

Indonesia – Highlights of Bali and Java

Tour Code BJ

Indonesia is a vast patchwork of islands that bridge the Pacific and Indian Oceans, each with an individual story to tell. Indonesia's alluring cultural identity is formed from a blend of influences from India, Malaya, the Dutch colonial era and hundreds of indigenous tribes each with their own spiritual beliefs and dialects. This trip is a perfect introduction to the cultural and scenic beauty of Indonesia, concentrating on the two most culturally rich yet uniquely different islands of Java and Bali. The many highlights along the way include the world famous Buddhist monument of Borobudur, the chance to see sunrise at the awe inspiring landscapes of Mount Bromo and Bali's artistic and cultural heartland around Ubud.

Lost world images of
Mount Bromo, Java



ITINERARY

Day 1/ Day 2 Fly to Java, Indonesia/Arrive Yogyakarta

Departure from UK to Java with Garuda Airlines. Next day arrival at Yogyakarta international airport and transfer to the Phoenix hotel, Yogyakarta for three nights . Welcome dinner at a local restaurant (B,D)

Day 3 Yogyakarta city tour and Prambanan Temple

We start the day exploring the cultural highlights of Yogyakarta with visits to the Sultan's Palace, its gardens and the nearby Water Castle. We finish the morning at Kota Gede, famous for its silver smiths and batik factories. In the afternoon we tour the hugely impressive UNESCO Site of Prambanan, Java's largest Hindi Temple. The Sanjaya Dynasty built the 47m high temple dedicated to the three forms of Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva in the 9th century and surrounded it with several smaller temples. Dinner at a local restaurant (B,D)

Day 4 Visit Borobudur. Drive to Solo

Early morning sunrise tour of Indonesia's largest and most impressive Buddhist monument, Borobudur. An unforgettable experience! A vast structure with nine levels and an awe inspiring setting in the midst of a fertile valley ringed by volcanoes. The temple was built as a pilgrimage site to teach followers how to practice the Buddhist way of life.. We continue the old royal town of Solo, to see Mangkunegara Palace, a beautiful building in a distinct Javanese style of architecture which houses an interesting display of jewellery, masks, weapons and other ornaments. Overnight at the Roemahkoe Heritage hotel with dinner (B,D)

Day 5. Visit Solo markets. Drive to Malang

Morning visit to two well-established traditional Indonesian markets in Solo, renowned for their antiques and textiles, before continuing our long but interesting journey through teak plantations and lush countryside to Malang, arriving in the late afternoon. Overnight at the Santika Premiere hotel with dinner (B,D)

Day 6 Visit Malang. Drive to Mount Bromo

We enjoy the cool climate and highland scenery of Malang, a historic town dating to the 8th century and seat of the Mataram Empire. We visit the old colonial quarter and Singosari Temple, built in the 14th century. We continue our journey through traditional hillside villages to reach Bromo, set in the heart of Mount Bromo National Park at 2000 metres, and with panoramic views across the stunning range of volcanic mountains. Overnight at the Java Banana lodge with dinner (B,D)

Day 7 Optional sunrise tour over Mount Bromo. Fly to Bali

Early morning wake-up for the chance to see the sun rising over Mount Bromo. Ascent by jeep along bumpy roads for 45 minutes to a viewing platform on Mount Pananjakan (2,700 m). As the dawn arrives enjoy panoramic views over the lunar landscapes of Mount Bromo and the surrounding mountains. After the sun has risen there is the opportunity to take a horse ride along the sea of sands to the foot of Mount Bromo, where a series of steps leads to the crater rim. Return to hotel for breakfast. We return to Malang for our afternoon flight to Bali. Seven nights at the Komaneka Resort, Ubud with dinner (B,D)

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Day 8 Rural Bali and Mount Batur

The Ubud region is located amongst rice paddies and steep ravines in the central foothills and as one of Bali's major cultural centres, makes a good base for our week on the island. Today we learn about the traditions of farming and agriculture that have changed little over the centuries and visit a Balinese home for a traditional breakfast. We visit the 11th century Hindu temple at Pura Kehen, famous for its three tiers of exquisite stone carvings and continue to Kintamani to wonder at the view of Mount Batur, an active volcano, and the picturesque Lake Batur, in the crater. Dinner at a local restaurant (B,D)

Day 9 Visit Munduk and Lake Bratan

A full day trip passing through the heart of Bali on a beautifully photogenic route with lakes and lush green paddy fields. We travel to the traditional mountain village of Munduk to visit clove, coffee plantations and enjoy an included lunch. At Bedugul we see the atmospheric temple of Pura Ulun Danu Bratan on the shores of Lake Bratan and Bali's only botanical garden. We pause at flower market at Candi Kuning village and have the opportunity to photograph the beautiful rice terraces at Jatiluwih. Dinner at a local restaurant (B,L)

Day 10 Visit temples of Southern Bali

Morning at leisure. We drive to Mengwi this afternoon to visit the 17th century Taman Ayun temple literally 'beautiful garden' and regarded as one of Bali's most attractive temples and surrounded by a moat. We also visit the temple of Alas Kedaton set amongst a forest of nutmeg trees and home to monkeys and fruit bats. Our final temple visit of the day is the dramatic Tanah Lot sea temple. This is one of the splendid temples in Bali. Perching atop an enormous rock, it is completely surrounded by the waters of the Indian Ocean during high tide. Dinner at a local restaurant (B,D)

Day 11 Visit to East Coast

We visit the 17th century Palace of Klungkung today, to view some exquisite ceiling paintings in the Hall of Justice drawn in the early Kamasan style depicting famous Hindu legends. We continue to Besakih Temple, located on the slope of Mount Agung, Bali's highest volcano. Here, the Mother Temple of Bali houses ancestral shrines for all Hindu Balinese and consists of a complex of nearly 24 temples. At the pilgrimage site of Goa Lawah, we visit a sacred cave, whose walls vibrate with thousands of bats, is considered holy, and a temple and surrounding shrines protect the entrance. Dinner at a local restaurant (B,D)

Day 12 Artisan tour and Kecak performance

Morning at leisure. Afternoon tour to the Tirtha Empul Temple, in a beautiful setting and itself adorned with fine carvings of Garudas (mythical bird-like creatures) and bathing pools famous for their holy waters where Hindu Bali people go for purification. Later we have a tour of the Agung Rai Museum of Art (ARMA), opened in 1996 to promote and preserve Balinese art and culture. Founder, Agung Rai, will guide the group and be able to provide a fascinating insight as a master of Balinese art and culture. The visit is completed with a full evening performance of the *Kecak* or *Ramayana Monkey Chant*. Dinner at a local restaurant (B,D)

Day 13 Day at leisure/Optional trip to Monkey Forest and Bali Agung Show (Cost \$75.00 payable locally)

A day at leisure to enjoy the hotel facilities or join the optional tour and visit the sacred monkey sanctuary at Padang Tegal to learn about the conservation of the islands' long-tailed macaque community that have an important cultural significance in Balinese Hinduism. Later witness the extravagant and colourful Agung show (*The Legend of Balinese Goddesses*) consisting of over 150 dancers performing a spectacular show highlighting the emergence of Bali as a prosperous island and attracting people from around the globe almost a millennium ago. Farewell dinner with Balinese dance performance (B,D)

Day 14 Fly to UK

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast at the hotel before the transfer to Denpasar airport for our onward flight home (B).

Cost £1895.00 per person in a twin room (excludes international flights)

Single supplement charge £595.00

Price includes –

- ▶ Escorted by Patrick Syder FRGS
- ▶ Accompanied throughout by specialist Indonesian guide
- ▶ All transportation - private a/c minibus
- ▶ Garuda Airline internal flight from Java to Bali
- ▶ Full sightseeing programme including entrance fees
- ▶ Quality four star hotel/boutique hotels in Java
- ▶ Seven nights at a five star resort spa in Ubud, Bali
- ▶ Half board basis with dinners at traditional restaurants
- ▶ Porter, hotel and restaurant staff gratuities

PLEASE NOTE – personal travel insurance, visa fees, alcoholic drinks, guide and driver gratuities, Garuda Airlines international flights are not included in the land tour cost (from £525.00 through Flight Centre UK) (Included meals denoted by B Breakfast, L Lunch, D Dinner)



Borobudur Temple, Java
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