



BALI: CULTURE AND CUISINE

6 Days/5 Nights

Specifically designed with the experience-hungry in mind, the 6-day Bali Culture and Cuisine tour immerses you on a culinary and cultural journey that seeks to enlighten, enrich and entertain. Comprising face-to-face encounters with locals, mouth-watering epicurean adventures, spiritual twists and some sweat ending activities - this tour is perfect for those eager to get better acquainted with Bali's enchanting culture.

Overview

Often feted as Indonesia's friendliest island, the Balinese have also long been admired for their inherent craftsmanship and artistic sensibilities. Here we have an alluring paradise where age-old traditions and modernity coexist, a relatively small island, (you can drive around the entire coast in one long day) Bali offers huge recreational and cultural scope as a destination. This combined tour is a good option for those wanting to cover as much of it as possible.

With our insider contacts, this tour-package goes beyond normal touring to bring you into contact not only with the local people, but remarkably talented craftsman and highly-regarded spiritualists, whom are successful in making the experience both more personable and ultimately, unique.

In showing you the rich traditions rooted in Balinese culture, this tour offers an insight into the world of performing arts, Bali's traditional dance is closely aligned with Hinduism and subsequently ingrained in ancient practices. Other features include workshops, temples, art-spaces and even an encounter with a local astrologer.

Escaping the trappings of the tourist trail in favor of the 'real' Bali, the tour incorporates the 'Balinese Experience' a half-day excursion during which you will have the opportunity to gain unmatched insights into the life of a Tunjungk villager. Operated by the villages, the sustainable tourism excursion seeks to preserve local culture and involves working in rice (sawah) fields, visiting a school and dining on freshly prepared local dishes.

The culinary aspect of the tour ensures you experience both world-class dining and authentic settings, although not necessarily at the same time. You will get the opportunity to both savor and prepare traditional Indonesian fare, and eat one of Bali's signature dishes - fried crispy duck, which is marinated in Indonesian herbs and spices for 36 hours.

The hands-on cooking school is a perfect way to keep a taste of Bali long after the tour has finished. Immerse yourself in local culture while sourcing ingredients from the local markets, before an afternoon of preparation and finally enjoying the food. The closing of the tour provides ample time to enjoy Bali as you wish, with the driver and tour guide at your disposal.

Day 1: Ubud Arrival

(D)

Arrive this afternoon at Ngurah Rai International Airport in Denpasar where you will be greeted by your Exotissimo local guide.

A private transfer (approximately 1hr15min) takes you to the town of Ubud. Located in the island's center, Ubud is the island's artistic and cultural capital.

After checking in to your hotel, time to relax

No visit to Bali would be complete without witnessing traditional dance and for this first evening in Ubud, you will be treated to a performance in a nearby village. Return to Ubud for dinner.

Your first Balinese dining experience tonight will be at Bebek Bengil, a chance for everybody to try the secret recipe of crispy fried duck, marinated for 36 hours in Indonesian herbs and spices, steamed and deep-fried to get the crispy touch. If you are not a great fan of duck, you can request the chicken version.

Return to your hotel after dinner.

Overnight in Ubud

Day 2: Ubud - Mas experience - Klungkung - Besakih - Ubud

(B/L/D)

Breakfast at your hotel.

This morning you will get a true taste of the local culture, traditions and lifestyles with our 'Balinese Experience'. With your guide and driver visit Mas, a small village located 10-15 km from Ubud and known for its wood carving tradition. Here you will have a chance to take part in activities that are 'uniquely Bali'.

You will first receive a blessing by a priest and then meet with an astrologer who will tell you more about your destiny by using ancient methods.

Then it's time enter the traditional Balinese compound: discover the process of making traditional temple offerings or work with a local wood-carver to learn the methods of this ancient handicraft.

Not only will you learn new skills but you will also immerse yourself in the typical life of a Balinese.

A hands-on cooking class teaches you more about the cuisine and local ingredients. As the final touches are being put on the dishes, have a walk around the village compound to learn about the traditional architecture and layout of these rural seeing. Then, return to the house and sit down to dine on your tasty creations.

After lunch, continue with a drive to Klungkung to visit the former Royal Courts of Justice known as Kerta Gosa. The highlight here is an elaborately decorated ceiling featuring the "Wayang" style of painting depicting the battle of good versus evil.

Finish your visit with Besakih, known as the 'Mother Temple' of Bali. Located on the western [HYPERLINK "http://www.baliblog.com/travel-tips/maps-of-bali/map-of-east-bali.html"](http://www.baliblog.com/travel-tips/maps-of-bali/map-of-east-bali.html)slopes of Mt Agung, Bali highest volcano (2567 m), Besakih is the largest and most important temple on the island.

Return to Ubud and, after freshening up, head to one of Indonesia's best restaurants.: Mozaic. This is the only restaurant in Southeast Asia selected by Traditions & Qualité as one of Les Grandes Tables du Monde (Great Tables of the World) and its wine list continues to win accolades from Wine Spectator.

The dinner is served at an elegant table set in a tropical garden. You'll dine on Mozaic's 'Discovery Menu'. The whole evening highlights the quality of the ingredients, perfect execution, multitude of flavours and top service of Mozaic.

Return to your hotel after dinner.

Overnight in Ubud

Day 3: Ubud Art tour - Mengwi - Umabian

(B/L/D)

Breakfast at your hotel.

Today, Bali's cultural center comes to life with an in-depth guided tour. You'll learn about Balinese and Indonesian classical art and discover the emerging modern art scene with visits to Museums and art galleries followed by a visit to the local market to browse for fine handicrafts.

Start with a visit to The 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 works as well as his studio. The Museum stands as testament to his love for Bali.

Continue your tour with a visit to ARMA Museum (*Agung Rai Museum of Art*) and enjoy one of the best permanent collections of Balinese and Indonesian paintings. A visit to ARMA provides a great overview of the island's rich artistic traditions.

Lunch will be served at Indus Restaurant, one of Ubud's top tables, with breathtaking views over the Tjampuhan river valley.

This afternoon you will visit some of the city's best art galleries which showcase a diverse range of traditional and modern Balinese art. Your visits include: Tanah Toh, which houses a collection of modern paintings, and the Rudana Museum which specializes in fine art.

Then, set off by road to the area of Tabanan. Along the way you will stop at the serene Taman Ayun temple near Mengwi. This temple features wide tropical gardens and a large courtyard as well as traditional multi-story roofs.

Continue to Umabian a few kilometres north of Tabanan and check in to your beautiful hotel. Designed to resemble a traditional house, the numerous pavilions and guestrooms are laid out in the style of a village compound. Surrounded by rice fields, spectacular views and a swimming pool in the garden this is an ideal place to unwind.

Dinner this evening is at the hotel.

Overnight in Umabian

Day 4: Umabian - Taman Sari Buwana- Tanah Lot - Canggu/Seminyak

(B/L/D)

Breakfast at your hotel.

This morning, you will get a taste for local Balinese culture and traditional lifestyles with this immersive sustainable tourism excursion. Operated by the villagers of Tunjunk, the project aims to inform visitors and preserve the traditions and culture of the people. You'll visit a local school, work in the rice fields alongside farmers and witness skilled climbers retrieving coconuts from a plantation. Dine on fresh, local dishes at a farm and visit Taman Ayun temple before returning back to your hotel.

After breakfast, you will be picked up by your driver and transfer to the center of the island for an amazing sustainable tourism excursion at Taman Sari Buwana farm. During this half-day excursion you will experience local Balinese life while supporting a community-based tourism project in the village of Tunjunk.

Upon reaching Tunjunk village, start with a visit to the elementary school (NOTE: closed on weekends and school holidays) before heading to village home base. Prepare for farming activities by donning a farmer's hat, covering up with mosquito repellent and picking up a local *mattock* (small farm tool) all provided by the farm. We recommend wearing flip-flops or similar as well as bringing sunscreen.

You'll then walk with the local farmers to their rice fields, locally referred to as *sawah*. Alongside the farmers, you will learn how to plant, transplant or harvest rice (depending of the season)

After farming, take a walk around the beautiful rice fields to observe the daily activities of the village. You'll visit other plantations including a coconut plantation where locals will demonstrate their ability to climb up the trees and gather young coconuts for some refreshment.

Next, return to the home base where you will observe the boiling of cassava in the traditional kitchen before enjoying a delicious lunch at the farm.

Afternoon, drive to Bali's West coast for a last visit to [HYPERLINK "http://www.balistariland.com/Bali-Interesting-Place/Tanah-Lot-Temple.htm"](http://www.balistariland.com/Bali-Interesting-Place/Tanah-Lot-Temple.htm) Tanah Lot Temple, Bali's most famous temple. The temple is set dramatically on a small island about 100m off the coast.

At the end of the day, drive south to Seminyak.

Dinner is a 3-course set menu at the gourmet fusion restaurant of Metis. Metis offers a truly exemplary culinary experience in a sumptuous setting. Blending French and Mediterranean cuisine, this is one of the most sophisticated tables in Bali.

Overnight in Canggu or Kerobokan

Day 5: Canggu - Cooking Class - Canggu/Seminyak

(B/L/D)

Breakfast at your hotel.

This morning you will discover the best traditional Indonesian food in Bali and Java through a very authentic cooking class at the Waoreng Djawa -Tugu Bali.

The classes are held by Iboe Soelastri, a local chef who learned cooking from her grandmother when she was just 4 years old.

You begin by choosing the dishes you most prefer from Iboe Solastri's collection of authentic Indonesian dishes. Then visit a Balinese traditional market where you will be submerged into the Balinese daily life as you browse the ingredients on sale.

Return to Waoreng Djawa, where the class is held. This is a very authentic, traditional humble street-side eatery that represents the way the Javanese and the Balinese dined since the era of the Majapahit Kingdom, between the 1500s and the beginning of the 19th century.

Traditional steamers on wood-fire terracotta stoves in the open kitchen, oil lamps and stone grinders... after you finish your cooking class, you will experience a traditional lunch like nowhere else, in antique wooden benches with bare hands, accompanied by soothing, intimate Javanese music.

Note : Class of 6 or 8 hours (with visit in the market) will start around 7.00 or 9.00 AM finishing around 15.00 pm.

This afternoon is at leisure to relax on the beach or enjoy Seminyak's charming and quite chic area: discover the best boutique shopping and restaurants in Bali, offering a diverse range of products that crosses from artifacts, clothing to gourmet foods. Free time for shopping with the driver and guide at your entire disposal.

Dinner in Gado-Gado Restaurant, one of the most exclusive places in Bali. Located on the beach, you'll be served a candlelit dinner of modern European fusion cuisine.

Overnight in Canggu/Seminyak.

Day 6: Canggu/Seminyak - Denpasar International Airport (B)

Breakfast at the hotel.

This morning is leisure and transfer to Denpasar Aiport for your departure flight.

*******END OF SERVICES*******

E&OE