Asia Concierge

THE ART OF TRAVEL DESIGN



THE CULTURAL COMPANION

INDONESIA

BOOKS, FILMS AND SERIES TO ENJOY BEFORE YOU TRAVEL

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Seventeen thousand islands, hundreds of languages and a history full of drama: Indonesia is endlessly fascinating. These novels, travel classics and films will introduce you to Java's royal heritage, Bali's music and ritual, and the remarkable natural world that first captivated Alfred Russel Wallace.

TO READ

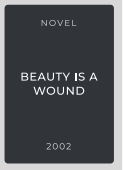
FICTION



This Earth of Mankind · Pramoedya Ananta Toer · 1980

The first of the Buru Quartet: a young Javanese man comes of age under Dutch colonial rule.

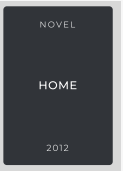
UK AMAZON
USA AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS



Beauty Is a Wound · Eka Kurniawan · 2002

A sweeping, magical-realist family saga spanning a century of Indonesian history.

UK AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS
USA AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS



Home · Leila S. Chudori · 2012

A novel of exile and belonging, moving between Paris and Jakarta.

UK AMAZON
USA AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS



Max Havelaar · Multatuli · 1860

The Dutch classic that exposed colonial abuses in Java, still widely read today.

UK AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS
USA AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS



The Question of Red · Laksmi Pamuntjak · 2012

A sweeping love story set against Indonesia's turbulent 1960s, moving from Java to the island of Buru.

UK AMAZON
USA AMAZON

NON-FICTION



Indonesia Etc. · Elizabeth Pisani · 2014

A witty, insightful journey across the archipelago, island by island, exploring what holds the nation together.

UK AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS
USA AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS



A House in Bali · Colin McPhee · 1947

A composer's memoir of 1930s Bali and its gamelan music, a classic of travel writing.

UK AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS
USA AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS



The Malay Archipelago · Alfred Russel Wallace · 1869

The great naturalist's account of eight years exploring the islands, from orangutans to birds of paradise.

UK AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS
USA AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS



Krakatoa · Simon Winchester · 2003

The gripping story of the 1883 eruption heard around the world.

UK AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS
USA AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS



Nathaniel's Nutmeg · Giles Milton · 1999

The extraordinary story of the race for nutmeg in the tiny Banda Islands.

UK AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS
USA AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS

TO WATCH

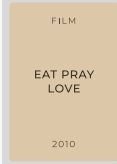
FILMS & SERIES



The Year of Living Dangerously · Peter Weir · 1982

A foreign correspondent and his photographer in Jakarta in 1965, starring Mel Gibson and Sigourney Weaver.

UK APPLE TV · AMAZON
USA PRIME VIDEO · APPLE TV



Eat Pray Love · Ryan Murphy · 2010

Based on Elizabeth Gilbert's memoir, with its final chapter set among the rice fields and villages around Ubud.

UK NETFLIX · APPLE TV
USA APPLE TV+ · APPLE TV



Marlina the Murderer in Four Acts · Mouly Surya · 2017

A striking "satay western" set among the savannah hills of Sumba.

UK AMAZON
USA APPLE TV · AMAZON



Aruna & Her Palate · Edwin · 2018

A food-loving road movie that eats its way across Indonesia.

UK NETFLIX
USA NETFLIX



Yuni · Kamila Andini · 2021

A sensitive coming-of-age drama about a bright teenage girl in a small Javanese town.

UK *Not currently available*
USA APPLE TV · AMAZON



Before, Now & Then · Kamila Andini · 2022

An elegant period drama set in 1960s West Java, prize-winner at the Berlin Film Festival.

UK *Not currently available*
USA APPLE TV · AMAZON

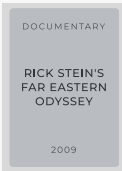
DOCUMENTARIES & TRAVEL SERIES



Street Food: Asia · Netflix · 2019

The Yogyakarta episode meets Mbah Satinem, who has sold traditional Javanese sweets on the same street for decades.

UK NETFLIX
USA NETFLIX



Rick Stein's Far Eastern Odyssey · BBC · 2009

Rick Stein explores the cooking of Southeast Asia, including a feast of Balinese food.

UK SKY GO · U (UKTV)
USA PRIME VIDEO



Anthony Bourdain: Parts Unknown · CNN · 2018

The Indonesia episode uses a shadow-puppet performance to explore a nation of thousands of islands, united by food.

UK PRIME VIDEO · AMAZON
USA HBO MAX · APPLE TV

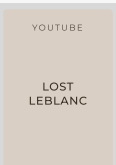


Bali: Beats of Paradise · Livi Zheng · 2018

A documentary celebrating Balinese gamelan music and the musicians who keep it alive.

UK *Not currently available*
USA APPLE TV · AMAZON

YOUTUBE CHANNELS TO FOLLOW



Lost LeBlanc · @LostLeBlanc

Christian LeBlanc's cinematic travel films, with lots of Bali and Indonesia.

WATCH YOUTUBE



Paddy Doyle · @PaddyDoyleYT

British travel vlogger exploring Southeast Asia, with honest, upbeat travel guides.

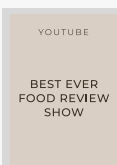
WATCH YOUTUBE



Mark Wiens · @MarkWiens

Bangkok-based food vlogger, famous for his joyful street-food videos across Asia.

WATCH YOUTUBE



Best Ever Food Review Show · @BestEverFoodReviewShow

Sonny Side's adventurous food series, exploring local dishes across Southeast Asia.

WATCH YOUTUBE

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WE KNOW ASIA INTIMATELY.

ASIA KNOWS US.

VIETNAM · CAMBODIA · LAOS · THAILAND
INDONESIA · SINGAPORE · JAPAN · CHINA

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