

Cruises from Singapore to Bali and vice versa

Singapore – Parai Beach (Bangka island) – Pulau Seribu (Thousand islands, Java) – Jakarta (Java) – Karimunjawa archipelago (Java) – Semarang (Java) – Giligenteng (Madura) - Probolinggo (Java) – Lovina beach (Bali) – Gili Meno, Gili Trawangan (Lombok) – Benoa (Bali)

We use the best available guides and transportation for all our tours. However since your cruise will take you to many exotic destinations off the usual tourist radar, you must be prepared to encounter minor inconveniences and infrastructure which is not always of the highest standard: restaurant services may be rather basic, toilet facilities can be quite primitive by Western standards and tour guides will not be as sophisticated as those found in the Mediterranean. Nevertheless we are confident that these drawbacks will be far outweighed by the truly unique and unforgettable experiences you will take home with you. All tours are offered with English speaking guides. The length of the tours as well as the time spent on the various sites, is given as an indication only as it may vary depending on the road, weather, sea and traffic conditions and the group's pace.

With the exception of Bali, Indonesia is a country with a very strong muslim tradition; certain excursions may be modified or even cancelled depending on religious festivals.

Fitness requirements vary according to your chosen activity. If you would like to participate in hiking, snorkeling and boating, an average to good level of fitness is mandatory. Please note that the activity level of our excursions is given as a guideline, much depends on your own personal fitness.

This itinerary includes several beach stops, please note that sharp pieces of coral may be washed ashore by the tide, so please take suitable shoes

Some ports of call involve wet landings! Please take shoes with you for beach stops as the sand can be burning hot! Some hiking tours may require proper walking/ non slip shoes.



SINGAPORE

The first mention of Singapore comes from a Chinese manuscript dating from the third century where the island is called « Pu-Luo-Chung” which translates as “Island at the edge of the peninsula”. In the 14th century Singapore became part of the powerful Sri Vijaya Empire and was known rather appropriately as Temasek, or sea town. Singapore is located at the centre of a maritime crossroads at the edge of the Malaysian Peninsula. It has always been a port of call and in its time has welcomed: Chinese Junk ships, Indian vessels, Arab Feluccas, Portuguese Man-of-Wars and traditional Indonesian sailing ships.

In the 14th century this strategically placed island got another name “Singa Pura”, the Lion City. It is said that a seafaring prince, visiting the islands off the coast of Sumatra, got caught up in a violent storm and ended up at the mouth of the Singapore River. Once on land he saw a strange animal which he took to be a lion. As the lion was considered to be a sign of good fortune, he decided to name the island after the creature: Singa means lion in Malay, while Pura stands for City.

The British have also played a major role in Singapore’s history. In the 18th century, they realised the importance of the island as a port of call where they could repair, restock and protect their fleet. The British Empire was expanding and they needed to stop their Dutch rivals from extending their influence. In January 1819 Sir Thomas Stamford Bingley Raffles established a free trade port in Singapore. The success of his enterprise attracted merchants from all over Asia as well as from the United States and the Middle East. In 1819 there were 150 inhabitants in Singapore, and a mere five years later the population swelled to 10.000. By 1832 Singapore had become the centre of government for three areas under British rule: Penang, Malacca and Singapore and in 1867 it became a Crown Colony.

In 1959 with the rise of Nationalism a more independent form of government was put in place and on August 9th 1965 Singapore attained independent status.

No excursion offered on embarkation day.

Singapore City Tour (available on the Bali to Singapore itinerary)

Transport by air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 10 participants, no maximum

Duration 4h30

€66

Tour ends at the airport

This is an ideal first timer’s tour of Singapore, featuring many of the highlights of this dynamic island nation.

We kick off with a drive to the heart of Old Singapore, passing St Andrew’s cathedral, city hall and Padang, formerly known as the Padang Cricket Ground. You will get the opportunity to explore the historic Colonial district on foot and admire many imposing buildings, a legacy of the British Empire.

You will also see Singapore’s emblematic mascot, the Merlion, a mythical beast half fish and half lion, which stands guard by the harbour, welcoming visitors.

After leaving the port area, the coach tour will drive through the midst of this bustling city, passing Parliament House and the historic buildings of the Colonial district before a stop at Esplanade Walk, the site of the Esplanade Theatre, Singapore’s new landmark performing arts centre

Highlights of the City Tour include:

Little India with its tempting boutiques selling an array of spices, colourful saris, glittering jewellery, fresh flowers and other exotic items

Thian Hock temple, the Temple of Heavenly Happiness, the oldest Chinese temple in Singapore. It was built in 1840 and is dedicated to Mazu the Sea goddess and Protectress of sailors. Immigrant sailors would gather here to give thanks for a safe passage over the rough South China Sea. Notice the finely decorated beams and roof top dragons

China town with its quaint shops, and little alley ways. Step back in time and explore little streets lined with century old houses and shops selling food items and trinkets. You may also like to visit Sri Mariamman, the oldest Hindu temple on the island.

Next stop on our City Tour is Mount Faber (107m/ 350ft high) which offers superb views of the city, harbour and outlying islands. Mount Faber is linked to Sentosa Island and the Singapore cruise centre by cable car.



PARAI BEACH, BANGKA ISLAND

Previously part of South Sumatra, Bangka and neighbouring Belitung now form one island province. Bangka has a surface area of about 12000 km² and is located just east of Sumatra. To the north of the island lies the South China Sea, to the east, across the Gaspar Strait is the island of Belitung and to the south is the Java Sea. The name Bangka is derived from the word for tin and indeed the island accounts for 30% of the world's tin production.

The Sultan of Palembang ceded Bangka to the British in 1812 but in 1814 they gave it to the Dutch in exchange for Cochin in India.

The Japanese army occupied the island from February 1942 until August 1945 during World War Two and was responsible for the infamous Bangka Island massacre, gunning down Australian service men and civilians as well as a group of Australian nurses. Bangka became part of independent Indonesia in 1949.

Bangka has its own unique craft industry, fashioning souvenirs such as bracelets and rings etc. out of Bahar root, a kind of seaweed which is said to have health giving properties. Handicrafts are also made from tin or pewter.

The best beaches are to be found on the north east side of the island including the beach resort of Pantai Parai Tenggara. Parai beach is said to be the most beautiful beach on Bangka Island, ideal for swimming or just lazing around on the beach topping up your sun tan.

PULAU SERIBU

The name Pulau Seribu means a thousand islands, and the area consists of about 128 little islands located in the Bay of Jakarta in the Java Sea.

In fact they are a cluster of 76 coral islands with more appearing and disappearing according to tidal conditions. Most of the islands are inhabited and some are even privately owned. The surrounding reefs are home to a wide variety of fish, making Pulau Seribu an ideal spot for diving, snorkelling, fishing or just lazing in the sun listening to bird song and the gentle lapping of the waves. The Thousand Island Marine National Park boasts a fascinating coral reef ecosystem, teeming with life, including 144 species of fish, 2 species of giant clam, sea worms of various colours and 17 species of coastal birds. The park is also a hatching site for hawksbill turtles and green turtles. The hawksbill turtle is an endangered species, rarely found in other waters. They are primarily bred on the island of Pramuka.

Most of the islands are ringed by coconut palms and mangrove forests.

JAKARTA, JAVA

Located on the northern coast of Java, the province of Jakarta has rapidly expanded through the years, absorbing many villages in the process. In reality Jakarta consists of a conglomeration of villages known as "Kampungs" now linked by main roads and super highways. The Street names bear witness to these erstwhile village communities: Tanah Abang, Kebon Kacang, Kebon Jeruk, Kampung Melayu and many more. Jakarta with its outlying suburbs has now become a megalopolis.

Jakarta itself is built on a wide flat delta, intersected by no less than 13 rivers. Capital city of a country with a population of 240 million, Jakarta is not only the seat of national and provincial government, it is also Indonesia's political centre and a hub for finance and trade. Jakarta is home to 9 million people and during the day the population increases as 2 million commuters make their way to work in the city, before going home again every evening. It is no wonder that Jakarta has a reputation of being a city in perpetual movement, dynamic and stimulating, "a city that never sleeps" to use a well-worn cliché.

Traffic is sometimes very congested in Jakarta and tours and excursions may be delayed



Cosmopolitan and Modern Jakarta

By air-conditioned motor coach and on foot

Minimum 15 participants, no maximum

Duration 4h30

Euro 67

Only on Singapore to Bali itinerary

Founded in the 5th century Jakarta was originally a harbour town belonging to the Hindu kingdom of Sunda, before falling into the hands of the Muslim Sultanate of Banten. From 1619 – 1949 Djakarta was under Dutch administration and was known as Batavia. During the Second World War it was occupied by the Japanese and finally achieved full independence in December 1949.

The tour starts with a visit to Merdeka Square which is the world's largest urban square. The square is dominated by a 433ft tall national monument commemorating the county's struggle for independence and indeed Merdeka is the Indonesian word for freedom or independence.

The monument is surrounded by a park, featuring a musical fountain. It is very popular with locals as a sports and recreation ground during the weekend. There is also a deer enclosure and deer roam among the shady trees in the park.

Next stop is the National Museum of Indonesia, also known as the Elephant Museum because of the bronze statue of an elephant which stands in the forecourt. The statue was a gift from King Chulalongkorn (Rama V) of Thailand, who visited the museum in 1871. The National Museum is the pride of Jakarta and provides visitors with a valuable insight into Indonesia's long history and cultural diversity. You will find statues and stone plaques from all over the archipelago, dating back to the first century AD. There is also a fine collection of batik cloth and textiles as well as gold and silver ornaments and jewellery once owned by the rajahs and sultans who ruled the territory.

You will then be driven to the Istiqlal Mosque for a photo stop. The Istiqlal Mosque with its spherical dome is the largest mosque in south East Asia, and Indonesia is home to the world's largest Muslim population. The mosque which opened its doors to the public in 1978 was built to celebrate Indonesian self-government, Istiqlal being the Arab word for independence. In front of the mosque you will see Jakarta's Roman Catholic cathedral, built in 1901 in the Neo Gothic style which was popular at the time. You will then return to the pier.

Guests who wish to spend more time in Jakarta will be dropped off in the city and have to take a taxi back to the pier at their convenience.



A Trip Down Memory Lane

By air-conditioned motor coach and on foot

Minimum 15 participants, no maximum

Duration 4h30

Euro 69

Only on Singapore to Bali itinerary

During its heyday in the 16th century Batavia was known as “The Queen of the East” and “The Jewel of Asia”. Sunda Kelapa harbour was a hive of activity with merchant vessels from Europe, China, India and the Indonesian Archipelago, loading cargo on board and sailing away with precious spices, such as nutmeg and pepper, as well as tea, coffee, ceramics, cloth and other exotic items. Warehouses were chock a block with tin, copper and spices. This flourishing trade filled the coffers of the Dutch treasury.

The tour will start with a visit to Sunda Kelapa harbour the historic 12th century port used by the Portuguese and the Dutch. Nowadays the port functions as an inter-island harbour where one can mostly see traditional Indonesian two-masted sailing ships called phinisi and the old warehouses have been converted into a maritime museum.

The tour continues to “Old Jakarta”, once the centre of the walled city of Batavia when it was under Dutch colonial administration in the 17th century. You will stop at Kota Intan Bridge, which was built by the Dutch government. The bridge is made of wood and had a drawbridge system to lift the bridge when a ship or boat passed by. In colonial times ships bringing spices from far flung parts of the archipelago would pass by Kota Intan Bridge in order to access the warehouses. The Indonesian government have restored and consolidated the bridge but the leverage system is no longer in use.

Next stop is Fatahillah square for a stroll around Old Batavia. Many of the original buildings are still intact. Old Batavia is a designated conservation area, and plans are afoot to restore the whole neighbourhood.

Refreshments will be offered at the historical Batavia Café. This colonial era building was erected in 1850 and the interior decoration is a gentle reminder of the colonial past with high ceilings, wooden beams, ceiling fans and large windows. Afterwards you will have some free time to look around by yourselves.

During your free time you may like to visit the following venues which are not included in the tour:

Fatahillah museum. This classical baroque building houses a history museum charting Jakarta’s progress from prehistoric times to the founding of Jayakarta by Prince Fatahillah of Banten in 1527, through Dutch colonisation from the 16th century onwards, until Indonesia’s independence.

The Fine arts and Ceramic museum, in the old Court of Justice building

The Wayang museum devoted to Javanese puppetry. The puppets are used in a traditional form of theatre popular in Java and other islands across the country. There is a large range of exhibits from all ages which shows the evolution of the art of puppetry in the islands

You will need local currency to pay the entrance fees to these museums as credit cards are not accepted.

All museums are closed on Mondays (Bali to Singapore itinerary)



Kaleidoscope of Jakarta

By air-conditioned motor coach and on foot
Minimum 15 participants, no maximum
Duration 4h15
Euro 67
Only on Bali to Singapore itinerary

Founded in the 5th century Jakarta, capital of Indonesia, was originally a harbour town belonging to the Hindu kingdom of Sunda. In 1527 it fell into the hands of the Muslim Sultanate of Banten and in 1619 the city was captured and razed to the ground by the Dutch led by Jan Pieterzoon Coen. In its place a walled township was established, known as Batavia, and the territory remained under Dutch administration from 1619 – 1949. During the Second World War Jakarta was occupied by the Japanese and finally achieved full independence in December 1949.

With a population of more than 10 million Jakarta is now Indonesia's largest city, and Greater Jakarta's population of 23 million makes it one of the world's largest urban centres. After a morning briefing about the journey ahead, you will be ready to start your tour of this booming, multi-cultural metropolis.

You will first be driven to the Istiqlal Mosque for a photo stop. The Istiqlal Mosque with its spherical dome is the largest mosque in south East Asia, and Indonesia is home to the world's largest Muslim population. The mosque which opened its doors to the public in 1978 was built to celebrate Indonesian self-government, Istiqlal being the Arab word for independence.

The tour continues with a visit to the Chinatown district which, like every Chinatown all over the world, has a well-deserved reputation as a hive of activity, pillar of the economy and magnet for visitors and residents alike. Situated in the Taman Sari area of West Jakarta, Glodok, as it is called, is said to be one of the largest "Chinatowns" in the country and indeed one of the largest in the world. This section of Old Batavia City, home to many people of Chinese descent has been known as "Pecinan" or Chinatown since the Dutch Colonial Era. Nowadays it is the electronic trading centre of Jakarta. As you stroll through the streets, revel in the rich history of this city within a city. Follow a trail of historical buildings, ancient temples and traditional Chinese architecture. Learn, observe, and go shopping along the way. The name Glodok comes from the Sundanese word "Golodog," which means 'the entrance to a house,' as Sunda Kelapa (now Jakarta,) was once the gateway to the ancient Sunda Kingdom.

During Colonial times thousands of people flocked to the city, attracted by commercial opportunities created by the Dutch. These migrants came from all over what is now Indonesia, as well as from further afield, and included an enormous number of Chinese: skilled artisans, sugar mill workers and shopkeepers. With the number of Chinese rising rapidly, the Dutch colonial government and locals began to feel threatened.

In 1720 the Dutch overlords set a standard price for sugar after global sugar prices had been reduced by 50% due to increased competition and export from the West Indies. This measure caused great unrest among Chinese sugar merchants and on October 7, 1740, hundreds of ethnic Chinese, mainly from the sugar trade, rose up against the Dutch, killing 50 soldiers. The Dutch, spurred on by rumours of further unrest, retaliated and on October 9, 1740, the massacre known as "Geger Pacinan" took place. Dutch soldiers opened fire on Chinese homes and slew nearly 10,000 ethnic Chinese. The following year, the remaining Chinese were settled outside Batavia's city walls. The area is a showcase of Chinese culture with many traditional houses, markets, architecture and very beautiful temples. The Da Shi Miao and the Vihara Dharma Bhakti temples are both popular tourist attractions. The Glodok Market is one of the great commercial centres of Jakarta where you can buy anything and everything, from antiques to laptops.

The tour ends with a visit to Sunda Kelapa harbour, the historic 12th century port used by the Portuguese and the Dutch. Nowadays the port functions as an inter-island harbour frequented mostly by traditional Indonesian two-masted sailing ships called "Phinisi", and the old warehouses have been converted into a maritime museum. You will then return to the pier.



KARIMUNJAWA ARCHIPELAGO

The stunning offshore archipelago of Karimunjawa is a marine nature reserve and national park consisting of 27 coral fringed islands – only five of which are inhabited. The white sandy beaches are sublime, the swimming is wonderful and the pace of life in this island paradise of coconut palms and turquoise sea is wonderfully relaxed.

Since 2001, 22 of the islands have been accorded marine reserve status and make up the Karimunjawa National Park. The remaining five are either privately owned or under the control of the Indonesian Navy. In the midst of the Karimunjawa Archipelago you will find the Island of Menjawakan, a lush tropical island 22 ha across which boasts one of the largest lagoons in the area. This island is the exclusive property of the Kura Kura beach resort.

SEMARANG, JAVA

In the early fifteenth century Ming dynasty China sent out a huge fleet of ships on voyages of diplomacy and exploration, sailing from their home port in Nanjing to India, Arabia and even East Africa. The Emperor's faithful retainer, a Muslim eunuch called Admiral Zeng He, was put in charge of this Armada. During one of the first voyages he visited Java and came ashore on the northern coast of the island at Semarang, an event which is commemorated at the Gedung Batu temple.

In the late fifteenth century a missionary from the sultanate of Demak, named Ki Pandan Arang, established a village and Islamic school here.

At the time Semarang was just a little fishing port; it gained importance when Demak harbour silted up and increased in status when the territory was ceded to the Dutch by the Mataram ruler in 1678. The Sultanate of Mataram was the last major independent Javanese kingdom before the island was colonised by the Dutch. Semarang was besieged by Chinese rebels in 1741, but was successfully defended by the Dutch and was not threatened again. During the 19th century Semarang developed into a flourishing commercial centre when roads to the south of the island were built. It rivalled Jakarta and Surabaya in terms of wealth and size, but lacked a deep water harbour. Nowadays Semarang is a commercial port and more of a business hub than a city for tourists. However, it is an excellent gateway to Central Java and 60 miles distance from the world famous Borobudur Buddhist monument.



Wonders of Borobudur

By air-conditioned motor coach and on foot
Minimum 25 participants, no maximum
Duration 8/8h30 (approx.)
Lunch included
Euro 137
Energetic tour, high level of activity

Borobudur is the world's largest Buddhist monument, built between 778 and 856, and is considered by many to be the Eighth Wonder of the World. The site is perched on a hilltop overlooking lush green fields and distant hills. The Monument was assembled from huge interlocking blocks, held together without any cement or mortar. It is richly decorated with 2,672 relief panels and 504 statues of Buddha. The architecture and artwork are simply breathtaking. The whole monument resembles a giant "stupa" (a stupa is a dome like structure containing relics) and seen from above it forms a mandala (a spiritual symbol in Indian religions representing the cosmos). This ambitious and labour intensive project was worked on by five generations of the local population, yet scarcely one hundred years after its completion the site was mysteriously abandoned. Subsequently the monument was totally covered by ash when the nearby Merapi volcano erupted, and lay undisturbed until 1814. In the 1970's the Indonesian Government and UNESCO worked together to restore Borobudur to its former glory. The restoration took 8 years to complete and today Borobudur forms part of the world's cultural heritage and is considered to be one of Indonesia's greatest treasures.

The visit will start at the base of the temple and you will make your way to the summit passing through the three levels of Buddhist cosmology: Kamadhatu (the world of desire), Rupadhatu (the world of forms) and Arupadhatu (the world of formlessness).

The structure consists of six square terraces topped by 3 circular terraces, and there are four steep stairways leading to the top. It is meant to represent the Buddhist vision of the universe, beginning with the material world and progressing in an upwards spiral towards Nirvana the Buddhist paradise. Visitors are supposed to walk clockwise around the Stupa.

The steep climb is well worth the effort and you will be rewarded by magnificent views of the Merapi or "Fire Mountain" volcano, which soars upwards to a height of 2900 m.

After the visit you will be treated to a buffet lunch composed of Indonesian specialties and enjoy a performance by local entertainers

The drive to Borobudur takes approximately 3 hours, including a stop for refreshments on the way

You will be dropped off at the Kenari entrance and from there you will go by foot to the temple.

You will be escorted by your guide on the walk to the temple and, as per regulations, a local guide will escort the group for the rest of the visit

The walking tour of the temple takes an hour to an hour and a half. Guests who are in good physical condition and able to cope with the steps can walk to the upper levels while those who are less physically fit can still explore the temple from the ground

After the guided visit you will walk to the restaurant where a buffet lunch will be served (one soft drink and mineral water included)

You will have to wear a sarong to visit the temple; the garment is provided by the Borobudur temple staff and must be given back to the temple officer after the visit

The tour involves a lot of walking including climbing steps. We recommend you wear flat, comfortable shoes.

Refreshments are provided at Eva's Coffee house on the way to Borobudur, but are at your own expense on the way back



GILIGENTENG, MADURA

To the south of Madura lies a small island, Giligenteng, a community of four peaceful little fishing villages, where everybody knows each other. This tranquil spot is covered by a barrier of mangrove and shelters a wide variety of wild life and marine species that use it as a breeding ground or for hibernation.

The village of Bringsang consists of one small street, a mosque and a few local shops. There are no tourist attractions but it is an authentic fishing village and will give you an insight into the everyday life of this little community. The atmosphere is one of quiet content and the people are remarkably hospitable and friendly, saying hello and waving greetings as they go about their business. The beach here is really beautiful with clear water and pristine white sand.

The ship will be at anchor, guests taking part in a tour will disembark at Tanjung Sronggi (Madura Island mainland - 10 minute tender drive) while passengers who want to enjoy the beach will be transferred directly to Giligenteng. (45 minute tender drive)

Bikinis are not appropriate attire on the beach and are not liked by the locals to be seen on the beach! Depending on weather conditions there might be a tricky tender landing at Tanjung / Madura. You will have to climb from the ship's tender over other local boats to the jetty as tenders cannot go alongside there.

Guided transfer to Sumenep

By air-conditioned motor coach and on foot

Minimum 20 participants, no maximum

Duration 3h30

Euro 60

Sumenep is a sleepy town with a laid back Mediterranean atmosphere. You get the impression that by mid-afternoon the whole town is taking a prolonged siesta. Life revolves around the central pedestrian area which is like the "plaza de armas" or Main Square found in many South American towns and it is here that the principal tourist attractions are to be found.

The tour starts with a visit to the Sumenep museum in the town centre. The museum is situated just opposite the Kraton Sumenep, the former sultan's palace built in the eighteenth century, and houses a collection of items which belonged to the royal family: colonial era furniture, ceremonial weapons and a golden carriage which was a gift from the Queen of England to the ruler of Sumenep. You will also see a massive edition of the Koran, which is 4m high, 3 m wide and weighs 500 kg.

After the museum you will step inside Kraton Sumenep itself. There is a small museum inside the palace displaying furniture from Madura as well as binggel (weighty bracelets worn by the Madura women) and other ceremonial items.

Next on the agenda is Sare Park where there is a bathing pool which was kept for the exclusive use of the Royal Princesses. The entrance to the palace complex is called Labang Mesem (the Smiling Gate) and, as with most Javanese kraton, there is a big Banyan tree, considered to be a symbol of eternal life, growing in the courtyard.

A short walk will take you to the Sumenep Great Mosque, one of the oldest mosques in Indonesia. Built in 1779 this yellow and white building is an eclectic mixture of Chinese, Javanese and Western architecture. The mosque is enclosed by iron railing, which has replaced the massive wall of former times, designed to separate the Mosque complex from the outside world. (photo stop- no entrance)

The drive to Sumenep takes 30 minutes

Local refreshments as well as a performance of Muangsangkal dance will be offered during the tour



PROBOLINGGO

Probolinggo is a port town whose main activity is fishing. It is also the nearest town of any size to the Bromo-Tengger-Semeru National Park on the east coast of Java, and a stopping point on the way to the Gunung Bromo volcano. The area in and around the park is inhabited by the Tenggerese, an ethnic minority, and one of the few remaining Hindu communities on the island of Java.

Mount Bromo is particularly significant for the Tengger people, who believe that this is the exact site where a prince was sacrificed to save his family. Legend has it that the King and Queen, who were childless, climbed to the top of the mountain to beseech the mountain god to give them children. Their prayer was granted on condition that their 25th child be thrown in to the volcano's crater as a sacrifice. When the time came the king and queen were naturally reluctant to fulfill their part of the bargain, but they were threatened with terrible catastrophes and in the end had to honour their pledge. In another version of the story Kesuma, the 25th child, was consumed by fire as he attempted to flee Mount Bromo. The Tengger people commemorate this event with the "Kasada" festival, asking the Mountain god for blessings in exchange for offerings of rice, fruit, flowers and livestock which they throw into the crater.

Mount Bromo

By air-conditioned motor coach and then by jeep (with no air conditioning)

Minimum 25 participants, no maximum

Duration 8h30

Euro 169

Lunch included

Energetic high activity excursion

The name Bromo is a corruption of Brahma, the Hindu creator god. Mount Bromo (2.329m) is part of the Tengger Semeru National Park and is situated in a spectacular lunar landscape of incomparable natural beauty. It is easily recognisable as the top has been blown off and its crater continually belches sulphurous white smoke.

Relax and enjoy the comfort of your air-conditioned motor coach as you leave Probolinggo and drive through lush, scenic countryside and terraced farmland on the way to Sakupura village which is located near the volcanoes. After the journey there will be a rest stop with traditional snacks at a local restaurant before the jeep ride to Bromo Tengger Semeru National Park where you will admire the iconic peaks of East Java's volcanoes, including Mount Bromo. The contrast between the verdant hillside and the surreal gravel plains and sea of volcanic sand is particularly striking.

The first stop is Pananjaka (2770m) which offers breath-taking views of Mount Bromo and Mount Batok with Mount Semeru (3676m) in the background.

The tour continues down the crater and you will leave the jeeps to continue over rough ground, exchanging your four wheel drive vehicle for a guided pony ride to the foot of Mount Bromo.

Accompanied by a guide you will then hike up the side of the mountain and follow the rim of the inner caldera (6 miles in diameter) surrounded by a sea of sand with the volcano puffing clouds of sulphurous smoke.

By now you will have worked up quite an appetite and so we will get back to the jeeps and drive to the lava view restaurant. Admire the spectacular views of Mount Kursi (8467 ft.) while you enjoy an authentic Indonesian buffet lunch.

Due to safety issues, the caldera can only be approached by foot when the prevailing alert status permits

Although the site is located only 28 miles from Probolinggo, the total transfer from the port to Mount Bromo takes 1h30/2 hrs due to the condition of the road

The tour starts with a transfer by air-conditioned motor coach to a level of 1000m, thereafter you will board 4 wheel drive jeeps (no air-conditioning) for the rest of the trip. Each jeep can accommodate four persons, 2 at the front and 2 at the back on a bench face to face.

Upon leaving the jeep you will walk for approximately 1 km (twenty minutes) on flat ground to get to the base of the volcano, or you can take a pony ride 15 minutes)

From the base of the volcano, participants can walk to the edge of the crater (250 concrete steps, 1m wide, approximately 30 mins)

Buffet lunch provided, include one soft drink and mineral water

There can be a difference in temperature of 8 degrees between sea level and Mount Bromo, weather is unpredictable so make sure you have warm clothing and wear comfortable shoes



LOVINA BEACH, BALI

North of Bali, the Lovina tourist area stretches over 12 km and consists of a string of coastal villages: Kaliasem, Kalibukbuk, Anturan, Tukad Mungga, collectively known as Lovina. Lovina's black sandy beaches are quite lovely, the sea is very calm here and safe for swimming. The atmosphere on the beach is one of laid-back tranquillity with colourfully decorated traditional outriggers called perahu dotted along the shoreline. The village of Kalibukbuk is regarded as being the centre of Lovina and has many bars, restaurants and shops. Located at the end of Jalan Binaria Street (Dolphin Street) you will find the statue of a dolphin and Binaria beach one of the most popular beach locations.

Lovina beach is also the gateway to West Bali National Park, the only national park on the island. The park was established as an Indonesian National Park in 1941. One hundred and sixty species of bird life have been recorded in the park including endangered species such as the Bali Starling which is nearly extinct. The starling is Bali's only endemic vertebrate species and the reason why the park was created in the first place. Mammals found within the park included Banteng, a species of wild cattle from which the familiar Bali cows are descended as well as Javan Rusa and Indian Muntjac deer. Wild boar and Leopard cats are both quite common but seldom encountered.

The Bali Barat Park is mountainous and consists of primary monsoon forest, mangrove forest, lowland rain forest, savanna, sea grass vegetation, coral reefs, sandy beaches and both shallow and deep sea waters.

As the Bali Barat park is a protected area, only a small percentage of the total surface area of the park is open to visitors and all visitors are escorted by an official Park Guide.

An ideal spot for snorkelling and diving is Pulau Menjangan which boasts colourful coral reef gardens and limpid water.

Ulun Danu Temple

By motor coach and on foot

Minimum 15 participants, no maximum

Duration 4h30

Euro 68

Ulun Danu temple is dedicated to the water goddess Dewi Danu and attracts pilgrims from all over the island; they come to worship the deity in the hope of ensuring a plentiful and steady supply of water.

Set against a dramatic back drop of some of the highest peaks in Bali, the temple seems to emerge from the waters of Lake Bratan and float on the surface as if by enchantment. The serene, deeply spiritual atmosphere that pervades the temple complex enhances the impression of being in another world, a threshold between the sacred and the profane. The complex consists of four temples each one with its own specific deity. Lingga Petak is dedicated to Siva, Penataran Pucak Manggu to Vishnu, Terate Bang to Brama and Dalem Purwa to the goddess Danu.

The Ulun Danu Temple is one of the iconic landmarks of Bali, so much so that it is even depicted on the 50.000 rupiah bill.

Your guide will tell you many interesting stories about the temple and accompany you on a fascinating journey of discovery, exploring Balinese culture and spirituality.

On the return trip there will be a photo stop at the Buyan and Tamblingan Twin lakes. The site will give you an overview of the volcanic heartland of Bali, the two crater lakes being situated in the caldera of the now extinct Bedugul volcano. The twin lakes were originally one big lake, but in 1800 a landslide separated the lake in two. At an altitude of nearly 4000 ft., this is the heart of Bali's farming area with coffee plantations, vegetable fields and traditional rice paddies covering the nearby slopes.

The scenic drive from Lovina to Ulun Danu Temple takes about one hour



Snorkelling on Menjangan Island

Transfer by van and then by boat

Minimum 10 participants, maximum 30

Duration 5h30

Energetic excursion

Euro 96

Menjangan Island is a small uninhabited island lying five miles to the north west of Bali. Menjangan in Indonesian means "Deer" and herds of Barking Deer (*Muntiacus muntjak*) swim to the island every springtime and can be seen bathing and sunning themselves on the sandy beaches.

This excursion is a must for anybody who is interested in marine life, snorkeling or diving. You will set off by coach to Labuan Lalang and from there you will take a boat to the island. The snorkeling here is said to be the best on Bali with transparent water and calm seas. One of the snorkelling sites is a coral garden with massive coral fans and a host of colourful tropical fish. It is compulsory to be accompanied by a guide when in the water. One issue, which is unfortunately not unique to Menjangan, is that currents will sometimes wash plastic bags and detritus from the mainland out into the ocean.

The drive from the pier to Labuan Lalang takes 1h15

The boat trip to Menjangan island takes 30 minutes

There are no changing facilities, so wear your swimsuit under your clothes and don't forget to bring a towel and sunscreen

The price includes the entry fee to the national park

Snorkelling gear will be provided on board, or you can use the equipment handed out by Star Clippers for use during your cruise

The snorkeling is from the boat



Munduk Hiking

Transport by motorised vehicle and then on foot

Minimum 15 participants, maximum 30

Duration 5h30

Energetic excursion

Euro 65

Munduk is a small village perched high in the mountains (altitude 1000m), with fantastic views. It is set in fertile land surrounded by tropical forest, waterfalls, clove, cocoa and coffee plantations and rice fields. This off the beaten track location with its Dutch colonial architecture has a unique charm all of its own and is the starting point for some fantastic hiking excursions. Here you will discover the hidden face of Bali, far from the madding crowd.

After making your way up winding mountain roads and passing through small villages, you will stop at Mayong village to enjoy a photo opportunity and panoramic views of north Bali.

The three Munduk waterfalls are in a protected zone at the heart of the tropical forest. Your guide will take you to Tanh Barak waterfall following a hiking trail across clove, coffee and guava fruit plantations with vanilla vines growing around the tree trunks.

The drive from Lovina beach to Munduk takes 45 minutes

The hike follows a "round trip" trail

The tour involves about 2 hrs trekking, depending on the groups' pace

Most of the trail is in the shade

There is a soil footpath and also some concrete paving

There are steps to be climbed going up and down

Walking distance is approximately 2.5 km

There is an altitude difference of 100m during the hike

The path is hilly and goes up and down

You will get the opportunity to refresh yourself in the waterfall. (For your comfort we recommend wearing plastic shoes)

There may be mosquitoes, depending on the weather and the time of year, so please apply insect repellent prior to the tour

This excursion requires a good level of physical fitness

Toilets are available at the waterfall

We advise you take a bottle of water with you

Wear light, non-slip hiking shoes and use sunscreen



GILI ISLANDS

Picture minuscule islands fringed by powdery white sandy beaches, dotted with coconut palms, and set in a turquoise blue sea surrounded by coral reefs. The Gilis are a foretaste of Paradise offering superb snorkelling sites. The name “Gili islands” is a form of tautology as the word Gili simply means “small island» in Sasak. The Sasak people are a mainly Muslim ethnic group which make up the majority of the population of Lombok. The “gilis” are an archipelago of 3 small islands: Trawangan, Meno and Air, just off the North West coast of Lombok, but the name has stuck and is universally used and understood in Lombok. Indeed, all the surrounding islands have the word “Gili” in front of their name.

The islands are a popular destination for visitors looking for a secluded, getaway. Each Gili has its own character; some have very small “resorts”, usually consisting of a collection of huts for tourists, together with bars and restaurants, whereas others are completely uninhabited. There is no motorised transport on the islands, only horse drawn vehicles known as “cidomo” or bicycles. However as the islands are never more than a few km in diameter, it is quite possible to use “Shank’s pony” and get about on foot.

Diving and snorkelling in and around the Gilis is very popular due to the abundance of marine life and attractive coral formations.

Gili Trawangan, universally known as “Gili T”, is the most cosmopolitan and popular island. During the day you can explore the island on foot, snorkel, sunbathe, join a dive trip, rent a bike or take a horse carriage ride. These activities are offered by local companies directly at the disembarkation pontoon.

By night the island becomes more animated and is something of a “party” island, with all the local restaurants and bars open and the appetising aroma of fresh snapper, grouper and tuna fish being cooked over a charcoal grill.

Gili Meno is the smallest of the three islands and offers good sport for snorkelling enthusiasts off the north east and the west coast towards the north. There is a good chance of seeing turtles in the shallow water as both the green sea turtle and the Loggerhead turtle are common in these waters. Gili Meno is home to a Turtle sanctuary whose aim is to save the eggs from predators, allow them to hatch naturally and nurture the young turtles for a year before releasing them into the sea. Injured turtles are also cared for at the facility. The sanctuary, located on the beach, consists of a variety of little pools and baths, bubbling with filters, each containing a host of baby green and Loggerhead turtles.

BALI, BENOA

Bali, the famed “island of the gods” is a tropical diamond-shaped island that has been described as “heaven on earth”, for this tiny Hindu island is blessed with an ethereal beauty and infused with a sense of mysticism. Discovered by Dutch sailors in the early 1600’s, it was then ignored by the colonial powers until the early 20th century. Bali is the largest Hindu outpost in the world outside India and everyday life revolves around the Hindu religion.

The Balinese, who embrace the Hindu religion, are a most devout people where a large part of their lives is dedicated to rites and ceremonies aimed at maintaining harmony in this world. With over 20000 temples on Bali there are almost daily festivals featuring such traditional dances as the Barong or Kecak dances. Although modern life and tourism have taken their toll, Bali remains one of the most harmonious and paradise – like cultures in the world. It is a land of sparkling rice terraces, majestic volcanoes and deep ravines. It is also a land of extraordinarily artistic and creative people.



Heart of Bali Tour

By air conditioned vehicle

Minimum 4 participants

Duration 8 hours

Includes a traditional Indonesian buffet lunch

This tour will end at approx 17h at the airport

€90

First stop on this tour is Batuan village a traditional rural community, which is noted for its artwork and a style of painting which originated in the 1930's and had a major influence on Balinese art. These paintings are mostly of mythological and religious subjects painted in great detail on a dark coloured background. Founded in 1022 AD the village upholds Balinese customs and folklore and a visit to the house compound is a window into the traditional way of life of the Balinese people and their homes. Houses in Bali consist of several buildings, each with a specific purpose. The building to the east will be used to make offerings to the Gods while the building to the south will be used as a kitchen. Parents will occupy the west building while the north building is for the children. Spirituality is everywhere in Bali and Hindu people build a family temple in the northeast area of the house for daily religious rituals.

We will next visit Sebatu the tranquil water temple, one of the most beautiful and least visited temples on the island. The temple is built alongside a holy spring where Balinese people fetch holy water for their religious rituals and ceremonies. The tradition of holy healing water derives from the legendary conflict between the King Mayadenawa who used his powers to dabble in Black Magic and the God Indra who put a stop to this evil doing by creating a sacred healing spring. There are many Holy Spring temples in Central Bali, but this one is without doubt the most attractive. People from all over the island make regular pilgrimages to Holy Spring temples like Tirta Empul. They seek purification and healing in the many pools and sacred springs, healing of both spiritual and physical ailments.

The tour continues with a visit to the Kintamanai area in Bali's central highlands. Here you will see enjoy a view on Mount Batur, an active volcano which last erupted in 2000.

You will then have lunch at Panelokan one of the three villages which make up the Kintamanai area, before exploring Penglipuran a beautifully preserved village, which maintains Bali's traditions and cultural heritage.

On the way to the airport there will be time to visit Sanur where you will have time at leisure to relax, have a drink or shop.

45 minute drive to Batuan

60 minute drive to Sebatu temple

30 minute drive to Kintamanai

15 minute drive to the airport.



In transit Hotel Day pass in Sanur (disembarkation only)

Minimum 10 participants

€67

How about enjoying your last hours in Bali on a beautiful beach, soaking up the warm sunshine before heading back home?
The hotel day pass includes

All transfers port / hotel /airport on a shared basis

Transfers to the Airport will be provided at two pre-arranged times in order for the guests to make the most of their last day

Use of hotel facilities, changing and showers facilities,

Lunch is at your own expense

In transit Hotel Day pass in Nusa Dua (disembarkation only)

Lunch included

Minimum 10 participants

€99

How about enjoying your last hours in Bali on a beautiful beach, soaking up the warm sunshine before heading back home?
The hotel day pass includes

All transfers port / hotel /airport on a shared basis

Transfers to the Airport will be provided at two pre-arranged times in order for the guests to make the most of their last day

Use of hotel facilities, changing and showers facilities,

