art Museum should be on the list. The museum is considered to be one of the pioneering art museums in Udud. It features Balinese artworks inspired by the region's local beauty and culture. It was founded by Pande Wayan Suteja Neka in 1976 and officially opened in July 1982. Pande Wayan Suteja Neka is considered one of the renowned Balinese art connoisseurs.

A close friendship with Dutch artists Rudolf Bonnet and Arie Smith sparked his interest in collecting quality paintings, which developed into a vision to establish an art museum in Bali to promote and preserve Balinese art culture and provide an insight into the rich Balinese art and culture, supplemented by foreign works of art by various artists.

The museum is dedicated to documenting and presenting the history and development of art in Bali. It shows monumental works of art from the 19th century to the present day. The collection of over 300 works, paintings, sculptures, icons and art objects can be viewed in various pavilions and exhibition halls. They convey a detailed picture of the entire history of Balinese art.

The "Arie Smit Pavilion" shows works in the Young Artists style as well as paintings by their mentor Arie Smit. The Photography Archive Center houses a collection of black and white photographs from Bali in the 1930s and 1940s.

The small "Lempad Pavilion" is dedicated to local artist I Gusti Nyoman Lempad.

The "Contemporary Indonesian Art Hall" focuses on contemporary works by artists from other parts of Indonesia.

The East-West Art Pavilion features contemporary Indonesian art with works by major Indonesian artists as well as works by foreign artists inspired by Bali's natural beauty, life and culture.

In the exhibition "Classical Painting in Marionette Style" whose works date from the 17th century or earlier are usually anonymous, but include works by Mangku Mura and I Nyoman Arcana.

The "Ubud-style painting section" shows works that appeared after the 1920s and document the influence of European painters.

A visit to the Neka Art Museum is both, inspiring and fascinating.

















RUDANA MUSEUM and RUDANA FINE ART GALLERY

The Rudana Museum, founded by Nyoman Rudana and opened in December 1995, is now one of the most renowned museums in Ubud. It was built according to the concept of Tri Hita Karana's Balinese humanistic philosophy, in which art contributes to the public good.

It presents an impressively diverse collection of contemporary Balinese and Indonesian art with over 400 exhibits. From depictions of rural life to breathtaking landscapes and fascinating views of cultural activities and Balinese traditions.

Many Indonesian modern paintings by the best national artists can be seen in the museum. These include works by the late Don Antonio Blanco and Ubud modern art icon I Gusti Nyoman Lempad.

In addition to the museum's permanent exhibition and to the preservation, development and promotion of Indonesian fine arts, the affiliated Rudana Fine Art Gallery offers collectors, connoisseurs and patrons of fine arts the opportunity to acquire works from what is probably the most sought-after collection of outstanding living Indonesian artists.

The Rudana Fine Art Gallery consists of several complexes, each housing a collection of different styles, from traditional to modern, from naturalism to abstraction to postmodernism.

With collections of diverse styles and subjects from artists of different backgrounds and nationalities, the Rudana Fine Art Gallery represents an impressively wide variety with a collection of more than 8,000 works of art. Since the founding of the Rudana Fine Art Gallery in 1974, works of art have been continuously added. Today it is the quality of its collection that sets Rudana Fine Art Gallery apart from others.

It also shares the same philosophy as the museum and, as an information and education center, conveys the history and development of Balinese art to international and local visitors. Through a variety of arts programs such as fine arts workshops, art competitions, and other activities, visitors can actively participate in appreciating the richness of Indonesia's fine arts.

















PENDET-MUSEUM

The name of the museum actually suggests an exhibition on the history of Pendet, a traditional Balinese dance. This shows a form of gratitude and respect for the Balinese people. It welcomes the arrival of the gods who have descended from heaven. Like the daily offerings "Canang Sari", this dance has become an inseparable part of the spiritual life of the Hindu community in Bali.

However, the Pendet Museum has nothing to do with this famous Balinese dance. The Balinese painter and sculptor Wayan Pendet, born in 1936, gave its name. Inspired by a discussion between him and the founders of the Puri Lukisan Museum, R. Bonnet and Tjokorda Gde Raka Sukawati and his membership in the Pita Maha Ubud artist group, Wayan Pendet came up with the plan to found his own museum. The museum was founded on April 14, 1999 and inaugurated on December 22, 2002 by the Regent of Gianyar.

Wayan Pendet is a special artist. He is one of the most renowned sculptors and painters in Bali. He illustrates Balinese figures through cartoonish deformations. His works are fragments of comedy, often mocking the viewer. Through this humorous style in soft tertiary colors, he presented various scenes such as people playing gamelan, girls dancing, men chasing the wild boar, children playing and Pan Brayut stories.

His sculptures not only have a high aesthetic value but also have a great sense of humor following the Pendet dance style. For example the 2.5 meter high Cak statue. This statue depicts a crowd of Kecak dancers intersecting each other with witty moves that make visitors smile. So does his Garuda statue. Quite unlike the other Garuda statues, which typically have stiff wings and face forward, his Garuda statue has a rotating face and a relaxed wing shape.

The shape of the museum building resembles the style of a traditional Bali house and has two exhibition rooms. The first room displays a collection of sculptures and paintings created by Wayan Pendet's eldest son, Wayan Gunasta. The second room is an art gallery owned by Wayan Pendet. Each work of art in this museum is packaged in the most attractive way possible and includes humorous elements.

The Pendet Museum's collection is the result of collections since 1950. The museum now shows 80 sculptural works and 29 paintings.

















PURI LUKISAN MUSEUM ...

... is one of the oldest art museums in Bali and shows an impressive collection of modern art in three gallery buildings, dating back to the 1930s. The history of the development of modern art in Ubud is shown in the three buildings.

The museum was founded in 1956 by Dutch-born painter Rudolph Bonnet and Prince Tjokorda Gede Agung Sukawati. Bonnet designed and curated the museum and donated several of his paintings as the first collection displayed at the museum, followed by other artists who donated their artworks to the museum in support.

The Museum Foundation started out as a local painters' organization and has done much to keep quality and desirable Balinese artworks at home. Since then, the collection has grown with notable new additions and now includes more than 150 paintings and dozens of sculptures from different periods, styles and schools in Bali. Traditional Balinese paintings and works of art were partly designed with modern influences.

An impressive collection displays the various painting schools from the post-independence period, such as the contemporary Keliki and Batuan. The museum also features the works of great artists such as Johan Rudolf Bonnet, Walter Spies and one of Bali's most important artists, I Gusti Nyoman Lempad.

Set in lush green gardens, the Puri Lukisan Museum offers rest and relaxation and is a fantastic place to gain an insight into Balinese culture and discover the eclectic collection of Balinese paintings from the early 20th century.













PURA DALEM AGUNG PADANGTEGAL – The Temple of Death

Pura Dalem Agung Padangtegal, or Padangtegal Great Temple of Death is one of three Hindu temples that form a temple complex within the Monkey Forest. Said to have been built in 1350, it is an ideal example of a Pura Dalem, or Temple of the Dead.

The temple is famous for its imposing stone structures and intricate carvings of deities and mythical creatures. Stone statues of monkeys, oxen and elephants sit alongside terrifying statues of fanged vampire children and Durga, the goddess of death, who wears her fangs and wraps her long tongue around her victims to ward off lingering evil spirits from the nearby temple cemetery on the temple grounds, to scare.

The temple complex plays an important role in the spiritual life of the local community, so the inner area of the temple is not open to tourists. However, visitors can see the inside of the temple from the main gate of the temple.

The second temple is called Pura Beji, also called Holy Spring Temple, dedicated to the worship of the goddess Ganges. The residents of the village of Padangtegal get the holy water from here to carry out religious ceremonies, which is intended for purification.

The sacred spring in the Pura Beji Padantegal is said to express gratitude for the blessings of holiness and a prosperous life. However, entering the Holy Spring Temple is reserved for devout Hindus only.

The third temple is located in the northeast area of Ubud Monkey Forest. Pura Prajapati is said to worship the god Prajapati. This is a cremation temple. The deceased are initially temporarily buried in a cemetery right next to the temple, because every five years a kind of mass cremation takes place in this Hindu temple.

On the day of the big mass cremation ceremony, the deceased are temporarily lifted from their graves and the relatives follow spellbound the cremation of the deceased, with which they are finally paid their last respects.













PURI SAREN - Royal Palace

Art is more than museums and galleries. Architecture and the associated history of buildings, the Royal Palace in the center of Ubud, is also contemporary witnesses of art.

The history of Ubud dates back to the beginning of the 8th century when records were found on palm leaves that of a Hindu saint named Rsi Markandeya. report from India, who settled in Bali.

After the collapse of the once powerful Majapahit Empire in the 15th century, there was a mass exodus of nobles from Java to Bali. By the 17th century, a number of royal houses emerged in Bali in a short space of time, including the founding of several royal houses in Ubud. A prince from Klungkung built a palace in the south of Ubud of perfect beauty and as a sign of the center of power. Craftsmen came from all over Bali to help with the construction and after completion many of them chose to stay here.

After a series of battles that only ended at the end of the 18th century, Ubud was already well established as a sovereignty and was beginning to thrive, already famous as an enclave of the arts.

In the early 19th century, under the reign of Ida Putu Kandel, the royal palace in Ubud was built. An earthquake in 1917 severely damaged the Royal Palace. Thanks to the skills and qualifications of the local craftsmen, the palace could be rebuilt.

The local royal family still live here, so many parts of the palace, the private rooms, are off-limits to the public. Only two buildings are open to the public, housing an exotic array of artwork and traditional Balinese sculptures. The palace itself is known for its traditional Balinese design, with stupa-like tiers dividing the towers of each building into multiple tiers. Most of the grounds and park are also open to the public to view the many traditional and ornate buildings.













PURA TAMAN SARASWATI

The great secret of this temple, which no one can explain, is that it can only be entered through Cafe Lotus, a Warung Cafe like many others.

Saraswati is an impressive Hindu temple of great importance to the local population. True to its name, Pura Saraswati is dedicated to the worship of Dewi Saraswati, the deity of knowledge, music, art, language, wisdom and learning.

Pura Taman Saraswati is one of the younger temples in Bali. It was designed by the famous sculptor and architect Gusti Nyoman Lempad in the early 1950s at the behest of Prince Ubud Cokorda Gede Agung Sukawati and completed in 1952.

During the construction of the temple, care was taken to ensure that the rules of the Tri Mandala, a concept of Balinese room division, were observed. The design of the temple consists of the three divine mandala zones arranged according to a sacred hierarchy: Nista mandala, the outer less sacred area, Madya mandala, the middle area and Utama mandala, the most sacred area with the Padmasana Shrine.

A bridge-like path flanked by Hindu mythological tuff sculptures leads you across a pond full of blooming pink lotus flowers to the temple complex. This path, which connects the temple to the outside world and the entrance to the temple, runs through the Nista Mandala, the outer area of the temple. Through it you reach the main gate to the inner area of the temple complex, the Mayda Mandala with several ornate pavilions. Access to the inner areas of the Pura Taman Saraswati Temple is via three red brick Kori Agung gates with three large doors decorated with golden ornaments. The central Kori Agung gate, the largest of these gates, is framed by two tall frangipani trees.

The Utama Mandala, the sanctum with the Padmasana shrine, is located on the northeast side of the temple. The lower part of this padmasana is decorated with paras carvings of the cosmic turtle and several nagas representing the world of demons (bhur). The top part of the Padmasana is crowned by a golden empty throne decorated with the image of Acintya, the supreme deity in Balinese Hindu gods.













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Some more to see in Bali

Bali – the name alone arouses wanderlust and conjures up exotic images of ornate and decorated temples, colorful ceremonies, imposing waterfalls hidden in the jungle and lush green rice fields and rice terraces.

But there are other attractions in Bali that are worth visiting.

- 1 Blooms Garden A beautiful flower garden
- 2 Bali Botanical Garden The largest botanical garden in Indonesia
- 3 Danau Batur The lake in the shadow of the volcano
- 4 Kertha Gosa The former court of justice of Bali
- 5 Savannah Tianyar An untapped gem
- 6 Tenganan A village from the past













SELAMAT DATANG DI BLOOMS GARDEN

In June 2019, just before Covid brought everything to a standstill, The Blooms Garden Bedugul opened. Meanwhile, the park complex in the highlands of Bali, located near Danau Beratan Lake, has become a new tourist destination for domestic and foreign tourists.

With an area of 5 hectares and its remarkable natural beauty and unique sculptures of flora and fauna, Blooms Garden is the largest flower recreation park in Bali. With its extensive green spaces and attractions, the park is a destination for all ages.

The most visited attractions in the park include the Love Gate, the Dutch Windmills, the Peacock Square and the stylized replica of Marina Bay in Singapore. The labyrinth is particularly popular with kids. In the center of the park and visible from afar, there is a statue of Dewi Dani, the Hindu water goddess, on a hill protruding from a water basin. The water pours out of the water basin at the foot of the hill via several cascades.

On your tour, you are constantly accompanied by the scent of the approximately 10 different types of flowers planted here. Throughout the park you also come across artistically designed plant and animal sculptures as well as figures representing demons.

When landscaping the park, an eco-friendly concept aimed at preserving nature was designed and applied since the blossom garden is located in a tree hill area. The concept itself is to adapt gardens in the ASEAN region and combine endemic flowers in Indonesia and other ASEAN regions. With external culture and building forms, namely through the combination of original Balinese architecture and modern architecture.

As interesting as a visit to Blooms Garden is, it is important to remember that the park is located in the highlands at around 1,300 meters, here the weather can change quickly and fog can form.

















BALI BEDUGUL BOTANICAL GARDEN

This botanical garden is unique in Bali. It was created for botanical research, conservation, recreation and education at the same time. Here you can relax in a beautiful and peaceful environment while learning about rainforest plantations, birdlife and the role of plants in the daily life of the Balinese people.

Bali Botanical Garden is officially known as Kebun Raya Eka Karya Bali. Eka Karya refers to this as the first botanical garden established after Indonesian independence, making it the first established entirely by Indonesians. Within the botanical garden you can see many plants such as orchids and cacti, various types of ferns in the fern park, roses of all kinds in the rose park, but also a collection of ceremonial and medicinal plants and the most diverse tree species, including the bamboo forest.

In 1958 the park was founded by Prof. Dr. Kusnoto Setiodiwiriyo on 50 hectares of reforested land and officially opened in July 1959. Due to the uncertain times at the time, further development of the park was halted in 1965.

In 1970, the gradual rehabilitation of the garden began. In April 1976 the restoration was completed and expanded to 129 hectares, and the previous principal research shifted from a conifer collection to the ex situ conservation (storage of seeds, pollen or plant parts in forest gene banks) of plants from seasonally wet, dry high altitude areas expanded in eastern Indonesia.

Today the park covers an area of well over 150 hectares and is home to a collection of around 16,000 plants, consisting of over 1,500 species from over 320 genera and 155 families. The four main functions of the Bali Botanical Garden are exploration, inventory, research, conservation, education and recreation. The institution offers a range of scientific services and facilities in support of plant research and conservation, including herbarium, library, greenhouses, nursery and plant registry database.

Bali Bedugul Botanical Garden is located on the slopes of Mount Tapak in Bedugul Village of Tabanan Prefecture, at an altitude of 1,250-1,400 meters, close to the lake Danau Beratan.

















DANAU BATUR - The lake in the shadow of the volcano

Of all the lakes in Bali, Danau Batur is not only the largest, but also the most popular. It lies within a huge caldera formed by a series of eruptions around 23,000 BC.

The lake is the result of ancient Mount Batur's collapsed magma chamber, which filled with rainwater over the millennia and became today's crescent-shaped Lake Batur.

The still active volcano supplies warm water to the three pools of the Batur Natural Hot Springs on its banks. While swimming you can enjoy a fantastic view over the lake and the surrounding volcanoes.

Around the lake are several villages that have existed for centuries. One of the villages is the village of Trunyan with about 600 inhabitants. After a 30-minute crossing of the lake, you reach Trunyan, where the Bali Aga or Bali Mula, descendants of the Bali natives, still live. They have preserved their belief in nature with the old rites to this day.

The strangest of Trunyan rituals here is the handling of the dead.

Unlike Hinduism, where the dead are cremated, the Bali Aga in Trunyan have a different burial ritual. The corpses are wrapped in cloth and simply placed under the Taru Menyan tree. To protect them from hungry wild animals, the survivors erect a kind of bamboo fence around them. The bodies then turn into soil over time through the natural process of decomposition. The amazing thing is that there is no smell of decay hanging over the village. On the contrary: the scent of the tree dominates the air and seems to neutralize the smell of decay.

It is a great honor for the Bali Aga of Trunyan to find their final resting place under the Taru Menyan tree. After complete dissolution of the entire body, the skull is then placed on a stone altar 500m away, where it will remain forever.

The Hindu temple Pura Segara Batur is also located directly on the lake. From here you have a fantastic panoramic view of Danau Batur and the surrounding mountains. For Bali, this water temple is of very special importance. It is considered one of the most important temples on the island and is said to preserve the harmony and stability of Bali. It is a small complex and consists of only one Meru. The shrine was built in honor of Vishnu and the goddess Dewi Danu, who resides at Lake Batur.









KERTHA GOSA – Formerly the Supreme Court of Bali

For those interested in Balinese history, a visit to the Klungkung Palace in Semarapura, home to the Kertha Gosa Court Hall, is a must.

For centuries, until the conquest of Bali by the Dutch in 1908, it was the seat of the Supreme Court of Bali and for a long time also the seat of the former Bali Rajas. Only after the conquest by the Dutch and the ritual suicide of the princely/royal family and many of their faithful did Klungkung lose its importance.

When the palace was destroyed by the Dutch, only the courtroom Kertha Gosa, and the floating pavilion Bale Kambang, remained, apart from the entrance gate. Today you still can visit the garden with the water basins and many statues and of course the well-known royal courtroom Kertha Gosa.

The center of the complex is the Bale Kambang, which is open on all sides and has unique paintings in the roof construction. In the past, if an accused stood here in front of the three judges and assessors, a look at the ceiling showed what penalties awaited him if he was convicted. Most of the representations are very vivid and are reminiscent of well-known apocalyptic representations.

A few steps from Bale Kambang is the Semarajaya Museum. This is where the historical records of the Klungkung Kingdom are kept. In each department you can see a collection of archaeological objects, as well as a collection of weapons, dance and ceremonial costumes, ceramics, paintings and furniture.

Unmissable in the center of Semarapura and directly opposite Kertha Gosa and the gardens of the former palace stands the Pupulitan Klungkung Monument with a stately height of 28 meters. It was built as a memorial for future generations and commemorates the resistance of the Balinese against the Dutch colonialists. Inside the memorial and in a room next door are memorabilia and historical photos commemorating the struggle of the Indonesian people at the time.

















SAVANNAH TIANYAR - An untapped gem

Did you know that there is a savannah in Bali? In Karangasem Regency, tourists will find the Savannah Tianyar, a scrubby grassland that stretches to Mount Agung.

At first glance, the Savannah Tianyar is a vast grazing area, sparsely vegetated and arid. The area is known to few and those who do get lost are advised to be extra cautious on the gravel roads and beware of the rocky cliffs of the eroded landscape.

Savannah Tianyar is truly an untapped gem in Bali. There are no tourist facilities, not even a public toilet. There are no stalls selling cold drinks or souvenirs, and there is no official parking lots either. The advice of the visitors who have been there is: "If you go there, bring your own chair and table if you want to have a picnic there. And be careful about the cows."

Depending on the weather, the savannah is shrouded in low fog. But on a clear day, the Savannah Tianyar is stunning scenery not found anywhere else in Bali, with an unrivaled view of Mount Agung. The sunrises and sunsets from the Savannah Tianyar in particular are among the clearest and most colorful in all of Bali.

The area has long been popular with outdoor adventure communities in Bali and across Indonesia. Although there is no formal campground or facilities, there are dozens of vlogs online of nature lovers camping in Savannah Tianyar. It is a popular spot for motorcyclists who enjoy long day and multi-day tours through the rural landscapes of Bali.

Even if this savannah is not very extensive, it offers an unusual natural beauty.







TENGANAN PEGRINGSINGAN -: A Village from the Past

Tenganan Pegringsingan in East Bali is an ancient village where, in the midst of modern Bali, rural life has survived as it has for centuries. It is one of the few Aga-Aga villages in Bali where the pre-Hindu culture has remained alive.

The village is laid out on a centuries-old plan, a long rectangular shape laid out in tiers and surrounded by a stone wall.

When you visit the village, you will learn about traditional handicrafts that are cultivated in Tenganan, such as the weaving of the Geringsing double ikat cloth. In the small workshops you can watch the women weaving the Geringsing fabrics.

The villagers are also known for making the Ata baskets and bags, which are so sturdy they are said to last 100 years.

In addition to the traditional handicrafts, centuries-old ceremonies and festivals are preserved by the villagers.

These include the famous exhibition match Perang Pandan, or locally known as Mekare-Kare, held annually in June or July. This annual ancient tradition is the coming-of-age ritual dedicated to God Indra. The youngsters fight each other, armed with a small rattan shield in one hand and a bundle of thorny panda leaves tied together in the other. In the fights there are neither winners nor losers, the goal is to concede a blood sacrifice to the gods.

A visit to Tenganan is a valuable experience and gives a glimpse of what life was like for the Bali Aga before our modern, digital age.

















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