



Bali & Java: Culture & Landscapes of Indonesia

12 days | 15 days with Komodo & Bali extension

When it comes to exploring Asia, forever favorites like Japan and Thailand are top of mind for many travelers (and for good reason). But those who venture off the beaten path—to Indonesia, in particular—will be handsomely rewarded. This Southeast Asian nation's islands are as unique as they are scenic, and each offers cultural experiences you won't find anywhere else. On the idyllic island of Bali, explore a rural rice farm and an emerald monkey forest. Tap into your spiritual side during a yoga class, and experience the purifying powers of water. On neighboring Java, watch the sun rise over a pair of towering volcanoes, and take in the grandeur of ancient Hindu and Buddhist temples. If your ideal travel mates are four-legged, feathered, or scaled, extend your visit and explore Komodo, which some have called the "Galapagos of Southeast Asia."



Your tour package includes

- 9 nights in handpicked hotels
- 9 breakfasts
- 4 lunches
- 4 dinners with beer or wine
- 1 food tasting
- 1 cooking class
- 10 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach
- 2 on-tour flights
- 1 train ride

Included highlights

- Bali rice farm visit
- Ubud Monkey Forest
- Holy Spring Temple water purification ceremony
- Java's Borobudur Temple
- Kris dagger-making workshop
- Mount Bromo sunrise jeep tour
- Beaches of Bali

Tour pace

On this guided tour, you will walk for about three hours or more daily across flat and hilly terrain, including paved roads and dirt paths, with few stairs. You may need to climb stairs when visiting temples.

Group size

12-22

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Overnight Flight → 1 night

Day 1: Travel Day

Board your overnight flight to Bali today.

Ubud → 3 nights

Day 2: Arrival in Ubud

Welcome to Indonesia! This evening, settle in to your hotel in Ubud, on the island of Bali.

Day 3: Rice farm visit, basket-weaving demonstration & Monkey Forest

Included meals: breakfast, tasting, welcome lunch

Meet up with a local guide and get to know Ubud, a peaceful, spiritual town on the island of Bali that's known for its temples and wealth of cultural traditions. The emerald rice fields and lush jungles that surround Ubud are among Bali's most famous landscapes.

- Stroll through the traditional farming village of Subak Guliang and witness daily rituals of rural life unfolding around you.
- Visit a rice farm to learn about the complexities of rice production and the importance of the grain, which Balinese people view as a gift from God and a symbol of life.
- Enjoy a tasting of coconut water, and pick up rice-cooking tips you can practice when you're home.

Make your way into the rice field and sit down for a scenic welcome lunch. Get to know your fellow travelers and Tour Director as traditional Rindik music—a softly percussive style played on bamboo instruments—hums delicately in the background. Afterward, discover more Balinese traditions.

- Join a hands-on workshop, during which you'll prepare your own canang sari—a small offering of gratitude locals prepare daily for Hindu deities.
- With your basket and offering ready, don a sarong and sash and enjoy a walk to the farming village's temple.
- At the temple, meet one of the village priests, who will bless you and your fellow travelers after you've placed your offerings.

- Depart the rice farm and visit Ubud Monkey Forest, a lush forest and temple complex that's home to more than 700 long-tailed macaques.

Day 4: Morning yoga, cooking class & Elephant Cave Temple

Included meals: breakfast, lunch

Begin the day with a personalized morning yoga class. Then, try your hand at making traditional Balinese dishes during a cooking class taught by an expert chef. Join your fellow travelers and enjoy the lunch you've prepared together. Later, pay a visit to some of the area's most unique and important sites.

- Stop by Goa Gajah, or the Elephant Cave temple—a mysterious Hindu archaeological site just outside of the city whose menacing, carved-stone entrance has been likened to a demon's mouth.
- Visit the Holy Spring Temple, or Tampak Siring, to learn about water's symbolic significance to Balinese people and to take part in a water purification ceremony in the temple's cleansing pool.

Spend a free evening in Ubud or add an excursion.

Please note: A change of clothes and/or a bathing suit is recommend for the water purification ceremony.

+ Balinese Dance Show & Dinner

Yogyakarta Region → 2 nights

Day 5: Flight to Yogyakarta & Prambanan temple walk

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Today, fly to the island of Java and explore Yogyakarta—the cradle of civilization on the island and one of Indonesia's foremost cultural centers.

- Head to the 10th-century Prambanan—a UNESCO World Heritage site and the largest temple compound in Indonesia dedicated to the Hindu deity Shiva.
- Visit the complex's main courtyard and view the intricately carved temples and their spires, which illustrate the story of Ramayana—an ancient, Sanskrit epic.

- Hear about restoration work that's been underway since 1918, including work to clean up destruction from volcanic eruptions and earthquakes.

Enjoy an included dinner this evening served with beer or wine.

Day 6: Borobudur Temple, Candirejo village & kris-making demonstration

Included meals: breakfast, lunch

Spend the day discovering ancient temple grounds and Javanese culture.

- Visit Borobudur Temple—the world's largest monument to Buddha and a UNESCO World Heritage site that dates to the eighth and ninth centuries.
- View the 70-plus openwork stupas—dome-shaped, Buddhist shrines—that adorn the pyramid's 10 terraces, which represent the stages one must achieve before attaining Buddhahood.
- Make your way to the countryside village of Candirejo and sit down for an included lunch.
- Enjoy a walk through the peaceful village, which is surrounded by plantations and lush landscapes, as you learn about ancient traditions and daily life.
- Enter a local workshop, where you'll watch a kris-making demonstration and learn about the ancient Javanese dagger, a UNESCO-listed Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Bromo Region → 2 nights

Day 7: Train ride to the Bromo region

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Travel by train this morning to East Java and its Bromo region, home to the volcanic Mount Bromo. Upon arrival in Mojokerto, disembark your train and make your way to your hotel in the Bromo region.

After settling in at your hotel, join your group for this evening's included dinner, which is served with beer or wine.

Day 8: Mount Bromo jeep tour & walk

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner

Wake up early this morning and climb aboard a Jeep for a sunrise tour of volcanic Mount Bromo,

which is situated within Bromo Tengger Semeru National Park. With its spectacular views that include Mount Bromo in the foreground and towering Mount Semeru—Indonesia’s highest volcano—in the background, the park draws nature buffs and sunrise enthusiasts from all around the world.

- Drive into Bromo Tengger Semeru National Park and admire the roughly 300-square-mile park’s dramatic landscapes as the mist slowly lifts.
- Stop at a viewpoint to watch the sun rise over the impressive landscape and to enjoy views of the 12,060-foot-high Mount Semeru.
- Enjoy an included picnic breakfast as you take in the views and history of the park.
- Drive down to the Sea of Sand (or Lautan Pasir, as the local Tenggerese people call it), a vast desert of sand and volcanic ash that surrounds Mount Bromo.
- Walk along the sand to Pura Luhur Poten, a sacred Hindu temple situated at the foot of Mount Bromo—and, if you’d like, ascend 250 stairs to the crater’s rim to peer into the caldera.
- Return to your hotel in the Bromo region and enjoy an included lunch.

This evening, sit down for an included dinner served with beer or wine.

Nusa Dua → 2 nights

Day 9: Flight to Bali

Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner

Fly back to Bali this morning, landing in the city of Denpasar. Transfer to your seaside oasis in Nusa Dua, a resort area that’s widely considered Bali’s most luxurious enclave.

This evening, celebrate your trip—and raise a toast to your Indonesia adventure—during a farewell dinner served with beer or wine.

Day 10: Free day in Nusa Dua

Included meals: breakfast

Spend a free day in Nusa Dua, or add an excursion.

+ Nusa Lembongan Catamaran Cruise & Lunch

Overnight Flight → 1 night

Day 11: Departure

Included meals: breakfast

Relax in a day room before departing for the airport for your overnight flight home. Or, continue on to explore the island of Komodo.

Arrive Home

Day 12: Travel Day

Arrive home today.

+ Komodo & Bali extension

Calling all animal lovers and nature enthusiasts: The island of Komodo, along with its namesake national park, is home to some of Asia’s most epic landscapes (think pink-sand beaches and craggy, coastal cliffs), not to mention a certain prehistoric-looking lizard with a scary-sounding name. Soak in all the natural splendor, then head back to Bali for a last little dose of R&R.

Komodo → 2 nights

Day 11: Flight to Komodo region

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Spend a free morning in Nusa Dua before flying to the island of Flores this afternoon.

Sit down this evening for an included dinner served with beer or wine.

Day 12: Komodo National Park

Included meals: breakfast, lunch

Spend the day exploring the volcanic island of Komodo and its UNESCO-listed national park, which spans three major islands—Rinca, Komodo, and Padar—and numerous smaller ones. The park is home to more than 5,500 of the hulking reptiles known as Komodo Dragons.

- Board a wooden boat on the island of Flores and cruise into Komodo National Park, where you’ll find a blend of rugged hillsides, tropical forests, grassy savannas, and colorful beaches with coral-rich waters.
- Set out on a walk to Banunggulung, a popular site for spotting Komodo Dragons, which exist nowhere else in the world in the wild.
- Learn more about the largest species of lizard as you observe them in their natural habitat—and keep an eye out for other wildlife, like deer and Orange-footed Scrubfowl.

- Climb back on board your boat and enjoy an included lunch as you cruise to Pantai Merah, or Pink Beach, so named because of the broken bits of red coral that make its sand appear pink.
 - Enjoy free time to snorkel in the beautiful turquoise waters or relax on the pink sand.
 - Cruise to Rinca island, where you’ll trek through the dense forests and savannas to look for some of the island’s 1,300 Komodo Dragons, water buffalo, wild pigs, and a variety of bird species.
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Nusa Dua → 1 night

Day 13: Flight to Bali

Included meals: breakfast

Return to Bali on a flight this morning, then enjoy free time for the rest of the day in Nusa Dua.

Overnight Flight → 1 night

Day 14: Departure

Included meals: breakfast

Relax in a day room before departing for the airport for your overnight flight home.

Arrive Home

Day 15: Travel Day

Arrive home today.

Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save \$10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: goaheadtours.com/JAB | 1-800-597-0350

Day 4: Balinese Dance Show & Dinner

\$155 (3 hours, departs in the evening, includes dinner)

Visit a local dance hall this evening to get a taste of traditional Balinese dance, many styles of which draw on ancient Hindu traditions and feature movements that range from solemn to graceful to big and bold. While dance performances vary daily, one of the most popular and beloved is the Kecak Dance, a UNESCO-listed Intangible Cultural Heritage that tells the story of Ramayana and is accompanied by a rhythmic, choral chant. No matter which dance you end up seeing, you'll find yourself fully immersed in—and captivated by—this expressive Balinese art form. Afterward, head to a local restaurant and sit down for an included dinner before heading back to your hotel. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 20 days prior to departure.

Day 10: Nusa Lembongan Catamaran Cruise & Lunch

\$169 (9.5 hours, departs in the morning, includes lunch)

Enjoy a day of leisure as you and your fellow travelers cruise aboard your own private, luxury catamaran and relax at a local beach club. Begin the day by climbing aboard your vessel at Nusa Dua's Benoa Harbor. From there, sail atop sapphire waters to the tiny island of Nusa Lembongan and disembark at a beach club for a day of kayaking, snorkeling, and zipping around the bay on banana boats. If you're in the mood for something a little more low-key, relax on the sand, enjoy a spot of shade in the gardens, or lounge in the club's lagoon pool. For lunch, enjoy a barbecue feast complete with a variety of Western and Indonesian dishes. After plenty of time to enjoy the sun, sand, and surf, board your catamaran for the return trip to Nusa Dua, then head back to your hotel. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 20 days prior to departure.

*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. GAT accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions purchased on tour. Excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour. Learn more at goaheadtours.com/terms