

## Bali and Java Women-only Tour 2016

Itinerary dates: September 17 - October 1, 2016

Tour Leader: Patricia Andersson

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Learn the craft of **batik making** with traditional dyes and waxes
- Visit Java's Borobudur, home to the **largest Buddhist temple** in the world
- Experience beautiful **Mt. Bromo at sunrise**
- Walk through and photograph **Bali's terraced rice fields**
- Visit **Ubud**, where you'll take a **fantastic cooking class** and then shop til you drop
- Watch **music and dance performances** that epitomize the stunning beauty of Indonesia
- Returning Wanderlusters receive a **5% discount** on the land cost

The tour begins on Saturday afternoon in Jogjakarta. From Singapore, Silk Air has flights on Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays while Air Asia has daily flights. There are also daily flights from Denpasar, Bali.

### ITINERARY

#### Day 1

**Saturday, September 17, 2016 - Arrival in Jogjakarta**

**Meals: Lunch**

Upon arrival in **Jogjakarta** (or Jogja as it's more commonly referred to), a guide will meet you at the airport and you'll be taken to the hotel. Depending upon your arrival time, you may be able to join up with other group members for a **welcome lunch** at the hotel restaurant. Afterward, we'll check-in and have some time to freshen up and relax.

In the afternoon, we'll learn how to **make a batik**, one of **Indonesia's most traditional crafts**. We'll **decorate our own** cloth by creating a design and applying wax. The cloth will then be dipped into a dye, dried and our beautiful souvenir delivered to the hotel the following day.

With many restaurants near the hotel, dinner (or perhaps a spa treatment?) this evening is on your own.

Overnight in Jogja at the [Phoenix Hotel](#) or similar.

 **HIGHLIGHT!** Jogja is the most popular tourist spot on Java largely due to its proximity to the **temples of Borobudur and Prambanan**. Beyond these amazing temples, the region **is a center of art and education** and the cradle of traditional Javanese culture.

## Day 2

**Sunday, September 18, 2016 - Jogja - Prambanan**

**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

After breakfast, we'll start our day of touring the sites of Jogja by first going to a small shop where Javanese leather puppets are made and watching a brief **Wayang Kulit** (shadow puppet) show. We'll then walk to the nearby **Taman Sari Water Palace**. This addition to the royal complex was built over 200 years ago by the first sultan and includes bathing pools for his harem. Sorry ladies, no swimming!

We then head to the nearby **sultan's palace**, also known as Kraton. The building was constructed between 1756 and 1790 and is an excellent example of **traditional Javanese sultanate architecture**. Even today it's possible to see the sultan's residence, a living museum that showcases Javanese culture.

We'll take a break for a lunch of traditional Indonesian food and then take a **becak** (similar to a cyclo) to explore nearby Kauman. This village is home to the **keepers of the faith of Islam**, as authorized by the Sultan. The small lanes of the village are designed to ensure minimal intrusion by noise and traffic so the Islamic students aren't disturbed while studying.

We'll then board our bus for Prambanan. Now a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, these huge **ancient Hindu temples** were built in the 9th century. The three main inner shrines are dedicated to the Hindu trinity: Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva.

Dinner and overnight in Jogja at the [Phoenix Hotel](#) or similar.

 **HIGHLIGHT!** This will be a **wonderful day of touring** this fascinating city and **cultural hub** of Java. It will be an excellent overview of all that Java is known for.

## Day 3

**Monday, September 19, 2016 - Jogja - Candirejo - Borobudur**

**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch**

After breakfast, we'll head out for a tour of **Borobudur**, the largest Buddhist temple in the world and quite a sight to behold. Comprised of thousands of **volcanic and river stones**, the temple took over 75 years to complete and is now a protected UNESCO World Heritage Site---just a snippet of what we'll learn about this amazing structure.

We'll then experience a bit of local life by taking a dokar (horse cart) ride through the peaceful village of **Candirejo**. We'll travel along **narrow streets lined with traditional homes** and have a chance to see the locals making cassava crackers (yum!), harvesting and drying vanilla and chili, and we'll even have a chance to learn to play the gamelan!

After lunch at a nearby restaurant, our day will continue with a visit to **Mendut and Pawon temples**. Older than Borobudur, these pyramid-shaped Buddhist temples date back to the 9th century.

In the afternoon we'll return to Jogja and you'll have dinner on your own (or take advantage of the hotel's spa and pool!).

Overnight in Jogja at the [Phoenix Hotel](#) or similar.

★ **HIGHLIGHT!** There are a total of **504 Buddha statues** that adorn Borobudur. This is Indonesia's most visited site and you'll appreciate why when you see the **grandeur** of this monument built in the 9th century.

#### Day 4

**Tuesday, September 20, 2016 - Jogja - Jombang - Mt. Bromo**

**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

After a very early breakfast, we'll go to the Jogja railway station for the scenic 3.5-hour **train ride to Jombang** in East Java. A local driver will meet us and we'll stop for an early lunch before we continue on to **Trowulan**, the site of the former capital of the **Majapahit kingdom**, which ruled the island of Java for centuries.

Here, we'll visit the **archaeological museum** and the temples of **Banjang Ratu** and **Candi Tikus** (a candi is a shrine). From Trowulan, we'll drive for about five hours to Mt. Bromo and **Bromo-Tengger Semeru National Park**. In the afternoon, we'll check in at our hotel located near the **Tengger Caldera**. All in all, this will be a day filled with the natural beauty of Java from start to finish.

Dinner and overnight near Bromo at [Java Banana](#) or similar.

★ **HIGHLIGHT!** Traveling by train in Java will be a **wonderful way to enjoy the beauty of the countryside** of central and east Java.

#### Day 5

**Wednesday, September 21, 2016 - Mt. Bromo - Jember - Kalibaru**

**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

We'll depart very early (around 3:00 a.m.) to catch the **sunrise at Mt. Bromo**. We'll travel by 4WD Jeeps to the perfect spot to watch the sun rise as it comes up over the volcano.

We'll continue in our Jeeps down to the caldera, which is often covered by mist (and lots of ash) in the early morning. This combination of mist and ash creates an unusual atmosphere, often **compared to the surface of the moon!** You can then either walk the 15 minutes to the base of this still-active crater or take a **pony ride**. You'll still need to traverse hundreds of steps to the rim, but the adventure is well worth the walk.

We'll return to the hotel around 8:00 a.m. for breakfast and to check out. We'll then continue by road for the approximate six-hour drive to Kalibaru, stopping for lunch in Jember. Although this will be a full day of driving, it will be through some **very scenic areas**. There will be time for **breaks** along the way.

In the late afternoon, we'll arrive at our hotel in Kalibaru where we'll have dinner.

Overnight at [Margo Utomo Hill View Resort](#) or similar.

★ **HIGHLIGHT!** Watching the sun come up over the mountains will be an **extraordinary experience** that's well worth the early morning wake-up call.

## Day 6

**Thursday, September 22, 2016 - Kalibaru - Ijen**

**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch**

After a leisurely breakfast, we'll take a 1.5-hour tour of the gardens owned by the **Margo Utomo Agro Resort**. Throughout the tour, we'll learn about the wide range of crops grown here, from **coffee to a vast array of spices**, including **nutmeg, pepper, cinnamon, cocoa and coconut**. We'll return to the hotel to freshen up, check out and have lunch.

In the afternoon, we'll depart for **Ijen** (about two hours away), near the small town of Banyuwangi and check in to our hotel.

Dinner is on your own and can be at a small local (fantastic!) restaurant nearby or at the hotel.

We'll overnight at [Ijen Resort](#) or similar.

## Day 7

**Friday, September 23, 2016 - Mt. Ijen - Pemuteran**

**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

After an early breakfast, we'll set off once again by 4WD Jeeps to **Mt. Ijen and Paltuding base camp** (6,070 feet, about 1.5 hours away). We'll make the hike (about 1.5 miles) to the top of Mt. Ijen with its large crater lake surrounded by sulphur mines.

From the top at 7,825 feet, we'll enjoy the **views of the crater lake**, which is an astounding 650 feet deep and contains steaming, acidic water.

Note: Mt. Ijen is an active volcano. An alternative program will be provided if the volcano is closed during our stay. Though the trek up is relatively easy (i.e. not very steep), it's made difficult by the very fine dirt and ash, and is a bit dangerous on the way down. Shoes with traction are a must. Those who are steady on their feet will do fine.

We'll return via the same route to base camp and continue by road to Banyuwangi for lunch. In the afternoon, we'll check in at the ferry terminal in Ketapang before **crossing the Bali Strait** to Gilimanuk on Bali's western shores. We'll then travel by road to our hotel.

Dinner and overnight at [Naya Gawana Resort and Spa](#) or similar.

 **HIGHLIGHT!** Once again, we'll have the chance to discover Java's **beautiful scenery** and dramatic landscape while visiting Mt. Ijen. During our walk to the top, we'll likely encounter men, often barefoot, carrying loads of up sulphur that can weigh up to 150 pounds.

## Day 8

**Saturday, September 24, 2016 - Pemuteran**

**Meals: Breakfast**

Today is a break for some leisure time. We'll have the day free to enjoy the resort and its quiet surroundings or you might consider booking a **snorkeling trip** (approximately \$75 additional) in Menjangan for what's considered to be the **most beautiful snorkeling on Bali**.

Lunch will be provided during the snorkeling trip, but if you don't go snorkeling, you'll be on your own for both lunch and dinner.

Overnight at [Naya Gawana Resort and Spa](#) or similar.

### Day 9

**Sunday, September 25, 2016 - Pemuteran - Munduk**

**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

We'll have more leisure time this morning with both breakfast and lunch at the hotel.

In the afternoon, we'll depart for the drive along the north coast of Bali. We'll stop at a **rarely visited Buddhist temple**, home to the largest Buddha statue on the island. We'll also have some time to stop at the Banjar Hot Springs. If you like you can even take a dip here!

In the afternoon, we'll check in to our hotel and enjoy the amazing rice fields around the cottages.

Dinner and overnight in Munduk at [Puri Lumbung Cottages](#) or similar.

★ **HIGHLIGHT!** One thing that makes this Buddhist temple so remarkable is the **lack of tourists**. It really is a **beautiful sight to behold** but made even more wonderful by the peace and quiet.

### Day 10

**Monday, September 26, 2016 - Munduk - Bedugul - Jatiluwih - Tanah Lot - Ubud**

**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch**

Today, we'll drive to nearby **Bedugul**, an area in the central highlands famous for its **stunning beauty and three lakes**. At Lake Bratan, we'll see **Ulun Danu Temple**, which is set on an island in the lake. We'll then visit the area's **traditional market** where myriad **fruits, vegetables and orchids** are for sale from the area's gardens. There are also stalls selling exotic spices and souvenirs.

Lunch will be at a restaurant located right next to the **rice fields of Jatiluwih**, a UNESCO World Heritage site. We'll enjoy a leisurely walk through the fields to photograph and learn about the **subak style of rice production**. We'll then head onward to **Tanah Lot Temple**. Set on a huge rock in the sea and only reachable during low tide, this sacred temple is visited by all Balinese Hindus several times a year.

We'll then head to Ubud where we'll overnight at [Plataran Hotel](#) or similar.

★ **HIGHLIGHT!** Ulun Danu Temple is one of Bali's most **iconic and photographed sites**. The lake itself is a major water resource for irrigation, and many **offering ceremonies** take place here for the water goddess Dewi Danu.

## Day 11

**Tuesday, September 27, 2016 - Ubud**

**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

Today is all about the many charms of Ubud as we visit **museums, galleries and palaces**. The first stop will be **Tilem Gallery** in nearby Mas Village. This gallery is well known for its **fine wood carvings** and masterful carvers.

Next we'll stop at **Peliatan Palace**, the largest and oldest palace in the greater Ubud area. The palace has ties to the performing arts that go back centuries. It's still highly regarded as a venue for classical dance and music.

We'll continue our tour with a visit to Agung Rai Museum of Art (ARMA) and enjoy one of the best permanent **collections of Balinese and Indonesian paintings and sculptures**. This museum is the perfect place to get an overview of the island's rich artistic traditions.

For lunch, we'll stop at a restaurant perched on a ridge above the Campuhan River that has breathtaking views of the hillsides and river below.

Following lunch, we'll visit the fascinating **Blanco Renaissance Museum**. Antonio Blanco is arguably the most famous artist to have ever lived in Bali and his former home has been converted into a museum with an extensive collection of his work.

We'll continue to the **Sacred Monkey Forest**, and the name doesn't lie. Monkeys are plentiful here. We'll walk to **Pura Dalem Agung Temple**, located at the highest point in the forest, and learn about the spiritual significance of this temple to Hindus. We'll finish the afternoon with a walk around **Ubud Market** where local vendors sell food as well as handicrafts and textiles.

We'll have dinner at one of the oldest (and best!) restaurants in Ubud, Cafe Wayan.

Overnight in Ubud at [Plataran Hotel](#) or similar.

 **HIGHLIGHT!** The Blanco Renaissance Museum might be one of the most **delightfully unexpected experiences** of this trip. We'll have time to view the artist's many works and learn about his eccentric lifestyle.

## Day 12

**Wednesday, September 28, 2016 - Ubud**

**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch**

After breakfast, we'll head off to our cooking class. But before we get into the kitchen, we'll go to the **vegetable market** where we'll browse the stalls and learn about the fresh spices, herbs and vegetables that we'll use during class.

We'll also take a **rice paddy and village tour** to learn about regional foods from another angle. During the class, not only will we learn about the techniques of Balinese cooking, but we'll also learn about the ceremonial and cultural **significance of food in Balinese society**.

The remainder of the day is free for exploring or shopping in Ubud and dinner is on your own.

Overnight in Ubud at [Plataran Hotel](#) or similar.

★ **HIGHLIGHT!** There's nothing like **exploring a culture through its food**. Today we'll do just that during a hands-on cooking class. You'll also take home recipes so you can enjoy the experience when you return home.

### Day 13

**Thursday, September 29, 2016 - Ubud - Nusa Dua**

**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

After breakfast, we'll drive to **Gunung Kawi**. Set amidst lush rice terraces, these 11th century temples feature 10 rock-cut candis carved into the cliff face. They stand over 21 feet high and combine ancient **Hindu and Buddhist temple attributes**. Hundreds of stairs lead down to the temple, so wear good walking shoes and be prepared for hot weather with cool clothes and lots of drinking water.

We'll continue to the nearby village of **Tampaksiring** to explore Tirta Empul, a temple dedicated to Vishnu and famous for its **sacred holy water**. All Balinese bathe here at least once a year for a ritual cleansing.

Driving farther north, we'll reach **Kintamani**, with breathtaking views of **volcanic Mt. Batur**. Adjacent to the volcano is the large crescent-shaped Batur Lake, surrounded by the high walls of the crater rim.

We'll have lunch at a local restaurant that has a spectacular view of Lake Batur and then continue on with a visit to **Besakih**, known as the "Mother Temple" of Bali. Located on the western slopes of Mt. Agung, Besakih is the **largest and most important temple** on the island. We'll then continue south to Nusa Dua where we'll check in to our hotel.

This is an all-inclusive resort. You can choose to have dinner and drinks before or after tonight's performance or order room service any time you like!

This is an all-inclusive resort. You'll have the afternoon and evening to enjoy the resort's amenities and to take advantage of a massage treatment (included!).

Overnight in Nusa Dua at [Samabe Resort](#) or similar. (See why this is such a [special](#) resort.)

★ **HIGHLIGHT!** The DEV DAN performance is a fantastic compilation of various traditional **music and dance styles** from around the islands. It's a must-see for anyone visiting Indonesia.

### Day 14

**Friday, September 30, 2016 - Nusa Dua - Uluwatu**

**Meal: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

We'll have breakfast at the hotel and then head to the **R.O.L.E. Foundation** to learn about how this organization helps marginalized women by providing them with skills and education. We'll also have a wonderful opportunity to meet with these young women and help them practice their English.

Afterward, we drive to **Uluwatu Temple**, undoubtedly the region's most illustrious temple. Perched 250 feet above the water on a sheer cliff, it's a perfect vantage point to the beach below, one of the best for surfing on the island. We'll watch the huge waves roll in from the Indian Ocean and crash against the cliffs. We'll also see monkeys as they love this area.

You can choose to have dinner and drinks before or after tonight's performance or order room service any time you like!

In the evening, we'll watch a fantastic music and dance show called DEV DAN. The variety of performances in the show offers an introduction to the many cultures found throughout Indonesia, from Sumatra to Papua.

Dinner and overnight in Nusa Dua at [Samabe Resort](#) or similar.

### **Day 15**

**Saturday, October 1, 2016 - Nusa Dua - Departure**

**Meals: Breakfast**

Today is free at your leisure until it's time for the transfer to the airport in Denpasar for your departing flight. If you haven't yet taken advantage of the resort's spa, you can **schedule a massage appointment** before your departure.

Because Samabe is such a beautiful resort, please **consider departing late at night** so that you have a full extra day at the resort. Additional nights are available for approximately \$500/night.

\*\* Itinerary subject to change without notice.