

Asia Concierge



CONCIERGE COLLECTION

DAY TRAVEL PROGRAMS TO INSPIRE



BALI, INDONESIA



ASIA-CONCIERGE.COM



HOW WE DEFINE TRAVEL TODAY

It is all too easy to travel to the main centres of a destination and consider having ‘seen it’. However, the true backbone of Asia’s culture and society is found in the unknown, the unaware, the places and areas where throngs of tourists do not tread because, quite simply, the knowledge and insight is not there to begin with. This is where we come in.

As tourism in the region expands and develops, most of us yearn for a travel experience away from the commercial centres. We have therefore carefully researched and created a series of select journeys that best represent another side of Asia ... an Asia that will enrich a trip with memories, an experience and an education.

This is about travelling with style, a high degree of comfort but, at the same time, being out of ones comfort zone to formulate a travel experience that will enrich a visit with insights and exchanges that will, hopefully, prove to be the highlight of your customer’s stay in this enigmatic region.

Ranging from the exclusive to the moderate, our concierge collection of travel programs are either half or full day excursions from the main centres and are therefore easily placed into a client’s base itinerary.

Please contact our Indonesia office for pricing and to discuss any custom options to meet your client’s exact needs.

Thank you for travelling with us on this armchair journey.

The Asia Concierge Team



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Above left : East Bali
Countryside

Above right : Local
schoolboy in Sidemen

Below: Kerta Gosa
pavillion

Click to hear your Travel Designer discuss the
merits and attractions of this program.



Sideman Side Quest

A DAY VISIT TO THIS QUINTESSENTIAL BALINESE VILLAGE

 CULTURAL | EXPLORATORY | ACTIVE

Depart : 0800 / Return : 1800

Today we will explore Sidemen, a quintessential Balinese village located in the foothills of Mount Agung. The area is reminiscent of the Bali of yesteryear before tourism took hold of most of the island, the quaint villages of Sidemen are a far cry from the built up tourists resorts of Bali's southern beaches and central Ubud.

On route to Sidemen we take a short stop at the Kulngkung Palace & Taman Kerta Gosa. The palace dates back to the end of the 17th century, but was largely destroyed by the Dutch on their colonial conquest of Bali in 1908.

Today all that remains are the court of justice, the Kerta Gosa Pavilion & the main gate. The Klungkung kingdom was considered to be the highest and most important of the nine kingdoms of Bali during this period. The city was famed for its arts, painting, dance and music.

At the end of the 18th century, the Kerta Gosa Pavilion was erected. Typifying the Klungkung style of architecture and painting, the Kerta Gosa was the court of the high king of Bali. Presided over by 3 Brahman Priest the court would try cases on the island which could not be resolved which were transferred to this site.

Upon arriving into the Pavilion the person on trial was able to view the ceiling which depicted different punishments in the afterlife, the results of karma, while they were awaiting sentencing, These paintings are one of the outstanding examples of the Kamasan style.

After our time at the palace we continue to Sidemen, we can already start to see the scenery shift as we pass through number of small plantations, rice fields and local villages. It's a pleasant drive with plenty of opportunity for people watching and watching the changing scenery as we pass by.

Once we arrive in Sidemen we will enjoy a nice leisurely walk through the countryside, along rice terraces to reach a local Balinese home.

The women of the home are all experts at weaving fabric using the traditional ikat method. Ikat is a unique dying technique used to create patterns in the fabric, and Sidemen is considered one of the best producers of ikat fabric in the world. We continue our walk through the rice fields, stopping to speak to the local farmers, and villagers along the way to find out more about the daily life in this beautiful Balinese village.

Our walk then brings us to a local forest where a picnic lunch awaits us to enjoy under the forest canopy. After lunch we return to the main village where we meet Agung, a local silversmith. Agung will give us a short demonstration of his craft and there is also an opportunity for you to try your hand at melting, beating and shaping some jewellery yourselves.

Our time in Sidemen is complete and we return to the hotel in time for dinner.





Unforgettable Ulu - Spa Safari By Vintage VW

CLASSIC CAR RIDE, ULUWATU TEMPLE, LUXURIOUS SPA

CULTURAL | IDYLLIC

Depart : 0900 / Return : 1200

You will be collected from your hotel by classic VW Kublewagon and driven South to Jimbaran. Here you will board a Jukung - a traditional Balinese fishing boat for a two hour cruise off the coast of the Bukit Peninsula. Sit back and relax and enjoy the scenery as you enjoy some light refreshments and snacks that are served on board the boat. These colourful boats use only one main cloth sail and in favourable winds it can cruise the ocean surface at fairly rapid pace.

Returning to shore you are met by your driver and guide and hop back into your open top vehicle for the drive south to Uluwatu, home of some of Bali's best coastline and hidden beaches. Cruising along the coastal roads with the top down we will visit our first hidden gem, Tegal Wangi Beach. The beach offers breathtaking seascapes with natural features – low tides and crimson sunsets reveal seaweed-covered stony barriers that add an abstract border to the wide ocean views. This beach is kept a secret among wedding photographers as its simple and barren beauty makes for exotic backdrops.

A short drive down the coast is Pantai Cemongkak Hill, located between the popular and often crowded Dreamland and Binging Beach. Leaving the car at the roadside we walk down a small alley to reach a vast open green field. Here your picnic lunch will be waiting and perfectly set up under a traditional balinese umbrella for you to enjoy the fantastic views over to the neighbouring beaches and out to the ocean.

With our stomachs full we continue our safari through Bali's Bukit Peninsula, continuing along the most southern coast we reach Uluwatu Temple, perched on a cliffside 70 metres above the crashing Indian Ocean's waves. Several archaeological remains dating back to the tenth century have been found within the site and the monkeys that live in its surrounding forest are said to be the temple's guardians.

A short drive from Uluwatu Temple is Karang Boma Cliff, where we can stop and enjoy the view of Uluwatu Temple from a different perspective.

Our final beach stop is Nyang Nyang Beach, a pristine 1.5-kilometre stretch of coastline and also one of Bali's least visited beaches. Here you can feel completely off the grid as there is no phone signal here and just a couple of small wooden warungs serving up ice cold beers and coconuts. If you are feeling like a stroll then you can walk to the east side of the beach, an ideal spot for a Robinson Crusoe day out. Here you will encounter fewer visitors than on the west side. Swimming is also a bit easier here as there are more areas without a reef.

After a busy day out in the sun its time to say goodbye to our friendly kublewagon driver and reenergise our bodies with a luxurious pamper sessions at Karma Kandara Spa. Situated on the cliff overlooking the vast Indian Ocean, your divine time includes a deeply relaxing full body massage for two in their delightful massage bales. Soak up the views from their Infrared Detox Sauna session and cliff-hanging water pool.

After sunset, the Executive Chef prepares one of his specialties, a Seductive Seafood Dinner for Two. Journey from a range of divine Mediterranean seafood, including fresh oysters, prawns, snapper ceviche and an unforgettable exotic chocolate fondue with sweet grapes and strawberries for dessert. A bottle of sparkling wine enhances your enchanting evening.

After dinner you will be met by your driver and guide and transferred back to your hotel.



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Above left : VW Kublewagon

Above right : Uluwatu & coastline

Below right : Private Spa Bale at Karma Spa, Karma Kandara

Click to hear your Travel Designer discuss the merits and attractions of this program.





Above: Puri Tanah Lot
Below: Waterfall at Melasti Beach, Tabanan

Click to hear your Travel Designer discuss the merits and attractions of this program.



Sunrise & Sea Gods

A MORNING AT TANAH LOT WITH PRIVATE BREAKFAST

 CULTURAL

Depart : 0500 / Return : 1000

An early rise for this mornings adventure to Tanah Lot Temple and our special beachside breakfast, one of the most famous and visited temples on the island of gods.

Tanah Lot means "Land in the Sea" in the Balinese language, the temple sits on a large offshore rock which has been shaped continuously over the years by the ocean tide. Tanah Lot is claimed to be the work of the 16th-century Dang Hyang Nirartha, who built the temple as he felt it to be a holy place to worship the Balinese sea gods.

Arriving at the temple in the early morning means we get to experience the temple without the crowds of tourists who visit the temple in their masses every day. We may see a few locals coming to pray or if we are lucky we may get to witness a crowd of locals gathering for a sun rise ceremony, but we should be one of a few visitors at the temple complex during this time.

As the sun rises behind us and the morning light shines on Puri Tanah Lot, our knowledgable travel expert will guide you around the temple complex and tell the story as to why the temple was built and the importance it plays in the daily lives of the Balinese people.

After our time touring the temple complex we will partake in a short 15 minute walk west of the temple along a coastal path towards Melasti Beach before taking the path down the cliff side to the beach itself. Once we arrive at the beach you will notice a small waterfall cascading down the cliff face and onto the beach. This spot, beside the waterfall, is where our travel expert will prepare you a special picnic breakfast of fresh pastries, fruits, coffee and juices for you to enjoy under the morning sun.

Once breakfast is finished it's time to make our way back to the hotel with a short stop at Taman Ayun Temple. Built in the 17th century by the former king of Mengwi, the temple is surrounded by a water moat and features rows of shrines and pavilions.





Ubud In Focus

SUWAT WATERFALL, TIRTA EMPUL, TEGALLALANG, PAKUDUI, MONKEY FOREST

CULTURAL

Depart : 08.00 / Return : 18.00

Located amongst the cool mountains of central Bali is Ubud. Often referred to as Bali's cultural heart, Ubud is a relaxed destination with museums, galleries, and a wealth of cute cafes which line its streets. Today we will introduce you to this famous town and its surrounding areas on a full day highlights tour.

After breakfast you will be collected from you hotel and driven to Suwat Waterfall. Yet to be discovered by many tourists, the waterfall relatively quiet. It offers a small natural pool that's great for swimming and taking photos in front of the waterfall.

Our tour continues by driving to Manukaya Village, home of Bali's most famous water temple, Tirta Empul. The temple is said to possess curative qualities and is dedicated to Vishnu, the Hindu God of Water. Here we can join the locals in the purification pools by partaking in the purification ritual, placing our heads under each one of the 30 waterspouts pouring into the pool.

After drying off and changing our clothes we depart for Tegallalang, home of some of the most impressive rice terraces in Bali. The area is well-known for its innovative *subak*, the irrigation system that breathes life into the terraces and is believed to date back as far as the eighth century.

After enjoying countless photo opportunities at the rice terraces we make the short drive to Pakudui village, also known as Garuda Village. The village is famous for its intricately-carved statues and ornaments which are carved out of albesia wood, the most common carving being that of the Garuda. Here your guide will introduce you to a local craftsman who will give you a short demonstration of his work.

After exploring the surrounding areas it's now time to make our way to central Ubud where we will stop for lunch. Your guide will provide you with a selection of our favourite cafes in Ubud for you to choose to enjoy lunch at, and will call ahead to make your reservation.

After lunch it's time to visit the monkeys at the Sacred Monkey Forest. This magical forest is home to 700 monkeys, 186 tree species, and 3 temples. Here we can explore the vast jungle with our guide who will ensure that you are not bothered too much by the cheeky Balinese monkeys that call the forest home.

We wave goodbye to our monkey friends and continue our tour with a visit to Ubud Palace. The palace showcases traditional Balinese architecture within an attractive garden that has become a hub for arts, dance and literature. It is one of the main sites to view traditional dance performances also hosting gamelan (traditional Balinese music) percussive orchestra performances every evening. The yearly Ubud Writers & Readers Festival's opening ceremony is also held here.

Our final stop of the day is perfect for those of us who wish to buy some local crafts, as we will visit the Ubud Art Market. The market serves as a hub for local crafts people from the neighbouring villages of Pengosekan, Tegallalang, Payangan and Peliatan to sell their products. Here you will find beautiful silk scarves, lightweight shirts, statues, kites, handmade woven bags, baskets, hats and many other hand-crafted goods. Be prepared to barter to get the best price, and your guide will be on hand to advise you as to what you should expect to pay.

Our time in Ubud has drawn to a close and we return to the hotel in time for dinner.



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Above left : Suwat Waterfall
Above right : Purification ritual @ Tirta Empul
Below : Tegallalang rice terraces

Click to hear your Travel Designer discuss the merits and attractions of this program.





Above : A private Kecak dance performance at a village temple



Top Left: Cycling along
Bali country paths

Top Right: Yeh Ho
waterfall


Below : Jatiluwih rice
terraces

Click to hear your Travel Designer discuss the
merits and attractions of this program.



Temples & Terraces

EXPLORING BATUKARU & JATILUWIH BY E-BIKE

 CULTURAL | EXPLORATORY | ACTIVE

Depart : 0800 / Return : 1600

This morning we will be transferred to Batukaru temple in the North of Bali. Constructed in the 11th century, it is one of nine temples that are said to protect the Balinese people from evil spirits. Its principal shrine pays homage to Mahadewa, the God of Mount Batukaru and the temple is often visited by the Balinese people as part of their pilgrimage.

After a short tour of the temple our two hour cycling adventure will begin. Using electric bikes we will cycle from Batukaru temple past beautiful landscapes to Jatiluwih.

The road from Batukaru to Jatiluwih has some beautiful scenery but is very different from the central Jatiluwih area. We pass with the easy to use e-bikes through dense jungle, by giant bamboo forest, local villages, rice terraces and can enjoy magnificent views over the island to the south.

Jatiluwih consists of more than 300 hectares of stunning nature, rice terraces and lush tropical vegetation.

With Mount Batukaru and Mount Agung as backdrops, Jatiluwih has become a popular tourist sight thanks to its impressive rice terraces and the lush greenery that can be seen from multiple angles. As we cycle through its centre our friendly guide will inform us all about the traditional Balinese irrigation known as subak, Bali's community-based water control management system.

Our program ends at a local restaurant where we will enjoy a local style lunch before returning to the hotel by private vehicle.

For those wishing to cool off a stop at Yeh Ho waterfalls can be arranged. This small waterfall has a refreshing pool for us to take a dip in and cool down after a busy morning cycling.





Private Breakfast At Tirta Gangga

A PRIVATE EXPERIENCE AT THE PALACE OF TIRTA GANGGA

CULTURAL

Depart : 0600 / Return : 1000

Today we enjoy a truly VIP experience as we explore Tirta Gangga before it opens to the general public, here we can explore the beautiful water palace and its spectacular gardens without the crowds.

Tirta Gangga literally means water from the Ganges, and the palace is based on the beliefs in Balinese Hinduism, where river Ganges and its waters are considered sacred. The one hectare complex was built in 1946 by the late King of Karangsem but the the eruption of nearby Mount Agung in 1963, halted construction and destroyed most of the palace. Today, the palace has been restored to its preconceived splendour.

Your guide will lead you around the maze of pools and fountains surround by a lush garden and stone carvings and statues and will give you an insight into the days of the Balinese Rajahs.

You morning concludes with a specially arranged breakfast in one of the Wantilans overlooking the pools. Enjoy a light continental style breakfast of pastries, fresh fruits, served alongside tea or coffee as you take in the tranquility of this beautiful setting with very few people around.

If you would like to take a dip in one of the pools you are free to do so before we return to the hotel.



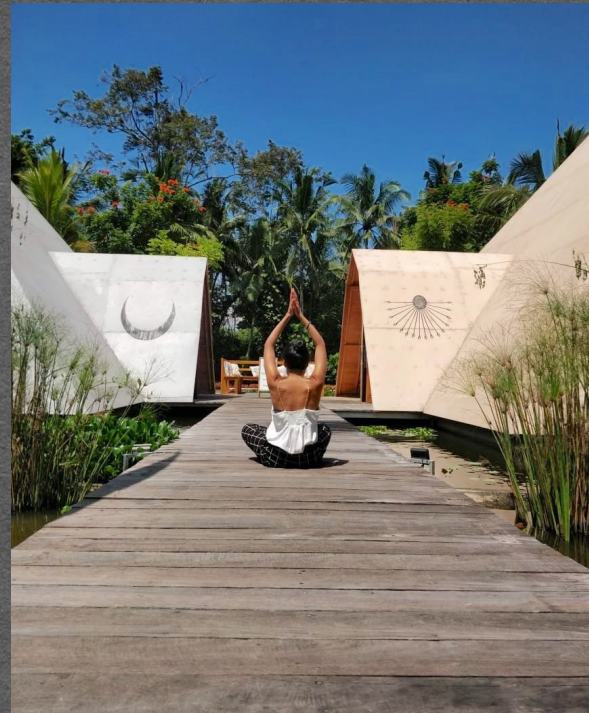
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Above & Below:
Tirta Gangga

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Above left : Water
Purification Ceremony
Above right : Healing at
Pyramids of Chi
Below: Subatu Temple

Click to hear your Travel Designer discuss the
merits and attractions of this program.



Bali Blessings - A Spiritual Day In Bali

A SPIRITUAL DAY IN SEBATU AND UBUD

CULTURAL | UNUSUAL

Depart : 0800 / Return : 1800

Today's program will take you on a journey to discover the spiritual side of Bali. From ancient traditions to new age healing, you will get an insight into the various methods and beliefs of the people who call Bali home.

The first stop on today's program is a visit to meet with a mystic carver who specialises in Rerajahan, a powerful mystic figure carved out of bone to protect people and places, as well as help people achieve their wishes and aspirations. The mystic carver will explain to you the meanings behind the Rerajahan which he has created for you before escorting you to his family temple where he will perform a pairing ceremony between yourself and the Rerajahan. As standard the mystic carver will create a Rerajahan to bring good health and good wealth into your life, if you would prefer to wish for something else then please do let us know 8 weeks prior to your arrival in Bali.

After the visit with the mystic carver we continue to Sebatu Village where you will undertake a spiritual cleansing ritual at Dalem Pingit Sebatu Temple. It has fountains with holy spring water, which is said to eliminate black magic.

Departing Sebatu we take the road towards Ubud for our final stop, The Pyramids of Chi. Here you will enjoy a healthy lunch before joining in with the afternoon's group sound healing session.

The Ancient Sound experience guides you into an effortless state of relaxation; the process is as scientific as it is mysterious. It requires nothing but your presence to be fully appreciated, but it must be experienced in order to be understood.

Anticipate a magical Sound Healing, it could be your time, so come with an open mind and heart and 'Expect the Unexpected.'

After your sound healing session you will be transferred back to your hotel.





Above : The view of Gunung Agung from Pekutatan, West Bali





Above : Bali rice terraces from above



Above : Farming community in the fields of Ubud



Above left : Wayang
Character
Above right : Wayang
performance at night
Below: The shadow
puppet master behind
the scenes

Click to hear your Travel Designer discuss the
merits and attractions of this program.



Playing In The Shadows - Puppetry Masterclass

A PRIVATE MASTERCLASS WITH PAK MARDHIKA IN SUKAWATI

CULTURAL | UNUSUAL

Depart : 0800 / Return : 1300

Hinduism arrived in Indonesia from India before the Islamic and Christian era. Sanskrit became the literary and court language of Java and later of Bali. Wayang kulit (shadow puppets) was later assimilated into local culture from India with changes to the appearance of the characters to resemble cultural norms.

When Islam began spreading in Indonesia, the display of God or gods in human form was prohibited, and thus this style of shadow play was suppressed. King Raden Parah of Demak, Java, wanted to see the wayang in its traditional form, but failed to obtain permission from Muslim religious leaders. Religious leaders attempted to skirt the Muslim prohibition by converting the wayang golek into wayang purwa made from leather and displayed only the shadow instead of the puppets themselves.

In 2003, UNESCO recognised wayang kulit as a Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity. In return for the acknowledgment, UNESCO required Indonesians to preserve the tradition. Today we will have a hands on experience learning how to make, paint and perform with this beautiful shadow puppets.

You will be transferred to Sukawati and the home of Mr Mardhika, a Balinese dalang (puppet master). Here Mr Mardhika will start by explaining to you what it means to be a dalang and the history of wayang kulit and how it plays it part in Balinese culture.

After our time learning about wayang kulit we will be shown how the puppets are made and have a hands on experience in making a puppet ourselves. These puppets usually take a number of days to create and therefore we will work on ready made puppets at various stages of their creation.

The process starts from master models (typically on paper) which are traced out onto skin or parchment. The figures are then smoothed, usually with a glass bottle, and primed. The structure is inspected and eventually the details are worked through. A further smoothing follows before individual painting. Finally, the movable parts are mounted on the body and the puppet is ready to be brought to life.

The stage of a wayang performance includes several components. A stretched linen canvas (kelir) acts as a canvas, dividing the dalang and the spectator. A coconut-oil lamp (Balinese damar) casts shadows onto the screen. A banana trunk (Balinese gedebong) lies on the ground between the screen and the dalang, where the figures are stuck to hold them in place. To the right of the dalang sits the puppet chest, which the dalang uses as a drum during the performance, hitting it with a wooden mallet.

Wayang shadow plays are usually tales from the two major Hindu epics, the Ramayana and Mahabharata. The puppet master contextualises stories from the plays, making them relevant to current community, national or global issues.

The shows can last from three to six hours at a time. Today we will just get a short demonstration of a wayang kulit performance with a chance to join in and help Mr Mardhika bring the puppets to life ourselves.

Our time at Mr Mardhika's home concludes and it is time for us to say our goodbyes and return to our hotel.





Cutting & Shaping

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE ART OF SURFING IN CANGUU

ACTIVE | UNUSUAL

Depart : 0800 / Return : 1800

Bali is considered one of the best surf destinations on the planet. For good reason too, with warm waters, year round surf, tropical vibes, and waves suitable for all levels from Kooks (beginners) to pro's.

Today's experience offers an all encompassing introduction to surfing, from learning the craft of shaping a surfboard to riding your first wave (for beginners) or intermediates looking to take their skills to the next level, this full day tour is like no other currently offered on the island of gods.

The day starts with a transfer from your hotel to Finn's Recreation Club where you will be met by your qualified surf coach for your private 2.5 hour lesson. The first 30 minutes of your lesson is dedicated to the theory behind surfing, here you will learn about wave shapes, where to take off, surf etiquette, and general health and safety to keep you safe in the water. You will also learn how to pop up and practice on dry land before being taken to the water. Once in the water you will have a 2 hour private lesson with your guide, for beginners you will learn how to stand up in the white wash, and for intermediates you will spend time with your instructor developing your skills to help improve your surfing.

Upon returning from the water you will review the video footage of your session along with your surf coach. This in-depth video analysis is a great opportunity to see how you before in the water and what is needed to improve your skills for your next session in the water.

After your lesson is complete you are free to use the facilities at Finns Beach Club, for the next 3 hours. Spend time relaxing by the pool, and enjoying the vibes of the world's best beach club. Lunch and your first soft drink, local beer or selected cocktail are included in the tour, all additional food & beverages are at your own expense.

After lunch we transfer to the workshop of one of Bali's most famous surfboard shapers, Rosyid of Rockwell Surfboards. Here we will have an introduction to the art of shaping a surfboard and explanation of how different shapes and sizes perform differently in the water. This is a hands on experience where you will have a go at shaping the foam of the board as well as being shown the glassing process by adding resin tint to the board.

Our introduction to surfing is now complete and you will return to your hotel just in time to enjoy one of Bali's famous sunsets. If you would like to book additional lessons to build on your skills and knowledge from today's session, please speak to your guide who will be able to book you additional lessons with Finns Surf Academy at a special rate.



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Above left : Sanding process of shaping a surfboard

Above right : Rosy of Rockwell Surfboards

Below : Surfing the waves of the South Coast of Bali

Click to hear your Travel Designer discuss the merits and attractions of this program.





Indigenous Expressions

A GAMESAN & BALINESE DANCE WORKSHOP IN KESIMAN

CULTURAL | UNUSUAL

Depart : 0800 / Return : 1300

Gamelan music and dance are a unique and colourful part of everyday Balinese life. There are more than 45 different types of gamelan orchestras in Bali and hundreds of dances. Due to modernisation, globalisation, misguided tourism and a generally faster-paced way of life, the older traditions have lost popularity—in some cases, disappeared completely. Today we will discover the art in an informative expert lead workshop held at Mekar Bhuana.

Travel to Kesiman and the home of Vaughan & Putu, who run the Mekar Bhuana Conservatory from their family home, with the aim of preserving endangered classical gamelan and its extensive repertoire.

While studying classical gamelan on a scholarship in Bali, Vaughan Hatch became aware of how negatively mass tourism was affecting traditional performing art forms. Few classical gamelan ensembles had been recorded and many gamelan were either no longer played or had been melted down.

In the year 2000, Vaughan chanced upon purchasing and restoring a disused antique semar pegulingan gamelan and came up with the concept of Mekar Bhuana, with the aim of preserving endangered classical gamelan and its extensive repertoire. Since 1997, he has been researching semara pagulingan and other rare types of Balinese gamelan.

In 2002 he met Putu Evie Suyadnyani, a talented Legong dancer and singer who is now his wife, who also shared the vision of preservation and reconstruction. Together they combined the music and dance aspects, forming the Mekar Bhuana Conservatory in 2004. As well as running the conservatory and its online store, they enjoy playing selonding, angklung and gender wayang together with their family group at ceremonies around Bali.

Mekar Bhuana means “to blossom around the world”, symbolizing the hope that the ancient music and dance music of Bali will be better known again not just in Bali but also in the rest of the world.

Mekar Bhuana educates about the intrinsic value of Balinese art-forms which more than a millennium ago were inspired by the natural beauty of the island's tropical surroundings. Mekar Bhuana does this by teaching about their roots in agriculture and how this agrarian lifestyle gave birth to the complex art-forms that Bali is famous for today.

Aided by local practitioners, Vaughan & Putu will give you an in-depth explanation of the history of gamelan and traditional dance, and introduce you to the various instruments, costumes and masks, through demonstrations, videos and also teaching you some basic and enabling you to get hands on with both gamelan and dance.

This hands-on experience is a great way to learn the true history and art form of this ancient art!



Above: Gamelan players during a religious festival.

Below right : Balinese dancers

Below Left : The art of the Gamelan

Click to hear your Travel Designer discuss the merits and attractions of this program.





The Wind Cries Bali

THE ART OF KITE MAKING IN SUKUWATI

CULTURAL | UNUSUAL

Depart : 0800 / 1300 / Return : 1300 / 1800

In Bali, it's not very often that a glance toward the heavens will not include kites. Like just about anything here in Bali, kite creation and flying is not a solitary endeavour and is firmly rooted in traditional beliefs. Entire villages work together to create mammoth flying machines. Gamelan orchestras play as hundreds of hands work feverishly to craft kites that can reach sizes of 10 meters (over 30 feet). And that is just the kite's body. The tail can stretch another 120 meters (400 feet).

Traditionally kites were used as religious object to send messages or gratitude to Gods for an abundant harvest.

The kites are often painted in black, white, red and yellow, which represents the incarnations of the Hindu deities. Black represents Shiva the destroyer, white Vishnu the protector and red represents Brahama the God who created the universe. The most common shapes are Bebean (a giant fish), Pecukan (a leaf shape), and Janggan (a bird shape with long tail).

Being taught how to make kites is a very common affair for a young balinese boy, and is seen as great father and son bonding activity much like fishing or learning how to play a sport with your father is in the West. They are taught how to make kites using bamboo, and thin colourful paper called "kertas min-yak".

Today we will visit a kite workshop where we will meet a local kite maker who will introduce us to the art of kite making. You will get 'hands on' in the process as you assemble and paint your very own kite.

The kite maker will explain to you the process of making the kite from sketching the design through to painting the kite. Once your creation is complete, you will take a short walk to a nearby rice field where the kite maker will show you how to fly the kite and you can watch your creation as you fly it high up in the air.

The kite is yours to keep as memory of your time in Bali.



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Above Left: Balinese kites
Above Right: Kite flying during competition
Below : Kite flying competition

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